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STALEMATE
IN LADAKH

WORLD 8
CHINA HALTS HONG KONG EXTRADITION
TREATIES WITH CANADA, AUSTRALIA, UK

AVENUES 10
CRITICAL THINKING
IS KEY

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Pullback complete, claims China

Beijing says LAC situation cooling down, but 40,000 PLA troops still deployed along LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
While face-off is still on at some friction points on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh and India is asking China to "sincerely" implement pacts to defuse tension, Beijing on Tuesday claimed that the troops from both sides have completed disengagement and situation is "cooling down."
China made this assertion even though more than 40,000 of its troops are still deployed on the front and depth areas and its soldiers have not withdrawn from Pangong Tso (lake).
The Chinese Foreign Ministry also said efforts are on to hold the fifth round of Corps Commander-level talks. It is likely to take place later this week. The last meeting took place on July 14.

The *Global Times*, the Government mouthpiece of China, while reporting Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin's observations, also said the disengagement on the frontline has completed in most locations following close communications between the two sides via military and diplomatic channels.
"The situation is now continuing to head in the direction of easing and cooling down," the spokesperson said at a routine press conference in Beijing on Tuesday.
"A fifth round of commander-level talks is currently under preparations to resolve the remaining issues," Wang said. Four rounds of commander-level talks and three meetings on border affair discussions and coordination have been held, he added.
Wang said China hopes



- Beijing claimed that the troops from both sides have completed disengagement from all stand-off points
- China made this assertion even though its soldiers have not withdrawn from Pangong Tso (lake)
- In the next round of talks, the two Corps Commanders will focus on hastening the process of withdrawal of additional troops from the front and depth areas

India can meet China halfway, implement the consensus both sides have reached and safeguard peace and stability in the border region together.

His statement came after apparently expressing concern over the Chinese reluctance to pull back its troops, India

asked it last week to "sincerely implement" the agreement arrived between the two Corps Commanders on the last four rounds of parleys.

Responding to a specific question on Tuesday in Beijing whether the Chinese had pulled back from friction

points, including the Galwan Valley, Hot Springs and Gogra, Wenbin said disengagement was completed in most areas.
Last Friday, joint secretary level officers of the foreign ministries of two countries held talks under the aegis of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on border affairs. India then asked China to honour all the agreements and restore peace and tranquility.
The External Affairs Ministry in a statement said after the meeting the two sides agreed "it was necessary for both sides to sincerely implement the understandings reached between senior (military) commanders in their meetings till date."
India has throughout maintained since the face-off began nearly nine weeks back that status quo ante has to be

restored with the Chinese troops going back to their positions as in April last.
Incidentally, the first stand-off was triggered in the Pangong Tso after the Chinese troops obstructed an Indian patrol leading to fisticuffs on May 5. The Chinese intruded more than five kms there and are yet to withdraw leading to tension in the area.
In the next round of talks, the two Corps Commanders will focus on hastening the process of withdrawal of additional troops from the front and depth areas, sources said here on Tuesday. India will also ask China to pull back from the Pangong Tso where the Chinese have now occupied some heights on mountain spurs. The Chinese have also built a temporary jetty in the Indian region of the lake for its fast interceptor boats.

Raj Govt sends revised plan to Guv for session

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has sent a revised proposal to Governor Kalraj Mishra for convening the Assembly session from July 31 after Mishra gave his nod for convening the Assembly but with certain conditions. In its Cabinet meeting, the Gehlot Government said it was its "right" to call for the session.
Transport Minister Pratap Singh said a discussion was held for the reply to be sent regarding the three points raised by the Governor. "The Cabinet wants the Assembly session from July 31. The proposal which was sent earlier for calling the session is our legal right and we are sending it again to the Governor," he told reporters.

"The Governor's questions are simple and we discussed their reply. He has no right to be raising queries yet we are giving the reply," he said.
Singh also said that the Government wants no confrontation with the Governor and hoped Mishra will now accept the Cabinet proposal for calling the session.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA Madan Dilawar filed two writ petitions challenging the Assembly Speaker's decision to reject his complaint against the merger of six BSP MLAs with the Congress.

Continued on Page 2

In Cabinet meet, Govt said that it was its 'right' to call for session from July 31

"We want permission to call the Assembly session which is our right. We do not want any confrontation with the Governor. If he does not accept this now, then it is clear that there is no Constitution in the country," he said.

On the issue of 21-day notice required for calling the session, the Minister said that 10 days have already passed and asked why the Governor did not give a date if he is talking about the notice? He said that if the Governor rejects the proposals now, the further course of action will be decided. "We have no competition with the Governor, he is the head of our family," Singh said.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA Madan Dilawar filed two writ petitions challenging the Assembly Speaker's decision to reject his complaint against the merger of six BSP MLAs with the Congress.

India records highest death toll in a day across globe

India logged 637 deaths, Brazil 627, US 570, Russia 85

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time on Monday, India recorded the highest death toll in a single day across the globe, ahead of the US and Brazil. India logged 637 deaths, a fraction ahead of Brazil, which recorded 627 deaths. While the USA recorded 570 deaths, Russia, which is placed fourth globally in terms of number of cases, was way behind at 85 deaths.
India's death rate was much higher than the USA, which is the worst-affected nation in the world. While the USA recorded 60,271 positive cases for 570 deaths on Monday, India clocked 47,000 cases for 637



deaths. In percentage terms, India death rate was 1.35 per cent on Monday whereas the USA clocked 0.95 per cent mortality rate.
India's overall mortality rate stands at 2.42 per cent and the USA's around 3 per cent. This suggests that both the USA and India have brought down their mortality rate. The same trend is visible in the case of the global mortality rate, which stood around 2 per cent during the last one week.
The global mortality rate

could come down further once South American nations like Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, and Chile check the numbers of people who are succumbing to the virus. During the last one month, Mexico has recorded a mortality rate of nearly 10 per cent whereas Brazil has also clocked a high mortality rate of around 4 per cent during the last one week. Both Chile and Colombia also have a mortality rate of around 4 per cent.
Globally, the USA leads the death tally with a total of 1,50,418 cases on Monday followed by Brazil 87,000 cases, Mexico 43,680 deaths, UK 45,000, and India 34,000.
When Europe and the USA were first hit by the pandemic, the mortality rate was around 10 per cent in many countries including Spain, Italy, UK, and the USA.

Covid crosses 15 lakh mark

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday surpassed the 15 lakh count of Covid-19 cases where the tally of the infected people reached 15,32,125 with addition of 49,622 new patients during the day. As many as 770 patients died during the day, stretching the tally of the dead to 34,224.
The day saw major spikes in southern States while States like Maharashtra and Delhi have started to flatten the curve of the infection.
Andhra Pradesh led the pack among the States with a daily count of 7,948. The overall tally has reached 1,10,297 with 58 deaths during the day adding to the total casualties of 1,148 people.
This is for the first time that a State has surpassed the daily case count of Maharashtra that reported 7,717 new cases on Tuesday. However, Maharashtra continues to be at the top in terms of number of

49,622 new patients, 770 deaths on Tue

people infected so far with a total case count of 3,91,440. The State alone reported 282 deaths due to Covid-19 during the day, taking the tally of deceased to 14,165.
Tamil Nadu reported 6,972 new cases of infection, taking the tally to 2,27,688. The State registered 88 deaths during the day where the toll has now reached 3,659.
Delhi reported 1,056 cases during the last 24 hours where the case count has reached 1,32,275. Delhi reported 28 deaths due to the pandemic during the day where 3,881 people have succumbed to the viral infection till now.
Karnataka reported 5,536 cases during the last 24 hours, stretching the tally to 1,07,001. The State lost 102 persons to Covid-19 and the death count has now reached 2,057.
Uttar Pradesh logged 3,458 new cases of Covid-19, taking

the tally to 73,951. During the day, the State reported 41 deaths where the death toll has reached 1,497.
Continued on Page 2

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 15,32,125

DEATHS: 34,224

RECOVERED: 9,88,768

ACTIVE: 5,08,710

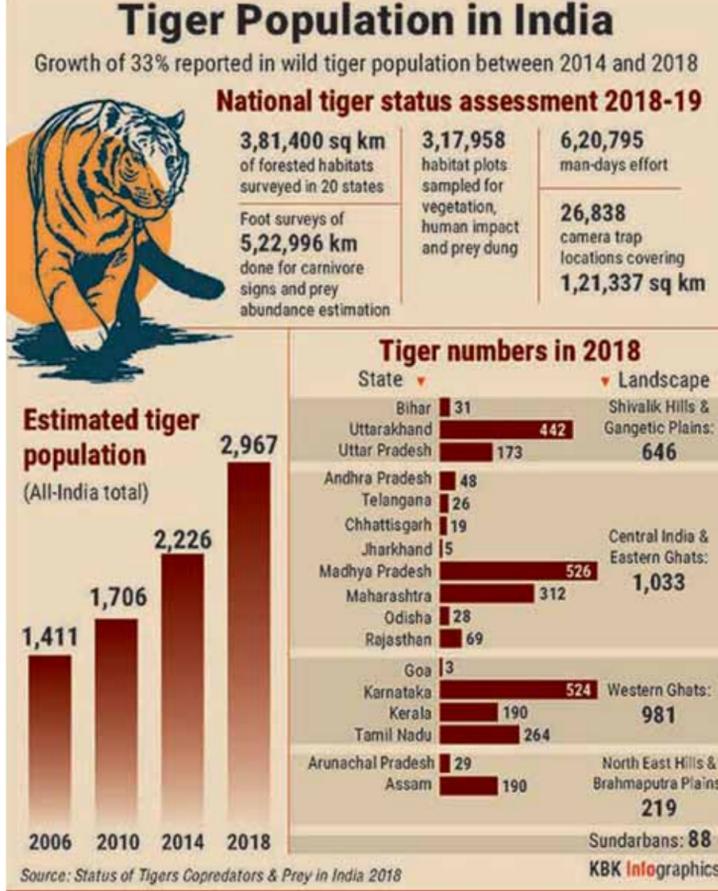
STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	3,91,440	14,165	2,32,277
Tamil Nadu	2,27,688	3,659	1,66,956
Delhi	1,32,275	3,881	1,17,507
Andhra Pradesh	1,10,297	1,148	52,622
Karnataka	1,07,001	2,057	40,504
Uttar Pradesh	73,951	1,497	44,520
West Bengal	62,964	1,449	42,022
Gujarat	57,982	2,368	42,514
Telangana	57,142	480	42,909
Bihar	43,591	269	29,220
Rajasthan	38,636	644	27,317
Assam	34,948	88	26,619
Haryana	32,876	406	25,758
Madhya Pradesh	29,217	830	20,343
Odisha	28,107	189	18,061
Kerala	20,895	68	10,724

Corbett tops in tiger count, none in 3 reserves

It has 231 big cats; 3 reserves in Mizoram, Bengal, Jharkhand have zero

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Out of the 50 tiger reserves in the country, Uttarakhand's Corbett Tiger Reserve brims with 231 big cats — highest in the country — while three tiger habitats in Mizoram, West Bengal, and Jharkhand have no presence of the majestic animal anymore.
These findings are part of the fourth All India Tiger Estimation 2018, which was released by Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on the eve of Global Tiger Day, celebrated on July 29 every year.
The over 600-page document — 'Status of Tigers, Copredators and Prey in India report for 2018' — which shows reserve-wise and State-wise tiger population, the distribution reveals that three reserves — Mizoram's Dampa reserve, West Bengal's Buxa reserve and Jharkhand's Palamau reserve — have no tigers left.
Currently, the tiger population within the reserves is 1,923 (65 per cent of the total tiger population of India), the report said. According to the population estimation of tigers in reserves for 2018-19, Corbett has 231 tigers followed by Nagarhole and Bandipore reserves in Karnataka with 127 and 126 tigers respectively.
Assam's Kaziranga and Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh recorded 104 tigers each, the report said.
It said some reserves like Simlipal (Odisha), Amrabad and Kawal in Telangana, Nagarjunsagar Sri Sailam (Andhra Pradesh), Palamau (Jharkhand), Sanjay-Dubri (MP), Nameri and Manas in Assam, Buxa (West Bengal), Dampa (Mizoram), Anshi Dandeli (Karnataka) and Pakke



Dogs may emerge as Covid trackers

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Already trained to sniff out drugs, narcotics and explosive substances, dogs are likely to emerge as front-line Covid-19 warriors as they are capable of detecting signs of coronavirus infection in humans after a few days of training.
Researchers from France, Lebanon and Germany have found that dogs are capable of identifying people infected with the coronavirus infections. In Chile, police dogs are being trained to identify people who are infected, even in the earliest stages of the disease.
A German veterinary university's related study on dogs was conducted jointly with the German armed forces, the Hannover Medical School and the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf.

According to the study, eight dogs from the German armed forces were trained for a week to study coronavirus cases. Among the 1,000 people presented before them, the dogs identified positive cases with 94 per cent accuracy.
The researchers at the veterinary university made the dogs sniff the saliva of the people with some among them being samples of coronavirus positive patients. The dogs managed to accurately identify the coronavirus cases from the bunch of samples.
A professor behind the pilot project explained the findings saying the metabolism of a coronavirus patient is completely different and dogs are able to detect this difference through smell. Dogs have a smelling capacity 1,000-times stronger than humans.
Continued on Page 2

Sec 144 in Ambala, photos, videos banned as 5 Rafale jets to arrive today

Ambala: Authorities tightened security and imposed prohibitory orders near the Ambala Air Force Station in Haryana on Tuesday ahead of the arrival of five Rafale jets from France, banning shooting of videos and photography.
The Ambala district administration also prohibited people from flying private drones within the three-km radius of the air base, an official said.
Deputy Commissioner Ashok Sharma said in an order that Section 144, which prohibits assembly of four or more people, has been imposed in the villages adjoining the air base, including Dhulkot, Baldev Nagar, Garnala and Panjkhora.
The jets took off from France on Monday and will arrive at the Air Force station on Wednesday.

Sushant's father files abetment of suicide against Rhea Chakraborty

PTI ■ PATNA

Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case has taken a new turn with his father lodging an FIR against his rumoured actor girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and six others, including her family members, for abetment to suicide, police said on Tuesday.
The late actor's father KK Singh lodged an FIR with Rajiv Nagar police station under various sections of IPC including 306 (abetment of suicide) on July 25, Additional SHO



Jogendra Kumar told PTI.
A four-member team of Patna police is in Mumbai for investigation.
Mumbai police is already probing the alleged suicide case, and has questioned sev-

eral Bollywood bigwigs including filmmakers Mahesh Bhatt and Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Rhea Chakraborty has also recorded her statement.
The case has been lodged under various sections of IPC, including 341 (punishment for wrongful restraint), 342 (punishment for wrongful confinement), 380 (theft in dwelling house), 406 (punishment for criminal breach of trust), 420 (Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 306 (abetment of suicide).
Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

- 1MDB: MALAYSIA EX-PM NAJIB GETS 12-YR JAIL**
Kuala Lumpur: A Malaysian court sentenced former Prime Minister Najib Razak to serve up to 12 years in prison on Tuesday after finding him guilty of crimes involving the multibillion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund that brought down his Government in a shocking election ouster two years ago.
- ALTITUDE, UV RAYS KEEP LADAKH COVID-19 SAFE**
Leh: With 1,327 cases and six fatalities in four months, the trajectory of Covid-19 in the cold desert region of Ladakh validates the view that people living at altitudes of 3,000 metres and above are less likely to get infected compared to those in lowland areas, say experts here.
- DEPRESSED DELHI POLICE HAVILDAR SHOOTSELF**
New Delhi: A Delhi Police head constable allegedly shot himself dead with his service pistol on Tuesday in South Delhi's Lado Sarai area, officials said. A preliminary enquiry revealed he was depressed over the illness of his elder brother, they added.
- 25L PEOPLE DISPLACED BY BIHAR FLOODS, 8 DEAD**
Patna: Torrential rain in the catchment areas of Bihar and Nepal has aggravated the flood situation in the State with almost all major rivers flowing above the danger mark. Nearly 25 lakh people have been displaced and 8 have died in the State. Despite relief and rescue operations, people are in dire straits.
- BABRI CASE: RECORDING OF STATEMENTS OVER**
Lucknow: A special CBI court here completed on Tuesday the recording of statements of the accused in the 1992 Babri mosque demolition case.

1,056 fresh cases take Delhi tally to 1.33 lakh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With 1056 fresh coronavirus cases on Tuesday, the coronavirus count in the national capital reached 1,32,275. The death toll climbed to 3,881 following 28 more fatalities.

According to Tuesday's health bulletin, which details information about the fresh cases registered in the last 24 hours, 18,544 tests (4843 RT-PCR, CBNAAT and True NAAT tests figures; 13701 - Rapid Antigen), the second lowest in July. The number of containment zones stood at 715.

The number of tests done per million, as on Tuesday was 51,411, it said. On July 20, the fresh cases count had dipped to 954. The active cases tally on Monday was 10,994, down from 11,904 the previous day while the recovery rate stands at 88 per cent.

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

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

RT-PCR test.

On June 23, the national capital had reported the highest single-day spike of 3,947 cases. According to the Tuesday bulletin, out of the total number of beds in COVID hospitals, 12,633 are vacant.

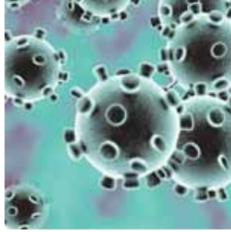
Also, 4025 beds in COVID care centres are occupied by persons under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by Vande Bharat Mission and bubble flights, it said.

As many as 954 cases were recorded on Sunday, 1,211 on Saturday and 1,349 on Monday. While, Delhi reported 613 corona cases on Monday, the lowest daily increase in the last two months.

Testing was ramped up June 18 onwards, when Delhi started conducting tests through the faster rapid-antigen methodology. Since then, tests have increased almost threefold -- from an average of around 7,000 a day during June 12-18 to an average of around 20,000 per day at present.

As per Government's report, both Government and private hospitals have done a fair job in tackling coronavirus. Delhi Government's Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital with seven per cent death rate is on top ranking for giving treatment to corona infected patients.

According to the report, for the period 1-12 June and 1-12 July has revealed a 44 per cent decline in deaths -- from 1,089 during 1-12 June to 605 during 1-12 July.



Further, the analysis revealed that deaths in Delhi Government Covid hospitals saw a 58 per cent reduction from early June to July -- from 361 deaths to 154 deaths. In comparison, deaths in private Covid hospitals saw a 25 per cent reduction from June to July and deaths in Central Government Covid hospitals saw a 55 per cent reduction.

According to the report on hospital-wise analysis of deaths revealed that death per cent rate in Central Government's RML hospital was 81 per cent in June, which dropped to 58 per cent in July. In Safdarjung Hospital -- another Central Government facility, the death rate dropped from 40 per cent in June to 31 per cent in July.

Similarly, the death rate in LNJP Hospital -- Delhi Government's largest Covid hospital -- dropped drastically from 28 per cent in early June to 16 per cent in early July. Delhi Government's Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital turned out to be among the best Covid hospitals in the national capital in terms of death rate -- 6 per cent in early June and 7 per cent in early July.

GDA flats allocated through draw lots

PNS ■ GHAZIABAD

Allocation of buildings under the various housing schemes of Ghaziabad Development Authority in Hindi Bhawan located in Lohia Nagar, by way of lottery. GDA Secretary Santosh Rai informed that under this Madhuban Bapudham scheme, 36 of LIG houses, five Mini MIG houses and 256 EWS houses, one house in Shastrri Nagar EWS scheme, five houses of Mini MIG in Indirapuram Nyay Khand 3, Chandrashila Apartment three houses of one BHK and two BHK were allocated in the Koel Enclave.

The allotment of the houses was completed by way of lottery under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary CP Tripathi. OSD Sanjay Kumar SK Sinha Executive Engineer, Ranbir Singh in-charge of property and Accounts Officer Dinesh Yadav were specially present in the committee and the said lottery procedure was under the supervision of the committee.

The special thing is that there is no irregularity in the lottery system, since videography of this program has also been done. GDA administration congratulated all the successful allottees and a list of them has also been posted at the GDA office.

Centre launches report on e-learning initiatives

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday launched a report on various e-learning initiatives taken by the Central and State Governments during the ongoing coronavirus lockdown period. The report elaborates innovative methods adopted by states and union territories for ensuring the accessibility of education to children.

The report titled, 'India Report Digital Education', has been prepared by the department of school education under the Ministry of Human Resource Development and documents various remote learning initiatives through the use of digital technology across the country.

Announcing the launch of the report HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

said he was glad to launch India Report on Digital Education, 2020. "The report elaborates on the innovative methods adopted by Education Departments of States and Union Territories for ensuring accessible and inclusive #education to children at home and reducing learning gaps," Pokhriyal said.

The report highlights how states have initiated programs using capabilities and solu-

tions on DIKSHA platform. As per the report, "Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab, Ladakh, Telangana and Tripura have all initiated work on DIKSHA. School closure has energised these States to leverage DIKSHA for online training of teachers & for launching programs to ensure continuity in the learning of students."

India readies 2nd draft of defence acquisition rules, seeks comments by Aug 10

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the objective of giving a push to the Indian defence industry and procure state of the art weapons for the armed forces, the Defence Ministry on Tuesday released the second draft of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020, now titled as 'Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020'. It invites suggestions and comments from all the stakeholders besides general public.

Giving details here, defence ministry officials said here it may be recalled that the first draft DPP 2020 was web hosted and comments/recommendations/suggestions were solicited from various stakeholders by April 17, 2020; later extended to May 08, 2020. Since then, sug-

gestions were received from various stakeholders, Services, industry running into more than 10,000 pages.

After an analysis of these comments received from various agencies, specific interactions were also carried out with the entire spectrum of stakeholders, both in person and via web conferences in order to understand their precise concerns.

The amended second draft has since been finalised by the review committee driven by tenets of defence reforms announced as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' and has been placed in the public domain.

Specific comments on the same are once again solicited on the amended draft latest by August 10, 2020.

Covid...

From Page 1
Bihar reported 2,480 new cases of infection where the tally of Covid-hit patients has reached 43,591. Fourteen persons died due to the disease during the day where the death count has reached 269.

West Bengal reported 2,134 new cases, taking the case count to 62,964. The death toll during the day stood at 38 in the State that has recorded 1,449 casualties till now.

Telangana recorded 1,610 new cases where 57,142 persons have been infected till now. Nine casualties during the day took the death count in the State to 480.

Gujarat added 1,108 fresh cases of infection to stretch the tally to 57,982. The State has reported 2,368 casualties including 24 deaths during the day. Rajasthan reported 406 cases, taking the tally to 37,970. The death count has reached 640 with seven casualties during the day.

Madhya Pradesh reported 628 cases, taking the tally of infected persons to 29,217. Ten persons succumbed to the dis-

ease during the day where the toll has touched 830.

Odisha reported 1,215 fresh cases of infection where the case count has surged to 28,107. Eight persons died during the day where the death toll reached 189.

Kerala reported 1167 new cases, taking the tally to 20,895. Four persons died during the day, taking the tally to 68.

Jammu & Kashmir reported 489 new cases during the day, taking the case count to 18,879. The Union Territory has reported 333 deaths so far including 12 during the day.

Punjab registered 609 new cases where the number of infected persons has reached 14,378. The State has reported 336 deaths including 18 during the day. Jharkhand reported 74 new cases, taking the tally to 8,877. Three deaths during the day added to the total death count of 93 till so far.

Uttarakhand reported 259 new cases where 6,587 people have been infected till now. Four persons died in the hill State that has lost 70 persons to the pandemic.

DROP IN INFECTIONS, MAHA SEES 7,717 CASES

PNS ■ MUMBAI

In a downward Covid-19 trend witnessed for the second consecutive day, the daily tally of new infections dropped from Monday's 7924 to 7717 on Tuesday, while 282 people died of Coronavirus in various parts of the state.

After it recorded the highest-ever 10576 infections on July 22 and witnessed 9895, 9615, 9251 and 9431 on July 23, 24, 25 and 26 respectively, the daily infection tally in Maharashtra saw a drop of 207 cases to touch 7717 cases on Tuesday.

With 7717 new infections and 282 fatalities, the total number of positive cases jumped to 3,91,440, while the total number of deaths crossed 14,000 mark to touch 14165.

Of the total 282 deaths reported on Tuesday, 28 July

2020, Mumbai accounted for 55 deaths, taking the total number of deaths in Mumbai to 6187.

