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KEEP US AFLOAT: HOLDER

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YEAR FOR
SANJAY DUTT
10 VIVACITY



Game-changing Rafale jets arrive

Those trying to threaten territorial integrity of India should be worried now: Rajnath

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
The first batch of five Rafale fighter jets landed at the Ambala airbase on Wednesday. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the presence of Rafale will revolutionise the capabilities of the IAF. In a veiled warning to China and Pakistan, he also said those trying to threaten the territorial integrity of the country should be worried now.

The much-awaited jets landed at the Ambala airbase in the presence of IAF Chief RKS Bhaduria. Covering a distance of more than 7,000 km from France over two days, the five jets were escorted by two SU-30 frontline planes when the Rafales entered the Indian airspace. Upon touching base, the new planes were given the customary water canon salute by bowisers at the airstrip. They will formally join the NO. 17 Golden Arrows squadron.

"The touch down of Rafale combat aircraft in India marks the beginning of a new era in our Military History. These multirole aircraft will revolutionise the capabilities of the IAF," Rajnath said in a series of tweets.

Maintaining that the Rafale jets were purchased when they fully met the operational requirements of the IAF, he said "I would like to add, if anyone who should be worried about or critical about this new capability of the IAF, it should be those who want to threaten our territorial integrity."



A Rafale fighter jet lands at Air Force Station in Ambala on Wednesday

He also said the aircraft has very good flying performance and its weapons, radar and other sensors and electronic warfare capabilities are amongst the best in the world. "Its arrival in India will make the IAF much stronger to deter any threat that may be posed on our country,"

Rajnath also said the "baseless" allegations against this procurement have already been "answered and settled." It was in apparent reference to the Congress launching a vociferous campaign claiming wrongdoing in the deal and favouring some Indian industrial houses.

Home Minister Amit Shah

described the arrival of the jets as a historic day and said the induction of these planes will prove to be a "game changer." The Home Minister said they are the world's most powerful machines capable of thwarting any challenge in the sky.

In a series of tweets, Shah also said the Modi Government is committed to building on India's defence capabilities. The induction of the next generation aircraft is a true testimony of the Prime Minister's resolve to make India a powerful and secure nation, he said.

Ahead of the arrival of the jets, Section 144 was imposed around the Ambala Cantonment to prevent large

gatherings and public were advised not to gather on roadways.

Incidentally, the IAF has

- Covering a distance of more than 7,000 km from France over two days, the five jets were escorted by two SU-30 frontline planes when the Rafales entered the Indian airspace
- These multirole aircraft will revolutionise the capabilities of the IAF, said Rajnath
- Its arrival in India will make the IAF much stronger to deter any threat that may be posed on our country, the Defence Minister said
- Home Minister Amit Shah described the arrival of the jets as a historic day and said the induction of these planes will prove to be a "game changer"
- In a series of tweets, Shah also said the Modi Government is committed to building on India's defence capabilities

got a modern and versatile fighter jet after two decades.

Continued on Page 2

No virtue like protecting nation, PM welcomes jets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There is no virtue like protecting the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday as he welcomed the first batch of five Rafale jets, with a tweet in Sanskrit. Broadly translated, the PM

tweeted that there is no virtue like protecting the nation, there is no vow like defence of the nation. "Swagatam" (welcome), he said with the hash tag "#RafaleIndia".

He also shared a brief video of a Rafale jets landing at the Ambala Air Force station.

Revolutionary change in education policy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After 34 years, the Modi Cabinet on Wednesday approved the much-awaited National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 which aims to revamp all aspects of India's education system and bring it closer to the best global standards. The Cabinet has also renamed the Ministry of Human Resource Development as the Ministry of Education. The existing NEP was framed in 1986 and last revised in 1992.

The new NEP proposes MPhil courses to be discontinued and change the existing 10+2 curricular and pedagogical structure with 5+3+3+4 design covering the children in the age group 3-18 years. This would mean 12 years of schooling and three years of Anganwadi or pre-school.

Addressing a Press conference, Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said it is important as for 34 years there were no changes in the education policy of the country.

The NEP aims to create an education system that contributes directly to transforming the country, providing high-quality education to all, and making India a global knowledge superpower. The policy aims at reducing the curriculum load of students and allowing them to become more

Cabinet OK's NEP: MHRD now Ministry of Education; M.Phil discontinued, multiple exit options in degree courses

National Education Policy-2020

- Mother tongue as the medium of instruction up to Class 5
- Board exams will be low stakes and test actual knowledge of students instead of "rote learning"
- Curriculum will be reduced
- Cap on fees charged by educational institutions
- Common entrance exams for admission to universities and higher education institutions
- Multi-disciplinary approach: No rigid separation between streams
- Holistic report card: First, the child will assess his/her performance, then classmates and then their teachers

"multi-disciplinary" and "multi-lingual".

"There will be no rigid separation between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities and between vocational and academic stream," Javadekar said. Secretary of Higher Education Amit Khare and Secretary of School Education and Literacy Anita Kanwal made the major announcements.

The new structure will be split as follows: A foundation-stage (ages three and eight), three years of pre-primary (ages eight to 11), a preparatory stage (ages 11 to 14) and a secondary stage (ages 14 to 18).

The mother tongue or local/regional language is to be the medium of instruction in all schools up to Class 5 (preferably till Class 8 and beyond), according to the policy.

As per the policy, Board exams are set to get easier and, moots lowering the stakes of these tests, which lead to a lot of stress among not just students but also parents. According to the Government, the revised structure will "bring hitherto uncovered age group of three to six years, recognised globally as a crucial stage for development of mental faculties, under school curriculum".

Continued on Page 2

Raj deadlock ends, Guv OK's 21-day notice for Session from August 14

4th proposal didn't mention agenda as Cong says Guv has no right to ask

PNS ■ JAIPUR

The deadlock over convening the Rajasthan Assembly Session ended on Wednesday night as Governor Kalraj Mishra gave his approval to the Ashok Gehlot Government's fourth proposal for the Session from August 14.

"The Rajasthan Governor has approved the Cabinet proposal to call the Assembly Session from August 14... He also gave verbal directions to make the necessary arrangements for the prevention of Covid-19 spread during the Session," said a Raj Bhawan spokesperson.

After submitting the proposal, Transport Minister Pratap Khachariyawas said, "A notice of 21 days has been given to Governor to call Assembly session in fresh proposal. We hope the Governor will accept the proposal this



time and announce the date to begin the session soon."

Earlier, the Governor had stonewalled Gehlot's attempt to convene a short session of the Assembly. He returned for the third time a proposal from the State Government to convene the Assembly from July 31, reiterating the Cabinet had refused

to state the reason why it wanted a session at short notice.

The Governor had insisted that he would give his consent to hold a short session of the Assembly if Gehlot wants to convene it to prove his majority on the floor of the House otherwise the Government must give a 21-day notice.

The Congress, however, said the Governor has no right to ask for agenda of the House, which would be finalised by the Business Advisory Committee.

Earlier, Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi called a meeting of the party's Rajya Sabha members at 10.30 am on Thursday to discuss the Rajasthan political crisis and the border row with China.

Continued on Page 2

PILOT CONGRATULATES NEW RAJ CONG CHIEF

Jaipur: Rebel Congress leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot congratulated Govind Singh Dotasra on taking charge as Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee chief. Dotasra has replaced Pilot. "I hope that you will give full respect for the party members, whose hard work resulted in Government formation, without any pressure or partiality," said Sachin Pilot.

No night curfew from Aug 1; gym to resume from Aug 5

Educational institutions to remain closed, decision on resuming Metro, cinema halls to be taken separately

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Ministry on Wednesday issued new un-lockdown guidelines lifting night curfew from August 1 and deciding to open up Yoga institutes and gymnasium from August 5, but educational institutes will remain closed till August 31. The opening up of Metro trains, cinema halls, swimming pools, bars and allowing public gathering will be decided separately.

The MHA also said the Independence Day celebrations will be conducted across the country as per earlier guidelines enforcing social distancing norms and avoiding large public congregations.

International air travel of passengers has been permitted in a limited manner under the Vande Bharat mission. Further opening up will take place in a calibrated manner, said the MHA.

"Restrictions on movement



of individuals during night (night curfew) have been removed. Yoga institutes and gymnasiums will be allowed to open from August 5, 2020. In this regard, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) will be issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) for ensuring social distancing and to contain the spread of Covid-19.

"After extensive consultation with States and Union Territories, it has been decided that schools, colleges and coaching institutions will remain closed till August 31, 2020," said MHA's guidelines.

Continued on Page 2

WHAT'S ALLOWED

- Yoga institutes, gymnasiums will open from August 5. A standard operating procedure will be issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Independence Day functions allowed with social distancing
- International air travel of passengers has been permitted

in a limited manner under the Vande Bharat mission

WHAT'S NOT ALLOWED

- Metro Rail services
- Cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres, bars, auditoriums, assembly halls and similar places
- Social/ political/ sports/ entertainment/ academic/

cultural/ religious functions and other large congregations

CONTAINMENT ZONES

- Lockdown in containment zones will remain imposed till August 31
- States and UTs can impose its own guidelines outside the containment zones, which they deem necessary

WHOPPING OVER 52K CASES IN A DAY

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	4,00,651	14,463	2,39,755
Tamil Nadu	2,34,114	3,741	1,72,883
Delhi	1,33,310	3,907	1,18,633
Andhra Pradesh	1,20,390	1,213	55,406
Karnataka	1,12,504	2,147	42,901
Uttar Pradesh	77,334	1,530	45,807
West Bengal	65,258	1,490	44,116
Gujarat	59,126	2,392	43,297
Telangana	58,906	492	43,751
Bihar	45,919	273	30,504
Rajasthan	39,780	654	28,309
Assam	36,296	92	27,833
Haryana	33,631	413	26,420
Madhya Pradesh	30,134	844	20,934
Odisha	29,175	195	18,939
Kerala	21,798	69	11,365

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 15,84,299 (+52,178)
DEATHS: 35,001 (+773)
RECOVERED: 10,21,611 (+32,829)
ACTIVE: 5,27,272



China imports all-time high PVC from India amid border tension

New Delhi: Giving rise to an anomalous situation, China imported record high PVC from India in June at a time when the two countries are locked in a tussle at the border amid calls for reducing trade flows.

China imported a record high PVC 27,207 mt of PVC from India in June — more than five times compared to 5,174 mt recorded in May as India accelerated PVC exports during the Covid 19 lockdown, Global Rubber Markets reported.

It is a rare move as the Indian PVC market is net short by close to 2 million mt/year. During the lockdown, India's PVC demand plunged, prompting cancellation of PVC deliveries to India. Suppliers had to move their cargoes to China to clear excess supplies, it added.

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SC aghast at IIT-B stalling smog tower project, warns of action

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Wednesday expressed shock at IIT Bombay's backing out of the smog tower project at Anand Vihar in east Delhi and said this was "not expected of such institutions".

The top court said it was "not at all happy with the state of affairs" of the project for installing the smog tower — structure designed as large-scale air purifier to reduce pollution — and non-compliance with its order would be "taken seriously".

A Bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra was informed by the Solicitor General that Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has backed out of the project and the memorandum of understanding (MoU) regarding the work could not be executed.

"It was stated by Tushar



Mehta, Solicitor General, that they have not been able to enter into an agreement with the IIT Bombay. IIT has now backed out. "This is dilly-dallying tactics and violation of the order passed by this court has already been committed at least by IIT," said the bench, also comprising Justices Vinet Saran and MR Shah.

The bench said it has to "proceed against the IIT, Bombay as well as against the concerned persons" for violating the court's order and backing out from the basis of the

order which was passed.

"This is not expected of such institutions to act in the manner it is projected in the matter relating to public interest, it is shocking that such conduct is projected by such a public functionary," the bench noted in its order.

"We are not at all happy with the state of affairs. We direct that the order to be complied with forthwith, otherwise it would be taken seriously," the bench said.

The bench expressed displeasure as to how IIT Bombay could back out from the project after six months as the top court had passed the order in this regard in January this year.

An anguished bench, which said it would not tolerate this, asked Mehta to call the concerned official from IIT Bombay to explain on the issue on Wednesday itself.

Continued on Page 2

SC allows filing of plea against green clearance to Central Vista project

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday allowed filing of a fresh plea challenging the June 17 environmental clearance (EC) granted to the ambitious Central Vista project, covering 3-km stretch from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate in Lutyens' Delhi, for constructing a new Parliament House and other government buildings. A bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheswari and Sanjiv Khanna allowed senior advocate Shyam Divan to file within a week a fresh plea challenging the EC by the "Central Vista Committee" to the project.

The Central Government will respond to the petition a week after it is filed.

The top court, which posted the petition to be filed for hearing in the week commencing August 17, said however that it was not sure whether physical hearing would commence by then. "We permit a week to Divan to file the petition and a week to Centre to reply within a week of receiving the plea... Matter to be posted after two weeks," the bench ordered. The bench was hearing as many as seven pleas, including two transfer petitions from the Delhi High Court, on the issue and they have been filed by persons like activist Rajeev Suri and retired Lt Col.

Continued on Page 2

Sushant's girlfriend Rhea moves SC, seeks transfer of case from Patna to Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A turf war broke out between the Mumbai and Bihar Police over the investigations into the suicide of Sushant Singh Rajput on Wednesday, as spotlight turned onto the late actor's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty, who moved the Supreme Court seeking the transfer of the FIR registered in the case from Patna to Mumbai.

In new twist that came in the sensational case after the actor's father Krishna Kumar Singh lodged an FIR against Rhea and her family members in Patna, Rhea Chakraborty swiftly moved the Supreme Court on Wednesday, even as the Bihar Police slugged it out with the Mumbai Police for taking charge of the investigations into the case. Rhea's lawyer Satish Maneshinde confirmed that a petition had been filed by his client in the Supreme Court seeking transfer of investigation in the FIR filed against her and her family members in the case.

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.

Detailed report on P5

CAPSULE

WAQF ANNOUNCES TRUST FOR MOSQUE IN AYODHYA

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh State Sunni Central Waqf Board (UPSSCW) President Zulfar Ahmad Farooqui announced on Wednesday the formation of a Trust for construction of a mosque on a five-acre land in Ayodhya. The board president said that he will be the chief trustee and the chairman of the Trust.

VERY DIFFERENT, SYMBOLIC HAJJ IN SAUDI AMID VIRUS

Dubai: Pilgrims, donning face masks and moving in small groups after days in isolation, began arriving to Islam's holiest site in Mecca on Wednesday for the start of a historically unique and scaled-down hajj experience reshaped by the coronavirus pandemic.

BSP CHALLENGES MERGER OF PARTY MLAS WITH CONG

Jaipur: The BSP on Wednesday filed a writ petition in the Rajasthan High Court challenging the merger of six of its party MLAs with the ruling Congress in the State.

Maha Covid tally crosses 4L mark

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra notched another landmark on Wednesday, as the total number of infected cases crossed 4 lakh, as the state recorded 9,211 new infections, while as many as 298 people succumbed to the pandemic.

After a gap of two days which saw a daily tally of 7000-plus cases, the infections jumped to 9211 cases, taking the total number of infections to 400651. 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 had dropped to 7924 on Monday and to 7717 on Tuesday.

With the fresh 298 deaths, the total number of deaths in the state went up to two. Of the total 298 deaths, Thane accounted for 64 deaths, followed by Pune and Mumbai with 60 deaths each.

With 60 more deaths, Mumbai's Covid-19 toll rose from 6,187 to 6,247, while the number of infected cases

increased by 1,109 – to touch 111,991 now. On Tuesday, Mumbai had recorded a three-month low of 700 infected cases.

Apart from 64 deaths in Thane's and 60 deaths each in Pune and Mumbai, there were 17 deaths in Aurangabad, 15 in Solapur, 12 in Jalgaon, 8 in Palghar, 7 each in Raigad and Satara, 5 each in Dhule, Nashik and Nagpur, 4 each in Kolhapur, Jalna and Akola, 3 each in Nandurbar, Nanded and Amravati, 2 each in Parbhani, Latur, Beed and Buldhana and one death each in Hingoli, Osmanabad, Washim. In addition, one person from another state died in Maharashtra.

With 90,283 infected cases and 2,495 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 82,916 infections and 1,945 deaths till now. The total number of patients discharged from hospitals after recovery since the second week of March this year touched 2,39,755.

Two other petitions which raised the environmental issues and the fresh plea on EC will be governed by the orders of the apex court only.

Lawyer Shikhi Suri, appearing for Suri, said that one of the pending petitions challenged the grant of EC to the parliament project only, but now the issue of grant of EC to entire Central Vista project has come up.

"There is no 'We versus They' here. Our parliament is being constructed. In future also defence and finance ministry buildings will be constructed," said Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, adding that "private individuals" are before the court as also the "public spirited individuals".

57% sero-prevalence in slums, 16% in non-slums in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A serological surveillance for SARS-CoV2 infection in three slum and non-slum areas of Mumbai, has among other things estimated sero-prevalence of 57 per cent in slums and 16 per cent in non-slums and suggested that asymptomatic infections "are likely to be a high proportion of all infections".

The serological surveillance, commissioned jointly by NITI Aayog, Birhanmumbai Municipal Corporation and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TIFR), has said that higher prevalence in slums could possibly be due to population density and shared common facilities like toilet and water points. "Taking together the current prevalence and records from BMC on reported deaths, the infection fatality rate (IFR) is likely to be very low (



0.05.0.10 per cent).

Among others, this could be attributed to effective containment efforts and active measures to isolate symptomatic cases by the BMC," a statement put by the BMC said. The agencies that undertook surveillance collected 6936 samples in the first round from three BMC wards (R-North, M-West and F-North).

"Anti-SARS-CoV2 IgG antibodies were detected using Chemiluminescence assay (CLIA) by Abbott. The study period ranged from 12 to 14 in

the first half of July 2020. The participants recruited comprised 100 per cent of target numbers in slums and 70 per cent in non-slums. "The results will be valuable to learn more about herd immunity. Although it is unclear what level of prevalence leads to immunity, findings indicate that at least in slums this could be attained sooner than later, if the immunity exists and persists in a significant proportion of the population," the statement said.

"The ongoing study will provide information on the presence of neutralizing antibodies, risk factors on SARS-CoV2 infection. Planned repeat surveys will provide information about infection spread in both slums and non-slums and could inform about the herd immunity," the statement added.

No night...

From Page 1

The guidelines said opening up of Metro trains, cinema halls, swimming pools, bars etc., and allowing public gathering for politico-social religious purposes will be decided separately. "All activities, except the following, shall be permitted outside containment zones: Metro Rail, cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres, bars, auditoriums, assembly halls and similar places. Social/ political/ sports/ entertainment/ academic/ cultural/ religious functions and other large congregations. Dates for opening of these will be decided separately, based on the assessment of the situation," said the MHA.

The States has been authorised to demarcate the containment zones and the strict restrictions will continue in these areas till August 31. District Collectors are directed to notify the containment zones and upload in the national

portal and co-ordinate with Union Health Ministry.

"Lockdown shall continue to be implemented strictly in the containment zones till August 31, 2020. Containment zones are required to be carefully demarcated by the State/ UT Governments with a view to contain the spread of Covid-19, after taking into consideration the guidelines issued by MOHFW. Within the containment zones, strict perimeter control shall be maintained and only essential activities allowed," said the MHA, adding that States are authorised to decide on the activities outside the containment zones.

However the MHA said there should not be any block on the inter-State movements. "States and UTs, based on their assessment of the situation, may prohibit certain activities outside the containment zones, or impose such restrictions as deemed necessary. However, there shall be no restriction on inter-State and intra-State movement of per-

sons and goods. No separate permission/ approval/ e-permit will be required for such movements," said the guidelines.

It also said the vulnerable persons, i.e., persons above 65 years of age, persons with comorbidities, pregnant women, and children below the age of 10 years, are advised to stay at home, except for meeting essential requirements and for health purposes.

SC aghast...

From Page 1

Mehta urged the court to give him time till tomorrow.

The bench accepted SG's request and posted the matter for hearing on Thursday.

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, Mehta apprised the bench that the authorities are in talks with IIT Delhi and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) for the project. In an affidavit filed in the matter, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Central Pollution Control Board has said that they had convened a meeting on July 27 with IIT Delhi, NEERI and NBCC Ltd to discuss whether they will be willing to take up the project.

"NEERI, IIT-D (Delhi) and NBCC have agreed to take up the project," the affidavit said, adding that the authorities need to further discuss the issues regarding available designs for the project with NEERI and IIT Delhi so that the project could be taken forward in the best way.

It said that despite earnest efforts, the ministry was unable to finalise the MoU with IIT Bombay regarding the experimental project of smog tower at Anand Vihar here.

It said a meeting was convened by the ministry and CPCB with IIT Bombay on July 24 to address the pending issues of the MoU for the project.

"It is submitted that during

the meeting, IIT Bombay informed that it would not be in a position to certify the design of smog tower and filtration system developed by University of Minnesota as it does not have expertise in these areas, and, that it can only undertake the work of validation of performance of smog tower which is in variance with the original proposal submitted by IIT Bombay," it said.

Raj deadlock...

From Page 1

The Governor said if the Government was not stating the reason for holding a short-notice session, it could call a regular session at 21 day's notice. He asked the Gehlot Cabinet to resubmit its proposal.

Slamming the Governor's decision Congress Leader Randeep Singh Surjewala said, "The Covid-19 fight couldn't be won in 21 days. But not letting an Assembly Session convene before 21 days notice, that too to discuss the blueprint to tackle a pandemic is immoral

and lacks Constitutional sanction. Constitution has to guide Governor and not vice versa!"

The Governor repeated this on Wednesday, saying under those circumstances calling a brief session at short notice was possible while maintaining social distance. "This can be a reasonable ground for calling a session at short notice," Mishra said in the statement.

Otherwise, he said, it would be better that State Government calls a regular session, like the monsoon session, at a 21-day notice.

China...

From Page 1

Looking forward, market sources said China's PVC imports from India would likely slow as the lockdown ended early-June. For June delivery, market participants negotiated in May. Polyvinyl Chloride (or PVC for short) is the third most

widely produced plastic in the world following polyethylene and polypropylene, and it is used in a wide variety of applications in industry, construction, agriculture, consumables, packaging, power production and public utilities. PVC is highly durable, resistant and flexible, making it useful for use in clothing, pipes, insulation and many other areas.

To curb imports, Indian companies are submitting proposals to the Government on ways to reduce import dependence on China.

The record exports of PVC from India come at a time when the government is looking at ways to curb imports from China and has banned several Chinese apps and companies. IANS

SC allows...

From Page 1

Anuj Srivastava against various permissions given to the project by the authorities including the nod to change the land use. At the outset, Divan, appearing for one of the petitioners, said the case was primarily against the permission on change of the land use and then "there was an environmental clearance granted on June 17 to the project".

He said there were multiple causes of action and the grant of the EC can be challenged before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the apex court cannot use its power to curtail that challenge to the EC before the NGT.

The bench said that there

are two other petitions which raised the environmental issues and the fresh plea on EC will be governed by the orders of the apex court only.

Lawyer Shikhi Suri, appearing for Suri, said that one of the pending petitions challenged the grant of EC to the parliament project only, but now the issue of grant of EC to entire Central Vista project has come up.

"There is no 'We versus They' here. Our parliament is being constructed. In future also defence and finance ministry buildings will be constructed," said Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, adding that "private individuals" are before the court as also the "public spirited individuals".

Game-changing ...

From Page 1

The last planes to be inducted were the US-30s originally manufactured by Russia.

