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USUAL SUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Modi paying China in its enigmatic coin

Among the features of Chinese culture that both amuses and confuses outsiders is the ability to talk in riddles — and conveniently attribute it to either Confucius or some unnamed “old Chinese philosopher”. In a study of the stereotypes that have marked Western — and not merely Western — understanding of China, historian Christopher Frayling in his book *The Yellow Peril: Dr Fu Manchu & The Rise of Chinaphobia* observed: “Most Americans’ knowledge of ‘Confucianism’ seemed to be pedantic aphorisms of be philosophical, fictional, asexual Hawaiian-Chinese detective from Honolulu, Charlie Chan: Hasty conclusions easy to make, like hole in water. It is difficult to pick up needle with boxing glove. Confucius says, ‘No man is poor who have worthy son.’”

On his part, Mao Zedong, the “Great Helmsman”, was a great one for elliptical aphorisms. Some of his sayings such as “imperialism is a paper tiger”, “a revolution is not a dinner party” and “one spark can light a prairie fire” have become all-time favourites, to be used in discourses both profound and utterly non-serious. Beyond the ridiculous, however, it is important to note that political communication in China has more often than not, been centred on tangential aphorisms such as Deng Xiaoping’s famous: “No matter if it is a white cat or a black cat; as long as it can catch mice, it is a good cat” or “To be rich is glorious” — sayings that defined move away from the Maoist legacy.

In the last years of Mao’s life, for example, there was a fierce struggle for political supremacy between the so-called Gang of Four led by the Chairman’s wife Jiang Qing and the pragmatists who rallied behind Zhou Enlai. A feature of this battle was the use of Mao’s scathing criticism of Beethoven, Schubert and Mozart that ran parallel to his less acceptable denunciation of Confucius. In the bizarre world of China 1974, this gratuitous attack on the stalwarts of Western classical music — and Beethoven enjoyed a huge popularity in China — was widely interpreted as criticism of Jiang Qing because at some point in the past she had hosted a Western classical music concert.

Beijing’s quick response to Modi’s “the age of expansionism is over” is a clear indication that China has received the message loud and clear. This is why it makes sense to proceed with exceptional care and speak in riddles — just as China has been accustomed to doing

The invocation of this Chinese custom of what a Bengali proverb — dating back to the politically incorrect era — described as “beating the maid to teach the wife a lesson” is pertinent in the context of some criticisms levelled against Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s speech to the Indian soldiers in the Ladakh sector of the Line of Actual Control.

In his speech at Nimu, the Prime Minister asserted that “the age of expansionism is over; this is the age of development... Whenever we have seen expansionist tendencies, these have spell dangers for world peace.” Modi’s critics, many of whom have now expediently chosen to assume the mantle of ultra-nationalism, were unhappy that there were no direct references to China. To them, the Prime Minister was being wilfully evasive by not naming the adversary responsible for the deaths of 20 soldiers in the Galwan Valley last month. It was hinted that the leader had no stomach for a confrontation and was being ultra-cautious, for fear of offending China.

They need not have worried about the Prime Minister’s message not getting through and being lost in the mythological haze of the Shiva Puran and ambiguity. Accustomed as it is to elliptical messages, Beijing was quick to respond, describing the allusion to expansionism as “exaggerated and fabricated.” It warned India against making any strategic miscalculations in its China policy, a clear indication that it had received the message loud and clear.

For Beijing, an unarmed but lethal skirmish along the LAC — replete with disputed boundaries and contested maps — was intended as a localised and targeted attack on India. In its view, India was too big for its own good and needed to be shown its place, just as it was in 1962. From China’s perspective, a localised hit on an India that had earlier demonstrated its disinclination to fight back with gusto, made sense. However, Modi’s response has not been along expected lines.

First, there seems a determination to physically and militarily resist all Chinese incursions along the LAC. There are the interminable negotiations involving military and civilian officials on both sides, but India is not shying away from military deterrence.

Secondly, while bolstering India’s capacity along the LAC, Modi has extended the battle to the economic front by banning Chinese apps on grounds of national security and putting obstacles in the path of Chinese investments, services and goods. India, in effect, has done what many countries have been contemplating but haven’t actually done so. The Indian measures correspond to a growing anti-China mood in large parts of the world.