Apart 55 deaths reported in Mumbai, there were 47 deaths in Pune, 45 in Thane, 25 in Solapur, 19 in Raigad, 18 in Nagpur, 13 in Jalgaon, 11 in Nashik, 8 in Satara, 6 each in Kolhapur and Aurangabad, 5 each in Sangli and Latur, 4 in Osmanabad, 3 in Ahmednagar, 2 each in Palghar and Amravati and one death each in Dhule, Nandurbar, Sindhudurg, Jalna, Parbhani, Akola, Yavatmal and Buldhana.

With 88,859 infected cases and 2431 deaths, Thane continued to be the second worst hit district in Maharashtra.

Pune, which has emerged as the third worst affected district in terms of spread of the pandemic, has recorded 80325 infections and 1885 deaths till now. Meanwhile, the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year touched 2,32,277. The recovery rate in the state stood at 59.32 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 3.62 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of 'active cases' in the state at 1,44,694.

Out of 19,68,559 samples sent to laboratories, 3,91,440 have tested positive (19.88 per cent) for COVID-19 until Sunday.

Currently, 8,85,545 people are in home quarantine while 42773 people are in institutional quarantine.

Raj...

From Page 1
The first petition was filed on Tuesday morning against a communication received from the Assembly Secretariat on Monday that the complaint has been decided and rejected by the Speaker. "Today, we got a detailed order of the Speaker (about the rejection of the complaint). Thereafter, we filed a second petition challenging the detailed order," counsel for the MLA said, as per an agency report.

Dilawar had filed his complaint to the Speaker in March, and on July 24, he moved the High Court alleging inaction by the Speaker on the issue he raised. The Rajasthan High Court on Monday dismissed his petition as "having become infructuous" as the Speaker passed the order later on July 24.

In the fresh petitions filed on Tuesday against the Speaker's order, the MLA has challenged the validity, legality and correctness of the Speaker's July 24 order on his complaint filed in March. In his complaint to the Speaker, he had prayed that the BSP MLAs be disqualified from the Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha under para 2 of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution. Dilawar has alleged he was not heard by the Speaker before he decided his complaint on July 24.

Dogs...

From Page 1
Researchers believe this finding can help use dogs to sniff out suspected coronavirus cases at airports, border cross-

ings and stadiums and other busy areas quite easily, said the report.

"We think that this works because the metabolic processes in the body of a diseased patient are completely changed," Maren von

Koekritz-Blickwede, a professor at the university, said in a YouTube video about the project. "We think that the dogs are able to detect a specific smell." Von Koekritz-Blickwede said the next step will be to train dogs to differentiate Covid samples from other diseases like influenza.

In another pilot study at the University of Helsinki, dogs trained as medical diagnostic assistants were taught to recognise the previously unknown odor signature of the Covid-19 disease caused by the novel coronavirus. And they learned with astonishing success: After only a few weeks, the first dogs were able to accurately distinguish urine samples from Covid-19 patients from urine samples of healthy individuals.

According to researchers from the German Assistance Dogs Centre, dogs can also identify skin cancer, colon cancer, ovarian cancer or prostate cancer very reliably. Besides cancer, the dogs can also detect Parkinson's disease.

Researchers from France and Lebanon have also been testing whether 20 Belgian

Corbett...

From Page 1
"For tiger reintroduction or supplementation in Palamau and Simlipal, tigers need to be sourced from the closest source in the same genetic cluster. Buxa and Dampa can be repopulated through reintroductions from Kaziranga, after prey restoration in Buxa and strengthening protection in Dampa which has a good prey base," it said.

According to the report, in the State-wise distribution of tigers, Madhya Pradesh was found with maximum tigers at 526 followed by Karnataka at 524 and 442 in Uttarakhand.

Last year Prime Minister Narendra Modi had released the four-yearly tiger census report according to which the tiger population in the country had grown from 1,400 in 2014 to 2,967 in 2019. He said all of India's 50 tiger reserves were not poor quality. Javadekar also announced that his Ministry is working on a programme in which efforts would

be made to provide water and fodder to animals in the forest itself to deal with the challenge of human-animal conflict which is causing deaths of animals. For this LIDAR based survey technology will be used for the first time. Lidar is a method for measuring distances by illuminating the target with laser light and measuring the reflection with a sensor. Minister of State of Environment, Babul Supriyo said human-animal conflict can be avoided but it cannot be ruled out in the country. He said frontline officials have done commendable job in raising the numbers of the tiger in the country.

Javadekar pointed out that India is ready to take a leadership role and work with other tiger range countries for the management of the reserves. There are currently 13 tiger range countries -- India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Six dogs, a mixture of Labradors and cocker spaniels, will be trained to identify the infection from samples collected from coronavirus patients by NHS staff in London hospitals.

Sushant's father...

From Page 1
The actor, aged 34, was found hanging from the ceiling of his apartment in suburban Bandra in Mumbai on June 14. Several political leaders and film personalities have demanded a CBI probe into his death.

Rajput's suspected death by suicide has also triggered a debate on alleged nepotism and favouritism in the Hindi film industry. Several top production houses had allegedly boycotted the Patna-born actor, causing him distress and compelling him to end his life.

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EXCISE L-BLOCK, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI

NO:F.10 (56)/96-97/IMFL/EX/PF/839-856 Dated: 20.07.2020

ORDER

In pursuance of the provisions of Rule 52 of Delhi Excise Rules, 2010, it is hereby ordered that following dates shall be observed as "Dry Day" in the National Capital Territory of Delhi by all L-1, L-1F, L-2, L-3, L-4, L-5, L-6, L-6FG, L-6FE, L-7, L-7FG, L-7FE, L-8, L-9, L-10, L-11, L-12, L-12F, L-14, L-18, L-23, L-23F, L-25, L-26, L-31, L-32, L-33, L-34 and L-35 licensees and opium vendors located in Delhi.

Sl. No	Occasion	Date	DAY
1	Id-ul-Zuha (Bakrid)	01.08.2020	Saturday
2	Janmashtami	12.08.2020	Wednesday
3	Independence Day	15.08.2020	Saturday
4	Muharram	30.08.2020	Sunday

In addition to above, all L-16, L-17, L-19, L-20, L-21, L-22, L-28, L-29, P- 10 and P-13 licensees shall observe dry day on 15.08.2020 (Independence Day).

The licensees shall not be entitled to any compensation on account of any changes effected in the above list.

The restriction of sale on liquor on dry days mentioned above shall not apply to the service of liquor to residents in case of hotels having L-15 license.

All the licensees shall exhibit this order at some conspicuous place of their licensed premises.

The business premises of a licensee shall be kept closed on dry day.

Sd/-
(Ravi Dhawan)
Commissioner (Excise)

DIP/Shabdarth/0183/20-21

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DELHI RIOT CASES: Govt rejects lawyer panel proposed by police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Cabinet has rejected the panel of lawyers proposed by the Delhi Police after observing that the courts have already raised serious questions on fairness of investigations done by the Delhi Police in the riot cases.

The decision was taken by the Delhi government in a cabinet meeting held on Tuesday to decide on the matter of appointment of a panel of lawyers in the Supreme Court and High Court for cases related to riots in north-east Delhi.

Keeping in mind the principles of the criminal justice system and the need to ensure independence between investigation and prosecution, the Delhi Cabinet has directed the home department to form an

impartial panel of the best possible lawyers in the country for the cases related to the Delhi riots, the government said in a statement.

The Cabinet has also observed that in such a situation a free and fair trial of these cases would not be possible by a panel of lawyers selected by the Delhi Police itself.

After thoroughly studying the proposal made by the Lieutenant Governor and the Delhi Police, the cabinet noted that anyone who is guilty of causing communal violence in Delhi should be punished severely.

"It was also observed that at the same time there should not be any punishment or harassment of innocent people and rejected the suggestion of the L-G to approve the Delhi Police's panel of lawyers," it

said. During the meeting, the Delhi Cabinet noted that Justice Suresh Kumar of the Delhi High Court has earlier observed that the Delhi Police is taking the entire judicial system on a ride on the Delhi riot cases.

"The Cabinet has also noted that various session courts and media have questioned the role of the Delhi Police during the riot and its investigation. The Delhi Cabinet has observed that in such a situation the panel of lawyers of the Delhi Police would not be able to ensure justice in these cases," it said.

The Delhi Cabinet observed that these cases are very important and the Delhi government's panel of lawyers should represent these cases.

Keeping the fundamental



principle of any criminal justice system in mind, the Delhi Cabinet has observed that under such circumstances it is not possible to expect a free and fair trial by lawyers appointed by Delhi Police.

The Cabinet of the Delhi Government has noted that the investigating agency should

not be allowed to decide the lawyers.

Apart from this, the Cabinet of Delhi government also observed that it is unfortunate the way L-G has been repeatedly interfering in the decision of appointment of the panel of lawyers.

In its order, the constitu-

tion bench of the Supreme Court has clearly stated dated April 7, 2018 that the Lieutenant Governor can exercise his authority over decisions of the elected government only in the rarest of rare cases. "The Cabinet noted that in this case, the L-G had written a letter to the Chief Minister of Delhi for taking a decision in the cabinet, disagreeing with the panel of lawyers already set up by the Delhi government.

However, Section 24 of the CrPC also mentions that the Delhi government has the right to appoint public prosecutors, it said, adding that under the constitution, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi has special powers to intervene and overturn any decision of the elected government of Delhi.

"But the Supreme Court has said that the Lieutenant

Governor can exercise this right only in the rarest of rare cases. Otherwise, it is against the spirit of democracy. Appointment of a panel of lawyers does not fall into any rare category and it is a normal procedure. For this reason, the Delhi government is fully empowered to appoint lawyers," it added.

The Delhi government's Cabinet has agreed with the Lieutenant Governor in the matter that the Delhi riots cases are very important and should be represented by the best lawyers and also observed that the Delhi government will form a panel comprising the best lawyers of the country.

Earlier, the Delhi Police had sent a proposal to the Delhi government to appoint six senior lawyers including Tushar Mehta and Aman Lekhi as

Special Counsel in the High Court and Supreme Court in 85 cases related to the North East riots and anti CAA protests.

The Delhi Government rejected the Delhi Police's proposal and said that Delhi government's lawyer Rahul Mehra and his team were capable of getting justice in these cases.

After this, Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal disagreed with the proposal sent by the Home Minister of Delhi and asked for the file using his special power. Later a meeting took place between the L-G and Home Minister of Delhi but the meeting was inconclusive. Then, Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal wrote a letter to the Chief Minister and asked the Delhi Cabinet to take a decision on this matter.

Two int'l drug rackets busted in G'gram, 5 foreigners held

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

In a major crackdown, the Gurugram Police in a joint operation with the district Drug Control Department on Tuesday busted two big international drug rackets operating from Gurugram and seized drugs including narcotics and Covid-19 drugs worth lakhs.

According to Senior Drug Controller Officer Amandeep Chauhan, the police raided two areas, sector 57 and Sadar area, in the city, and arrested four Iraq nationals, and one woman from Uzbekistan and seized drugs worth 45 lakh, along with Rs 75 lakh in cash and a Fortuner car from their possession.

Chauhan further informed

that the accused had kept the drugs in an apartment in Sector 57 of the cyber city. The seized drugs include narcotics and medicines used for treating cancer and COVID-19. The accused used to supply them illegally in the international markets.

The accused were identified as Akram Faiz (21), Aws Raad Nealmah Al Hendi (31), Mohanad (26) and Othmana (27), from Iraq and one Uzbekistan woman. The culprits used to work as translators.

The culprits, who have failed to produce any valid visas or passports, reportedly confessed trying to cash on the drug shortage in Iraq and its high rates in the black market there.

"We got a tip-off and busted the racket. Amongst the seizure is medicines which are of compassionate use for the treatment of COVID-19 and other ailments. They would procure the COVID drugs easily available on MRP from Gurugram and would send it to Iraq illegally.

These drugs are not directly available in the market. Police are taking them on remand to find out from where they are getting these drugs in India," said Gurugram Controller Amandeep Chauhan.

The alarming thing is that in Covid-19, 48 injections of ramadasevir, which were running experimentally, were recovered. It was being bought for Rs 5,400 and sold in Iraq for Rs 1 lakh.

The police investigation revealed that the culprits were running their alleged racket since six year and the price of all drugs sold in Iraq is said to be around 3 crores.

According to state Drug Controller officers, all-district departments are on alert over black marketing attempts of COVID treatment drugs available at the MRP in Haryana.

"Amid Covid-19 we have already given necessary directions to our department officials to keep watch of the Covid treatment drugs supply chains to stop black marketing. Stern action will be taken against those involving in the same, said a senior drug controller officer.

Cong demands action against SHO for his rude behaviour

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress has written to Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal and Delhi Police Commissioner SN Srivastav about the high-handed action by the Civil Lines Police Station SHO against the Congress leaders during a demonstration held on Monday by the party.

Kishan said that the Congress demonstrations are always peaceful and adhere to the directions of the police to maintain peace and order.

He appealed the L-G and the Commissioner to take appropriate action against the SHO for his rough and rude behaviour towards the party leaders.

Congress Delhi unit Vice-president Jai Kishan said that it is highly objectionable and unfair that while the BJP is allowed to hold protests without facing any action, the police adopt high-handed tactics against Congress workers when they protest against the undemocratic and unjust decisions of the BJP Government at the Centre.

Kishan said that the Congress demonstrations are always peaceful and adhere to the directions of the police to maintain peace and order. He appealed the L-G and the Commissioner to take appropriate action against the SHO for his rough and rude behaviour towards the party leaders.

REDESIGNING OF SEVEN ROADS — Kejrival reviews PWD's project

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday reviewed a Public Works Department's (PWD's) project of redesigning of seven roads in Delhi on the lines of European cities and directed officials for the detailed report within three weeks.

During the meeting with PWD officials, Kejriwal gave directions for all 100-foot-wide roads of Delhi, total 500-km-long roads will be completely redesigned as per international standards and along the lines of newly redesigned Chandni Chowk's main road.

Kejrival has asked for a detailed plan on redesigning of 500 km roads from PWD department in three weeks.

Kejrival said, "Delhi is the capital of the country. Through this project, it is our dream that Delhi looks like other global capital cities. This will present a better image of India in the world. The Delhi government is continuously working to improve Delhi's roads. A large number of people come to Delhi from abroad and if the roads here are beautiful and congestion-free, then this present a different image of India in front of the world. We will also increase the greenery beside these roads which will help us to combat pollution."

The project will follow the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model, the constitution company will have the respon-



FACILITIES COMING SOON

- ◆ Parking for rickshaws
- ◆ Specific parking space
- ◆ Green Belt
- ◆ Open spaces for public
- ◆ Cycle lanes
- ◆ Pedestrian lanes
- ◆ Different types of design will be displayed on the walls by the road
- ◆ No parks visible from the roads will be covered by walls

sibility to maintain the road for 15 years. The deadline of redesigning the first 7 roads was extended till August 2021 due to COVID, earlier December 2020 was the deadline.

According to PWD officials, redesigning will solve various through proper planning and mapping.

People face issues because there are bottleneck roads,

which create the problem of traffic congestion at various locations in the city.

The wide roads in many parts of Delhi differently turn into a narrow road, and then back into a wide road after a few kms, which creates a bottleneck situation and heavy traffic at particular locations.

"The priority will be removing those bottlenecks

first, for a smooth flow of traffic and an organized lane system. The second goal would be to increase the efficiency of the existing space of the roads in the city so that spaces are best utilized as per their abilities." "There will be measured and planned spaces for vehicles, non-motorized vehicles, footpaths, and side-lanes. The footpaths will be widely mapped to an average of 10 feet for the convenience of the pedestrians. These footpaths will be redesigned and reconstructed as per a standard height for the convenience of physically handicapped," an official from Delhi government said.

Keeping vehicular emissions an important aspect, the administration said that there will be separate spaces for the planting of trees on the sides of the footpaths. "There will be separate parking spaces for the electric vehicles and auto-rickshaws alongside the footpaths. The slope of the roads, as well as the drains, will be redesigned to tackle the problem of water-logging on the roads. Rainwater harvesting structures will be built inside the drainage systems to store rainwater as groundwater," the official added.

"Not even an inch of the surface of any road or roadside will be left uncovered, in order to ensure that there is no dust on the roads. Adequate grasses and shrubs will be planted on all surfaces to ensure dust control," added further.

Depressed police head constable shoots self

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 34-year-old Delhi Police head constable allegedly shot himself dead with his service pistol on Tuesday in south Delhi's Lado Sarai area.

The Head constable identified as Sanjay was posted at the Saket Police Station.

According to a senior police official, Sanjay shot himself with his service pistol.

"Police found no suicide note from the spot. A preliminary enquiry revealed that he was depressed over the illness of his elder brother," said the senior police official.

Sanjay hailed from Alwar district in Rajasthan.

Man held for duping diplomat, others

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a man who had allegedly duped a senior diplomat as well as multiple other innocent persons across the country for amounts over a crore rupees in the national Capital.

The accused has been identified as Akram, a resident of Shaheen Bagh area.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, an First Information Report (FIR) was registered under section 420 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 66-C IT Act after email of a senior diplomat was hacked and cheating of approx Rs 140,000/ from his email's contact persons asking for monetary help came to light.

"The cyber cell of South district, analyzed various bank accounts, linked mobile phones with the beneficiary bank

accounts. All the SIM and bank accounts were on the basis of fake addresses. Police team finally on the basis of technical surveillance found a lead to the alleged beneficiary accounts and from other prevailing situations," said the DCP.

"On July 25, after receiving specific inputs, one accused, Akram, was nabbed. During interrogation, the accused confessed to his crime and told police that the accused used to provide rooms on rent to the poor people/labourers and used to get their savings and current bank accounts. For this, he at first used to get their addresses changed on the Aadhar card for account opening. Thereafter, he procured a SIM card at the said address and later he opened their savings and current bank accounts," said the DCP.

"Thereafter, Akram used to again shift the account holders from their addresses mentioned in the bank account to avoid being traced out by the police. He used to open more than 4-5 accounts in different banks in the name of one person for this purpose," said the DCP.

Explaining the modus operandi of the accused, the DCP said that Akram used to provide the bank accounts to one associate who was in touch with some foreign nationals and cheaters who after committing cheating got deposited the amount in these bank accounts procured.

"The accused used to commit cheating with innocent people on the pretext of various social engineering including sending email grabbers to hack email ID and thereafter to demand money from the victim's contact," said the DCP adding that further investigation is going on.



BJP MP Gautam Gambhir during a visit to the Ghazipur landfill in New Delhi on Tuesday. The leader claims that the landfill site has reduced in height in the past several months. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

'Need to cover infertility treatment under schemes like Ayushman Bharat'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Leading gynecologists and infertility specialists stressed the need to cover infertility treatment under schemes like Ayushman Bharat as among 300 million reproductive couples in India, about 10 per cent of them have problems that require IVF (vitro fertilization).

The observation came at the day-long 'India IVF Summit' by 'Integrated Health and Wellbeing' (IHW) Council on the World IVF Day and supported by Bharat Serums and Vaccines Ltd. (BSVL).

Announcing a commitment of Rs 10 lakhs on behalf of Bharat Serums & Vaccines towards a fund that can influence health impact in infertility, Sanjiv Navangul, Managing Director and CEO of Bharat Serums and Vaccines Ltd said that with my experience of working with TB and diabetes, I can say finding the social cost of infertility is important - it is at the root of many divorces, suicides, abuses, mental health problems.

"BSVL will lead a multi-stakeholder study to quantify the economic cost of infertility and the findings will be presented to the government so that they can note the ground realities and formulate right policies in this direction," he said.

IVF works by using a combination of medicines and surgical procedures to help sperm fertilize an egg and help the fertilized egg implant in the uterus.

Railways sets 3.13 million tonnes freight loading record

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Railways achieved more freight loading compared with last year despite the challenges amid the Covid-19 pandemic crisis on Tuesday.

The freight loading on Monday was 3.13 million tonnes, higher than last year for the same date, the Indian Railways said. Of the 1,039 rakes loaded, 76 carried grain, 67 fertilizer, 49 steel, 113 cement, 113 iron ore, 363 coal and the rest other items, it said.

It may be noted that the Prime Minister had emphasized upon achievement of long term and far reaching

goals during the lockdown. Accordingly, Railways has completed nearly 200 infrastructure works in this period. Now Railways has achieved a milestone in freight transportation also.

The average speed of freight trains on 27 July 2020 was 46.16 kmph which is more than double as compare to last year for the same date (22.52 kmph). In the month of July the average speed of freight trains is 45.03 kmph which is around double as compare to last year for the same month (23.22 kmph).

West Central Railway with the average speed of 54.23



kmph, Northeast Frontier Railway with the speed of 51 kmph, East Central Railway 50.24 kmph, East Cost Railway 41.78 kmph, South East Central Railway 42.83 kmph, South Eastern Railway 43.24 kmph and Western Railway with the speed of 44.4 kmph are the leading Railway Zones in the average speed of freight train in Indian Railways.

On 27 July 2020 the total freight loading was 3.13 million tonnes which is higher than last year for the same date. On 27 July 2020 total 1039 no. of rakes loaded with freight in Indian Railways which includes 76 rakes of foodgrain, 67 rakes

of fertilizer, 49 rakes of steel, 113 rakes of cement, 113 rakes of iron ore and 363 rakes of coal.

It may be noted that these improvements in freight movements will be institutionalized and incorporated in the upcoming zero based time table. These steps will lead to significantly higher freight traffic and earnings for Railways and cost competitive logistics for the entire country.

It is worth mentioning that a number of concessions/ discounts are also being given in Indian Railways to make the Railways Freight movement very attractive.

EC objects to J&K L-G's remarks on poll timing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday raised strong objections to Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor GC Murmu's statements indicating that Assembly polls in the Union Territory (UT) could be held after the delimitation exercise is completed.

In a statement, the EC said that such statements "virtually tantamount to interfering with its Constitutional mandate." It also said other authorities should refrain from making such statements. It is rare for the EC to issue a public statement against another constitutional functionary.

Tuesday's statement came after Murmu again spoke on the election timing in an interview. This time, he said the elections to the J&K Assembly would be held after the delimitation exercise. Murmu had reportedly claimed that elections in the Union Territory can be held after the ongoing delimitation exercise.

While taking note of various statements of Murmu on election timing in the Union Territory, the EC said it "takes exception to such statements and would like to state that in the constitutional scheme of



PHOTO: ANIL KUMAR

things, the timings etc. of elections is the sole remit of the Election Commission of India". Before deciding the timing of any election, the EC said, it "takes into consideration all the relevant factors including topography, weather, and sensitivities, arising out of regional and local festivities in the area(s), where the election is to take place".

The EC further said, "It would be proper for authorities other than the Election Commission to refrain from making such statements which virtually tantamount to interfering with the Constitutional mandate of Election Commission."

"For example, in the current times, COVID-19 has introduced a new dynamic, which has to be and shall be taken into consideration at the due time. In the instant case, the outcome of delimitation is also germane to the decision. Similarly, availability of central forces and railway coaches, etc. for the transportation of CPFs are impor-

tant factors. All this is done after meticulous homework by the senior officials of the Commission and a detailed assessment in due consultation with concerned authorities", it stated.

The EC noted that it visited the States concerned as required and consulted all stakeholders. "It would be proper for authorities other than the Election Commission of India to refrain from making such statements, which virtually tantamount to interfering with the constitutional mandate of the Commission", the statement said.

The union territory of J&K came into being on October 31, 2019 after the State was reorganised and bifurcated into two Union Territories, Ladakh being the other. There is a provision of a state legislature in the union territory of J&K.

A Delimitation Commission set up by the government earlier this year has started the exercise of redrawing the assembly and parliamentary seats in J&K and some northeastern states. Delimitation is the process of fixing limits or boundaries of assembly and parliamentary constituencies in the country.

Covid-19 to take toll on India's response to AIDS: ICMR study



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 pandemic has already started showing adverse ripple effects on India's AIDS response with a study by the ICMR warning that the Government may miss the national target to end the deadly disease by 2030. That target would be difficult to achieve as the decline in annual new HIV infections was only 27 per cent from 2010 to 2017 against a national target of a 75% decline by 2020.

The warning comes in a study by the ICMR-National Institute of Medical Statistics, Division of Strategic Information — Surveillance and Epidemiology, and the National AIDS Control Organization under the Union Health Ministry.

As per the study published in the latest issue of the Indian Journal of Medical Research, the national adult prevalence of HIV was estimated to be 0.22 per cent in 2017. Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland had the highest prevalence of over 1 per cent.

The study found an estimated 2.1 million people were



living with the AIDS virus, HIV, in 2017, with Maharashtra estimated to have the highest number. Of the 88,000 annual new HIV infections nationally in 2017, Telangana accounted for the largest share.