To overcome the shortage of fighter jets and depleting squadron strength, the NDA Government in 2016 inked a Government-to-Government deal worth over Rs 60,000 crore for 36 Rafales with France. Dassault Aviation is manufacturing these planes with 13 India Specific Enhancements (ISE).

The delivery schedule is on time and the entire fleet of the jets will arrive in India by the end of 2021. The multi-role Rafales will be based at the strategically important Ambala air station in the north and Hashimara, West Bengal in the east.

The infrastructure is com-

plete at the two airbases with technicians and ground crew already trained to handle the aircraft at the Ambala base. In the first lot, 12 IAF pilots were trained by the French.

With ongoing tension at the LAC, the IAF will now work overtime to operationalise these jets for any contingency. The IAF has already deployed its frontline SU-30, Jaguars and MIG-29s at nearly all the forward bases near the 4,000 km long LAC.

As the jets entered the Indian Ocean on Wednesday, stealth destroyer INS Kolkata deployed in the Western Arabian Sea established contact and wished them happy landing.

The five jets, three single seat and two twin-seater trainers were flown from France by IAF pilots led by Commanding Officer of No. 17 'Golden

Arrows' squadron Group Captain Harkirat Singh. The jets made a stopover at Al Dafra airbase in United Arab Emirates (UAE) and were supported by French Air Force mid-air refuellers on the first leg of the journey till the UAE.

Rajath took formal delivery of the first jet in France last October and the jets have since been used for training there. Delivery of 10 aircraft has been completed so far of which five will stay back in France for the training mission. Following India's request, France has speeded up deliveries of Meteor Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missiles along with the first batch of jets.

The first Rafale built by Dassault Aviation for the IAF, a two-seater variant made its maiden flight on October 30, 2018, in France. It is designat-

ed RB-008. The RB-008 will also be the last aircraft to be delivered to IAF as all India Specific Enhancements (ISE) will be validated on it before being incorporated on other jets.

The ISE include Israeli helmet-mounted displays, radar warning receivers, low-band jammers, infra-red search and tracking systems among others. In addition, the Rafale is armed with the Meteor missile considered a game-changer in the region with a range of over 150 km, SCALP long-range stand-off attack air-to-ground missile and MICA multi-mission air-to-air missiles. The IAF is also arming the Rafale with HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range) medium-range air-to-ground missiles being procured through emergency route.

Revolutionary...

From Page 1

There will be a holistic report card prepared for the child, which will have three kinds of assessment. "First, the child will assess his/her performance. Second, classmates and third, their teachers. The report card will have the knowledge of skills the child has acquired by the time he leaves Class 12."

Instead of exams being held every year, school students will sit only for three - at Classes 3, 5, and 8. Assessment in other years will shift to a "regular and formative" style that is more "competency-based, promotes learning and development, and tests higher-order skills, such as analysis, critical thinking and conceptual clarity".

Board exams will continue to be held for Classes 10 and 12 but even these will be redesigned with "holistic development" as the aim. Standards for this will be established by a new national assessment centre - PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development).

The policy also proposes vocational education, with internships, for students from Class 6, a change to the 10+2 schooling structure and a four-year bachelor's programme. The new will bring 2 crore out of school children back into the mainstream.

A new and comprehensive National Curricular Framework for School Education, NCFSE 2020-21, will be developed by the NCERT. Every State/district will be encouraged to establish "Bal Bhavans" as a special daytime boarding school, to participate in art-related, career-related, and play-related activities.

The National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) will develop a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and

Education (NCFPECCE) for children up to the age of eight. The planning and implementation of ECCE will be carried out jointly by the Ministries of HRD, Women and Child Development (WCD), Health and Family Welfare (HFW), and Tribal Affairs.

The NEP 2020 proposes a four-year undergraduate programme with multiple exit options to give students flexibility. A multi-disciplinary bachelor's degree will be awarded after completing four years of study. Students exiting after two years will get a diploma and those leaving after 12 months would have studied a vocational/professional course.

The new policy proposes single regulator for all higher education institutions, except for legal and medical colleges, common regulations for both the private and public higher education institutions, common entrance exams conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission to universities and higher education institutions and mother tongue to be a medium of instruction till fifth grade and Sanskrit to be offered at all school levels and higher education as an option, including in three-language formula.

Under the NEP 2020, Sanskrit will be offered at all levels and foreign languages from the secondary school level. However, the policy also says "no language will be imposed on any student".

The new education policy aims to give students increased flexibility and choice of subjects to study across the arts, humanities, sciences, sports, and vocational subjects. Departments in Languages, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Indology, Art, Dance, Theatre, Education, Mathematics, Statistics, Pure and Applied Sciences, Sociology, Economics, Sports, Translation and Interpretation, etc. will be established and strengthened at all higher education institutions (HEIs).

A Higher Education Council of India (HECI) like the IITs (Indian Institute of Technology) will be set up to regulate higher education; the focus will be on institutions that have 3,000 or more students. Among the council's goals is to increase gross enrolment ratio from 26.3 per cent (2018) to 50 per cent by 2035. The HECI will have four independent verticals - National Higher Education Regulatory Council for regulation, General Education Council to set standards, Higher Education Grants Council for funding and National Accreditation Council for accreditation. It is estimated that 3.5 crore new seats will be added to higher education institutions.

As per policy, teachers will be recruited through robust, transparent processes. Promotions will be merit-based, with a mechanism for multi-source periodic performance appraisals and available progression paths to become educational administrators or teacher educators.

The new policy is based on a draft prepared by a committee led by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief K Kasturirangan. The draft of the new policy was then put in public domain to seek feedback from various stakeholders and over two lakh suggestions were received by the HRD Ministry about the same.

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ANNEXURE I

Format for publishing financial results in newspapers
(Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015) (Amount in Lakhs)

S. No.	Particulars	For the half year ended		For the year ended	
		31.03.2020	31.03.2019	31.03.2020	31.03.2019
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	5.17	(57.69)	14.52	19.29
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	(129.96)	(509.48)	(223.25)	(721.56)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	(129.96)	(509.48)	(223.25)	(721.56)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	443.93	(2.77)	386.00	(21,504.89)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	443.93	(2.77)	386.00	(21,504.89)
6	Paid-up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(1,435.28)	(1,821.28)	(1,435.28)	(1,821.28)
8	Net worth	(1,434.28)	(1,820.28)	(1,434.28)	(1,820.28)
9	Paid-up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	56,811.75	57,161.37	56,811.75	57,161.37
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares				
11	Debt Equity Ratio*	(39.61)	(31.40)	(39.61)	(31.40)
12	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)- 1. Basic: 2. Diluted:	(579) (579)	(28) (28)	3,860 3,860	(2,15,049) (2,15,049)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
14	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio*	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.05)
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio*	(0.03)	(0.12)	(0.02)	(0.08)

Note:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of half yearly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the half yearly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.
- For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).
- *Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.
- *The pertinent items need to be disclosed if the said disclosure is required as per Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
- Previous periods figures have been reclassified wherever considered necessary.

Getamber Anand

Uppesh Singh Tomar

Date: 28.07.2020
Place: Noida

Sd/-
Director

Sd/-
Company Secretary

CM orders delinking of hotels used as Covid facilities

As situation gets better in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Chief Minister on Wednesday announced to delink hotels that were recently attached with dedicated Covid-19 hospitals as there has been a decline in the number of active cases of the novel coronavirus in the last few days in the city.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said all beds in such hotels, which were recently attached to hospitals, were lying vacant for the last many

days. The decision was taken after the chief minister reviewed the Covid-19 situation in the city.

"Some hotels were attached to hospitals to increase the number of COVID beds. In view of the improving situation and all hotel beds lying vacant for the last many days, these hotels are now being released," Kejriwal tweeted.

As the city started witnessing a surge in number of Covid-19 cases last month, the

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government had attached around 40 hotels to hospitals to increase the bed capacity in the city.

Kejriwal "The hotels are now being released after the situation of COVID-19 gets improved. Delhi now has less than 11,000 active cases in the city and more than 88 per cent of cases have recovered," he said.

In early June, around 40 hotels were attached with the Delhi government, after orders were issued to the DMs of the 11 districts to attach hotels such as Hyatt Regency, Pullman,

and others. The linking of the hotels enhanced the capacity of the COVID-19 beds by 4600.

In another tweet, Kejriwal said, "Existing guidelines say that if any patient's antigen test is negative but has symptoms, RT-PCR test must be done on him. I directed the officers today to ensure strict compliance of these guidelines."

"The number of Corona cases in Delhi was increasing in early June. In view of this, the Delhi Government had established Covid Care Centers in about three dozen hotels.

Although some hotel owners initially went to court against

the decision of the Delhi government, the Delhi government won the case," he said.

With the efforts of the Delhi government, the condition of Corona in Delhi has improved significantly and at present only about 10,000 cases are active. The Delhi government has more than 15,000 Covid beds, out of which more than 12,000 remain vacant.

According to the Delhi health bulletin, 12,980 Covid-19 beds in hospitals and more than 5026 beds in dedicated Covid care centres were lying vacant due to declining number of positive cases of coron-

avirus. The number of active cases of Covid-19 was 10,770 on Wednesday including 5,894 patients recuperating under home isolation.

Patients with moderate symptoms staying at such hotels received basic healthcare and were to be shifted to the attached hospitals in case their condition worsened.

Three hotels in south west Delhi were earlier this month delinked from their respective hospitals due to low occupancy. But the decision was reversed by the district authorities within a day.



1,035 fresh cases take city tally to 1,33,310

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With 1035 fresh coronavirus cases on Wednesday, the coronavirus count in the national capital reached 1,33,310. The death toll climbed 3,907 following 26 more fatalities.

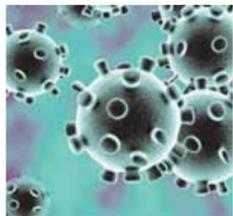
According to Wednesday's health bulletin, which details information about the fresh cases registered in the last 24 hours, 17,392 tests (5074 RT-PCR, CBNAAT and True NAAT tests figures; 12318 - Rapid Antigen). The number of containment zones stood at 704.

The number of tests done per million, as on Wednesday was 52,327, 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 Wednesday bulletin, out of the total number of beds in COVID hospitals, 12,980 are vacant.

Also, 4345 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.

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.

Earthquake awareness campaign launched

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Considering the frequency of earthquakes in Delhi since April this year, the Delhi Government has launched an awareness campaign on the steps to be taken by the people during and after an earthquake.

The campaign aims at making homes, offices, schools, and other commercial and residential spaces fully prepared and efficiently deal with earthquakes. Since April 2020, a total of 18 very mild tremors have been felt across national Capital.

The campaign of the Delhi Government will also help people be well-prepared and take measures to minimize the damage and effects of the earthquakes.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "The last few weeks have taught us the importance of awareness, preparation, and timely action. That is why your Government is announcing a new campaign to prepare the people of Delhi for the unlikely event of an earthquake."

Since April 2020, 18 very mild tremors have taken place in and around Delhi, he said, adding that only two of these have registered above 4, or mild intensity, on the Richter scale. However, people must always be prepared and aware of any crisis.

"My policy is simple: prepare today to save lives tomorrow. We have compiled useful information that will prepare homes, schools, and work-

THINGS TO DO BEFORE EARTHQUAKE	THINGS TO DO AFTER EARTHQUAKE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the sturdiness of your home and workplace Consult with a structural engineer if necessary and fix cracks and any weaknesses Check that all furniture in your home and office is securely fastened to the floor, walls, or ceiling. Take particular care that wheeled furniture or storage is locked in place when not being moved. Scan all your important documents such as passport, ration card, Aadhaar card, prescriptions, medical records, etc. and store copies online or in your email address Ensure all the members of your household, including children, and employees in your office are aware of the disaster management helpline, Govt. of NCT of Delhi: 1077 Teach yourself and others the drop-Cover-hold technique in case of tremors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check the sturdiness of your home and workplace. Consult with a structural engineer if necessary and fix cracks and any weaknesses Check that all furniture in your home and office is securely fastened to the floor, walls, or ceiling. Take particular care that wheeled furniture or storage is locked in place when not being moved. Scan all your important documents such as passport, ration card, Aadhaar card, prescriptions, medical records, etc. and store copies online or in your email address Ensure all the members of your household, including children, and employees in your office are aware of the disaster management helpline, Govt. of NCT of Delhi: 1077 Teach yourself and others the drop-Cover-hold technique in case of tremors



places in Delhi, to react to an earthquake emergency with calm and efficiency. Together

let us build a Delhi that is prepared to face any crisis," he further added.

NCRTC commissions its site office RRTS Delhi-G'gram corridor

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), the nodal agency implementing the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS), commissioned its site office in Gurugram Wednesday for the Delhi-Gurugram-SNB RRTS corridor.

Meanwhile, pre-construction activities including geo-technical investigations, initial pile load tests, topographical surveys, shifting of electrical utilities are being carried out at various locations for the corridor. Earlier these activities were managed by the NCRTC team from their temporary site office in Gurugram. The NCRTC team will now operate from the state of the art site office located at IFFCO Chowk.

The NCRTC has finalized a site for establishing a casting yard in Gurugram for the corridor. A casting yard is a place where concrete components like segments, boundary wall panels, casted, shifted to their stack yard, cured for the specific period, and then shifted to the working site after they gain their required strength. The RRTS has also started

detailed designing of three RRTS stations of the Delhi-Gurugram-SNB RRTS corridor. The NCRTC has appointed L&T infra as the Detailed Design Consultant (DDC) for providing consultancy services for the design of elevated viaduct between Udyog Vihar & Rajiv Chowk stations and three RRTS stations at Udyog Vihar, Sector 17 and Rajeev Chowk.

"NCRTC is focussing on commuters' ease while designing RRTS rather than opting for engineering comfort. Thus, all the RRTS stations including Udyog Vihar, sector 17 and Rajeev Chowk will be universally accessible, will have pedestrian friendly zones/paths, lifts/escalators, sitting areas among various other commuter-centric amenities facilitating ease of access. All the RRTS stations will have platform screen doors for enhanced commuter safety," said Vinay Kumar Singh, Managing Director, NCRTC.

The 107-km long Delhi-Gurugram-SNB corridor will have 16 stations. Once operational, the corridor is expected to bring down the travel time between Delhi-SNB to about 70 minutes as compared to the current 3-4 hr of travel by road



Chairman Railway Board and Vice Chairman Niti Aayog inspects the vital Khurja-Dadri Section of DFCCIL. This section is the connecting link between the Eastern & Western Dedicated Freight Corridors having the capacity to run heavy haul & long haul freight trains at 100 kmph

ENTREPRENEURSHIP MINDSET

CM, Sisodia interact with students

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia interacted with classes 9th to 12th on Entrepreneurship Mindset amid schools across the country are closed due to the Corona pandemic.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "It is our endeavor that our education system should be such that our children become job-providers, instead of job-seekers." "This is my first program. In the last one and a half years, ever since this Entrepreneurship Mindset program started, a lot of eminent people have come to address the children, but I am attending this program for the first time."

"I was elated when I came

to know that Arjun Mehrotra is coming. I have a personal relationship with him. We are also from the same college, IIT Kharagpur. I feel proud that Arjun Mehrotra, my fellow IITian, has earned respect and has done such good work in the world of business," Kejriwal said.

While the interaction program was for Delhi government schools students, Kejriwal said his government trained children ways of so that children can become successful entrepreneurs.

He further said, "We believe that the people of our country are very intelligent. We are full of ideas and have a brilliant entrepreneurship mindset. A rickshaw puller is also an entrepreneur, a paan-wala is also an entrepreneur; every citizen of this country knows how to run a business. But there is some problem with our education system. The moment we exit from our school, we start looking for jobs. We want to change this mindset. We want that while being in school, our students should start thinking in a direction where they do not have to find a job after leaving school, rather they should start thinking about their business propositions." He told students, "You don't have to be a job seeker, but you have to become a job provider. We want to inculcate this in the mindsets of children. This cannot be taught in theory. This is the reason, we call small, medium, and big entrepreneurs to take these sessions and inspire students."

Answering a query by a student about all official work is done in mother tongue in few nations, Kejriwal said, "It is possible to do all the work in our mother tongue Hindi, but not feasible in today's conditions."

"Yes, all work should be done in our mother tongue but we cannot ignore the current situation." "The British left the country, but the British system continued. We did not even change the education system.



The system that Macaulay built in 1830 continues till date. There are few like Shri Arjun Malhotra who go against the system and create their unique identity. Otherwise, our system is such that we can only produce clerks. Secondly, today a child who knows English has a better chance of landing with a good job with global exposure.

Therefore, it is not possible to change this system in a day and implement Hindi everywhere. But yes, if everyone tries together, it will surely happen one day. Today parents expect their children to speak fluent English. I hope there will be a day when the entire system will start working in our mother tongue Hindi," Kejriwal conveyed to the student encouraging students.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia agreed with the student and said, "Yes, all work can be done in our mother tongue, but we cannot ignore the current situation."

During the interaction, Sisodia said that after the Corona crisis subsides, a variety of new opportunities will arise in the field of entrepreneurship.

Sisodia said that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Malhotra both did their engineering from IIT Kharagpur and both of them achieved great success in their life. He told students, "This is the right opportunity for all of you to learn entrepreneurship mindset from both of them."

Education minister said, "Three years ago, CM Sir and I interacted with a few IIT students. Most of them praised our

work done in the field of Science and thanked us for their improved Science Labs. But at the same time, they requested us to emphasize more on English."

Sisodia said, "Learning any language is a skill, but our mother tongue Hindi is our pride. We should not feel shy to speak in our mother tongue."

Chief Guest Malhotra said, "behind any successful person is his value system. It is his value system that takes that person to different levels."

Malhotra said, "I wanted to go to NASA and become a researcher after IIT. But since I got a job in DCM, I did not go. Later, we left our job to make computer microprocessors and formed our company. At that time, my uncle did not approve of my decision to leave the job but later when he saw me succeed, he became happy."

Malhotra said, "Parents are your well-wishers. This is the reason they stop you from taking risks. But if you have the passion for something, go for it. Try to understand your parent's point of view. Everyone cannot understand your passion."

Expressing gratitude to guest entrepreneur Arjun Malhotra, Kejriwal described his experiences as fruitful. "Malhotra's experiences show that nothing is impossible. If you are determined towards something, then there is always a way out. During your entire interaction session, our students got to learn a lot of good things. We hope to call you at regular intervals to keep this interaction going," Kejriwal said.

AAP protests SDMC proposed professional tax

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) held a protest outside the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) headquarters on Wednesday against a professional tax levied by South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on people.

The civic body on Monday passed the proposal to levy a professional tax on self-employed people and professionals working in companies, announced effective hike in property tax on commercial properties and also levied 1 per cent extra duty on transfer of property amid furore from opposition AAP which protested the move in the SDMC House.

As per the decision, salaried individuals and professionals like doctors and lawyers will have to pay professional tax if their monthly income is above Rs 50,000. According to the slab, for those

earning in the range of Rs 50,001-75,000, the tax will be Rs 100 per month, for Rs 75,000-Rs 1,00,000 slab, it will be Rs 150 per month and for Rs 1,00,001 it will be Rs 200 per month, the official said. Self-employed people, earning up to Rs 6 lakh, will be exempted from this tax, the civic body said.

Earlier, the Standing Committee had approved levying of professional tax on such individuals having a monthly income of over Rs 20,000. The House also approved the hike in property transfer tax and postponed the decision on electricity tax hike, officials said.

Party workers led by AAP MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak, gathered at DDU marg demanding roll back of all the three taxes.

Pathak said, "The BJP riled north Corporation also wanted to impose similar taxes but out members did not allow them to pass the resolution. He

attacked the BJP, saying the party is imposing such taxes at a time when people are struggling because of Covid-19 pandemic."

The AAP has been protesting the decision since the SDMC standing committee

approved it recently. The party had asked the civic body to roll back the hike in taxes and not levies professional tax.



WAR ON COVID-19 India needs med infrastructure

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As coronavirus spread like wildfire from Tier-1 to Tier 2 cities to villages across the country stretching the existing overburdened healthcare system, Covid-19 infected severely ill patients requiring isolation beds and ICU beds besides basic oxygen facilities are likely to be at the receiving end in view of shortage of specialists and needed emergency medical infrastructure.

India is third-most virus hit country among the world with US and the Brazil topping the list. On an average, India is reporting almost above 45,000 cases daily. "Though recovery rate is also on increase simultaneously, once the patients had started to die in a smaller city or town, the Government will have to be ready for the huge demand for medical needs," said a doctor from the AIIMS, Delhi on the condition of anonymity.

According to the Union Health Ministry, around 3 per cent of active patients need ICU beds, less than 3 per cent need oxygen support and only 0.45 per cent need ventilators. However, in contrast, in villages and small cities there has

always been deficiency of the specialists and the health-care infrastructure.

Sample this: India has 1.1 million allopathic doctors registered with the Board of Governors/State Medical Councils/Medical Council, while for people living in rural areas, the government allopathic doctor-patient ratio is 1:10,926, according to the National Health Profile 2019.

Assuming 80 per cent availability, it is said that around 920,000 qualified allopathic doctors and specialists may be actually available for active service.

It gives a doctor-population ratio of 1:1404 as per current population estimate of 1.35 billion, which is lower than the World Health Organisation (WHO) norm of 1:1000.

In addition to doctors, the country has a little more than two million (2,048,979) registered nurses and midwives, many of whom need infection



nutrition and life sciences.

According to Dr Srinath Reddy, President of the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), the availability of physicians and nurses varies widely across the country, with the central, northern, eastern, and northeastern states being poorly served.

Rural areas have an especially severe shortage of qualified health professionals.

Researchers in Chennai too after conducting an in-depth statistical analysis have asserted that the number of Covid-19 patients who need ICU beds might exceed the existing inventory of around 32,000 beds by early August.

Sitabha Sinha from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, and his colleagues have suggested that a demand for ICU beds from 3 per cent of the patients would approach the 32,000 limit by August end.

Shortages of critical-care medicine specialists and nurses could hamper the country's ability to deliver efficient ICU services to every patient who needs them, Shikha Panwar, a senior critical-care specialist in Faridabad, Haryana echoed similar concerns.

control training to care for patients with airborne infections, according to reports.

Almost from all the districts in Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, UP, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka (in that order) are registering the cases. The North-eastern region is also not left untouched by the virus calling for better health services.

Overall, India has an estimated, 1.55 million nurses, and 750,000 nurse associates, according to the Ministry. In addition, there are around 200,000 dentists, 600,000 AYUSH qualified practitioners, about 1.1 million pharmacists and 700,000 qualified allied and healthcare professionals, including those in labs, radiology, physiotherapy, optometry, occupational therapy,

Agencies lack intel to assess bio threat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even after the lapse of 12 years, covering Governments both under the Congress and BJP at the Centre, Indian agencies have failed to put in place structural mechanisms to assess biological threats as outlined by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in its 156-page report.

The 156-page guidelines for management of biological disasters formulated in July 2008 by the NDMA had envisaged the need for assessment of threat perceptions and intelligence inputs, including those emanating from biological terrorism.

Insiders in the security agencies now say that such surveillance mechanisms could have helped in early detection and mitigation of Covid-19 pandemic that emerged from Wuhan in China and also in checking the entry of foreign Tablighis as the initial spread in India was suspected to have been aggravated by the Tablighi Jamaat, thousands of whose overseas members carried the virus here after attending ijtema (religious congregation) in Malaysia.

A timely intervention through advanced intelligence



could have saved the miseries on the health and economy fronts that have crippled due to the continuing spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, they conceded.

