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SHARES HIS
REGRETS
10 VIVACITY

Disengagement on, not over: MEA

India refutes Chinese claim, says commanders will hold bilateral talks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday refuted China's claim that troops from both sides had disengaged from most of the friction points at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and said the process is "not completed."

This firm assertion by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came sometime after Chinese Ambassador to India Sun Weidong said border troops of both the countries "have disengaged in most localities" and China was not a strategic threat to India.

"Border troops have disengaged in most localities, situation on ground is de-escalating and temperature is coming down. China is committed to peaceful development and is not a strategic threat to India," Weidong said.

MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava, however, said, "Some progress has been made, but disengagement process has not yet been completed. The senior commanders of the two sides will be meeting in near future to work out steps in this regard," he added.

Srivastava also said India and China agreed that early and complete disengagement of troops along the LAC and de-escalation from border areas, and full restoration of peace and tranquility was essential for smooth overall development of bilateral relations.

Giving the background, the spokesperson said it was



agreed last week by India and China in the 17th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) early and complete disengagement of the troops along the LAC and de-escalation from India-China border areas in accordance with bilateral agreement and protocols and full restoration of peace and tranquility was essential for smooth overall development of bilateral relations. This was also the agreement reached between the two Special Representatives, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, in their conversation on July 5.

"As we have stated earlier, the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the border areas is the basis of our bilateral relationship. Therefore, we expect that the Chinese side will sin-

cereally work with us for complete disengagement and de-escalation and full restoration of peace and tranquility in the border areas at the earliest as agreed to by the Special Representatives," Srivastava said.

Meanwhile, the Chinese envoy also said both sides should properly handle differences to bring bilateral relations back to normal track. "Both sides should grasp fundamental interests of two countries and their peoples, stick to friendly cooperation," he said.

The Chinese claim and India countering it came as both the sides are now preparing for the fifth round of Corps Commander-level talks in the next few days. The two senior military officers will review the pace of withdrawal of troops from the four stand-off sites in Eastern Ladakh.

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The Indian Corps Commander will also take up the issue of China not withdrawing its troops from Pangong Tso. The Chinese troops are now positioned on some of the crucial mountain spurs near the lake thereby posing a grave threat to the Indian interests.

In a positive development, the troops from both sides have pulled back to their respective rear locations from the stand-off sites in the Galwan valley and Hot Springs.

The withdrawals from Hot Springs are slow from the Chinese side.

Another cause of concern is the Chinese reluctance to pull back more than 40,000 troops now deployed at the front and depth areas. The two sides in the earlier meetings had agreed to thin down the strength of troops and weapons as a confidence building measure.

This has not come about and the Indian security establishment is also not taking any chances. The Indian Army has also trained and acclimatised more than 25,000 troops for deployment in Ladakh where oxygen levels are low. The Indian troops are also adjusted to cold weather as most of them have served tenures in Siachen and other such tough terrain.

These troops are now in position at vantage places in Ladakh and will be deployed according to emerging situation in the coming days, sources said adding the armed forces are ready for a long haul.

In order to enable soldiers to function even during harsh winter months when temperature dips to minus 20 degrees in Ladakh, the Army is making provisions for portable cabins to withstand cold. Also, to meet any additional requirements, the Government has allowed the armed forces to buy more special tents and shelters meant for high altitudes from Indian and foreign vendors on emergency basis, sources said.

Priest, 16 cops at Ram temple test Covid +ve

Head priest's aide Acharya Pradeep infected with virus

PIANS ■ AYODHYA

Acharya Pradeep Das, the assistant to the chief priest of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple, said that he has tested positive for coronavirus.

Besides, 16 policemen on duty at Ayodhya, where the 'bhoomi puja' ceremony for the Ram temple is scheduled to be held on August 5, have also tested positive for Covid-19.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to attend the ceremony along with about 200 guests.

Last Saturday, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had visited the Ram Janmabhoomi complex to review preparations for the August 5 event.

Photos and videos from the day show the coronavirus-positive priest Pradeep Das standing next to the Chief Minister during a ritual.

The Ram Janmabhoomi chief priest, Acharya Satyendra Das, who will lead the August 5 ceremony, was also seen standing next to the men.

Meanwhile, Trust sources said that the programme will go ahead as planned, maintaining all the safety rules for Covid-19. Ayodhya, at present, has 375 active cases of coronavirus while Uttar Pradesh has 29,997 cases.



A devotee pays respects to a mural depicting paintings of Lord Ram in Ayodhya on Thursday

Times Square to celebrate Ram temple bhoomi puja

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Images of Lord Ram and 3D portraits of the grand Ram Temple in Ayodhya will be beamed across the giant billboards in the iconic Times Square here on August 5 to celebrate the temple's groundbreaking ceremony, with organisers describing the commemoration as a one-of-a-kind and historic event.

Prominent community leader and President of the American India Public Affairs Committee Jagdish Sewhani on Wednesday said that arrangements are being made to celebrate the historic

moment in New York on August 5, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

Sewhani told PTI that among the prominent billboards that are being leased for the occasion are the giant Nasdaq screen and the 17,000-square-foot wrap-around LED display screen, considered among the largest continuous exterior displays in the world and the highest-resolution exterior LED screen in Times Square.

Continued on Page 2

Delhi rolls back hike in VAT, diesel price goes down by ₹8.36/l

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to people especially those using diesel vehicles for commercial purposes, diesel price in Delhi was on Thursday cut by ₹8.36 per litre after the AAP Government rolled back a VAT hike that had made the fuel uncompetitive in comparison to adjoining cities such as Gurugram and Noida.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced a reduction in VAT or sales tax on diesel from 30 per cent to 16.75 per cent, saying the move will help the city's economy recover from the impact of coronavirus pandemic.

The reduction in the value-added tax (VAT) rate, which would be effective from midnight, will help bring down the price of diesel to ₹73.64 per litre, he said.

The Delhi Government had on May 5 hiked VAT on petrol to 30 per cent from 27 per cent and on diesel from



16.75 per cent to 30 per cent. The May 5 VAT hike translated into steepest ever price increase of ₹7.10 per litre in diesel. Rates of petrol went up by ₹1.67 a litre. The subsequent increase in the base price of diesel because of a surge in international rates led to an increase in the incidence of VAT as the tax is levied on ad valorem basis.

The VAT hike made diesel costlier than it was being sold in adjoining cities - Gurugram, Noida and Ghaziabad, putting local industries using the fuel at a cost disadvantage.

Continued on Page 2

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 16,39,350

DEATHS: 35,786

RECOVERED: 10,59,093

ACTIVE: 5,44,048

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	4,11,798	14,729	2,48,615
Tamil Nadu	2,39,978	3,841	1,78,178
Delhi	1,34,403	3,936	1,19,724
Andhra Pradesh	1,30,557	1,281	60,024
Karnataka	1,18,632	2,230	46,694
Uttar Pradesh	81,039	1,587	46,803
West Bengal	67,692	1,490	44,116
Telangana	60,717	505	44,572
Gujarat	60,285	2,414	44,176
Bihar	48,001	285	31,673
Rajasthan	40,936	667	29,231
Assam	38,408	94	29,081
Haryana	34,254	417	27,340
Madhya Pradesh	30,968	857	21,657
Odisha	30,378	205	19,746
Kerala	22,304	71	12,159

Herd immunity not an option: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Just when the experts had started becoming hopeful from the results of serological surveys conducted in Delhi about the possibility of achieving herd immunity to contain the spread of the deadly Covid-19, the Centre on Thursday said with its huge population, herd immunity cannot be a strategic option in the country as it will come at a very high

cost in terms of human lives. "It can only be achieved through immunisation. The Health Ministry thinks it's possible in future but for now we've to follow Covid-19 appropriate behaviour," said Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan at a Press briefing here.

"Herd immunity is an indirect protection from a disease. In a country the size of India, it cannot be a strategic choice or option. It can only be an out-

come, and that too at a very high cost as it means lakhs of people will have to be infected, get hospitalised and many will die in the process," Bhushan said.

"Hence, it can only be achieved through immunisation but that is in the future," he said on the day when India registered 50,000 cases from across the country taking the tally to over 15.30 lakh cases.

Continued on Page 2

ED seeks copy of FIR against Rhea for PMLA probe in Sushant's death

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seeking to launch a money-laundering probe against Bollywood actress Rhea Chakraborty and others accused in the case relating to the death of film star Sushant Singh Rajput, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday requested from the Bihar Police a copy of the FIR registered in this connection.

The ED move comes even as the Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking transfer of the probe into Rajput's death case from Mumbai Police to the CBI.

The ED has written to the Bihar Police asking for the copy of the FIR as the Central agency wants to study the criminal case for exploring the possibility of going ahead with a probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Money laundering being a predicate offence, the ED needs to form the Bihar Police case as



the basis to initiate the PMLA case, officials said.

The deceased actor's father Krishna Kumar Singh (74) had on Tuesday lodged an FIR in Patna against Chakraborty, her family members and six others on charges of alleged abetment to suicide of his son.

Dismissing the PIL seeking transfer of the Mumbai Police case into Rajput's death, an SC bench comprising Chief Justice SA Bobde and Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian said that Mumbai Police be allowed to do the job and if there is something, then a plea be filed before the Bombay High Court.

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CAPSULE

BCI TO POSTPONE ALL INDIA BAR EXAMINATION
New Delhi: The Bar Council of India has resolved to postpone All India Bar Examination (AIBE) scheduled for August 16 due to the rising numbers of coronavirus patients across the country and frequent lockdowns to contain its spread.

EXAMS IN SEPT TO SAVE STUDENTS' FUTURE: UGC
New Delhi: The UGC on Thursday justified in the Supreme Court its decision directing all universities and institutions to hold final year/semester examinations in September saying it was done to protect the academic future of students across the country.

PRIYANKA VAGATES LODHI ESTATE BUNGALOW
New Delhi: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra vacated her official Lodhi Estate bungalow on Thursday. An official statement issued by the Congress said Priyanka Gandhi handed over the possession of her 35, Lodhi Estate bungalow, "previously allotted to her on security grounds", to the CPWD today.

Jaya Jaitley gets 4-year prison in defence deal, HC stays sentence

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi court on Thursday awarded 4-year jail term to ex-Samata Party president Jaya Jaitley and two others for corruption in a 2000-01 case related to a purported defence deal saying they "compromised the entire defence system of the country."

However, the order was stayed by the Delhi High Court later in the day.

Special CBI judge Virender Bhat also awarded 4-year jail term to Jaitley's former party colleague Gopal Pachherwal and Major General (rttd) SP Murgai in the case.

There should be zero tolerance towards corruption in defence procurement deals as these have direct bearing upon sovereignty of our country, the court said

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3 Assam Rifles soldiers martyred in ambush

PTI ■ IMPHAL

Three Assam Rifles personnel were killed and six others injured in an ambush by suspected insurgents of the banned People's Liberation Army in Manipur's Chandel district, Indian Army sources said on Thursday.

Suspected militants waited behind rocks and trees before triggering a blast that startled an Assam Rifles patrol in Khongtal near the India-Myanmar border around 6.30 pm on Wednesday.

Even before the personnel could gather their wits following the explosion, possibly triggered by an improvised explosive device (IED), they came under a fusillade of gunfire from automatic weapons.

Army sources said the personnel retaliated, forcing the attackers to flee. The deceased have been identified as Pranay Kalita, Ratan Salam and



Methna Konyak, all from the fourth battalion of the country's oldest paramilitary force.

Their bodies have been sent to Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital, Imphal, for post mortem. The injured have been shifted to a military hospital in Manipur's Kangpokpi district.

Condemning the attack, Chief Minister N Biren Singh called it "an act of cowardice." "I strongly condemn the cowardice attack on 4 Assam Rifles in Chandel district. My tributes to the security personnel martyred in the attack," he said.

Truce! Pilot camp to attend House session

HC issues notices to Speaker, Secy, 6 BSP MLAs who merged with Cong

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Congress MLAs will camp at the Fairmount hotel in Jaipur for another fortnight till the Assembly session starts on August 14. The rebel MLAs led by Sachin Pilot have indicated they too will attend the Assembly session amid signs of some "cooling off" in the war between the two camps.

The Congress legislature party (CLP) on Thursday decided that the MLAs should continue to be safely ensconced at the hotel to keep the "poachers" at bay.

In a development that could worry Gehlot, the Rajasthan High Court issued a notice to Speaker and Secretary

of the Legislative Assembly as well as the six BSP MLAs who merged with the Congress party on a petition filed by BJP lawmaker Madan Dilawar. The court has asked them to file their reply by August 11.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said that as soon as the date of the Assembly session was fixed, the horse-trading amount offered has reached an "unlimited" rate.

"Earlier, the first installment was of ₹10 crore and second was of ₹15 crore. Now it has become unlimited and all know who is doing horse-trading," said Gehlot.

Gehlot also offered an olive branch to the rebel MLAs saying those who have not accepted money from the BJP should come back to the party fold. "Those who have not yet taken the first installments from the BJP should come back to the party," he said.

Continued on Page 2

Guinness bestows 'fastest human computation' on Shakuntala Devi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Guinness World Records on Thursday honoured Indian math genius Shakuntala Devi with the long overdue record title for "fastest human computation", four decades after she achieved the feat.

The fastest human computation is 28 seconds and was achieved by Shakuntala Devi by successfully multiplying two randomly selected 13-digit numbers, at Imperial College London, UK, on June 18, 1980. The certification was received by Anupama Banerji, daughter of the late mathematician. Banerji said she was barely 10 when her mother made the world record.

"Wherever I went, all people would speak about was that record. So I knew it was a huge achievement worldwide."

Continued on Page 2

2 lakh jobs advertised, 3L aspirants apply on Delhi Govt's 'Rozgaar Bazaar'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Just four days of launching "Rozgaar Bazaar" by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, 7,577 companies have registered on the job portal, 2,04,785 jobs have been advertised, and 3,22,865 job seekers have applied on the portal.

Also, the Government confirmed this data in a statement issued to the media on Thursday.

The CM on Thursday held a meeting with 28 industry associations and urged them to join hands in reviving the national Capital's economy.

During the meeting held via video-conferencing, the CM listened to the suggestions made by the industry representatives and assured them of

the Delhi Government's full support to help their operations return to normal.

"The CM assured industry representatives that he will personally go through each of their suggestions to revive Delhi's economy and if need be, get Centre's support too, to ensure problems being faced by Delhi's industries get resolved," the Government said in a statement.

Kejriwal also said many firms, businesses, and small and big industries were facing issues in finding labour and manpower to work for them.

On the other hand, the existing job-seekers, who lost their jobs during the lockdown in Delhi, have not been able to find the right platform for better opportunities, the statement said.

BCI to postpone Bar exam amid corona

New Delhi: The Bar Council of India has resolved to postpone All India Bar Examination (AIBE) scheduled for August 16 due to the rising numbers of coronavirus patients across the country and frequent lockdowns to contain its spread.

The BCI, which is the regulator of legal education in the country, has also resolved to extend the date for receipt of applications from candidates till August 31 (for the present), the resolution said.

In a virtual meeting between BCI and all the state bar councils' representatives and High Court Bar Associations, it was decided that the apex bar body will represent the lawyers before the Supreme Court in a writ petition against the Union of India seeking financial assistance and a soft loan of Rs 3 lakh each to needy lawyers.

AIBE is a national level exam meant to test a potential advocate who aspires to practice law.

The decision was taken in

a resolution adopted on July 29. "Keeping in view the present pandemic (COVID-19) situation and frequent lockdown, increasing number of corona patients daily, the council has resolved to postpone the All India Bar Examination to be held on August 16 and it has further resolved to extend the date of receipt of applications from candidates till August 31 (for the present)," the resolution said.

In a virtual meeting between BCI and all the state bar councils' representatives and High Court Bar Associations, it was decided that the apex bar body will represent the lawyers before the Supreme Court in a writ petition against the Union of India seeking financial assistance and a soft loan of Rs 3 lakh each to needy lawyers.

The BCI has said that a huge majority of lawyers are forced to live in a miserable condition due to continuing

suspension of physical court functioning, leading to loss of earning and draining out their financial resources.

A bench headed by the Chief Justice S A Bobde on July 22 issued notice to the Centre on the petition, the council said.

"It was unanimously resolved separately in both joint meetings of the Bar Council of India with all State Bar Councils and with High Court Bar Associations respectively, that since the aim and object of the BCI and the State Bar Councils and the High Court Bar Associations are/is one and the same, i.e. to procure financial assistance and help the needy advocates, all State Bar Councils and the participating High Court Bar Associations would authorise BCI to represent themselves before the apex court," BCI's chairperson Manan Kumar Mishra said. **PTI**

SC seeks response on MP's plea against vermin killings

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday issued notices to States like Bihar and Himachal Pradesh on a plea against permitting vermin killings there to stop damage to standing crops, saying ways have to be found to control the "human-animal" conflict.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde, in a hearing conducted through video conferencing, took note of the submission of senior advocate Siddharth Luthra that a large number of wild animals like 'neelgai' (blue bulls) have been

permitted to be killed to save the crops.

"We need a solution. No solution lies only in saying that don't kill them. Look at it in terms of the solution. We are tagging this matter along with elephant matter of Kerala where it was killed by pineapple stuffed with crackers," said the bench which also comprised Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian.

The bench was hearing a plea of a BJD MP Anubhav Mohanty seeking measures to prevent killing of wild animals in

the country.

Not killing animals and allowing destruction of crops is not a solution, the court observed, adding that the ways have to be found to control "animal-human conflict" without either killing the vermin or allowing damage of the crops.

Luthra said the expansion of human population into the territories of wild animals was one of the reasons of the problem. There are rubber bullets which can be used instead of culling or killing of such animals, the bench said and asked the counsel to suggest measures to deal

with the issue.

Mohanty, a Lok Sabha MP from Kendrapara constituency, has sought direction to prevent the practice of encouraging and rewarding wild animal killings.

The plea said States like Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala have incentivised killing of wild animals like 'Neelgai'. It sought "proactive, constructive and a scientific" way forward to mitigate human, wildlife conflict instead of encouraging citizens of the country to kill such wild animals. **PTI**

Covid death of CIL staff to be treated as accidental death: Coal Min

PNS ■ RANCHI

Union Minister of Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi on Thursday announced that death of Coal India Limited employees because of Corona pandemic will be treated as accidental death and the kin of employee will get the same financial benefits as they get in the case of accidental death during duty. Around four lakh odd on roll and contractor's workers of Coal India will get benefited from this decision.

During his visit to State Capital on Thursday the Union Minister, accompanied by his colleague Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda held meetings with Chief Minister Hemant Soren and also subsidiaries of CIL to review the works in the State and a number of issues including coal mining auction.

Talking to the media through a virtual press conference after the meeting, Joshi said that the Union Ministry of Coal decided to start commercial mining to stop import of coal and the decision has been taken in the National and public interest. He said that a long discussion was held with the Chief Minister mainly on various coal mining issues and it positively concluded.

"We invited him to talk on the issue because it is our thinking that problems can be sorted out through dialogues. The Chief Minister also assured us that he will also cooperate to find a way for sorting out the issue," Joshi said.

Cloudburst in U'khand, Army rushed to carry out rescue op

New Delhi: Indian Army troops have been rushed to Uttarakhand's border Pithoragarh district for rescue operations after heavy rains caused havoc in the area.

An army column was deployed to Munsiyari and Dharachula areas to assist the local administration after the region witnessed flash floods and cloudbursts on Tuesday and Wednesday, leaving several villages cut off.

The army said that the rescue operation which is spear-headed by troops is still in progress.

Damage to public property was also reported from several villages of the district. Munsiyari and Dharachula had received 24 mm and 179 mm rainfall, respectively. The rain spell blocked many internal roads in Lumti, Jarajibi, Mori, Galati, Bangapani, Baram, Chhori Bagar, Banabagar, and Galati villages.

A dozen villages got disconnected from district headquarters after an important bridge connecting Munsiyari with Jauljibi was washed away. The road was also used by villages along the China border.

Seeing the havoc, the Indian Army was called out to assist in rescue operations. **IANS**

UGC justifies in SC holding final year exams in Sept 'to protect students' future

New Delhi: The UGC Thursday justified in the Supreme Court its decision directing all universities and institutions to hold final year/semester examinations in September saying it was done to protect the academic future of students across the country.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) filed a 50-page affidavit on a batch of petitions, including the one filed by Shiv Sena's youth wing 'Yuva Sena', which have challenged its guidelines issued on July 6 for holding the exams in September amidst the persisting coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

It added that this report of the expert committee was deliberated and approved by the UGC in its emergent meeting held on July 6, since the conduct of the final year/terminal examination is a time-sensitive issue.

"Consequently, the UGC immediately issued the Revised Guidelines on Examination and Academic Calendar for the Universities in view of COVID-19 Pandemic" on July 6, it said, adding that all universities/institutions in the country are obligated to conduct terminal semester/final year examination by the end of September, 2020.

The UGC said it has issued such guidelines to "protect the academic future of students across the country which will be irreparably damaged if their final year/terminal semester examinations are not held, while also keeping in mind their health and safety".

Assailing the decisions of some states like Maharashtra and Delhi of cancelling the final year examinations, the commission said that such decisions directly affect the standards of higher education and will be an encroachment on the legislative field of coordinating and determining the standards of higher education that is exclusively reserved for Parliament under Schedule VII of the Constitution. **PTI**

"Accordingly, the expert committee (which also included vice-chancellors of technical universities and a representative of industry) did so, and submitted a report recommending that terminal semester/final year examinations should be conducted by universities/institutions by the end of September, 2020 in offline (pen & paper)/ online/ blended (online & offline) mode," the UGC said.

It said that in June this year, considering the evolving situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, it requested the expert committee to revisit the April 29 guidelines, by which it had asked the Universities and Institutions to hold final year examinations in July 2020.

"Accordingly, the expert committee (which also included vice-chancellors of technical universities and a representative of industry) did so, and submitted a report recommending that terminal semester/final year examinations should be conducted by universities/institutions by the end of September, 2020 in offline (pen & paper)/ online/ blended (online & offline) mode," the UGC said.

Herd immunity not an option: Govt

From Page 1

He said the Ministry, too, believes that the herd immunity is far in the future and hence, it is important to adopt Covid appropriate behaviour.

"Are we approaching herd immunity? The Health Ministry believes it is still far away and in the future. For now, we have to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour like wearing masks, avoiding gatherings, following hand hygiene and maintaining 'do gaz ki

doori (maintaining distance of two yards)," the official added.

The Government's stand on herd immunity seems to be in contrast with a clutch of experts. For instance, noted epidemiologist Jayaprakash Muliyil had said results of the Delhi's Sero survey-which showed one-fourth of Delhi developed immunity without a vaccine -- indicate that we are fast approaching herd immunity. He had said Covid pandemic is going to end on its own when we reach herd immunity, according to reports.

On the progress of the vaccine to combat the virus, Bhushan said phase 1 and 2

human clinical trials of two indigenously developed Covid-19 vaccine candidates have started.

Quoting WHO, Bhushan said there are 24 vaccine candidates which are in clinical evaluation in the world and there are 141 vaccine candidates in pre-evaluation stage.

"Three are in phase three clinical trials - in the US, the UK, China. In India, phase 1 and phase 2 clinical trial of two indigenously-developed vaccines have commenced. One trial is being conducted on 1,150 subjects at eight sites. The other is being tested on 1,000 subjects at 5 sites."

Delhi rolls back...

From Page 1

In comparison to pre-VAT reduction price of ₹81.94 per litre in Delhi, diesel was priced at ₹73.83 per litre in Noida, ₹73.68 in Ghaziabad and ₹73.98 in Gurugram.

While Kejriwal announced cut of VAT on diesel, no reduction on petrol was announced, petrol in Delhi costs Rs 80.43 per litre while in adjoining Noida it comes for Rs 81.08 and in Ghaziabad for Rs 80.95 and is priced at Rs 78.64 per litre in Gurugram.

The May 5 hike in VAT rates would have led to Rs 900 crore additional revenue for the State Government in a year. "Delhi Cabinet has decided to reduce VAT on diesel from 30 per cent to 16.75 per cent. This will reduce the price of diesel in Delhi from Rs 82 to Rs 73.64 i.e. By Rs 8.36 per litre," Kejriwal said.

He said reviving the economy is a serious challenge but it will be achieved together with the two crore people of Delhi like they have helped in bringing the virus under control.

"The traders, industrialists and people had demanded that VAT on diesel be lowered as it was causing distress to them. I think this decision will help in giving a push to Delhi's economy. I appeal to the traders, shopkeepers and industrialists to open their establishments but maintain precaution. Together we will bring Delhi's economy back on tracks," he said.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

Ramesh Raj Bains S/o. Late Sh. Prithvi Raj Bains R/o 61, Raj Vihar CGHS Ltd., Plot No. 13, Sector - 18, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078, have Changed my name from Ramesh Raj to Ramesh Raj Bains, for all future purposes.