"HIV incidence was found to be higher among key population groups, especially people who inject drugs. The annual AIDS-related deaths were estimated to be 69,000 nationally," the study said. "...At the sub-national level some states have made better progress to reduce new HIV infection. It calls for reinforcement of HIV prevention, diagnosis and treatment efforts by geographical regions and population groups."

The States with the highest number of people living with HIV in 2017 were Maharashtra (0.33 million), Andhra Pradesh (0.27 million) and Karnataka (0.24 million). Telangana, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar had between 0.2 and 0.1 million such patients.

The study highlighted that prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV is another critical target to be achieved by 2020. Of the 22,677 such cases in India, 58.2 per cent were on treatment as of December 2018. Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana had relatively higher PMTCT need. However, treatment coverage was still significantly lower than the national average.

It also dwelled on 15 states accounting for 87 per cent of the total population of HIV-infected persons in 2017. There were signs of rising new HIV infections in the low-burden states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Uttarakhand in 2017 compared with 2010, the study pointed out.

'Meter installation' work in J&K is with Chinese cos: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday alleged that despite the Government claiming that it has barred Chinese companies from working in India, the meter installation project in Jammu and Kashmir is being indirectly handled by a Chinese company which has worked in Pakistan also.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera alleged, "The Government has facilitated back-door entry of the Chinese company for such a sensitive work in Jammu and Kashmir."

The party at a Press conference further alleged that Dongfang company is active in various countries and has special relations with Pakistan. The company has worked in Pakistan's Nandipur power project and is known for making software and hardware for Radio Frequency Technology.

"The company which has got the work in J&K to install smart electric metres has given its work to Dongfang which is Chinese company and reports to the Chinese Army and the Government. The tender has

been given by the Power Ministry under rural electrification program," Khera alleged.

According to the documents shared by Congress, the company has to install one lakh smart metres in Jammu and another one lakh in Srinagar. "But in the smart meter the important component like Radio Communication System, the nature of work and the geographical region make it a sensitive issue, and when it is done in Kashmir, it a national security issue," alleged Khera.

"There is a threat that with all the data with the Chinese company, this may create a blackout," said Khera. In a statement, the Congress said that when the entire world has a threat of cyber attack then we should be cautious in handing over such sensitive work to Chinese companies.

ED conducts raid at GVK Group, MIAL premises

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted searches against GVK Group and Mumbai International Airport Ltd. (MIAL) and others in connection with alleged irregularities to the tune of ₹705 crore in operating the Mumbai airport.

The multi-location searches were carried out at nine premises in Mumbai and Hyderabad under the provision of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), officials said.

The agency's search operation covered the offices of the GVK group, MIAL and the premises of GVK group promoters, they said.

The ED had filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (FIR IN police parlance) on July 7 under the PMLA after taking cognisance of a recent CBI FIR filed against the same set of individuals and entities as money laundering is a predicate offence.

The ED is probing if genuine funds were laundered to create "proceeds of crime" and amass personal assets by illegal routing of funds by the accused.

The ED and CBI case pertain to the alleged siphoning off ₹705 crore from the funds of MIAL, a joint venture under public-private partnership (PPP) between the GVK Airport Holdings Limited and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) besides other investors,

by showing inflated expenditure, under-reporting of revenues, fudging of records among others.

Earlier, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had booked Gunupati, a director in MIAL, his son GV Sanjay Reddy, managing director in MIAL, the companies—MIAL, GVK Airport Holdings Limited (a GVK group company) and nine other private companies allegedly used to camouflage the inflated figures through sham deals and unidentified AAI officials (public servants).

On April 4, 2006, the AAI had entered into an agreement with MIAL for the modernisation, upkeep, operation and maintenance of the Mumbai airport.

Covid pandemic to add 6.7 mn children under 5 to suffer from wasting : UNICEF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An additional 6.7 million kids under the age of five across the world suffer from wasting this year due to steep declines in household incomes, changes in the availability and affordability of nutritious foods amid Covid-19 pandemic, the UNICEF warned on Tuesday.

According to the world body, in India, there are still around 20 million children under five years of age who are suffering from wasting. Wasting is a life-threatening form of malnutrition, which makes children too thin and weak, and puts them at greater risk of dying, poor growth, development and learning.

"It's been seven months since the first Covid-19 cases were reported and it is increasingly

clear that the repercussions of the pandemic are causing more harm to children than the disease itself," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

"Household poverty and food insecurity rates have increased. Essential nutrition services and supply chains have been disrupted. Food prices have soared. As a result, the quality of children's diets has gone down and malnutrition rates will go up."

According to the UNICEF, even before the Covid-19 pandemic, 47 million children were already wasted in 2019. Without urgent action, the global number of children suffering from wasting could reach almost 54 million over the course of the year. This would bring global wasting to levels not seen this millennium.

A report published in the Lancet finds that the prevalence of wasting among children under the age of five could increase by 14.3 per cent in low- and middle-income countries this year, due to the socio-economic impacts of Covid-19. Such an increase in child malnutrition would translate into over 10,000 additional child deaths per month with over 50 per cent of these deaths in sub-Saharan Africa.

The estimated increase in child wasting is only the tip of the iceberg, UN agencies warn. Covid-19 will also increase other forms of malnutrition in children and women, including stunting, micronutrient deficiencies and overweight and obesity as a result of poorer diets and the disruption of nutrition services.

VIKAS DUBEY ENCOUNTER

SC rejects pleas seeking removal of ex-DGP from probe commission

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday dismissed the pleas seeking removal of former Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh K L Gupta from the 3-member inquiry commission set up to probe the killing of gangster Vikas Dubey in police encounter.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde said it would not allow the petitioners, who had referred to statements given by Gupta to the media for seeking his removal, to cast aspersions on the member of inquiry commission.

The commission will also probe the killing of eight policemen allegedly by Dubey's gang and the subsequent encounter of the gangster and five of his purported associates by the cops.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that my client, SH. PRADEEP CHAWLA S/O SH. JAGDISH KUMAR CHAWLA R/O 23, T.F. RAJIV ENCLAVE, SECTOR-6, ROHINI, DELHI. Purchaser of DOA JANTA FLAT NO. 168, BLOCK BS, SECOND FLOOR, SHALIMAR BAGH, NEW DELHI FILE NO. J-12(212/80)/GEN/SS. The LOST ORIGINAL POSSESSION LETTER & NOC OF ELECTRICITY & WATER CONNECTION has been lost/stolen. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in the police station, crime branch, Delhi vide (LR No. 446152/2020, Dated 28.07.2020). Any Person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above Address/Phone No. 782764116, 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 ASST. DIRECTOR (LAB HOUSING), D-BLOCK, THIRD FLOOR OR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DOA VIKAS SADAN, NEW DELHI-110023
S. P. SINGH (ADVOCATE)

WESTERN RAILWAY

REHABILITATION OF DADAR RLY COLONY - TYPE II
Tender Notice No.: BCT/20-21/179 Dtd. 27.07.2020
Name of Work: Rehabilitation of Dadar Rly Colony - Type II (54 units), Type IV (2 units) Type III (1 unit) along with Road, Drainage line, Toilets, Garden, Boundary wall and Providing Dy. CE (Bridge) office, yard master office, store and single cabin, social welfare centre under ground tank. Over head tank and pump room at Dadar colony, in connection with Rehabilitation of Western Railway south colony in connection with relocation of infringing structure and proposed new STR in connection with 5" and 6" line at Dadar station. **Approx Cost of Work:** ₹16,74,64,482.77 **EMD:** ₹9,87,300.00 **Date & Time of Submission:** 04.09.2020 till 15:00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening:** 04.09.2020 till 15:30 hrs. For more details/ information visit website www.reps.gov.in
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WESTERN RAILWAY

NOTICE FOR INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
The industrial belt of Umbergaon, VAPI, Daman, Silvassa and Surat has 1000s of industries dealing in textile, chemicals, pharma and plastic. Several rounds of discussions took place with trade and industry in this area with the aim to bring the traffic on rail. Railway as a freight carrier has an inherent advantage in long distance traffic over roadways in terms of costing and is also the safest and environment friendly mode of transport. Mumbai Division wants to address the concern of the traders in the area by providing end to end solution by taking care of first mile and last mile connectivity.
In order to encourage freight customers and boost Railway freight traffic, Mumbai Division, Western Railway intends to empanel experienced and reputed Logistic Agency to act as Rail Aggregator And Handler (RAAH) for collection and transportation of cargo from the city to railway terminal, loading the same in railway wagons/ parcel vans, unloading the cargo at the destination station and delivery of the same to the customer's doorstep.
Activities related to the service i.e. packaging, collection from the city, transportation of the parcel to railway station, loading of parcels in the wagon/VPU, unloading of parcel at the destination and delivery of Parcels at customer's door step in the destination station along with insurance of packages against theft, loss, damage or pilferage will have to be carried by empaneled agency under the supervision of the Railway.
In this regard, Mumbai Division of Western Railway invites experienced and reputed Logistic company having annual turnover of atleast ₹ 10 crores per annum to attend the pre-bid meeting to be held on 05.08.2020 at 11:00 hrs in Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Commercial Department, Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400008 to discuss the modalities of proposal and drafting of application for empanelment.
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NOIDA New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

S.No.	Job No./Work Name	Amount
1.	77/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, D/o RSP (P/f of special art work on underpass sector-18). Noida.	Cost Rs. 44.28 Lacs
2.	79/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, D/o Parks (P/f of special art work at Sector-14A Entry Point). Noida.	Cost Rs. 25.33 Lacs
3.	19/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Green Belt (R/o boundary wall & footpath) sector-119 & 120.	Cost Rs. 27.84 Lacs
4.	24/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, D/o Park, (Sh PF Open gym) Sector-01, D-1 (National Skill Training Institute Women) with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.91 Lacs
5.	26/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, Do Park, (Sh PF Open gym) Sector-14A along with camp house No-08. with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.91 Lacs
6.	64/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park with two year Maintenance in Sector-2,3,4 Block B, sector-10, Block-B & sector-06 DTC Park & sector-5 nera water Compound, Harola near Sharma Market and near Barat Ghar Park,	Cost Rs. 57.23 Lacs
7.	138/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, D/o Parks (P/f of special art work at Shilp Hatt in sector-33A). Noida	Cost Rs. 37.13 Lacs
8.	140/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, D/o Parks (P/f of special art work at Botanical Garden Parking Sector-38A). Noida	Cost Rs. 25.33 Lacs
9.	95/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-112 (SH: Open Gym) with five year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.83 Lacs
10.	97/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, /o Park Open Gym Sector-116 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.83 Lacs
11.	98/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Open Gym Sector-34 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.83 Lacs
12.	101/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-51 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 48.38 Lacs
13.	111/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park (Open Gym with Five year Maintenance) Mahamaya Balika Inter College Sector-44 & P/F of Submersible Pump Boring	Cost Rs. 39.09 Lacs
14.	75/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o Parks (P/f of special Mural art work at Shaheed Bhagat Singh Park in sector-150). Noida	Cost Rs. 32.40 Lacs
15.	66/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o R.S.P Sector -87 & 147, with two year maintenance (Sh: Plantation)	Cost Rs. 40.65 Lacs
16.	69/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o R.S.P Sector -90, 138 & 144 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 46.67 Lacs
17.	72/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2019-20, C/o Site Store and Toilet block in different location of Horticulture Department Division-III, Noida.	Cost Rs. 45.84 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by Date: 04.08.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on Date: 05.08.2020 at 11.00 AM.

Office Sector-39 Director (Hort.) Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Spread awareness about hepatitis: Speaker to MPs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Calling hepatitis a serious challenge, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday urged Members of Parliament to spread awareness about liver disease amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Hepatitis is a condition of severe inflammation of the liver tissues that could even result in fatality.

Observing that liver care during the difficult times of Covid-19 is important, Birla said it was the lawmakers' duty to sensitise people and make the fight against the pandemic a mass movement.

"Hepatitis is a serious challenge that can be overcome only with collective effort and resolve. For this, the role of public representatives, especially MPs, becomes crucial," Birla said on the occasion of World Hepatitis Day on Tuesday.

He was chairing the 'Empathy Conclave 2020, organised by the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) and the

KEEP YOUR LIVER SAFE DURING COVID-19 TIMES

- Keep an eye on the nutrition labels and make informed food decisions that are particularly favourable for liver health.
- If possible, get fresh fruits and vegetables and freeze them for the upcoming weeks.
- Do not give up on physical activities, both indoor and outdoor. Maintain social distancing for outdoor activities and get creative for indoor workouts.
- Beware of Over the counter/Unauthorized herbs for any conditions during pandemic as most of these are toxic to liver.
- Prefer home cooked foods as acute Hepatitis A and E are food borne.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) at the Parliament House.

The theme of this year's event was 'Keep your liver safe in times of Covid-19'. He hoped a vaccine for it would be discovered soon while Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said the government had announced a ₹ 15,000 crore package to deal with the coronavirus crisis.

Earlier, Dr Sarin said that health of the liver was directly linked to many diseases, like diabetes, hypertension and heart

ailments, thus it was extremely important to take care of the liver.

"If one is on medications for chronic hepatitis during this time, they must ensure that they have adequate stock for an extended period of time. The stocking up is important during uncertain times of lockdown as skipping a day's medicine can flare up the virus and increase liver damage risk," said Dr Dinesh Kini K Director - Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Sakra World Hospital.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	RE-INVITE 3RD TIME CONSTN OF STAFF QUARTERS & BAKERY AT JHM BADIKHAL, FARIDABAD.	28.07.2020 17.08.2020	92.80 Lakhs	haryanaturism.gov.in/ https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9216400440 haryanaturism@gmail.com
2	H.S.A.M. BOARD, JIND.	RE-CONST. OF BOUNDARY WALL (PART-A) AND S/R OF INTERNAL ROAD (PART-B) IN NCM AT ALEWA + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 18.08.2020	244.06 LACS	http://etenders.hry.gov.in	01681-252003 etenders.gov.in
3	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE PATAUDI	SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR REMEDIATION AND RECLAMATION OF EXISTING DUMP SITE NEAR MOTI DUNGRI JOHD AT MC PATAUDI.	24.07.2020 14.08.2020	EMD 2.04 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicgep/app	0124-2672869
4	THE AMBALA DISTT. COOP. MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD	SOLAR PV PANEL, SOLAR CHARGE CONTROLLER, SOLAR TUBULAR INDUSTRIAL BATTERIES, + 3 OTHER WORKS	29.07.2020 17.08.2020	2 LACS	www.vitaindia.org.in	9729875323 milkplant@vitaaambala.com
5	HSAMB GURUGRAM	SPECIAL REPAIR OF 3 NOS. LINK ROAD (ROAD ID-1212, 1218, 1221) IN PATAUDI CONSTITUENCY + 2 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 18.08.2020	EMD 9.70 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466457133 xengurgaon.hsamb@gmail.com
6	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL REWARI	CONSTRUCTION OF AEROBIC COMPOST PITS IN VARIOUS PARKS AND PLACES IN AREA OF MC REWARI	OPENING CLOSING DATE 04.08.2020	19.14 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicgep/app	9728025011 secymc.rwr@gmail.com
7	HARYANA TOURISM CORPORATION LIMITED	WORK FOR PROVIDING AND LAYING LANDSCAPING AND HORTICULTURE WORK AT ASHOKA EDICTS PARK, TOPRA KALAN, RADDAUR, DISTRICT YAMUNANAGAR.	29.07.2020 18.08.2020	10.65 LACS	haryanaturism.gov.in	9216400440 haryanaturism@gmail.com
8	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE PATAUDI	CONST OF BOUNDARY WALL ON MC LAND (NEAR MOTI DUNGRI JOHD AND NEAR RAVIDASS MANDIR) IN PATAUDI + 1 OTHER WORK	23.07.2020 09.08.2020	22270/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicgep/app	0124-2672869

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 81975

25 lakh people displaced by Bihar floods, 8 dead

Former K'taka Min succumbs to coronavirus

Patna: Torrential rain in the catchment areas of Bihar and Nepal has aggravated the flood situation in the State with almost all major rivers flowing above the danger mark.

Nearly 25 lakh people have been displaced in the State and eight lost their life. Despite relief and rescue operations by the Bihar Government people are in dire straits. Traffic has been affected in many areas.

According to a report by the water resources department on Tuesday, the water level of the Kosi, near Veerpur barrage, was at a dangerous level at 8 a.m. Similarly, the water level in the Gandak river has crossed the danger mark near Balmikinagar barrage.



Villagers cross a flood affected area on a boat as they move towards a safer place, in Gopalganj district on Tuesday. PTI

Rivers such as the Bagmati, Budhi Gandak, Kamla Balan and Ganga are flowing above the danger mark in many areas.

People have left their homes and taken refuge in higher areas.

Disaster management secretary Ramchandra Dua said that in view of the increased

water level of various rivers in Bihar, the disaster management department is constantly maintaining a vigil. As many as 765 panchayats in 93 blocks across 11 districts of Bihar have been affected by the surging waters.

As many as 29 relief camps have been set up in the flood-affected areas which house near-

ly 13,000 people, Ramachandra said. He informed that 703 community kitchens are being run which feed 3,28,357 people every day.

The floods have affected 25 lakh people in the state, he added. The NDRF and SDRF teams are carrying out relief and rescue operations round the clock. Some 1.67,005 people have been evacuated. However, eight persons have died due to floods, including four each in Darbhanga and West Champaran.

Chief minister Nitish Kumar has instructed engineers to remain stationed for 24 hours at embankments so that emergency repairs can be carried out. IANS

Along with loss of human lives, animals too victims of Assam floods

Guwahati: While the annual monsoon floods in Assam claim hundreds of lives, damage crops, infrastructure and assets, the animals too are not spared. These include the endangered rhinos in the world famous Kaziranga National Park, home to more than 2,200 one-horned Indian rhinos.

Kaziranga National Park Director Karmashree P. Sivakumar said on Tuesday that this year at least 137 wild animals have died so far due

to the floods while 163 have been rescued, even as over 95 per cent of the 884 sq km Kaziranga Park was inundated last week. Even with the overall improvement in the flood situation in the state by Tuesday, 75 per cent of the park area remained flooded.

"Last year 263 animals including many endangered rhinos were killed due to the floods while 169 animals were rescued. Currently, we are in the middle of the four month

(June to September) long monsoon. I do not know what would be the final situation. However, all-out efforts are being made to take care of the animals in the entire Kaziranga National Park," Sivakumar told IANS over phone.

The animals that have perished in the monsoon floods this year include 14 rhinos, 101 hog deer, ten wild boars, five wild buffaloes, three porcupines and two swamp deer. IANS

IANS ■ KALABURAGI

Former Karnataka Congress minister Raja Madangopal Nayak died of Covid-19 in a designated hospital at Kalaburagi in the State's northern region, an official said on Tuesday. He was 70.

"Nayak succumbed to coronavirus on Monday at ESI Hospital where he was admitted on July 23 after he was brought from his native place (Surpur) in the adjacent Yadgir district," Kalaburagi district health official K.S. Mallikarjun told IANS on phone.

Kerala sees 4 deaths, 1,167 fresh infections

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHII

The situation in Kerala arising out of the spread of Covid-19 has become grave by Tuesday, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Health Department on Tuesday diagnosed 1,167 new patients who had contracted Covid-19, said the Chief Minister during his media briefing on Tuesday.

While 679 persons recovered from the pandemic on Tuesday, the day saw the number of persons infected through local transmission reaching 888, said the Chief Minister. "We lost four persons to Covid-19 during the last 24 hours and the situation in the State has become really serious. All 14 districts in the State are in the grip of coronavirus," said Vijayan.

There were 55 infected persons on

Tuesday who could not pinpoint the time, place, and sources from where they contracted the pandemic, said the Chief Minister. "The capital city of Thiruvananthapuram is grievous. On Tuesday we had 227 positive cases in the district.

The situation is becoming worse by the day," he said. There are 486 hotspots in the State while 1,167 persons were admitted to hospitals. "As on Tuesday, there are 10,091 Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment in hospitals," he said.

The chief minister was all praise for the Church and Madrasa officials in the State who are supporting the initiatives taken by the Government. "The media in Kerala is not sincere in their reporting about the fatalities reported from various places in the State," said Pinarayi Vijayan.

88 die, 6,972 new cases in Tamil Nadu

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

There was no respite for Tamil Nadu on Tuesday in the number of persons diagnosed with Covid-19 or the number of persons succumbed to the pandemic as 88 deaths were reported and 6,972 new patients were identified during the last 24 hours.

The medical bulletin issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu said that by the end of Tuesday, there were 57,073 active coronavirus cases in the State. As part of aggressive testing, the number of laboratories operating in the state were increased to 119. These laboratories on Tuesday tested

59,584 persons for the Covid-19.

With the 88 deaths reported on Tuesday, the fatalities in the State increased to 3,659. While Chennai gave hopes about the possibilities of taming the coronavirus, situation in the three neighbouring districts remained critical. Chengalpatt (365), Kancheepuram (223) and Thiruvallur (486) remained dangerous as the number of patients increased in these three districts.

Virudhunagar diagnosed 586 new patients with corona. Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami has convened a meeting of district collectors on Wednesday for devising strategies to counter the pandemic.

WB lockdown extended till Aug 31

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal Government has extended the lockdown till August 31. Informing about the decision Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said that the "current lockdown will continue till August 31 where after the Government will take a further decision depending on the situation."

As this is "not a complete lockdown" the lockdown protocols will apply to theaters, multiplexes, educational institutions and other places and ceremonies involving public gathering, government sources said.

Besides, the weekly lockdown will continue for one more month save on the days of Bakr-Eid, Raksha Bandhan and Independence Day, the Chief Minister maintained adding all there will be complete lockdown on Sundays and another day in a week. "However I will request all the people concerned to celebrate their festivals maintaining social distancing and

following all other rules prescribed by the doctors," Banerjee said.

"Complete lockdown will be enforced on all the Sundays" she said adding "there will be complete lockdown on August 2, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 31."

On the UGC's suggestion for holding the final exams in colleges Banerjee said "we will not be able to hold exams because of the grim situation and we do not want to push the students in deeper problem."

On the opening of the State's educational institutions she said "there is a proposal of opening the schools and colleges after Teachers' Day which is the birth day of Dr Radhakrishnan... but that too will depend upon the situation then... even if the schools and colleges are opened it will be done with 50 percent capacity." On the State's corona infrastructure she said "Bengal had a better infrastructure and situation than many other States" adding the State has 56 labs conducting about 16-17 thousand tests per day.

Time to probe top cops: WB Guv to CM

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In what the critics called a ploy to bring the pro-Mamata Banerjee police officers under pressure a year ahead of the State elections Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday called for a probe into the "financial capabilities" (read asset) of senior police officers.

Raising an issue that no other Governor had raised before since Independence Dhankhar in a letter written to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said "police in the State have fingers in very pie and this does not augur well for democracy."

Alleging that it was the police officers who were actually running the State he wrote "Inputs indicate that the governance in the State is police driven --- a worrisome scenario that leads to a police state." Hinting that hat a time had come when the police officers should be probed, he wrote "... time to take note of the fiscal empowerment of those in the police, in position of authority, and it will be eye-opener as many assert." Incidentally the Chief Minister is also the State's Police Minister.

Hitting out at Banerjee for lodging a complaint with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi against him Dhankhar wrote "your observations are bereft off any fact, premise or foundation --- there being not even one illustration to sustain these.

Pune's DIAT develops medical bed isolation system to combat virus

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Pune-based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, (DIAT) a "deemed-to-be" University, Pune has developed a low cost reusable Medical Bed Isolation System to combat COVID-19 by stopping or minimizing the spread of virus/ infection released by the patient.

"This (Aashray) is a low cost, reusable solution to maintain proper isolation of Covid-19 patients by creating suction/negative pressure near exhale, and further filtering and disinfecting the aerosol," a Pune-based defence spokesperson said.

Bed Isolation System envelopes are made up of specialized material and manufacturing process with each transparent and translucent envelope measuring 7.5 feet in length, seven feet in width and



6.5 ft height supported on medical grade materials structure.

The product is modular and portable in design and can be suitable for different requirements such as institutional, hospitals and home/individual quarantine. The envelope is reusable as it is antibacterial-antifungal and can be sanitized.

"Apart from serving as a bed, each envelope is capable of housing one set of bed, table and chair along with some walking space. The width of the

envelope can be adjusted as per the availability of space. Envelope is opaque up to 3 ft from bottom to maintain privacy of the patient," the spokesperson said.