While Covid-19 was beginning to spread its tentacles in Wuhan and Tablighis were conducting ijtemas abroad, the Indian missions couldn't properly assess the situation leading to delayed evacuation of Indians stranded in Wuhan and prevention of entry of Covid carriers into the country, the officials said.

"India needs to maintain the necessary level of epidemiological intelligence to pick up early warning signals of emerging and re-emerging diseases of epidemic/pandemic potential. This would also require advance knowledge of the activities of our adversaries in developing a potential BW (bio-warfare) and its potential use during war and by terrorist outfits using available inhouse

facilities to develop such weapons.

"A coordinated action plan of the intelligence agencies, MHA, MoH&FW and MoD (Ministry of Defence) will be developed and put in place to gather intelligence and develop appropriate deterrence and defence strategies," the guidelines had clearly spelt out the role of the intelligence agencies in gathering inputs on biological disasters.

"MHA Ministry of Home Affairs) is the nodal ministry for BT (bio-terrorism) and partners with MoH&FW (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) in its management. MHA is responsible for assessing threat perceptions, setting up of deterrent mechanisms and providing intelligence inputs. MoH&FW will also provide the required technical support," said the report titled National Disaster Management Guidelines: Management of Biological Disasters formulated by the

NDMA that is headed by the Prime Minister as Chairman of the body.

The report further noted, "For implementing IHR (International Health Regulations) 2005, core capacity needs to be developed for surveillance, border control at ports and airports, quarantine facilities, etc," the report had underscored.

In the foreword, the then Vice Chairman of NDMA General NC Vij had noted, "The spectre of pandemics engulfing our subcontinent and beyond poses new challenges to the skills and capacities of the Government and society.

The intent of these guidelines is to develop a holistic, coordinated, proactive and technology driven strategy and management of biological disasters through a culture of prevention, mitigation and preparedness to generate a prompt and effective response in the event of an emergency."

The document contained comprehensive guidelines for preparedness activities, bio-safety and bio-security and others for containment of biological disasters including agro-terrorism and even stockpiling of essential medicines, masks and PPE kits right up to the Block level.

Ministry to DCGI: Ensure equitable Remdesivir, Tocilizumab distribution

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union health Ministry has asked the Drugs Controller General of India to ensure equitable distribution of Remdesivir and Tocilizumab drugs, which have been included as "investigational therapies" in the national treatment protocols for Covid-19, across the country.

The aim is to ensure that their availability is not skewed and does not remain confined to metropolitan areas, an official said. The move followed after Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu informed the ministry of the requirement of investigational therapy drugs.

Subsequently, the ministry has written to the top drug regulator, asking it to ascertain how many States and Union territories (UTs) have been covered and which of them are left, as far as the availability and distribution of these drugs by the respective companies is concerned.



"Apart from availability, the geographical distribution/reach of the drugs included as part of investigational therapies in Clinical Management Protocols for COVID-19, namely Remdesivir and Tocilizumab, may also be monitored.

"This ministry may kindly be apprised as to how many states and UTs have been covered and which of the states and UTs, if any, are left as far as the availability and distribution of these drugs by the respective companies is concerned," the letter dated July 27 said.

The ministry has included the use of Remdesivir (for restricted emergency use purposes) and off-label application

of Tocilizumab for treating Covid-19 patients in moderate stage of the illness as "investigational therapies" in the updated Clinical Management Protocol for Covid-19.

The Ministry had last year revised the prescribed dosage of anti-viral drug Remdesivir for coronavirus patients from six days to five. According to the updated version of its Clinical Management Protocol for the coronavirus, the patients must be injected with 200 milligram of Remdesivir on day one and 100 milligram for the next four days.

So far, India has reported over 15.31 lakh Covid-19 cases with over 34,000 deaths.

Khadi in demand; Red Cross to buy 1.80L face masks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the popularity of the Khadi Face Masks grows across the country due to its fine quality and affordable price, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has received a prestigious purchase order from Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) to supply 1.80 lakh face masks.

The IRCS masks will be made of 100% double-twisted handcrafted cotton fabric in brown colour with red piping. KVIC has especially designed these double-layered cotton masks for the Indian Red Cross Society as per the samples provided by them. The mask will have suitably printed IRCS logo on the left side and the Khadi India tag on the right side. The supply of masks will begin by next month.

The execution of this order

will require over 20,000 meter of the fabric which will generate 9000 additional man-days for the Khadi artisans.

KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena welcomed the order from the Indian Red Cross Society and said the massive demand of Khadi Face Masks is a major step in the direction of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat". "This order will help our Khadi artisans to produce more yarn and fabric and will further add to their income in these difficult times," Saxena said.

So far KVIC has sold over 10 lakh face masks which include double-layered Cotton Masks and triple-layered Silk Masks. The biggest order for face masks that the KVIC received was from the Jammu & Kashmir Government for 7 lakh masks that have been delivered on time.

NIA arrests three for murder of C'garh MLA Bhima Mandavi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested three persons accused in the killing of MLA Bhima Mandavi of Chhattisgarh.

The NIA arrested Laxman Jaiswal alias Laxman Sao (46), Ramesh Kumar Kashyap alias Ramesh Hemla (35) and Kumari Linge Tati (25), all residents of District Dantewada, Chhattisgarh, on Tuesday in connection with the probe into the murder of Mandavi on April 9, 2019.

The case arose out of Chhattisgarh FIR No.11/2019 registered on April 10 last year registered under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) relating to criminal conspiracy, murder and dacoity among others besides provisions of the Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The incident refers to an IED blast and indiscriminate firing by banned CPI (Maoist)



The arms and ammunition of the martyred police personnel were also looted by the CPI (Maoist) cadres

cadres on April 9, 2019 near Shyamgiri Village under Police Station Kuakond in Dantewada district resulting in death of Bhima Mandavi, the then sitting BJP MLA from Dantewada, along with four police personnel of Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF).

The NIA had re-registered the case as RC-11/2019/NIA/DLI on May 17, 2019. Two accused persons-- Bhima Tati and Madka Ram Tati, both residents of Patel Para, Tikanpal Village, Dantewada were earlier arrested by NIA.

"Investigation has

revealed that arrested accused Laxman Jaiswal alias Laxman Sao, who runs a grocery shop in Nakulnar, provided electric wires, explosive substances and other items for the IED blast carried out by CPI (Maoist) cadres.

Accused Ramesh Kumar Kashyap alias Ramesh Hemla (ex-Sarpanch of Kakadi Village) and Kumari Linge Tati were instrumental in providing logistic support to the Naxalites and were part of the conspiracy which led to the killing of Bhima Mandavi and four security personnel," the NIA said in a statement.

On Wednesday, the accused were produced before the NIA Special Court, Jagdalpur and have been taken on police remand for seven days.

Smokers likely to be more vulnerable to Covid-19, warns Health Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a warning to smokers, the Union Health Ministry on Wednesday said the use of tobacco products like cigarettes, smokeless tobacco including pan masala can increase severity of respiratory infections and make users susceptible to coronavirus which primarily attacks lungs.

Further, warned the



Ministry in its document 'Covid-19 Pandemic and Tobacco Use in India, as the act of smoking means that fingers (and possibly contaminated cigarettes) are in contact with lips, there is possibility of transmission of virus from hand to mouth.

Fertiliser scam: Gehlot's brother fails to appear before ED

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's brother Agrasain failed to keep date with the Enforcement Directorate that had summoned him to appear before its office here on Wednesday in connection with the probe into the fertiliser scam.

The agency had conducted searches at his premises in Jodhpur last week amid the ongoing political turbulence in the State government triggered

by the revolt of former Deputy CM Sachin Pilot. A dozen other premises in Rajasthan, West Bengal, Gujarat and Delhi were also searched by the ED.

The agency is expected to summon Agrasain again to join the probe into the fertiliser scam. The ED had registered a case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after taking cognisance of a Customs Department case of 2007-09 and related chargesheet filed in 2013.

The fertiliser scam case

refers to the Customs Department case relating to the alleged irregularities in the supply of subsidised Muriate of Potash to the farmers.

The Customs Department chargesheet filed in 2013 alleged that Agrasain and others diverted the MoP meant for the farmers and exported the item despite a ban on its export.

Agrasain is also facing a ₹7 crore penalty slapped by the Customs Department in connection with the fertiliser scam case.

Govt's new edu policy will centralise, communalise academic field: CPM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Termining the new education policy as a move for commercialisation, the CPI(M) Politburo on Wednesday said that this would enhance centralisation and communalisation of the academic field. The Left party also "denounced" the move to rename the Ministry of Human Resource Development and intervention in the education sector by the centre, which is basically a state subject.

"Education is in the Concurrent List in our Constitution. It is a gross violation by the Central government to impose a New



Education Policy unilaterally bypassing all the objections and opposition recorded by various state governments. A new policy of such a nature needs to be discussed in the Parliament. This was assured by the Government earlier. The draft is, as per norm, placed on the table of the Houses with a statutory time limit within which Members of Parliament can move amendments/give opinions. The Parliament has been completely

bypassed," said CPI(M) in a statement soon after the Centre has announced the new policy.

"This unilateral drive is to destroy the Indian education system with a policy that seeks greater centralisation, communalization and commercialization of Indian education. The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) strongly protests against this move by the BJP Central Government. The Polit Bureau demands that a thorough discussion in Parliament be held before implementation begins," said CPI(M), adding that the BJP Government avoided debate with people in academic sector before introducing the new policy.

Puri unveils low cost helicopter service on Dehradun-New Tehri-Srinagar-Gauchar route

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri took to Twitter and congratulated the people of Uttarakhand after inaugurating a low cost helicopter service on the Dehradun-New Tehri-Srinagar-Gauchar route. On Wednesday, Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) launched on Wednesday helicopter service on the Dehradun-New Tehri-Srinagar-Gauchar route in Uttarakhand under the Central government's regional connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik).

The Aviation Minister said he was "delighted" to inaugurate the UDAN route along with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh

Rawat. "With this, we have added six more routes and two heliports at New Tehri and Srinagar," he said. Puri noted that these routes provide a much-needed air connectivity to the people of the hill state and the cost for availing the service is affordable.

The Narendra Modi Government had launched the UDAN Scheme in 2016 to improve regional air connectivity. Under the scheme, financial incentives in terms of concessions from the Centre, state governments and airport operators are extended to selected flight operators to encourage operations from unserved and under-served airports, and keep airfares affordable.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the general public that my client Sh. Daya Kishan Saini S/o. Late Sh. Laloo Ram Saini & Smt. Nirmala Saini W/o. Sh. Daya Kishan Saini both inhabitant of H.No. D-262, Gali No. 3, Burari Road, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi-42 have disowned and debarred their son namely Amit Saini & his wife Radhika and Ankit Saini & his wife Shivani from his / her/ their all immovable and movable properties at Delhi or elsewhere and also severed his/ her/ their relationship with them. If anyone deals with him/ her/ them at their own risk and cost, my clients shall not be responsible for any purpose. **Vineendra Singh - Advocate, Cb-711, Rohini Court, Delhi-85**

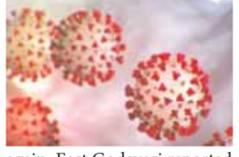
GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVPNL, KARNAL	DEPOSIT WORK FOR PROVIDING 2 NO. 220KV LINE BAY (220KV D/C MUND -IOCL PNP LINE) ALONGWITH ALLIED EQUIPMENTS AT 220KV S/STN MUND (CIVIL WORKS)	CLOSING DATE 13.08.2020	Rs 84000.00 for General, Rs.42000.00 for Registered Society	https://www.hvnpn.org.in.	0172-2583789 Pro@hvnpn.org.in
2	HVPNL, KARNAL	REPAIRING OF 16 NOS STUB AT TOWER LOCATION NO. 14, 34, 36 AND 40 OF 220 KV KARNAL-PTPS TRANSMISSION LINE	28.07.2020 CLOSING DATE 07.08.2020	1.44 LACS	https://www.hvnpn.org.in.	0172-2583789 Pro@hvnpn.org.in
3	HVPNL, KARNAL	FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 33KV CAP.BANK FOUNDATION (1X5.436MVAR) ALONG WITH ALLIED EQUIPMENT AT 132 KV S/STN. RAJOUND. (CIVIL WORKS).	CLOSING DATE 13.08.2020	Rs 2100.00 for General, Rs.1050.00 for Registered Society	https://www.hvnpn.org.in.	0172-2583789 Pro@hvnpn.org.in
4	HARYANA LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD PANCHKULA	HCG (HUMAN CHORIONIC GONADOTROPHIN) FOR VETERINARY USE + 3 OTHER WORK	28.07.2020 CLOSING DATE 06.08.2020	EMD 4 LACS	http://pashudhanharyana.gov.in	9416172558 hldb-hry@nic.in
5	MC SONIPAT	SUPPLY OF SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE SOLUTION 1% IS USE DILATION 5% SOLUTION CONFORMING FOR SUFRE IN M.C AREA.	OPENING DATE 07.08.2020 CLOSING DATE 17.08.2020	EMD 1000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	semcsonapat@gmail.com
6	MC SONIPAT	CONST. OF BOX TYPE DRAIN FROM BAHALGARH TO DIWAN FARM HOUSE SECTOR-7 MAIN LINE M.C SONIPAT	OPENING DATE 19.08.2020 CLOSING DATE 17.08.2020	EMD 3.34 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	semcsonapat@gmail.com
7	H.S.A.M. BOARD FARIDABAD	SPECIAL REPAIR OF WORK PLAN 2020-21 PHASE - 1, GROUP-I CONSTITUENCY - PAWAL, DISTT -PALWAL (ROAD ID H-733, 780, 759.). + 6 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 17.08.2020	9.27 CRORE	http:// etenders.hry.nic.in	9971730975 xenfaridabad_hsamb2019@gmail.com
8	MC HISAR	CONST. OF BALANCE ROAD NEAR TKONA PARK IN SECTOR 98/11 WARD NO. 12 HISAR + 13 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 13.08.2020	3.97 CRORE	etenders.hry.nic.in	xenmchissar@gmail.com
9	MC KUNDALI	D-WATERING OF DADA BHAIYA JOHAR IN HSIIDC, SEWER LINE IN MC KUNDLI. + 3 OTHER WORKS	OPENING DATE 11.08.2020 CLOSING DATE 17.08.2020	EMD 66000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	secymckundli@gmail.com
10	BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION HARYANA, BHIANI	PRINTING AND SUPPLY OF 86 STATIONARY ITEMS FOR YEAR 2020-2021	29.07.2020 CLOSING DATE 17.08.2020	16 LACS	http://www.bseh.org.in	9416973860 asplexam@bseh.org.in
11	HSAMB, REWARI	CONST. OF BAO BUILDING IN NGM BAWAL DISTT. REWARI	28.07.2020 CLOSING DATE 12.08.2020	As per Tender Notice	http:// etenders.hry.nic.in	01274-224187 xensamb_rewari@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 82003

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

AP: 10,093 cases, 65 deaths in 1 day

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh reported a massive 10,093 new Covid cases on Wednesday, its highest ever single-day tally. State health officials said that an unprecedented 70,584 tests were conducted in the 24 hours ending 9 am Wednesday. The day also saw the highest number of deaths in a single day. The previous single-day high of 8,147 cases was recorded on Friday last week. Andhra Pradesh's overall Covid tally now stands at 1,20,390 cases while the death toll has touched 1,213. As many as four districts reported fresh cases in four digit figures, while one district reported double digit Covid numbers on Wednesday. Yet



again, East Godavari reported the highest numbers with 1,676 new cases, followed by Anantapur with 1,371 cases, Guntur with 1,124, and Kurnool with 1,091 cases. Vizianagaram was the lone district to report double digit Covid figure of 53 cases during the past 24 hours. Meanwhile the day count of deaths also rose to 65 on Wednesday. The overall death toll now stands at 1,213. The state's death toll had breached the 1,000-mark on

Sunday, while the previous one-day high of 61 deaths was reported on Thursday. In all, 2,784 persons were reported cured and discharged from hospitals and Covid treatment centres. As on date, there are 63,771 active cases in the state, while 55,406 persons have been declared as cured and discharged. Meanwhile, there have been no new additions to the Covid tally from returnees to the state. Till date, 2,461 cases have been identified as Covid positive among persons who returned from other states. The active cases tally in this category currently stands at 16, while 2,445 persons have been declared as recovered till Wednesday. **IANS**

Mufti's daughter Rubiya complains of lewd calls

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Dr Rubiya Sherif, daughter of late Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, had filed a case with Chennai Police over lewd calls received by her in her mobile phone. Dr Rubiya, who is settled in Chennai for the last two decades because of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, in a complaint told the police that the caller was using obscene language. She had furnished the numbers from where she received the calls and the police is investigating the case. Rubiya was shocked when she was kidnapped by the terrorists of the JKLF in 1989, immediately after her father Mufti Mohammed Sayeed was sworn in as the Home Minister in the VP Singh led government and was released in lieu of setting free 13 Kashmiri terrorists from the jails in Kashmir. **IANS**

Sunni Board sets up trust for building mosque in Ayodhya

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board President Zulfar Ahmad Farooqi announced on Wednesday the formation of a Trust for construction of a mosque on a five-acre land in Ayodhya. He said the Trust will have 15 members, of which names of nine have been declared. They will "co-opt six other members," Farooqi said. The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board president said that he will be chief trustee and the chairman of the trust. "We made the Trust named Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation. It will oversee the construction of a mosque, Indo-Islamic research centre, library and hospital in the five-acre land allotted to the board in Ayodhya's Dhannipur village," Farooqi told PTI. The Supreme Court had in November last year paved the way for the construction of a Ram Temple by a Trust at the disputed site at Ayodhya, and directed the Centre to allot an alternative 5-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board for building a new mosque at a "prominent" place in the holy town in Uttar Pradesh. The state government allotted a five-acre land in Dhannipur village in Sohawal Tehsil of Ayodhya. **PTI**

Ram bhakts asked not to visit Ayodhya for 'bhumi poojan' but watch on TV

Ayodhya: The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has appealed to followers of Lord Ram not to rush to Ayodhya for the 'bhumi poojan' ceremony of Ram temple construction, scheduled to be held on August 5. The trust has appealed to followers to watch the ceremony on television and light a lamp in the evening to mark the occasion. According to Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust members, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting Ayodhya on August 5 for the 'bhumi poojan' ceremony to begin the construction of the Ram temple. The trust said huge gatherings and participation in massive numbers would not be possible during the Corona pandemic. The trust has invited Modi to lay the foundation stone of the temple either on August 5. The rituals for the 'bhumi poojan' will begin on August 3 with a 'Ganesh Gauri Puja'. **IANS**

Situation in Kerala remains grim

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

903 new persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 on Wednesday in Kerala. Out of this 706 persons contracted the pandemic through local transmission while 35 persons failed to point out the source from where they got infected, according to a release issued by the Department of Health, Government of Kerala. The situation in the State remained grim as the number of hotspots rose to 492 by Wednesday evening. In addition to cities and towns, the villages in the State, known for their scenic landscapes, ponds and rivers have been declared as covid infected and unsafe. The entire Thiruvananthapuram has become an epicentre of the disease as 213 persons tested positive for Covid-19 on Wednesday and most of these cases were from villages.

TN scientists bag national awards for making India superpower in harnessing ocean resources

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu, despite being battered by Covid-19 pandemic since February 2020 has reasons to rejoice as five Chennai based scientists have been honored by the Government of India for the exemplary contributions they have made to the society from the laboratories of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) which comes under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. MA Atmanand, director, NIOT, a veteran in the field of deep sea technologies has been honored with the National Award of Excellence for the pioneering research and development work he has done that has helped India to establish itself as an emerging superpower in harnessing the hitherto unseen and unexplored depths of the ocean. Dr Atmanand, through his industrious and perseverance works developed India's first Remotely Operable Vehicle capable of undertaking missions up to 6 km to the bottom of the ocean. The work led by him and his team of technologists have helped India to think about drawing the vast deposits of gas hydrates from the deep bottom of the Bay of Bengal and Central Indian Ocean Basin.

SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT CASE

Rhea Chakraborty moves SC, seeks transfer of probe from Patna to Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A major turf war broke out between the Mumbai and Bihar police over the investigations into the suicide of Sushant Singh Rajput on Wednesday, as spotlight turned onto the late actor's girl friend Rhea Chakraborty who moved the Supreme Court seeking the transfer of the FIR registered in the case from Patna to Mumbai. In new twist that came in the sensational case after the actor's father Krishna Kumar Singh lodged a FIR against Rhea and her family members in Patna, Rhea Chakraborty swiftly moved the Supreme Court on Wednesday, even as the Bihar police slugged it out with the Mumbai police for taking charge of the investigations into the case. Rhea's lawyer Satish Maneshinde confirmed that a petition had been filed by his client in the Supreme Court seeking transfer of investigation in the FIR filed against her and her family members in the Sushant Singh Rajput's alleged suicide. 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. Following the registration of the FIR by the Rajiv Nagar police station, a four-member team of the Patna police that arrived here on Tuesday began pressuring the Mumbai police to transfer the investigations in the case to the visiting police on the ground that the FIR was registered first in the Bihar capital. Sushant (34), who had acted in films like "MS Dhoni: The Untold Story", "Shuddh Desi Romance", PK, "Raabta", "Kedarnath", "Detective Byomkesh" and Chhichore, committed suicide at his rented duplex flat in Bandra on June 14. The Bandra police, who had registered an Accidental Death Report (ADR) in connection with Sushant's suicide, have come in for several quarters for its failure to register an FIR in the case, despite the fact that they have questioned a host of film personalities, friends and acquaintances of the deceased actor for the past six weeks. Defending the move by Sushant's father in his son's suicide case in Patna, Vikas Singh, former solicitor general and lawyer, who is representing Sushant's family, said: "Sushant's family was in a state of shock. As the Mumbai did not register an FIR in the case but was merely forcing the family members to implicate big production houses in the case. Sushant's family had no alternative but to register the FIR with the Patna police". At a time when the Bihar and Mumbai police are fighting on technical ground to take over the investigations into the case, there is a clamour in certain quarters that the case be handed over to the CBI.

Strict lockdown in West Bengal

PNS ■ KOLKATA

The Bengal police strictly implemented the bi-weekly lockdown on Wednesday punishing violators and arresting and penalising about two hundred people from various places, sources said. Strict lockdown was implemented across the State from Kolkata, Howrah and Hooghly in South Bengal to Malda and Coochbehar in the North. No flight took off from Kolkata and no buses ran. Information Technology sector too witnessed a complete lockdown, sources said adding police resorted to mild lathi-charge at places like Jagaddal, Birbhum, Baruipur and other places where people tried to break the protocols. In a bid to break the corona chain the Bengal Government has decided to impose bi-weekly lockdowns in the state with exceptions on the festival days.

New education policy draws mixed reactions from Bengal civil society

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Centre's new education policy proposals have found mixed reactions in the Kolkata civil society with a section of the intelligentsia strongly criticising the neo-education system as "pro-rich, unrealistic" and un-India specific. Questioning the "logic and intellectual prowess and profile" of those drafting the new proposal veteran linguist, educationist and Sanskrit scholar Nrsingha Prasad Bhaduri on Wednesday said that "such proposals are highly India un-specific... and such policies are the handiworks of intellectually some below par people who have imported such novel ideas from countries where education is a luxury." In India education is a necessity and not a luxury he said wondering why the Central Government has decided to minimize the importance of Class X. "Instead of further consolidating the syllabus of class X making it more informative updated and competitive we are virtually diluting and trivializing it. This will be counter-productive and you will find numerous students and job applicants without enough basic skills in future... Only foreign-returned fools can suggest such kind of reforms," he said comparing it to the act of "cutting its roots and watering the plant."