PD(8704)C

ED seeks copy of FIR against Rhea for...

From Page 1

"Go to Bombay High Court if you have anything concrete to show," the SC bench said when the counsel for PIL petitioner Alka Priya sought the CBI probe into Rajput's death.

Rajput, aged 34, was found hanging from the ceiling of his apartment in suburban Bandra in Mumbai on June 14 and since then the Mumbai police has been probing the case lodged under Section 174 of CrPc relating to accidental death.

Meanwhile, Chakraborty has moved the apex court seeking transfer of the Patna police FIR to Mumbai and a stay on the investigation by the Bihar police. Rajput's father, on his part, has filed a caveat before the SC pleading to be heard in the matter before passing any order on Chakraborty's plea.

In its FIR, the Bihar police has pressed charges under various Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections including 341 (wrongful restraint), 342 (wrongful confinement), 380 (theft in dwelling house), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating) and 306 (abetment of suicide).

In his complaint to the Bihar police, Singh accused Chakraborty of having befriended his son in May, 2019 with the intention of furthering her own career in the TV and film world. He also alleged that Rs 16 crore was transferred from his son's bank

account to Chakraborty's accounts.

The ED is aiming to probe allegations of mishandling of Rajput's money and his bank accounts by the accused persons for money laundering. The agency's money laundering probe will entail looking into the possibility of Rajput's income being laundered for creating tainted assets by using "proceeds of crime", officials said.

The ED can attach assets of the accused if acquired through proceeds of crime and also has the authority to make arrests under the PMLA.

Rajput had starred in hit films like 'Chichhore', 'Kai Po Che' and 'Kedarnath',

Jaya Jaitley gets 4-year...

From Page 1

The court added that the crime committed by the convicts was of "highest degree".

The court, in an in camera proceeding, imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh each on all three convicts and directed them to surrender before it till 5 PM on Thursday itself.

The three accused were held guilty of corruption and criminal conspiracy in the purported purchase of hand-held thermal imagers. The case stemmed from "Operation Westend" sting aired by news portal Tehelka in January 2001.

The trial court said the convicts were no laymen but persons of status and means, and had not committed the crime due to any ignorance or lack of knowledge or under any duress.

"On the contrary, the crime was committed by them in pursuance to a well hatched conspiracy and upon due deliberations with each other," the court said, terming the crime as "a very serious" and "having grave ramifications so far as the defence of our country is concerned".

The convicts took money from the representative of a fictitious firm without bothering to ascertain whether the firm was actually in operation and whether the product of the said firm sought to be inducted in the Indian Army was worth it, the court observed.

It noted that they chose to remain blindfolded on all the vital aspects of the concerned product of the fictitious firm only with a view to get some monetary enrichment.

"By their act, they compromised the entire defence system of the country. It is a crime with very wide and huge repercussion for the entire nation and thus cannot be dealt with leniently.

"Her performance has been nothing short of astounding. Before seeing the movie, I was a little bit nervous about a few things as you have your whole life portrayed in front of you. But they have done it with so much grace. I see that spirit and attitude in Vidya," she added. Banerji also praised actor Sanya Malhotra, who has played her role in the film.

"Seeing yourself on screen is strange, but Sanya is brilliant. She has played me probably much nicer than the real me. Her acting is fantastic."

Craig Glenday, editor in chief, Guinness World Records said Shakuntala Devi's astounding achievement continues to

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender is invited on Behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work:-

1. Name of the work with its location : Electrification of officers rest house at Narkatiaganj including Submersible Pump, street light & circulating area lighting power etc. in connection with doubling between Sugauli to Valmikinagar section. e-Tender No. E.LC/NM/HX/ETEN/74/20-21. Approx. Cost of the work : ₹92,88,357/-. Earnest money and tender Document cost to be deposited : ₹1,85,800/- and ₹5,000/ respectively.

2. Name of the work with its location : Removal of over head infringements of 11KV/440V, provision of transformer, electrification of EOT crane shed, circulating area lighting and street lighting at sick line Samastipur. e-Tender No. E.LC/NM/HX/ETEN/75/20-21. Approx. Cost of the work : ₹1,92,71,505/-. Earnest money and tender Document cost to be deposited : ₹2,46,400/- and ₹5,000/- respectively.

3. Date and time for closing of tender : 18.08.2020 up to 12:00 Hrs. 4. Website particular and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : Tender can be down loaded from IREPS website : www.ireps.gov.in and detailed can be seen from the notice board at CEE/CON/ Mahendraghat office, CAO/CON/ECR office Complex, Patna-04.

Dy. CEE/Con/North/ECR/Samastipur PR/0485/CON/ELC/T/20-21/32

Guinness bestows 'fastest human computation' on Shakuntala Devi

From Page 1

I remember going to the Trocadero Centre (an entertainment complex on London's Coventry Street). They have a room there which had mummy's picture. It was fantastic," she told PTI in an interview.

The honour comes a day before "Shakuntala Devi", a biopic on Banerji's mother, starts streaming on Amazon Prime Video.

Directed by Anu Menon, the film stars Vidya Balan in the title role.

Balan said she is "thrilled" that Banerji will now have the certificate to cherish forever.

"While shooting for

"Shakuntala Devi" in London, we would meet Anupama Banerji often. In my conversations with her, I realised that the late Shakuntala Devi didn't have an official certification from Guinness World Records - it wasn't the norm then.

"Vikram Malhotra (producer) and I were, therefore, very keen to make this happen and along with the Amazon team, we reached out to the Guinness World Records team who provided us with every support," the actor said in a statement.

Banerji said Balan has "far exceeded our expectations" in playing the role of her mother on screen.

hold its place in their archives after so many years.

"No one has been able to even equal, let alone break, this record which is a testament to both the exceptional power of Ms Devi's mind and the significance of this particular mental challenge. A global celebration of the life and career of the 'Human Computer' is long overdue, and Guinness World Records is honoured to play its part in championing this unique individual," added Glenday.

Also starring Jisshu Sengupta and Amit Sadh, "Shakuntala Devi" is slated to be released worldwide on Friday. **PTI**

comes in the backdrop of a bitter spat between the Speaker and the Rajasthan High Court over the disqualification notices to the rebel MLAs, including Pilot. Pilot also greeted Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray on his birthday. This is significant since Thackeray is a bitter critic of the BJP and Shiv Sena has been blaming the BJP for trying to topple the Rajasthan Government. The pilot camp has also told TV channels that its MLAs would attend the House.

Meanwhile, Gehlot said Prime Minister Narendra Modi should take a look at what is happening in the State. "I called him (Modi) myself and informed him of the situation. I am happy that the Governor accepted my request (to hold an Assembly session). The delay is only for horse-trading... by the BJP and a leader of our party at the BJP's behest."

Truce! Pilot camp...

From Page 1

If they have won the election on the symbol of the party, then they should support the party and the Government, he said.

On the other hand, certain tweets by Pilots are being interpreted as a sign of a possible thaw in the bitter war between the two camps.

Pilot on Wednesday took to social media platform Twitter to congratulate Govind Singh Dotasra for taking over as the new PCC chief.

"Congratulations to Govind Dotasra ji on assuming charge of the president of Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee. I hope that you will, without any pressure or partiality, respect those workers who have been clinical in the formation of this Government," Pilot said.

Pilot also wished Rajasthan Assembly Speaker CP Joshi on the latter's birthday. This

Letter No. 931/निविदा/87 Date : 23.07.2020 E-Tenders are invited on U.P. Jal Nigam Lucknow from contractors for S.I.T.C of Submersible pumping plant and its accessories for different Water Supply Scheme District Amroha. The tender document shall be available on e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from dated 10.08.2020 at 10:00 am onwards interested contractor can download the above tender document and upload their tender duly filled from dated 11.08.2020 to 21.08.2020 upto 05:00 pm on above e-procurement website. First cover (Technical) shall be opened on dated 22.08.2020 at 11:30 am in the office of Executive Engineer Temp. Construction Division (E/M) U.P. Jal Nigam Moradabad in presence of intending tenderers if any. Tender cost Rs. 2000.00 + 18% GST (Non-refundable) in form of demand draft in favour of Executive Engineer Temp. Constructin Division (E/M) U.P. Jal Nigam Moradabad will be uploaded with tender. Other terms and condition can also be seen on U.P. Jal Nigam website www.up.nic.org and e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> in tender document.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public at large is hereby informed that late Arun Kumar Sinha S/o Late K.C. Sinha r/o 34 Ground Floor, Ulic A2, Sector 49, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122018 was having residential property in joint ownership along with his wife Mrs. Namita Sinha, in our project Vatika India Next, Independent floor No: 18 Ground Floor, Street F4, Vatika India Next, Sector 82, Gurgaon, Haryana 122004 measuring 1056.33 Sq. Ft. which his legal heirs (Wife) Namita Sinha, (Daughter) Aparna Banerjee & (Son) Indraneel Sinha requested the company to transfer to his Wife Namita Sinha. Any person having any objection on this please may contact the company officer details as under within 15 days after which No Claim would be accepted.

Vatika Limited
Vatika Triangle, 7th floor, Sushant Lok MG Road, Gurgaon, Haryana
Contact: 0124-417777

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information to General Public For not for Sale of the premises Property No. C-46 Ground Floor, Greater Kailash 1, New Delhi 110048

My client Sh. Jatin Chopra/Chupra S/o Late. Shri Vijay Kumar is the owner of the property Property no. C-46 Ground Floor, Greater Kailash 1, New Delhi 110048 by virtue of sale deed having Registration no. 5763 Book no. 1 Vol. no. 3445 on page 131 to 139 dated 15/07/2003. This is to inform to General Public that some unknown and mischievous persons are trying to fraud on the property and trying to Sale the above said property to someone as came to Notice by some of the property dealer of the area to my client. This is to inform that any such transaction (if happen) will solely be at the risk of the parties and my client have no role in it infact my client by the notice inform the general Public that Legal action will be taken against the persons doing any such frequently transaction qua the above said property.

Sajal Dharmija (Advocate), S-265, L.G.F., Greate Kailash1, New Delhi-110018

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TEMP. CONSTRUCTION DIVISION (E/M) U.P. JAL NIGAM, MORADABAD E-TENDER NOTICE

Letter No. 931/निविदा/87 Date : 23.07.2020 E-Tenders are invited on U.P. Jal Nigam Lucknow from contractors for S.I.T.C of Submersible pumping plant and its accessories for different Water Supply Scheme District Amroha. The tender document shall be available on e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from dated 10.08.2020 at 10:00 am onwards interested contractor can download the above tender document and upload their tender duly filled from dated 11.08.2020 to 21.08.2020 upto 05:00 pm on above e-procurement website. First cover (Technical) shall be opened on dated 22.08.2020 at 11:30 am in the office of Executive Engineer Temp. Construction Division (E/M) U.P. Jal Nigam Moradabad will be uploaded with tender. Other terms and condition can also be seen on U.P. Jal Nigam website www.up.nic.org and e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> in tender document.

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

Unlock 3.0: Hotels, street hawkers allowed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday took several important decisions to open up Delhi's economy under the Unlock 3 guidelines issued by the Central Government.

These decisions are in continuation of several important decisions taken by Kejriwal in the past few days to ensure Delhi's economy which was impacted severely by the lockdown, gets back on track.

Earlier in the week, Kejriwal launched 'Rozgar Bazaar' jobs portal to ensure synchronisation between businesses looking to hire and job-seekers looking for job, permitted street hawkers to start operating on a trial basis for a week and de-linked hotels from Covid hospitals so that they could start functioning normally.

As part of the decisions taken on Thursday under Unlock 3 guidelines, the Delhi Government has decided to end the night curfew that was earlier in operation from 10 pm to 5 am.

Since hotels of Delhi are no longer linked to hospitals, Delhi Government has also



decided to allow normal functioning of hotels and hospital-ity services, as already permitted under Centre's unlock guidelines.

As part of the order passed on Monday, the Delhi Government has allowed street hawkers to function in Delhi on a trial basis for a week from 10am to 8pm. It was decided that the street hawkers will be permitted to function in the future without any limitations on operating hours.

Delhi Government has also allowed weekly bazaars to function on a trial basis for a week

Govt forms panels to examine Covid deaths in 11 hospitals

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Thursday issued an order for the constitution of four committees to inspect 11 Covid-19 hospitals (Government and private) and give hospital-wise recommendations on following standard operating procedures and protocols.

The committees after being set up, will also examine the reasons behind the COVID-19 deaths in the hospitals treating Corona patients in the national capital.

The order issued by the Health Department of the Delhi government noted, "It has been observed that the percentage of COVID deaths vis-a-vis admissions and the percentage of COVID deaths in wards in 11 hospitals, govern-

ment and private, is on the higher side during the period 1 July till 23 July, 2020."

Kejriwal tweeted, "The deaths due to Corona in Delhi have come down. But it has to be reduced further. Today, we formed four committees of doctors which will inspect these hospitals and give suggestions: 1) Where there are still more deaths, 2) Where there are more deaths in wards, which means the patient was not taken to ICU on time."

As per the order hospitals such as Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, GTB Hospital, Max Hospital (Saket), St Stephens Hospital, Dr RML Hospital, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lok Nayak Hospital will be examined by the newly constituted committees.

VAT CUT ON DIESEL

Sanjeevani booti for reviving economy: Chadha hails CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Am Aadmi Party (AAP) National spokesperson Raghav Chadha on Thursday welcomed the Delhi Government's move to slash Value Added Tax (VAT) on diesel in Delhi by Rs 8.36 per litre and described the move as "Sanjeevani booti"

Chadha said "This step will not only bring a huge relief to the people of Delhi but will also be a big step in boosting economic revival in the national capital."

Diesel is the lifeblood of Indian economy, the driver of economic growth. Reduction in diesel prices by Delhi CM @ArvindKejriwal will act as "sanjeevani booti" in reviving an unconscious economy," Chadha tweeted.

Chadha slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government, accusing it of adopting "an extortionist approach" and increasing the excise duty on diesel and petrol.

"On the other hand, the BJP led Central Government adopted an extortionist approach and increased Excise Duty on Diesel and Petrol 22 times over 22 continuous days from June 7th 2020 to June 29th 2020. They should take a leaf out of CM Kejriwal's book and rollback," he tweeted.

Raghav said that as per the decision taken in the meeting held by the Delhi cabinet on Thursday, the VAT on diesel will be reduced from 30 to 16.75 per cent bringing down diesel price from Rs 82 to Rs 73.64 per litre.

The party also demanded the BJP to decrease the price of



be rolled back immediately," Chadha said.

Elaborating it further, he said that from June 7 to 29th June the BJP government has increased the price of diesel 22 times every day for 22 days and for the first time in the history of India the price of diesel became higher than that of the petrol.

"The BJP increased the price of diesel for Rs.11 and for petrol it was Rs.9 from June. If we look at the state governments ruled by the BJP you will see that they have imposed extreme VAT on the people of those states. We demand that the BJP led central government should roll back the hiked price of the diesel," he said.

Raghav further said that the BJP led Central Government has not given us the benefit of decreased oil price of the global market. "Today we are buying the crude oil at the prices of November 2004. Under the BJP regime, the Central government has increased the excise rate nearly three dozen times in the last 6 years and this way they have earned an amount of Rs.20 lakh Crore," he said.

Kejriwal gives ₹1 crore to kin of corona warrior

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday met with the family of Corona warrior late Dr Javed Ali and offered them a financial assistance of Rs 1 crore.

Kejriwal also said that the Delhi Government will do whatever it can to support the family. Dr Javed Ali, a 'National Health Mission' (NHM) doctor had succumbed to COVID-19. He said that the people of Delhi salute the martyrdom and bravery of Dr Ali.

Dr Javed, 42, had con-

tracted the infection in the line of duty. He contracted coronavirus in June while performing his duties in a coronavirus facility.

"Today I met his family members and handed over financial assistance of Rs 1 crore. This money cannot compensate for the value of life but it will at least bring some relief to his family. It is a message that we care for our Corona warriors and every citizen of Delhi stands with them," he said.

Kejriwal said that the situation in Delhi is controlled now by relentless work of our

Corona warriors. "This compensation amount announced by the Delhi government is giving confidence to these warriors that the government is with them and will look after their family," he added.

The CM also tweeted, "In the Corona period, our doctors are treating patients day and night without caring for their lives. One such Corona Warrior Dr Javed Ali ji had recently succumbed to death due to COVID. Today I met his family and handed over Rs 1 crore to his family as financial assistance and we will help his family in future also."

Sisodia seeks feedback on semi-online learning

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Deputy Chief Minister reviewed semi-online education in schools and took feedback from teachers and parents. Sisodia while interacting with parents and teachers said that soon there will be a vaccine to cure Corona but there is no vaccine for the loss of education.

Sisodia said that Delhi's government schools have created history this time by getting a 98 per cent result. "Five years ago when results of Delhi Government's schools were 88 per cent and a very short span of time, the Government achieved the target of achieving 90 per cent and today, the results are 98 per cent," he said.

Giving credit for this success to parents and teachers, Sisodia said that the government has only provided the platform, all the hard work has been done by the teachers and parents.

Sisodia said, "Soon there will be a vaccine to cure Corona, but there is no vaccine for the loss of education. Therefore, we have to reduce our other expenses to ensure our children's education. If

there is a loss in education, it will not only be the loss of that child or family, but it will be a loss for the entire country."

Talking about online education, Sisodia said, "Online education is not an alternative to school. Going to school helps in the all-round development of a child so we want the school to re-open as soon as possible.

"We did this experiment so that children do not lose their precious time." He also spoke about the importance of activities in online education. He said Finland's education system is considered to be the best in the world. Even in Finland, a lot is taught through various activities," he said.

Stating the need for new experiments in the field of education, Sisodia said, "Even today we are following the education system which was introduced during the British era. Only the criticism has been done in the name of reforming that system. Now, the time has come to bring-in some substantial changes," he said. During the interaction, teachers and parents shared their experiences in detail.

Sisodia: NEP recommends highly-regulated and poorly-funded edu model

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday said that the new National Education Policy (NEP) recommends a "highly-regulated" and "poorly-funded" education model, while it is either confused or silent on how the reforms outlined in it will be achieved.

Sisodia referred the policy as a "progressive document" and said it recognises the flaws in the current education system but was unable to break free of the pressures of old traditions.

"The NEP is a progressive document but there is no road-map for its implementation. The nation was waiting for a new education policy for 34 years. It is here now. It is a forward-looking document, which

accepts the flaws of today's education system but has two issues with it -- it was unable to break free of the pressures of education's old traditions and does not say how the reforms that it speaks of will be achieved," he said.

The policy is either silent or confused on these issues," Sisodia said, adding that the policy recommends a highly-regulated and poorly-funded education model. There is an attempt to escape from the government's responsibility to provide quality education in its schools," he added.

The deputy chief minister further said that fundamental teaching in mother tongue or regional languages is a progressive step. We also welcome the focus on early childhood education,"



Teaching in the students' mother tongue or regional languages up to Class 5, lowering the stakes of board exams, a single regulator for higher education institutions except for law and medical colleges and common entrance tests for universities are part of the sweeping reforms in the NEP unveiled on Wednesday.

Sisodia also said, "If there are going to be common entrance exams in universities, why do we need board exams? What is the need for duplication? A policy, which is now going to be in place for the next few decades, is completely silent on sports."

BJP-ruled MCDs have not paid for cow shelters in last 3 years: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Am Aadmi Party (AAP) Alleged the BJP ruled municipal Corporations have not paid a single rupee for the cow shelters in the last three years resulting in suffering to nearly 25,000 cattle in Delhi due to scarcity of food.

Party's 'Public Account Committee' member Durgesh Pathak on Thursday said that the COVID pandemic has devastated the lives of the citizens of Delhi and similarly, this disastrous pandemic has brought a lot of hardships for the animals.

According to the rules, the Delhi government pays Rs 20 per day per cow and the same money should be given by the BJP-ruled MCDs. "This amounts to Rs 10-11 crores for the Delhi government per year and the same amount should be paid by the MCDs of Delhi. The AAP government has always paid this money on time," he said.

In 2019-20, the government paid around Rs 11 crore, in 2018-19, nearly Rs 10.5 crore was paid and the same amount was paid on 2017-18 but in the last three years, the BJP ruled MCDs have not paid single rupee for the cow shelters in the last 3 years and Rs.30 crores is pending from them, he said.

SDMC's proposal to levy professional fee unjustified, says trader's body

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After Aam Aadmi Party and Congress protested against the move of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Monday to levy a professional tax on self-employed persons and doubled the tax on rented commercial property, traders' also criticised the proposal saying that the decision is "barbaric."

"It is an unwelcome move particularly at a time when Delhi traders are in an unimaginable financial crisis due to Coronavirus lockdown," said the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) in a statement.

The CAIT has demanded immediate withdrawal of such proposal and said that any act of bringing such anti-trader proposals will be bitterly opposed by traders tooth and nail. "Not only is the South

MCD but Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also responsible for the worst condition of Delhi traders," it said.

CAIT general secretary Praveen Khandelwal said that due to Corona, Delhi's business is already facing many problems, despite the shops being open, the footfall in the shops is very low as people are gripped with much fear of Corona and do not want to visit markets.

SDMC's proposal to levy professional fee unjustified, says trader's body

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Releasing a statement on LG's decision to reject cabinet's decision, the government said, "Cabinet of the Delhi Government had also observed the fundamental principle of any criminal justice system is that the investigation should be completely independent and the investigation should not interfere with the rest of the judicial process." "Keeping this principle in mind, the Delhi Cabinet has observed that under such circumstances, it is not possible to expect a free and fair trial by lawyers appointed by Delhi Police. The Cabinet of the Delhi Government has noted that the investigating agency should not be allowed to decide the lawyers."

Police rescue man who fell from 4th floor to get trapped in grill

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police saved the life of a 40-year-old man who accidentally fell from the fourth floor of his house and got stuck after an iron grill pierced through his ankle in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area.

The victim has been identified as Kishan Kumar, a resident of Malviya Nagar area. According to a senior police official, on July 29, a police control room (PCR) regarding the incident was received following which a police team was dispatched for the spot. "Kishan was found in an upside down position with his right ankle stuck in the iron grill piercing his ankle. Police team brought a welder at once and with the help of an iron cutter the grill was cut and the injured was shifted to Batra Hospital where he is undergoing treatment and is now feeling well," said the senior police official.

"Injured Kishan used to work in a parlour in Gurugram before lockdown. The railing of his stairs had broken due to rain. He was going upstairs to check it when on the fourth floor the side wall of stairs broke and he fell down on the iron grills of another building," he said.

L-G overturns Cabinet's decision on lawyers panel suggested by police

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal on Thursday rejected Delhi Cabinet's decision on the selection of lawyer panel to represent north-east riot case and anti-CAA cases before the Delhi High court and issued an order to implement the lawyer panel of the Delhi Police to represent the case.

Importantly, under Article 239AA(4) of the constitution, the Delhi Government is bound to follow the orders issued by the L-G.

Pertinently, on Tuesday, the Government's Cabinet rejected the panel suggested by the Delhi Police to represent the riot cases citing serious concern however L-G Bajjal overturned Cabinet's decision

by using his special powers.

The Delhi Government held its Cabinet meeting on Tuesday to decide on the matter of appointment of a panel of lawyers in the Supreme Court and High Court for cases related to riots in north-east Delhi and anti-CAA protests.

In this meeting, the Delhi Cabinet rejected the panel of lawyers proposed by the Delhi Police.

The Delhi Cabinet has observed that the courts have already raised serious questions on the fairness of investigations done by the Delhi Police in the riot cases.

Cabinet has also observed that in such a situation a free and fair trial of these cases would not be possible by a

RIOT CASES



panel of lawyers selected by the Delhi Police itself.

Keeping in mind the principles of the criminal justice system and the need to ensure independence between investigation and prosecution, the Delhi Cabinet has directed the Home Department to form an impartial panel of the best

possible lawyers in the country for the cases related to the Delhi riots.

"It was observed during the cabinet meeting that at the same time there should not be any punishment or harassment of innocent people but the criminals should be punished severely," quoted CMO' state-

VAT cut due to pressure exerted by Cong's stir, claims Kumar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said that the decision to reduce "Value Added Tax" (VAT) taken by the Delhi government due to the constant pressure exerted by the Congress through frequent dharnas and demonstrations.

The Congress Delhi unit president said that the party will keep fighting till the rest content only if VAT on petrol is reduced and fixed charges on electricity are waived off.

"The Kejriwal government took advantage of the people's plight following the Coronavirus pandemic crisis and lockdown to quietly increase VAT on petrol and diesel but it could not fool the vigilant people," he said.