The entire envelope is maintained at a low pressure (suction) with adjustable flow rate to restrain spread of virus/infection inside the hall/ ICU.

"Each envelope is connected to the main duct equipped with UV light and filter circuit of Pre, fine and HEPA filter (recommended for medical application) and suction blower. The cross flow of air from top of the envelope towards the main duct is regulated (with a flap valve) as per the comfort conditions of the patient," the spokesperson said.

Mumbai's Covid curve flattening, cases drop to 3 months low of 700

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a clear evidence of the flattening Covid-19 curve in the country's commercial Capital, the daily tally of infected cases came down to a low of 700 new cases on Tuesday, while the number of deaths remained relatively low at 55.

From 1021 new cases reported on Monday, the total number of infections in Mumbai -- which has been the Covid-19 affected city in the entire country -- dropped to 700 on Tuesday -- which incidentally during the last three months.

Till Monday, the number of deaths in Mumbai had ranged from 39 (July 27) to 65 (July 18) during the past ten days, the number of infected cases ranged from 992 (July 21) and 1310 (July 22) during the past 10 days.

With 700 fresh infections, the total number of infections in the metropolis rose to 110,882

in Mumbai, while the total number of deaths increased by 55 from to 6,187.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which has been waging a grim battle against coronavirus for the past three and a half months, was in for pleasant surprise, as the number of new infections dropped to as low as 700 cases on Tuesday -- which incidentally was the day when highest 8776 Covid-19 tests were conducted in the metropolis.

"The good news: Only 700 cases today in Mumbai & that too with highest testing till date in Mumbai in a single day(8776). This is to chase the virus in full capacity. A major relief after 3 months. Caution: don't let the guard down! Don't let your mask down! Only get numbers down!" a happy Maharashtra Minister Aaditya Thackeray tweeted.

"Mumbai will see more testing with chase the virus initiative of the @mybmc. It is also the only city to have liberalised testing and allowed citizens to "test at will", Aaditya tweeted. Chase the Virus model of Mumbai is being implemented in MMR region active-

ly that has seen a ramping up of facilities in the past few weeks. Along with MMR, rest of Maharashtra too is taking all efforts to tackle covid pandemic effectively," Aaditya added.

In another good piece of news, the recovery rate in Mumbai has increased to 73 percent, while the case doubling rate is 68 days in the metropolis.

In Mumbai, over 4.85 lakh Covid-19 tests have been done so far, while the overall growth from 20-26 July is 1.03 per cent.

In Mumbai, the BMC has replicated the "chase the virus" which it had successfully adopted "chase the virus" at Dharavi slum in north-central Mumbai being densely populated (2,27,136 persons/ sq. km), Dharavi had 491 cases in April 2020 with a 12% growth rate and a case doubling period of 18 days. The proactive measures adopted by BMC reduced the COVID-19 growth rate to 4.3 per cent in May 2020 and further to 1.02% in June. These measures also ensured an improved case doubling time to 43 days in May 2020 and 78 days in June 2020.

No relatives can visit UP jail to tie rakhi

IANS ■ LUCKNOW

For those lodged in prisons in Uttar Pradesh, it will be a lonely 'Raksha Bandhan' this year.

The jail administration has decided not to permit relatives, mainly sisters, from visiting prisoners and tying rakhi.

Family members, however, can send rakhi about 24 hours before the festival so that they can be sanitised and given to the inmates.

The Raksha Bandhan festival will be held on August 3 this year.

PRESS NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER NO: 06/EE/PWD (R&B)/KMP/DIV/2020-21

Date: 23-07-2020

The Executive Engineer, Kamalpur Division, PWD (R&B), Kamalpur, Dhalai District, Tripura invites on behalf of the 'Governor of Tripura' percentage rate e-Tender from the Central & State public sector undertaking / enterprise and eligible Bidders / Firms / Agencies of appropriate class registered with PWD / TTAADC / MES / CPWD / Railway / Other State PWD up to 3.00 P.M. on 06-07-2020 for the following works : Construction of RCC road side drain from CH:25.56 km to 26.16 km on K-A road left side (Length-600.00 mtr) and other allied work under ICAP of Avanga cluster(RURBAN) bearing DNIT No. 08/DNIT/SE-VI/AMB/2020-21.

For details visit website <https://tripuratenders.gov.in> and for any enquiry, please contact by e-mail to pwd.rb.kmp.division@gmail.com

Sd/- Executive Engineer Kamalpur Division, PWD (R&B) Kamalpur, Dhalai Tripura

ICA/C-1185/2020-21

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Namely: Hariom, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 50-55 years, Height: 5' 7", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Green colour T-Shirt and check lungi, who was found at Near Railway Colony Naya Bazar, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 73 A Dated 10.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi.



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

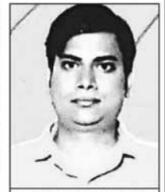
Sd/- SHO P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi

DP/407/N/2020(UIDB)

Tel.: 011-2395 3776

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one person namely Satender Singh S/o Harlal Singh R/o Flat No. 227, Pocket-2 Sector 23, Rohini, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Begumpur, Delhi since 18.07.2020. In this regard, a case vide DD No. 56A Dated 19.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Begumpur, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped person is as under.



Age: 35 Years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 6', Face: Round, Hair: Black, Wearing: Dark brown colour Shirt and dark blue colour jeans. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing person then please inform P.S. Begumpur, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O. P.S. Begumpur, Delhi Ph: 011-2757 9029

DP/256/RD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Ruby Mandal D/o Sh. Arun Mandal R/o H. No. C-44, Gali No. 21A, Swatantra Nagar, Narela, Delhi Aged- 17 Years (Now 25 Years) has been reported missing since 08.12.2012 at 1:30 PM from her house vide FIR No. 672/12 u/s 363 IPC Dated 12.12.2012 has been lodged at Police Station Narela, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



Complexion: Shallow, Height: 4'6", Face: Round, Built: Strong, Hair: Long black, ID: Black mark on right hand, Wearing: Pink coloured suit-salwar and pink coloured slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Narela, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638 or 24368641 Fax No. : 011-24368639

SHO, Narela, Delhi Tel.: 011-27280435, 27282350 Mob.: 7065036323

DP/375/ON/2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location	30-ELECT-17-T-2020-21-E3 Electrical work in connection with: (i) Augmentation of out pit (old shed) at New Delhi for maintenance of electric locomotives. (ii) Provision of additional pits with shed at New Delhi out pit. (iii) Development of 4-C park, Prem Nagar, Patel Nagar, New Delhi. (iv) Provision of additional pits at Delhi main out pit.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 29.37 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 58800.00
Date & time of submission of tender	20.08.2020, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	20.08.2020, 12.00 Hrs
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
	1658/2020

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UJVN Limited

HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
 Telephone: 0135-2763808 Fax- 0135- 2763507
 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

TENDER NOTICE

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Asan Barrage, Jal Shakti Bhawan, Dhakrani, Dehradun invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :

NIT No.: 04/EE(E&M)/Asan Barrage/2020-21

Name of work : AMC of Hydro Mechanical equipment of Asan Barrage.

Estimated cost : ₹ 9,72,011 + GST extra

Date of availability of document : 29.07.2020 on website

Last date of submission of tender : 20.08.2020 up to 16:00 Hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender document can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com".

पत्र सं: 469 - 28 / 07 / 2020

Executive Engineer

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CSTE/PTW, DIVISIONAL RAILWAY MANAGER OFFICE, 2nd FLOOR, ROOM No. 203, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110055 for & on behalf of 'President of India' invites online OPEN E- tender in single packet system from the experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the under noted work:

1 Name of work	Trenching, laying, jointing of 6 quad cable along with provision of LC gate communication, emergency sockets etc and trenching, laying, splicing, termination of OFC in connection with DCC alignment on Ambala-Yamuna Nagar Jagadhri (UMB-YJUD) section of Ambala Division."
2 Approximate cost of the work	Rs. 67,00,987.98 (Sixty Seven Lakh Nine Hundred Eighty Seven and paisa Ninety Eight only).
3 Cost of tender form	Nil
4 Address from where tender document can be downloaded.	Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 29.07.2020 from 11:30 hrs.
5 Earnest money	Rs. 1,34,000.00 (One Lakh Thirty Four Thousand only).
6 Completion period	5 (five) months.
7 Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender	Tender to be submitted online on Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in from 06.08.2020 up to 11:30 hrs of 20.08.2020. Date of tender Opening: 20.08.2020 at 11:30 hrs.
8 Detailed Tender Notice	Available at Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in .

NO. 172-SIG/PSW/NRT-181-R3 DATE 28 07 2020 1656/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely Pradyum Mondal @ Loha S/o Anup Mondal R/o Pappu Dhaba in Front of A-23 PH-1 Mayapuri, Delhi, Permant Address:- Village Kundijamgaon Post Kuraini PS Jagdishpur Distt. Bhagalpur Bihar has been reported missing since 22.03.2020 time 08.00AM from his house vide DD No. 41A Dated 14.07.2020 lodged at Police Station-Mayapuri, Delhi. His physical description is as under:- Aged-19 Years, Height 5' Face Round, Built: Thin Complexion-Wheatish, Wearing: Shirt Blue Colour, Blue Colour Jeans Pant & SLEEPER in Foot.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing boy may inform SHO, Mayapuri, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax.: 011-24368639

SHO P.S. Mayapuri , Delhi Ph. 011-28117644, 28116097 Mob. 8750871121

DP/153/WD/2020

Omar's message

Without traditional politicians, the Govt is finding it extremely difficult to re-engage with people and reintegrate Kashmir



If the Government's charges for booking him after the abrogation of Article 370 — that his messages are divisive, could incite people and youngsters, that he was as much a separatist — were meant to demonise him, then former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah has shown why he is still the voice of reason. And how the Government underestimated his net worth that could have been used to push its claimed objective of mainstreaming the erstwhile State. Soon after his release, he asked people to follow COVID-19 protocols as it was no time for politics.

Now that he has started to speak, he has the pulse again as he says he won't take his protests to the streets but fight it out democratically and legally. Nor will he condone violence of any sort to reclaim people's rights. He also said he wouldn't be contesting elections till Kashmir continued to be a Union Territory but was ready to prove his worth if the Government re-converted it into a State. Of course, he regretted that for all his party's participation in national politics and even campaigns for federal parties and Opposition unity, he didn't get much political support from them on his incarceration as they wilted under the majoritarian force of the Modi Government. But he was anyway ready to focus on his land and people. Clearly, without traditional politicians like Omar, whom the BJP thought would stand in the way of reintegration, the Government is finding it extremely difficult to re-engage with people. And as the anniversary of the scrapping of Article 370 is just days away, it has not much of a transformation to show without the mediatory presence of local parties. Politically, it could not even conduct the panchayat and local-level polls successfully although it has been hoping to build a new narrative ground up with candidates friendly to it. Over 12,000 panchayat seats continue to be vacant. The BJP has not been able to raise an alternative political front or a political climate. It may have encouraged the formation of the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) drawing rejects from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and NC, but it could not generate reassurance, least of all credibility, as it is purely transactional. The first stage for creating normalcy is restoring basic rights of people. While we are stressing under COVID-induced lockdowns, Kashmir has been writhing under perennial lockdown with a ban on 4G and an extremely limited mobility. While the rest of India is hooked on to digital classrooms, students in Kashmir are missing out on classes and are being denied online services like submission of forms, be it for job enrolment, registering a thesis or signing up for courses. Some students are coming down to Punjab or Jammu to access online study material or asking their kin and friends in other States to help. One would hate to hazard a guess on the adverse impact of wilfully denying education to the young people, some of whom are already voicing a conspiracy theory to keep Kashmiris out of competitive tests in India and abroad. With simmering discontent, the Government would be unwise to claim that the Valley is silent post the merger. It is just protest fatigue but that doesn't mean the young won't be drawn to violence or militancy. And while the rest of India is experiencing a booming digital economy post-lockdown, online portals and aggregators are hardly working in Kashmir. With no perceptible stability and peace, businesses had anyway stayed away from the Valley and the pandemic has further aggravated the sectors that were at least surviving. And even if some entrepreneurs are keen to be self-starters, militant threats keep them away. The core sectors of Kashmir's economy, particularly agriculture driven by the apple trade, are on a downward spiral ever since the abrogation of Article 370. The sectors that were constant despite the turbulence, like tourism and handicrafts, have stalled and joblessness is at an all-time high. The domicile rights, by which the Government had hoped non-Kashmiris would settle in the Valley, have also backfired with the Dogras of Jammu and Buddhists of Ladakh now wary of outsiders, too. And for all the Centralisation of powers for greater efficiency, the local administration has become more corrupt.

In effect, even the most apolitical of Kashmiris are wondering why they have been subjugated so under a blanket assumption that they are all hostile. Why, despite being a populous territory, statehood cannot be restored now as Union Territories with lesser populations are now independent States? The rigidity of the Government is only proving to be counter-productive as just like in 1987, Pakistan is waiting to feed off this discontent and foment fresh trouble, having accelerated infiltration. The Government immediately needs to get some credible interlocutors to convey that it means business and does not want to be isolationist, that mutual negotiations with people's representatives are possible without them harking back to Pakistan. Here it could have used Omar as an asset but has listed his ability "to convince his electorate to come out and vote in huge numbers even during the peak of militancy and poll boycotts" as a crime. If this "influencer" ability, something that the Atal Bihari Vajpayee regime prized to build a bridge over the conflict, is not investment-worthy, then the transition to a new narrative in Kashmir could be a colossal waste. Omar has been lionised by his captivity. His quiet resistance now could be a disabler than an enabler.

New caseload

As young people around the globe get restless about lockdowns, they are contracting the virus



Undoubtedly, in the world's battle against the novel virus, the risk takers, or those who have little respect for preventive protocols as needless excesses, have run down the risk-averse, or those who follow social distancing norms to quash the pandemic. With the result that COVID-19 is increasingly turning out to be a disease of the young with the tried and tested "stay at home" formula wearing off among millennials. Despite the re-imposition of lockdown restrictions, nations such as the US, Spain and Japan, to name a few, have seen a new wave of the virus, thanks to the fearless attitude of their youth, who feel their age is insurance enough against the pandemic. In Arizona, for example, half of all positive cases were among people aged between 20 and 44. In Texas's Hays County, people in their 20s made up for 50 per cent of the victims. In Germany, college students were seen soaking in the sun in groups. As a result, Governments, which remain heavily dependent on public compliance to fight the pandemic in the absence of an effective vaccine, are left to confront a new set of problems. Rule-breaking is becoming the new normal as Generation Z is finding it difficult to maintain social distancing norms and faces psychological fatigue. For youngsters, the brazen re-opening of markets has meant exploitation of personal liberty. Bored of staying at home, feeling frustrated due to the lack of options to socialise and robbed of job opportunities, they have endless reasons to venture out — some have been commuting for work or care-giving, others can't stay at home and have been visiting bars, beaches and nightclubs.

What has emboldened them all the more is reportage that younger people are less at risk of a severe COVID-19 infection/death. However, they cannot forget that even if they don't suffer extremes and are asymptomatic, they are vectors and could endanger the susceptible lot. More than putting themselves at risk, they must think about the safety of others, be a bit more selfless than selfish. Examples from the ebola pandemic offer hope that the young could contain the present crisis by being mindful.

Stalemate in Ladakh

India has accepted a China-dictated disengagement model: The creation of buffer zones while withdrawing from its own territory and forfeiting legitimate rights of patrolling



ASHOK K MEHTA

Twelve weeks after the intrusions in Ladakh, Lt Gen YK Joshi, in charge of managing the Line of Control (LoC) and the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, said, "We shall continue all efforts to restore the status quo ante along the LAC," confirming the doubts expressed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh about a positive outcome on disengagement. After three rounds of dialogue of the working mechanism (fourth round is due on Friday) and four rounds of talks between the military commanders (next round is expected this week), the disengagement and de-escalation process (DDP) remains stalled with a disadvantaged disengagement at Galwan — LAC shifted one km on the Indian side — and partial disengagement at Hotsprings, Gogra region and Finger 4. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is stubbornly resisting disengagement at Depsang, where it has intruded 18 km on the Indian side of the LAC.

At most places, the PLA has done a Doklam: Dug down and constructed fortifications. The Chinese have unilaterally altered status quo by shifting the LAC further west, attempting to surpass their 1960 claim line and cushioning the G-219 strategic highway from Kashgar to Lhasa through the Aksai Chin. The ball has been in India's court since April 19, when intelligence reports about PLA intrusions were ignored. By default, India has accepted a China-dictated DDP model: The creation of buffer zones while India has been withdrawing from its own territory and forfeiting legitimate rights of patrolling. A July 22 *Straf* report by Sim Tack notes that 26 new Chinese encampments, 22 new support bases and two new helpads have mushroomed behind the intrusion points on the Chinese side of the LAC.

In its negotiating strategy, India has put the cart before the horse: Allowing military commanders to determine the DDP whereas a high-level political engagement should have established the parameters for withdrawal, factoring in lessons from earlier intrusions, especially front-loading restoration of status quo ante, followed by the Chinese golden rule of "those who advance first must withdraw first" and "mutual and equal security." Instead, India accepted buffer zones and attendant restrictions, which could transform LAC into LoC, given in order to match the PLA's deployment of four to five combined arms brigades, India had to post three additional divisions ahead of its main defences to block the intrusion points.



Interestingly, while India has stressed on complete disengagement along the LAC and full restoration of peace and tranquility for the smooth and overall development of bilateral relations, China has consistently avoided using the LAC (instead uses border areas) and is focussing on complete withdrawal from "friction points." Restoration of status quo has been replaced with complete disengagement and full restoration of peace and tranquility. Even the blind should see this.

Till date, the Government has not clarified the actual ground situation, except Gen Joshi's comforting but embarrassing statement about the reinstatement of status quo. Compounding the problem is the Government peddling a fake narrative that the PLA has not encroached across the LAC during the Galwan clash. According to Lt Gen SL Narasimhan from the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), Indian soldiers may have crossed the Chinese side of the LAC in the melee.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rajnath Singh can keep delivering veiled threats of giving a befitting reply when the intention is clearly to de-escalate. Under the muscular Modi Government, two sets of responses have evolved against the adversary's depredations — a Balakot airstrike against Pakistan and a banners-battle

of containment against China. Emboldened by India's familiar weakness to meet coercion with counter-coercion, China has begun bullying Bhutan. Though Thimphu has maintained silence over Ladakh, it has rejected Chinese claims to territory in eastern Bhutan. Until now, Bhutan has been guided by India on its 24 rounds of border talks with China. But if India fails to vacate Chinese aggression, Bhutan may slip out of its control and treaty obligations in its own national interest. Popular sentiment in Bhutan is not to mess with China. K5 — King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, unlike K4 (Jigme Singye Wangchuck, his father) may not have put all his eggs in India's basket.

India's military options are circumscribed by the three Nos: No escalation, no shooting, no war despite threats of a befitting reply. As always, China is the satisfied power after having annexed approximately 60 sq km of the territory. It has already imposed heavy costs on India by sucking in three additional divisions towards the LAC. New Delhi must contain and push back intrusions through dialogue, secure the strategic highway to Daulat Beg Oldie, seize Galwan heights and defend airfield at DBO.

An infantry brigade backed by 190 tanks and light and heavy artillery has reportedly

ring-fenced DBO. Indian forces are currently deployed 50 to 60 km ahead of its main defences in the high mountainous terrain defending Leh. Any future conflict will be in the 15,000 feet high plains area from Galwan to Depsang.

This is the first time that 30,000 troops might have to weather it out in a harsh winter, in hostile habitat. Previously, there were not more than 2,000-3,000 troops near the LAC, that, too, mainly ITBP. Further, there have been no joint exercises between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Army along the LAC due to restrictions of border protocols.

India's best bet is leveraging its partnership with the US against China — Washington is in an unprecedented Cold War with Beijing — both militarily and economically. Defence Secretary Mark Esper and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo have supported India in its resistance to Chinese bullying and aggression. Maritime solidarity has been demonstrated through Malabar Naval exercises, feelers have been thrown about upgrading the QUAD in the Indo-Pacific region and the building of a coalition of democracies to contain China.

But India's Foreign Minister, S Jaishankar, is loud-thinking: About incongruence of non-alignment, the need to make choices and taking risks.

Still, a reset in India-China relations must wait till the outcome of DDP and restoration of status quo. Till then, India holding out the threats to decouple from China economically will neither be easy nor bereft of cost, so intricately entwined are the two economies and supply chains. Although New Delhi will wait for Beijing to undo the intrusions, some preliminary punitive steps have been taken and signals for more have been sent out.

Punditry about China's motives in shedding fig leaf of "hide your strength; bide your time" abounds: Varying from aggression being the diversionary strategy for mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic to realising Chinese President Xi Jinping's Chinese dream of reasserting suzerainty issues that are not India-specific but part of reclaiming the territory lost through historical injustices and unequal treaties. Putting the genie back into the bottle will not be easy for China. Equally, an altered status quo along the LAC will be unacceptable to India. As Rajnath Singh said in Leh on July 17: "India will respond with force to attempts to hurt India's self-esteem."

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander IPKF South, Sri Lanka and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff.)

SOUNDBITE

Many constituents point out that three weeks of lockdown have not slowed the spread of COVID-19. We need to let people go back to work to balance lives and livelihoods.

Congress leader — Shashi Tharoor



I am an outsider and I was hired for my first films by outsiders. I was never favoured by any insider club. I also don't seek their validation because our ideas of cinema are so different.

Actor — Richa Chadha



COVID-19 continues to accelerate with a doubling of cases over the last six weeks. The pandemic is the worst health emergency faced by the UN agency.

WHO director — Tedros A Ghebreyesus



I will not engineer a protest to score a point. Particularly in Kashmir, where I know that an engineered protest will end very badly for poor youngsters.

NC leader — Omar Abdullah



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop interference

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Sinking under loans" (July 27). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the commercial banks under it must be made independent. They need to be granted total autonomy if the menace of non-performing assets (NPAs) is to be rooted out. The RBI must enjoy as much independence as the judiciary does. Interference by the Government and politicians holding high positions is one of the main reasons for NPA generation. If adequate collateral security is obtained before lending, NPAs will not arise at all. Banks must be allowed to take lending decisions based on merit and the prescribed norms.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Controversial history

Sir — When in power at the Centre, both the Congress and the BJP have been accused of misusing the office of the Governor for political purposes. And when in Opposition, both have alleged murder of democracy and the

Pristine democracy is passé

This refers to the article, "Turning the clock back" (July 27) by Priyadarshi Dutta. Most nations across the world are increasingly inching towards the far Right, with some like China, Russia and Turkey becoming totalitarian while others are selectively destroying democratic traditions. Several political leaders and parties in many countries have, unfortunately, illustrated that the way to political longevity is through a combination of authoritarianism and conservative politics under a thin veneer of democracy. Turkey under Recep Tayyip Erdogan has moved away from the secular vision of its first President, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, paving the way for religious conservatism. The recent reconversion of the Hagia Sophia, a monument with a rich multicultural history, from a museum to a mosque reminded one of the religious strife in our own country that led to the demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya for supposedly being constructed at the site of the Ram Temple.

The US, which has been a world leader for much of the last century, is now facing an unprecedented political crisis. The disposition of the US President Donald Trump is quite similar to that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Their tenures so far have been plagued with com-



R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

parable problems. Both leaders represent a conservative section of the electorate, whose demands often come at the expense of the vulnerable. As strongman leaders take up positions of power in various countries, the political situation, as can be witnessed in the face-off between India and China, is increasingly becoming antagonistic. One hopes that the BJP, in its relentless quest for power, does not dilute the democratic vision of the founding fathers of India.

of the Supreme Court of 1994. Many Chief Ministers have fallen a victim to the Congress' conspiracy of dismissing Governments despite them commanding a majority in respective Assemblies. It is necessary for the Congress, especially Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, to go through the party's past before leading any movement for the sake of democracy.

Duggaraju Srinivasa Rao
Vijayawada

Live with the virus

Sir — As all our attention remains focussed on decoding the Coronavirus curve, surprisingly this is the season when diseases such as dengue and malaria see a spike. But little empathy has been shown for patients suffering from these diseases as they have been compelled to rely on tele-medicine. The time is ripe to take this virus in our stride and battle it by taking into account all safety protocols and move forward.