Finally, Indian diplomacy is quietly but quite decisively taking steps to mobilise international opinion. This is being done to ensure that in the event of any escalation along the LAC, it will be linked to the wider war to resist China’s post-Belt and Road hegemonism. In effect, India is wilfully taking the war away from its status as a localised battle over maps and plugging it into the larger disquiet over the new China-dominated global order that Xi Jinping is keen to usher. In short, it is drawing the entire Chinese ecosystem into the battle.

This is why it makes sense to proceed with exceptional care and speak in riddles — just as China has been accustomed to doing. There will be a time to communicate with greater forthrightness. That time has not yet come. For the moment the phoney war must go on.

Record sowing as migrants return home

High kharif sowing in UP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, while Punjab registers decline

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After returning of migrants in April and May ahead of the onset of monsoon due to the nationwide lockdown, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh have witnessed a record sowing of kharif crops so far. Interestingly, the area sown in Punjab is estimated to have declined due to lack of farm labourers.

According to Agriculture Ministry’s data, the area under kharif crops increased by 88 per cent over to 433 lakh hectares till Friday as against 230 lakh

hectares in the corresponding week last year.

Due to good rainfall and adequate farm labourers, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have witnessed a record sowing of kharif crops so far. The Ministry’s data showed that the area sown in Bihar is estimated 5.11 lakh hectare as against 1.17 lakh hectare last years during the same period. Similarly, Uttar Pradesh has witnessed kharif crops plantation of 5.96 lakh hectare as against the 1.52 lakh hectare last year.

Both these States have

- Punjab has reported decline in kharif crops sowing due to shortage of farm labourers in the State
- The area under kharif crops increased by 88 per cent over to 433 lakh hectares till Friday as against 230 lakh hectares in the corresponding week last year
- Oilseeds and pulses, which are predominantly rain-fed crops, recorded highest increase as compared to the

same period last year

- Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh reported maximum increase in pulses sowing so far
- There is also a 100 per cent jump in cotton planting to 91.7 lakh hectares with Maharashtra and Telangana planting cotton over 33 lakh hectares (4.6 lakh hectares) and 15 lakh hectare (7.9 lakh hectare), respectively



paced influx of migrant workers during the lockdown period. UP and Bihar that accounted for nearly 75 per cent of trains ferrying migrants back received 1,723 and 1,680 shramik trains respectively.

Similarly, Chhattisgarh which also saw migrants’ influx, reported 13.40 lakh hectare kharif crops sowing compared to 4.38 lakh hectare last year. As per the Ministry’s data, farmers have planted

paddy over 68 lakh hectare so far as compared to 49.2 lakh hectares last year.

Punjab has reported decline in kharif crops sowing due to shortage of farm labourers in the State. The area sown

in the State is estimated 15.40 lakh hectare as compared to 21.07 lakh hectare last year. Big farmers have managed to bring back labourers from Bihar and UP while the small and marginal farmers are finding difficult in the absence of labourers during the kharif sowing season.

The Ministry’s data showed oilseeds and pulses, which are predominantly rain-fed crops, recorded highest increase as compared to the same period last year.

With Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra planting soyabean over 42.2 lakh hectares and 29 lakh hectares as compared to 8.5 lakh hectares and 1 lakh hectares, respectively, during the corresponding period the total area under soyabean cultivation zoomed 225 per cent to 109 lakh hectares.

Flights to Kolkata from hotspot cities on hold

No flights to Kolkata from Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Chennai and Ahd from July 6 to July 19



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Government has suspended flights linking Kolkata’s NSI Airport to six hotspot cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur in Maharashtra, Chennai in Tamil Nadu and Ahmedabad in Gujarat following a request from Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

A statement issued by the airport authorities said, “It is informed that no flights shall operate to Kolkata from Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Chennai and Ahmedabad from July 6 to July 19, 2020 or till further order whichever is earlier.”

According to sources, the order was circulated by the airport slot allocation team following directives from the Aviation Ministry.