Kumar also demanded that the BJP at the centre reduce excise duty on petrol and diesel as the constant hike in taxes by the Centre and Delhi governments, despite the crude oil selling at the cheapest rate in the international market, had put a heavy bur-



den on the people. He said that as a cascading effect of the oil prices going up, the prices of all the essential commodities also went up, making people's lives unbearable.

"The public is under tremendous pressure and stressed out due to the Corona pandemic crisis and it would be a great relief for them if the prices of petrol and diesel are brought down to an affordable level," he said.

REGISTRY SCAM IN GURUGRAM

Vigilance enquiry will be conducted against guilty officials: Deputy CM

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on Thursday made it clear that strict legal action and vigilance inquiry will be initiated against officials guilty of registering properties during the lockdown period without obtaining the mandatory No-Objection Certificates (NOCs) in Gurugram district.

The deputy CM was present in the city as the chief guest at a function organized under one-nation-one ration card scheme on Thursday.

Chautala said cases of illegal registration of land and plots without the mandatory NOC from the department of town and country planning (DTCP) is a clear violation of section 7-A of the Haryana Development and Regulation Areas Act, 1975 as controlled area.

As per norms, an agriculture land falling under the control area cannot be bifurcated below the size of 1,200 square yard.

"The matter is under investigation and strict legal action will be taken against the officers or employees found involved in it. The action will not be limited to suspension only. Along with suspending the guilty officials, a criminal case will also be registered against them and a vigilance inquiry will also be conducted," Chautala said.

He further said such strict actions will help to curb these illegal activities and nobody will take advantage of the loopholes in the system.

"Registration of properties due to irregularities will also be revisited. Stern action will be taken against the involving officials of the revenue department, city and village planning department or urban local bodies department or any other in this matter," he said.

Soon after the registry scam unearthed in the state the opposition parties launched an attack on the BJP led Manohar Lal Khattar government on the issue, calling it a 'land registry scam'.

"As the loopholes in the system came to fore and it's for that reason we have already stopped registration of properties. Now, the people of the state will have a stronger, safer and transparent registration system," the deputy CM further said.

In the Gurugram district, around 1,200 properties have been registered without the mandatory 'no-objection certificate' from the DTCP during the lockdown period. This was revealed in a reply to an RTI application filed at district revenue office (DRO) in Gurugram on June 10, 2020.

The registration of these illegal properties was done at seven tehsil offices including Kadipur, Wazirabad, Gurugram, Harsuru, Badshahpur and Sohna.

'Localised outbreak' of Covid, no community transmission: Govt



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite a spike of almost 50,000 new Covid-19 cases daily in the past few days and two States — Kerala and Telangana — declaring community transmission of the virus in their region, the Union Health Ministry on Thursday insisted that there is only localised transmission.

To justify its point, it said that in 80 per cent of the new cases, source of infection and close contacts can be traced within 72 hours while out of 740 districts, just 50 are reporting 80 per cent of the total cases.

"India has a cluster of cases and pockets of localised

transmission. With a 138-crore population, only 50 out of 740 districts contribute to 80 per cent cases.

In 80 per cent of new cases, source of infection and close contacts can be traced within 72 hours. How's it community transmission," asked Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan.

He was talking to reporters at a press briefing here on the status of the Covid-19 in the country.

The official said that due to enhanced testing infrastructure, on an average 4,68,263 Covid-19 tests have been conducted daily from July 26 to 30. The recovery rate among Covid-19 patients

too has increased from 78.5 per cent in April to 64.44 per cent on Thursday, the officer said.

"Recoveries are now 1.9 times the number of active coronavirus cases," Bhushan further said that 21 States and Union Territories have case positivity rate less than 10 per cent, while in four it is less than five per cent.

The Covid-19 positivity rate in Rajasthan is 3.5 per cent, Punjab 3.9 per cent, Madhya Pradesh 4 per cent, and Jammu and Kashmir 4.7 per cent, he said.

The OSD also stressed that effective clinical management has led to a decline in COVID-19 case fatality

131 claims under Covid-19 insurance scheme: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has so far received 131 claims under the ₹50 lakh Covid-19 insurance scheme for health-care providers and payments have already been made in 20 cases.

"Under the scheme, we have received 131 claims. The claims are a bit slow in coming as the families are initially in a state of shock and therefore, it takes time to

sign and fill up the necessary paperwork.

"Out of these 131 claims, in 20 cases, payments have already been made.

In Sixty-four cases, payment has been processed and would be made in the coming few days while 47 cases are with different State Governments," he said.

The maximum number of cases are in Maharashtra, Delhi and Telangana, Bhushan said.

rate from 3.33 per cent on June 18 to 2.21 per cent on July 30.

Bhushan further said that 16 states of the country have a recovery rate that is more than the national average.

Of these, Delhi has recovery rate of 88 per cent, Ladakh 80 per cent, Haryana 78 per cent, Assam 76 per cent, Telangana 74 per cent, Tamil Nadu & Gujarat 73 per cent,

Rajasthan 70 per cent, MP 69 per cent and Goa 68 per cent.

"More than 1 million people have recovered from Covid-19 in the country," said the official as he attributed the achievement to the healthcare workers. "This landmark recovery has been achieved because of the selfless work and dedication of our doctors, nurses and frontline workers," he said.

India to double testing to 10L/day in 2 months

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India may start conducting 10 lakh Covid-19 tests daily within next two months, up from five lakh being conducted presently everyday, Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Thursday.

"In April, we used to conduct 6,000 tests daily. Today, we are conducting over five lakh tests every day. Our plan is to take it to 10 lakh tests daily in 1-2 months and we are working towards it," Vardhan said during the launch of a compendium on 'Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Technologies for COVID-19 Mitigation' here.

He also said that India is gradually becoming self-reliant in various medical devices particularly those needed for tackling Coronavirus.

"Six months ago India was importing ventilators, but it has

now developed a capacity to manufacture three lakh ventilators.

"Most of the ventilators are being made within the country now. India is supplying hydroxychloroquine drug to nearly 150 countries," he said.

There was a time when exports related to COVID-19 were stopped to meet the requirements within the country. However, on Friday, in the Group of Ministers, there will be a presentation on what can be again opened up for the exports, he said.

"This is possible because of the efforts undertaken by the country to ramp up production of critical equipment."

Vardhan asserted that while global efforts are on to find a vaccine against the novel coronavirus, India is not behind.

"We have been able to do detailed sequencing of over 1,000 coronavirus genomes," Vardhan said, adding that

India was among the five nations who could isolate the virus.

Referring to human trials of vaccine candidates being conducted by Bharat Biotech and Zydus Cadila, he said India is among the very few countries to reach that stage.

Vardhan, who is also the Union Health Minister, also hailed the scientific community for fighting alongside the medical community in the battle against the virus. He said the country's recovery rate of over 64 per cent is the best in the world while the fatality rate is nearly 2.2 per cent.

The first COVID-19 case in India was detected on January 30 and it has been six months since then but the fight against the virus is still on. Despite the vastness of the country and its population, the war against the virus has been successfully taken up in every corner, Vardhan said.

Triple talaq ban anniv: BJP plans celebrations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP is planning big celebrations on Friday to mark the first anniversary of the passage of the Muslim Women's Right Protection Bill, which abolished triple talaq and made it a criminal offence, something that drew protests from a section of Muslim community, mostly men who thought part of its provisions being harsh to husbands.



THE REGRESSIVE TRIPLE TALAQ HAS BEEN ABOLISHED FOR LONG IN MOST OF THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES BUT PERSISTED IN INDIA ON ACCOUNT OF VOTE BANK POLITICS

favoured aggrieved Muslim woman's right to receive maintenance from her husband in the famous Shah Bano case.

Then, the then Rajiv Gandhi Government enacted a controversial law with its most controversial aspect being the right to maintenance for the period of 'iddat' after the divorce, and shifting the onus of maintaining her to her relatives or the Waqf Board.

BJP seeks to draw the support of Muslim women who had suffered under the oppressive provisions of the outdated Islamic law. A number of Muslim women had petitioned in the Supreme Court which declared instant talaq as unlawful. The legislation passed by the BJP Government had made it a criminal offence.

BJP units will be organising meetings at all levels including the 'mandal' and district through video conference.

These meetings by the BJP leaders would seek Muslim women to speak about their experiences pre and post the passage of the law. The Mahila morchas of the party will appeal to women to come forth and reject this practice openly, which is now a law that is binding.

Cases of instant talaq are still reported from across the country from economically deprived sections of Muslim women on account of lack of awareness, support from the community as also because of economic dependence.

Priyanka vacates 35 Lodhi Estate bungalow

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday vacated her bungalow at 35 Lodhi Estate and handed over the possession to Central Public Works Department (CPWD), two days before the deadline of her eviction notice specified in the July 1 eviction order. Priyanka currently enjoys Z plus security.

Officials said that the keys to the bungalow were accepted after a full inspection establishing that the house was handed over in good condition by JE of CPWD P Senthil Kumar in the presence of Vikas Rana, CE (NDZ-1), Yogesh Kumar Kardam, AE, Manoj Kumar Chauhan, AE, CPWD Services and B.S. Rana, JE (PAWD-1, CPWD). They issued her a 'Vacation Report' for the premises on behalf of the CPWD.

Priyanka also passed on to the CPWD and the Directorate of Estates a full inventory of privately installed fittings, fixtures etc.

As per a statement released by AICC, she has paid all electricity, water and previous dues and is awaiting the final assessment for the license fee of the month of July from the Directorate of Estates due to her on the 31st July to close all accounts with reference to the allotment and subsequent cancellation of the lease of the government bungalow.

Priyanka is likely to relocate to a penthouse in Gurugram's Aralia residential complex, where she has already

spent a night while scouting for houses. The penthouse apartment is located in Sector 43 on Golf Course Road and is owned by her husband — businessman Robert Vadra.

As per the AICC statement, she will be residing in a temporary accommodation until a more permanent accommodation in Delhi rented by her is ready for use.

The Government order had said that Priyanka is no longer protected by the Special Protection Group (SPG) and hence not eligible anymore. The directorate of estate department of the ministry of housing and urban affairs had issued a notice to her on July 1 to vacate her house within a month. Priyanka was allotted the 35, Lodhi Estate bungalow in New Delhi in 1997.

Earlier reports had claimed that she will shift her base to Lucknow once the Covid-19 threat subsides in wake of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections in 2020. Meanwhile, reports had stated that a house has already been finalised for Priyanka in Lucknow where she will relocate once the lockdowns end. The Lucknow house where Priyanka will shift belongs to a lady named Sheila Kaul, and is located on Gokhale Marg. The mansion is vacant at present and renovation work is also done.

Kaul, who passed away in 2015, was the sister-in-law of India's first prime minister and Priyanka's great grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru. She was also a Union minister and a Governor.



Security personnel load their equipment on a truck outside Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi's bungalow after she vacated it at Lutyens' zone in New Delhi on Thursday

Covid impact: Students confused about their career

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

During Corona period, though the results of the 12th standard may have been released, due to the fear of pandemic, all the students are in a state of confusion regarding the future of their education.

Keeping in mind the current scenario where Covid-19 pandemic has left students clueless about further education, JenNext Mentors is organizing a three-days 'Virtual Edu-Fest 2020' on Zoom session beginning August 1.

The aim is to help students provide required information

about admission in universities in the country as well as abroad from their home, said Ajay Aggarwal, director of JenNext Mentors.

Jyoti Aggarwal, from the JenNext Mentors added that varied services provided during this fest will be admission to Universities, career counselling, information on availing scholarships, financial planning and guidance for studying abroad, which includes interaction with alumni studied in foreign Universities and further job opportunities after studying abroad.

August 5 'deliberately' chosen as Ayodhya bhoomi puja date: CPM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) on Thursday alleged that the Government has "deliberately" chosen August 5 as the date of the bhoomi puja ceremony for the Ram temple at Ayodhya as the "demolition" of Jammu and Kashmir and the rebuilding of the temple are both "core agendas of Hindutva forces".

Last year on August 5, the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution was announced. This provision provided special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, that was turned into a Union territory.

MEMORANDUM

Name of the authority inviting bid: Empowered Officer, Tripura Rural Road Development Agency, PWD (PMGSY), Agartala, Tripura.

Last date & time for download & submission of Bid document which was circulated vide MEMO No. F. 7(11 A)/TR/PMGSY/ 2542-90 dated 9th July, 2020 is **extended up to 1500 Hrs on 10th August, 2020.**

Revised time & date of opening of Technical Bid(s) & Financial bid(s) are 1530 Hrs on 10th August, 2020 & 1530 Hrs. on 17,th August, 2020 respectively, if possible.

Other Terms & Conditions will remain unchanged as laid down in the Draft NIT No. 03/E.O/RRDA/2018-19, 08/E.O/RRDA/ 2018-19 & 20/E.O/RRDA/2018-19

Sd/-
(Er. A. Sengupta)
Chief Engineer, PWD (PMGSY) & Empowered Officer
Tripura Rural Roads Development Agency
Public Works Department (PMGSY)
7th Block, 2nd Floor, Secretariat
Building, Agartala, Tripura

ICA/C-1189/2020-2021

MoU ready for smog tower installation project in Delhi, Centre informs SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre informed the Supreme Court Thursday that an MoU has been prepared for the installation of smog tower at Anand Vihar in east Delhi and it will be signed by the stakeholders.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra that after Wednesday's hearing, the Centre contacted Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and others, including the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and the memorandum of understanding was prepared.

The top court had yesterday slammed the IIT Bombay for backing out of the project and said that it would take action against the premier institute and others for violating its order.

Smog tower is a structure designed as large-scale air purifier to reduce air pollution.

After Mehta informed the top court about the MoU, the bench questioned him as to why its January 13 order, directing the project to be completed within three months, was not complied with.

"When the order says that this has to be completed within three months, then why was it not complied with?" the bench asked Mehta, who was appearing for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The bench, which said the MoU be placed on record, also posed queries regarding funds for the project and the time to complete it.

Mehta told the court setting up of the smog tower may take around 10 months time.

When he said the technology will be procured from Minnesota in the USA, the bench questioned the delay in the project and said its orders have been violated.

The court asked Mehta to file an affidavit giving all the requisite details about the project, technology and observed that it would "not tolerate" any laxity.

The bench has posted the matter for hearing on August 4.

The apex court had yesterday expressed shock at IIT



Bombay's backing out of the smog tower project and said this was "not expected of such institutions".

It had said it was "not at all happy with the state of affairs" of the project for installing the smog tower and non-compliance with its order would be "taken seriously".

Mehta had yesterday informed the court that IIT Bombay has backed out of the project.

In its order on January 13 this year, the top court had said that smog tower be installed at Anand Vihar and the project be completed within three months.

The apex court had also directed use of anti-smog guns in Delhi and national capital region (NCR) for large construction sites, road construction stretches, mining activities, large parking sites on unpaved areas and during large public gatherings, demolition activities etc.

The top court had passed these directives while hearing

the matter relating to air pollution in the Delhi-NCR.

In an affidavit filed recently in the apex court, the ministry and the CPCB 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 has said.

Earlier, the ministry and CPCB had filed another affidavit in the court and claimed that the MoU was not finalised as IIT Bombay has not agreed to take responsibility of overall coordination of the project and verification of works to be carried out by Tata Projects Limited, which has been involved by IIT Bombay for construction, operation and maintenance of smog tower.

It had said that funds amounting to Rs 18.52 crore have been sanctioned for the project.

Bypoll to two RS seats in UP, Kerala on August 24: EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday announced that by-elections to two Rajya Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh and Kerala will be held on August 24. These seats fell vacant due to the demise of the members.

"The Commission has decided to hold by-elections to the Council of States from Uttar Pradesh and Kerala to fill up the vacancies," the EC said. The EC has also decided to conduct a bypoll for only one of two vacancies in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council under the MLAs quota on August 24.

The seats were left vacant due to the deaths of Samajwadi Party MP Beni Prasad Verma from Uttar Pradesh and LDF backed Independent MP, M P Veerendra Kumar from Kerala on 27 March and 28 May, respectively. Verma's term was upto 7 April, 2022 while Kumar's tenure was upto 2 April, 2022.

As per schedule, the EC has planned to complete the election process in both the states before 26 August.

The commission has also directed the chief secretaries concerned to depute a senior officer from the state to ensure that the extant instructions regarding COVID-19 contain-

ment measures are complied with while making arrangements for conducting the elections.

Declaring the bypolls in the two seats, the EC said the notification for the elections will be issued on 6 August. The last date for filing nomination for the elections is 13 August. The scrutiny of nomination will be held on 14 August and the deadline for withdrawal of nomination is 17 August. Voting will take place between 24 August and the counting of votes will be completed on 24 August.

PPE suits and ambulances were part of EC's guidelines for conducting the elections to the 24 vacant Rajya Sabha seats across eight states in June, which was the first major voting exercise since the pandemic prompted sweeping measures in March to ensure social distancing to check its spread. The polls were earlier scheduled for March.

Verma, a founding member of the Samajwadi Party and former Union minister who was considered close to party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, died 27 March at the age of 79. Verma was the telecom minister from 1996 to 1998 in then Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's cabinet and was the steel minister in the Congress-led UPA Government.

NORTHERN RAILWAY (Open E-Tender Notice)

The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Coaching, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites online e-tender through website <https://tires.gov.in>, for the parking contract for the period of 3 (Three) years, bid to be opened on 21.08.2020 at 15:00 hrs, at the following stations/locations (Ready Sites) :-

SN	Name of work with its location/ Railway Station	Advertise value/Reserve Price of one year in (Rs.)	Cost of Tender document & 18%GST (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)	Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen
1	Parking contract of Cycle-Scouter at New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS) Ajmeri Gate Side "A-1" Category Station, with measuring area of 926.68 sq. meters	Rs. 47,95,094/-	Rs. 5,900/-	Rs. 2,87,800/-	https://tires.gov.in/ tender no. Parking64-2020

* Applicable GST and TCS has to be paid by licensee extra, over and above the Advertise value/Reserve Price/License fee.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

TN extends lockdown till Aug 31

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu Government on Thursday extended the lockdown in force due to coronavirus pandemic to August 31 with some relaxation. The announcement to extend the lockdown which would have ended on July 31 came immediately after Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami met department heads, district collectors and the team of medical experts advising the Government on the management of pandemic. Details of the lockdown 7 version were announced by Chief Minister Palaniswami in a release on Thursday. The new lockdown envis-

ages extension of the closure of educational institutions to August 31. The suspension of public transport including Chennai Metro too would continue. Shops and commercial establishments would be allowed to function within the parameters specified by the Government including time of business hours and number of customers who could be served. The State will see complete shut down on all Sundays. Believers will be allowed to offer prayers at small temples and other places of worship while big temples would continue to be in shut down mode till further notice. The State has been experiencing hike in the number of

persons getting diagnosed with Covid-19. The last one week saw nearly 7,000 persons getting tested positive on each day of the week and with 80 deaths on an average across the State.

Virus claims 97 lives in State

CHENNAI: Covid-19 claimed 97 lives while 5,864 new persons were diagnosed with the pandemic during the last 24 hours, according to the medical bulletin issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu on Thursday. While the number of fatalities on Thursday exceeded that of Wednesday, the number of new persons tested positive showed a fall from that of Wednesday (6,426). As on Thursday, there were 57,962 active covid-19 patients in the State. The total number of persons tested positive for the pandemic till date crossed 2.39 lakh by Thursday. The day saw 5,295 patients getting cured and discharged from hospitals which took the number of total persons who got cured till date to 1.78 lakh. The total fatalities in the State till date reached 3,838 on Thursday. While 1,175 new persons in Chennai were identified with Covid-19, the districts of Chengalpatt (354), Kancheepuram (175) and Thiruvallur (325) remained critical. **PNS**

Advanced nations following Kerala model of Covid management: CM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI
Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister, claimed on Thursday that the world was following the coronavirus defence mechanism initiated by Kerala. "Our strategy has earned widespread appreciation and even advanced countries are replicating the Kerala model in countering the Covid-19 pandemic," Vijayan said in his media briefing on Thursday. Since the web portal of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was facing technical hitch, the Chief Minister said the update of the Covid-19 situation on Thursday was not available. "As per the data available up to noon, 506 new Covid-19 patients have been identified in the State. Two

persons succumbed to the pandemic while 794 patients who were recovered fully got discharged from hospitals. Out of the 506 persons who were diagnosed with Covid-19 on Thursday, 375 persons contracted the pandemic through local transmission," he said. The Chief Minister said that Thursday marked completion of six months of coronavirus in the State. "It was on January 30 that the first instance of the pandemic came to the notice of the government. But my government was fully prepared to meet any eventuality in the second week of January itself. All international organisations have praised the steps taken by Kerala to counter the pandemic," said the Chief Minister who was in a jovial mood from the word go.

Malayalam film actor Anil Murali passes away

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI
Anil Murali (56), popular Malayalam film actor passed away at Ernakulam on Thursday. The end came at a private hospital in the city where he has been admitted with liver ailments on July 22, according to hospital sources. Murali leaves behind his wife Suma and two children. The actor shot into fame with his first film Kanyakumariyil Oru Kavitha in 1993 and has never looked back since then. His rough and tough looks endeared him to the fans and he has acted in more than 200 films including Tamil, Telugu and Kannada movies. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan condoled the actor's death and said he would be certainly missed by his fans. "The rough and sturdy characters presented by him will definitely linger in the mind in years to come," said the Chief Minister.

TN leaders condemn draping of saffron cloth on MG Ramachandran's statue

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI
Saffron is a dirty colour and anything associated with it was not welcome in Tamil Nadu, according to the ruling AIADMK. The entire political spectrum in Tamil Nadu, barring the BJP, were unanimous in condemning the action of 'anti-social elements' draping the statue of late Chief Minister M G Ramachandran's statue at Pudukkottai with saffron shawl. On Thursday, another group of unidentified persons draped the statue of late DMK leader and former Chief Minister C N Annadurai with saffron shawl at Kanyakumari. This too was condemned by the leader of all political parties barring the BJP. Last week a

statue of Dravida Kazhagam founder EV Ramasami Naicker at Coimbatore was painted in saffron and one person belonging to a fringe Hindu group has been arrested. Interestingly, leaders of the AIADMK and the DMK used the word desecration to describe the action of draping/painting the statues of the Dravidian leaders in saffron. While the AIADMK did not directly blame the BJP for the 'desecration', all other parties were in the forefront to attack the Hindutwa party. Vaiko, the leader of the MDMK, put up a heart-rending show at Coimbatore where he sobbed for an hour in front of the Naicker statue and swore in the name of the latter that he would ensure the destruction of the evil forces behind the

WB Congress president Somen Mitra passes away

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA
A former Member of Parliament, a veteran politician of Jyoti Basu era and two-time Bengal Pradesh Congress chief Somen Mitra passed away on Thursday. He was 78 and is survived by his wife Sikha Mitra, a former MLA and son Rohan. Mitra was suffering from a number of ailments related to heart and kidney. Mitra who was the sitting PCC president during the time of his death served as the MLA from Kolkata's Sealdah and Chowringhee seats for eight consecutive times between 1972 and 2006. He joined the Trinamool Congress in 2009 and was elected an MP from Diamond Harbour Constituency. Subsequently he left the TMC following his altercations with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on a number of issues including the chit fund scam. Tweeting his condolences Congress MP Rahul Gandhi wrote "All my love and support to family and friends of Somen Mitra at this difficult time. We will

remember him with love, fondness and respect." His sister and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi too spoke to Mitra's bereaved wife. "Saddened to hear about the passing away of veteran leader, former MP and PCC president Somen Mitra... My deepest condolences to his family, followers and well-wishers," wrote Mamata Banerjee who left the Congress in 1998 to form her own Trinamool Congress following his differences with Mitra the then PCC president. Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Chowdhury said "I am deeply shocked by his demise. He was not only a party colleague but my political mentor and a guardian who brought me to Congress and made me what I am today." CPI(M) State secretary and politburo member Suryakanto Mishra said "Somen Mitra's death has caused a political vacuum in Bengal politics," adding "he has been trying for a joint movement with the Left against divisive and corrupt forces... we will try to carry that forward."