82 die, 6,426 positive in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Number of new Covid-19 patients in Tamil Nadu came down to 6,426 while 82 persons lost their lives to the pandemic in the last 24 hours. The fall in the number of new patients brought some relief to the policy makers and Government officials as the State had tested 6,972 on Tuesday. Number of new patients diagnosed with covid remained on the higher side of 6,000 for the entire week beginning July 23. Wednesday also saw 5,927 persons leaving hospitals across the State fully recovered and energised to resume normal life. This makes the total number of persons recovered from the pandemic in the State till date to 1.72 lakh. The day also saw 58,818 persons getting tested in the 119 laboratories across the State. While 1,117 new persons were tested positive in Chennai, the numbers from districts like Chengalpatt (540), Kancheepuram (373) and Thiruvallur (382) were not encouraging. On Wednesday Governor Banwarilal Purohit decided to stay 'isolated' for a week on the advice of his doctors. Though the First Citizen of the State is fit and healthy, his medical officer advised him seven days isolation following three staff members of Raj Bhavan testing positive. Meanwhile Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami told the district collectors of the State in a video conference that the fatality rate in Tamil Nadu was 1.6 per cent.

540 afflicted in J&K

Jammu: Ahead of the Eid-ul-Adha celebrations in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, the total number of coronavirus cases is inching closer to 20,000. On Wednesday the total tally of positive patients stood at 19,419 as 540 new cases were detected and fifteen more deaths due to Covid-19 were reported from different hospitals. The local markets, which were thrown open after a brief period of lockdown in Srinagar and other districts, witnessed huge rush on account of Eid celebrations. The social distancing norms and other guidelines were flouted by common people at many places. **PNS**

UNITED LEASING & INDUSTRIES LIMITED						
Regd. Office: Plot No.65, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurugram, Haryana-122001.						
CIN: L17100HR1983PLC033460 Website: www.ulitd.com, Email id: investorrelations@ulitd.com, Phone:011-49075251						
Extract of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter & Year Ended 31st March, 2020						
Sl. No.	Particulars (Refer Notes below)	Quarter Ended			Year Ended	
		31.03.2020 (Audited)	31.12.2019 (Unaudited)	31.03.2019 (Audited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	31.03.2019 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	82.64	69.89	55.43	235.45	295.67
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	38.14	7.24	1.13	22.48	3.00
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax after exceptional items	38.14	7.24	1.13	(34.24)	3.00
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	38.14	7.24	1.13	(34.24)	3.00
5	Total Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-
6	Paid-up equity share capital	300.00	300	300.00	300.00	300.00
7	Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each (not annualised)					
a) Basic		1.27	0.24	0.04	(1.14)	0.10
b) Diluted		1.27	0.24	0.04	(1.14)	0.10

Notes:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2020 are available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on Company's website www.ulitd.com
2 The figures for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2019 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the year to date figures up to nine months of the respective financial year.
3 Figures of the above Previous periods have been regrouped/reclassified/restated wherever necessary.
4 The outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic globally and in India is causing significant disturbance and slowdown of economic activities. The Company is engaged in the business of Manufacturing of Embroidery and has been affected as it is mostly dependent upon the exporters. The Company has evaluated impact of this pandemic on its business operations and based on its review and current indicators of future economic conditions, there will be significant impact on the results in current financial year.

For United Leasing & Industries Ltd, Sd/ Aditya Khanna Managing Director DIN : 01860038

Dated : July 29, 2020 Place : Gurugram, Haryana

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client Tilak Raj S/o Late Sh. Pera Ram R/o 74, Rampuri, Kalkaji, New Delhi has Lost the Following Documents of Shop No. A-1, Alaknanda Shopping Complex, ND-19 Owner & Shop No.A-2, Alaknanda Shopping Complex, ND-19- General Power of Attorney Holder, Dated-12th July 2020
(a) Demand Letter DDA
(b) Position Letter from DDA
(c) NOC from DDA
(d) Site Position Shop.
R.K.Gupta (Advocate)
Ch.No.129, Saket Court, ND-17 Enrl. No.D/706/86

MEYER APPAREL LIMITED
CIN: L1810HR1993PLC032010
Regd. Office: #412, 4th Floor, Orient Besech Business Tower, Khandasa, Sector-34, Gurugram -122004, Haryana, India
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that meeting of the Board of Directors of Meyer Apparel Limited is scheduled to be held on Friday, 14th August 2020 at 2:00 PM at # 412 (4th Floor), Orient Besech Business Tower, Khandasa, Sector-34, Gurugram-122004 to consider and approve, amongst other items, the unaudited financial results of the Company for the 1st quarter ended June 30, 2020, as well as the matters relating with consolidation of share capital and the scheme of arrangement for reduction of share capital of the Company. Arrangement will also be made for participation of Board members electronically through video-conferencing facility. This notice is also available on the website of the company at www.meyerapparel.com and on the website of BSE Ltd. at www.bseindia.com, where the company's shares are listed.
For Meyer Apparel Limited Sd/ R.K. Sharma
Place : Gurugram R.K. Sharma
Date : July 28, 2020 CFO & Company Secretary

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI HOME (GENERAL) DEPARTMENT 'A' WING, 5TH LEVEL, DELHI SACHIVALAYA, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-02

DELHI BRAVERY AWARD 2021

Delhi Government has constituted Delhi Bravery Awards to recognize and honour people who have displayed exemplary courage, presence of mind and bravery in the face of acute danger and who have performed deeds of outstanding Bravery and selfless service risking their lives to protect others. Persons in all walks of life are eligible for these awards. The acts of bravery would be recognised and honoured in Government function on Republic Day 2021.

It may be noted that the recommendations for this Award are considered by Awards Committee within a period of two years from the date of performance of the Bravery act. Therefore, for **Delhi Bravery Award 2021**, any application in respect of which the date of performance of the act falls between **1st September, 2018 to 31st August, 2020** would only be considered. Any performance act falls **prior to 1st September 2018 will not be considered.**

The eligible applicants/ their legal heirs / any other person on behalf of applicant can deposit their applications / recommendations to their respective Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Govt. of NCT of Delhi **latest by 31st August, 2020.** The circular and prescribed performa can be downloaded from **www.delhi.gov.in/departments.html** Home department.

Sd/-
DIP/Shabdarth/0191/20-21 **DY. SECRETARY (HOME)**

ATS INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED

Regd. Off. : 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
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ANNEXURE I
[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]

(Amount in Lakhs)

S. No.	Particulars	For the Half year ended		For the Year ended	
		31.03.2020	31.03.2019	31.03.2020	31.03.2019
		Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	4,220.98	1,691.47	9,138.84	1,692.12
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	(34.66)	(243.82)	124.63	(388.60)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	(34.66)	(243.82)	124.63	(388.60)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	191.26	(295.93)	298.69	(440.67)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	203.31	(297.37)	310.75	(442.61)
6	Paid-up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(734.94)	(1,045.69)	(734.94)	(1,045.69)
8	Net worth	(733.94)	(1,044.69)	(733.94)	(1,044.69)
9	Paid-up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	16,203.96	14,472.16	16,203.96	14,472.16
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-
11	Debt Equity Ratio*	(22.08)	(13.85)	(22.08)	(13.85)
12	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -				
	1. Basic:	2,032.62	(2,959.27)	3,107.00	(4,406.67)
	2. Diluted:	2,032.62	(2,959.27)	3,107.00	(4,406.67)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
14	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio*	(0.05)	(0.25)	0.09	(0.31)
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio*	(0.05)	(0.25)	0.09	(0.31)

Note:
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of half yearly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the half yearly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.
b) For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).
c) *Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.
d) *The pertinent items need to be disclosed if the said disclosure is required as per Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
e) Previous periods figures have been reclassified wherever considered necessary.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Getamber Anand Tanu Singla
Sd/- Sd/-
Director Director

Date: 28.07.2020
Place: Noida

Between the lines

Tiger numbers are up but with one in three big cats living outside reserves, the man-animal conflict is a bigger threat



Such was the crisis of tigers in 2006, when their numbers fell to a paltry 1,411, that any increase since then has been a cause for celebration. So when we had a healthy count of 2,967 in 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took it upon himself to announce the census findings. The Environment Ministry's latest report, *Status of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey in India*, confirms this steady trend, showing a six per cent rise in India's tiger population from 2006 to 2018. From just nine tiger reserves when

Project Tiger started in 1973, the country has 50 today. However, the devil is in the detail and while the overall numbers may be good, the uneven distribution pattern of the big cat is warning enough that there could be a future crisis if we don't address gaps now. The report says that one in every three tigers lives outside reserves compared to one in every four in 2014, or 35 per cent live outside park limits. This means that the big cat's territoriality and roaming range are being compromised because of shrinkage of habitat and if it is straying, it is exposing itself that much more to conflict with humans as well as members of its own species. The second problem is that of cramping and saturation at certain reserves that would need migratory conduits linking them to other habitats. Uttarakhand's Corbett Tiger Reserve has reported the highest tiger density with 14 tigers per 100 sq km, followed by Kaziranga, Nagarhole and Orang parks. This means that even if forest limits cannot be extended or linked, some provision for open grasslands would have to be made around them so that they can support herbivores, which form the prey base of the tigers. Corbett now has the highest tiger numbers with 231 inside the reserve and 266 using it. It is followed by Nagarhole tiger reserve with 127 tigers, Bandipur with 126 tigers and Bandhavgarh and Kaziranga with 104 tigers each. These reserves are holding out because the prey base is still evenly distributed across ranges, allowing the species to thrive. At the same time, some tiger reserves like Buxa and Palamau have lost their felines simply because of human transit corridors, encroachment, proximity to development projects and insufficient prey base. Of course, one may argue that tigers can be re-introduced to the empty reserves from parks that have them in excess but as Sariska has shown, that takes time and immense patience. Besides, the tigers need to be sourced from the nearest forest simply because much of their survival depends on the genetic pool they come from and that increases the chance of their adaptability. Apart from peripheral villagers, a new tiger also has to deal with resident smaller cats or in the total absence of its kind, reconcile to being a lone ranger and adjust with other relocated companions. Most worryingly, the report lists poaching at an all-time high, India recording the highest number of cases in 15 years in the first quarter of 2016. Bones, claws, teeth and skin continue to be a draw in illegal markets.

While tiger numbers have increased, its habitats have been dwindling due to human encroachment, fast-track infrastructure projects and truncated wildlife corridors that restrict it from moving freely to other forests and exploring new ranges. This would automatically reduce cramping and help it spread out in a healthy manner. The report says tigers have lost 90 per cent of their natural habitat and the man-animal conflict has never been worse, therefore. Be it the killing of Avni last year, villagers beating up strayers or the confused tiger hitting back with a counter-charge, the headlines point to a dangerous trend of overpopulation not being commensurate with increase in prey-rich forest zones. The Wildlife Trust of India's conflict database for Uttar Pradesh records 63 cases of attacks on humans by tigers from 2014 to February 2019, an average of 10.8 cases per year. This marks a dramatic increase from an average of 5.6 attacks on humans per year between 2000 and 2013. The tiger will stray into human settlements when its food chain is affected and villagers cannot be expected to prioritise the conservation economy when the lives of their own and the livestock are at stake. So awareness of tigers should now also include equal knowledge about its ecology and behaviour and the need to provide alternative ranges. Recent examples have shown how some railway underpasses to facilitate wildlife transit are working as both the elephant and tiger are adapting to changed migration routes. There are still viable tracts of pristine forests that were once contiguous and can be turned into reserves by relocating animals from overpopulated stretches. But forests are a State subject and an inter-state agreement on shared corridors needs to be worked out if translocation is to succeed. The tiger sits on top of the food chain in the forest and by saving it, we are saving our biosphere.

Pollution kills

The average citizen of Delhi loses a decade of his/her life to pollution. How can we turn this around?



The results of a recent study by the University of Chicago, titled *Air Quality Life*, estimated that on an average, Indians lose almost 5.2 years of their life expectancy to pollution, second only to Bangladeshis, who lose 6.2 years. But the impact is not uniform across the country with citizens in the capital city losing over nine years of life expectancy, thanks to Delhi's horrible particulate air pollution. Several steps have been taken by the Centre and the State Government to reduce the impact but they aren't enough. For example, there has

been a move to minimise vehicular pollution through the introduction of Bharat Stage-VI emission norms and the rapid construction of the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways that form an outer Outer Ring Road along Delhi's boundaries. But it has been the colossal failure to rein in the farmers, who light up their fields to get rid of crop stubble, that has worsened matters and turned our winters the most toxic. Furthermore, rampant corruption has allowed real estate and infrastructure developers, big and small, to get away despite their poor storage of construction material, particularly sand and cement. Inability to act on the real culprits has made things much, much worse.

The winter of 2020 will likely be a lot better, thanks to a reduction in economic activity that will reduce electricity demand from polluting coal-fired plants, lead to less vehicular movement and stricter implementation of "anti-burning" norms in fields. Yet, this study should set alarm bells ringing for both the Central Government and various State Governments. Inability to provide the citizens with clean air to breathe is a huge governance failure. There also has to be a realisation of the fact that poor air quality will impact poorer households more and those without cars or air purifiers will breathe in worse air with their lives impacted far more harshly. Of course, the Narendra Modi Government's push towards renewable power and various schemes announced by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal did improve matters slightly. But we should not get used to poor air quality and demand that our elected representatives do a lot better. In Delhi and elsewhere across India.

An unevolved legacy

The vibrancy, sleaze and palace intrigues of Indian democracy mirror its progenitor model in Great Britain but it still lacks the latter's accountability, honesty and professionalism



BHOPINDER SINGH

As the intrigues, twists and moral dilemmas of Indian politics ensue, the brilliant but controversial *enfant terrible* of British politics, Winston Churchill's truism about democracy rings true: "The Opposition occupies the benches in front of you but the enemy sits behind you." Widely hailed as one of the "Greatest Britons", Churchill had a deeply unsavoury side that manifested in his irrefutable role in the Bengal famine and his clearly racist opinions about Gandhi, Islam and the Jews among others. The quintessential politician had a penchant for party hopping, or "ratting" as it was called.

Never short of wit to describe his political fleet-footedness, Churchill justified jumping from the Conservatives to the Liberals to back the former by saying, "It is easy for an individual to move through those insensible gradations from the Left to the Right but the act of crossing the floor is one which requires serious consideration. I am well informed on this matter, for I have accomplished that difficult process not only once but twice." However, it can be argued that Churchill's political dalliances were principle-based and not just sheer opportunism, given the free trade absolutism professed by him — one which got compromised initially by the Conservatives (who developed protectionist instincts) and then by the Liberals.

The Indian democracy is based on the British Westminster style of parliamentary democracy and serendipitously, in the middle of the latest political revolt in Rajasthan, an Opposition leader alluded to Churchill's predecessor and *bete noire*, Neville Chamberlain, as an analogy to questionable decision-making. To some extent, the vibrancy, sleaze and "palace intrigues" of Indian democracy mirror its progenitor model in Great Britain but Indian politics has not evolved on some more substantial aspects like accountability, honesty and professionalism that have a higher imprint in British politics currently.

Put simply, partisan moorings of the British politicians on either side of the fence are more ideological, pronounced and a matter of personal faith. Whereas, in the context of Indian politics, it is a matter of "ticket", legacy, ambition or even hate of the proverbial "other", all of which define partisan preferences. In British politics, the evolutionary process is breaking down and the blurring of stereotypes of certain socio-cultural gravitation towards partisan preferences, for example, Tony Blair's New Labour movement, is on. But religion, race, ethnicity, background or region still drive overwhelming preferences in the Indian context.

A uniquely Indian phenomenon of playing down one's personal ambition in favour of ascribing sharp political move to "what my supporters would advise" or conversely in "abiding by the party whip as a



loyal soldier of the party" is hilariously untrue, cliched and convenient.

Another tired expression that barely masks the reality is the attribution of getting caught (*prima facie*) in a sticky situation to a rote and insipid, "it is a political conspiracy against me." The largest democracy in the world has not evolved in matters of expression, honesty and justifications. Continuing double standards of morality have been thrown into the admixture to truly exemplify the saying, "Politics is the last refuge of the scoundrel." Not really so in British politics.

In Britain, there is a finely developed culture of "internal democracy" that frequently and openly facilitates cross-party voting on crucial matters. Brexit was a typical example of multi-party huddles that composed the Brexit camp or the Remainiacs. In Indian politics, to assume intellectual or ideologically contrarian positions from the party leadership stand (even neutrality, if not opposition) is the surest and fastest test of "disloyalty" that amounts to political suicide.

The dictatorial strain of an obsequious "high command" culture is celebrated and not frowned upon — literally from attributing divinity to professing blind faith. This is par for the

OUR POLITICIANS PERPETUATE THE OSTENSIBLY SELFLESS LINE OF SERVING THE PEOPLE WITH MUCH GRANDIOSITY AND POMPOSITTY EVEN AS THE UNIQUELY INDIAN PHENOMENON OF RESORT QUARANTINING, HORSE TRADING AND ACCOMMODATING RIVALS WITH MINISTERSHIPS CONTINUES

course in Indian politics.

Another remarkable difference is the relative grace with which incumbents to the high offices bid farewell, often willingly. Four of the last seven Prime Ministers of the UK left 10 Downing Street not owing to electoral defeat by the Opposition party but due to leadership changes necessitated on account of their own diminishment within the ruling party.

More importantly, age is not the criterion to justify their over-staying at the political centre-stage. A 49-year-old David Cameron left active politics with his final farewell speech comment, "I was the future once." Cameron had resigned after the Brexit referendum went against his stated position to "stay" and he assumed moral (not legal) responsibility for the result. His exit paved way for his colleague Theresa May. Later, May herself was unable to see through the Brexit task and was replaced by her party member Boris Johnson.

Importantly, May had no qualms about assuming the "back bench" and continues to serve her constituency as a regular Member of Parliament. May's farewell speech as the Prime Minister concluded with, "I will shortly leave the job that has been the honour of my life to hold — the second female

Prime Minister but certainly not the last. I do so with no ill-will but with enormous and enduring gratitude to have had the opportunity to serve the country I love." Such graceful political exits are unthinkable in the Indian context.

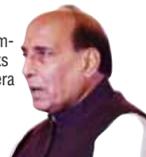
Our politicians perpetuate the ostensibly selfless line of "serving the people" with much grandiosity and pomposity even as the uniquely Indian phenomenon of "resort quarantining", "horse trading" and "accommodating rivals till recently with ministerships" continues. No political party in India can honestly claim to be cleaner than the other.

Candidates of dubious personal credentials win votes and seats for all parties — only the "monopoly on truth" changes hands with the dispensations in power, who dominate the air-time. While we have a lot to begrudge Winston Churchill for what he believed in and inflicted on India, his words were profound nonetheless. "In war, you can only be killed once but in politics, many times." This moral or ideological death seems to be an insignificant price in our politics as we are able to adjust to any narrative, irrespective of the substance.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

SOUNDBITE

The birds have landed safely in Ambala. The touchdown of Rafale combat aircraft in India marks the beginning of a new era in our military history.



Defence Minister —Rajnath Singh

Don't taunt people who are trying to be happy on social media in this pandemic. You can't explain everything to everyone, especially if you have an emergency.



Actor —Gauahar Khan

So it sort of is curious, a man works for us, and yet they're highly thought of and nobody likes me. It can only be my personality.



US President —Donald Trump

India has the bowling attack to rattle the Australian batting line up. But yeah, it's going to be a different challenge than what it was last time around.



Former cricketer —Gautam Gambhir

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Anti-middle class

Sir — The Telangana Government's statement that capped prices of COVID-19 treatment in private hospitals do not apply to patients who have insurance cover is really shocking. Have the middle class citizens committed a sin by taking insurance policies? It is an undisputed fact that the taxpayers contribute to the growth of a State/nation but successive Governments have just chosen to ignore them. The present situation is so scary that even insured people deserve to be considered by the Government for Coronavirus treatment in private hospitals.

Is it not the basic duty of a Government to help people during a national health emergency? In this critical situation, State Governments should work hand in hand with private hospitals by financially supporting them to procure PPEs and high-end medicines and subsidise all-important tests. It should either fix the maximum cost of COVID treatment in private hospitals or subsidise various costs. The Government should

Why not a digital *bhoomi puja*?

Nearly 200 people are scheduled to attend the *bhoomi puja* (laying of foundation stone) for the Ram temple in Ayodhya by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5. The public broadcaster, Doordarshan, will broadcast the ceremony in Ayodhya. All of this hullabaloo in the midst of a pandemic makes us wonder: Is it necessary to have a grand *bhoomi puja*? No doubt, the feelings of many are attached to this ceremony now that it is happening after a long legal fight. But we are seeing a day-to-day rise in the number of COVID-19 cases. On July 26, the Prime Minister himself admitted that COVID-19 was as fatal today as it was in the beginning.

As an Indian citizen, I would like to suggest to the Government that a digital *bhoomi puja* be the best alternative. Also since Digital India is a vision of the Prime Minister, a virtual *bhoomi puja* will send across the right message. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has also suggested an e-*bhoomi puja*. Every



one is saying that we have to live with the virus and so we have to change our habits, too. I think a digital *bhoomi puja* will be a great use of technology and once the Prime Minister accepts it, it will encourage many of us to do social events virtually.

Harshal Suresh Desale
Pune

Escalating tension

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "The big freeze" (July 28). The US' decision to close China's consulate in Houston and the latter's retaliation by closing the US one in Chengdu are unprecedented. The Trump administration has accused the consulate and other Chinese diplomatic mis-

Escalating tension

sions of economic espionage, visa fraud and attempted theft of scientific research. Matters worsened when the Chinese consulate in San Francisco provided refuge to a researcher against whom the US had issued an arrest warrant because she lied to the authorities about her ties with the Chinese Army. Tension between the US and China no longer remains in the

trade and technology field. What started as a trade war has snowballed into a larger geo-political contest between the two superpowers. If this slide isn't arrested immediately, China and US risk a total breakdown in diplomatic relations. That is bad news for the world.

N Sathasiva Reddy
Bengaluru

Stronger India

Sir — The Government's decision to ban 47 mobile apps, judged to be clones or variants of the 59 Chinese apps, amid tension between the two countries, not only shows India's new policy towards China but shows that we have not forgotten what happened in the Galwan valley. In addition, with such decisions, India is coming out of its non-aligned mode. It is standing up against injustice and intrusions. Better late than never. India taking security steps for its citizens is appreciated.

Rashmi
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

An ignored pollution source

Deliberately emitting Co2 into the environment through gas flaring is unpardonable, especially when viable alternatives for the same exist



KOTA SRIRAJ

Some things in life happen with such regularity that they do not draw attention to the damage that they do. A petroleum refinery, a natural gas extraction site, a chemical processing plant and even an offshore oil rig have all got one thing in common and that is a flare stack with a continuously burning gas flare at its end. This seemingly common sight fails to register upon the observer the damage it does to the environment. Statistics are now revealing how this innocuous "chimney" is actually toxic.

The problem with gas flares is that they are a near-permanent, constantly-burning source of carbon dioxide (Co2) emissions. This consistent pumping of Co2 into the environment, though largely ignored, is actually presenting mind-numbing numbers on how it is impacting the environment. According to a recent study by the World Bank, each year gas flares release "more than 400 million tonnes of Co2 equivalent emissions and waste a valuable resource, with harmful impacts to the environment from un-combusted methane and black carbon emissions." These emissions contribute significantly to climate change and the rate of pollution seems to be climbing, with the last decade posting the highest rate of Co2 emissions on account of gas flares.