Srinivas
Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Time to adapt to the new normal

Given the region's rich tradition of innovation and adaptation, we have immense potential to re-tool our cities, surroundings and services



POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH

COVID-19 is a direct threat to the health and well-being of all people in the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) South-East Asian Region. For as long as the virus spreads, the lives of the region's nearly two billion people will be at risk, whatever the transmission scenario. The WHO and its member States in the region must continue to dig deep and aggressively minimise transmission, responding to every case, cluster and evidence of community transmission. But to complement such measures, we must also adapt our cities and surroundings, especially as public health and social interventions, including physical distancing, are relaxed or re-applied based on local epidemiological evidence.

The need of the hour is for all to think innovatively and retool our environments to meet the many demands of the new COVID-19 normal. For example, hand hygiene facilities can be installed at the entrance to public or private commercial buildings and at all transport locations. Workplaces can stagger hours, increase ventilation and encourage staff to work from home as much as possible. Plus, we can all take personal measures to minimise the risk of bringing infection home, which is especially important in multi-generational households.

Proactive efforts to protect vulnerable groups, including internal and returning migrants, are especially needed. Challenges associated with inadequate housing and access to water exacerbate the risk of the disease spreading. So does inadequate community engagement and communication. Key WHO guidance on protecting and engaging vulnerable groups can help local authorities implement high-impact measures that are equity-oriented and which can be integrated into emergency planning ahead of the monsoon and flu seasons. Health services, too, should be modified and strengthened, not only to treat COVID-19 but to address the many indirect health impacts the virus has, quite apart from its adverse effect on the provision of essential health services, which the WHO is vigorously supporting member States to minimise.

Take mental health for instance. The economic uncertainty the pandemic is causing, in addition to the fear of contracting the disease, has increased the prevalence of mental health issues, which may be exacerbated by substance use or difficulties accessing mental health services and psychiatric medicines. To help all people access the mental healthcare they need, health leaders can invest in appropriate services and ensure existing mental health services continue to function. Psychiatric care can be provided over the phone or online. Community support groups can continue to meet in person while observing physical distancing guidance or they can meet virtually. Health facility administrators can ensure that all health workers know where and how to access the care they need to stay mentally well and resilient.

Services for intimate partner violence require similar attention. COVID-19 has increased stress, disrupted social and protective networks and decreased access to services, all of which can exacerbate the risk of intimate partner violence. With families spending more time at home, the likelihood that a woman in an abusive relationship will be exposed to violence has dramatically increased. To help provide the necessary care, health facilities can identify and offer information on locally-available support services such as hotlines, shelters and counselling services. Health workers themselves can make a difference, for example by listening empathetically and without judgement, in addition to providing appropriate medical treatment. Plus, the use of telemedicine to safely address violence against women must be urgently explored.

Nutrition remains a core concern, too. Across the region, broken supply chains, loss of livelihoods and truncated incomes have the potential to severely impede access to healthy diets, rich in whole grains, fruit and vegetables. School closures have resulted in many underprivileged children missing out on school meals. Disruptions to nutrition services — especially those supporting maternal and child health and nutrition — could impact millions of vulnerable people in ways both chronic and acute. It is the duty of all stakeholders in the region to protect the nutritional status of the most vulnerable and to strengthen the health services and programmes on which they rely. Stakeholders can adapt existing nutritional services, for example by providing digital counselling or additional take-home supplies. They can also streamline referral pathways for nutritional services and expand nutrition-sensitive social protection and community programmes. Given the region's rich tradition of innovation and adaptation, we have immense potential to re-tool our cities, surroundings and services to meet the many demands of our new COVID-19 normal. There is not a moment to lose. The WHO and its member States in the region will continue to strategically respond to the pandemic, fully committed to controlling and suppressing its spread, strengthening and maintaining health services and empowering individuals and communities to stay safe, healthy and well. Our battle continues, as it must.

(The writer is Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia.)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THE GOVERNMENT HAS WASHED ITS HANDS OFF THE PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS AND THE CORONAVIRUS SPREAD HAS TURNED UNMANAGEABLE IN THE STATE.

—FORMER ANDHRA PRADESH CM
CHANDRABABU NAIDU



OUR GOVERNMENT IS DOING ITS BEST TO CONTAIN THE CORONAVIRUS WHILE CHANDRABABU IS BUSY SCARING PEOPLE WITH HIS IRRESPONSIBLE REMARKS.

—DEPUTY CM AND HEALTH MINISTER
ALLA KALIA KRISHNA SRINIVAS

Clarion call for a NEP

The National Employment Policy has to formulate a link between policy options, budgetary allocations and/or financial mechanisms, considering the convergence among sectors



BALWANT MEHTA



ARJUN KUMAR

Soon after the 2008 global financial crisis, 63 countries prepared a National Development Framework or National Employment Policy (NEP) to create a road map for employment generation, says the International Labour Organisation (ILO). There is evidence that other nations, too, are moving away from tackling employment issues solely through the use of active labour market policies. They are moving towards development and are adopting comprehensive NEPs, bringing together various sectoral measures, programmes and institutions that influence the dynamic demand and supply of labour and the functioning of the labour market, responding to the short, medium and long-term prospects and priorities.

The proposal to bring the NEP in India was introduced in 2008 during the first tenure of the UPA. An inter-ministerial group had examined the proposal but nothing concrete had emerged from it. In UPA-II, the then Minister of Labour and Employment Mallikarjun Kharge had said in the Rajya Sabha in 2010 that the NEP was under consideration. In 2016, the idea of the NEP took shape at the first meeting of the BRICS employment working group, after which the NDA Government started to work on it. Since then, the Government, policy makers, industry bodies, media and other stakeholders are continuously debating and rooting for a comprehensive NEP policy document.

The country needs one more than ever now as it is facing the dual challenge of the highest unemployment rate in the last 45 years and the onerous task of generating jobs for around 10 million entrants in the labour force every year. Other important issues are jobless growth, structural transformation, underemployment, informal employment, skilled workforce, high levels of educational enrolment and aspiration of the youth, sectoral issues, decent jobs and so on. In addition, the participation of women in the workforce is not only low but also declining since the 2000s. In this context, a NEP with a practical vision and a comprehensive macro-economic and sectoral policy roadmap for achieving the country's employment goal is urgently required.

COVID-19, employment and livelihood: The Indian economy had slowed down before the outbreak but the ongoing pandemic has pushed it further into a recession. As per the data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the employment rate skyrocketed to 23.5 per cent in the months of April and May, owing to the hard lockdown. Apart from this, the CMIE has also estimated that 27 million youths in the age bracket of 20-30 years lost their jobs in April because of the lockdown. This will have a greater impact on livelihoods in the future.

Further, these problems differ across regions and sectors of employment. Therefore, recognising these challenges and putting in place appropriate policy responses to tackle them are a priority. As multiple forces ranging from technological advances, climate change to demographic changes transform the world of work, the absence of a decisive policy action will further disrupt livelihoods and exacerbate inequalities. The Government needs to take appropriate steps urgently to assess the current employment situation in the country, including the macro-economic environment, demographic context and sectoral challenges in employment generation, following which it will set targets and monitor them.

NEP amid the pandemic: Given the huge job losses due to the contagion's socio-economic impact, assisting the labour force is important dur-

INDIA NEEDS A NEP MORE THAN EVER NOW AS IT IS FACING THE DUAL CHALLENGE OF THE HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE LAST 45 YEARS AND THE ONEROUS TASK OF GENERATING JOBS FOR AROUND 10 MILLION ENTRANTS IN THE LABOUR FORCE EVERY YEAR. OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES ARE JOBLESS GROWTH, STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION, INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT, SKILLED WORKFORCE, HIGH LEVELS OF EDUCATIONAL ENROLMENT AND ASPIRATION OF THE YOUTH, SECTORAL ISSUES, DECENT JOBS AND SO ON



ing this crisis. Since numerous social protection programmes are already in place for workers, a NEP would be important for understanding the dynamics of benefits for workers, employers and the Union and State Governments.

The recent push for a NEP on a fast track basis by the Minister of Labour and Employment is a welcome move. The Labour Minister has asked officials to look at the employment policy while keeping in mind the challenges and disruptions that have occurred because of COVID-19. India has ample intellectual and practical knowledge to formulate a policy that takes into consideration gender, caste and ecological concerns. The lack of such a policy could result in a warped economic transformation, resulting in avoidable stress on employment, social and gender harmony.

Labour empowerment: It is very important to have an inclusive policy, which caters to the challenges and needs of the marginalised, women, *divyangs* (physically challenged) and so on. The aspirational districts and the priority sectors needing more attention must be identified. This will go a long way in achieving the principles of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwas* (together with all, for the development of all and with the trust of all). The NEP will have an immense advisory role and create road maps for clarity. Moral persuasion and appropriate signalling are important to ensure consistency, predictability, stability and a strong future outlook for ensuring confidence at par with India competitors. This would detail the direction of the economy in a holistic manner.

New investment areas, entrepreneurship, innovative initiatives, start-up ecosystems, gig economy, conventional sectors,

studies and projects would identify the new and emerging focus areas for continuous feedback into the system.

Research and development is the core of the NEP. The policies and schemes of relevant Ministries and committees need to be streamlined and studied to collect evidence and provide essential inputs for policy-making since it is an ongoing process.

The NEP will also be crucial for implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This is important for Digital India's objectives and outcome-based decision-making as per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and NITI Aayog's recent efforts for data and planning. For this, the maintenance of a real-time database and repository and monitoring of the employment status of the labour force is important. It would require enormous efforts in the beginning but would yield more than proportionate results in the immediate future.

In times of disasters and State and national emergencies, the NEP would provide a backbone and architecture to complement the efforts of the Government and maximise relief to the affected families and enterprises. This would minimise economic losses and optimise the use of limited resources. This would complement the Prime Minister's vision of a New India and help in achieving the \$5 trillion economy with special emphasis on "labour respect and empowerment."

Atma Nirbhar Bharat and New India: The NEP can provide a comprehensive framework, with inclusive and sustainable planning, an enabling environment and a holistic, impactful approach towards decent employment and the vision of a New India. The Sustainable

Development Goal (SDG) eight focuses on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. The consultation paper for the draft National Urban Policy Framework, 2018 is an important document template for the NEP to start taking shape. In the past, most policy documents pertaining to the NEP, by and large, have been suggestive in nature.

There is an urgent need for a comprehensive NEP, based on responsive real-time data analysis, integrating sectors that will help emerging sectoral employment policies and programmes amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The preparation of the NEP warrants a broad-based national consensus among various stakeholders. This can be ensured through a consultative process by taking various stakeholders' views and the constituents' demands into consideration during the policy formulation process.

The most important part of the NEP is to formulate a link between policy options, budgetary allocations and/or financial mechanisms, considering the convergence among various departments or sectors. Further, an institutional framework detailing roles and responsibilities for the implementation and monitoring of progress should also be part of the policy document.

Such a policy document will effectively help in formulating appropriate employment strategies which ensure decent work, empowerment and sustainability towards an 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' and contribute significantly towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(Mehta is Research Director and Kumar is Director, IMPRI)

Cong needs to set its house in order, fast

The party leadership knew that Pilot was working to split the Congress but did nothing to mollify him. This smacks of arrogance



KALYANI SHANKAR

Senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal tweeted on July 12: "Worried about our party. Will we wake up only after the horses have bolted from our stables?" Sibal's statement depicts the despondent mood in the Congress Party.

Indeed, this is the question many senior Congress leaders are asking, as they helplessly watch the drama unfolding in Rajasthan. Even though it looks as if Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot might manage to avert the present crisis but there is a big question mark on the survival of the Congress Party itself. With such a fragile majority, Gehlot will not find it easy to keep

the flock together for long, even if he manages to win the trust vote for now.

The party should have expected the blow from Sachin Pilot. The crisis — three months after the Congress lost a charismatic leader like Jyotiraditya Scindia and also the hard-won State of Madhya Pradesh to the BJP — was not unexpected. In fact, insiders say that Pilot was planning to do a Scindia in March itself. But because of the outbreak of the coronavirus, he deferred his departure.

The fact is that the party loses a State even after winning it because of the internal power struggle between the "old guard" and the "young Turks." It has not been able to nip this unhealthy rivalry in its camps nor has it been able to strike a balance between the experience of the older generation and the aspirations of the younger lot, who want to make their mark and come out of the shadows of the senior leadership.

No doubt, this "head in the sand" approach is not going to help as the

party had missed many wake-up calls in the last six years, after it lost both the 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls, as well as some Congress-ruled States like Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

A big party like the Congress, which ruled most of the States in the past, must learn lessons from the ongoing crisis and use them to prevent such situations from recurring in the future. The Congress leadership should introspect about what is going wrong within the party and how to fix it.

The party must also address the leadership vacuum at the top. Since August 2019, Sonia Gandhi has been in the saddle and she had weathered many crises earlier. But today, she is unable to assert herself. Though Rahul Gandhi has quit his presidency, the Congress scion continues to take most of the decisions, be it on appointments, transfers or policy matters. Hence, there is a difference of opinion on almost every issue between the "old guard" loyal to Sonia and the "young Turks" who are in Rahul's

team. This situation is not good for either camp as nothing gets done in the party.

Even in the present crisis, it is Rahul's team members like Randeep Surjewala who are camping in Jaipur. The party leadership knew that Pilot was working to split the Congress but did nothing to mollify him. After all, Pilot is said to be close to Rahul, so they could have worked something out. But nothing was done to bridge the growing chasm. This smacks of arrogance or a lack of understanding of the growing frustration of the young leaders within the party, forced to take a back seat despite their obvious talents.

The Congress leadership should set its house right and run a tight ship. Right now there is factionalism, indiscipline and nepotism. All sorts of ills are dogging the party. The workers are confused and fear that the present strategy of letting *status quo* prevail is spelling doom for them all. The party lacks direction, idealism, strategy and a new narrative. Unless these issues are

settled and shortcomings are rectified, the desertions will continue.

One might ask how Sonia managed to arrest the erosion when she entered politics in 1998. She not only provided leadership but also brought the party to power not once but twice in 2004 and 2009. But now, after more than a decade things have changed. She brought her son to head the Congress but the mother and son did not concentrate on building up the party or nurturing bright, young leaders.

No doubt the Congress was able to win Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan but the party was not able to hold on to these States. With the result it has already lost Madhya Pradesh and is in the process of losing Rajasthan — all mainly due to internal indiscipline and an unending power struggle. There is a power struggle going on in Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, too. If this is not checked, more States like Chhattisgarh might follow Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. There is likely to be more

erosion as other younger leaders like Milind Deora and Jitin Prasad might do a Scindia.

Rahul is expected to come back as party chief soon and if he fails to understand the aspirations of the younger leaders and apprehensions of the "old guard", the present crisis in the party will exacerbate further.

The Congress should also introspect why it is not able to unite the Opposition. None of the other parties have come out in its support during the present crisis in Rajasthan.

On the contrary, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supreme Mayawati has lashed out at Gehlot and the party for weaning away six BSP MLAs from Rajasthan and merging them with the Congress. She has threatened to take the fight against the party to the Supreme Court.

Notwithstanding all these setbacks, there is still hope for the Congress if its leadership learns lessons from the crisis and sets its house in order before it is too late.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



KABUL HAS NO CHOICE

To ensure that a Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Islamic State (IS) combine does not transform into an uncontrollable monster in Afghanistan, there is no other option but to push the peace process forward. The gulf between Kabul and the Afghan Taliban is wide but both must realise that if the TTP-IS combine establishes itself, Afghanistan will plunge further into chaos.

(Dawn editorial)

Nepal's power-sharing talks fail to yield result

Prachanda calls ruling NCP meet despite PM Oli's objections

Kathmandu: Nepal's ruling communist party leaders on Tuesday once again failed to negotiate a power-sharing deal between Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and executive chairperson Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who convened a meeting of the powerful Standing Committee despite Oli's decision to postpone it. Prachanda and some senior leaders reached the Prime Minister's official residence at Baluwatar at around 11 am for the scheduled meeting of the 45-member Standing Committee of the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) to iron out the differences between the two warring factions. However, Prime Minister's press advisor Surya Thapa said the meeting was postponed.

But Matrika Yadav, a Standing Committee member, said the meeting would be held at any cost, even if Prime Minister Oli refused to attend, the Kathmandu Post reported. Prachanda and senior party leader Jhalanath Khanal then went to meet Oli only to return to the meeting hall after the latter told them to do whatever they wished to, the paper said. At the meeting hall, Prachanda briefed the Standing Committee members about his talks with Oli.

The Standing Committee members close to Oli did not attend the unilateral meeting convened by Prachanda. However, 29 Standing Committee members and two invitees were present at the meeting, which started at around 3:00 pm and lasted for one hour, party sources said.

Standing Committee member Ganesh Shah said the meeting was postponed as the two leaders need more time for informal consultations to sort out their differences. The

Standing Committee meetings have been postponed for nine times since June 24.

"It was against the party statute and inappropriate for PM Oli to postpone the meeting unilaterally," Party spokesperson Narayanakaji Shrestha told reporters.

"Today's meeting did not discuss the party's agenda but it decided to hand over the responsibility of convening another Standing Committee meeting to party chairman Prachanda," he said.

Those who spoke on the occasion criticised Prime Minister Oli. On Wednesday last, a Standing Committee meeting was briefly held at the PM's official residence. However, the prime minister did not attend the meeting.

Then, the party decided to convene another meeting on July 28 to review government's performance, finalising division of work among party's cadres and leaders, and proposed general convention among other issues. **PTI**

Malaysia ex-PM Najib Razak given 12 yrs in jail in 1MDB looting

Kuala Lumpur: A Malaysian court sentenced former Prime Minister Najib Razak to serve up to 12 years in prison on Tuesday after finding him guilty of crimes involving the multi-billion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund that brought down his government in a shocking election ouster two years ago.

Najib was calm and stone-faced as he became the first Malaysian leader to be convicted. He has vowed to appeal the verdict and took an oath in brief remarks from the dock before the sentencing that he was unaware of the graft.

Judge Mohamad Nazlan Ghazali sentenced Najib to 12 years in jail on one count of abuse of power, 10 years each for three counts of criminal breach of trust, and 10 years each for three counts of money laundering, as well as a fine of 210 million ringgit (USD 49.4 million). But he ordered the sentences to run concurrently, meaning that Najib will face up to 12 years in jail.

The judge said the sentence was "appropriate and proportionate" taking into account that Najib had committed the crime from a "position of trust" as prime minister, his final plea and the need to deter others from committing the same crime.

The ruling in the first of his five corruption trials came five months after Najib's Malay party returned to government as the biggest bloc in an alliance that took power from the reformist government that ousted Najib's in 2018.

Analysts said the ruling would bolster the prosecution's case in Najib's other trials and would signal to the business community the Malaysia's legal system has strength in tackling international financial crimes. But others cautioned the ruling could be overturned and his political party remains in office.

"I find the accused guilty and convict the accused of all seven charges," the judge said after spending two hours reading out an elaborate ruling. **AP**

China halts Hong Kong extradition treaties with Canada, Australia, UK

Beijing: China announced the suspension on Tuesday of Hong Kong's extradition treaties with Canada, Australia and Britain in a tit-for-tat move following similar decisions by those countries over a controversial new security law.

Western nations have angered Beijing over their responses to the law imposed on Hong Kong which they see as an erosion of the civil liberties and human rights the city has enjoyed since its handover from Britain in 1997.

The United States has decided to rescind Hong Kong's special trading privileges while Washington's "Five Eyes" intelligence partners have suspended their extradition treaties with the city, with New Zealand on Tuesday joining Canada, Britain and Australia.

The United States has notified it was preparing to do the same.

China has accused the countries of interfering in its internal affairs and defended the security law as crucial to

restore order in Hong Kong following a wave of pro-democracy protests marred by violence.

"The wrong action of Canada, Australia and the UK in politicising judicial cooperation with Hong Kong has seriously hurt the basis of judicial cooperation," said foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin at a regular press briefing.

"China has decided to suspend extradition treaties between Hong Kong and Canada, Australia and UK, as

well as criminal justice cooperation agreements."

Wang accused the countries of having used the national security law as "an excuse to unilaterally announce the suspension of extradition treaties" with Hong Kong.

Britain suspended its extradition treaty last week, following moves by Australia and Canada, saying the security law had "significantly changed key assumptions" including a provision to try certain cases in mainland China. **AFP**

New Zealand suspends extradition treaty with HK

Wellington: New Zealand on Tuesday announced that it will follow the lead of its intelligence allies by suspending its extradition treaty with Hong Kong.

The move comes in response to China passing a sweeping new security law for the semi-autonomous territory.

New Zealand is the final member of the "Five Eyes" intelligence-sharing alliance to take such action after the US, Australia, Canada and the UK previously announced similar measures.

New Zealand relies on China as its largest trading partner and in the past has often tried to avoid direct political confrontation.

China each year buys billions of dollars worth of New Zealand's agricultural goods, including its lucrative milk powder which is used in infant formula. But Foreign Minister Winston Peters said the new law went against commitments China had made to the international community. "New Zealand can no

longer trust that Hong Kong's criminal justice system is sufficiently independent from China," Peters said.

He said there would be other changes to the relationship. New Zealand would now treat military and technology exports to Hong Kong in the same way as it treats such exports to China, he said, and had updated its travel advice to warn New Zealanders about the risks they faced under the new law.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said New Zealand was following its principles.

"We do have a mature relationship with China," Ardern said. "There have been occasions where we have taken different positions. This obviously will be one of them."

China says the new security law is needed to combat terrorism and separatism and prevent Hong Kong from becoming a base for undermining Chinese state power. In general, cases would be tried in Hong Kong, but the law allows for mainland jurisdiction in some circumstances. **AP**

Netanyahu's son apologises after his tweet offends Indians

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's eldest son Yair has apologised to Hindus after he faced flak from some Indians who found one of his tweets to be "quite offensive".

On Sunday, the 29-year-old Yair, who is very active on social media and often defends his father's policies, posted a picture of the Hindu goddess Durga, with the face of Liat Ben Ari, the prosecutor in his father's corruption cases, superimposed over the goddess' face.

Her many arms were also replaced by the middle finger. "I've tweeted a meme from a satirical page, criticising political figures in Israel. I didn't realise the meme also portrayed an image connected to the majestic Hindu faith. As soon as I realised it from comments of our Indian friends, I have removed the tweet. I apologise," Yair said in a tweet.

Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit's face was superim-

posed over that of a tiger accompanying the goddess under a caption that said, "know your place you despicable people".

The Twitter users were split in their reaction over the post with some Indians harshly criticising him for the offensive tweet while others giving him the benefit of doubt and attributing it to general ignorance about the Hindu faith in the West.

Yair, who has been at the centre of several controversies, was appreciated by some Israelis for "showing courage in apologising for his mistake", but was also condemned in equal measure by others for "being irresponsible".

Earlier this month, Yair issued an apology to journalist Dana Weiss for appearing to suggest the top news anchor had attained her position through sexual favours, according to a local media report. **PTI**

Iran targets dummy US aircraft carrier in Gulf exercises

Tehran: Iran's Revolutionary Guards blasted a mock-up of a US aircraft carrier with missiles on Tuesday during military exercises in sensitive Gulf waters, state television said.

The exercises — dubbed "Prophet Mohammed 14th" — were held near the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping lane for a fifth of global oil output.

They were staged at a time of heightened tensions between Iran and its decades-old arch enemy the United States.

Footage of the war games broadcast on state television showed the Guards' air and naval forces readying for an attack off the country's south-

west coast. Speedboats skimmed across the water in formation before ground forces fired cannons and a missile was launched from a helicopter.

The mock-up of a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier came into view with rows of dummy fighter jets on either side of its landing strip.

The television then cut to rockets being fired out to sea from the backs of trucks, before showing damage to the hull of the mock-up aircraft carrier.

Another missile fired from a helicopter left a trail of smoke before appearing to smash into the side of the fake warship. Armed forces were then

seen rappelling onto the deck of the vessel, before around a dozen speedboats circle around it. **AFP**

Iran military exercise in Gulf irresponsible and reckless: US

Dubai: The United States Navy on Tuesday criticised Iran as "irresponsible and reckless" for conducting an exercise involving firing a missile at a replica aircraft carrier in Gulf waters.

"We are aware of the Iranian exercise involving attacking a mock-up of a vessel similar to a motionless aircraft carrier," US Fifth Fleet spokeswoman Rebecca

Rebarich told AFP. "While we are always watchful of this type of irresponsible and reckless behaviour by Iran in the vicinity of busy international waterways, this exercise has not disrupted coalition operations in the area nor had any impacts to the free flow of commerce in the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waters." **AFP**

Mayors want US agents blocked from Portland, other cities

Portland (US): The mayors of Portland, Oregon, and five other major US cities appealed Monday to Congress to make it illegal for the federal government to deploy militarised agents to cities that don't want them.