Another BJP worker found dead in Bengal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA
Within a month after a BJP MLA suffered a "mysterious" death by hanging at Hemtabad in North Dinajpur another BJP worker, a booth president from Ramnagar area in East Midnapore was found hanging from a tree, near his house. The 44-year-old party Purnachandra Das was found hanging from a tree late on Wednesday evening said local BJP leadership adding he was under constant pressure from the Trinamool Congress to leave the saffron outfit and join the State ruling party. "His body was found hanging from a branch of a mango tree near even as his feet touched the ground, Pabitra Patra a local BJP man alleged saying he had refused to join the TMC which was why "he has been murdered by them." The body had been sent for postmortem and reports were awaited, sources said. The TMC however refuted

such claims. A local police officer said "all angles are being probed," adding "there was a long-standing dispute over a road going by the house of the victim... we will look into that angle also." "There was a feud going on with our neighbours. He went out today to attend a meeting which was scheduled around 4 pm to find a solution to the problem. Around 3 pm his body was found hanging from a tree a few hundred metres away from the house," said Subimal Das, the victim's brother. The latest incident comes within a month of the death of BJP's MLA from Hemtabad, Debendra Nath Roy who was found hanging under mysterious conditions outside a shop about a mile away from his house. An investigation is on in that case too. The BJP has been accusing the TMC of "resorting to politics of annihilation." A couple of BJP workers died in a similar fashion in Purulia last year.

Andhra reports 10,167 new cases, tally crosses 1.3L mark

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh on Thursday reported its highest single day spike in Covid cases with 10,167 persons testing positive, taking the state's tally to 1,30,557, health officials said. As many as 68 people succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours raising the total number of fatalities in the state to 1,281, the officials added. A total of 70,068 tests were conducted during this period, which included 38, 758 rapid antigen tests. An unprecedented 10,093 new Covid cases and 65 deaths had been reported on Wednesday while the previous single day high of 8,147 cases was recorded on Friday last week. On Thursday, as many as three districts reported fresh cases in four-digit figures, while the remaining ten districts

reported three-digit Covid numbers. East Godavari continues to report the highest number and Thursday was no exception, which saw 1,441 new cases, followed by Kurnool with 1,252 cases, and Visakhapatnam with 1,223 cases. Vizianagaram reported the lowest tally of 214 cases during the past 24 hours. On a positive note, there were higher recovery numbers reported on Thursday. As many as 4,618 patients were discharged after recovery from various health facilities. **IANS**

CBI registers cheating case against ex-IITM officials

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
The CBI has registered a case against a then scientist and his colleague working at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, Managing Director, a Director of Mumbai-based private company and others on the allegations of causing loss to IITM. Those against whom the CBI registered the case under sections 120-B (conspiracy) 420 (cheating) 468 (forgery) and 471 (using a forged document) of IPC and section 13(2) r/w. 13(1)(d) of Prevention of Corruption Act, included: the then Scientist - F, IITM, Pune; the then Senior Technical Officer, Gr-II, IITM, Pune; Managing Director, Mumbai based private company and others, including unknown public servants. A CBI spokesperson said on Thursday that during 2011-2018, the then public servants entered into conspiracy with others including Managing Director & Director of a Mumbai based private company and awarded the contract for the supply, commissioning and maintenance of 'Digital Display System of SAFAR-PUNE', including supply of 12 nos. of Outdoor True Colour LED Display Boards to the private company in violation of the prescribed purchase procedure/rules and by way of disqualifying other bidders on flimsy grounds. The CBI's charge is that the accused did "undue favour" to the said private supplier by accepting substandard and below specifications cheap Digital Display Boards on exorbitant rates for SAFAR Project, Pune and thereby caused huge loss to IITM. The CBI said that searches were conducted at the residential and official premises of the accused at Pune and Mumbai which led to recovery of incriminating documents and articles. Investigation is continuing.

Maha technician rapes woman on pretext of taking vaginal swab Taken into custody

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
In a disturbing development, 30-year-old lab technician working at a Government hospital at Badnera in Amravati district of eastern Maharashtra has been arrested for allegedly molesting and raping a woman on the false pretext of taking 'vaginal sample' for conducting a Covid-19 test. Identifying the arrested lab technician as one Alpesh Deshmukh, police officer investigating the case Punjab Wanjari said on Thursday that the incident took place on Tuesday at the Trauma Care Testing Lab in the Badnera Government hospital in Amravati district when 23-year-old woman complainant-victim had gone for a Covid-19 test. The victim woman, an employee at a local mall, had been referred to the hospital along with 20 others after the "contact" of a colleague who had tested positive for Covid-19. After the test, the accused technician reportedly told the victim woman that she had tested positive and that she had to undergo a urinal test. The victim woman asked if there were female technicians to help her out to undergo the second test. However, the technician allowed her to bring a female companion if she so wanted. Deshmukh later allegedly took a vaginal swab sample of the victim woman and informed her later that she had tested negative. Finding Deshmukh's conduct suspicious, the victim woman confided in her brother, who spoke to his doctor-friend whether vaginal swab samples were needed Covid-19 tests. Subsequently, the victim woman lodged a complaint against the lab technician with the Badnera police. The police booked Deshmukh under sections 354 (outraging modesty) and 376 (rape) and arrested him later. Deshmukh was on Thursday produced before a local court which remanded him in police custody till July 31.

Corona patient refused treatment, delivers baby in ambulance

PTI ■ AGARTALA
A 25-year-old Covid-19 positive woman in Tripura has delivered her baby in an ambulance during a 130-km arduous journey from Unakoti district hospital in Kailashar to G B Pant hospital, the states main corona care hospital in Agartala where she was referred, officials said on Thursday. The pregnant woman was taken to three hospitals in about 36 hours since Tuesday but all of them refused to treat her. The incident has led to the state health director to initiate an inquiry against the Kailashar hospital and order the submission of a report on its refusal to provide medical care to the woman within two days, official sources said. Her baby was born in the dead of the night in an ambulance when it was crossing the hilly terrains of Atharomura hill range, about 50 km from here on Wednesday, her family members said. Laxmi Rani Chowdhury and her baby boy are safe and under observation at G B Pant Hospital, sources in it said.

11,147 positive, 266 die in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
Maharashtra appeared nowhere closer to getting out of the woods on Thursday, as it recorded the highest-ever daily tally of 11,147 Covid-19 infections, while 266 more people succumbed to coronavirus in various parts of the State. After it recorded the highest-ever 10,576 infections on July 22, witnessed 9,895, 9,615, 9,251 and 9,431 cases on July 23, 24, 25 and 26 respectively, 7,924, 7,717 and 9,211 cases on July 27, 28 and 29 respectively, the State logged a staggering 11,147, taking the total number of infections in the state to 4,11,798 on Thursday. With 266 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths in the state mounted to 14,729. Of the total 266 deaths, Pune accounted 83 deaths, while Mumbai recorded 53 deaths. Apart from 83 deaths in Pune and 53 deaths in Mumbai, there were 30 deaths in Thane, 11 in Nanded, 10 each in Solapur and Satara, 9 in Nashik, 8 each in Raigad and Jalgaon, 7 in Ahmednagar, 6 in Aurangabad, 5 each in Palghar and Ratnagiri, 4 in Latur, 3 each in Kolhapur, Sangli and Osmanabad, 2 in Nagpur and death each in Dhule, Nandurbar, Amravati, Buldhana, Parbhani and Washim. With fresh 53 deaths, the total number of deaths in Mumbai rose from 6,247 to 6,300, while the infected cases jumped by 1,208 cases - to touch 113,199 now. In a related development, as many as 8860 patients were discharged from hospitals in the state after full recovery, taking the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year to 2,48,615. The recovery rate rose to 60.37 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 3.58 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 1,48,150. With 91,784 infected cases and 2,525 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 86,255 infections and 2028 deaths till now. Out of 20,70,128 samples sent to laboratories, 4,11,798 have tested positive (19.89 per cent) for Covid-19 until Thursday. Currently, 9,04,141 people are in home quarantine while 40,546 people are in institutional quarantine.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Named:** Sushma Ahirwar **D/o** Hariram Ahirwar **R/o** Gulwar Road, Near Achar Factory, Village Kheda, Khurd, Delhi has been missing since 14.07.2020 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 114A dated 15.07.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Age: 19 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Pink colour suit & salwar. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Narela Industrial Area, Delhi at E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Phone: SHO 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi Outer North Dist., Delhi**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **Ph. No. 011-27787593, 7065036324**
DP/372/ON/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Sangeeta, W/o** Sh. Chander Parkash, **R/o** H.No. C-2/88, Sec-27, Rohini, Delhi, **Age:** 30 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, **Hair:** Black, wearing Blue colour Saree, Light Blue colour Chappal, has been missing from her house since 04.07.2020 at 10:30 AM. In this regard a **DD No. 97A, dated 04.07.2020 has been registered at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi**
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/380/ON/2020 **Ph. No.:** 011-27822207, 27821407

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

Fresh-Tender Work
A) The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 13.08.2020 upto 5:00 PM. shall be opened/downloaded on dated 14.08.2020 at 11:00 AM.

Sl. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1	106/GM(R)/Sr.M (E/M)-III/2020-21	Providing and replacement of old Damage street lighting pole on Central verge of DSC road from Indian Petrol Pump Aggahapur to Challera Barat Ghar, Noida.	₹ 54.60
2	107/GM(R)/Sr.M (E/M)-III/2020-21	Strengthening of Street light on Thana road, sector-39, Noida.	₹ 27.95

Re-Tender Work
B) The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 06.08.2020 upto 5:00 PM. shall be opened/downloaded on dated 07.08.2020 at 11:00 AM.

Sl. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
3	85/GM(R)/Sr.M (E/M)-III/2020-21	M/o Street light on road between sector-33 & 34, Morna road, Underpass road, Sai Mandir road & Kanchanjunga road, Ghijore road, Noida.	₹ 46.04

General Manager
Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

Sl. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HPGCL/PANIPAT	(NIT PTP/PCM-300079) (TENDER ID: 2020_HBC_130225_1)	SUB- SUPPLY OF CERAMIC TAPE FOR BOILER OF 250 MW UNIT-7 AT PTPS PANIPAT	www.hpgcl.in	0110-2566015 venmrcg1@gmail.com
2	HPGCL/PANIPAT	(NIT NO.01/PTPS/CMO-C/1111) (TENDER ID: 2020_HBC_126683_1) SUB- THE WORK OF ALLOTMENT OF SHOPS IN SHOPPING COMPLEX AT PTPS COLONY PANIPAT.		www.hpgcl.in	0110-2566015 venmrcg1@gmail.com
3	DHVN, GURUGRAM	NIT NO. 2/EN/CIVIL/GGN/2020-21 DATED 22.06.2020		www.dhvn.in	8659923233 venmrcg1@dhvn.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 82041

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi

... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 31.07.2020

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs from all bidders

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/20-21/ RB/PM/013	Providing Purchase & Store Support Services in Various Offices/Stores of BYPL	₹ 4.10 Crores	₹ 8.20 Lakh	20.08.2020 15:00 HRS	21.08.2020 11:00 HRS
CMC/BY/20-21/ RB/PM/014	Providing Meter Testing and Other Support Services in MMG dept. of BYPL	₹ 1.74 Crores	₹ 3.48 Lakh	20.08.2020 15:00 HRS	21.08.2020 12:00 HRS
CMC/BY/20-21/ RB/PM/015	Providing Support services in Miscellaneous Department of BYPL	₹ 1.73 Crores	₹ 3.46 Lakh	20.08.2020 15:00 HRS	21.08.2020 13:00 HRS

Cost of Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying Requirements, Terms & Conditions, Purchase/Submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com → Tenders → BSES YAMUNA POWER LIMITED → Open Tenders.
Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PL111525
TEL: 011-4124 7785 | Fax: 011-4124 7787 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

New curriculum

NEP 2020 seeks to make India a knowledge hub but has a perfunctory approach to implementation and logistics



This is bound to be controversial, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, coming as it does in the middle of a pandemic, without being formally debated in Parliament or a thorough consultative process conducted with Opposition States. On the face of it, it looks to revamp the education system in India, contemporise it, make it inclusive and increase budgetary allocations to six per cent of GDP. So yes as a presentation of India as a knowledge hub, it sounds idealistic enough but in the absence of a roadmap for implementation and given the control mechanisms envisaged that imply more centralisation of powers, there's many a slip between the cup and the lip. Also, many of the recommendations are in essence similar to those that have been made by several committees in the past and while the BJP may claim it has delivered another of its manifesto promises, it has not ironed out the logistics of how the overhaul will happen on the ground or the competencies required to do so. That's the real test of political will. Of course, the high points are many, like expanding the scope of foundational education, increasing the school-going years from 3 to 18 instead of the prevalent 6 to 14. This will bring the hitherto ignored age group of 3-6 years under the school curriculum, globally considered a crucial stage of mental development. The pre-school system covers *anganwadis*, so the inclusive footprint of ensuring basic education has been drawn up at least. The policy also looks at 100 per cent enrolment up to secondary schools by 2030, a more holistic and graded assessment through the school years rather than pivoting everything on the make-or-break 10+2 Board exams, changing the marking system to ease pressure and allowing mother tongues as the medium of instruction to dilute language barriers. Significantly, it has also broken down the compartmentalised format of arts and science streams, allowing students to bundle subject combinations of their choice in senior school. At the higher education level, the policy has gone for a four-year undergraduate course, allowed greater flexibility of subject choices and created a Digi-locker, which would enable students to pile up credits and drop out to resume their programme without having to take fresh admissions. This format is already prevalent in many foreign universities and is more aligned to the US model, which allows multi-disciplinary majors and minors. Deriving inspiration, the Government has proposed, like the SAT, entrance examinations for admissions to universities by the National Testing Agency (NTA), though this will be optional. Foreign universities will be allowed, which means there will be a cross-flow of world-class faculty and student exchange. But a huge plus is a dedicated National Research Foundation to prioritise R&D, though funding for it has progressively been falling and it needs bigger allocation.

So what are the question marks? One is, of course, the informalisation of the education system as a whole. While internships for Class VI students and marking systems that encourage critical thinking and application-based tests sound all too good, everybody forgets that these have to be based on sound fundamentals. In this case, the quality of teaching and its uniformity across Government schools. So teachers' re-training is as much important. Also, the very idea of peer reviews, where students get to evaluate each other, or a feedback system of assessment depends on how evolved your understanding is. A subjective approach may not always do justice to individual talent. There's a risk of dumbing down protocols. The NEP focusses on creating at least one large multidisciplinary institution in or near every district by 2030 but this involves operational practicalities like the ability to attract skilled teachers and the local demand and quality of students. The latter would clearly have to be brought up to speed and that would mean strengthening school education at the local level. But the biggest problem lies with replacing the University Grants Commission (UGC) with a new regulatory board, ostensibly to streamline functioning and ensure meritocracy but definitely aimed at chipping into the autonomy of premier universities. The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has already protested against the NEP, saying it will "dismember" universities by transferring the power over to a board of governors and affect funding decisions, which will be made by the Ministry directly. As it is, the absolutism of the UGC has had many casualties. Vice-Chancellors have had to be at the beck and call of an official for routine fund clearances, leave aside seeking one for innovations or additions. A performance-linked funding pattern that would encourage competitive scholarship was never considered. And even if we do that now, how much of that would be free of bias is the question. Elite institutions need to be kept autonomous. Most important though is filling up teaching vacancies in Central universities, 50 per cent posts going empty in some. But the Government has managed to keep the RSS at bay, conceding only to renaming the HRD Ministry as Ministry of Education and incorporating Indic elements in courses, albeit with a caveat that they have to be "scientific and accurate." And it has stayed away from imposing Hindi as a third language. It is more centralisation than saffronisation.

Data theft

Google faces an anti-trust probe in the US on charges of stealing content from honest but smaller entities



A much-anticipated congressional hearing via videoconference put four of the US' most prominent Big Tech CEOs, whose companies have a combined market value of about \$5 trillion, on the mat. Google owner Alphabet Inc's Sundar Pichai, Facebook Inc's Mark Zuckerberg, Apple Inc's Tim Cook and Amazon.com Inc's Jeff Bezos deflected accusations from US lawmakers that they crippled smaller competitors in their greed to capture a bigger market share. Pichai, who is the CEO of both Alphabet and Google, took the worst beating from conservatives on the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee's anti-trust panel.

The search engine has been accused of stealing content. It apparently used reviews from Yelp Inc and threatened to delist it from search results if it objected. A report will take some time coming but the biggest challenge for the sub-committee would be to establish whether Google and other tech firms operate as illegal monopolies in their areas of dominion. While it is not illegal for a company to be the biggest and the best in its field, exclusionary conduct or monopoly power by disadvantaging and harming competitors is not permitted. This is because after establishing a monopoly, companies may squeeze suppliers or impose higher prices on consumers. For instance, Google's search business stifles rivals by favouring its own services while its subsidiary YouTube pushes content to users. Mostly, answers to common questions can be found in "answer boxes" at the top of a results page. Google gets those facts/news from other websites as a result of which users don't visit the sites of the original content. This starves other websites of valuable traffic and revenue. Plus, Google has paid Apple billions of dollars to be the default search engine on the Safari web browser on iPhones and iPads. Rival firms will never get a level-playing field if the search engine corners such a significant market share.

Apart from genuine worries about monopoly and ethics of business, this review can be said to be a part of the Trump administration's bid to bring the big technology firms to heel for what is mostly considered to be their anti-Republican attitude. President Trump has had a number of run-ins with many of them and has even threatened to take action against them with executive orders. In fact, Republican Jim Jordan, who was part of the hearing, accused these firms of being "out to get conservatives." It is time for US regulators to mull if the existing rules are sufficient to rein in these behemoths given their market power and if the laws should be amended. That again is a long haul.

Education overhaul

The National Education Policy looks promising but to achieve all that has been promised, we need a panel that includes professionals who understand schooling. Not bureaucrats



CB SHARMA

Overall, the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, is a good policy document as it promises a slew of changes that can lead to a major makeover of the education sector. It takes into account all sections of society which were hitherto left unattended. In the times to come, such groups of learners will be mainstreamed and will stand to benefit from the new education system. Some of the major aspects of the NEP, which I think can have a transformative impact, are as follows:

First, the age criteria for admission to the primary school was six years. By this time, children already lose more than a thousand days of learning. Early years are crucial for a child's development and losing these phases has proved to be very damaging. Most children, who dropped out of school, were first-generation learners and had joined the school at the age of six. The Government's decision to include Universalisation of Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) into the NEP will do a lot of good to the children, especially those coming from humble backgrounds.

Second, it was inappropriate to put all the learners into one category as "school children." Children change as they grow and so should the pedagogical structure. In the new NEP, it has been decided to include children aged three-eight years into one group. This group of children will also be put under a school curriculum, which has been recognised globally. Hopefully, teachers, too, will be made available soon. The next group will be those children aged eight to 11 years ie, those who attend classes III to V. The following group of learners will comprise children in classes VI to VIII ie, those in the age group of 11 to 14 years. Above the age of 14, children will belong to the secondary class and teacher competencies for this group of children will be different.

The new pattern of schooling will be 5+3+3+4, which should be relevant for the children and they should be able to enjoy each stage of their learning process. The challenge, however, will be to prepare teachers for each level and they need to be adequately remunerated, too. Teachers at the lower levels should be paid equally so that the less qualified do not come for teaching at lower levels. Considering the poor



performance of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), preparation of teachers will be a challenge.

Third, education in the mother tongue up to at least class V is a welcome and landmark move. Most children used to drop out of schools because they were given instruction in a dominant language of the region. Take the example of Bihar, where the mode of learning was Hindi whereas most children speak local languages like Magahi, Maithili and Bhojpuri. The Government's aim to provide education during the early years will make the children feel less displaced (from home to school) and retention will be easier. This will directly benefit the less privileged children. This move was a long time coming. The Kothari Commission Report of 1964 had recommended that the first language to be studied must be the mother tongue or the regional language. However, successive Governments did not pay heed to implement the three-language formula in schools.

Fourth, the system of bundling of courses like physics, chemistry with either mathematics or biology at the senior secondary level has been done away with. Children can now opt for any combination of subjects

as per their choice. This will also dissuade a large number of children from dropping out of senior secondary because they could not cope with the mathematics syllabus.

The rigid formation of streams such as science, arts and commerce will wither now. Learners will be able to choose subjects from any discipline, including vocational subjects, to get certified. This will help learners, who wish to get into vocational areas after the completion of their school education. At present, the curricular and non-curricular areas cannot be combined. In future, this shall be possible. This will help reduce the drop-out rate and at the same time lead to the creation of self-employment opportunities.

Fifth, formative assessment has been a major stumbling block for school education. Children felt pressured as the emphasis was on rote learning. The new NEP has taken cognisance of the erroneous system of assessment and has decided to provide multiple chances to the learners to write and accumulate grades to finally get certified.

It appears that the final assessment will be done to test the actual competency, which children can undertake without pressure or the stigma of failing

the examination.

Sixth, assessment has been under smoke all through. Now, a self-assessment will be done along with peer assessment of every child. The teacher will also be assessed unlike the present system where only the teacher evaluates the child and the child has no clue how he/she is judged. The child as well as the parents will trust the new system of assessment.

Seven, the less privileged and the specially-abled have received special focus in the NEP all through. For the first time, the latter will be put into a different track of schooling, which will help them use their potential and get recognised.

Eight, in a similar move, a large number of girls, who have traditionally been marginalised, will get due attention. The NEP 2020 established the "Gender Inclusion Fund" to help the less privileged girls. The policy also promises to upgrade the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) up to class XII. The KGBVs are fully residential schools for girls from humble backgrounds but who are very bright and deserving. This scheme has brought a difference to their lives. With this new initiative, girls will be able to directly enter college and

reap the benefit of schemes in higher education, which at present go unused because they discontinue education after they come out of the KGBV.

In the true sense, the NEP 2020 is an Antodaya school policy. Every child, wherever he/she may belong to, will be catered to. However, to achieve all that has been promised in the NEP 2020, we will require a body of professionals who understand schooling. School education is at present managed by Government officials and school education department of the Central or the State Governments. The officials get transferred frequently. The school sector has been demanding a national body at par with the University Grants Commission or what has now been proposed as the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI). This time, too, their plea has unfortunately been ignored.

It can be confidently said that the new NEP scores on several counts — be it the universalisation of education, promoting regional languages or the introduction of a new circular. All such moves will help improve governance and improve the overall quality of education.

(The writer is a professor of education, IGNOU. Views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

For India, the most fundamental principle in development cooperation is respecting our partners. This sharing of development lessons is our only motivation.



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

For any creative process or environment, it is important for everyone to break out of groups and work in different set-ups where they can expand their experiences.



Actor —Rasika Dugal

Over the last two decades, countries like China and India got a lot richer but they've refused to take on any more responsibilities.



Top US Senator —Chuck Grassley

I see a longer IPL, I see longer leagues in Australia and England. The most profitable events we have now are T20 leagues and we need to grow that.



Former WICB chief —Dave Cameron

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defection woes

Sir — Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati's ire at the induction of all six of her Rajasthan MLAs into the Congress by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot last year is understandable. She is right when she says that Gehlot is crying foul over the poaching of MLAs by the BJP but was ecstatic when the six BSP MLAs merged with the Congress. If he enjoyed the prospect of defection from other parties, Gehlot must also withstand the pain of defection from his own party.

The 91st Amendment to the Constitution in 2003 had strengthened the anti-defection law by increasing the bar on the number of MLAs switching sides from a third to two-thirds. The Rajasthan High Court has rightly junked the plea of BJP MLA Madan Dilwar, challenging the Speaker's decision to allow the merger of the six BSP MLAs with the Congress. If defection has to be prevented, even if all the lawmakers of a party cross over to the other side, defectors should be disqualified first.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Wrong move at the wrong time

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has become an unfortunate reality of our times, will undoubtedly cast a shadow on the *bhoomi puja* scheduled to be held on August 5 for the construction of the long-awaited Ram Temple. While it is an auspicious occasion for many, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar justly pointed out that the eradication of COVID-19 must take precedence over the construction of the temple. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra trust has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to lay the foundation stone of the temple. However, it must be remembered that the chain of events leading to the construction of the temple is shrouded in social strife and communal violence that had irreparably weakened the secular foundation of the nation.

Thus, the *bhoomi puja*, which will be telecast live by Doordarshan, must be undertaken with caution. The event should remain an act of piety and not become a demonstration of power by the majority community. The plan to take donations from 10 crore



families for the construction of the temple must not become a means for political mobilisation and polarisation. It is also unfortunate that Modi, unlike former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who reportedly declined the invitation to attend the inauguration of the Somnath temple as he deemed it inappropriate to identify himself with a particular religion in a secular democracy, is widely expected to attend an event steeped in Hindutva nationalism.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Relief needed

Sir — The year 2020 has been difficult on multiple counts. Not only has India witnessed the spread of the novel Coronavirus but there has been an unprecedented economic crisis and immense rainfall and floods in many parts of the country.

As people move out of their homes in flood-affected areas without taking necessary precautions, they are exposing themselves to the virus, making it even more difficult to contain the disease. People are also wary of moving to Government relief centres for fear of contracting COVID-19. Meanwhile, the fate

of wildlife in these regions, too, is hanging by a thread. People in many parts of the country are stuck in between the pandemic and unending rains on the other. The present state of affairs, despite Government efforts, is disturbing.