Earlier, the State Government had requested the Centre to suspend flights to and from these cities following

which a letter from the State Chief Secretary was sent to the Aviation Ministry. It said, “West Bengal is also witnessing a steep rise in cases. A large number of cases have been reported from people coming in the State from outside with infection. The Government of West Bengal has decided to stop or curtail the movement of incoming flights and trains into the State.”

The Chief Minister too had told the media “though our recovery rate at more than 65 per cent is higher than the national rate we have problems with the infected people coming from outside, particularly the hotspot areas... I have asked the Chief Secretary to write to the Centre about suspending flights from the highly affected regions.”

She, however, said that “the flights connecting the cities in Bengal and those to States where the crisis is not

WHO 1st got virus outbreak info from its office, not China

Geneva: China did not come forward on its own to report to the World Health Organisation (WHO) that it had a problem in Wuhan following the virus outbreak late last year, according to the updated information the UN health agency posted about how it has handled the Covid-19 crisis so far.

On December 31, 2019, the WHO’s Country Office in

China picked up a media statement by the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission from their website on cases of “viral pneumonia” in Wuhan, according to the chronology of events enumerated by the WHO. On January 1, the WHO requested information on the reported cluster of atypical pneumonia cases in Wuhan from the Chinese authorities. IANS

that deep can be carried on.”

While Bengal has a total of about 21,000 cases, out of which 6,200 are still active, Maharashtra with a total of 1,92,990 confirmed cases is the worst-hit State in the country. Tamil Nadu has 1,02,721 cases whereas Delhi is at third spot with about 95,000 cases. Gujarat has registered about 34,600 infections.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES:

6,72,637

DEATHS: 19,279

RECOVERED:

4,08,625

ACTIVE: 2,44,667

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	2,00,064	8,671	1,08,082
Tamil Nadu	1,07,001	1,450	60,592
Delhi	97,200	3,004	68,256
Gujarat	35,398	1,926	25,414
Uttar Pradesh	26,554	773	18,154
Telangana	22,312	288	11,537
Karnataka	21,549	335	9,246
West Bengal	21,231	736	14,166
Rajasthan	19,532	447	15,640
Andhra Pradesh	17,699	218	8,008
Haryana	16,548	260	12,257
Madhya Pradesh	14,604	598	11,234
Bihar	11,457	88	8,488
Assam	9,800	14	6,328
Odisha	8,601	43	5,934
Jammu & Kashmir	8,246	127	5,143

94 fresh Covid cases reported in State, 112 discharged

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A total of 112 coronavirus patients were discharged after recovery in Chhattisgarh on Saturday while only 94 fresh cases were reported, officials said.

Forty patients were discharged from Rajnandgaon, the highest number discharged from any district.

Among the positive cases found on Saturday, Raipur accounted for 35 patients. Likewise, Bilaspur 19, Bemetara had 9 cases, Narayanpur 8, Janjgir-Champa 7, Bilaspur 5, Raigarh and Dantewada 3 cases each and Korea and Jagdalpur had 2 cases each while Rajnandgaon district also recorded 1 patient.

Currently, there are 593 active Covid cases while 2,526 patients have been discharged after recovery. So far 14 patients have died.

Day after 8 cops’ murder, Vikas Dubey’s house razed to ground

PNS ■ KANPUR

A day after a Deputy SP and seven others were fatally ambushed by history-sheeter Vikas Dubey and his cronies at Bikru village of Chaubeypur in Kanpur,

the administration razed his palatial house to the ground in two hours on Saturday. Ironically, the same JCB machine that Dubey deployed to hinder police raid on Friday, was used to demolish his house. Dubey’s two luxury vehicles were also damaged beyond recognition.

During subsequent search, the police discovered an underground bunker used for storing arms and ammunition by the gangster.

The house had four newly-built rooms and it was surrounded by a 12 ft high boundary wall topped by two feet barbed wire net.

Villagers told the officials at site that the house was built about eight years ago. The



An earthmover vehicle is used to remove mangled remains of a car during the demolition of the residence of criminal Vikas Dubey, after an encounter in Bikaru village where 8 police personnel lost their lives in Kanpur on Saturday. PTI

original house within the campus was now being used a shelter for caretakers. The campus had four entry gates and all gates were wide enough for four-wheeler to enter.