In 2019, gas flaring stacked up 150 billion cubic meters (BCM) in comparison to 2018 wherein it was 145 BCM. Unfortunately, the developed world, which is ideally supposed to set an example in environment conservation and efforts to mitigate global warming and the resultant climate change, was responsible for the increase in gas flaring statistics. The US, for instance, logged a 23 per cent increase in gas flaring last year.

The surprising aspect is that none of the countries across the world, India included, considers the fact that apart from gas flaring being detrimental to the environment, it also happens to be a severe waste of a very precious source of energy. These woeful conditions exist in spite of the fact that there is an international body comprising global governments and oil institutions called the Global Gas Flaring Reduction (GGFR) Partnership whose express objective is to reduce gas flaring and wastage. But going by the figures in the recent decade, GGFR is not really executing its mandate well enough, even though its members ambitiously aim to be gas flaring-free by 2030.

India is not faring well either in reducing gas flaring or the wastage caused by it. Currently, India burns about 850 million cubic meters of natural gas annually or 2.6 per cent of its gas output through gas flaring. Whether globally or in India, all gas and petroleum extraction and refining sites allow some amount of gas flaring, also called "technical flaring", to happen. This acts as a safety measure, disposing gas during emergencies, power and equipment failures. However, this technical gas flaring has to be minimised for the good of the environment.

The Union Government's Directorate-General of Hydrocarbons has been exerting pressure on oil and gas refiners, producers and processors to urgently drive down the quantum of gas flaring in the country. But this directive is a "no-go" for oil and gas producers as many of them do not have pipeline facilities, compressors or access to buyers in order to remove the gas from their sites.

Hamstrung by the lack of facilities, coupled with the absence of sustainable access to buyers, the oil and gas producers are left with few options. Considering the low quantities of gas generated, it does not make the construction of a pipeline to markets a viable option. On the other hand, releasing the unburnt gas into the atmosphere is not acceptable either as it contains harmful gases such as methane. However, burning it is worse because the process releases Co2, nitrous oxide and sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere.

It is critical that these producers either find sustainable ways to use up the gas within their premises or look for eco-friendly alternatives for its disposal. Scientific research into technologies that can help reduce gas flaring has made rapid strides. India must ensure that these methods are banked upon in order to reduce its gas flaring signature. Flare gas power generation programmes based on gas-driven turbines and internal combustion engines can be used to gainfully employ the gas output instead of routing the same for gas flaring. Similarly, gas can also be routed into aged wells. This will help recoup dwindling natural formation pressure, thereby maintaining production output. Also, liquefying the same gas and storing it for later use either commercially or for domestic purposes is yet another viable and eco-friendly alternative.

Deliberately emitting Co2 into the environment is unpardonable, especially when practical and viable alternatives for the same exist. They just need implementation but for that, it is crucial for gas flaring to be recognised as a critical problem in the first place. (The writer is an environmental journalist)

THE CENTRE IS EXPLORING NEW OPTIONS (FOR THE SMOG TOWER PROJECT) WITH THE NEERI AND IIT-DELHI SINCE IIT-BOMBAY HAS BACKED OUT.

—SOLICITOR GENERAL
TUSHAR MEHTA

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



HOW CAN THEY BACK OUT OF THE PROJECT AFTER THIS COURT PASSED ORDERS? IS IT A CHILD'S GAME? WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS NONSENSE.

—SUPREME COURT JUDGE
JUSTICE ARUN MISHRA

Need bravery, not bravado

Victory in war requires not just sacrifice but also courage on our part and more importantly on the part of those occupying the highest levels of our political establishment



DEEPAK SINHA

In the preface to his insightful work, *Generalship: Its Disease and Cure*, British military tactician Major-General JFC Fuller quotes an apocryphal tale told to him by a member of the French General Staff. "At the battle of Waterloo, Colonel Clement, an infantry commander, fought with bravery; but unfortunately, was shot through the head. Napoleon, hearing of his gallantry and misfortune, gave instructions for him to be carried into a farm where Larrey, the Surgeon-General, was operating. One glance convinced Larrey that his case was desperate, so taking up a saw he removed the top of Clement's skull and placed his brains on the table. Just as he had finished, in rushed an Aide-de-Camp, shouting: 'Is General Clement here?' Clement, hearing him, sat up and exclaimed: 'No! but Colonel Clement is. 'Oh, General,' cried the Aide-de-Camp, 'the Emperor was overwhelmed when he heard of your gallantry, and has promoted you on the field of battle to the rank of General.' Clement rubbed his eyes, got off the table, clapped the top of his skull on his head and was about to leave the farm when Larrey shouted after him: 'General. Your brains!' To which the gallant Frenchman shouted back: Now that I am a General, I shall no longer require them!" Fuller went on to add that, "In this modest study, my object is to prove that though Clement was wrong about brains, without his courage there can be no true Generalship."

One can go even further and suggest that the central premise of his argument is not just applicable to Generals, but just as much, if not more so, to politicians in power. While intellectual ability and competence are indeed vital, they amount to very little without courage. Of course, what is required of them is more in the realm of the mind than of the physical variety. Most crucially, however, we must not mistake a display of bravado for the genuine spirit. As the *Cambridge Dictionary* makes clear, bravado is only "a show of courage, especially when unnecessary and dangerous, to make people admire you."

We recently witnessed an awesome display of sheer bravery and exemplary courage on the part of Colonel Babu and his gallant band during the Galwan confrontation. It was indeed no mean achievement at that altitude to not just counter the perfidious ambush that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) had sprung on his unsuspecting team but to give back more than they got. That is self-evident from the lack of any formal acknowledgement of casualties by the PLA. One can be quite certain that if that had not been the case, the Chinese Communist mouthpiece, *The Global Times*, would have gone to town proclaiming victory.

However, this makes it essential for us to squarely confront the fact that while courage may win battles, the latter remain just small tactical victories. To emerge victorious in war requires not just enormous sacrifice, determination and decisiveness but also courage on our part and more importantly on the part of those occupying the highest levels of our military and political establishment. Sadly, all we have been witness to in all these days since the confrontation began has been a display of much bravado and bluster, especially on the part of our political leadership.

The problem of our inadequate quality of strategic communication is predicated by the fact that despite all its protestations, the Modi Government seems incapable of shedding its feudal mindset. Transparency would require it to admit that there has been gross negligence on its part in the manner that it has approached the issue of national security,

“
DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S BEST ATTEMPT TO DISSEMBLE, IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT THE PLA IS IN POSSESSION OF A FAIR AMOUNT OF TERRITORY THAT WE CLAIM AS OUR OWN THOUGH ITS ACTUAL OR RELATIVE IMPORTANCE, EITHER TACTICALLY OR STRATEGICALLY, MAY BE CONTESTED. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE ITS OCCUPATION OF AREAS TILL FINGER 4 IN THE PANGONG TSO SECTOR PROVIDES CLEAR VISUAL EVIDENCE OF ITS AGGRESSIVE INTENT, OTHER THAN CAUSING BRUISED EGOS AND EMBARRASSMENT, IT IS OF LITTLE TACTICAL OR STRATEGIC VALUE WHEN COMPARED TO THE INGRESS THAT HAS BEEN EFFECTED IN BOTH THE DEPSANG PLAINS AND HOT SPRINGS SECTORS



which, in turn, has resulted in the ongoing fiasco. Its shambolic attempts to gloss over the issue and change the narrative to avoid accountability have only added to its woes, as China was able to take advantage of its prevarications and embarrass it diplomatically.

While prudence dictates that much of what is happening on the ground, especially the actions initiated to resolve the issue to our advantage, need not be made public in the interest of security, it cannot be used as a licence to deny basic information that the citizens are entitled to. For that matter, it also needs to desist from its attempts to turn the spotlight away from the matter by resorting to creating turbulence within the Rajasthan Congress or by announcing a grand ceremony in Ayodhya on August 5.

Despite the Government's best attempt to dissemble, it is now clear that the PLA is in possession of a fair amount of territory that we claim as our own though its actual or relative importance, either tactically or strategically, may be contested. For example, while its occupation of areas till Finger 4 in the Pangong Tso sector provides clear visual evidence of its aggressive intent, other than causing bruised egos and embarrassment, it is of little tactical or strategic value when compared to the ingress that has been effected in both the Depsang Plains and Hot Springs sectors.

Thus, while regaining every inch of territory that has been occupied may be tactically or strategically unwarranted or even unnecessary, how we handle the overall issue of Chinese aggression will be perceived to either signify appeasement and capitulation on our part or signal a firm determination and resolve that unprovoked aggression will be contested

and will result in adverse consequences for the PLA. Clearly, we have seen that appeasement only results in further problems down the road, so that has to stop.

As is often the case in such circumstances, we are still neither very clear as to what led China to undertake such unprovoked aggressive action, nor what it hopes to accomplish. There have been suggestions that the Home Minister's public call for liberating Aksai Chin and the construction of the road to Daulat Beg Oldi may have been the *casus belli*, as it may have felt we were keen to change the *status quo* or threaten the Tibet-Xinjiang Highway. Others have suggested that this action in Eastern Ladakh is just a feint to test our resolve and that the main offensive is likely to be directed towards seizing areas that it claims in Arunachal Pradesh.

While none of these possibilities can be ruled out, the existing force levels that China has committed within the Tibetan Autonomous Region do not suggest that a major offensive is on the cards. It is possible that the actions against India were just a diversionary tactic to keep us occupied, while Beijing's true intention was to capture Taiwan before the Chinese Communist Party kicks off its centenary celebrations next year. This would, in fact, explain the move of two Pakistani divisions into the Gilgit-Baltistan Region, which could then operate in collusion with the PLA in the event of any escalation.

The recent deployment by the US Navy of two Carrier Strike Groups into the South China Sea (SCS) for "exercises", with a third backing up, suggests that this speculation may well not have been too far off the mark. Not surprisingly the deployment of these Carrier Groups has forced the Chinese to reverse course, as

can be deduced from the public statements calling for a reduction of tension in that region, despite increasing US belligerence. In the normal course then, they would look to cool tension along our borders as well.

However, that may not happen as President Xi Jinping needs some substantial success to save face domestically, which he can only achieve against us in these circumstances. It will not be easy for the PLA to shift the requisite force levels required for conducting a major offensive against us. Moreover, even if Xi can induce these forces speedily, he will continue to remain at a distinct disadvantage given his long lines of communication and terrain configuration.

In addition, China also faces a disadvantageous force ratio *vis-à-vis* the air forces and navy in this region. Xi would have by now got fresh insight into the fighting capabilities of our Army, which is experienced in high-altitude warfare.

Clearly all of this implies that even with the rather neglected state of our military, given the situation on the ground, we do have the option of responding with force. Such an option would have a reasonable chance of success and would indeed bluntly convey to the Chinese and the international community that such unprovoked aggressive actions have consequences. Obviously, such a response on our part would be the correct one, though we would have to factor in the possibility of conflict escalation, maybe even a two-front war. The question really is, do Modi and his top military leadership either have the appetite or the courage to embark on such a course?

(The writer, a military veteran, is a Consultant with the Observer Research Foundation)

Pandemic or not, exams must be held

With the future of lakhs of students at stake, the UGC has advised HEIs to hold examinations through offline, online or blended mode



RAMA SHANKER DUBEY

UGC requested the panel to suggest options for conducting the examinations and holding admissions for the new academic session. On July 6, the UGC issued revised guidelines which stated that final/terminal semester examinations must be conducted by all universities/ institutions by the end of September.

In the guidelines, issued in consultation with the Home and Health Ministries, care has been taken to ensure the health and safety of students and provide equal opportunity, too. The institutions were advised to conduct examinations through offline (pen and paper), online or blended mode (online and offline) as per feasibility and suitability.

According to the UGC, by July 18, as many as 194 universities had conducted the final year examinations, while 366 were in the process of doing so. Out of the 755 universities from which responses were received, 560 had either held the exams or were planning to conduct them. By July 24, out of 818 universities, 603 had either conducted tests or were planning to hold them.

Considering the problems of students of terminal semesters or final year who have a backlog, the UGC has emphasised their compulsory evaluation by conducting examinations in offline, online or blended mode. In case a student is unable to write the test, s/he may be given an opportunity to appear in special examinations for such courses or papers, which may be conducted by the university as and when feasible, so that the student is not put to any inconvenience or disadvantage.

The UGC maintains that "Examinations are an integral part of the education system and the measure of a student's learning, knowledge, skills and other competencies." It further states that "Performance in examinations contributes to merit, lifelong credibility, wider global acceptability for admissions, scholarships, awards, placements, and better future prospects." Here it is worth mentioning that students who have been studying hard to score more in a competitive environment need to be provided opportunities to demonstrate their merit, academic credentials, skills and knowledge.

Depriving them of such opportunities will be a setback to their year-long efforts. Examinations are crucial for every student and more so for final year students who are ready to embark on their journey of life and work.

Given the effects of COVID-19 globally, universities in the US, UK, Canada, Australia, Germany and Singapore, too, have given various options for examinations to their students. Since teachers and students across the world and in India have adapted well to online teaching-learning, the most favoured option in the present scenario for conducting examinations has been through the online mode.

Many universities have held examinations by employing video-conferencing apps, in-house Learning Management Systems (LMSs) or with the help of other suitable software and digital platforms. While institutions, which have developed their own LMS, have an edge over others, various student and teacher-friendly platforms are available where online examinations can be conducted, monitored and

password-protected answer papers safely uploaded.

In fact, in the pre-COVID-19 era, the UGC had granted recognition to seven Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) to offer degree, diploma and certificate programmes in fully online mode. With the recent announcement of the 'Pradhan Mantri e-VIDYA programme', the top-100 educational institutions of the country are likely to conduct full-fledged online degree programmes and examinations in coming years. Online learning and examinations will boost digital literacy, help in imparting quality education to underprivileged students and increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education.

Online teaching during the lockdown has also been instrumental in helping PhD students with submissions of PhD theses, evaluations and viva. Another aspect where the online method of learning can be put to use is for the training of teachers. This can include talks and webinars about the design and delivery of lectures and evaluation methods using digital plat-

forms. Online discussions and exchange of thoughts would be of much help in the formulation of multi-disciplinary research projects.

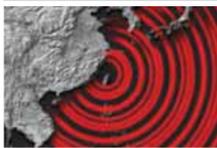
In order to help in adjusting with these extraordinary times and with the new pattern of examinations, the UGC has given enough time to universities to complete their final-year examinations. Being a statutory body for coordination, determination and maintenance of standards of higher education, the UGC's decision intends to bring uniformity in the online examination processes and platforms of all HEIs. This will give students graduating from any part of India a level playing field.

Given the UGC's mandate to streamline and improve the education system and bring it at par with global standards, this latest decision to conduct examinations via different modes during the pandemic has come at the right time for lakhs of students, keeping in mind their career prospects and the future generation, too.

(The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat)



FOREIGN EYE



IT IS HIGH TIME US CALLED OUT CHINA

In the absence of a coherent China policy, the Trump administration's proclivity for tearing up treaties and its disdain for alliances, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's declaration that China is violating the Law of the Sea treaty, which the US has never ratified, sounds a bit hollow. It is, nonetheless, a message that is valid and long overdue as China continues its aggression in the South China Sea.

(The NYT editorial)

Iran launches missile at mock US aircraft carrier

AP ■ TEHRAN

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched underground ballistic missiles Wednesday as part of an exercise involving a mock-up American aircraft carrier in the Strait of Hormuz, highlighting its network of subterranean bases.

Although state television documentaries have focused on operations underground at the bases, all have avoided showing geographic details revealing their locations. Wednesday's launch from what appears to be central Iran's desert plateau changes that amid heightened tensions between Tehran and the U.S. over its tattered nuclear deal with world powers and as economic pressures grow.

"We have carried out the launch of ballistic missiles from the depths of the earth for the first time," Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the Guard's aerospace division, told state TV. "That means without utilising conventional launchpads, the buried missiles suddenly rip out of the earth and hit

their targets precisely."

Drone footage captured by the Guard showed two missiles blasting out from covered positions in the desert early Wednesday morning, with debris flying up into the air in their wake. The Guard did not identify the location of the launch, nor the missiles involved. The launch, six months after the Guard shot down a Ukrainian jetliner and killed all 176 people on board, appeared geared toward demonstrating the strength of its missile program to a domestic audience, missile expert Melissa Hanham said. The above-ground footage shown on state television, coupled with investigative techniques, make it possible to locate the site, she said.

"Once you find the site, it's really not a safe place to keep your missile anymore," said Hanham, who works as the deputy director of an Austria-based group called the Open Nuclear Network.

Given how corrosive the fuel used for the missiles is and the maintenance required, such weapons can't simply be buried

in the desert and forgotten.

Since its bloody 1980s war with Iraq, which saw both nations fire missiles on cities, Iran has developed its ballistic missile program as a deterrent, especially as a UN arms embargo prevents it from buying high-tech weapons systems.

The underground tunnels help protect those weapons, Hanham said.

"What they're trying to do is increase the survivability of their missile forces," she said. "They feel that their missile forces are exposed and that they could be taken out pre-emptively. By building this elaborate tunnel scheme, they're trying to increase the survivability." The drill, called "Great Prophet 14," also sends a message to the United States. Iran has been firing at a fake aircraft carrier resembling America's Nimitz-class carriers towed out to the strait by a tugboat. Adm. Ali Reza Tangsiri, the Guard's naval chief, said its armed drones attacked the bridge of the fake carrier Wednesday, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

Very different, symbolic hajj in Saudi amid virus

AP ■ DUBAI

Muslim pilgrims, donning face masks and moving in small groups after days in isolation, began arriving at Islam's holiest site in Mecca on Wednesday for the start of a historically unique and scaled-down hajj experience reshaped by the coronavirus pandemic.

The hajj is one of Islam's most important requirements, performed once in a lifetime. It follows a route the Prophet Muhammad walked nearly 1,400 years ago and is believed to ultimately trace the footsteps of the prophets Ibrahim and Ismail, or Abraham and Ishmael as they are named in the Bible.

The hajj, both physically and spiritually demanding, is intended to bring about greater humility and unity among Muslims.

Rather than standing and praying shoulder-to-shoulder in a sea of people from different walks of life, pilgrims this year are social distancing — standing apart and moving in small groups of 20 to limit exposure and the potential transmission of the coronavirus.

The pilgrimage is a journey that Muslims traditionally experience with relatives. In



Hundreds of Muslim pilgrims circle the Kaaba, the cubic building at the Grand Mosque, as they keep social destination to protect themselves against the coronavirus ahead of the Hajj pilgrimage in the Muslim holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday

past years, it was common to see men pushing their elderly parents around on wheelchairs in order to help them complete the hajj, and parents carrying children on their backs. The communal feeling of more than 2.5 million people from around the world — Shiite, Sunni and other Muslim sects

— praying together, eating together and repenting together has long been part of what makes hajj both a challenging and rewarding experience like none other.

This year, however, pilgrims are eating prepackaged meals alone in their hotel rooms and praying at a distance

from one another. The Saudi government is covering all the pilgrims' expenses of travel, accommodation, meals and healthcare.

While the experience is starkly different, it remains an opportunity for pilgrims to wipe clean past sins and deepen their faith.

- The US-based company Cepheid is pushing back against the allegation by medical charity Doctors Without Borders that it is "profiteering" in the coronavirus pandemic by overcharging for a rapid test. Spokeswoman Darwa Peterson in an email says the request to lower the cost of the company's cartridge to \$5 from nearly \$20 is "not realistic when that continues to be below our cost to manufacture."
- The European Commission says it signed a 63 million euro (\$72 million) deal to secure thousands of doses of remdesivir, the only licensed experimental drug to treat people with severe COVID-19. The European Commission says it had bought enough remdesivir, sold by Gilead Sciences as Veklury, to treat about 30,000 patients with serious coronavirus illness for member countries and the United Kingdom. This month, the US announced it had signed a deal with Gilead to buy nearly all of the company's production of the drug through September. Numerous public health experts slammed the agreement, calling the US move selfish and warned other countries could lose out.
- The Philippines will allow fitness gyms, internet cafes, drive-in cinemas, massage parlors and tattoo shops to reopen at 30% capacity on Aug. 1 despite coronavirus infection spikes. President Rodrigo Duterte's administration eased a lockdown in the congested capital in June and quarantine restrictions elsewhere in the country after the economy contracted in the first quarter and headed toward a recession.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the government to prepare for a possible uptick in coronavirus cases, saying that the situation "remains difficult" and "may worsen." Speaking at a Government meeting on Wednesday, Putin urged officials to be cautious with easing virus-related restrictions, ensure stable functioning of the health care system and take preventive measures to avoid another lockdown.
- The UK Government on Wednesday announced an early access agreement with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Sanofi Pasteur for an estimated 60 million doses of an experimental new vaccine being tested to combat Covid-19.

US to bring 6,400 troops home from Germany, move 5,600 more

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Spurred on by President Donald Trump's demand to pull troops out of Germany, the U.S. will bring about 6,400 forces home and shift about 5,600 to other countries in Europe, US defence leaders said Wednesday, detailing a Pentagon plan that will cost billions of dollars and take years to complete. The decision fulfills Trump's announced desire to withdraw troops from Germany, largely due to its failure to spend enough on defense. A number of forces will go to Italy, and a major move would shift US European Command and Special Operations Command Europe from Stuttgart, Germany, to Belgium.

Defence Secretary Mark Esper said that some moves will begin in months and will leave about 24,000 troops in Germany. He said that while the decision was "accelerated" by Trump's orders, the moves also promote larger strategic goals to deter Russia, reassure European allies and shift forces further east into the Black Sea and Baltic regions.

Trump, however, reasserted his very narrow reason Wednesday morning, telling reporters, "we're reducing the force because they're not paying their bills. It's very simple. They're delinquent." He added that he might rethink the decision to pull troops out of Germany "if they start paying their bills."

As crime surges on his watch, Trump warns of Biden's America

Washington

President Donald Trump is painting a dystopian portrait of what Joe Biden's America might look like, asserting crime and chaos would ravage communities should the former vice president win the White House in November. Left unsaid: A recent surge in violent crime in several American cities has happened on his watch.

"Irony is way down the list of things that President Trump worries about," said Robert Spitzer, a political scientist at the State University of New York College at Cortland whose research focuses on gun politics and the American presidency. "He's turning to the old playbook — appeal to the fears of Americans and then associate those fears with the Democratic Party, specifically Joe Biden."

Trump's attempt to cast Biden in that light follows a pattern seen throughout his presidency, where he attempts to shift responsibility, often to President Barack Obama, even

more than three years after taking office.

With echoes of Richard Nixon's law-and-order campaign in 1968 — when American streets were rife with racial protests and Nixon campaigned vowing to crack down and restore order in an appeal tailored to white voters — Trump is trying to energize his conservative base while also making an appeal to a small patch of undecided voters by posing the question: Which man will keep you safer?

By leaning hard on select scenes of violence, Trump is banking on that unrest continuing. But the protests could wane. Violent crime around the U.S. has been on a downward trajectory for the better part of the last three decades. Linae Erickson, a senior vice president for social policy and politics at the center-left think tank Third Way, said, "Trump is the incumbent, so if bad things are happening right now, they get blamed on him."