Kavya Shah
Ujjain

Gaps remain

Sir — The way a war is fought has undergone a massive transformation in the last two decades. With two hostile neighbours always on the lookout to foment trouble, it's better for India to be prepared.

Rafale, a multi-utility combat fighter, can be used for ground support, anti-depth strike and anti-ship strike. Its acquisition is going to significantly improve India's defence and strike capabilities. Rafale would not have come at a more opportune time when the IAF's squadron strength has been a cause of worry. From a sanctioned strength of 42, the squadron strength will soon reach 27. It must also not be forgotten that only the first batch of the jets has arrived when the total order is of 36 fighters. The only hope is that there is no delay in the delivery of the rest of the jets. Even with the arrival of these jets, our defence procurement needs to be beefed up.

Bal Govind
Noida

Kavya Shah
Ujjain

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Pushing boundaries

Edge computing will be a game-changer for businesses around the world owing to its capability to derive insights from data in real-time



ALOK OHRIE

Edge computing is quickly emerging as the next big thing in technology. From mobile devices and cell towers to refrigerators and industrial control systems, the data being generated at the edge by these platforms has enormous business value. However, what is less clear right now is how best to unlock its potential. At its basic level, edge computing brings computation and data storage closer to the devices where it is being gathered, rather than relying on a central location that can be hundreds of kilometres away. This is done so that data, especially real-time data, does not suffer latency issues that can affect an application's performance. In addition, companies can save money by having the processing done locally, reducing the amount of data that needs to be processed in a centralised or cloud-based location.

Edge computing was developed due to the exponential growth of Internet of Things (IoT) devices, which connect to the internet for either receiving information from the cloud or delivering data back to the cloud. And many IoT devices generate enormous amounts of data during the course of their operations.

However, in one form or another, edge computing has been around for decades. Industrial control systems, for example, are an early form of edge computing that populated manufacturing floors. Telecommunications networks have deployed content delivery networks since the 1990s. What's changing now is the type of applications that need low latency and intense levels of data, which require both the amount of computing power that can be employed at the edge and the raw network bandwidth being made available.

As these vectors continue to increase, it becomes more feasible to satisfy the requirements of a much wider array of innovative applications at the edge of the network capable of driving a broad range of innovative business outcomes.

A catalyst for automation: Edge computing platforms have the potential to automate every business process imaginable, using machine and deep learning algorithms deployed at the very edge of the network. According to a report by Forrester Research, the total edge computing market size is expected to grow from \$2.8 billion as recorded in 2019 to \$9.0 billion by 2024. Instead of waiting for data to be analysed by an application residing in the cloud or the local data centre, algorithms will optimise business processes in real-time, based on events as they occur.

Everything, from connected cars to innovative, augmented and virtual-reality applications, depend on the ability to process and analyse data in real-time at the network edge. Field service technicians, for example, will be able to leverage augmented reality applications to visually compare broken equipment to the actual state it should be in.

Harness the power of edge computing to stay competitive: Business and information technology leaders that fail to recognise the possibilities of edge computing will soon find themselves lagging behind. In some cases, it may be an existing organisation employing edge computing platforms to gain a competitive advantage. When used correctly, edge computing can result in efficiencies, new revenue streams, improved customer experiences and even risk-mitigation.

In India, as many organisations have embarked upon the journey to becoming 100 per cent digital, there will be a need to adopt edge computing to automate business processes in the near future. In fact, every instance of digital business transformation will soon be driven by edge computing platforms capable of processing data in real-time. Gartner estimates that by 2025, a whopping 75 per cent of enterprise-generated data will be created and processed outside the traditional, centralised data centre or cloud.

With many relying on cloud and hyper-converged infrastructure to deal with this data explosion, a shift of computing to the edge can be highly anticipated. While the edge evolves and starts making its place in today's world, we can expect it to become even more disruptive than the existing cloud environment.

Although edge computing is not a new concept for many around the world, it is still at a very nascent stage in India and is on the path to breaking traditional cloud computing limits. Rather it represents a profound transformation of business processes that will soon eclipse the cloud in terms of strategic importance.

While early goals of edge computing were to address the costs of bandwidth for data travelling long distances because of the growth of IoT-generated data, the rise of real-time applications that need processing at the edge will drive the technology ahead. To conclude, edge computing will be a game-changer for businesses around the world owing to its capability to derive insights from data in real-time. This will help in increasing business efficiency while cutting costs as it will eliminate the need for ample cloud storage for data.

(The writer is President and Managing Director, Dell Technologies, India)

REPEAT AFTER ME: DEPRESSION IS TREATABLE. DEPRESSION IS CURABLE. DEPRESSION IS PREVENTABLE. YOU CANNOT 'SNAP OUT' OF IT.
—BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS DEEPIKA PADUKONE

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



BOLLYWOOD'S 'REPEAT AFTER ME' GANG, DEPRESSION KA DHANDA CHALANE WALE (THOSE WHO CASH IN ON DEPRESSION) SHOULD BE REMANDED.
—BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS KANGANA RANAUT

In the right hands

Healthcare interventions that are scaled up can only be sustainable when women are put at the centre of development and caring for their community



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

When the Karuna Trust, the Karnataka-based not-for-profit organisation, undertook the responsibility of managing the primary health centre (PHC) at Wakka, a village in Tirap district, Arunachal Pradesh, many were surprised. The location was remote and access was difficult. There was also an additional fear of insurgency. But Dr H Sudarshan, the founder and secretary of the trust, was undeterred as he wanted to reach the under-served at all costs.

His confidence stemmed from the fact that the trust had successfully managed 26 poorly-run and derelict PHCs in its home State of Karnataka. Many of the PHCs were in remote and difficult locations. If the public-private partnership (PPP) with the Government to provide healthcare to the marginalised population in rural areas could work in difficult conditions in the southern Indian State, there was no doubt in his mind that this successful health intervention could be scaled up in the northeastern State as well. Such was his determination that Dr Sudarshan remained unfazed even after he was accosted by a group of insurgents in Wakka, which is predominantly a tribal village, and asked to pay a sizeable sum as "protection money" if he wanted to keep the PHC open. Despite being threatened that he would not be able to work without their support, Dr Sudarshan refused to succumb to their demand. He was convinced that the trust, which believed in a community-based and people-oriented approach, would be able to make the PHC function without paying any "protection money."

And he was proved right. A couple of weeks later, when the same insurgents who had demanded money realised that Dr Sudarshan and his team were not giving up, they came to him seeking healthcare advice for their wives. People in the village needed healthcare badly but the lack of a PHC had made it difficult for them to access proper services. Once they realised that the trust had come to provide quality healthcare, the community, including the insurgents, readily supported the team.

In fact, so overwhelming was the support that local women healthcare workers were motivated to report for duty on time daily. Under ordinary circumstances, this may not have been considered a big achievement, but when the trust team saw that the women health workers crossed narrow, swaying bridges across deep rivers and gorges, and also resorted to swinging on a rope to reach the PHC, they were impressed by their commitment. It was this dedication of the health workers that helped the trust to bring eight more PHCs in nine districts under its management.

But can all successful health interventions be scaled up? What are the processes that need to be followed so that these interventions are sustainable? Should a health intervention be scaled up just because it has achieved success as a pilot?

If the trust's journey from managing one PHC in Karnataka to managing 71 PHCs in seven States, including Arunachal Pradesh, is any indication, clearly the answer is "yes." Economic growth can be meaningful only if it brings greater benefits to a greater number of people over a wider geographical area. This should happen quickly, equitably and be lasting.

However, it has been seen that women are often excluded from this growth process and their role and contribution is overlooked by policymakers. Health interventions that are scaled up can only be sustainable when women are put at the centre of development. An excellent exam-

“ EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS THE CREATION OF SOCIAL VALUES BY ENDING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GIRLS. BESIDES, THE INFRASTRUCTURE, THE CONTENT AND THE PROCESS, TOO, HAVE TO BE EMPOWERING FOR WOMEN. CLEARLY, THE GADCHIROLI MODEL SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED OUT HOW TO ADAPT TO LOCAL SITUATIONS. IT HAS BEEN REPLICATED IN BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN, NEPAL AND SEVEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES ”



ple of this is the Home-Based Newborn and Child Care (HBNCC) model developed by the Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health (SEARCH), a not-for-profit body headed by Dr Abhay Bang and Dr Rani Bang. Based in Gadchiroli, a predominantly tribal and Naxal-affected district in Maharashtra, the NGO has proven that tribal women are capable of saving lives of newborns. It would be wrong to judge their capabilities just because of their lack of formal education, their traditional attire and customs. The jewelled Gonda tribal women in Gadchiroli have shown that although they follow traditional customs by wearing customary silver jewellery from head to toe, this does not come in the way of saving lives.

The HBNCC intervention, which sensitised and trained these women, has demonstrated that they are equally competent in recognising and identifying life-threatening symptoms in newborns and administering life-saving injections. So, it is not what is being done which is significant but how it is done. Here, too, the crucial factor is the respect given to the women during the intervention.

The biggest factor in their success in reducing neonatal mortality is the women empowering model followed by them. Just training the village's women health workers to provide home-based newborn and childcare helped to reduce infant mortality from 121 for 1,000 live births to 30 within six years of its implementation. The key to the success of this intervention was to ensure women became partners and not merely passive recipients. This underlines the need for partnerships as innovators do not have the capacity for upscaling. The SEARCH experience has shown that women are the right partners for scaling up healthcare at the

grassroots through Self-Help Groups and community-based organisations. SEARCH is at present working with 13,000 tribal people in 48 villages in Gadchiroli. Its HBNCC model, adopted by the Government for its National Health Mission, is also being used by 12 countries.

This underscores not just the importance of engaging people and community-based organisations in health interventions but also shows how ensuring gender equality is paramount to its sustainability. Equally important is the creation of social values by ending discrimination against girls. Besides, the infrastructure, the content and the process, too, have to be empowering for women. Clearly, the Gadchiroli model seems to have worked out how to adapt to local situations. It has been replicated in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and seven African countries.

The Karuna Trust model, too, is being used to address gaps in remote centres through innovations in telemedicine, health insurance, integration of mental health and has reached 1.3 million people.

The Ekjut health model developed by Dr Prasanta Tripathy and Dr Nirmala Nair is another success story of how interventions centred on empowering women can bring sustainable change. Ekjut began its participatory and learning action (PLA)-based intervention with just 20 women in three tribal and remote villages around Chakradharpur in West Singhbhum district in Jharkhand.

The high maternal and newborn mortality in these areas led to their being chosen for the pilot programme. During these monthly PLA meetings, women are trained to identify problems like the two main causes of maternal and child death: Women delaying their

need for professional care and their inability to find an appropriate health-care facility. They then discussed how to implement practical solutions and evaluate their effectiveness.

The impact of the programme began to be seen as the women overcame their fear, shyness and patriarchal barriers to step out of their homes. Over the next five years, it was scaled to eight districts and involved over 20,000 women. By translating their newly-found knowledge into action, women were able to bring about a 20 per cent reduction in maternal deaths and a 30 per cent reduction in the neonatal deaths in 600 villages.

Ekjut now provides support to the NHM in scaling up its model in all 24 districts in Jharkhand. Its PLA model has also been scaled in 17 districts in Madhya Pradesh. In 2016, the Central Government began using the Ekjut model to bring down maternal and neonatal deaths in eight Indian States. Government frontline workers trained by Ekjut are using the PLA method in 40,000 villages all over the country to empower women to take charge.

However, challenges in scaling up successful interventions still exist. The lack of community participation is a big hurdle in scaling up interventions as was seen in the resistance to a nationwide roll-out of the weekly iron-folic acid supplementation programme for adolescents. Another impediment is the unavailability of requisite financial resources and trained personnel. Funds for research and monitoring and evaluating data are often negligible. Greater dissemination of successful scaled-up interventions, strategic partnerships with other stakeholders and integration with Government programmes will be useful in overcoming some of these challenges.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

Teachers need support now more than ever

How we support our educators will determine whether this pandemic will push India into a deeper learning crisis or sow seeds of resilience in our education system



ANUSHNA JHA

The pandemic has disrupted education, primarily with school closures affecting more than 32 crore students in India. Whether children continue to learn, what they are learning and how so are questions that have answers in a wide range. However, a common factor across most schools, both private and Government, has been that teachers have stepped up to ensure that learning continues.

Whether it is by experimenting with various online platforms to see which one is most effective for their

needs or spending hours preparing for online classes, uploading lessons on video-sharing platforms like YouTube or patiently guiding students (and sometimes parents) on how to use the interface, or by coming up with innovative solutions in resource-constrained areas. We know of teachers using loudspeakers to conduct classes in villages while practising social distancing where online learning is not viable.

Going by how the pandemic is unfolding, out of classroom teaching and learning is expected to continue at least for a while. And even once children go back to schools, blended learning methods seem likely. The recently-released guidelines for digital education, Pragyata, speak of "a healthy mix of schooling at home and schooling at school" to not let closures lead to loss of learning.

Pragyata outlines how various devices — computers, smartphones, television sets, radio sets or a basic

mobile phone — should be used by educators to reach out to students and facilitate learning. However, the use of technology in education is not a fall-out of the pandemic. Integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in education was introduced in various forms in different school systems.

In fact, the use of technology in education in India was adopted as early as in 1972 under the Fourth Five-Year Plan with the allocation of a budget for radio/cassette players and colour television sets.

Subsequent schemes, including ICT@Schools at the national level, and various others in the States reimagined teaching and learning to integrate technology-enabled pedagogy. Audio-visual classes became useful reinforcement tools for concepts taught by teachers, apart from being an attraction for students.

However, there has been considerable heterogeneity even within

Government and private schools, not just between them. The usage of technology in classes varied with infrastructure and resources available in the school and then the level of readiness and comfort of the teacher in using ICT in the classroom.

Teacher readiness and preparedness in integrating ICT in pedagogy require relevant training and constant aid. Just as there are specific skills and competencies needed to impart lessons in a classroom — including ensuring basic discipline, eliciting responsiveness from students, using the board to write, developing and using other teaching-learning materials (TLMs), facilitating student-to-student interaction, adopting relevant pedagogy as per the concept being discussed, number of students and resources available among many others — there are additional skills that teachers require in order to conduct classes on digital platforms. These range from being familiar with the features of the plat-

form on which the class is to be conducted, choosing pedagogy that is effective through the platform, designing activities and assessment that can be administered digitally while ensuring that the learning objectives are met, finding ways to ensure that students engage with the teacher and with one another, while also figuring out how life skills can be imparted within the space and time constraint.

According to a recent UNESCO estimate, around 2.7 million teachers in India, who have been impacted by the crisis, are untrained to tackle the situation. Being a major cause of concern, there are multiple levels at which teachers need to be supported. The first level, which is a prerequisite to out-of-classroom teaching and learning, is that of providing them basic and adequate infrastructural support. This includes power supply, availability of a computer and an internet connection. The second level of support would be appropriate training in using

digital platforms for teaching and technical support for students and parents. ICT training for students would be essential to ensure that teachers do not have to answer repeated questions about how to connect, troubleshoot errors and can focus on other aspects of conducting the class. The third level is remote training in digital and online pedagogy. This is particularly critical because online classes or radio lessons may not work with reliance on conventional, in-classroom teaching methods.

A common concern shared by teachers is, in the absence of eye contact, how do we assess whether each student is paying attention in class or identify those that may have a doubt and are hesitant to ask. To address concerns like these, methods on a digital platform would be different from those in a physical classroom. Training and knowledge-sharing for digital teaching would be helpful to answer such questions.

The fourth level is socio-emotion-

al support. The pandemic has altered everybody's life and we must not overlook its effects on the mental and emotional well-being of teachers. In addition to tackling the pressures of remote teaching along with household chores, teachers are dealing with anxious parents and students. Online teaching, for most teachers, has resulted in extended working hours. For many of them, it is like learning a new skill, applying it and doing it — all at the same time.

Another source of worry is the fear of pay cuts as also potential job losses. Real, concrete measures are needed to allay such fears and keep teachers motivated.

After all, it is how we support our educators that would determine whether this pandemic pushes our country into a deeper learning crisis or sows seeds of resilience in our education system.

(The writer is an independent researcher studying public education)

Trump floats election 'delay' amid claims of voting fraud

Washington: President Donald Trump is for the first time floating a "delay" to November's presidential election, as he makes unsubstantiated allegations that increased mail-in voting will result in fraud. The dates of federal elections — the Tuesday after the first Monday in November — are enshrined in federal law and would require an act of Congress to change. The Constitution makes no provisions for a delay to the Jan. 20, 2021 presidential inauguration. Trump tweeted Thursday: "With Universal Mail-In Voting (not Absentee Voting, which is

good), 2020 will be the most INACCURATE & FRAUDULENT Election in history. It will be a great embarrassment to the USA. Delay the Election until people can properly, securely and safely vote?" There is no evidence of widespread voter fraud through mail-in voting, even in states with all-mail votes. Five states already rely exclusively on mail-in ballots, and they say they have necessary safeguards in place to ensure that a hostile foreign actor doesn't disrupt the vote. Election security experts say that all forms of voter fraud are rare, including absentee bal-

loting. Trump has increasingly sought to cast doubt on November's election and the expected surge in mail-in and absentee voting as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. And Trump has called remote voting options the "biggest risk" to his reelection. His campaign and the Republican Party have sued to combat the practice, which was once a significant advantage for the GOP. Last month, Trump told supporters in Arizona that "This will be, in my opinion, the most corrupt election in the history of our country." AP

Judge halts immigration rule on public benefits, cites virus

New York: A federal judge on Wednesday blocked a Trump administration rule that could deny green cards to immigrants over use of public benefits from being applied during the pandemic. The controversial guidelines had gone into effect in February, after legal challenges and amid concerns that they would have a chilling effect on immigrants in seeking medical care and other social services. In issuing the preliminary nationwide injunction, U.S. District Judge George Daniels in Manhattan said, "Any policy that deters residents from seeking testing and treatment for COVID-19 increases the risk of infection for such residents and the public. Adverse government action that targets immigrants, however, is particularly dangerous during a pandemic." U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services had said in March that the new guidelines would not apply to immigrants with coronavirus or

virus symptoms if they got care, but Daniels said that announcement was "plainly insufficient" over a number of concerns, like whether other forms that might be needed, like food stamps, would also be exempt. "Simply relying on the compassion or sympathy of immigration officials is not rational, either in rule-making or in informally attempting to amend those rules," he wrote. An email seeking comment was sent to the Department of Justice. Immigrant advocates were pleased with the decision. "Immigrants, especially people serving as essential workers combating the spread of the coronavirus, need access to life-saving healthcare, food assistance, and other essential services in order to both tackle the pandemic and protect their families without fear of immigration consequences," said Susan Welber with the Legal Aid Society, among the plaintiffs' attorneys. AP

Chinese long-range bombers join drills over South China Sea

Beijing: China said on Thursday that long-range bombers were among the aircraft that took part in recent aerial drills over the South China Sea amid rising tensions between Washington and Beijing over the strategic waterway. The exercises included nighttime takeoffs and landings and simulated long-range attacks, Defense Ministry spokesperson Ren Guoqiang said. Among the planes were H-6G and H-6K bombers, upgraded versions of planes long in use with the People's Liberation Army Air Force and the People's Liberation Army Navy Air Force, Ren said. He said the exercises had been previously scheduled and were aimed at boosting pilot abilities to operate under all natural conditions. It wasn't clear whether live bombs were used. Ren's statement appeared to distance the drills from recent

accusations exchanged between the sides over China's claim to virtually all of the South China Sea, which it has buttressed in recent years by building man-made islands equipped with runways. The US this month for the first time rejected China's claims outright, prompting Beijing to accuse it of seeking to create discord between China and its neighbors. Five other governments also exercise claims in the South China Sea, through which around USD 5 trillion in trade is transported annually. Previously, US policy had been to insist that maritime disputes between China and its smaller neighbours be resolved peacefully through UN-backed arbitration. But in a statement, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the US now regards virtually all Chinese maritime claims outside its internationally recognized waters to be illegitimate. The shift does not involve disputes over land features that are above sea level, which are

considered to be "territorial" in nature. "The world will not allow Beijing to treat the South China Sea as its maritime empire," Pompeo said. Although the US will officially continue to remain neutral in the territorial disputes, the announcement means the administration is in effect siding with governments which oppose Chinese assertions of sovereignty over maritime areas surrounding contested islands, reefs and shoals. In other comments on Thursday, Ren criticized stepped-up military cooperation between the US and Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy that China claims as its territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary. Washington and Taipei have no formal diplomatic ties but the US is the island's key provider of defensive arms and is legally obligated to treat threats to the island as matters of grave concern. AP



A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket lifts off from pad 41 at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on Thursday. AP

Pak court forms 2-member bench to hear Kulbhushan Jadhav's case

Islamabad: The Islamabad High Court on Thursday constituted a two-member bench to hear a review petition filed by the Pakistan government in the case of Indian death-row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav, according to the Pakistani media. The bench comprising Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Athar Minallah and his fellow judge Justice Mianqul Hassan Aurangzeb would take up the government plea on Monday, the Pakistani media, including the

Geo News, reported. In a unilateral move, Pakistan filed the petition in the IHC on Jul 22, seeking appointment of a "legal representative" for Jadhav. However, the main parties, including the government of India, were not consulted ahead of the filing of the application by the Ministry of Law and Justice under an ordinance which was enacted on May 20. Under the 'International Court of Justice Review and Reconsideration Ordinance 2020', which was enacted on May 20, a petition for the

review of a military court's decision can be made to Islamabad High Court through an application within 60 days of its promulgation. The ordinance was approved by the parliament this week. Jadhav, the 50-year-old retired Indian Navy officer, was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of espionage and terrorism in April 2017. India approached the ICJ against Pakistan for denial of consular access to Jadhav and challenging the death sentence. PTI

4 held under new Hong Kong security law for online posts

Hong Kong: Hong Kong police have signalled their intent to enforce a new Chinese national security law strictly, arresting four youths Wednesday on suspicion of inciting secession through social media posts. Three males and one female, aged 16 to 21, were detained, a police official said at an 11 pm news conference. All are believed to be students. "Our investigation showed that a group has recently announced on social media that they have set up an orga-

nization for Hong Kong independence," said Li Kwai-wah, senior superintendent of a newly formed unit to enforce the security law. The 1-month-old law has chilled pro-democracy protesting as activists along with academics and others wonder if their activities could be targeted. The Central Government in Beijing imposed the national security law on the semi-autonomous Chinese territory after city leaders were unable to get one passed locally. AP

Chinese ambassador lashes out at Western rights reporting

London: China's ambassador to the UK lashed out at what he saw as one-sided reporting on human rights issues Thursday, presenting a series of videos defending Chinese actions against Uighur Muslims in the northwest Xinjiang province and warning Britain to stop meddling in his country's affairs. Liu Xiaoming's presentation stressed that China's actions in Xinjiang were meant to fight terrorism, and the grainy images he played for reporters included bloody scenes showing the aftermath of attacks. The videos were meant to counter a recent BBC interview in which presenter Andrew Marr had challenged the diplomat to explain drone footage that apparently showed Uighur prisoners being guarded and transferred to trains by Chinese authorities. Liu denied Uighurs were being mistreated and posted screen grabs that challenged, among other things, whether

the prisoners were kneeling or sitting on the ground. He described "so-called victims" of human rights violations as being either separatists or "actors trained by anti-China forces in the US and other Western countries". Liu added that disputes over human rights, the imposition of a new security law in Hong Kong and Britain's decision to ban Chinese tech giant Huawei from taking part in the building the new high speed phone network had "seriously poisoned the atmosphere" of relations with the UK. The rising tensions come as US President Donald Trump and his administration push Washington and Beijing toward a new era of ever-growing confrontation. "China and U.K. Should have enough wisdom and capability to manage and deal with these differences, rather than allowing anti-China forces and Cold war warriors to kidnap (the) China-UK relationship," he said. AP

Ex-Minneapolis cop argues for dropped charges in Floyd death

Minneapolis: A second former Minneapolis police officer charged in the death of George Floyd will seek to have the charges against him dismissed. Defense attorney Robert Paule filed a motion Wednesday saying Tou Thao will ask the judge to dismiss the charges at a hearing on September 11. An attorney for former officer Thomas Lane, Earl Gray, also has filed a motion saying he will argue to dismiss the charges against his client. Paule said he will argue that the charges against Thao are not supported by probable cause. Prosecutors must prove that Thao knew former officer Derek Chauvin and others were going to commit a crime and "intended his presence or actions to further the commission of that crime," Paule said in his motion. Paule said Thao's body camera video will show the lack of probable cause. Thao, 34, was seen in cellphone video standing near a crowd of bystanders as Chauvin pressed his knee to Floyd's neck. AP