"This administration's egregious use of federal force on cities over the objections of local authorities should never happen," the mayors of Portland; Seattle; Chicago; Kansas City; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Washington wrote to leaders of the US House and Senate.

Video from early Tuesday showed law enforcement officers filling a street with gas to disperse protesters. Several loud

booms could be heard.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler and City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty late called for a meeting with Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf to discuss a cease-fire and removal of heightened federal forces from Portland. Earlier in the day, a US official said militarised officers would remain in Portland until attacks on a federal courthouse cease — and more officers may soon be on the way.

"It is not a solution to tell federal officers to leave when there continues to be attacks on federal property and personnel," US Attorney Billy Williams said. **AP**

Head of China CDC gets injected with experimental vaccine

AP ■ BEIJING

The head of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention says he has been injected with an experimental coronavirus vaccine in an attempt to persuade the public to follow suit when one is approved.

"I'm going to reveal something undercover: I am injected with one of the vaccines," Gao Fu said in a webinar Sunday hosted by Alibaba Health, an arm of the Chinese e-commerce giant, and Cell Press, an American publisher of scientific journals.

Zimbabwe's ruling party calls US ambassador a 'thug'

Harare: Zimbabwe's ruling party has threatened the United States ambassador with expulsion, calling him a "thug" and accusing him of funding organisers of anti-government protests planned for Friday.

Zimbabwe's government in recent weeks has increasingly accused the US Embassy of supporting anti-government activists who are piling pressure on President Emmerson Mnangagwa as the economy collapses amid new allegations of corruption and human rights abuses.

The embassy denies the accusations of meddling in local politics in the southern African country. Ruling ZANU-PF party spokesman Patrick Chinamasa

on Monday said US Ambassador Brian Nichols and a "coterie of gangsters" should stop "mobilising and funding disturbances, coordinating violence and training insurgency."

Our leadership will not hesitate to give him marching orders," he added. "Diplomats should not behave like thugs, and Brian Nichols is a thug." The embassy did not immediately comment on that.

In the past week, information minister Monica Mutsvangwa and foreign affairs minister Sibusiso Moyo have accused Western countries of sponsoring Hopewell Chinona, a prominent journalist known for exposing alleged government corruption. **AP**

Around the Globe

Johannesburg: The US military has acknowledged killing a civilian and wounding three others with an airstrike in Somalia earlier this year.

Seoul: North Korea leader Kim Jong Un said his country's hard-won nuclear weapons were a solid security guarantee and a "reliable, effective" deterrent that could prevent a second Korean War, state media reported Tuesday.

Lahore: Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, currently in London for treatment, on Tuesday informed a court here that he is unable to return to the country as his doctors have told him not to go out as he may contract due to the coronavirus pandemic. **AP**

AXIS BANK Retail Assets Centre, Noida: Axis Bank Ltd. K-10, 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, Office - Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens, Wshitown, Noida (U.P.)
201301, Corporate Office: Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, PandurangBudhakar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400 025. Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

DEMAND NOTICE
Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Axis Bank Ltd. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset (NPA) on the respective dates mentioned hereunder in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.
The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

NAME OF THE BORROWER / ADDRESS/ CO-BORROWER AND GUARANTOR NAME	1. NPA DATE 2. DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE 3. OUTSTANDING AMT (RS.) AS ON DATE OF NOTICE 4. LOAN AMOUNT (RS.)	PROPERTY ADDRESS OF SECURED ASSETS
1. M/S Ganga Jeans Pvt. Ltd. Registered Office : 10, Abadi Mahila Colony Gandhi Nagar, South Chiragh Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110092 Through its Directors (Borrower) Also At :- M/S Ganga Jeans Pvt. Ltd. 6405, Mukherji Gali, Gandhi Nagar, New Delhi - 110091	1. 29-Jan-20 2. 20-Jul-20 3. Rs.5,22,44,619.68/- 4. Rs.5,00,00,000/-	Immovable Asset: 1. Equitable mortgage of Buildup Free Hold Residential Cum Commercial Property with mixed land use bearing no. 10 with all roof/terrace rights, Built on Area Measuring 222.23 Sq Yards, Ie 185.87 Sq Mtrs, Situated in Mahila Colony Gandhi Nagar Ilaqa Shahdara Delhi -110095 in the name of Mr. Hanuman Mal Jain S/o Late Shri Sohan Lal Jain and Smt. Sanyam Lata Barmecha W/o - Mr. Narendra Barmecha, East - Property No -12 West - Property No - 08 North - Road South - Property No - 09
2. Mr. Narendra Barmecha S/O Shri Hanuman Mal Jain Director M/S Ganga Jeans Pvt. Ltd. 10, Abadi Mahila Colony Gandhi Nagar, South Chiragh Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110092 (Director/Guarantor) Also At :- Mr. Narendra Barmecha S/O Shri Hanuman Mal Jain, R/o- D-15, Ashoka Niketan Delhi -110092		
3. Ms. Sanyam Lata Barmecha W/O Mr. Narendra Barmecha Director M/S Ganga Jeans Pvt. Ltd. 10, Abadi Mahila Colony Gandhi Nagar, South Chiragh Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110092 (Director/Guarantor/Mortgagor) Also At :- Ms. Sanyam Lata Barmecha, W/O Mr. Narendra Barmecha R/o- D-15, Ashoka Niketan Delhi -110092		
4. Mr. Siddarth Barmecha S/O Mr. Narendra Barmecha Director M/S Ganga Jeans Pvt. Ltd. 10, Abadi Mahila Colony Gandhi Nagar, South Chiragh Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110092 (Director/Guarantor) Also At :- Mr. Siddarth Barmecha S/O Mr. Narendra Barmecha, R/o- D-15, Ashoka Niketan Delhi -110092		
5. Mr. Hanuman Mal Jain S/O Mr. Narendra Barmecha 10, Abadi Mahila Colony Gandhi Nagar, South Chiragh Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110092 (Mortgagor/Guarantor) Also At :- Mr. Hanuman Mal Jain S/O Mr. Narendra Barmecha, R/o- 142, Pushpanjali, Vikas Marg, Delhi -110092		

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules thereunder.
Kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act where under you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction; by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s).
Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.
Date : 29-07-2020
Place: Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

General public is hereby informed that one boy
Namely: Shamsher Ali, S/o Sagir Ali, R/o Jhuggi No. C-61, Shyam Nagar, Jhuggi, Tilak, Nagar, Delhi, Age: 23 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: White and yellow T-shirt and blue colour half Jeans Pant and leather Sandal in feet has been missing since 05.07.2020 from his home, Delhi.
In this regard a FIR No. 492/20 U/s 365 IPC dated 10.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this boy but no clue has come to light so far.
Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.
SHO
P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi
Ph. 011-25409290
25407800
DP/157/WD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely Santosh Kumari D/o Panchanan Jaina R/o H.No. 265, Jai Hind Kust Ashram, Tahir Pur, Delhi has been missing since 10.06.2020 from her house. In this regard a DD No. 33-A dated 13.06.2020 has been lodged at PS, Nand Nagri, Delhi.
The description of missing girl is as under:
Name : Santosh, Father's Name : Panchanan, Age : 19 years, Height : 5'2", Face : Round, Complexion : Shallow, Built: Medium, Wearing : Green Colour T-Shirt, Green Colour Lower and Ladies Chappal in Feet.
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.
SHO
P.S., Nand Nagri, Delhi
Ph. : 011-22137761
8750870730

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General public is hereby informed that this female namely Shashi D/o Ved Prakash R/o H.No. 31, Rajeev Nagar Extn., Begumpur, Delhi Age : 27 years, Height : 5'1", Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, wearing nude colour suit-salwar and black colour sandle in feet, has been missing since 10.07.2020. In this regard DD No. 72-A dated 11.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Begumpur, Delhi.
Any person having any information or clue about this missing female may kindly inform to the following.
E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Ph: 24368639
Tel.: 24368638/24368641
SHO : P.S. Begumpur, Delhi
Ph. : 011-25951431, 25951432
DP/24368640/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one person namely Anand S/o Late Sh. Bharat Singh R/o H.No. 736, Gali No.15, Jeevan Park, Sirasapur, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Samaipur Badli, Delhi since 11.07.2020. In this regard, a case vide FIR No. 431/20 u/s 302/201/34 IPC Dated 11.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped person is as under.
Age: 56 Years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5' 6", Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black colour jeans pant and white colour shirt and bare foot. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing person then please inform P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/364/ON/2020
P.S. Samaipur Badli, Delhi
Ph: 011-27893700, 277854757, 7065036326

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)
OPEN TENDER NO. RS (POL)058/508/2020
(BID INVITATION)

Offers are invited for and on behalf of the President of India from the Companies registered with Insurance Regulatory Development Authority for carrying out General Insurance, including Marine Insurance in India, for Marine Insurance of:-

Description of the Covers	Last date for submission of bids
Open Cover (Basic) ICC (B) for bulk consignments inclusive of broad conditions; Steel items, wheel, tyres, axles, rails & Sheets, angles and other similar items, in bulk only.	20.08.2020
Open Cover (All Risk) ICC (A) for specific items, inclusive of defective packaging losses due to handling etc. throughout the passage of insured items upto the ultimate consignee inclusive of broad conditions.	
(a) Locomotive spares, Plant/Machinery/signaling/Telecommunication/Microwave/X-ray equipments and Instruments, Hospital Equipments/Diesel & Electrical Loco components/Electrical/Electronic items, similar spares/components and stores of non-fragile nature only.	
(b) Locomotive and Coaches in knocked down/Semi Knocked down condition as per ICC (A) Clause.	
(c) Wheel sets and axles	
(d) All other materials in form of liquid, thinner, paints, varnish etc., in new drums (subject to an excess of 1/2% on whole consignment)	
(e) All material of fragile nature like Insulators/Ceramics/Asbestos/Portland and Graphite.	
(f) Locoos fully assembled.	
(g) Coaches fully assembled.	
(h) Crane Fully assembled.	
(i) Track machine fully assembled/complete knocked down condition/semi knocked down condition.	

2. Estimated value of the tender is Rs. 27,17,000/-.
2.1 Non-transferable bid documents containing detailed terms & conditions may be collected from the Director, Railway Stores (M), Room No.156/15, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi 110001. (Between 10.00 hrs. and 14.30 hrs.) on all working days.
3. The tender document can also be downloaded for use on the website www.indianrailways.gov.in
4. Offers submitted through the agents will not be accepted.
5. Tenders can be submitted on all working days, to DRS(C) in room No. 156/15, upto 14.30 hours on 20.08.2020 and the same shall be opened at 15.00 Hrs on the same day in room No. 156/15, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi. In the presence of bidders who choose to witness the opening of offers. In case 20.08.2020 happens to be a holiday, the date of submission and opening shall be extended to the next working day.
6. Acceptance of the Tender: The purchaser reserves the right to accept a tender for a part or whole of the offer, reject any tender without assigning any reason and may not accept the lowest or any tender. Time for submission of bids would be upto 14.30 hrs. and same will be opened at 15.00 hrs. on 20.08.2020.
(Vinod Kumar)
Director, Railway Stores (M)
For & on behalf of the President of India
Ministry of Railways, Railway Board
167/2020 Room No. 306, Rail Bhawan, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001
Serving Customers with a Smile

Equities shake off virus woes as bulls return

IT, AUTO STOCKS SPURT

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reversing two sessions of declines, the Sensex surged over 558 points while the Nifty recaptured the 11,300-mark on Tuesday as investors snapped up IT, auto and financial stocks amid firm global cues.

After opening above the key 38,000-level, the 30-share BSE Sensex went on to touch the day's high of 38,555 in late-afternoon trade. It finally closed at 38,492.95, up 558.22 points or 1.47 per cent.

Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty vaulted 168.75 points or

1.52 per cent to end at 11,300.55. UltraTech Cement was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, leaping 7.17 per cent, following better-than-expected results.

The Aditya Birla Group firm reported a 38 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at ₹796.31 crore for the June quarter, but managed to beat Street estimates.

TCS, Kotak Mahindra Bank, M&M, Maruti, MahInd Bank and Bajaj Auto were the other prominent gainers, rising as much as 4.69 per cent.

Only five index constituents finished in the red—ICICI Bank, Nestle, Asian Paints, ONGC and ITC, shedding up to 1.84 per cent.

Asian markets posted significant gains following upbeat



US stocks in anticipation of more growth-supportive measures by the US Federal Reserve later this week.

"Indian benchmark indices closed up by around 1.4 per cent, with Auto and IT constituents contributing the most

to the gains. Some of the stocks rallied on the basis of their earnings results, with operating margins and earnings visibility being the key notables.

"Globally, there was an expectation that the US Fed

would continue with its dovish policy stance, which would ensure liquidity, especially into emerging markets like India. Liquidity has been a key driver for the market performance, and the Fed decision is likely to be greeted positively. The advice to remain cautious remains and investors must accumulate only quality stocks," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

All BSE sectoral indices closed with gains, led by auto (3.26 per cent), IT (2.54 per cent), basic materials (2.41 per cent), metal (2.32 per cent) and tech (2.18 per cent).

However, the BSE small-cap, mid-cap and large-cap indices under-performed the benchmark, with 0.61 per cent, 0.76 per cent and 1.46 per cent gains, respectively.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude slipped 0.07 per cent to USD 43.87 per barrel.

GDP growth to lose momentum from Q3: Oxford Economics

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Global forecasting firm Goxford Economics on Tuesday said it expects India's GDP growth to lose momentum from late third quarter (October-December) of the current fiscal as the push from the initial reopening fades.

It further said India fares the worst in its Asia recovery scorecard, implying that the country will likely take the longest among major economies to converge to its pre-coronavirus growth level.

Oxford Economics, in a report titled 'India: A reopening gone wrong', said the central government's attempts to restart the economy are already running aground.

"In our baseline, we expect GDP growth to lose momentum from late Q3 on, once the

push from the initial reopening fades and, likely compounded by the ongoing pandemic and inadequate policy support, legacy economic headwinds re-assert themselves.

"The risk clearly is that proactive steps by regional Governments, especially the richer ones, to stem the spread of the virus bring the tipping point forward," it said.

According to Oxford Economics, early data suggests that the positive economic impact of the accelerated lockdown exit will be felt in June, with the effect reinforced by a global growth pickup that has aided a recovery in exports.

"The outlook beyond that, however, has turned more worrisome.

The reopening drive is already beginning to hit road-

blocks, amid the surge in COVID-19 cases," it observed.

It pointed out that new virus hotspots have emerged across the country since late June and, barring Delhi, no major region has had notable success in containing the virus. "First, while we do see a high probability of restrictions being tightened anew, we do not expect them to match the stringency of the phase one of the nationwide lockdown that caused the maximum economic damage.

"Second, the rural economy, which is leading the recovery so far, seems at a much lower risk of shutting down again compared to cities, and should help cushion the downside to domestic demand," it noted.

India's economic growth stood at 4.2 per cent in 2019-20.

₹ ends flat at 74.84 against US \$

Mumbai: The rupee closed almost flat at 74.84 against the US currency on Tuesday despite steller gains in equity markets and stable oil prices. Analysts said month-end dollar demand from gold importers and forex outflows restricted gains in the local unit. Investors are also awaiting the outcome of the two-day policy meeting of the Federal Reserve that will conclude on Wed, they said. At the interbank forex market, the rupee witnessed high volatility and touched an intra-day high of 74.71 and a low of 74.90 against the US dollar. The rupee finally closed at 74.84 against the US dollar, down by just 1 paise over its last close of 74.83. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose by 0.25 % to 93.90. "Rupee is not responding to the dollar weakness since last couple of days amid month-end dollar demand from gold importers ahead of festive season," HDFC Securities Deputy Head Retail Research Devarsh Vakil said adding that so far this month, dollar index has declined 3.5% while the rupee has appreciated only 0.9%. PTI

NSE extends withdrawal date of NOW platform

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Leading stock exchange NSE on Tuesday extended the discontinuation date of its NOW platform to December 28, following requests from trading members.

The platform was scheduled to discontinue from September 14.

"On account of requests from members to extend the deadline for NOW discontinuation and considering the prevailing situation caused by the spread of COVID-19, NSE has decided to revise the discontinuation date of NOW to December 28, 2020," the exchange said in a statement.

Accordingly, members have been urged to take advantage of the extended timelines and migrate to alternate trading platforms available in the market by end of December 27.

It has requested members to adhere to the timelines since no further extension will be done. NOW is a Computer to Computer Link (CTCL) facility through which brokers were accessing the exchange's trading platform.

Modi to join brain-storming session with heads of banks, NBFCs today to assess eco

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet heads of large banks and NBFCs on Wednesday to take stock of the economy that has been hit hard by the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic.

According to an official statement, the prime minister will join stakeholders from banks and NBFCs on Wednesday to discuss and deliberate on vision and roadmap for the future.

"The topics on agenda include credit products and efficient models for delivery, financial empowerment through technology, prudential practices for stability and sustainability of financial sector," it said. The banking sector plays an important role in economic growth through financing infrastructure, agriculture, local manufacturing including MSMEs. Financial inclusion can play a big role in financial empowerment through technology, it said. Senior officers from the government will also be a part of the interaction, it added.

This is part of a series of meetings that the prime minister is holding for the last few

weeks on various sectors of the economy, sources said. Discussion is likely to be around reviving the economy which is expected to contract by 4.5 per cent in the current fiscal, according to some estimates. Banks and other financial institutions are implementing the bulk of the measures announced under the ₹20.97-lakh crore economic package to deal with the COVID crisis in May. The Govt announced one of the world's biggest stimulus packages with a focus on the survival of the business and setting a roadmap for the revival of the economy.

The five-part stimulus package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman beginning May 13 comprised ₹5.94 lakh crore in the first tranche that provided credit line to small businesses and support to shadow banks and electricity distribution companies. The second tranche included free foodgrain to stranded migrant workers for two months and credit to farmers, totalling ₹3.10 lakh crore. Spending on agri infrastructure and other measures for agriculture and allied sectors in the third tranche totalled to ₹1.5 lakh crore.

Government notifies amended FDI policy on civil aviation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has notified changes in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms on civil aviation, which will permit non-resident Indian nationals to own 100 per cent stake of Air India.

The gazette notification comes amid the ongoing process of strategic disinvestment of Air India.

Last month, the Government for the third time extended the deadline to bid for Air India as the Covid-19 fallout has disrupted economic activities globally.

The deadline was extended by two months till August 31. The divestment process for the national carrier was initiated on January 27.

"These rules may be called the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2020," the official notification dated July 27, 2020 said.

They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette, it said.

"Foreign investments in

M/s Air India Limited, including that of foreign airlines shall not exceed 49 per cent either directly or indirectly except in case of those NRIs, who are Indian Nationals, where foreign investments is permitted up to 100 per cent under automatic route," it said.

Substantial ownership and effective control of Air India Limited shall continue to be vested in Indian Nationals as stipulated in Aircraft Rules, 1937, it added.

As per the present FDI Policy, 100 per cent FDI is permitted in scheduled Air Transport Service/Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline (Automatic up to 49 per cent and Government route beyond 49 per cent).

However, for NRIs 100 per cent FDI is permitted under automatic route in Scheduled Air Transport Service/Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline.

The Government permits 100 per cent FDI under automatic route in helicopter services/seaplane services requiring Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) approval.

India's oil bill may dip 40% in FY21 on Covid, low rates

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

At least in the oil sector, the global health emergency caused by coronavirus is coming to India's advantage. While the severe demand squeeze due to the pandemic helped India save on oil imports, low global crude prices could help it further in reducing sharply the import bill.

Declining consistently since April, India's oil imports fell about 29 per cent (YoY) to around 13.44 million tonnes in June, the lowest since October 2011.

In value terms, the June oil imports stood at \$4.93 billion (₹37,341.70 crore), down 55.29 per cent in the dollar terms from \$11.03 billion (₹76,586.73 crore) in June 2019.

In April, it fell to 16.55 million tonnes, a 16 per cent YoY decline, from 17.28 million tonnes reported earlier. In May, crude oil imports fell 22.6 per cent, the biggest drop since at least 2005, to 14.61 million tonnes against the year-ago month. If the trend continues, crude oil imports in FY21 may fall to 180 million tonnes, 50 million tonnes lower than 227 million tonnes imported in FY20. At current prices, the value of this 50 million tonnes will be around \$20 billion.

Moreover, India may further reduce its oil import bill with crude oil prices remaining low or range-bound around \$35-45 a barrel in FY21.

Assuming \$40 a barrel average crude oil price and the rupee-dollar rate holding closer to current levels, and monthly imports remaining low at 15 million tonnes (average), for FY21, the import bill could slip to 60 per cent of the last year's \$60-65 billion. Similar level of import bill was witnessed in FY16 when crude had fallen to \$26 a barrel for some time.

India has already reduced oil import bill by over 60 per cent in the first quarter (April-June) of FY21. In Q1FY21, oil imports were worth \$13.08 billion (₹99,259.42 crore), which was 62.47 per cent lower in the dollar terms from \$34.85 billion (₹2,42,398.55 crore) for Q1FY20. According to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry, imports stood at around 227 million tonnes in FY20 against 226.5 mt in FY19. The import bill last year was \$101.4 billion against \$111.9 billion in FY19.

A \$1 fall in crude oil prices helps India reduce import bill by almost ₹2,900 crore, while one rupee fall in value of the currency against dollar raises spending by around ₹2,700 crore.

"The oil import bill may fall below \$100 billion this year as coronavirus and its continuity may have further dented the oil market. It could bring down the country's oil purchase bill sharply," said an oil sector expert.

While India imported \$112 billion crude oil in FY19, its import bill had transited substantially lower in the previous three financial years with oil import bill standing at \$64 billion in FY16, when oil slipped on oversupply, especially with the entry of US shale oil.

Lower volume of crude processing by refiners is also expected to have an impact on the import bill.

For India, lower oil prices act as big incentive as the country depends on imports to meet 86 per cent of its requirements. Lower import bill will also have positive impact on the country's fiscal deficit that has slipped from earlier targets in the wake of higher government expenditure this year to curb falling GDP growth.

Hotel industry will collapse without Govt support: HAI

New Delhi: Highlighting the plight of the hospitality sector amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hotel Association of India (HAI) has said that in absence of support from the government and the RBI, the Indian hotel industry will collapse.

The industry body has reiterated its demands including extension of the moratorium on interest and repayment of principal for the entire financial year 2021 till March 31, and the interest due is added back to the total principal outstanding and the loan term extended by 12 months. "This will solve the current cash crunch as there is expected to be almost no demand for FY21," an HAI statement said.

Further for the 'revival phase' interest rate should be 200 basis points higher than repo rate. Citing a recent study by McKinsey, the HAI said air-

lines and hotels will be the worst impacted sector in India, with around 75 per cent output decline in Q1 FY21 compared to Q4 FY20. The revenue loss to the hotel industry is expected to be to the tune of Rs 90,000 crore in the year 2020, it added.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has led to demand destruction in excess of 90 per cent for the tourism and hospitality sector which employs nearly 4.5 crore people, provides livelihood to around 16 crore people, and contributes 9 per cent to India's GDP," it said.

While the RBI has announced an immediate term to avert the crisis by allowing moratorium on loan repayment, HAI said that on behalf of the Indian hospitality sector, it has been recommending more relief measures for the "survival, revival, and thrive" of the sector. IANS

Gold, silver prices fall after 7 days of gain

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Capital on Tuesday witnessed a fall after rising for the past seven days and declined ₹187 to ₹52,846 per 10 gram, in tandem with weak international trends, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹53,033 per 10 gram. Silver also tumbled ₹1,933 to ₹64,297 per kg, against ₹66,230 per kg on Monday.

Both gold and silver have witnessed decline after seven days of gain, according to HDFC Securities. "Spot gold prices for 24 karat in Delhi witnessed correction by ₹187 with a decline in international gold prices," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said. In the international market, gold was quoting lower at USD 1,923 per ounce and silver at USD 23.60 per ounce. "Gold prices witnessed profit-booking on dollar recovery," he added.