Bosnian Minister dies after testing +ve

Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

The Minister for veteran affairs in the Government of one of Bosnia's two highly independent regions has died at the age of 53, a week after testing positive for Covid-19.

Salko Bukvarevic died Wednesday in a Covid-19 hospital in Sarajevo, where he was admitted last week with pneumonia and breathing problems.

He had served in the government of Bosnia-Croat federation since 2015. The region's prime minister, Fadil Novalic, was also hospitalised with Covid-19, but was released Tuesday following two weeks of treatment. So far, Bosnia, the Balkan country of 3.5 million people, has tallied over 10,700 virus cases, with 297 deaths.

Nearly 80% of all cases were registered since mid-May, when a strict, nearly 2-month-long, coronavirus lockdown was lifted.

Moderna's vaccine protects monkeys against Covid-19, study finds

Washington

US biotechnology company Moderna's experimental vaccine to prevent Covid-19 induced robust immune response and rapidly controlled the novel coronavirus in the upper and lower airways of monkeys exposed to SARS-CoV-2, according to a study published on Tuesday.

The candidate vaccine, mRNA-1273, was co-developed by scientists at Moderna and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) in the US. The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, complements recently reported interim results from an NIAID-sponsored Phase 1 clinical trial of mRNA-1273.

On Monday clinics around the US began a Phase 3 trial of the vaccine candidate, with the aim of enrolling 30,000 people to test for safety and effectiveness. In the latest study, three groups of eight rhesus macaques received two injections of 10 or 100 micrograms (µg) of mRNA-1273 or a placebo.

US commander affirms US support for Japan on China dispute

AP ■ TOKYO

The United States supports Japan's protests over Chinese ships venturing into the economic waters near disputed East China Sea islands, the commander of the US Forces in Japan said Wednesday.

"The United States is 100% absolutely steadfast in its commitment to help the government of Japan with the situation in Senkaku," Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider said of the group of islands, which are controlled by Japan.

China also claims the islands, which it calls Diaoyu. "That's 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no deviation in that regard," Schneider told reporters.

Japan has long protested the repeated presence of Chinese coast guard vessels in the waters. Schneider also noted such incursions had increased recently.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Mansi, D/o Papu R/o Jhuggi No. 576, T-Huts, Udhog Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 27.06.2020 from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. In this regard, **DD No. 39-A dated 29.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped lady is as under:

Name: Mansi, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 21 years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** White colour top, black colour pajama and black colour slippers in her feet. If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped lady, kindly inform SHO/P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.



E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
SHO P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-25268394, 25280980
DP/265/OD/2020

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE (APPROX.) IN DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	GMDA, GURUGRAM	RESTORATION OF DAMAGED PARKING AS WELL AS FOOTPATH BY PROVIDING AND LAYING GSI, WITHIN BK 36 PROVIDING AND FIXING KERB & CHANNEL, INTERLOCKING TILES IN CRICKET PAVILION IN SPORTS COMPLEX SECTOR 38 GURUGRAM	28.07.2020 10.08.2020	52.43 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in/	ven3inra1.gmda@gov.in
2	J.C.ROSE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MCA, FARIDABAD (HARYANA)	SUPPLY OF DESKTOP COMPUTERS AND OTHER TENDERS (FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITE.)	29.07.2020 18.08.2020	Total Approx. Cost Rs.33962432/-	www.jcrose.ac.in	0129-2310164 dr.purchasing@jcrose.ac.in
3	GMDA, GURUGRAM	(1) O&M OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN OLD GURUGRAM AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS UNDER JURISDICTION OF GMDA FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021. (2) O&M OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN NEW GURUGRAM AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS UNDER JURISDICTION OF GMDA FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021.	30.07.2020 13.08.2020	59.28 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in/	885103654 emgn01.gmda@gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 82004

Chola
Enter a better life

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited
Corporate Office: No.2, Dare House, 4th Floor, NSC Bose Road, Chennai – 600 001.
Branch Office: 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi – 110 005 Contact No: 9899245509, 9818460101

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION CUM SALE (To be treated as notice u/s 8(6))

Pursuant to taking possession of the secured asset mentioned hereunder by the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** for the recovery of amount due from borrower/s, offers are invited by the undersigned in sealed covers for purchase of immovable property, as described hereunder, which is in the Possession on, **'As is where is basis' 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'** particulars of which are given below:-

S.N.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price	Earnest Money Deposit	Total Loan Outstanding as on 17.07.2020	Type of Possession
1.	(Loan Account No. X0HEDHE0000972526 Delhi Branch) AJAY ARORA (BORROWER) SHRUTI A (CO-BORROWER) All are having address for communication at : H.NO-34, GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK-K5, MODEL TOWN-II, NEW DELHI – 110009. Also At:- BHAT SAHIB & SONS, SN-A-131- 4/F JAIPURIA MILL BLDG, NEW DELHI-110007.	20-10-2016 Rs.2,43,03,722.61/- (Rupees Two Crore Forty Three Lakh Three Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Seven and Sixty One Paise Only)	HOUSE NO-34, BLOCK NO.-K-5, GORUND FLOOR MODEL TOWN-II, NEW DELHI-110009. PROPERTY ADMEASURING 264.3 SQ. YDS., BOUNDARIES:- EAST-PROPERTY NO. K-5/35, WEST-PROPERTY NO. K-5/33, SOUTH-ROAD, NORTH-ROAD.	Rs. 1,82,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Two Lakh Only)	Rs. 18,20,000/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs. 4,66,19,464.88/- (Rupees Four Crore Sixty Six Lakh Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Four and Eighty Eight Paise Only)+ further interest till realization of payment	Physical

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION

- Last Dat of Submission of Sealed Bid/Offer in the prescribed tender forms along with EMD and KYC is **14.08.2020** within **5.30 Pm** at the **Branch Office:- 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005** mentioned herein. Tendres that are not filled up or Tendres received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
- Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is **17.08.2020** at the above mentioned branch office address at 10.00 A.M. The tender will be opened in the presence of the Authorised Officer.
- Date of Inspection of the Immovable Property is on **06.08.2020** between **10.00 am to 3.30 pm**.
- Further Interest will be charged as applicable, as per the Loan Agreement on the amount outstanding in the notice and incidental expense, costs, etc., is due and payable till its realization.
- The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s and Co-Borrower/s, to remain present personally at the time of Auction and they can bring the intending buyers/purchasers for purchasing the immovable property as described herein above, as per the particulars of Terms and Conditions of Sale.
- The Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) are hereby given **15 DAYS SALE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002** to pay the sum mentioned as above before the date of Auction falling which the immovable property will be auctioned and balance, if any will be recovered with interest and costs. If the Borrower pays the amount due to Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.
- The detail terms and conditions of the auction sale are incorporated in the prescribed tender form. Tender forms are available at the above mntioned branch office.
- The Immovable property will be sold to the highest tenderer. However the Authorised Officer reserves the absolute discretion to allow inter se bidding, if deemed necessary. The property as mentioned will not be sold below Reserve Price.
- Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited is **not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The property shall be auctioned on 'As is Where is Basis', 'As is What is Basis', and 'Whatever is There is Basis'.**
- The Total Loan Outstanding amount is not the loan foreclosure amount. All other charges (if any) shall be calculated at the time of closure of the loan.
- The Demand Draft Should be made in favor of **'Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited' Only.**

For further details, contact the Authorised Officer, at the above mentioned Office address.
Place: Delhi/NCR Date : 30-07-2020

Sd/
Authorised Officer
Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

RLF LIMITED
Regd. Office : 14Kms, Gurgaon Pataudi Road, Jhund Sarai Veeran, Distt. Gurugram, Haryana.
CIN : L74999HR1979PLC032747, Website: www.rfltd.com, Email id: investorrelations@rfltd.com, Phone: 011-49075251.
Extract of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year Ended March 31, 2020.
(Rs. in Lacs, except per share data)

Sl. No.	Particulars (Refer Notes below)	Quarter Ended		Financial Year Ended	
		31.03.2020 [Audited]	31.12.2019 [Unaudited]	31.03.2019 [Audited]	31.03.2019 [Audited]
1	Total Income from Operations	26.04	12.42	61.54	54.64
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items	22.99	(22.05)	99.92	(55.43)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax after exceptional items	22.99	(22.05)	99.92	(55.43)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	22.99	(22.05)	99.92	(55.43)
5	Total Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-
6	Paid-up equity share capital	980.08	980.08	980.08	980.08
7	Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each (not annualised)	0.23	(0.22)	1.02	(0.57)
a)	Basic	0.23	(0.22)	1.02	(0.57)
b)	Diluted	0.23	(0.22)	1.02	(0.57)

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2020 are available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on Company's website www.rfltd.com.
- The figures for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2019 are the balancing figures between audited figures in respect of the full financial year and the year to date figure up to nine months of the respective financial year.
- Figures of the above Previous periods have been regrouped/reclassified/ restated wherever necessary.
- The outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic globally and in India is causing significant disturbance and slowdown of economic activities. The Company is engaged in the business of Manufacturing of Embroidery and has been affected as it is mostly dependent upon the exporters. The Company has evaluated impact of this pandemic on its business operations and based on a review and current indicators of future economic conditions, there will be significant impact on the results in current financial year.

For RLF Limited
Sd/
Aditya Khanna
Managing Director
DIN : 01860038
Place : Gurugram, Haryana
Dated : July 29, 2020

KOVALAM INVESTMENT AND TRADING CO. LTD.
CIN No : L65910PB1981PLC023058
Regd. Office : Premises Oswal Woolen Mills Ltd., G. T. Road, Sherpur, Ludhiana-141003
Email : kovalam@owmnahar.com, Phone : 0161-5066605
EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30.06.2020
(Rs. in Lacs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended
		30.06.2020 (Unaudited)	30.06.2019 (Unaudited)	
1.	Total Income from Operations	119.98	2.63	54.89
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities for the Period (before Tax, Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary Items)	113.98	(5.89)	(231.12)
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities for the Period before Tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary Items)	113.98	(5.89)	(231.12)
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities for the Period after Tax (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary Items)	102.84	(6.83)	(179.03)
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	652.46	(407.91)	(1,369.64)
6.	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs.10/-)	222.39	222.39	222.39
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves as shown in the Balance sheet of previous year)	-	-	1,897.00
8.	Earning Per Share (EPS) Face value of Rs.10/- each. (for Continuing and discontinuing operations) Basic & Diluted :-	4.62	(0.31)	(8.05)

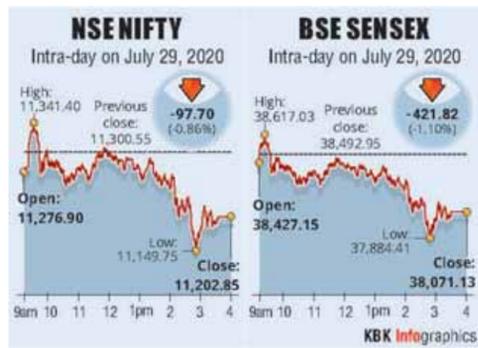
Notes : 1. The Unaudited financial results of the Company for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2020 have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on July 29, 2020. The financial results have been subjected to Limited Review by Statutory Auditors of the Company. 2. The above is the extract of the detailed format of the quarterly Financial filed with the Stock Exchanges under regulations 33 of the SEBI (Listing and other disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange website i.e. www.bseindia.com and Company's website: <http://www.owmnahar.com/kovalam/investor.php>
For Kovalam Investment and Trading Co. Ltd.
Sd/ (Mohinder Kumar Jain)
Manager
PLACE : LUDHIANA
DATED : 29.07.2020

Mkts slump on profit-booking

RIL, HDFC BANK SUCCUMB TO PROFIT-BOOKING, FED DECISION IN FOCUS

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Equity benchmarks took a knock on Wednesday as profit-booking emerged in recent outperformers Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank amid a cautious trend in overseas markets.
The BSE Sensex ended 421.82 points or 1.10 per cent lower at 38,071.13, while the NSE Nifty tumbled 97.70 points or 0.86 per cent to 11,202.85. Reliance Industries was the top loser in the Sensex pack, dropping 3.75 per cent, followed by Nestle India, HCL Tech, M&M, HDFC Bank, Maruti and Tech Mahindra.
The country's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki India on

Wednesday reported its first ever quarterly loss since going public 17 years back, with a consolidated net loss of ₹268.3 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic.
On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, Tata Steel, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finance, Ultratech Cement and L&T were among the gainers, surging up to 4.54 per cent. According to traders, besides stock-specific profit booking, domestic market participants were also cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy outcome.
Concerns over the rising number of COVID-19 cases too spooked investors after India's tally went past 15 lakh on Wednesday, two days after it crossed the 14-lakh mark, with 48,513 fresh cases recorded in a day. "Indian indices gave up gains and closed in the negative with profit booking



seen in the recent outperformer RIL. Global markets were generally undecided ahead of the US Fed Reserve meeting and mixed earnings reports in addition to rising virus cases forcing economies to reconsider restrictions to contain the spread. "Stock specific action was also visible, post earnings... And this trend is expected to continue. Adequate liquidity in the market should ensure that these corrections are bought into," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

₹ gains 4 paise to 74.80 against US \$ ahead of Fed policy

PTI ■ MUMBAI
The rupee gained 4 paise to settle at 74.80 against the American dollar on Wednesday tracking weakness in the greenback.
At the interbank forex market, the rupee traded in a narrow range.
It started the day at 74.83 and closed at 74.80, up 4 paise over its previous closing of 74.84 against the US dollar.
The USD-INR spot traded in a very narrow range of 74.75-75.
US Fed's policy outcome, scheduled to be announced later in the day.
It will provide some clarity over the trend, said Rahul Gupta, Head of Research-Currency, Emkay Global Financial Services.

Sebi extends regulatory norms compliance timeline for RTAs, depository participants, brokers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Further, a 15-day period after September 30 has been allowed to registered depository participants to clear the backlog.
Sebi has also given time till September 30 to depository participants for submitting internal audit report for half-year ended March 31.
The markets watchdog has also relaxed compliance requirement pertaining to redressal of investor grievances, transmission of securities and closure of demat account. Timeline for systems audit on annual basis for financial year ended March 31 has also been extended till September 30, as per the circular. Through a separate circular, Sebi extended the timelines for compliance with regulatory requirements for trading members, clearing members and depository participants till September 30.
For submission of cyber security and cyber resilience audit for the year ended March 31, 2020, Sebi has given time till Sep 30. Other relaxations pertain to client funding reporting, reporting for artificial intelligence and machine learning applications, risk based supervision for the year ended March 31. In addition, internal audit report, system audit report and compliance certificate for margin trading for CM segment for half-year ended March 31 can also be submitted till September 30.
Among others, due date for net worth certificate for members as well as net worth certificates in margin trading for half-year ending March 2020 have been extended till Sep 30. Under the norms, KYC (know your customer) application form and supporting documents of clients need to be uploaded on system of KRA (KYC registration agency) within 10 days.

Imperative for banks to expand balance sheets, revive credit offtake: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI
It is imperative for banks to expand their balance sheets and revive credit offtake instead of just concentrating on asset quality, says a report.
The RBI's concisive steps to reduce the repo rate have also lowered the marginal cost of fund-based lending rate across banks, ratings agency India Ratings and Research said in a note.
The central bank has reduced repo rate by 250 basis points since February 2019.
However, the transmission of rate cuts has been uneven among private and public sector banks, the note said.
"We believe that it will be imperative for banks to expand balance sheets and simultaneously revive credit offtake, rather than focusing only on asset quality," the agency said in its July edition of Credit Market Tracker.
The recent Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by RBI said credit growth (y-o-y) of banks, which had considerably weakened during the first half of FY20, slid further to 5.9 per cent by March 2020 and remained muted up to early June 2020.
India Ratings said the asset quality of banks would be a critical factor to watch out for from the second quarter of the current fiscal when the loan moratorium ends.
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced moratorium on repayment of term loans from March 1, 2020 till August 31, 2020.
The FSR said the gross NPA ratio of all banks may increase from 8.5 per cent in March 2020 to 12.5 per cent by March 2021 under the baseline scenario.
"If the macroeconomic environment worsens further, the ratio may escalate to 14.7 per cent under the very severely stressed scenario," it had stated.
The gross and net NPA ratios of bank stood at 8.5 per cent and 3 per cent respectively in March 2020.
The ratings agency said

◆ The RBI had announced moratorium on repayment of term loans from Mar 1, 2020 till Aug 31, 2020

◆ Gross NPA ratio of all banks may increase from 8.5% in Mar 2020 to 12.5% by Mar 2021 under baseline scenario

◆ In June 2020, foreign portfolio investments witnessed the sharpest rebound with equity investments of ₹21,800 crore, highest of 2020 till date and up 50% month-on-month

Petrol, diesel prices unchanged for third day

IANS ■ NEW DELHI
With global oil market stable for the past few days, consumers in India were spared an increase in prices of auto fuels for the third consecutive day on Wednesday.
Oil companies kept petrol and diesel prices unchanged, taking global cues wherein benchmark crude oil prices have remained static around \$43 a barrel for past few days.
In Delhi, diesel continues to be priced at ₹81.94 a litre while petrol's steady run continued for the 29th straight day at ₹80.43 a litre.
While the price rise has gone for a pause now, sources in oil companies indicated that some increase could be expected this week as well though it would be marginal considering the international price movements. Any reduction in petrol and diesel prices at this juncture looks remote and would depend on oil prices falling consistently from the current levels and then holding the trend for a few days.
Assuming a steady rupee, every dollar per barrel fall in crude prices could result in about 40 paise per litre decrease in petrol and diesel prices and vice versa. Oil companies resumed the dynamic pricing system for daily revision of the two auto fuels from June 7 after keeping the price unchanged for around 82 days during the lockdown. Since then, while petrol prices have risen by ₹9.17 a litre, diesel prices have risen by ₹12.55 a litre in the National Capital.

Maruti posts ₹268 cr net loss in Q1

FIRST TIME IN RED SINCE 2003 AS COVID-19 TAKES TOLL
PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The auto major, which got listed way back in July 2003, had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹1,376.8 crore in the April-June quarter of 2019-20. Net sales declined to ₹3,679 crore in the first quarter as against ₹18,738.8 crore in the year-ago period, MSI said in a statement.
On a standalone basis, the company reported a net loss of ₹249.4 crore for the first quarter ended June 30.
It had posted net profit of ₹1,435.5 crore on standalone basis in April-June of 2019-20.
The auto major's net sales during the period under review declined to ₹3,677.5 crore, as compared to ₹18,735.2 crore in the year-ago period.
During the first quarter, MSI sold a total of 76,599 vehicles. Sales in the domestic market stood at 67,027 units, while exports were at 9,572 units.
The company had sold 4,02,594 units in the first quarter previous fiscal.
"Owing to the global pandemic of Covid-19, it was an unprecedented quarter in the company's history wherein a large part of the quarter had zero production and zero sales in compliance with a lock-

Jet Airways loss widens to ₹5,536 cr in 2018-19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Jet Airways, which is undergoing an insolvency resolution process, saw its loss widening to ₹5,535.75 crore in the year ended March 2019, mainly due to surge in expenses. The full service carrier, which shuttered operations in April last year, had a loss of ₹766.13 crore in 2017-18. These figures are for standalone comprehensive losses. Two resolution plans have been received for the airline and those are under evaluation.
In 2018-19, the airline's total income declined to ₹23,314.11 crore from ₹23,958.37 crore in the year-ago fiscal, according to a regulatory filing. Total expenses surged to ₹28,141.61 crore in 2018-19, mainly on account of higher fuel costs.
After stopping operations on April 18, the airline went into Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) in June 2019. The financial statements have been signed by Jet Airways Resolution Professional Ashish Chhawchharia. In a statement, that is part of the regulatory filing, Chhawchharia said he was not in a position to provide the consolidated financial results, as the subsidiaries of the company are separate legal entities, also currently non-operational and that he was facing huge difficulty in obtaining relevant data from the said subsidiaries.

'Property swap' to help homebuyers, raise sale volume

NEW DELHI: As the real estate sector goes through twin issues of subdued demand and stuck projects amid the pandemic, market experts say 'property swap' may be a major tool in helping both distressed home buyers and increasing sales. Developers and consultancy companies have of late come up with this feature in a bid to help out home buyers who are waiting for their home to be completed for a long time. Recently

Troubles abound, Boeing losses bloom to \$2.4 billion in Q2

AP ■ NEW YORK
Boeing is reporting a \$ 2.4 billion loss for the second quarter due to the grounding of its 737 Max jet and the coronavirus pandemic, which is expected to depress airline travel even longer than previously expected.
The company said Wednesday that revenue fell 25%, which is worse than analysts had expected. "The reality is the pandemic's impact on the aviation sector continues to be severe," CEO David Calhoun said.
"This pressure on our commercial customers means they are delaying jet purchases, slowing deliveries, deferring elective maintenance, retiring older aircraft and reducing spend — all of which affects our business and, ultimately, our bottom line."
Calhoun said it will take "around three years" to return to 2019 passenger levels. On Tuesday, an airline industry trade group said air travel won't recover to pre-pandemic levels until at least 2024, a year longer than its previous forecast. The International Air Transport Association cited the inability of the United States and developing countries to contain the coronavirus.