Royalists in Thailand rally against pro-democracy protesters

Bangkok: Hardcore supporters of Thailand's monarchy held a small rally on Thursday in the capital to express their concern over the country's pro-democracy movement, which they feel besmirches the royal institution. Their demonstration was held at Bangkok's Democracy Monument, a traditional venue for protests that in recent weeks has hosted several larger pro-democracy, anti-government protests organized by students. Chanting "Long live the King" and singing songs associated with past nationalist movements, some 75 people gathered held signs calling for the protection of the monarchy. The protest was organized by a little-known group calling itself "Vocational School Students Protecting the Nation,"

and about two dozen college-age students were among the attendees as were many senior citizens. "I am here today because there are many protests that have anti-monarchy sentiment," said 17-year-old student Thanapat Putipat. "We are able to live on our land because of the kings and our ancestors. We must respect them." Todsapol Manujaras, a representative of the organizing group, vowed to stage counter-protests to any other demonstrations by the anti-government side. One was held later Thursday at another location in Bangkok. "We cannot accept those who violate our monarchy, the institution that should be with us forever," Todsapol said. AP

Ohio House ousts top leader after arrest in bribery scheme

Columbus: The Ohio House ousted its Republican speaker as the chamber's top leader in a historic, unanimous and bipartisan vote Thursday after his arrest in an alleged \$60 million bribery scheme. Rep. Larry Householder is the first Ohio House speaker ever removed by the chamber, according to the Ohio History Connection. For now, he still retains his seat in the GOP-led Legislature. Remaining members of Householder's leadership team had said he deserves the presumption of innocence but "lost the trust of his colleagues and the public" and couldn't effectively lead the House. Householder, of Glenford, and four associates were identified in a July 21 federal affidavit as allegedly taking part in a pay-to-play scheme involving

corporate money secretly funnelled to them for personal and political use in exchange for helping to pass House Bill 6 to financially bail out two FirstEnergy nuclear plants. Householder was one of the driving forces behind the legislation, which included a fee to every electricity bill in the state and directed over \$150 million a year through 2026 to the plants near Cleveland and Toledo. Householder, his long-time adviser Jeffrey Longstreth, former Ohio Republican Party chairman Matt Borges and lobbyists Neil Clark and Juan Cespedes could each face up to 20 years in prison if they're convicted for their alleged work to pass the bailout and block attempts to overturn it, according to a criminal complaint filed by the FBI. AP

HK disqualifies 12 Opp nominees for Assembly

Hong Kong: At least 12 Hong Kong pro-democracy nominees including prominent activist Joshua Wong were disqualified for September legislative elections, with authorities saying Thursday they failed to uphold the city's mini-constitution and pledge allegiance to Hong Kong and Beijing. Others who were disqualified include democracy activist Tiffany Yuen from the disbanded political organization Demosisto, as well as incumbent lawmaker Dennis Kwok and three others from the pro-democracy Civic Party. It marks a setback for the pro-democracy camp, which had aimed to win a majority of seats in the legislature this year. Earlier this month, they held an unofficial primary, with candidates including Wong topping the polls. AP

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 35 Years approx, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Strong, **Face:** Oval, **Wearing:** Red Colour full sleeve shirt, red colour sando banyan and blue colour pant has been found dead on 26.07.2020 in front of Hindu Rao Hospital parking, in the area of PS Subzi Mandi, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 32A, dated 26.07.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi
DP/414/N/2020(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23823161, 23827354

PREMIUM MERCHANTS LIMITED

Registered office: Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025
CIN: L51909DL1985PLC021077, Tel: +91 11 61119658
Email id: premiummerchants123@gmail.com, website: www.pmltd.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the meeting no. 02/2020-21 of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on 6th August, 2020 (Thursday) at the registered office of the Company at Omaxe Square, Plot No. 14, 5th Floor, Jasola District Centre, Jasola, New Delhi-110025 at 3.30 PM to discuss the following agenda items:

- To take on record the Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter ended on 30th June, 2020 in terms of Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015.
- To discuss and approve the Director's Report for the Financial Year ended on 31.03.2020.
- To consider appointment of Dr. (Mrs) Bina Modi (00448606) as a Non Executive Director of the Company subject to approval of shareholder of the Company at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.
- To fix the date of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company.
- To consider and decide the period of closure of register of members for record purpose.
- To avail services of Electronic Voting Platform from National Securities Depository Limited.
- To appoint of Scrutinizer for the purpose of e-voting at ensuing Annual General Meeting.
- To table and approve the draft of the Notice convening the next Annual General Meeting.
- To discuss any other business with the permission of Chair.

By Order of the Board
For Premium Merchants Limited
Sd/
Director
DIN:00027438

IT Development Agency (I.T.D.A.)

(Department of Information Technology)
Government of Uttarakhand
IT House, Plot No. 17/07, IT Park, Sahasrabudha Road, Dehradun - 248001
Ph: 0135-264203, Fax: 0135-264204
Email: itda@itda.gov.in, www.itda.gov.in

ITDA PROJECTS PROJECTS
Tender Notice No. ITDA/ITDA/PP/05/2020/Project Date: 02 July 2020
Selection of Service Provider for Procurement of Smart Phone & Tablet

Corrigendum-I

A corrigendum has been uploaded on procurement portal <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> in regarding changes in tender dates. All other terms and conditions will remain the same as per tender documents. DIRECTOR

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify to all that my client namely Sh. Pradeep Bansal S/o Sh. Baij Nath Bansal R/o House No. 1V/2621, Gali No. 7, Govardhan Bihari Colony, Shahdara, Delhi-110032. It is to inform that my client is the lawful owner of the aforesaid Property i.e. House No. 1V/2621, Gali No. 7, Govardhan Bihari Colony, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 and in the year 2006-2007, my client has executed the Sale Deed vide bearing its no. 7541 in favour of Sh. Shiv Kumar Bansal S/o Sh. Baij Nath Bansal R/o House No. 1V/2621, Gali No. 7, Govardhan Bihari Colony, Shahdara, Delhi-110032. This is further notified to all that the documents pertaining to aforesaid sale deed duly executed by my client in favour of Sh. Shiv Kumar Bansal has been lost somewhere. If in any case, anybody will use the aforesaid sale deed legally, the use of the said documents will be treated as null and void. Further a legal action will be taken against him.

Sanjay Gaur (Advocate)
Chamber No. E-712, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

GULSHAN POLYOLS LIMITED

CIN: L24231UP2000PLC034918
Regd. Off.: 9th K.M. Jansath Road, Muzaffarnagar - 251001 (U.P.)
Website: www.gulshanindia.com
email: cs@gulshanindia.com
Tel: 011-49999200, Ext. 237 Fax: 011-49999202

NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 06, 2020 at G-81 Preet Vihar, Delhi-110092, inter alia, to consider and approve the Un-Audited Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2020 along with Limited Review Report, and Amalgamation of Gulshan Holdings Private Limited and East Delhi Importers & Exporters Private Limited with Gulshan Polyols Limited; if any and other matters of the Company. The information contained in this Notice is also available on Company's website www.gulshanindia.com and on the Stock Exchange website: www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com

For Gulshan Polyols Limited
Sd/
(Vijay Garg)
Company Secretary

Place: Delhi
Dated: July 30, 2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Kismish D/o: Subodh Kumar Pandey, R/o: A-802, Jahangirpuri, Delhi missing since 20.07.2020 at about 10:00 AM from the area of P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi. In this regard FIR No. 440/20 dated 21.07.2020 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi.**

The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Kismish, **Age:** 17 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black Top and White Jeans.

If anyone has any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 **SHO**
Police Station, Mahendra Park, Delhi
DP/274/NW/2020 Ph: 011-27632501, 8750870227

China sees over 100 new cases for 2nd consecutive day

Beijing: China's COVID-19 cases have crossed the 100-mark for the second consecutive day, belying the hopes that the country managed to contain the deadly contagion. The National Health Commission (NHC) on Thursday said that 105 new coronavirus cases, including 102 domestically transmitted ones, were registered in the country on Wednesday, mainly in the Muslim Uyghur major-

ity Xinjiang province which reported a sudden spike in cases. The NHC on Wednesday said that 102 cases were reported on Tuesday, crossing the 100 mark for the first time in three months after it was controlled in Wuhan where the virus first emerged in December last year, sparking fears of a second wave of the COVID-19 attack in the country. PTI

Oxford vaccine shows protection against virus in monkeys: Study

PTI ■ LONDON A COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by the University of Oxford in the UK elicits an immune response and reduces the viral load in monkeys exposed to SARS-CoV-2 virus, according to a study published in the journal Nature on Thursday. The researchers from National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the US and the Oxford University found that the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine protects the macaques from COVID-19 pneumonia — a complica-

tion of SARS-CoV-2 infection in which the lungs become inflamed and may fill with fluid. Preliminary results from this research were used to facilitate the start of clinical trials of the vaccine in humans, the researchers noted. ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 is made from a weakened chimpanzee adenovirus -- a group of viruses that can cause a range of illnesses, including the common cold -- that expresses the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, a structure that enables the coronavirus to enter human cells.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information to General Public regarding Farm No. 27, Gadaipur, Mandi Road, New Delhi 110030. My client Sh. Maninder Singh Narula S/o Ranbir Singh Narula have taken the farm No. 27 Gadaipur, Mandi Road, New Delhi 110030 on lease from K.M. Properties & Investment and is in Possession till date and it came to know from the dealer in local that some persons are trying to Sale the property in some fictitious name. This is to inform general public that the farm mentioned above is not on sale and any lien/right/investment done by anyone will solely be on their own risk and legal proceedings will be initiated against them further the above said farm is in Possession of Maninder Singh Narula by virtue of Lease deed till date.

Sejal Dhaniya (Advocate), S-265, L.G.F., Greate Kailash1, New Delhi-110018

WESTERN RAILWAY ADDENDUM

In reference to the Expression of Interest regarding pre-bid meeting to be held on 05.08.2020 at 11:00 hrs in Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai 400008 to discuss the modalities of proposal and drafting of application for empanelment of Rail Aggregator And Handler (RAAH), the following addendum may please be noted: Interested Parties can communicate with the following Official for any queries:

- **Divisional Railway Manager - Mumbai Central:** 9004499000
- **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager - Mumbai Central:** 9004499950

Interested parties shall communicate their confirmation on email id: bcidrsm@gmail.com. Option of both physical and web based meeting can be exercised, link for which will be shared on your e mail id.

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FMCG sales in rural mkt bounce back in Jun: Nielsen

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rural and semi urban markets have posted a strong bounce back in FMCG sales in June, while bigger cities continue to witness decline as "industry revival in Bharat outpaces that in India", according to data analytics firm Nielsen. Sales in rural and smaller town markets reported increase of 12 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively, while metro and class I cities declined by 4 per cent and 2 per cent in June, Nielsen said in its report Q2 FMCG Growth Snapshot. The coronavirus pandemic is severe in Indian metros and urban centres as compared to rural areas, and the number of days of functioning of retail stores dealing in FMCG products in metropolitan cities were two-times less

as compared to outlets in rural areas even in June, it said. "As a result, the industry sales continued to decline in bigger cities (above one lakh population, including metros and Town Class 1) in June. The smaller towns and rural markets, however, had a strong bounce back in June, after two months of negative growth during the lockdown," Nielsen said. Interestingly in pre-Covid January-March Quarter, rural had a slower growth rate than urban. "After witnessing slower growth compared to urban in Q120, rural markets led the industry revival in June with a double-digit (12 per cent) growth versus June of 2019. "At an overall quarter level also, rural markets were less impacted as compared to their

urban counterpart (11 per cent decline for rural vs 20 per cent for urban)," it said. Nielsen President - South Asia Prasad Basu expects that going forward rural could outperform the large cities driven by multiple factors such as enhanced Government schemes, lower instances of positive cases and a relatively well-spread out monsoon that bodes well for the agrarian economy. "While nobody knows the end story of the pandemic... But rural has been largely untouched, the only caution I would put is as the lockdowns getting opened up - there is more movement at people -- I hope that does not affect rural market in any way," he said. This was helped by several other macro-environment factors such as rural stimulus

by the government as increased MNREGA allocation, Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan, support to agriculture and upskilling programmes for migrant workers that returned to their villages besides normal and timely rainfall. Moreover, reverse migration added to the rural labour and consumer base. "States like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh that attract high numbers of migrant population, had a negative impact due to reverse migration of labour. This gave a positive boost to FMCG sales in states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand, where the local governments dialed up on employment efforts reflecting in unemployment data as well," it said. Rural markets in the north

and east, which forms a bulk of rural sales, have performed better than other regional markets. "These two zones saw a shift from negative industry growth of April-May to a high single-digit growth in June. On the other hand, the west zone that has a relatively higher urban population and had higher severity of the pandemic continued to decline in June," it added. Overall, Nielsen said, "Industry revival in Bharat outpaces that in India". According to Nielsen Global Connect Lead Retail Vertical and RMS, Sharang Pant, the urban market would bounce back. "Once the intermittent lockdown is over and the third phase of the Unlock, which has been announced by the gov-

ernment, we are expecting returning of normalcy as stores opened for more days and consumer are given more opportunity to go outside to but thing which they need. Moreover, after Unlock, the unemployment situation is also expected to come down," he said. The FMCG industry started to witness slowdown from the last week of March and got amplified in April-May 2020 when the industry declined by 28 per cent as compared to the same period of 2019. This was due to massive disruptions in production and supply chain, and low consumer confidence. However, Unlock 1.0 in June saw a revival, as the industry clocked a growth of 4.5 per cent compared to the same period a year ago.

Sensex up 280 points; healthcare, IT stocks rise

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

The key Indian equity indices traded on a positive note on Thursday with the BSE Sensex rising over 280 points. The domestic indices were tracking gains on the Asian markets which rose after the US Federal Reserve kept interest rates at low levels. Around 10.18 a.m., Sensex was trading at 38,352.25, higher by 281.12 points or 0.74 per cent from its previous close of 38,071.13. It opened at 38,262.83 and has so far touched an intra-day high of 38,366.43 and a low of



38,221.80. Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange was trading at 11,280.30, higher by 77.45 points or 0.69 per cent from its previous close. The top gainers on the Sensex so far were TCS, Maruti Suzuki India and Asian Paints, while the major losers were IndusInd Bank, Power Grid and Hindustan Unilever.

82% of corporates expect to get back to pre-Covid-19 revenue growth by June 2021, says report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Eighty-two per cent of Indian companies expect to get back to pre-coronavirus revenue run rate by June 2021, according to a report by PwC India. The report is based on a survey of 225 CXOs across industries to assess the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. PwC conducted an anonymous online survey between June 17, 2020 and July 10, 2020, it said adding that the survey respondents were a mix of CXOs and other senior management personnel from various industries in India. The report suggests that infrastructure, real estate, industrials, retail, hospitality and media and entertainment suffered significant revenue decline due to the crisis, as per the report titled 'COVID-19: Path to Recovery'. Collapse in demand, supply-chain disruptions and liquidity constraints were the top reasons for the decline, it said. "Sectors such as information technology, healthcare,

pharma, telecom, utilities and consumer essentials were somewhat resilient. Crisis management and agility to adapt to the changing market were the key for resilience," it said. According to the report, 73 per cent respondents are expecting lower revenues in 2020-21, but only 15 per cent expect the decline extending to the next fiscal. Further, an overwhelming 77 per cent of the respondents would like to accelerate digital enablement, it said. Other significant interventions anticipated by the respondents include localisation of manufacturing/supply chains, development of new logistics models, collaboration to add capabilities and navigate bottlenecks and development of newer products and services. "Forty-five per cent of the respondents are keen to consider acquisitions, whereas 20 per cent are considering divesting non-core businesses. Twenty-six per cent of the respondents would be looking to raise funds," said the report.

Sanjeev Krishan, partner and leader (deals) at PwC India, said business leaders have adapted well to this unprecedented situation and are optimistic of recovery. "We noticed a pragmatic progression in the steps taken by CXOs from 'repair' to 'rethink' to 'reconfigure' in future. In this tougher business environment, digital enablement has become key for remaining competitive and resilient," he said. He further said value creation has become even more critical and deal-making is going to be an important lever. The crisis has brought resilience to the fore and we expect boardrooms to take due cognisance of it, he added. The priorities for most respondent organisations have evolved from survival initiatives like employee well-being and availability and business continuity during the lockdown to rebound initiatives like recapturing demand and optimising costs after the unlock, the report said.

Wipro bags multi-year deal from Metro Bank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

IT major Wipro on Thursday said it has inked a multi-year contract with UK-based Metro Bank to deliver testing and environment management services. As part of this partnership, Wipro will leverage its digital and quality engineering capabilities to drive transformation through automation, service virtualisation and DevSecOps (development, security and operations) enablement, it said in a statement. This will help Metro Bank achieve its objectives around cost, pace and quality of operations and further differentiate them from other high street banks, it added. No financial details of the deal were disclosed. "This directly supports

Metro Bank's strategy to become the UK's best community bank by providing outstanding service and solutions to our personal and business customers," Metro Bank's Chief Information Officer Cheryl McCuaig said. Wipro has also been chosen as one of the preferred partners to deliver business-IT services across Metro Bank functions, the statement said. "We are delighted to be chosen as Metro Bank's strategic transformation partner for testing and environment services. We look forward to working together and delivering an ambitious programme that will significantly improve the overall efficiency of technology change," Wipro Senior Vice President and Head - Banking (Europe, Middle East and Africa) Omkar Nisal said.

Mother Dairy enters bread segment, aims ₹25K crore turnover by 2025

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mother Dairy, a leading milk supplier in Delhi-NCR, on Thursday forayed into bread segment as part of its strategy to diversify business, and announced its target to more than double its revenue to ₹25,000 crore in the next five years. Mother Dairy has launched three types of breads - sandwich, brown, and fruit & milk - in a price range of ₹15-40 per packet. The breads will be initially available at its 1,800 milk booths and 'Safal' outlets in the National Capital Region (NCR). The company is targeting a revenue of ₹100 crore from bread segment over the next three years. "We are diversifying into confectionery and bakery segment with the launch of our breads," Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt Ltd Managing Director Sangram Chaudhary told reporters in a video con-

ference. He said the size of the bread market in India is estimated to be ₹5,300 crore currently and is growing at an average rate of 10 per cent for the last five years. The highest consumption is of white bread. Chaudhary said the company has introduced around 20 new products in the market, including five types of sweets. Asked about the company's current turnover and future outlook, he said Mother Dairy's current annual revenue is around ₹10,000-11,000 crore. "We are targeting to reach ₹25,000 crore turnover by 2025," he said, adding that growth could be slow this year because of COVID-19. He said consumption pattern has changed a lot because of pandemic, with people preferring home delivery of products. Elaborating on bread business, Chaudhary said, "The bread market in India is localised due to logistical and supply chain issues.

With Mother Dairy, this has never been a challenge because of our existing network. Hence, having bread in our kitty was a natural fit." The company is also exploring a larger bakery play, he said. Sanjay Sharma, business head of dairy products, said breads are being currently manufactured by a third party and will be sold through 1,800 company outlets in the first phase. However, retail distribution network as well as product portfolio would be expanded based on customers' response, Sharma said. "We are looking at ₹100 crore business in bread category over the next three years," he said. A 500 gm packet of sandwich bread is priced at ₹30, while the cost of 700 gm packet is ₹40. Brown bread packet of 400 gm is priced at ₹30, while the rate for fruit & milk bread is ₹15 for 150 gm pack- et.

Bamboo can be main pillar of medicinal, paper industries: Jitendra Singh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday that bamboo can be the main pillar of ecological, medicinal, paper and building sectors in India and it can become one of the important components of the country's post-Covid-19 economy. Chairing a review meeting of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Singh urged the Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC) to explore setting up of vocational training and skill development centres for the bamboo sector for its full exploitation, branding, packaging and marketing in India and abroad. Bamboo can be the main pillar of ecological, medicinal, paper and building sectors in India, he said. The Minister for DoNER said that CBTC, in coordination with National Bamboo Mission, will work in this direction to boost the bamboo economy in the north-

eastern region. The skill centres will propel the bamboo industry with new start-ups and also enhance livelihood opportunities, he said. Singh said the bamboo sector will be one of the important components of India's post-Covid economy and a vital pillar of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' (self-reliant campaign) in the northeastern region. Underlining the unexpected potentials of this sector and "being neglected for the last 70 years", he said the present government has the capacity and the will to unlock its potential to the highest level as 40 per cent of all bamboo resources lie in northeastern region in the country. Welcoming the central government's decisions to ban import of finished products and raising the import duty by 25 per cent on raw bamboo items, Singh said the measures will help the domestic bamboo industries, including incense stick-making, in a big way.

States may have to borrow as AG says Centre not obligated to pay for GST compensation shortfall

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Attorney General has opined that the Centre has no statutory obligation to make up from its coffers any shortfall in GST revenues of states, which may now have to look at market borrowings against future revenue mop-up, sources said. The Centre had in March sought views from Attorney General KK Venugopal on the legality of market borrowing to make good the shortfall in compensation fund - a corpus created from levy of additional tax on luxury and sin goods to compensate states for revenue shortfall arising from their taxes being subsumed into the Goods and Services Tax (GST). Sources said the AG in his view has said there is no obligation on the central government to pay the GST compensation shortfall from its coffers. The AG has also said the GST Council has to decide on making good the shortfall in

the GST compensation fund by providing the sufficient amount to be credited to it. Sources said the options before the Council for meeting the shortfall could be to rationalise GST rates, cover more items under the compensation cess or increase the cess, or recommend higher borrowing by states to be repaid by the future collections into the compensation fund. Since raising tax or cess rates might not be feasible in the current pandemic situation, the option that remains would be each State borrowing from the market against the consolidated fund of the state to meet the shortfall in revenue. Under GST law, states were guaranteed to be compensated bi-monthly for any loss of revenue in the first five years of the GST implementation from July 1, 2017. The shortfall is calculated assuming a 14 per cent annual growth in GST collections by states over the base year of 2015-16.

E-commerce spends surpass pre-Covid-19 levels post lockdown in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce spends surpassed pre-Covid-19 levels after the lockdown across Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru as more individuals opted to shop online for their discretionary and non-discretionary spends, according to a report by credit card bill payment platform CRED. The report is based on an analysis of credit card spending patterns of over three million members across the three cities. The data takes February 2020 spending as a baseline and compares it to spends in subsequent months under which the lockdown and unlock time periods fall, said the report. CRED said there were two topline insights gathered from the study. The study was done to understand larger trends reflected in spending behaviour of affluent consumers pre-, during and post the lockdown. More individuals opted to shop online for their discretionary and non-discretionary spends during the lockdown but have continued after the lockdown as well, indicating a larger behavioural trend, the report said. Sharp spikes were recorded in online grocery and e-commerce surpassing even pre-COVID-19 levels, while spending on physical grocery and shopping fell substantially. "E-commerce spends surpassed pre-Covid-19 levels post the lockdown across all three cities. Delhi spend grew to 135 per cent, while Mumbai was at 133 per cent and Bengaluru at 124 per cent," CRED said.