Telecom sector yet to emerge from woods: Sunil Mittal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government must look at rationalising levies on the telecom sector and close long standing legal disputes that are a big drag on the performance of operators, in order to ensure industry viability with 3+1 player structure, Bharti Airtel Chairman Sunil Mittal has said. Mittal in his message

to shareholders in the company's latest annual report said, while it is clear that the "worst may be behind for India's telecom industry", it is yet to emerge from the woods. "India still has some of the lowest data tariffs globally and the industry is barely able to cover the cost of capital. It requires much more support to repair the deep damage to its finances and

make it viable for telecom operators to invest in future technologies," Mittal said in the company's FY20 annual report. Exhorting the Government to "look into the urgent needs of operators", Mittal said that although the recent tariff increase had provided some cushion, the sector is still way below the levels to make the industry viable.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that Two ID Card of MR. ASHU SOLANKI & SUNIL CHAUDHARY issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. Having ID Card No. 06413 & 12647 has been found missing and/or lost on 18 JULY 2020 & 15 FEB 2020 if anyone, who finds the said card, is requested to return the said ID Card to The Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, SD TOWER, SECTOR 8 ROHINI, DELHI 110085. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorized person holding the said ID Card No. 06413 & 12647. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID Card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and responsible for any payment.
Date : 29.07.2020 For ICICI Bank Limited

Jio crosses 2 cr plus customer base in K'taka Bengaluru: Jio said on Tue it now has subscriber base of over two crore-plus customers in Karnataka. Jio said in a statement it has grown constantly in spite of the telecom industry seeing a continuous decline in numbers. Jio plans to connect 20 lakh plus homes across various cities in the ongoing phase of JioFiber launch in Karnataka. "JioFiber assures customers speeds up to 1 Gigabyte & host of multiple OTT platform content inbuilt like Amazon Prime, Disney + Hotstar, Zee5, AltBalaji, Colors, SunNxt, Voot etc through 4K HD set top box", the statement added. PTI

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tendering)
Name of work with its location: Shifting of BTS system along with provision of earthing for BTS & Tower and Trenching & Laying of Telecom cable at Ballabhgarh Station in Patwal-New Delhi Section of DLI division.
App. Cost of the work (Rs) Rs. 5,34,416.02/- only
Tender Document Fee (Rs) Rs. 0/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (Rs) Rs. 10,700/- only
Address of the office: Deputy Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/NMO, Northern Railway, 2nd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing of tender: Tender closing / Uploading date & time-19.08.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website / portal & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in
Tender No. 561-Sig/NMO/BVH-02-2020 Dated : 28.07.2020 1672/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PASUPATI ACRYLON LIMITED
CIN : L50102UP1982PLC015532
Regd. Office: Kashipur Road, Thakurdwara, Distt. Moradabad (U.P.)
Corp. Office: M-14, Connaught Circus (Middle Circle), New Delhi-110 001.
Tel.No. 91-11-47627400; Fax No. 91-11-47627497; Email: delhi@pasupatiacrylon.com
Website: www.pasupatiacrylon.com

STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2020 (Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended (Audited)			Year Ended (Audited)	
		31.03.2020	31.12.2019	31.03.2019	31.03.2020	31.03.2019
1	Total Income from operations	180.39	144.22	215.54	670.08	834.66
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	1.42	4.05	10.03	20.39	43.12
3	Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1.42	4.05	10.03	20.39	43.12
4	Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	0.95	2.47	5.98	13.05	27.38
5	Total comprehensive income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	1.18	2.46	5.93	13.25	27.14
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs. 10/-)	89.14	89.14	89.14	89.14	89.14
7	Other Equity (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				100.81	87.56
8	Earnings Per Share (Rs.10 each)					
	Basic:	0.11	0.28	0.67	1.46	3.07
	Diluted:	0.11	0.28	0.67	1.46	3.07

NOTE: The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/annual Financial Results are available on the Company's Website (www.pasupatiacrylon.com) and BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com).

for Pasupati Acrylon Ltd.
Vineet Jain
Managing Director

Date: 27th July, 2020
Place: New Delhi

AXIS BANK Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Himalaya House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001.
Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301

Retail Asset Centre, Ghaziabad: BF-1A,2,3, 1st Floor, Aditya City Centre, Niti Khand-1, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad-201012. **Retail Asset Centre, Faridabad:** Axis Bank Ltd. SCO-8, Huda Shopping Centre, Sec-16, Faridabad, Haryana-121002. **Retail Asset Centre, Gurgaon:** Axis Bank Ltd.-ASC Gurgaon SC-107, DLF Galleria Complex, Near Post Office, DLF City Phase 4, Gurgaon-122009. **Corporate Office:** 'Axis House', Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025. **Registered Office:** 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006.

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ here under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Borrower / Co-borrower	Description of Property	1. Date of Possession Notice	2. Date of Possession	3. Amount in Demand (INR)
Mrs. Deepa Pillai W/O Mr. Deepak Anand Flat No. E-204, 2 nd Floor, CGHS Corp. Sector-56, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana	IMMOVABLE ASSETS Freshhold Unit/Flat No. 10-C, 2 nd Floor, Arawali Apartment, measuring 955.82 Sq. Ft., Super Area (Approx) in the residential colony known as The Central Public Servants Co-op. Group Housing Society Ltd. situated in GH-5, Sector-56, Gurgaon.	1. 28-Jan-20 2. 23-Jul-20 3. Rs. 48,48,563/-		Interest, incidental expenses and cost
Mr. Deepak Anand S/O Mr. K.A. Pillai Flat No. E-204, 2 nd Floor, CGHS Corp. Sector-56, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana				
Also At: E-4, Ram Nagar Extension, Sopala, Jaipur-302001, Rajasthan				
Also At: Yes Bank Ltd. DLF Cyber City, 7 th Floor, Building No. 8, Phase-2, Gurgaon-122002, Haryana				
Also At: E-4, Ram Nagar Extension, Sopala, Jaipur-302001, Rajasthan				
Also At: APL Logistics (I) Pvt. Ltd. 5 th Floor, Tower-9a, DLF Cyber City, Gurgaon-122002, Haryana				

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' Notice of date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : 29-07-2020, Place : Delhi

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.

THINK CRITICALLY

Critical thinking continues to remain unattended in school curriculum. DR RICHA MISHRA tells you why it is important to incorporate the subject in order to make students excellent leaders

The coronavirus pandemic is the greatest public health crisis the world has faced in over a 100 years. It has forced educators and students to move from physical to online teaching spaces. The most pronounced aspect of this immediate transition is that a majority of students don't have access to devices and high speed internet connectivity needed for distance learning. When it comes to access, we fail to address something more inequitable than access to technology — access to critical thinking resources.

The gap needs to be addressed
Ask any expert about how technology is going to shape the future of work, and one they will all tell you that knowledge and skills are not the only things you need. The ability to unlearn and relearn is essential. If we want to prepare students to solve problems we have not yet seen, making use of technologies that are yet to be created, in fields that don't exist, educators should make teaching critical thinking their priority.

Unfortunately, critical thinking continues to remain unattended in curriculum. The core set of skills, including the ability to reason, analyse multiple perspectives, display healthy skepticism, and seek evidence in order to support or refute claims, are hard to teach. What complicates this is the fact that it gets even harder to teach critical thinking across disciplines. For instance, the critical thinking skills needed to ponder complex questions in the field of medicine requires a great deal of insight into expertise that is subject specific. It is vastly different from what a social media marketer or a fact checker would need. Moreover, difficulty alone does not help us address the gap in reality. Most educators swear by the importance of future-readiness for students, but only a small portion of them make it a point to teach critical thinking.

The gap in critical thinking pedagogy is one of the most significant and overlooked challenges across all levels of education today. Education leaders are trying to solve distance learning related access challenges at a time when schools are cancelling standardised tests till everything gets back to normal. For the point of view of equity, it means we will return to a system where the underprivileged students will end up failing these exams disproportionately.



ately. For teachers who make it a point to talk about the absurdity of teaching for tests, understanding that these tests require a lot of critical thinking helps. The question is — if it is so essential, why is it still not a core to teaching pedagogy?

The pandemic and critical thinking
With the pandemic upending day to day lives, teaching critical thinking is more essential than ever before. With the lockdowns across the country, the current situation presents a great opportunity to teach young people to navigate their way through the uncertainties when they come of age. The pandemic and our reaction to the crisis have driven home the necessity to equip our students with necessary critical thinking skills and mindset.

Adopting the willingness to incorporate critical thinking also requires a shift in our leadership values. Decisive and bold actions conform with the stereotypes of what is expected from a

Even though technology has made it possible to have all the information at your fingertips, it is meaningless unless you have the ability to ask the right questions, recognise conflicting information, evaluate the credibility of the information and determine the actions that need to be taken

strong leader. In complex and rapidly shifting situations where the risk is high and the information is limited, the rigid style is inferior compared to the one that is based on making thoughtful decisions with humility and an awareness of the unknown. Students will benefit immensely from instructional material that can help them develop inquisitiveness and equip them with the ability to collect and make sense of available information. Even though technology has made it possible to have all the information at your fingertips, it is meaningless unless you have the ability to ask the right questions, recognise conflicting information, evaluate the accuracy and credibility of the information, and determine the actions that need to be taken in response.

For instance, in January, the director of the National Health Commission in China noted that asymptomatic coronavirus patients can still infect others. This makes it more challenging to control. However, the CDC (Centre for

Disease Control) maintained that it did not have clear evidence of patients being infectious before the onset of symptoms, but was investigating the possibility. Now, faced with the prospect of a staggering death toll, would you act on the research that says asymptomatic patients can infect others? Or would you rely on the finding that says there is no clear evidence? Would you rather be right or do right? If it is the former, you will rely on information that plays to your bias. If it is the latter, then your analysis will go towards the consideration of conflicting information and evaluating the costs of getting things wrong. At a time like this, when critical thinking is a matter of life and death, there is no option but to put in every effort to inculcate critical thinking as a habit and we need to integrate it across all levels of education. It is the only way forward.

The writer is Assistant Director, Centre for Communication and Critical Thinking, JK Lakshmiipat University Jaipur

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each.

— Plato

UG-PG courses

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Sanskriti University, Mathura invites application for admission to different diploma, under graduate, post Graduate and Doctoral programmes for its 2020-21 batch.

The university is inviting online application for admission to diploma, under graduate, and post graduate programmes in Management & Commerce, Education, Special education, Humanities & Social Science, Pharmacy, Agriculture, Fashion Design & Fine Arts, Law and Legal Studies, Yoga and Naturopathy, Tourism & Hotel Management, Medical & Allied Sciences, Basic & Applied Sciences, Ayurveda, Unani, Rehabilitation, and Engineering.

Applicants seeking admission are required to fill a separate application form for the same. The submission of the form can be done online or in person at the university. For online submission, use the link given on the Website.

Eligibility: Applicants who have passed or will appear for the qualifying examinations under the higher secondary (10+2) from any recognised Board such as AISSCE/IB/ICSE, or equivalents.

Last date to apply: September 30, 2020.

How to apply: Log on to <https://www.sanskriti.edu.in/admissions/admission-procedure.php>.

EduVantage learning app

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

EduVantage Pvt Ltd, Ed-tech, assessment and certification organisation, has launched its learning app — EduVantage Learning App for kindergarten to Class XII (K-12) students. The app is aimed at increasing engagement in student learning activities, improving digital literacy skills and providing an entertainment-centric effective learning solution while keeping the affordability quotient in mind. It can be downloaded from Google Play Store and can easily be activated using a coupon code.

The app has preloaded learning content with classes from India's best educators and facilitators. The comprehensive

modules have been made available in both English and Hindi so that more people can be benefited. Ease of access has been ensured and the app provides a step-by-step guide that can help learners navigate easily. The activity-based learning app can be accessed anytime, anywhere using mobile or web-enabled devices.

The syllabus and content provided on the app is suitable for CBSE Board as well as other State Boards and the content has also been mapped with NCERT. The learning modules have been structured for a more personalised experience and experiential learning. Each lesson and course intuitively adjusts itself to suit the learning pattern and aptitude of the child.

FLYING FOR A CAREER

Aerospace engineering makes for an interesting career choice.

DR KAMAL BANSAL tells you how students can make it a lucrative option

Aerospace is a branch of engineering that never ceases to kindle a curious mind. Even in the current times of struggles and negativity around us that has got the entire world in a turmoil, we can cheer as Space X becomes the first private entity to launch humans to the International Space Station. Falcon 9 launched Crew Dragon to the ISS with NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley on board. The Indian Space Research Organisation — ISRO continues to march forward with the same strong spirit in announcing opportunity for Development of Technologies for sustained Indian Human Space Programmed Space Exploration in April 2020. ISRO's Human Space Program will endeavor to send humans to destinations from low earth orbits and beyond.

Human Space Mission requires innovations and creative technologies for space explorations which will lead to widening of scientific knowledge, economic growth, value addition to the quality of life of a common man and thus national development. There is need to build capabilities to derive scientific benefits from ISRO's Human Spaceflight Program. Initiatives like these help us to understand that there is no limit and hurdles we cannot overcome. The courses that students can explore in Aerospace world: **BTech Aerospace Engineering:**

Major subjects cover: Flight Mechanics, Aerodynamics, Aircraft Structures, Aerospace Propulsion, Rocket Propulsion, Aircraft Design, Helicopter Engineering, Space



Dynamics and Space Science and Space Environment,

BTech Aerospace with Specialisation in Avionics:

Major subjects cover: Flight Mechanics, Aircraft Structures, Aerospace Propulsion, Signal and System, Digital Avionics, Digital Signal Processing, Digital Signal Processing, Aircraft Electrical System, RADAR Technology, Embedded System, Avionics System and Design

For pursuing a degree in Aerospace Engineering students must have a good knowledge in physics and mathematics at school level. Coding has also become an integral part of the curriculum. Students should be provided with projects and assignments that involve partially or completely the digital system.

An aerospace engineer should have a never stop learning attitude, strong sense of responsibility, a good sense of time management. The students should keep themselves updated to the current happenings in the field,

read a lot and subscribe to the magazines and articles and build a mind set for research by accessing the latest publications and targeting good quality projects.

Here is a look at the career opportunities Aerospace Engineering offers students:

Aerospace Engineers have the job to involve in Design, System integration, Structural Analysis, Trouble Shooting. The field opens up other plethora of career avenues in engineering services provider organisations. The students of Aerospace Engineering have opportunities to become either:

- Aircraft Design & Analysis Engineer
- Aircraft Production Engineer
- Aerospace Modelling & Simulation Engineer
- Air Defense Systems Engineer
- Scientist in Defense Research and Development Organisations
- Scientist in National Aerospace Laboratories
- Aircraft Maintenance Engineer

The writer is Dean, School of Engineering, UPES

Develop career resilience

MBA courses are designed to shape leaders who are resilient and have the ability to evolve through adversity, says DR PRATIMA SHEOREY

Living in an era of changes, where anticipating 'what next' is difficult, resilience and agility are two very important life skills. MBA courses are designed to shape leaders who are resilient and have the ability to evolve through adversity. When students step into their managerial or entrepreneurial careers, building resilience in their team and modelling their behaviour becomes the key to accept the change process in the organisation.

The current pandemic and the ensuing uncertainty is exactly the kind of challenge that future managers and professionals should be trained for and sensitised to.

Role transitions are common for a fresher. When students enter an organisation, they tend to work on mundane and repetitive tasks. With time and experience, they are promoted as managers or team leaders, managing a larger team of people. Through these transitions, young managers learn how to realign their priorities. During such kind of transitions, MBA graduates learn about leadership practices in a complex scenario.

While such learnings come within the organisational context, an MBA should prepare you for facing the real world. Building personal resilience, the ability to cope with stress and change, dealing with ethical dilemmas, developing new skills, all of it come as a bundle of learnings to build personal



resilience, thereby building organisational resilience.

Let us see what are the pillars of building a resilient organisation through the skills learnt during an MBA programme:

Accepting and adapting to the change: The first step to building resilience in an organisation is to accept the change. Understanding how a disruption or change can be adapted to one's advantage paves the way towards organisational advancement. Adaption will always help an organisation to foresee and reduce negative consequences. An MBA helps you to develop the necessary skills to deal with and manage ambiguity. Courses like Change Management will enable you to create lasting improvements and transform the organisation.

Being cognizant of changes in the market: At times of crisis, anxiety and stress might turn employees away from the external opportunities and changing market

dynamics. During such times, stakeholder communication is crucial in order to strengthen relationships. Strategic communication as a part of your MBA course will teach you how to eliminate confusion during tough times, and ensure people are being heard. You will also learn how to empower people, and maintain successful relationships inside and outside of the workplace.

Creative problem solving: An MBA curriculum will always encourage you to be innovative in your thinking and foster creative problem solving skills. Linear or conventional thinking may not help to build organisational resilience. Adversity often brings about innovation, and is the time to think out of the box. An MBA graduate is trained to think strategically yet in a creative manner, to assess what is missing in a business in their field of expertise. Basis the assessment, through relevant tools, they are able to provide solutions.

Accountability: While learning leadership skills during MBA, personal accountability is also an equally important skill which goes a long way. When faced with difficult situations, your own resilience as an individual in order to develop strategies plays an important role. Similarly executing and ownership of a particular task by the entire team helps in delivering desired results even during times of crisis.

Managing business processes: Business critical processes in certain areas must be robust and compliant. This ensures that the internal operations are efficient, incur lower costs and deliver quality. This in turn also builds the trust of stakeholders and customers. Management graduates pursue a discipline that enables them to measure performance and uncover opportunities for cost savings. This is achieved through different tools including analysis of existing processes, process optimisation and aligning the business functions.

These are some of the ways that will help you build a resilient organisation. With this, a lot of moving, changing, transforming will take place. Bouncing back, getting up and fighting strong will be the way out during crisis situations. Armed with the right skills and tools will ensure that you will be in for the long haul.

The writer is Director, SCMHRD, Pune

Webinar on anger management

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The St Xavier's High School, Ghaziabad, NH 24, organised Mandala Workshop and Anger Management webinar sessions via their Facebook page on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. Jayashree Arora, a motivational speaker and film, TV and theatre actress, conducted the anger management session.

Around 500 students explored new realms of their artistic bent in the Mandala Workshop & Competition which was open to the age group of five-15. The participants learnt about the brief history of Mandala art form and created different patterns from geometrical designs during the work-

shop conducted by Karishma, an art teacher.

Arora addressed parents and students by suggesting tips on how to manage frustration & anxiety and create stronger base for communication in the family. She also said: "Anger has become a common emotion in this lockdown, amongst parents, children and teachers. It can be very well managed if we understand the origin of this emotion scientifically — our brain has two hemispheres- right and left. Right part becomes active in frustration, but left part lets the logic sink in. In order to manage our anger, we must give ourselves some time and let the left brain activate the logical side."

Rapid success programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vidyamandir Classes, a name synonymous with IITJEE and NEET preparation is all set to initiate online classes for XII pass students, Rapid Success Programme from August, 2020 across India. This would be the most rigorous, success-oriented programme for students preparing for JEE/NEET 2021 in the country. Students of this course will be entitled to a 50 per cent COVID Support scholarship.

Due to the prevailing uncertainty triggered by COVID-19 crises this course has a flexible format which allows a smooth exit of the students who will crack NEET/IITJEE exams in September-2020 with a refund of the balance course fee and rest can continue the prepara-

tion for entrance exams of 2021. With an aim to provide an extra edge to the training of the students, VMC has conceptualised this nine-month course to emphasise on a focused approach of propelling students to score higher grades within the reduced time frame. The programme would also follow the VMC Pedagogy for best learning outcomes that has helped VMC students achieve the highest selection rate both for engineering & medical entrance exams. This also happens to be the only program that gives students flexibility to keep their options for both JEE and NEET 2020 & 2021.

During the entire period of this course, 20+ hours of course delivery every week from best teachers in India (including VMC Founders)

who have a good track record of excellent results in the past three decades. Students also receive specially designed study material with high focus on the most important concepts and practice questions. These courses have been designed for helping droppers to prepare strategically within a short period of time.

There is a strong focus on methodical learning which brushes up the conceptual understanding of the students and improved application to solve toughest of problems. The programme design will also help them in comprehending their weak areas and work upon them in a short time. Students who are part of VMC's Fast Track Success program can also take admission in Rapid Success Program for the September batch.

Scholar programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Veda Scholar Programme for Women on July 27, 2020 announces the commencement of its latest cohort for its Management Practice and Leadership Programme on September 1, 2020.

In light of the ongoing pandemic, the batch will commence in September with an online induction model followed by a hybrid model from October till December, and in-person classes January 2021 onwards. Veda has issued detailed COVID guidelines to ensure safety of students on campus and hostel. The programme will start with an online induction. It is intended to introduce students to the strong culture, new normal and learning methodologies of the programme.

HUMANITIES SHOWS WAY



Pursuing one of the many Humanities subjects after Class XII can open a plethora of lucrative options with growth opportunities, says PROF SANJAY K JHA

Now that Class XII result are out, there may be some students who are still unclear what to pursue. Here are a few sought after courses vis-à-vis right career options. Talking of Humanities, Aristotle said: "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

Educating the heart is feasible only when we enter the faculty of Arts. Unlike yesteryears that echoed one's fascination for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses, today, a paradigm shift can be seen from STEM to Arts and Humanities not just because Humanities too offers an array of bright career options but more because Humanities teaches us how to live as well as how to make a living.

Pertinently, a few days before his death, Steve Jobs had said: "It is technology married with Liberal Arts and Humanities that yields the results that makes our hearts sing". Although, one can have more than 100 career options by pursuing Bachelor and Master degrees in a host of Humanities subjects like Anthropology, Archaeology,

Economics, Education, English, Geography, History, Indian and Foreign languages, Linguistics, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Rural Studies, Social Work and Sociology.

English and Foreign Languages: A bachelor's degree followed by a Master's will help you pursue a career of blogger, columnist, editor, lexicographer (dictionary builder), teacher (Nursery to Tertiary Level), proofreader, novelist, translator, interpreter in embassies and international organisations like UNESCO and UNICEF.

Political Science & International Relations: A bachelor's degree followed by a master degree will help one pursue a career of political analyst/scientist, diplomat, intelligence specialist, lawyer, PR in MNCs, Civil Services and World Bank.

Mass Communication and Journalism: A degree in Journalism and Mass Communication will help one pursue a career of advertising officer, content writer, editor, interviewer, journalist, event manager, news analyst, news anchor and reader.

A bachelor followed by a masters in Economics will help one pursue a career of business analyst, economist, statistician, risk advisory associate and accountancy firms

Law: A degree in law, which is one of the most sought after courses in Humanities, will help one pursue a career as a lawyer, lecturer in law colleges, legal advisor, legal journalist and taxation officer.

History: A bachelor's degree followed by a master's will help one pursue a career of an archivist, archaeologist, Civil Services, historian, heritage conservator, librarian, and museum curator and manager.

Sociology: A bachelor's degree followed by a master's will help one pursue a career of a correctional counselor, public health educator, social activist, social researcher and urban planner.

Geography: A bachelor's degree followed by a master's will help one pursue a career of a cartographer, environmentalist, geologist, GIS analyst, weather scientist and researcher.

Fine Arts and Performing Arts: A degree in Fine Arts or Performing Arts will help one pursue a career of painter, sculptor, graphic designer, cartoonist, musician, actor, dancer and photographer.

Design: This degree will help

one pursue a career of costume designer, writer for fashion magazine, fashion designer for textile companies, boutiques, garment export houses, marketing and media department of fashion brands.

Hotel Management: A bachelor's degree followed by a Master's will help one pursue a career as a chef, food service manager, front office manager, housekeeping supervisor in hotels, restaurants, cruise ships, railways, resorts and airlines.

Economics: A bachelor's degree followed by a master's will help one pursue a career of business analyst, economist, statistician, work in banks, risk advisory associate, research associate in financial consultancies, ministries, insurance and accountancy firms and policy maker.

Education: A bachelor's degree followed by a Master's will help one pursue a career as a teacher, human development officer, curriculum designer, communication expert, researcher in child development, Human Relations, education planning and education technology.

The writer is Director (Liberal Arts), Amity University Haryana

'Good not poor screen-time key'

While online education is here to stay, it is not in isolation. Therefore, it is important to adapt things from offline to online, says SUMEET MEHTA

When we talk about education in the post COVID world it is imperative one understands how each one of us got here. The education timeline can be broken down into pre-lockdown, during lockdown and post-lockdown period.

In the pre-lockdown era, we were living in a world where each one of us believed that education only existed in the physical world where children went to a physical school, be taught by a teacher who is present in the classroom and that was the de facto form of learning for years for almost all students and schools in India. Then there is supplementary education, which is tuitions and test preparations that primarily took place in coaching centers and tuition classes and a bit of it took place digitally.

However, did we imagine such a drastic change where all of us are locked into our houses and the physical form of education is replaced by online learning suddenly? It was so quick that most of us did not even get time to process this change that was taking place.