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

SURESH
General public is hereby informed that this person namely Suresh S/o Hitu Ram R/o H.No. 874, VPO Kanjhawala, Delhi Age : 46 years, Height : 5'4", Complexion : Sallow, Face : Round, Build : Fat, Identification : Mentally Abnormal, wearing pink colour shirt, blue colour jeans and hawai chappale in feet, has been missing since 06.07.2020 from his house. In this regard DD No. 69-A dated 07.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.
Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following.
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 24368639, SHO : P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
Tel.: 24368638/24368641 Ph. : 011-25951485, 25951486

SEARCH FOR MISSING

NAMITA DEVI
General Public is hereby informed that one lady namely: Namita Devi, W/o: Sh. Pramod Sharma, R/o: Khasra No. 988 Pipal Wali Gali, Rithala, Vijay Vihar Ph-1, Delhi, Age: 30 Years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Build: Medium, Wearing: Orange Colour Suit & Salwar, Red Colour Chappal in feet has been missing from the area of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 25A, Dated 28.06.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing lady please inform the undersigned.
Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 DP/221/RD/2020
DP/221/RD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

ZEENAT
General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Zeenat D/o Mohd. Saleem, R/o 550, Chatta Lal Miyan, Chandni Mahal, Delhi, Age : 21 yrs., Height : 4'7", Complexion : Fair, Face : Round, Built : Normal, ID Mark : Mentally Weak, Wearing : Black Colour Kurta, Pink Colour Kurta, Black Colour Lagging and Golden Colour Sandal in Feet, has been missing / kidnapped since 15.07.2020 at 01:00 pm from her house. In this regard a case DD No. 06-A dated 22.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local Police to trace out the missing / kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing / kidnapped girl please inform undersigned
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in, Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO
DP/227/CD/2020. P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi Ph.: 011-23279338, 23271751, 23263967

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

RAMA
General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Rama D/o Ram Chander R/o H.No. L-262, Laxman Puri, Nabi Karim, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Nabi Karim, Delhi since 22.07.2020. In this regard, a case vide FIR No. 224/20 U/s 363 IPC Dated 22.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under.
Age: 16 Years 2 months, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5' 2", Face: Oval, Built: Strong, Wearing: Black colour suit-salwar, pink colour chunni and cream colour sandal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing girl then please inform P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi at following Tel No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Sd/- S.H.O.
Fax No. 011-24368639 P.S. Nabi Karim, Delhi
DP/233/CD/2020 Ph: 011-23521081, 23621045

PERFECTPAC LIMITED
CIN: L72100DL1972PLC005971
Regd. Off.: 910, Chiranjiv Tower-43, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
Ph: 011-26441015-18
E-mail id: complianceofficer@perfectpac.com, Website: www.perfectpac.com

NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Friday, August 07, 2020, inter-alia**, to consider and approve the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended June 30, 2020 (the "Financial Results").
A copy of this Notice and Financial Results shall also be available at the Company's website www.perfectpac.com and the website of the Stock Exchanges-BSE: www.bseindia.com and CSE: www.cse-india.com.
For Perfectpac Limited
Shefali Chauhan
Company Secretary
Place: New Delhi
Date: 29.07.2020

Aro granite industries Ltd.
CIN : L74899DL1988PLC031510
Regd. Office : 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi - 110025
Ph. : 011-41686169, Fax : 011-26941984,
Email : investorgrievance@arotile.com, Website : www.arotile.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulations 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Saturday, the 08th August, 2020 inter-alia to approve the Audited Financial Results for the first quarter ended 30.06.2020.
The above details of the said meeting are also available on the website of the Company www.arotile.com and also at the website of the Stock Exchanges www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.
For Aro granite industries Ltd.
Sabyasachi Panigrahi
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer.
Place : New Delhi
Date : 29.07.2020

ASHNOOR TEXTILE MILLS LIMITED
Registered Office : Behrampur Road, Khandsa Village, Gurugram, Haryana- 122001, India. Tel: +91 (0124) - 4809756
CIN: L17226HR1984PLC033384 | E mail: atml_delhi@yahoo.com | Website : www.ashnoortext.com

Statement of Standalone Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year Ended March 31, 2020

Sl. No.	Particulars	(Rs. in lakh)				
		For the quarter ended March 31, 2020	For the quarter ended December 31, 2019	For the quarter ended March 31, 2019	For the Year ended March 31, 2020	For the Year ended March 31, 2019
		(Audited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	(Audited)	(Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations (Net)	3,346.71	3,349.96	3,963.57	13,723.19	12,869.40
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(69.81)	126.17	166.87	404.21	492.78
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(66.68)	126.17	166.36	407.34	490.27
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(68.79)	112.48	179.66	323.44	414.29
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	(68.79)	112.48	179.66	323.44	414.29
6	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	1,273.95	1,248.95	1,248.95	1,273.95	1,248.95
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	2,337.90	-	1,984.47	2,337.90	1,984.47
8	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (before and after extraordinary items)					
	1. Basic:	(0.54)	0.90	1.44	2.59	3.32
	2. Diluted:	(0.54)	0.90	1.41	2.59	3.25

Note: 1 The above audited standalone financial result for the quarter and for the year ended March 31, 2020 are prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standard (IND-AS) as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 and Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Amendment Rules, 2016.
2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly and Yearly Financial Results filed with the Bombay Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly and Yearly Financial Results as on March 31, 2020 are available on the website of the Bombay Stock Exchange i.e. www.bseindia.com and on web site of the Company i.e. www.ashnoortext.com
By Order of the Board of Directors
For Ashnoor Textile Mills Limited
Sd/-
Suneel Gupta
Managing Director
DIN - 00052084

Place : Gurugram, Haryana
Date : 28-07-2020

Trend Blazer

A learning year for Sanjay Dutt

Actor SANJAY DUTT, who turned 61 yesterday, said that it has been a great year of learning for him.

He said, "It has been a great year of learning for me. It's a different feeling for me since I'm celebrating my birthday away from my family but in the time of social media, we are not so away, thankfully just like how we recently celebrated Maanayata's (wife) birthday. I was shooting back to back earlier and then, the lockdown came into place so, I really miss them all. I wish I could have spent all these months with them but their safety is of utmost importance right now. I'm sure once we all reunite, we will have a celebration like never before. I, thank everyone for their invaluable wishes."



'My son cooks, but I didn't know he could cook so many things. Only during the lockdown, I have discovered that he knows how to make rajma and pizza from scratch. He can also make Tiramisu dessert. We have not ordered food even for a day because we have our own two chefs in the kitchen. That has been the silver lining.'

—Twinkle Khanna



Actor VIDYA BALAN has dedicated a poem to all the daughters of India, ahead of the release of her forthcoming film based on the life of late mathematics genius Shakuntala Devi.



The video is a tribute to the relationship that a woman has with her mother.

In the black and white video, Vidya narrates how every mother was once a daughter. The recital also looks at empowering every girl to be fearless, break glass ceilings and to believe in themselves to achieve what they dream of.

Jennifer on getting Emmy nod

Actor JENNIFER ANISTON is ecstatic to get nominated for an Emmy award for the first time in 11 years.

Aniston received a nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series, for her portrayal of Alex Levy in *The Morning Show*. She shared her delight through an Instagram post, which featured several behind-the-scenes pictures from the show's set.

"What a morning waking up to this news! I am so proud of my @themorning-show family. This team worked so hard to make the best show we possibly could. I am truly honored to be a part of it. Thanks for this acknowledgment and congratulations to everyone," Aniston posted.



National Geographic explorers KRITHI KARANTH and MALAIKA VAZ speak to CHAHAK MITTAL about how pandemic-induced lockdown increased tiger poaching activities in India and put conservation at risk

The lockdown has meant that "sight-tourism" at our tiger reserves is non-existent. But with the wildlife economy shut and the concurrent reduced vigilance at parks, poachers have become very active again. According to the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, TRAFFIC, which recently released a report, *Indian wildlife amidst the COVID-19 crisis*: An analysis of poaching and illegal wildlife trade, more than 88 poaching incidents were reported from March 23 till May 3, almost double the number during the six weeks before the lockdown. Nat Geo explorers Krithi Karanth and Malaika Vaz are currently assessing conservation challenges in the post-pandemic era.

Recalling the good old days of filmmaking in various national parks, Vaz recalls an experience she had in Karnataka. She was walking towards her car at midnight without any guards around her and had a "distinct feeling of being watched." However, she kept walking. She looked up to find a pair of glimmering eyes of a leopard through the bushes. "And I remember that moment viscerally — an enormous cat staring back at me in the middle of the night in a jungle. I had frozen. But surprisingly, for a moment, I stared back at him. And later, walked back silently. It was the most magical experience for me. I got up close with an incredible animal like a leopard," says she. For Krithi Karanth, who has researched the man-animal conflict, the very "unpredictability" of being in the jungle is the ultimate challenge.

How has the pandemic impacted tigers?

Krithi: I think the impact of this pandemic has clearly demonstrated that not just tigers but all wildlife species are inextricably connected to people. Tinkering with nature, particularly fragmenting and disturbing their habitats, hunting their prey base and consumption of wild meat have led to an emergence of zoonotic diseases. Once the zoonosis reaches the people, we can see its devastating impact. I think it's really important that we create intact habitat spaces, which allow wildlife to live and move securely and reduce opportunities for disease transmission between people and wildlife as much as possible.

Malaika: Tigers are huge drivers of the eco-tourism in India. The tiger economy employs a large number of people from local communities. There has been a lot of discourse on how this pandemic has provided a respite to wildlife and wild places. This may be true in some places but as per field reports and studies over the past couple of months, we have come across a substantial increase in poaching and wildlife trafficking of



tigers and other wildlife.

What is the role of local communities in protecting tigers and other wildlife species?

Malaika: When you have local communities as leaders of conservation and not just token stakeholders, that's when conservation becomes truly effective. However, they need to be empowered to make decisions about the fate of tigers on an everyday basis because they know their land and necessities better than anyone else. They understand tiger behaviour.

I would like to share the example of an organisation called Tigerwatch in the outskirts of Ranthambore, Rajasthan. It works with the Moghiya tribe (a tribe of traditional tiger poachers, who claim to be loyal courtiers of the erstwhile kingdom of Udaipur). After the tiger-poaching ban, they lost their livelihood. The organisation provided them conservation education, training and work opportunities. It also stewards a network of Village Wildlife Volunteers (VWV) from the surrounding communities, who set up camera traps to monitor tiger movement and apprehend poaching activity.

How do you think the pandemic affected local communities?

Malaika: Multiple communities depend on the forest for their livelihood. Over the last couple of months, as our economy has been hit badly by the pandemic, tourism in wildlife zones has come to a near standstill. This disproportionately affects the local communities that live alongside wildlife and receive an income from being employed as naturalists, nature guides, forest protectors and eco-tourism operators.

I think the pandemic has taught us that tigers cannot survive without the full participation and support of local communities. So, as conservationists, we have to do everything that we can to empower these communities and provide for their needs — to ensure that they receive



the benefits of living alongside tigers. This is imperative for tiger conservation.

For people who are passionate about it, I would recommend doing some homework online and donating to small-scale organisations like Tigerwatch, the Last Wilderness Foundation or TRACT, which have been working to conserve wildlife and empower local communities. I think if we support these organisations on the frontline of tiger conservation, we would also support the larger cause.

What do you have to say about India's potential to conserve tigers?

Krithi: My father, Dr K Ullas Karanth, is one of the pioneering tiger biologists in the world and his work has shown that India can accommodate up to 10,000 tigers as of today. So we shouldn't be patting our backs on having around 3,000 tigers. Yes, tigers are doing much better in India today as compared to the situation in the 1970s or 80s.

However, we still should aim higher and reach a number bigger than 3,000.

Malaika: Tigers are such a charismatic species. They can captivate people of every generation — from the youngest toddler to the oldest grandparent. Given this fact, a lot of national parks have been set up and protected areas have been assigned to regions with large tiger population.

For example, the Bandhavgarh Reserve is known for its big cats but is also home to lesser-known species like a rusty-spotted cat, which is protected inevitably when the land gets demarcated as a protected area. I think tigers act as an umbrella species and under the umbrella, smaller species also receive unprecedented attention.

I would say that when you go to national parks and protected areas, once this pandemic ends, take some time to notice the little creations like the flowers, the birds, the trees, the water resources and the other animals around. Observing the complex forest ecosystem in its entirety can help you better understand the role of its apex predator.

The vanishing forest cover has been a rising cause of concern...

Krithi: I think there is enough scientific evidence that has established that certain species are very adaptable and can live alongside humans. But there are others like tigers which require large swathes of forests and intact habitats that remain connected and not fragmented due to human activities. With an economy that's booming and a country that's growing at the rate we are, there's a lot of infrastructural development coming in like railway lines, roads, highways, hydropower and so on. Rapid environmental clearances for such projects are being approved across many parts of India. And we may not be able to see it now, but these projects have the potential to cause huge disruptions to nature and wildlife habitats. They can have a devastating impact in the long run. I

think that's a major challenge we have.

As a wildlife scientist and explorer, any anecdote that you would like to share...

Malaika: I was on a shoot for National Geographic and I spent some time in the jungle getting up close with two male tigers. I had been observing them for four hours. And after that, they got into a fight for territory. I believe it was one of the most intense scenes that I had witnessed.

What are the challenges that such travels offer on an everyday basis?

Krithi: I think unpredictability is a challenge because of the nature of the work in both conservation and research. You can only plan so much after that you have to go with the flow. On any given day, I have to interact with so many types of people like scientists, conservationists, community leaders, donors, media, artists. It is both inspiring and invigorating.

Malaika: One of the most challenging things out there could be the weather. For the last week, I've been filming a short video for the National Geographic in the Western ghats and throughout the shoot, we experienced torrential rains. And when you're in the rainforest, filming with an enormous amount of digital equipment and cameras, weather can be a huge challenge, but it's adventurous at the same time.

What's the fun part?

Krithi: The fact that it is not a nine to five job and the outdoors are never monotonous. It is life unscripted. Besides, how else would you get to see the real India?

Malaika: As a wildlife presenter and filmmaker, every single day is different. One day, you are in the jungle, and the next day, you're in the middle of the Thar Desert. You could be on the Himalayas or diving under water. This unpredictability keeps us going.

Ayushmann turns cross functional athlete

It is certainly the coming together of two of the biggest creative forces in the industry today. Directed by Abhishek Kapoor and actor Ayushmann Khurrana are joining hands for the first time to do a progressive love story.

Abhishek says, "Ayushmann and I are both known for a certain kind of cinema and this film is definitely a special one for both of us. We want the audience to come back to the theatres and watch films as a community and for that we will spare no effort. We strive to bring our best game for this one."

The filmmaker says he is going to present Ayushmann in a never-seen-before avatar. Abhishek shares, "Ayushmann plays a Cross Functional Athlete in the film and he will have to go through a physical transformation that he hasn't done before. It's quite a challenge and he's very committed to it."

Ayushmann is excited about creatively collaborating with Abhishek and is looking forward for his physical transformation. "Abhishek has a very distinct voice in cinema today and I'm glad that we finally got the opportunity to collaborate on a project that's exceedingly close to my heart. This film has all the trappings to take the audience through a ride of emotions. It is a total family entertainer," he says. (The film will release next year worldwide.)



Right from film screenings, workshops, masterclasses, interaction with celebrities, music concert to award ceremony, the first edition of Indus Valley International Film Festival (IVIFF) will be held online. Organised by SAFACH (South Asia Forum for Art and Creative Heritage), the unique aspect of this festival is being the South Asia's first borderless digital film festival.

The festival presents a very impressive line-up of films from other South Asian countries such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India as well. The audience will get a rare opportunity to not only watch the films from the region but also interact with eminent directors and star cast.

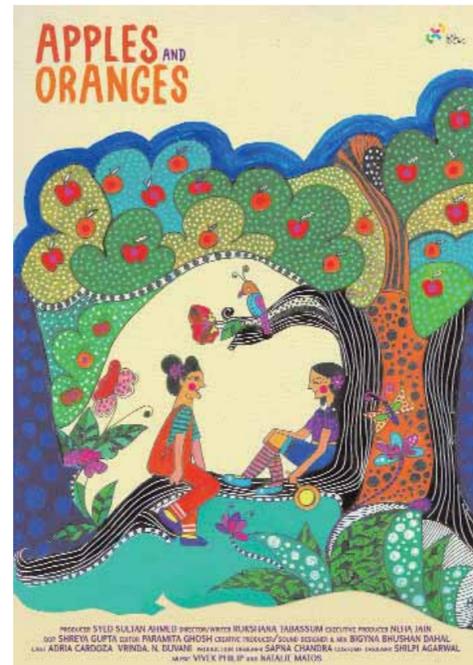
It will open with *Patakha* and a remark by Vishal Bhardwaj. The closing remark will be by Nandita Das with her film *Manto* as the closing film. A film by Brahmanand Singh *Jhalki* will also be screened during the festival.

Harsh Narayan, founder and creative director of the festival, said, "We have a cultural and historical legacy. Cinema is the modern medium of expressing, continuously evolving our artistic traditions. South Asian art, music and folk traditions are interconnected, and they get evolved further through communicating with each other. So I believe a popular platform connecting cinema and art practitioners, production houses, studios and creative professionals will immensely benefit the creative economy of South Asia."

Four films from Bangladesh will be part of the festival. *Nolok*, with interaction with Shakib Khan; *Maya The Lost Mother*, *Qasida of Dhaka*

A VIBRANT MIX

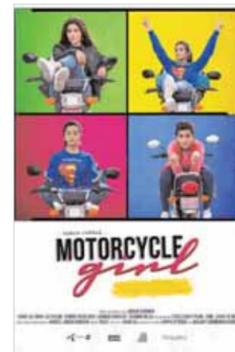
The first edition of Indus Valley International Film Festival presents a line-up of films from all the South Asian countries and interaction with celebrities, award ceremony, masterclasses and more



and a short film *Mala Bhabi* will be screened. *Dying Candle*, an internationally award-winning film from Nepal, along with interaction with its director Naresh Kumar KC and actor Srijana, will also be screened. *Thanha Rathi Ranga* from Sri Lanka, along with interaction

with its director Nilendra Deshapriya will be another attraction for film enthusiasts.

Moor and Motorcycle Girl — the two internationally acclaimed and award-winning films from Pakistan, directed by Jami and Adnan Sarwar respectively, will be show-



cased. A documentary, *Pakistan's Best Kept Secrets*, directed by acclaimed theatre director of Ajoka Theatre of Lahore, Shahid Nadeem, will be screened as well. He is going to interact with the audience too.

Another key attractions of IVIFF are workshops and masterclasses by renowned names of the industry. Director, author and producer, Brahmanand S Singh will be conducting a workshop on *Fiction and Documentary Filmmaking*. Shahid Nadeem will be steering a masterclass on *Theatre Direction and Acting*, whereas Karachi-based Haider Ali's masterclass will be on a modern evolving art form — *Truck Art*.

(The festival will be held from August 1 till August 9.)

EXPAND THE COW ECONOMY

Cowdung sellers will receive their first payment on August 5 under *Godhan Nyay Yojana*, says Chhattisgarh Chief Minister BHUPESH BAGHEL



Under *Godhan Nyay Yojana*, cowdung sellers of the state will receive payment within 15 days. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said in his address to the review meeting of the forest department, held at his residence office, that *Godhan Nyay Yojana* was started on July 20. Cowdung sellers will receive payment against procurement on the 15th day i.e. August 5. He directed the Chief Secretary to chair a meeting of cooperative, rural and other banks and ensure all arrangements for this work. Cowdung sellers will receive payment against the procurement directly in their bank accounts.



Chhattisgarh CM, Bhupesh Baghel

instructions to fix a time table for procurement of cowdung. He further said that the *gauthan* inspection tour schedule of veterinary doctors and *gau-sevaks* should also be finalised and displayed on notice board of *gauthans*. Baghel has entrusted the rural agriculture expansion officials to look

after *gauthans* and pasturages. He said that youngsters who have returned to Bastar from other states should be provided maximum number of employment opportunities through minor forest produce collection, Panchayat and Rural Development Department and *Godhan Nyay Yojana*.

Baghel added that special attention should be paid towards marketing arrangements of minor forest produce. Contracts should be signed with companies that use large quantity of forest produces in manufacturing products, and as per their requirements, minor forest produces and herbal medicines should be made available to the compa-

nies after processing. He also said that Ayurvedic companies should be encouraged to establish processing plants in Chhattisgarh. Baghel emphasised over setting up a cold storage network across the state for safe storage of agriculture, gardening and forest crops. "Cold storages should be run by the Agriculture and Horticulture Department on PPP models," said he.

The meeting was attended by Agriculture and Water Resource Minister Ravindra Choubey, Forest Minister Mohammad Akbar, Urban Administration Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Daharia, School Education Minister Dr Premsai Singh Tekam and also Health Minister TS Singhdeo

from Ambikapur via video conferencing. Parliamentary Secretary Shishupal Sori and Chandradev Prasad Rai, Advisors to Chief Minister Rajesh Tiwari, Vinod Verma, Pradeep Sharma and Ruchir Garg, Chief Secretary Manoj Pingua, Panchayat and Rural Development Principal Secretary Gaurav Dwivedi, Agriculture Production Commissioner Dr M Geeta, Urban Administration Department Secretary Alermelmangai D, Tribal Caste Welfare Department Secretary DD Singh, Secretary to Chief Minister Siddhartha Komal Pardeshi, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Rakesh Chaturvedi, also attended.

SRM-AP students create record



SRM University, Andhra Pradesh has commenced its journey to secure a better future for the first batch of students. Promising students of the university have grabbed excellent job offers in the Campus Recruitment Drive for Class 2021 B.Tech students.

Anheuser-Busch InBev offered six months internship, followed by a job offer to some of the candidates. The company shortlisted Pesala Sai Tanmayi, Sri Harsha Tavidisetty Rajendra, Tuhin Sarkar and Koushik M Bhargav. Commonly known as AB InBev, this is a Belgian multinational drink and brewing company. The company has offered an internship stipend of ₹30,000 per month and a CTC of 12-17 lpa to the candidates who will join the company after successful

completion of their internship. Another renowned company Health Rx, a health-tech start-up from Bajaj Finserv group has offered technical internship with a stipend of ₹35,000 per month and post that a confirmed job offer with CTC of 12 lpa to Talari Hrisheekesh and Gude Abhin.

Further, Virtusa Corporation, an American IT service provider, offered a position in the company with a CTC of 4.5 lpa to Yallammagari Rachakada Poojith Reddy, Nagamla Venkata Sai Nikhith, Chattala Vasundhara, Rampati Venkat Tarun and Sai Rishvanth Katragadda. The other company which conducted the recruitment drive, Sahaj Soft, selected Sri Ritika Katragadda and offered her a CTC of 10 lpa. It is a software services and consulting firm which provides sim-

ple solutions backed by their time-tested methodology and engineering practices.

As the recruiters shortlist the best young talent who are enthusiastic, devoted to learning and brimming with fresh and creative ideas, the university's placement team have thoroughly trained the students, both in terms of technical expertise and soft skills. The rigorous training that the students underwent since the beginning of their course, coupled with their talent and motivation, has enabled them to succeed in recruitment drive with flying colours. SRM-AP believes that this is merely the beginning of the placement season and many more brilliant students are waiting to showcase their mettle to land up with excellent job offers in top-notch companies.

IN SHORT

NTPC has been conferred with the prestigious FICCI 'Jury Commendation Certificate' under the category 'Women Empowerment'. The award has been received for NTPC's flagship 'Girl Empowerment Mission' Project. The company is the only PSU to receive the award this year. Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, was the chief guest at the virtual 18th FICCI award ceremony. Gurdeep Singh, CMD NTPC, received the certificate on behalf of the company. GEM has been launched to provide holistic education to girl children in the age group of 10 to 12 years. The programme prepares them to become a well-rounded adult and helps to develop better communication and social skills.



KIIT offers free education to children of COVID deceased

The COVID-19 pandemic has infected millions and caused panic across the globe, including India and Odisha. The number of new Coronavirus infections is increasing day by day in Odisha. The livelihoods of the people has been disrupted and devastated, to an extent that many have lost their lives too.



KIIT has always reached out to the distressed people at the time of natural calamities in the state. It has become the pride of Odisha as it has always stood by the people of the state at the time of their need.

Now, the deemed to be university (DU) has extended a helping hand to the families of the COVID deceased. Acting on a proposal by the founder of KIIT & KISS, Dr Achyuta Samanta, KIIT-DU has decided

to provide technical and professional education absolutely free of cost to the children of the COVID deceased.

Their sons and daughters, who are interested, can apply to different technical and professional courses of KIIT-DU, including ITI and diploma, as per their eligibility for admission. This facility will be available for two academic years, 2020-21 and 2021-22 only,

informed KIIT authorities. Preference will be given to the children of COVID deceased from BPL, SC, ST and SCBC categories. The move will provide relief to the people of Odisha who feel helpless due to the pandemic.

KIIT is the only university in India and abroad to extend such humanitarian gesture to the families of the deceased.

Distribution of foodgrains under PMGKAY-II begins

After successful implementation of Prime Minister *Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana* (PMGKAY) from April to June this year, the government extended this scheme for another five months from July to November this year itself.

About 81 crore beneficiaries covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY) are being provided five kilograms of rice/wheat free of cost under the scheme. The total allocation for PMGKAY II from July to November is 200.19 LMT (91.33 LMT Wheat and 109.96 LMT rice). There has been very enthusiastic response from the state governments as well as beneficiaries. The scheme was rolled out on July 8 and till July 27 a quantity of 33.40 LMT foodgrains (13.42 LMT wheat and 19.98 LMT rice) has



already been handed over to state governments across the country for further distribution to the beneficiaries, which

is about 83 percent of the allocation for the month of July.