Wisemore Advisory Private Limited				
CIN : U74999HR2017PTC085774				
Regd Office : AR1017B, The Arealias, DLF Golf Links, Gurgaon, Haryana-122009				
Statement of Profit and Loss for the year ended 31 st March, 2020				
(Amounts in INR thousand, except share and per share data, unless otherwise stated)				
Particulars	6 months ended 31 March 2020 Unaudited (refer note 6)	6 months ended 31 March 2019 Unaudited (refer note 6)	Year ended 31 March 2020 Audited	Year ended 31 March 2019 Audited
Revenue from operations	300	600	1,800	1,500
Other income	-	-	-	-
Total Income	300	600	1,800	1,500
Expenses:				
Other expenses	528	365	1,169	1,892
Total expenses	528	365	1,169	1,892
Earning before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA)	(228)	236	631	(392)
Depreciation and amortization expense	-	-	-	-
Finance costs	3,21,529	3,11,383	6,48,560	5,50,420
Profit/(loss) before tax	(3,21,757)	(3,11,147)	(6,47,929)	(5,50,812)
Tax expense	-	-	-	-
Current tax	-	-	-	-
Deferred tax	-	-	-	-
Profit/(loss) after tax	(3,21,757)	(3,11,147)	(6,47,929)	(5,50,812)
Other comprehensive income, net of tax	(5,43,119)	3,12,717	(5,43,119)	10,50,768
Total comprehensive Income/ (loss)	(8,64,876)	1,570	(11,91,048)	4,99,956
Paid up Equity Share Capital	8,69,169	8,13,342	8,69,169	8,13,342
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	42,80,198	36,32,010	42,80,198	36,32,010
Earnings per share :				
Basic :	(3.94)	(3.83)	(7.94)	(6.77)
Diluted :	(3.94)	(3.83)	(7.94)	(6.77)
Debt Equity Ratio	5.94	1.96	5.94	1.96
Debt Service Coverage Ratio	(0.00)	0.00	0.00	(0.00)
Interest Service Coverage Ratio	(0.00)	0.00	0.00	(0.00)
Disclosures pursuant to Regulations 52(4) and 52(7) Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.				
- Credit Rating : CARE BB (SO)				
- Change in credit rating : No				
- Asset Coverage Ratio : 126.02% (March 31, 2019 : 166.02%)				
- Debt Equity ratio : mentioned above				
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above				
- Interest Service Coverage Ratio : mentioned above				
- Previous due date for the payment of interest/repayment of principal of non convertible debt securities and whether the same has been paid or not (as on March 31, 2020)				
Previous due date for the payment of interest : None				
Previous due date for the payment of principal : None				
- Next due date for the payment of interest/repayment of principal of non convertible debt securities (as on March 31, 2020)				
Next due date for the payment of interest : January 30, 2022 & April 10, 2023				
Next due date for the payment of principal : January 30, 2022 & April 10, 2023				
- Outstanding redeemable preference shares (Quantity and Value) : Not Applicable				
- Net Worth : INR 720,127 thousands (March 31, 2019 : 1,855,349 thousands)				
- Net profit after tax : mentioned above				
- Earning per share : mentioned above				
- Debenture Redemption Reserve : NIL (March 31, 2019 : NIL)				
- There are no material deviation in the use of proceeds of issue of Non Convertible Debentures from the objects stated in the offer document (Regulations 52(7))				
Notes :				
1 Ratios have been computed as follows :				
- Earning per share = Profit after Tax / Weighted average number of equity shares				
- Debt Equity Ratio = Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) / Equity (Equity share capital, share premium, other equity, quasi equity i.e. Short term borrowing but excluding unamortize fees)				
- Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit before interest, prior period interests, tax, extraordinary items and depreciation / Total Interest Expense.				
- Debt Service Coverage Ratio = (PAT + Depreciation + Interest (Interest, other financing costs payable under Debenture)/ (Interest + Principal Repayment).				
- Asset Coverage Ratio = (Total Assets-Current Liabilities) / Debt (Amount due to Debenture Holders) Equity represents issued subscribed and paid up capital plus reserves and surplus.				
Reserves and Surplus includes Capital Reserve, General Reserve, Debenture redemption reserve, fair value through other comprehensive Income Balance, Securities premium account and Profit and loss account balance.				
2 The company is in the business of Providing management consultancy services. There is only one segment (business and/or geographical) in accordance with the requirements of IND AS - 108 "Operating Segments".				
3 Tax expense includes Current Tax and Deferred Tax charge.				
4 The above audited financial results have been approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting held on 29th July 2020.				
5 The format for audited results as prescribed in SEBI's circular CIR/IMD/DF1/69/2016 dated August 10, 2016 has been modified to comply with requirements of SEBI's circular dated July 5, 2016, Ind AS and Schedule III (Division II) to the Act applicable to companies that are required to comply with Ind AS.				
6 The figures of six month period ended are the balancing figures for full financial year.				
7 In view of the loss during the current year, DRR has not been created.				
8 The Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2019 as per Schedule III of the Companies Act, 2013 is attached as Annexure 1.				
Place : Gurugram				
Date : 29 th July, 2020				
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors Vaishali Nigam Sinha, Managing Director, DIN- 02299472				

DMRC will adjust Gzb Municipal Corporation's outstanding ₹2 billion with tax payable

Ghaziabad: DMRC will not have to pay the remaining two billion rupees to the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation for the new bus Adda Metro Rail Second Phase from Dilshad Garden, but DMRC will adjust this amount as against the payable taxes. The Uttar Pradesh government has also given a green signal in this regard. Actually, correspondence between GDA Municipal Corporation and DMR C was going on for a long time regarding the outstanding contribution of Municipal Corporation. After this decision, the dispute has now come to an end. This information was given by Mayor Asha Sharma here today. On the issue of giving contribution, the municipal corporation argued that most

of 100 crores of Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation, which is to be taken from DMRC to Municipal Corporation. The Mayor said that on the basis of the funding pattern of Metro Rail, Naga Corporation had increased the revised DPR on Metro Rail to two billion thirty-three crores, if the tax amount from DMRC and Railways will be adjusted in this amount of liability. The fund of the infrastructure fund received by the corporation will not be cut, and this fund to be held in the city will speed up the development works. The special thing is that in this entire matter, the Commissioner of Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation, Dr. Dinesh Chand Singh has already informed the Government in writing.

Uttar Pradesh Government gave green signal to corporation administration

स्वास्थ्य विभाग

बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग द्वारा अनुशंसित विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सा पदाधिकारियों के लिए आवश्यक सूचना:-

बिहार तकनीकी सेवा आयोग के विज्ञापन संख्या-03/2019 स्त्री रोग, 04/2019 माइक्रोबायोलॉजी, 05/2019 फिजिशियन, 06/2019 शिशु रोग, 07/2019 ईओएनटी, 08/2019 नेत्र रोग, 09/2019 पैथोलॉजी, 10/2019 रेडियोलॉजी, 11/2019 मनोचिकित्सक, 12/2019 मूर्च्छक, 13/2019 चर्म रोग, 14/2019 जेनरल सर्जरी एवं 15/2019 हड्डी रोग द्वारा अनुशंसित विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सा पदाधिकारियों की नियुक्ति-सह-पदस्थापना का आदेश विभागीय वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।

2- सम्प्रति राज्य वैश्विक नोवल कोरोना वायरस के संक्रमण से प्रभावित है। अतः सभी नवनि्युक्त विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सा पदाधिकारियों को निदेश दिया जाता है कि वे 07 (सात) दिन के भीतर पदस्थापित स्थल पर योगदान देना सुनिश्चित करें।

(अनिल कुमार)
संयुक्त सचिव

PR. No. 004445 (Health) 2020-21

नोवल कोरोना के संघर्ष में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सलाहों हेतु Toll Free No. 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।
स्वायं सहायता -संबंधी किसी तरह का जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

Trend Blazer

Diljit's G.O.A.T. No.1 in seven countries

Singer-actor **DILJIT DOSANJH** has a new reason to be happy. His latest single *G.O.A.T.* has garnered over 11 million views in less than 24 hours of release.

The song is trending at number one across seven countries, which includes India, UAE, Bahrain and Canada, and is in the top trending list in 16 countries within a few hours of release.

"I am so touched with the kind of love everyone has given me. I feel truly blessed. I have only unending gratitude for all my fans and my fellow industry friends for showing me so much love and support," Diljit said.

Earlier, Diljit said that the album is for everyone who has encouraged him and his music.



'Saregama has ensured a certain quality of music across the decades. Bellbottom is a very special

film for me with a retro aesthetic to it. I am excited about how we will incorporate that through music. With Saregama as our music partner, I am confident we will achieve that. We will assure a chartbuster of an album together.'

—Jackky Bhagnani

Actor **VICKY KAUSHAL** has recently shared what he regrets on social media.

Vicky took to Instagram and posted a selfie himself after a workout. In the image, the actor flaunts post-work sweat, in a white T-shirt and black baseball cap.

He wrote, "Sweat > Regret. Although regret wasting time in between sets. Adios!"

Vicky on Wednesday shared that he yearns to break free. The actor shared his thoughts along with a still from his 2018 release *Manmarziyaan*. In the picture, he can be seen jumping from the terrace of a building.



Learning to love myself: Demi

Actor **DEMI MOORE** says she spent too long changing herself for other people. She is now learning to love herself.

The actor has been married three times previously, to Freddy Moore, Bruce Willis and Ashton Kutcher.

"I think it's a process of learning to love yourself, accepting who you are just as you are. For me, I changed myself over and over to fit what I thought somebody else wanted," said Moore.

She feels it is really commendable to be working through a relationship in current times. She thinks true love can only last when both parties have an "acceptance" of themselves first.



Gift an emotion

As gifting remains sacrosanct, here's a guide of thoughtful ideas you can use to send love to your siblings this Rakshabandhan

It has been a tough year. With a pandemic hitting people across the world, it is the bond of relationships that has kept humans going and facing the situation strongly, albeit from a distance. Rakshabandhan, the festival that celebrates the love-hate bond of siblings, is just round the corner but may not be the occasion for hugs and kisses yet. But with technology, there's no missing the human touch. E-commerce is playing a key role in making sure the festive spirit is alive and keeping siblings connected despite the lockdown and travel bans. And needless to say, gifting remains sacrosanct too. Here's a guide of thoughtful ideas you can use to send love to your siblings staying away from you.

Customised hampers

Various companies are offering surprise gift cards. Bata is offering customised e-gift cards up to 15 per cent off. You can choose from different template options available and add a customised message for your sibling, which will be delivered directly to them. Finding a rakhi combo becomes easy with Amazon, Flipkart and various other platforms offering personalised hampers, one of which includes a coffee mug, greeting card and a customised rakhi.

One such is also Occasionally Silly, which has introduced a range of quirky hampers. Sumit Gaddi, CEO and

founder of the brand, says, "I believe gifting is an emotion. In fact, people are spending substantially more time in choosing their gifts and going an extra mile in customising them. Brands are coming up with unique ideas to curate personalised gift hampers as per the interest of an individual and yet they are very creative and thoughtful."

Glam-up for Zoom

Wondering how to make for a perfect Zoom celebration and look your best? Well, you can add the new blue, round-neck kurta set from Aurelia. With grey-blue embroidery, a printed

skirt and a simple dupatta, it can be easily accessorised with a pair of mini jhumkis. With the floral pattern, a set from W has that complete festive vibe to it. It comes with a pink top, a dhoti along with a sheer jacket.

Comfort fit has always been the mantra for men and t-shirts can be a great gifting option. Buy your brother a blue collared neck t-shirt from Cantabil to make his wardrobe a little more stylish even while he is working from home.

A gift of health

What could be more heart-felt gift



helpful to track everything from heart rate to the number of steps walked per day. Try Hammer Fit Pro Smart Fitness Band, which comes with a detailed ultralight fashionable design, built with 0.96 inches LED colour HD display for a better visual experience. It is useful in tracking and monitoring almost all the daily activities like blood pressure, sleep patterns, calories burned and more. It is 100 per cent waterproof for stress-free use during water activities.

Gadgets for him

Technology can be a wonderful thing as long as you can closely manage your relationship with it. Show the gesture of love with OPPO A-series smartphones and give a much anticipated upgrade, that too without burning a hole in your pocket. While the OPPO A-52 comes with a powerful 12 MP quad camera to turn every beautiful memory into a photograph, the A12 comes with a 13 MP primary camera to keep selfie game on top.

How about gifting your sibling a Thomson Bluetooth Speaker that pours out 10watts of pure clean sound with great bass? Its added 10-metre range sets you free. It will be something that one can truly cherish. Most importantly, it will last many years to remind you of a special year where your thoughts counted over the credit card.

A gift that benefits health may be especially helpful to someone who wouldn't normally purchase such an item or doesn't know about available options. A wearable fitness monitor is

Speed, power and other things



How much power is appropriate for a car in India and elsewhere?

When writing my first drive impressions of the new fifth-generation Honda City, I went back to the first-generation City. While I might remember that car as if it was yesterday, but it was approximately two decades ago. That particular vehicle will remain embedded in my memory because there really weren't that many cars to play around with when I was growing up. While some new carmakers such as Ford, General Motors (Opel), Daewoo and Hyundai had come by the mid-90s, it was the Honda City that really redefined the game in terms of affordability, quality and fun. Although today you can get a small hatchback with 100 horsepower, the City was genuinely the first car in India which gave a sense of enjoyment that the general motoring public had never had before. There are people who swear by the Honda City because of that experience they had twenty years ago. While the modern Honda City has moved from being a speedboat to a small luxury yacht, you can still have a lot of fun in the manual variant.

Back in the early 2000s, cars like the Honda City with 100 horsepower and the Maruti Zen with 60 horsepower were the standard bearers for power and performance. But now, the typical mid-sized sedan has around 120-140 horsepower and that does not seem enough. At a level that is because we are inundated with luxury German sedans with 190-200 horsepower. But this is at



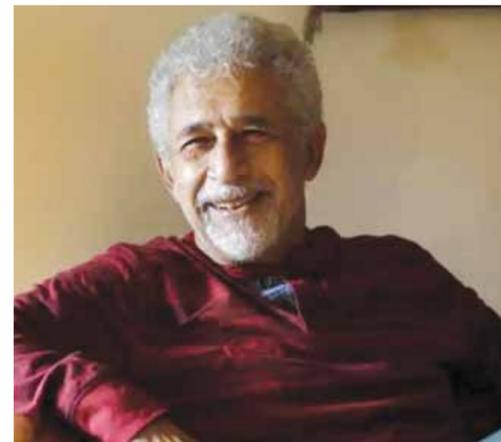
a time when carmakers are making 600 horsepower sedans, the new BMW M5, Mercedes-Benz E63S and Audi RS 7 are all manic cars that redefine our relationship with power. I have driven a couple of them and let me assure you that 600 horsepower is a lot, a bit too much in the Indian context because these super sedans have more power than supercars from a decade ago. The Lamborghini Gallardo had 550-570 horsepower during its decade of production. Believe me, 600 horsepower is too much for most roads because you get from a standing start to three digits in under four seconds and even the best drivers treat the accelerator pedal with trepidation. While it is tempting to switch off electronic aids such as traction control and the stability programme or even the four-wheel drive system on the M5, it is surprisingly easy to lose control of one of those cars. I have never even switched off traction control on an open public road, whether it is India or abroad. In India, if

you do such a thing, that's not a very smart move to say the least. Just yesterday, I was driving down the highway to Kanpur and thank god for traction control. There were some cows on the road, just after a blind turn and I thanked my lucky stars that I'd gone through high-speed zig-zagging courses where the traction control keeps the car in check. I was in a 190 horsepower GLC 220d and I wasn't speeding. Trust me, Mercedes-Benz makes it impossible to cross 120 kilometres per hour in any of their new cars without getting a headache, which brings me back to the point. Even the nicer Indian highways are an exhausting and often terrifying experience to be on. I love driving some of the more powerful cars out there, but only on a racetrack. I do not want a Lamborghini to have an incident with an Indian bull, and you know as well as I do, that is a rather likely possibility in India. Of course, you don't always buy a car in that class to drive like a

lunatic breaking speed limits, you buy a car like that to be seen. But if you do want to have a bit of fun, I believe 240-260 horsepower is the sweet spot for fast acceleration and the occasional 'fast' drive.

I call cars like the Mercedes-Benz C300d, BMW's range of 30i power-rated engines or Audi's 45 TFSI power-rated vehicles 'power ratings' because the Germans have long-since abandoned the model numbers with engine sizes. Both the BMW 530i and Audi A6 45TFSI have two-litre petrol engines, go figure!

Power is your friend. In an emergency situation, you can use power to get out of trouble, but you should not abuse it because the power can whack you in the back of your head and then you will need the help of the 'mother' (the brakes). Given the condition of Indian roads, speeding is not a very great option. While I lament that carmakers don't offer more engine options with around 300-400 horsepower, they know what they are doing.



'Always wanted to work with Anand'

In the Amazon Prime Video's forthcoming musical series, *Bandish Bandits*, a story of love, betrayal and family, actor Shreya Chaudhary plays the character of aspiring pop sensation 'Tamanna', Ritwik Bhowmik plays a classical music prodigy 'Radhe' and Naseeruddin Shah plays the character of Radhe's guruji 'Pandit Radhemohan Rathod'.

When asked in a recent interview if one of the reasons he agreed to do the series was because his character had three shades, Shah replied, "Well that was one of the reasons but I also wanted to work with Anand (Tiwari). I've seen his work and films and I've always liked it. So that was a reason I wanted to do this project."

The actor further added, "The second reason was that I've always had a bit of a problem with singing on screen. Mirza Ghalib helped me to come to grip with it and this film really helped me to overcome my terror of playback singing. This was rather difficult because it had some pretty complicated ups and downs in the classical mold

and I'm not very familiar with it unlike Atul (Kulkarni) who has had something of a background of classical music and I didn't."

Shah continued, "So it was great fun to try to get the manner of a classical singer. The third thing is that he's not a goody-goody character because normally the parts written for elder actors are either wicked, scheming, gentle or of doctors, fathers, something on these lines."

Lastly, he added, "No one bothers to really go into depth where an elder character is concerned and this was a script in which this character is not always shown in a sympathetic light. In fact, he's responsible for a great deal of mishaps that occur to the characters in this series."

The series, set in Jodhpur is produced and created by Amritpal Singh Bindra and directed by Anand Tiwari. The show also features an original soundtrack, composed by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, who are also making their digital debut with this show. The series consists of 10 musical episodes.

(The Amazon Prime Original releases on August 4.)

NO DISTANCING FROM BIRYANI

While many resorted to cooking new dishes and even baking at home, here's what India ordered the most during the lockdown. By TEAM VIVA



Even though distancing protocols have been ardently followed, the survey reveals how the rules don't apply to Biryani. The data shows that when people weren't whipping up Dalgona or baking Banana Bread in the early days of the lockdown, they found comfort in their Biryani, which continued to rule the roost with nearly 5.5 lakh orders. It was followed by orders for Butter Naan and Masala Dosa.

When it came to desserts, while last year, Indians indulged the most into *Faloodas*, this year, we witnessed the moist and decadent choco-lava cake grab the top desserts slot. Around 1,29,000 people turned to ordering a choco-lava cake. The humble *Gulab jamun* and chic Butterscotch mousse cake followed suit. This surge is clear that in times like these, everybody needs a pick-me-up.

Indians have been particular about their eating timings and now the survey proves it a little more. While working from home or not, on an average, 65,000 meal orders would be already placed by 8 pm each day to make sure food arrives in time for dinner. This thus turned out to be the busiest hour for Swiggy delivery partners and restaurants. The deliveries came with a tip and starting from approximately ₹23.65, a particularly generous customer ended up tipping ₹2,500!

As birthday parties shifted to video calls and virtual cake cutting sessions, nearly 1,20,000 cakes were delivered.

When it comes to stocking things up at home, around 323 million kg of onions and 56 million kg of bananas have been ordered.

While some were busy showing off their culinary skills on social media every day, a large set of consumers resorted to the evergreen college hack of living on instant noodles. Around 3,50,000 packets of the easy to cook meal were ordered during the lockdown.

Swiggy's *Hope, Not Hunger* initiative also raised over ₹10 crore, which helped serve 30 lakh meals to people in need during the lockdown.

With cafes and bars shut and social meetings halted, hospitality definitely has seen a downturn in the first of 2020. However, when it comes to food, delicacies can never be turned down. Hence, the food delivery businesses have as compared taken an upturn and booming.

Well, while many resorted to cooking new dishes and even baking at home for the first time, we are also well aware of the fact that many in India couldn't stay back when it came to ordering food at their homes during the lockdown. Well, behind every person who didn't step out of their homes, was a delivery partner who ensured they didn't have to. Food delivery services certainly became a lifeline for those stuck indoors away from family, busy at work or bored with the daily *ghar ka khana*. However, do we know what they ordered



the most? While the quarantine opened a Pandora's box of behavioural changes which are becoming the 'new normal', some old habits die hard. For instance, India's love for Biryani continues to grow.

As many restaurants and several five-star hotels, national supermarket chains, local convenience stores and even the FMCG brands partnered with food delivery app, Swiggy, through its Swiggy Genie and Grocery to make essential

items available to citizens, the app recently carried out a survey as to what is being ordered the most — The Quarantine Edition. Its analysis reveals what Indians have been ordering for the past few months.

R E C I P E S

ALMOND AND CARROT HALWA CRUMBLE

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Carrot: ½ kg
 - Full cream milk: ½ ltr
 - Sugar: ½ cup
 - Cardamom (powdered): 4
 - Ghee: 2 tbsp
 - Almonds (blanched): ¼ cup

- To crumble:**
- All-purpose flour: ¾ cup
 - Butter (unsalted): ½ cup
 - Sugar: ½ cup



- METHOD**
- In a pan, add milk and carrots together and keep on cooking till the milk reduces to 3/4th.
 - Add cardamom powder, ghee, and sugar to it. Mix it well.
 - Add the sliced, blanched almonds and mix well.
 - For the crumble, rub

the flour, butter, sugar and ground almonds together, till it resembles bread crumbs.

● Bake the crumble at 180 degrees Celsius till the colour turns golden brown.

● Serve the *gajar halwa* with crumble and roasted almonds.

Courtesy: Chef Manish Mehrotra.



MANGO WALNUT SHEERA

- WHAT YOU NEED**
- Ghee: 3/4 cup
 - Semolina: 3/4 cup
 - Wheat flour: 1/4 cup
 - Sugar: 3/4 cup
 - Mango puree: 1/2 cup
 - Water (add more if the sheera is too dry): 2 cup
 - Walnuts: 1/2 cup

- METHOD**
- Chop walnuts and toast them into a pan. Do not over do it.
 - Puree the mangoes to get mango pulp (if using fresh mangoes).

- Add ghee, semolina and wheat flour in a pan and start roasting on medium flame.
- Keep roasting and stirring until the colour starts to change and you get a nice aroma.
- Now add sugar and mango pulp and stir quickly. While mixing continuously, add water too.
- Keep stirring to avoid lumps and add the toasted California Walnuts.
- Cool until the ghee separates.
- Serve immediately.

Courtesy: California Walnuts.

RUNGTA IRRIGATION LIMITED					
CIN : L74899DL1986PLC023934					
Regd. & Head Office : 101, Pragati Tower 26, Rajendra Place, New Delhi- 110008					
Ph. 011-40453330/31/32 Fax : 91-11-25716231					
E-mail : cs@rungtairrigation.in Website : www.rungtairrigation.in					
EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE QUARTER & YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2020					
(₹ In Lacs)					
Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended		Year Ended	
		31.03.2020 (Audited)	31.12.2019 (Unaudited)	31.03.2020 (Audited)	31.03.2019 (Audited)
1	Total Income from Operations	2,913.05	1,601.25	1,731.66	4,514.30
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	38.90	61.33	(22.72)	100.25
3	Net profit before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	38.90	61.33	(22.72)	100.25
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	43.19	39.55	(13.53)	82.76
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	43.19	39.55	(13.53)	82.76
6	Equity Share Capital (Face value of Rs 10/- each)	885.61	885.61	885.61	885.61
7	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10 /-each) (Not annualised)				
	1. Basic (Rs.)	0.49	0.45	(0.15)	0.93
	2. Diluted (Rs.)	0.49	0.45	(0.15)	0.93

NOTES:-

- The Company has adopted IND AS notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 w.e.f. April 01, 2017. The results have been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) Prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results for Quarter and Year ended March 31st, 2020, filed with the Stock Exchange pursuant to Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone Results is available on Stock Exchanges website of BSE at www.bseindia.com. The same are also available on the Company's website at: www.rungtairrigation.in
- The above audited financial results for the year/quarter ended 31st March, 2020 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 29th July, 2020.
- The financial results have been audited by Statutory Auditors as required under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and Disclosure Requirement) Regulations, 2015. The Statutory Auditors have issued unmodified opinion on the standalone financial results for the quarter and year ended 31st March, 2020.
- The results have been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) Prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.