Effective online learning can contribute to good screen time and here are some parameters that can help any parent or school achieve that. First, online learning should be age-appropriate, which means that when you teach someone between the age of three to five years, you cannot have an long online session because children that small have very little attention span. Engaging the child through an activity and play will definitely improve learning and that too in a much shorter span of time and limited screen time.

Second, online learning has to be multi-modal, where children are engaged through slide decks, work sheets, demonstrations and activities. The online session should be created in a way that allows children to pause or replay a lecture according to their level of understanding. Simply expecting children, of any age, to group stare at a monotonous online session is not going to help the learner and will render the exercise futile.

Therefore online learning has to be



Sumeet Mehta
Cofounder-CEO, LEAD School

delivered in a way that it contributes to good screen time instead of becoming a disconnected method of teaching that doesn't help the child and leads to poor learning.

Online learning is here to stay but not in isolation. When schools reopen they will have to take care of two things, one being safety and hygiene at utmost priority and second ensuring seamless hybrid online-offline learning model because all children will not be in school on all days. This hybrid method of learning will in turn provide a good and higher quality of education. Government intervention through a policy that supports creating the right kind of online learning will definitely abate the current worries of parents and also help in providing the right kind of learning to our children.

Hopefully, it works out for everyone since we can adopt good things out of offline learning and adapt to the new things being taught by online learning. It therefore makes sense to work towards creating online learning more robust and mindful so that it adds to good screen time and not poor screen time.

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

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

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

The digital wave is transforming the traditional education system in India. Though the crisis is disastrous, it is making our educational institutes technologically advanced and equipped with new-age tools and techniques.

However, students and teachers have made bigger adjustments as learning has always been in classrooms and many of them are not well equipped with technology to avail of remote learning.

The crisis followed by prolonged lockdown has accelerated the adoption of digital technology by educational institutes and online education platforms and data

MINDIT

management methods have been forced to work in tandem.

Many educational institutes are leveraging the situation as an opportunity to experiment and position smart tools to make education delivery possible and meaningful amidst the crisis. While there is uncertainty on when the schools and colleges will reopen, they are continuously striving to not let the crisis hamper the curriculum. With digital transformation, the focus is to be more productive and efficient while developing improved and innovative professional skills through online learning and assessment.

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

In a move to aid the education system when colleges and schools remain shut, government at all level - central and state, as well as, private players are taking various initiatives to support and benefit the

students. Also, the government has taken numerous efforts to ensure that the impact of the crisis on education is least. To make sure that students continue their learning during school closures, various e-learning portals, and apps like e-Pathshala, Swamy, DIKSHA portal and STEM based games have been launched by the government and education bodies.

Online learning is increasingly seen as a revolutionary experience in the education system. Major world changing events often become an inflexion point for swift innovation like the growth of e-commerce post SARS. Though it is not the right time to predict, there might be an unprecedented rise of e-learning post-COVID-19 wherein the best of faculty will be available from across the

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



The Victoria University of Wellington invites applications for its Master of Fine Arts international scholarship.

Eligibility: Scholarship holders must have an offer to study in Master of Fine Arts (Creative Practice) at the University of Wellington. Supporting Documents: Applicants can provide the following materials as part of the application: Pre-qualification degree, copies of academic transcripts, certificates of English language proficiency, a statement, and a copy of passport. **Admission requirements:** The minimum requirement for admission is a bachelor's degree in a relevant subject or extensive experience.

Language requirement: IELTS overall band of 6.5, no sub-score below 6, or 90 on the internet-based test with a minimum of 20 in writing, or a minimum of two ratings of 5 and two ratings of 4 in the Victoria University of Wellington Certificate of Proficiency in English test, or Pearson Test of English, with a score of 58 (with a communicative score of not less than 50).

How to apply: There is no separate application process for this application. You will be assessed when you apply for an

approved course at Victoria University of Wellington by December 1, 2020.

Application deadline: It is December 1, 2020.

The University of Indianapolis invites applications for International Student Grant by providing the 30% tuition fee annually, this grant will assist students to achieve their educational goals without any hurdles. Only students applying for admission at this institution can benefit from this opportunity.

Eligibility: You should be an international student. You should have minimum GPA: B or above. You must be accepted into any UG degree programme at the University of Indianapolis. Aspirants must submit the following documents: Pre-qualification degree, copies of academic transcripts, certificates of English language proficiency, a statement, and a copy of passport. **Language requirement:** Applicants must have sufficient knowledge of English if their first language is not English. The minimum requirement of the university is TOEFL 70, IELTS 6.0, or PTEA 54.

How to apply: Applicants don't need to make a formal application. They will automatically be identified once they are admitted into an eligible course at the university. **Application deadline:** It is November 1, 2020.

TEACHING AT PENPENCIL

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4685662
Application deadline: August 5, 2020

OPERATIONS AT FINLENDER

Location: Delhi, Ghaziabad, Noida
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4685663
Application deadline: August 5, 2020

CONTENT WRITING AT ROZGAAR INDIA

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4685664
Application deadline: August 5, 2020

BUSINESS RESEARCH AT INSIGHTCREW

Location: Chandigarh, Mohali
Stipend: ₹6,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4685665
Application deadline: August 4, 2020

MOBILE APP DEV AT EMPOWERU

Location: Ranchi
Stipend: ₹3,100-₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4685666
Application deadline: August 9, 2020

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT AFFINITY WEB MEDIA

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4685667
Application deadline: August 3, 2020

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT BOAT

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4685653
Deadline: August 3, 2020

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT VOLUMETREE

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹6,000-₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4685654
Deadline: August 6, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

'Blended learning with stringent safety measures'

Stringent safety measure, social distancing and face-to-face teaching is the new normal as doors open for international students in the UK

Here's good news for all those students who had applied at the Queen's University Belfast. The

university is all set to open doors to international students in September 2020. The university will be adopting new safety measures for students and will introduce blended learning: which will include face-to-face

and online teaching to ensure the wellbeing of students. Additionally, as a safety measure, international students will be offered complimentary comfortable accommodation to quarantine for 14 days following the guidelines by the UK Government if the quarantine measures will be required.

The university is introducing enhanced hygiene measures across the campus so that it can continue to deliver face-to-face teaching. These include face coverings and hand sanitiser for all staff and students, social distanc-

ing protocols, increased cleaning across the university and access to swift testing for COVID-19.

The university's accommodation, which is considered among the best in the UK, will remain open with capacity restrictions. Its 200 clubs and societies will also be operating in line with UK Government and social distancing guidelines.

There will be a strong emphasis on blended learning with face-to-face teaching still being delivered as much as possible with social distancing applied. This will be complemented by high quality digital delivery where necessary that will include a mix of pre-recorded lessons, online interactive teaching sessions and live-streamed lectures.

Professor Ian Greer, president and VC of Queen's University Belfast, said: "Our approach has been long-considered and encompasses stringent safety as well as our desire to offer students the best possible university experience in these unusual times. We are confident that students coming in can feel reassured that we are doing everything in our power to ensure their safety."

IN BRIEF

NEW-AGE SKILLS ESSENTIAL FOR YOUTH

A report by Quest Alliance, produced in collaboration with Tandem Research and supported by Cisco as part of the Future Right Skills Network, says skill-building with specific reference to the platform economy has significant potential to revive India's growth in a post-COVID world.

Speaking at the web release of the Report, titled *Skilling for the Future of Work - An Outlook for Youth in the Platform Economy*, Aakash Sethi, CEO, Quest Alliance, said: "Over the last decade of our work with Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), we have found

that mere proficiency in trade or industry skills will no longer suffice in the 21st century workplace - more so in a post-COVID world. Given the immense capacity of the platform economy to create jobs in the near-future, our research points to specific skills that can empower ITI graduates to access and navigate these opportunities."

Projections made before the economic downturn in India and subsequently, the COVID-19 pandemic - estimated that the e-commerce sector has the potential to create 1 million jobs by 2023 and be worth \$ 200 billion by 2026.

NEW RESEARCH IN CARBON NANOTUBE COMPOSITES

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras Researchers work in the field of Carbon Nanotube Composites have yielded promising results that can contribute greatly in reducing the vibration during car rides.

Polymer composites - materials formed by combining polymers with various additives - have been used for a long time

in recorded history for various purposes. Many polymers, loaded with various types of reinforcing fillers, are the mainstay of daily use articles, from automobile parts to construction components.

Professor Prathap Haridoss, Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, IIT Madras, along with his co-scientists and research students at the institute, are working towards developing and testing interesting polymer composites. The results have been recently published in the international journal *Nanoscale Advances*. The paper was co-authored by Dr Anand Joy, Dr Susy Varughese, Dr Anand K Kanjarla, Dr S. Sankaran and Prof. Prathap Haridoss.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICE AND LEADERSHIP COURSE

The Vedica scholar programme for women has announced that its Management Practice and Leadership Programme will commence from September 1, 2020.

In light of the ongoing pandemic, the batch will commence in September with an online induction

model followed by a hybrid model from October till December, and in-person classes January 2021 onwards. Vedica has issued detailed COVID guidelines to ensure safety of students on campus and hostel. An innovative approach, showcasing its commitment towards ensuring the authenticity

of the educational experience to each student has been envisioned. Students will also go through a digital management course to prepare for the new generation of workforces. The induction is aimed to prime students to make most of their 18-months at Vedica.

Eng seal series with Broad's ten

Kohli, Rohit maintain top two spots

AP ■ MANCHESTER
England won the first cricket series in four months when it defeated the West Indies in the deciding third test by 269 runs on the last day Tuesday at Old Trafford.

England snatched the bio-secure series 2-1 after losing the first test by 113 runs in Southampton. The West Indies, resuming the fifth and last day on 10-2, had a tall order to bat out the day to force a series-saving draw, any hope of making 399 to win long gone. The weather wasn't going to save the tourists, either, though they stopped for showers three times.

The visitors lost three wickets in the morning session, and the rest within 90 minutes after lunch to be all out for 129.

Fast bowler Stuart Broad's first wicket of the day made him the seventh man in test history to claim 500 test wickets.

The series-winning last wicket gave Broad 4-36 in the innings and 10 for the match, his first 10-for since 2013.

In between the milestones, Chris Woakes bowled for 11 straight overs and took 5-50.

A run out bagged the other West Indies wicket.

It was a bad end for the West Indies, but the team deserved kudos for agreeing to travel to one of the world's worst hotspots in the pandemic, following the health protocols, and contributing to a gripping contest. Cricket's first international action since March saw the West Indies win the first test, and England the second. Both went down to the last day. For this third test, England



England's Stuart Broad, fourth right without cap, holds the ball to celebrate taking 500 wickets



PTI ■ DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli and his deputy Rohit Sharma continue to occupy the top two batting spots in the ICC ODI rankings while pacer Jasprit Bumrah stayed put in second place among bowlers in the latest list issued on Tuesday.

With 871 rating points, Kohli is at the top followed by Rohit (855) and Pakistan's Babar Azam (829).

In the bowlers list, Bumrah (719) is behind New Zealand pacer Trent Boult (722), while Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman (701) occupies the third spot.

Ravindra Jadeja is the lone Indian to feature in the top 10 all-rounders rankings at the eight spot. Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi is leading pack in this category, closely followed by England all-rounder Ben Stokes.

Meanwhile, England's Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow will be in focus from the rankings perspective as the reigning World Cup champions kick off the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League with their three-match home series against Ireland on Thursday.

Opener Roy and wicket-keeper-batsman Bairstow, who are currently ranked 11th and 14th, respectively, in the ICC ODI player rankings for bats-

man, could work their way back into the top 10, having both enjoyed personal best rankings of ninth position in the past. Roy was in ninth place in July last year and Bairstow in October 2018.

World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan, who is the third best-ranked batsman from his side in 23rd position, will be

leading against a side for whom he scored 99 on ODI debut against Scotland 14 years ago.

With none of the England players featuring in their Test series against the West Indies named for the ODIs, England will be missing their premier fast bowlers and will be led by spin twins Adil Rashid (29th) and vice-captain Moeen Ali (44th).

For Ireland, skipper Andy Balbirnie, who took over from long-time skipper William Porterfield last November and has only led in a three-ODI series in the Caribbean in January, is ranked 46th among bats-

men. Paul Stirling remains their top-ranked batsman in 27th position, having held a career-high position of seventh in 2013.

Off-spinner Andy McBrine (31st) and paceman Boyd Rankin (joint-40th) are their leading bowlers according to the rankings.

The England-Ireland series marks the start of the much-awaited Super League that will see 13 teams vie for direct qualifying places in the next ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in India in 2023.

India and seven other teams will make it directly from the league with the remaining teams getting a second chance through a qualifier.

Teams will be awarded 10 points for a win, five for a tie, no-result or abandoned match and none for a loss.



THE 500- WICKET CLUB IN TESTS:

Bowler	M	I	Balls	Runs	Wkts	AVG	S/R	5WI	10WM	Best
M Muralitharan (SL)	133	230	44039	18180	800	22.72	55.0	67	22	9-51
Shane Warne (Aus)	145	273	40705	17995	708	25.41	57.4	37	10	8-71
Anil Kumble (India)	132	236	40850	18355	619	29.65	65.9	35	8	10-74
James Anderson (Eng)	153	286	33163	15820	589	26.85	56.3	28	3	7-42
Glenn McGrath (Aus)	124	243	29248	12186	563	21.64	51.9	29	3	8-24
Courtney Walsh (WI)	132	242	30019	12688	519	24.44	57.84	22	3	7-37
Stuart Broad (Eng)	140	258	28440	14002	501	27.94	56.7	18	3	8-15

FAISEL FEATURES

'You don't need C next to your name to be a leader'



IAN S ■ SYDNEY

Australia cricketer David Warner on Tuesday said he felt honoured when he was named as Sunrisers Hyderabad captain again earlier this year. New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson returned Warner the armband after leading the side in the 2018 and 2019 seasons respectively.

Warner, who led SRH to their only Indian Premier League title in 2016, was banned from participating in the 2018 edition of the cash-rich league for his part in the infamous Cape Town ball-tampering scandal.

After participating in the 2019 season under the leadership of Williamson, Warner was handed over the reigns of the team once again in February, just one month prior to the actual date of start of the 13th edition

of the IPL. "I don't see it as a redemption tale, I just see it as an honour to captain the Sunrisers in an IPL franchise. I've got a great relationship with the players and the staff and most importantly with the owners, and I've expressed my gratitude and I thank them for that," Warner was quoted as saying by Cricbuzz.

"I'll put my thinking cap on and try my best to move us forward to another IPL title. Obviously Kane and Bhuvu (Bhuvaneshwar Kumar) did a fantastic job without me there.

"It's great to be back and leading. Having Kane there adds so much value and knowledge of the way the game is played as well. Similarly, we rebound off each other with our ideas quite well and obviously playing against him — it helps when you are leading a team.

"But from where I sit, nothing different. I still considered myself a leader when I was there last year, as I said it doesn't matter if you have a 'c' next to your name or not," he added.

Warner will now get a chance to lead his team to glory in the UAE as IPL chairman Brijesh Patel had last week confirmed to IANS that this year's league will be played around the September 19 to November 8 window and the same has been communicated to the franchises.

Alam named in 20-man Pak Test squad

PTI ■ KARACHI

Batsman Fawad Alam could make a comeback to Pakistan's Test team after 11 years after being named in the 20-member squad along with two specialist spinners, for the upcoming Test series against England.

The tour selection committee headed by head coach and chief selector, Misbah-ul-Haq left out batsmen Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Fakhar Zaman and uncapped Haider Ali, handing Fawad with a good chance to make a comeback.

The left-hander played the last of his three Tests way back in 2009 in New Zealand.

The selectors also included two specialist spinners, Kashif Bhatti and the experienced Yasir Shah apart from two all-rounders in Faheem Ashraf and Shadab Khan.

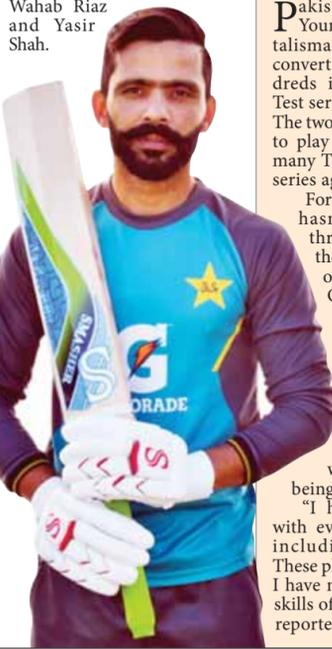
The squad has been finalised from a list of 29 players who were sent to England in different batches due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The selectors short-listed the 20 players after the two four-day intra squad matches in Derbyshire.

The selectors have also retained former captain and wicketkeeper-batsman, Sarfaraz Ahmed in the Test squad, giving an indication that a comeback might be awaiting him.

The Test series will begin in Manchester from August 5.

Test Squad: Azhar Ali (C), Babar Azam (vice-captain), Abid Ali, Asad Shafiq, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Imam ul Haq, Imran Khan (Sr), Kashif Bhatti, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood, Sohail Khan, Usman Shinwari, Wahab Riaz and Yasir Shah.



Younis urges Azam to convert starts into big hundreds

IAN S ■ DERBY

Pakistan batting coach Younis Khan has urged talisman Babar Azam to convert starts into big hundreds in their upcoming Test series against England. The two teams are scheduled to play three Tests and as many T20s after England's series against West Indies.

For all his talent, Azam hasn't hit a single three-figure mark in the longest format as often he has done in ODIs. He has scored just five centuries in 26 Tests in comparison to 11 tons in 74 ODIs.

Moreover, he hasn't hit a single score in excess of 150 in Test cricket, with his highest being 143. "I have tried to work with everyone in the side including Babar Azam. These players are our future. I have no doubts about the skills of Babar," Younis told reporters via videoconfer-

ence as per Cricket Pakistan. "I want him to keep performing better and better. He should strive for a 150 when he makes a 100 and then go on to even 200," he added.

Younis feels tailenders are going to play a big role in the challenging conditions of England. He pointed towards fast bowler Mohammad Abbas to make important contributions with the bat in the upcoming series.

"We are trying to make Mohammad Abbas the leader of the tailenders. You need to fight till the last wicket in a Test match," Younis said.

The first Test between the two teams will be played in Manchester starting August 5 while the final two Tests are scheduled to be played in Southampton from August 13 and August 21 respectively.

The three T20s, meanwhile, will be played at a single venue in Manchester on August 28, August 30 and September 1 respectively.

Ireland names 14-man squad

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

All-rounder Curtis Campher received his maiden international call up as Ireland announced a 14-man squad for the opening match of the three-ODI series against England starting at the Ageas Bowl on Thursday.

Andrew Balbirnie will captain the side, while Paul Stirling will be his deputy.

The 21-year-old Campher, a South Africa-born cricketer, had scored two fifties for Ireland A.

Harry Tector will also hope to make his ODI debut having played 20 T20 for Ireland.

"One notable inclusion for Irish fans is Curtis Campher, who has been called up to the Ireland senior squad for the first time," Andrew White, Chair of national men's selectors, said.

"Curtis has impressed selectors and coaches with both his batting and bowling, played very well for the Ireland Wolves against Namibia in February, has trained well in recent weeks and provides a great balance to the side."

Talking about Tector, White said: "Harry has already featured in 20 T20 Internationals for Ireland, and has demonstrated during warm-up games and in training that he is ready for this format of the game.



"His half-century on Sunday was against an excellent attack, and demonstrated a maturity in his batting for a player so early in their career."

Mark Adair, who had emerged as the leading ODI wicket-taker in 2019, has not yet recovered completely from an ankle injury suffered earlier this year and remains the most notable player missing in the squad.

George Dockrell and Gary Wilson have been placed among the reserves for the series which will also launch the ICC ODI Super League, the qualification system for the 2023 World Cup in India.

"These ODIs are not only a great opportunity for our squad to test themselves against the World Champions, but are extremely important in the context of qualification for the 2023 Cricket World Cup," White said.

Ashwin bats for "disallowing" run where non-striker backs up too far

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's premier spinner Ravichandran Ashwin wants technology to be used to track the batsman at the non-striker's end who is backing up too far, which he believes is an unfair advantage for the batting side.

He has always been consistent about his stand and suggested that the technology used to check front foot no balls can be also used to keep a tab on non-strikers backing up even before the bowler reaches the popping crease.

"Just hope that technology will see if a batsman is backing up before the bowler bowls a ball and disallow the runs of that ball every time the batter does so!"

Thus, parity will be restored as far as the front line is concerned," Ashwin put forth his view point on a series



of tweets. Ashwin has been one of the big advocates of "Mankading" and his dismissal of Jos Buttler during Kings XI Puncab's IPL encounter against Rajasthan Royals grabbed headlines last year.

"Many of you will not be able to see the grave disparity here, so let me take some time out to clarify to the best of my abilities.

"If the non-striker backs up 2 feet and manages to come back for a 2, he will put the same batsmen on strike for the next ball," he said.

"Putting the same batsmen on strike might cost me a 4 or a 6 from the next ball and eventually cost me 7 more runs instead of maybe a 1 and a dot ball possibility at a different batsmen. The same will mean massively for a batter wanting to get off strike even in a Test match," he explained elaborately.

For Ashwin, its all about restoring the balance between bat and ball in a game that is loaded heavily in favour of willow wielders.

"It is time to restore the balance in what is an increasingly tough environment for the bowlers," he said.

Technology won't be a hindrance, feels Ashwin. "We can use the same tech that we are proposing for a no ball check 120 balls in a T20 game," said Ashwin.

Swimming federation mulls training camp outside India if pools remain out of bounds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Swimming Federation of India on Tuesday said it will look to organise a training camp for its Olympic hopefuls outside the country if pools are not permitted to reopen in the third phase of relaxations to end the COVID-19 lockdown.

"We have looked at the feasibility, we have discussed with the training venues and we have the costs involved. We are aware of what it would take to go through it," Chokshi said.

Swimming has been one of the worst affected sports as far as training is concerned. While sports complexes and stadia were allowed to open without spectators, clearing the path for the resumption of halted training camps in May, swimmers have not entered the pool since late March.

Frustrated at not being able to resume training, last month, Asian Games Bronze-medallist Viradhawal Khade said he was contemplating retiring.

Six swimmers, including Khade, Sajan Prakash and Srihari Natraj, have achieved the 'B' qualification in their respective events for the Olympics and are hoping to make the 'A' standard.

"We are in touch with SAI at the DG level. We haven't given anything in writing yet but we have spoken about it as one of alternative options."

The federation has conducted preliminarily talks with the prospective training venues and calculated the cost of the camp.

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'2011 WC title was a gift from us to Sachin paaji'

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

India skipper Virat Kohli was at his candid best when teammate Mayank Agarwal quizzed him about things both on and off the field in a freewheeling chat on the latter's show 'Open Nets with Mayank'.

In the second installment of the video, uploaded on BCCI.tv, Mayank asked Kohli as to why the skipper picked him during the crucial Australia tour of 2018. He became the 295th man to represent India in the longest format and that too in the Boxing Day Test.

"Abe tu mujhe apne tareef ke liye bulaya hai kya yahan pe? Show pe bulaunga and apni tareef karwaunga (Have you called me to talk about you only. It's like I'll call him on my show and make him speak good things about me)," Kohli laughed when Mayank asked him why he was picked for the Australia tour.

"For me the biggest marker is how a person approaches a game. So for example when you opened and we made (Hanuma) Vihari open with you...we had seen Vihari the way he played. He would come towards the ball, he was brave, he was sure of himself," Kohli said.

"And the first opportunity was presented to him he said 'I am going to do it'. That to me matters



more than anything else because I opened in my first series for India and I hadn't opened before. I said yes to an opportunity and things worked out fine for me.

"So a guy who wants to get into the difficult stuff will come out either with his head high or learning, there is no loss in that. So that is what stood out.

"I had seen you play at RCB and I knew you would play international bowlers with absolute conviction. You were performing well in first-class cricket for a while and in a dominating way," he added. Mayank then asked him about the famous photograph in which Kohli is seen lifting Sachin Tendulkar on his shoulders after

India won the 2011 World Cup final against Sri Lanka at the Wankhede stadium.

"Feeling was firstly of gratitude that we have won the World Cup. Invariably, everyone's feeling was centered around Paaji (Tendulkar) because we knew this was his last chance to win a World Cup," Kohli said.

"Whatever he had done for the country for so many years, a number of games he won for India and gave us motivation and inspiration.

"This was I guess a gift from all of us. Prior to this moment, he always kept giving, but at this moment it all came to a fulfilment," he added.