Including the additional

allocation of 200.19 LMT for PMGKAY II, the total quantity of foodgrains that will be distributed by the government to the vulnerable sections of the society during the five months will be about 455 LMT. Every beneficiary under NFSA and AAY shall receive five kilogram wheat or rice for free in addition to their regular quota of foodgrain at subsidised prices.

Extensive and detailed logistical planning has already been done by Food Corporation of India (FCI) to ensure that food grain stocks reach every part of the country as per the allocation over these five months. This is a huge challenge as it is double the normal allocation and the existing warehousing capacities and transportation systems are based on the regular allocations. However, FCI is fully

geared up for the challenge and its ability to deliver in the most trying circumstances has already been demonstrated during the lockdown period when new records were set in terms of logistical operations. It will be ensured that foodgrains reach every corner of the country as per allocations and the stated objective of the government that no poor person will have to remain hungry for want of food will be achieved.

FCI has already wound up the procurement operations for the current season and has set new records in procurement of both wheat and rice. A total of 389.76 LMT wheat and 504.91 LMT rice has been procured in the just concluded crop season. Going by the present trend of progress of monsoon, the coming Kharif season of 2020-21 is also expected to be a good one.

Where does god reside?

It's not less than a wonder that a desire originates in human beings. After putting in great efforts, when the person obtains the desired matter, he experiences a sense of contentment. For instance, when human beings came to know about diamond, gold or coal for that matter, they immediately went in search and acquired satisfaction.

If we talk about the present scenario, we see that people go after materialistic things and other sources to satisfy themselves. But in spite of achieving all the wealth, they still remain unhappy. Do you know why? The mere reason is that they are working hard and doing everything in order to achieve happiness and peace but they can never attain it in the absence of listening to the preach of *Vedas*. People are slowly moving away from tranquillity. Humans have forgot that it is god, who is the creator of the universe and he is the one who is nursing the world.

The *Vedas* and *rishi-munis* have clearly taught us that salvation cannot be attained in the absence of worship of god. Therefore, like previous *yugas*, it is important that people start taking interest in following the divine *Vedas*, wherein the definition of god and process of his worship is explained by god himself. Do you know that no one has ever claimed the authorship of the *Vedas* and every great name in the history of Indian culture has accepted the validity of the *Vedas*. So for a devotee to start worshipping the ultimate power, he must first understand who is god and how his worship can be performed.

In one of the *Yajurved* mantras, it is said that god resides within this world as well as within every soul. Many people have questioned as to where does the god reside? In this connection, *Rigved* mantra throws light that the god is connected to the knowledge of *Vedas*, *yogis* and *rishi-munis*. He resides in their intellect. The *Vedas* place before us the knowledge which is beyond sense-perception and limited intellect and experience.

Rishi Yagyavalkya states in Shatpath Brahmin Granth about the residence of almighty god, stating, *YasyaAtmaShareeram* i.e. that the soul is the residence of god. So the aspirants, who follows the Vedic path and worships god must realise that god is within their souls. In this connection, Yog Shastra Sutra educates us that *Yogaschittavrittinirodhaha* i.e. by doing hard practice of *Ashtang Yog*, an aspirant must control all the five *vrittis* and stop them from going outside.

In view of the above, though the god is omnipresent but he manifests in the heart of the human beings, who follow the Vedic path, perform daily *agnihostra*, seek shelter of acharyas who have knowledge of the *Vedas* and perform *Ashtang Yog*. So god neither has any image nor he resides in any particular idol or statue but within us.

(The author, Swami Ram Swarup, is the chief editor of Ved Ishvareeya Vani, a bi-annual magazine.)

Conserve nature: Prahlad Patel

Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel planted Pipal, Ashoka, Amla, Neem and Bargad trees in Rabindra Bhavan Complex, New Delhi. Secretary (Culture) Anand Kumar and Joint Secretary, MOC, Nirupama Kotru also contributed to this purpose.



Patel conveyed the message that conservation of natural resources is very important. Due to nature's imbalance, human beings are facing a lot of problems these days. Under *Sankalp Parva*, the Ministry of Culture has planted a big number of trees in last 15 days. Whatever nature has bestowed upon us, we can repay by con-

serving nature only.

On this occasion, Secretary (I/C) Lalit Kala Akademi, Ravindra Kumar Khanduja, Secretary Sahitya Akademi, K Sreenivas Rao

and Secretary Sangeet Natak Akademi, Rita Swamy Chaudhary, along with officers and staff were also present and took a pledge to care for nature.

World's first electrified rail tunnel ready

In the next 12 months, the world's first electrified rail tunnel fit to run double-stack containers will be operational in the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor.

The tunnel breaking ceremony marks the completion of the tunnel caving work at the WDFC's one-kilometer long tunnel through the Aravallis near Sohna in Haryana. The last blasting of the tunnel, which is situated on the Rewari-Dadri section, has been done. This work has been completed in less than a year's time.

Geologically, this tunnel is safe and stable as it is caved through 2,500 to 500 million-year-old Proterozoic Rocks mainly Quartzite, Schists and slates of Alwar/Azabgarh groups of Delhi Supergroup rocks, which have the high bearing capacity. Double stack containers and 25 ton axle load freight trains will run through this tunnel at a speed of 100 kmph.

The tunnel connects the Mewat and Gurugram district of Haryana and negotiates a steep gradient on the uphill and downhill slope of the Aravalli range. The D-shaped tunnel has a



cross-sectional area of 150 square meters to accommodate double line with higher OHE (Over Head Equipment) to enable double-stack container movement on WDFC.

Cross-sectional area wise, it is one of the biggest Railway tunnels in India. One end of the tunnel is near Rewari called as Portal-1 or West Portal, while the other end of the tunnel is at Dadri

called as Portal-2 or East Portal. The Dimension of the tunnel is 14.5 meters and 10.5 meters height in straight portion and 15 meters wide and 12.5 metre height to provide extra clearance while negotiating the curve.

The work has been done systematically and in a planned manner from both the ends by deploying high-tech machinery and man power.

This is the reason that it was completed in less than a year. The high-tech machinery used were: Boomer double arm type with arm reach spanning 7 meters, shotcrete machine robotic arm type with a reach of 12 meters, transit mixer having 6 CUM capacity, Hywa with a load capacity of 20 tons, scissor lift, DG set of 500 KVA capacity, two concrete pumps, grout pumps and ROC.

There are a total of six tunnels in both the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors. In WDFC, there are one km long Sohna Tunnel, 430 metre long Vasai Detour South Tunnel and 320 metre long Vasai Detour North Tunnel. The EDFC also has three number of tunnels measuring 150 metre, 475 metre and 300 metre respectively in the Sonagar-Gomoh section.

Till date, more than 1,600 trains have been run by the DFCCIL in the Bhadan-Khurja section of EDFC and the Madar-Rewari section of the WDFC. The WDFC and the EDFC (excluding the PPP section) is slated for completion in the month of June 2022.

PFC SIGNS MOA WITH IIT-K

Government-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC), a non-banking financial company (NBFC), signed a MoA with Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K) for training, research and entrepreneurship development in smart grid technology. Under the MoA, PFC will provide financial assistance of 2,38,97,000 to IIT-K under its CSR initiative.

R Murahari, Executive Director (CSR&SD), PFC informed that the objective of the pact is to provide support to IIT-K in developing infrastructure for research and development on smart grid

technology. As part of project, IIT-K will also provide training on smart grid technology to 90 participants and provide fellowship to nine selected candidates for development of ideas on the technology. The fellows will be assisted by Start-up Innovation and Incubation Centre (SIIC) of IIT-K and encouraged to take up entrepreneurial activities.

M Prabhakar Das, Chief General Manager (CSR&SD), PFC and Prof Jayant Kumar Singh, Dean Resource and Alumni, IIT-K signed the agreement on behalf of respective organisations on a virtual platform.



JUST A CALL AWAY

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities through its various organisations strives to address the concerns of person with disabilities for their effective rehabilitation and inclusion.

The Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) has started a help line service for providing information on aids and assistive devices for PwDs including repair of such devices. Similarly National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHDFC), which provides loan at concessional rate of interest and also runs skill training programmes for PwDs has started help line services for dissemination of information relating to such matters.

Further, one of the National Institutes namely National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NIEPID), Secunderabad is providing information relating to special education, occupational therapy physiotherapy related issues etc, through a dedicated toll-free helpline number.

In addition, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, the premier Health Institute under Ministry of H&FW also has a dedicated helpline for persons with autism and their parents.

With a view to give wide publicity to these helpline numbers of the above organisations, the department has started advertising these numbers through Doordarshan news channel from July 23.

Broad moves to third spot in ICC rankings

PTI ■ DUBAI

Stuart Broad progressed seven places to grab the third position among bowlers in the latest ICC Player Rankings after a stellar show in the final Test against the West Indies.

England won the third and final game by 269 runs to clinch the series 2-1.

The formerly top-ranked bowler, who finished with a match haul of 10 for 67 during which he touched the milestone of 500 Test wickets, has reached his best position since August 2016 when he was third.

The 34-year-old has also gained seven places with the bat after his quick-fire 62 off 45 balls in the first innings, the joint-third fastest for England in Test history, and risen three places among all-rounders to 11th.

Indian cricketers, who have not taken the field since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, retained their positions in the top-10 of batsmen rankings.

Skipper Virat Kohli remains second in the bats-

Another England bowler to advance in the rankings was Chris Woakes, whose five-wicket haul in the second innings lifted him to 20th position and a career-best rating points tally of 654

men standings behind Steve Smith while Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane remain seventh and ninth respectively.

In the list of all-rounders, Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin con-

tinued to occupy the third and fifth spot respectively.

However, with Broad moving seven places to break in to the top 10, India's Jasprit Bumrah was pushed down a spot to be placed eighth in the bowlers list.

Another England bowler to advance in the rankings was Chris Woakes, whose five-wicket haul in the second innings lifted him to 20th position and a career-best rating points tally of 654.

England opener Rory Burns gained 13 spots to reach 17th position after scores of 57 and 90 at Old Trafford, the first time the 29-year-old left-hander has moved into the top 20.

Ollie Pope reached a career-best 46th position, gaining 24 slots on the back of his 91 in his only innings of the match, while wicketkeeper Jos Buttler's knock of 67 lifted him from 50th to 44th.

For the West Indies, Shai Hope has gained two slots to reach 68th position while pacer Kemar Roach has moved a place to reach 15th place after grabbing four wickets in England's first innings.



'Real privilege to play with both Jimmy and Stuart'

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Skipper Joe Root says his teammates "should feel lucky" sharing the dressing room with James Anderson and Stuart Broad, adding that there is no better place for a youngsters to learn the tricks of the trade than watching the veteran pace duo operate.

Broad followed the footsteps of Anderson to join the elite 500 Test wicket club, a landmark achieved by only by six others in cricket history.

The duo has been leading England's bowling attack for years and is considered as one of the most successful fast bowling pairs in world cricket.

"We're looking at two of England's best bowlers of all time. To be playing in the same team as both of them - we've got to understand how lucky we are to be watching them go about their business," Root was quoted as saying by 'Sky Sports'.

"Playing alongside them, seeing them operate day in, day out - it couldn't be a better place for a young fast bowler to come in and learn their trade."

Earlier, Root had urged naysayers to write off Anderson and Broad individually at their own peril even though he dropped hints that their days as a pair may be over.

"It's a real privilege to play alongside both Jimmy and Stuart and hopefully that's going to happen for a lot longer as well," Root added.

Broad, who was dropped from the opening Test in Southampton, silenced his critics by putting up scintillating performances in the remaining two Tests, to help England clinch a series victory against West Indies.

In the series deciding third Test, Broad claimed his international career's third 10-wick-



et haul, ending with match figures of 10-67. He was also adjudged player of the series alongside West Indies' Roston Chase.

"For him to come back into the team and have such an impact is testament to how good a player he's been for England over such a long period of time," Root said.

"It sums Stuart up, he seems to get on those hot streaks and have a real impact in games and I'm really pleased for him to get to that milestone - 500 Test wickets is a phenomenal achievement.

"He's the sort of guy that really grabs a game and wrestles it in your favour. He wants to be part of those big occasions and he wants to take the ball when you're up against it. There are so many different occasions he's done that," Root added.

Eng tour of WI would help keep us a float: Holder

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

West Indies captain Jason Holder feels "relevant" authorities need to ensure that smaller teams get to play regular international cricket as in a world scarred by COVID-19, only India, Australia and England have the resources to stage games in bio-secure bubbles.

The cricketing fraternity has lauded the West Indies' decision to tour England amid the pandemic. The three Test-series, which England won 2-1 on Tuesday, marked resumption of international cricket.

"If something doesn't happen soon we'll see less international cricket being played by smaller countries because we simply can't afford it. We've gone from having four, five-match series, down to two and three," Holder said after the conclusion of the third Test here.

"And it's very difficult to host any more than that for us, particularly the Caribbean. So yeah, it is a serious dilemma that we're faced with. I think the relevant personnel really need to sit down and have a look at it," he added.

The West Indies were confined to just two venues - Manchester and Southampton - during the eight-week tour. Both teams stayed on site.

Holder hopes that England too will reciprocate their gesture and tour the



Caribbean soon.

"We only really make money from England, and I think India. We break even with Pakistan and Australia, and all the rest of the series we play are losses. But in these trying times only England, Australia and India can probably host cricket," he said.

"Outside of that, the smaller territories are struggling financially to get cricket on...If there's an opportunity for England to

To win toss twice and not bat first, cost us: Walsh

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

West Indies played into England's hands by asking the hosts to bat first in the lost second and Third Tests, reckons legendary pacer Courtney Walsh.

The legendary Caribbean paceman feels the West Indies played it safe after winning the opening match and it cost them the series.

The West Indies team won the opening Test by four wickets in Southampton but lost the second and third match at the Old Trafford to allow England to regain the Wisden trophy.

"They were probably thinking 'we're 1-0 up, let's play safe and try not to lose the next two' and I think that played into

come over to the Caribbean before the end of the year, I'm sure that would help significantly for Cricket West Indies' financial records."

The West Indies players and staff have had to take pay cuts due to the financial impact of COVID-19 on their board.

England's hands, especially in the last one with the history of the ground," Walsh, who took 519 wickets in 132 Tests, told Sky Sports.

"To win the toss twice and not bat first, it is a good question for them to answer. I think it probably cost us."

The 57-year-old Walsh, however, credited England for bouncing back after the defeat in the series-opener.

"But you still can't take anything away from England, they played some very good cricket, they had some top-class bowlers and Broad came in with a point to prove in the second Test and just continued with that momentum. Once momentum swung England's way, they were dominant," he said.

"It's been a tough couple of years in West Indies cricket financially. We've pretty much had to take a pay cut, so if it's possible to host a tour before the end of 2020, it would probably keep us afloat as an organisation," Holder said when asked about the current situation.

Woakes is Eng's unsung hero: Stewart

PTI ■ MANCHESTER

Pacer Chris Woakes is England's "unsung hero" who just goes quietly about his business while the likes of Stuart Broad, James Anderson and Jofra Archer steal the spotlight, feels former skipper Alec Stewart.

Woakes grabbed five wickets to help England bowl out West Indies for 129 in the second innings of the final Test as the hosts claimed the Wisden Trophy with a 2-1 series victory.

Stewart said Woakes, who has been a consistent performer, claiming 106 wickets from 35 Tests, is often deprived of the recognition he deserves.

"He's almost the unsung hero of the England set-up because we talk about Broad and Anderson then the pace of Archer and Wood, where as Woakes just goes quietly about his business," Stewart said on 'Sky Sports'.

"I'm pleased he finished with a five-for because a lot of the time his performances



go under the radar compared to these perceived bigger players," he added.

Stewart said the the 31-year-old all-rounder has been outstanding in England, and the fact that he was picked in the playing XI for the series decider against West Indies speaks for itself.

"I'm a massive fan of Woakes, especially in England. His record in England is outstanding. It's a real feather in his cap that he got the nod when Chris Silverwood said 'we are picking our very best bowling attack for this Test match we have to win,' he said."

The former wicketkeeper, who featured in 133 Tests and 170 ODIs between 1989 to 2003 for England, reckons it will be a difficult feat for young Sam Curran to chase Woakes' spot in the Test side.

"Sam Curran played one Test match and got three wickets, he wants to chase down Chris Woakes' slot but, at the moment, while Woakes is in this form it is going to be very tough for Sam Curran to get in," he said.

We need tail to bat well for winning series against Eng: Younis

PTI ■ LONDON

Batting coach Younis Khan said he is working hard on the skills of the lower-order batsmen as he believes a "fighting tail" will be crucial for Pakistan in the next month's three-Test series against England.

The series begins at Manchester on August 5.

"If we have to win series in England, if we have to fightback, it is important that our tail-enders also fight, which is the hallmark of all successful teams," Khan said, referring to the role of England's lower order in their 2-1 series victory against West Indies.

"It's not just the top six-seven batsmen. The tail-enders must also perform with the bat," he said during a virtual press conference on Tuesday.

"We are working with our bowlers, who bat at number 9, 10, 11. They may not score a lot, but they need to put up a fight with the bat," he said.

"I think Abbas has nice balance. I'm trying to make him their leader, so that he can guide the tail-enders. We've been working really hard on their batting - feeding them bouncers and yorkers in the nets."

Top batsman Babar Azam will be leading the batting for Pakistan and Younis said his job will be to take his game to the next level.

"He's been a fantastic performer for Pakistan with strong performance in the last couple of years. I want him to bat longer, converting his 100 into 150 and 150 into 200," he said.

"Hopefully, he will end up as a legendary batsman. I don't think we should put comparisons of other players with Babar. All this could put unwanted pressure on him. Babar has a class of his own and I hope I can take him to the next level."



Younis said adapting to the conditions will be the key for the batsmen in England.

"It's an open secret that batsmen struggle here, especially on their first tours. Batting isn't easy, more so when it's cold and overcast. It's crucial to play close to the body, under your eyes and play late with soft hands," Younis said.

"We're working with the boys to ensure that they adapt. See, you can not change technique overnight. Maybe with the extremely young and raw players you can, but not with the established players. That'll surely backfire. So, it's about adapting and refining your technique to adjust with the conditions."

Eng name unchanged squad for Pak Test series

PTI ■ LONDON

England retained the 14-strong squad which defeated the West Indies in the Test series but added young batsmen James Bracey and Dan Lawrence to reserves list for the next month's red ball assignment against Pakistan.

The series which will be held behind closed doors in a bio-secure environment will begin on August 5 at the Old Trafford in Manchester, followed by the games at Ageas Bowl, Southampton (Aug 13-17 and Aug 21-25).

"After three Tests in quick succession against the West Indies, we now turn to an equally condensed Test series against Pakistan, with 15 days of Test cricket scheduled in a three-week period. Our 14-man squad is unchanged," national selector Ed Smith was quoted as saying in an ECB state-

ment. "County cricket now restarts on Saturday 1st August. We want to have sufficient reserves inside the bio-secure Test match 'bubble', but we may also want to give opportunities, where possible, for the reserves to play county cricket.

"As we seek the best balance here, England may make changes to the reserves during the three-match series against Pakistan."

The squad and reserves will report at Old Trafford on Sunday. Hosts England defeated the West Indies by 269 runs in the third and final Test on Tuesday to claim the Wisden Trophy 2-1.

England Test Squad: Joe Root (Captain), James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Dominic Bess, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Ollie Pope, Dom Sibley, Ben Stokes, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood

Upto younger crop to take Ireland cricket forward, says O'Brien

IAN ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Veteran Ireland all-rounder Kevin O'Brien feels it is upto the younger crop now to take cricket in the country to the next level.

O'Brien, 36, is part of the 14-man squad to face England in the first ODI of the three-match series that is scheduled to be played at Ageas Bowl here on Thursday.

O'Brien wrote his name into Irish cricketing folklore with a magical innings against England in Bangalore during the 2011 World Cup as he smashed a 50-ball century to set up a historic three-wicket win.

"It's coming on 10 years now," he said as quoted by ESPNcricinfo.

"It's a little bit frustrating. It's obviously a very proud thing, and to talk and think about it does give me goosebumps. But I'd like to think I've had some performances since then to not just go back to one game.

"Whether my scores show it or not, I think I'm a better cricketer now: more rounded, with more experience under my belt. I'm certainly in a better space now; a more comfortable space with where I am mentally and physically," said O'Brien who has played three Tests, 145 ODIs, 96 T20Is for Ireland.

"There's four or five players all around a similar age," O'Brien said of the younger crop who have shown promise... "and for them it's a great opportunity to write their own legacy and write Irish cricket's next chapter. The hunger's certainly there with the young guys to get better, train hard, and be the best players that they can be.

"Ultimately it's up to them to bring Cricket Ireland forward when myself and a few of the older boys hang up the boots. We've brought it as far as we can, and it's up to the younger guys to bring it even further.

"It's certainly something that I've taken notice of over the last 14 or 15 weeks, over lockdown - a few areas that I need to improve on to stay a step ahead of the younger guys. That's great to be for me as an individual, and from the team's point of view if we're all trying to be better than each other, ultimately the team should be in a better place going forward.

'Ireland ODI series good chance to see fresh faces'



IAN ■ SOUTHAMPTON

England opener Jason Roy has said the Ireland ODI series will give the team an opportunity to check out new faces in the ranks with an eye on the T20 World Cup, which has now been postponed to next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It will be a young England side led by Eoin Morgan which will take on Ireland with many first team stars like Ben Stokes, Joe Root and Jofra Archer rested after the West Indies Test series.

Speaking to Rob Key on the latest edition of the

Sky Sports Cricket podcast, the Surrey batsman said: "We've obviously got the T20 World Cup to work towards [in 2021] and then we want to go on and win the following World Cup.

"This Ireland series is giving us an opportunity to see a lot of young players - Tom Banton, Saqib Mahmood and other players coming through and ones who haven't got a chance in the past.

"It's another opportunity to see the raw talent coming through. The talent in the squad that we got together for the training camp before the cut for this ODI series was scary," said Roy, an ODI World Cup winner with England on home soil in 2019.

"It was just so good to watch; that would have been a stinking job for the selectors to select out of that. It must have been so difficult.

"The process is the same again as it was for the last four years - build those foundations and then find what works."

Roy said the T20 World Cup is at the forefront of England's plans going ahead.

"The T20 World Cup is probably at the forefront of our minds. But I think we do quite well as a squad to separate all of the three-forms. But for the time being we just want to win this series now."

Inter conquer Napoli 2-0 in Serie A

IAN ■ ROME

Inter Milan completed a double-kill against Napoli in Serie A as they dominated the Coppa Italia winners 2-0 at the San Siro.

Daniilo D'Ambrosio put Inter ahead in the first half while Lautaro Martinez sealed the victory after coming off the bench on Tuesday evening, reports Xinhua news agency.

The away side had the most of the possession, but it was Inter that broke the deadlock in the 10th minute as Antonio Candreva's cross found Cristiano Biraghi, who pulled back for D'Ambrosio to finish with a low-strike.



Inter were under siege later but goalkeeper Samir Handanovic performed well to keep a clean sheet. The Nerazzurri doubled the

lead in the 74th minute when Lautaro surged forward and released a missile that flew into the far corner.

Elsewhere, Atalanta continued their unbeaten run with a comeback 2-1 victory over Parma.

Ruslan Malinovskyi's free kick wiped out Dejan Kulusevski's opener, and Alejandro Gomez scored the winner in the 84th minute.

Inter remain at the second spot with 79 points, one ahead of Atalanta. The Dea will host Inter in the final round on Saturday which will be a head-to-head showdown for the runners-up spot for the season.