Place : New Delhi
Date : 29th July, 2020

For and on behalf of board of directors
For RUNGTA IRRIGATION LIMITED
Sd/-
Mahabir Prasad Rungta
Chairman Cum Managing Director

SIMBHAOLI SUGARS LIMITED						
(Formerly known as 'Simbhaoli Spirits Limited')						
Regd. Office : Simbhaoli Dist. Hapur (U.P.) - 245207						
CIN - L15122UP2011PLC044210						
E-mail: info@simbhaolisugars.com Website: www.simbhaolisugars.com						
EXTRACT OF AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS						
FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2020						
(Rs. in Lacs)						
S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended			Year ended	
		March 31, 2020 Audited #	Dec. 31, 2019 Unaudited	March 31, 2019 Audited/ Recasted #	March 31, 2020 Audited	March 31, 2019 Audited/ Recasted
1.	Total income from operations (net)	37,239	22,918	42,304	106,219	108,223
2.	Net Profit/ (loss) for the period before Tax and exceptional items	1,618	(1,359)	4,032	(3,873)	(1,659)
3.	Net Profit/ (loss) for the period before Tax and after exceptional items	1,618	(1,359)	3,013	(3,873)	(2,678)
4.	Net Profit/ (loss) for the period after Tax and exceptional items	1,621	(1,362)	2,567	(3,885)	(3,128)
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [comprising net profit/(loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	1,347	(1,362)	2,632	(4,159)	(3,063)
6.	Paid up equity share capital (face value Rs.10/- each)	4,128	4,128	4,128	4,128	4,128
7.	Other Equity	-	-	-	(6,677)	(3,072)
8.	-EPS before exceptional item	3.93	(3.30)	9.13	(9.41)	(5.37)
	-EPS after exceptional item	3.93	(3.30)	6.53	(9.41)	(7.96)

Refer Note no. 9

Notes :

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results for the quarter and nine months ended March 31, 2020 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of financial results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2019 are available on the Stock Exchange websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.simbhaolisugars.com).
- Indian sugar industry has been facing difficulties on account of high sugar production in the country in since 2016-17 resulting in surplus sugar. For the year ended March 31, 2020, and previous years, the Company has incurred losses due to high sugarcane costs fixed by the Governments, and comparatively lower prices of finished goods which are also being regulated and controlled, and other external factors. The operations of the company though remained intact, however due to continuing losses, its net worth has been fully eroded resulting in its failure in meeting its payment obligations to lenders and sugarcane farmers in terms of respective agreements and understanding. Meanwhile, recognizing the industry requirements, the Government has implemented a number of measures to improve the financial health of the sugar industry, including support for liquidation of cane arrears, fixing minimum obligation for export to manage the sugar inventory, fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of sugar, providing cash subsidies on production and export of sugar, and mandatory blending of ethanol with petrol at certain level with remunerative price of ethanol. In addition, pursuant to an order of Hon'ble High Court of Uttar Pradesh, pronounced in favour of sugar industry, the sugar industry as well as the Company is confident to receive much awaited amounts being accrued benefits due to it from state government under the erstwhile Sugar Promotion Policy 2004-09. All these measures are expected to reflect in revival of the sugar industry on sustainable basis. Based on these positive steps, along with other internal measures, the management believes that operations at its manufacturing facilities will remain continued in the near foreseeable future on regular basis. On account of delays in servicing of loans, the lenders to the Company have initiated recovery proceeding at various forums, including filing of application before National Company Law Tribunal under Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 by two of the lenders and approaching Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) for recovery of their dues. One of the lender had declared the Company and Guarantors to the credit facility, as willful defaulters, which has been set aside by the Hon'ble Chandigarh High Court. Against a criminal complaint filed by one of the lenders with the investigating agencies, the enforcement directorate had passed an attachment order against certain assets of the Company to the extent of Rs. 109.80 crores, against which the Company has preferred an appeal with the appropriate authority. The Company has submitted a comprehensive debt resolution proposal with all the commercial banks and realignment of dues with other lenders, commensurating with its future cash flows. Majority of commercial lenders have shown their inclination to accept the debt resolution proposal of the Company. Impact of COVID 19 Pandemic The spread of COVID 19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown has caused disruption of supply chain across businesses and industries in India. Since the company is engaged in the manufacturing of essential commodities, timely steps taken by the government have ensured regular operations of the sugar mills in U.P. However, Covid-19 crisis, has adversely impacted domestic demand of sugar and of ethanol during complete lockdown periods. Under the directives of Ministry of Home Affairs and State Government, the Company has started manufacturing of hand sanitizers in its distillery divisions. The demand for the company's products is expected to recuperate with the gradual lifting of nationwide lockdown by the Government. The Company has considered the potential impact of COVID 19 and related restrictions on the carrying amount of inventory, and financial and non-financial assets and based on the information available to it up to the date of approving the financial statements written down the value of inventory to net realizable value, wherever required, and made provisions in financial and non-financial assets. However, the impact of COVID 19 as well as negative outlook of sugar sector on the carrying amount of its Property, Plant and Equipments and consequential impairment could not be ascertained and provided for due to non-availability of requisite information on account of lockdown restrictions. As the date of approval of these results, it is not possible to reliably estimate the future financial effect of the COVID 19 situation on the Company. The impact assessment is a continuing process given the uncertainties associated with nature and duration of current situation. The eventual impact may differ from what has been assessed by the Management as at the date of approval of these financial results. The Company will continue to closely monitor any material change in future economic conditions and take appropriate action as may be required. Considering the steps initiated for achieving turnaround of sugar sector, ongoing discussions with lenders for resolution of their dues and continuing regular manufacturing operations in near foreseeable future, these financial statements are continued to be presented on going concern basis, which contemplates realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities, in the normal course of business.
- The loans availed by the Company have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA) by all the lenders to the Company and interest thereon is not being charged to the loan accounts by them as per prevailing practices. The Company has submitted a comprehensive debt resolution proposal with all the commercial banks and realignment of dues with other lenders, commensurating with its future cash flows. Majority of commercial lenders have shown their inclination to accept the debt resolution proposal of the Company. Accordingly, interest expenses for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2020 amounting to Rs. 3,430 lacs and Rs. 13,146 lacs (previous quarter and year ended March 31, 2019 Rs. 2,899 lacs and Rs. 12,336 lacs) respectively have not been recognized in the books of accounts. A total amount of Rs. 37,454 lacs towards accrued interest has not been provided for in the books of accounts as at March 31, 2020.
- The Hon'ble High Court of Uttar Pradesh has directed the State Government to determine the interest liability for the period of delayed payment of sugarcane price for sugar seasons 2012-13 to 2014-15 but no notice of demand has been so far made for the same. Further, no notice for demand has been received for the interest on delayed payment to sugarcane farmers for subsequent sugar seasons, hence no provision for the same has been made in the books of accounts.
- Effective from April 01, 2019, the Company has adopted Ind AS 116 "Leases", and applied it to all lease contracts existing on April 01, 2019 using the modified retrospective approach. The effect of this adoption did not have any material impacts on the results for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2020.
- In the consolidated financial results of the Company for the Year ended March 31, 2020, limited reviewed financial results of Simbhaoli Power Private Limited (SPPL), a material subsidiary has been considered and consolidated only for the period of nine months ended December 31, 2019. The financial results of SPPL for the quarter ended March 31, 2020 have not been consolidated, as the annual financial statements/results of SPPL have not been finalized and approved till date by SPPL. Consequently, the consolidated financial statements/results of the Company as at March 31, 2020 have been prepared by consolidation based on the figures reported in the limited reviewed standalone balance sheet of SPPL as at December 31, 2019. The transactions entered into between the Company and SPPL during the aforesaid three months' periods which have not been eliminated in the consolidated financial results, have resulted an increase in the Total Revenue by Rs. 1,366 lacs and Expenses by Rs. 734 lacs. Further, Increase in the balances of subsidiary of Rs. 272 Lacs has been included in the consolidated balance sheet in the respective assets heads.
- During the quarter ended September 30, 2019, Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission ("UPERC") has notified UPERC (Captive and Renewable Energy Generating Plants) Regulations, 2019 ("CRE Regulations 2019") which has, inter alia, reduced the tariff applicable to bagasse-based generation plants in the state of Uttar Pradesh w.e.f. April 1, 2019 which is significantly lower than the prevailing tariff. As per CRE Regulations, such reduction in tariff was made by UPERC citing lower fixed and variable costs for these power plants. This reduction in tariff may have an adverse impact on the business and operations of Simbhaoli Power Private Limited ("SPPL"), a subsidiary company. The management of SPPL believes that there are anomalies in the process of tariff fixation and this reduced tariff notified by UPERC is based on unrealistic assumptions and is contrary to past practices. SPPL, along with bagasse-based co-generators operating in the State, have filed a writ petition with Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad, Lucknow Bench, challenging CRE Regulations 2019 which have been accepted by the court. Pending outcome of the petition, the management of SPPL basis on opinion of legal counsel, is confident of relief from the Hon'ble High Court and suitable modification in CRE Regulations 2019 and thus does not expect the financial implications of this, if any, to be material. SPPL has accounted for revenues from operations from April to September, 2019 at or basis pre CRE Regulations 2019 tariff rates. W.e.f. October 01, 2019, SPPL has billed and accounted for sale of power to the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited ("UPPCL"), the customer of SPPL, at reduced tariff rate under protest and subject to outcome of Hon'ble High Court decision on writ petition. SPPL's computation, shows that revenue from operations for the nine months ended December 31, 2019 would have been lower by Rs. 797 lacs and cost of material consumed for the nine months ended December 31, 2019 would have been lower by Rs 52 Lacs, if accounted for at or basis reduced tariff as per CRE Regulations 2019. Considering the current status and the matter is sub-judice, it is not possible for the management of SPPL to estimate the extent of the change, if any, in the tariff.
- The standalone results are available on Company's website www.simbhaolisugars.com. The particulars in respect of standalone results are as under: (Rs. in lacs)

Particulars of standalone	Quarter ended			Year ended	
	31.03.2020	31.12.2019	31.03.2019	31.03.2020	31.03.2019
Net Sales/Income from operations	35,925	21,375	37,130	100,944	95,212
Profit/(Loss) before tax	1,605	(901)	1,327	(2,165)	(4,915)
Profit/ (Loss) after tax	1,605	(901)	1,327	(2,165)	(4,915)
Other Comprehensive Income	(272)	-	(2,261)	(272)	(2,261)
Total Comprehensive Income	1,333	(901)	(934)	(2,437)	(7,176)
EBITDA	3,328	784	3,434	4,599	2,360

9 The figures for the last quarter are the balancing figures between the audited figures in respect of full financial year and the published unaudited year to date figures upto the third quarter of the financial year

10 Sugar, one of the major businesses of the Company, is a part of seasonal industry. The results may vary from quarter to quarter.

11 The previous periods figures have been regrouped/rearranged wherever necessary

12 The above results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their meetings held on July 30, 2020

For Simbhaoli Sugars Limited
Sd/-
Gursimran Kaur Mann
Managing Director
DIN: 00642094

Place: Noida
Date: 29th July, 2020

Simbhaoli Sugars Ltd. FISC 2000, 180 901 180 14001 Certified Co. Simbhaoli-248207, Distt. Hapur, (U.P.), India
E-mail : customerfeedback@simbhaolisugars.com or call at : 1800-11-7609 web : www.simbhaolisugars.com | www.facebook.com/trust-sugar

TRUST 1st TIME IN INDIA with 100% NATURAL sugarcane extracts
LONG LASTING ENERGY DOESN'T SPIKE YOUR BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

Immobile scores as Lazio beats Brescia

Eng using IPL as vehicle to grow players: Morgan



AP ■ MILAN

Lazio kept alive its hopes of finishing second in the Italian league with a 2-0 win against already-relegated Brescia in its penultimate match of the season.

Ciro Immobile also boosted his chances of clinching the top scorer award as he netted his 35th goal of the season on Wednesday, moving four clear of Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo.

Immobile is also just one off equalling the all-time record of 36 goals in a Serie A season, set by Gonzalo Higuain when he was at Napoli in 2015-16.

Immobile's late goal sealed the win

Lazio moved level on points with Atalanta, one below second-place Inter Milan. Atalanta plays Inter in the final round of the season, when Lazio visits Napoli

for Lazio, which had taken the lead in the first half through Joaquin Correa. Lazio moved level on points with Atalanta, one below second-place Inter Milan. Atalanta plays Inter in the final round of the season, when Lazio visits Napoli.

GREAT ESCAPE?

Lecce was given a glimmer of hope of avoiding relegation as it won 2-1 at Udinese while Genoa was routed 5-0 at Sassuolo.

Lecce remained in the bottom three but is just one point below 17th-place Genoa.

Genoa hosts Hellas Verona on the final day while Lecce welcomes Parma.

OTHER MATCHES

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice to help AC Milan win 4-1 at Sampdoria.

It was the second time in three matches that the 38-year-old Ibrahimovic has got a brace.

Juventus, which won a record-extending ninth straight Serie A title on Sunday, fielded a much-changed team and lost 2-0 at Cagliari.

Cagliari's Luca Gagliano, who turned 20 last week, scored and provided an assist in his Serie A debut.

Federico Chiesa scored a hat trick to help Fiorentina beat Bologna 4-0, Roma won 3-2 at Torino and Verona beat Spal 3-0.



PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

England's limited-overs captain Eoin Morgan has revealed that his teammates' participation in the 2019 IPL, which was part of a well thought out plan, played a key role in helping the side claim its maiden World Cup title.

Morgan said he pushed chairman of England and Wales Cricket Board's Cricket Committee, Andrew Strauss

to take the decision because he felt the pressure associated with a world event can only be matched by the cash-rich IPL.

"Playing in IPL was part of Strauss's plan. I pushed him to make that call because in international bilateral series, it's so difficult to replicate the pressure that's there in Champions Trophy or the World Cup," Morgan told Harsha Bhogle on 'Cricbuzz in Conversation'.

"He asked me what's different? One, you play as an overseas player so there's huge expectations. If you play in IPL, there's different pressure and different expectation. Sometimes you can't get away with it and you have to find a way to deal with it."

England won their maiden World Cup title at home turf last year, beating New Zealand on boundary count rule in a dramatic final at the iconic Lords.

Morgan said IPL helps players come out of their comfort zone.

"It takes you out of your comfort zone. It is completely beneficial to play in IPL. That was a big mindset shift for us. And I hope Indian cricket is alright with us because we are using it as a vehicle to try and grow players," he said.

Rohit is an exceptional batsman: Ferguson

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

New Zealand speedster Lockie Ferguson has said it is challenging to bowl to Rohit Sharma as the Indian batting ace picks up the length very quickly.

In an interview with Sportskeeda, Ferguson was asked to name the batsmen he finds difficult to bowl at. "Good question, there's quite a few. Rohit, I've found him very challenging," Ferguson said.

"With him, if you don't get him out quickly, he tends to go big. He picks up the length very quickly and where my strengths lie, batters play the wrong shot. He's a world-class batter," Ferguson added.

"Rohit, I'm a huge fan of him, I think he's an exceptional batter." The Kiwi gun-quick also added Australia stars Steve Smith and David Warner alongside India captain Virat Kohli to the list.

"Steve Smith, David Warner, Virat Kohli — these guys are world-class for a reason. They're always tough to bowl at but it feels good when you knock off the top order and have a chance to get to bowl to the middle order or the lower order," Ferguson said.

"We are 100 per cent back to normal in New Zealand. We are



very fortunate," he added on the COVID-19 situation back home. Ferguson helped New Zealand reach the World Cup final in 2019 where they lost by the narrowest of margins to England.

"For many reasons I was feeling things were not quite going my way (before the World Cup). It was nice to get the wickets in the tournament. The bowling group was fantastic throughout. I got the bigger chunk (of wickets) than some of the others but as a bowling unit we did very well," he said.

Ferguson bagged 21 wickets in the tournament and finished behind Mitchell Starc as the second highest wicket taker.

Lucky to have Yasir & Afridi in squad: Ali

IANS ■ DERBY

Pakistan Test captain Azhar Ali on Thursday lauded bowlers ahead of their series against England and stated he is lucky to have young pacers like Shaheen Afridi and Naseem Shah in the line-up.

20-year-old Afridi and 17-year-old Shah are on their maiden tour of England and Pakistan have pinned their hopes on the duo's young shoulders to trouble the high-profile batting line-up of the hosts.

"The way Naseem and Shaheen have bowled in recent series, I as captain feel very lucky to have them in my squad," Ali said during a PCB podcast as per Cricket Pakistan.

"The best thing is that we have experience in the shape of Abbas. Sohail Khan is also on this tour and he is also sharing his experience with the players. I think our bowlers will get a lot of advantage. Yasir Shah is there

as well who has ample experience. He is a leg-spinner and his guidance for young players is also very important," he added.

This will be Pakistan's first series after coronavirus stoppage while England will be coming into the series after registering a thrilling 2-1 series win over West Indies in the #raissethebat series.

Ali played down any concerns with respect to lack of proper match practice for the visitors ahead of the series. He stated that players are slowly and steadily regaining their rhythm and will be ready when the series begins. "Sometimes you score runs and sometimes you don't. Our players however seem to be in good touch. The balance of the side is also very good. Pakistan always performs well in England," the 35-year-old said.

"Because of coronavirus we have been in lockdown for quite some time. This has been a challenging experience and in the start the play-



AMIR SET TO JOIN PAK

PTI ■ DERBY

Left-arm fast bowler Mohammad Amir has joined the Pakistan squad here after clearing two consecutive COVID-19 tests following his arrival in the United Kingdom.

The Pakistan Cricket Board on Thursday confirmed that Amir has integrated with rest of the squad after serving his mandatory quarantine period, during which he tested negative twice.

"Amir left for England from Lahore on 24 July and, as per the UK government's guidelines, was in isolation for a period of five days during which he was tested twice," the PCB said in a statement on its website.

Amir, who quit playing Test cricket, will feature in the three-match T20 series against

England to be played in a bio-secure environment at the Old Trafford, Manchester starting August 28.

Pakistan's tour of England starts with three Test matches starting August 5 at Manchester. Besides, the PCB also informed that fast bowler Harris Rauf, who had earlier tested positive, is now clear of the virus and is expected to join the rest of the Pakistan squad in England soon.

"Fast bowler Haris Rauf has cleared his second COVID-19 test and is eligible to join the squad in England. As per the protocols he was tested twice - Monday and Wednesday," the cricket board said.

"He is expected to travel over the weekend. Details of his travel plan will be shared in due course."

The first Test between the two teams will be played in Manchester starting August 5 while the final two Tests are scheduled to be played in Southampton from August 13 and August 21 respectively.

'Bouncers from Indians won't be as effective as Wagner's'

IANS ■ MELBOURNE

Australia cricketer Matthew Wade on Thursday heaped praise on New Zealand fast-bowler Neil Wagner and recalled the bouncer barrage he faced from the latter during the Test series between the two teams Down Under late last year.

Despite suffering a 0-3 hammering, Wagner returned home with his head held high as he was the only Kiwi bowler to trouble the Aussie batsmen in the series.

Wagner ended the 2019/20 series with 17 wickets and Wade claimed that he has never seen a bowler who could bowl bouncers with such accuracy.

The southpaw also stated that Virat Kohli's troops might go for similar strategy when the two teams clash in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy later this year. Wade, however, said Indian pace battery won't be as effective as Wagner, as far as bouncers are concerned.

"Teams may try it but I don't think it will be as successful," Wade was quoted as saying by cricket.com.au.

"I don't think anyone in the game has bowled bouncers the way he bowled and been so consistent, and not gotten scored off while also picking up wickets. I think we'll see it a bit (from India) but I don't think it will be as effective as Wagner. He's done it for a long time now ... to be honest I've never faced a bowler who is so accurate at bowling bouncers," he added.

The four Tests of the much-anticipated series are currently scheduled to be played at Gabba, Adelaide Oval, MCG and the SCG respectively starting December 3.

Vikas prefers US Pro bouts to National camp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Top Indian boxer Vikas Krishan has decided to revive his professional career in the US instead of training at the national camp in Patiala as he believes conventional is just not good enough for a podium finish at next year's Tokyo Olympics.

Vikas is currently training in Bengaluru's Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS) with another professional boxer and close friend Neeraj Goyat after being asked to leave NIS Patiala for alleged violation of COVID-19 quarantine norms, later deemed unintentional.

He has no plans of going back even though the Sports Authority of India (SAI) decided to allow him to return after an inquiry.

"I will continue training here (in Bengaluru). I have fallen into a rhythm and I don't

wish to disturb myself by once again taking the trip to Patiala. I don't see the point," Vikas, who is training under American coach Ronald Simms at the IIS, told PTI in an interview over phone.

Asked about the controversy in Patiala, and Vikas offered a philosophical take. "I have never harmed anyone. I have made mistakes but the intent is only to do well for the country. I have never caused problems for anyone else. That's all I have to say," he said.

The 28-year-old Haryana-lad is more eager to talk about his plans to return to the US, where he continues to have a contract with Hall of Famer Bob Arum's Top Rank Promotions.

The welterweight (69kg category) boxer will compete in the 70kg division in the pro circuit.

"As soon as I manage to get a flight, I am going to the USA. I am in touch with Top Rank Promotions. They have promised to arrange fights for me and I hope to compete in 3-4 bouts before the Olympics," he said.

"That would help my Olympic chances more than anything else because it is in the pro circuit that I learnt the crucial lesson of not believing in luck.

It is all about ability, there is nothing called luck," added the former world bronze-winner, who won his two pro bouts before returning to amateur circuit last year.

The Asian Games and Commonwealth Games gold-winner will be making third Olympic appearance in Tokyo next year. He is the most experienced among the five men who have made the cut so far.

"I took a break from pro-

fessional with due permission from my promoter to pursue my Olympic dream. Now that I have qualified, I will go back to pro to prepare myself," he said.

Talking of preparations, do High Performance Director Santiago Nieva and national coach C A Kuttappa know of his plans?

"They know and they are supportive. They know what I am capable of and they have encouraged me. I have also got immense support from Boxing Federation of India Executive Director R K Sacheti," he said.

Less than a year away from his third Olympics, Vikas said he has never enjoyed boxing as much as he does now.

"If you watch me fight now, you can see the artistry. In my past two Olympics (2012 and 2016), I used to be bothered by pressure and expectations, not anymore. I feel free of that.

"This has made boxing very enjoyable for me. Earlier there was an element of stress," he explained.

His friend Neeraj, also a pro boxer, has been a constant in his life for the past few years and Vikas said he is grateful for the support.

"I don't think I will be able to do as much for him as he has done for me. He has come to train with me, support me whenever I have asked him," he said.

Amid the strenuous preparations, has he factored in the COVID-19 mayhem, the one which forced the Olympics to be postponed and which still is a threat to the Games going ahead even next year.

"I am destined to win an Olympic medal. Olympics will happen because God can't be so cruel to me. I know that," asserted the boxer.

Barty pulls out of US Open, cites travel concerns

AP ■ BRISBANE

No 1-ranked Ash Barty has pulled out of the US Open because she doesn't want to risk travelling during the coronavirus pandemic.

The 24-year-old Australian is the highest-profile player so far to opt out of the August 31-September 13 Grand Slam tournament in New York because of the global health crisis.

"My team and I have decided that we won't be travelling to the ... Western & Southern Open and the US Open this year," Barty said in a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press on Thursday.

"I love both events so this was a difficult decision, but there are still significant risks involved due to COVID-19 and I don't feel comfortable putting my team and I in that position.

"I wish the USTA all the best for the tournaments and I look forward to being back in the US next year."

Barty is yet to decide if she'll defend the French Open title she won last year for her breakthrough singles major. The clay-court Grand Slam event was postponed earlier in the year and rescheduled to start September 27, after the US Open.



Australia's closed international borders would make it difficult for Barty to travel during the pandemic.

Technically, Barty would have to receive permission from the government to travel abroad, and flight options are limited. Upon returning to Australia, travel-

ers face a mandatory two weeks in quarantine.

Other players have expressed concern about travelling to the US, where more than 150,000 people have died from COVID-19.

Barty had to make her decision because entries were open for the Western & Southern Open, which is scheduled for August 20-28 and was moved to the same hard courts at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center that are slated to host the US Open.

Serena Williams, Coco Gauff, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal were on Wednesday's initial entry lists - but Barty, two-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka and 2019 US Open champion Bianca Andreescu were not - for the tournament moved from Cincinnati to Flushing Meadows.

Being on Wednesday's lists doesn't necessarily mean a player will compete at the tournament.

No sanctioned professional tennis events have been played since March because of the coronavirus. Both the women's and men's tours plan to return in August. The women's tour still aims to return next week at Palermo, Italy.

Roller-coaster start for Shubhankar at Hero Open

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma began with a flourish, but two slightly wayward tee shots cost him heavily as he ended the first day with a roller-coaster one-over 73 in the Hero Open on Thursday.

The 24-year-old Indian, who has two wins on the European Tour, had a birdie followed by an eagle on the second and third holes, but double bogeys on the 10th and 13th on the tougher back stretch saw him drop a bunch of shots.



Overall, he had an eagle, three birdies, two bogeys and two double bogeys in an eventful round at the Hero Open, which is the second event on the UK Swing, at the Forest of Arden Marriott Hotel & Country Club.

Spain's Sebastian Garcia Rodriguez fired a stunning 62 to hold the clubhouse lead on day one, as fellow Spaniard Pablo Larrazabal shot 64. Veteran Miguel Angel Jimenez, the 56-year-old playing his record 707th European Tour event, was five-under through 10 holes with five

birdies. Sharma said despite the over par round, he felt he played well. "Just the tee shot on 10th and 13th cost me a lot. On 10th, I hit it slightly to the left and then did not have a shot, so chipped out and then missed an up-and-down too. On 13th, the wind took the tee shot a little too much to the left and I lost the ball. I feel I can get it all back tomorrow." "As I said I did not feel any rust because I have been playing and keeping scores at home in Chandigarh. Just need to tighten those small errors and it should be fine."