Besides, CCTV cameras were found inside and outside of the four gates to monitor

entry and exit of visitors. Dubey lived in the newly-built four rooms about 80 metres away from the main gate. While one of the rooms was used by his father Ram Kumar Dubey, housemaid Rekha, her husband and two daughters lived in a room just behind it.

Blacklist defaulting contractors, says Health Minister Singh Deo

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIGARH

Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo on Saturday instructed strict action against contractors who fail to complete construction works related to Health Department buildings within the stipulated time.

The Minister’s instructions came while he was chairing a review meeting of the Chhattisgarh Medical Services Corporation Limited (CMSC) Progress Report at his official residence.

At the meeting, the Minister queried about the status of under-construction buildings of sub-Primary Health Care Centers, Community Health Centers, District Hospital, and other buildings.

He found some contractors are intentionally delaying the construction works and thereafter he instructed that they should be blacklisted and money recovered from them.

13 kids test Covid positive at Noida juvenile home

All 162 inmates undergo tests

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

At least 13 inmates of a juvenile home in Noida tested positive for coronavirus on Thursday and they have

been sent to Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in Greater Noida for treatment. There are total 162 children at the observation home and Covid antigen and PCR tests were conducted on all the inmates and 17 staffers of the observation home throughout Thursday.

The results of the antigen test came on Thursday itself, and 13 of the inmates were found positive. Of them, seven were new inmates, who had been serving the mandatory isolation of 14 days in two separate rooms inside the premises.

While there are three rooms which have been reserved for the new inmates to serve quarantine, the remaining reside in five different halls. However, there are multiple common areas used by all the inmates. And officials suspect that the six other old inmates could have contracted Covid since they were using the same washrooms, water coolers in the common area.

“The health department officials were of the view that the old inmates got infected possibly because they used the same washrooms, water coolers and touched walls and windows of the premises. Anyway, we are offering warm water, tea to the inmates twice to the inmates, who are also being made to do gargles. The water coolers have been removed,” said Dharmendra Maurya, caretaker of Noida observation home.

CAPSULE

TMC MEN KILLED, SUCI MEMBER FOUND DEAD
Baruipur (WB): A Trinamool Congress (TMC) worker was allegedly hacked to death in West Bengal’s South 24 Parganas district, while an SUCI member’s body was found hanging from a tree in the area, police said on Saturday.

20 KILLED IN LIGHTNING STRIKES IN BIHAR
Patna: Twenty people were killed after being struck by lightning in five districts of Bihar on Saturday, officials said here. 9 casualties were reported from Bhojpur, 5 from Saran, 3 from Kaimur, 2 from Patna and 1 death was reported in Buxar, the state disaster management department said.

ITALIAN MARINES CASE: KERALA CM WRITES TO PM
Thiruvananthapuram, July 4 (PTI): Kerala on Saturday Urged the Centre to make “earnest efforts” to build international pressure to ensure that a fair trial is held against the two Italian marines who shot and killed two Indian fishermen off the Kerala coast in 2012.

HOME THEATRE

Dark and loving it

ON BECOMING GOD OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
SonyLiv
Original Series, Season 1,
Episodes 10
***ing: Kirsten Dunst, Theodore Pellerine, Ted Levine**
Rated: 7.5/10

In this dark, senseless world of ultimate individual enterprise, you would get so many negative vibes that chugging along the 10 episodes will become compulsive. It all starts with Krystal Stubbs also known as the Alligator Widow after her husband gets eaten up by one, leaving her homeless, penniless and for what it matters, betrayed.

The series takes some gestation episodes to get going but once it does, Krystal's compulsions, situations, survival kits and her undying ambition to make money gets to you in more ways than one. You squirm, you get annoyed, you cringe and yet to support her fast growing unholy endeavours which leave no friend or foe untouched. Played to the hilt by a well endowed Kirsten Dunst, OBGICF, is a ditty on capitalism and some say, draws its marrow from the famous homeselling chain Amway.

Amwayish or not, it's all due to the machinations of a ruthless entrepreneur (Ted Levine is brilliant and in the skin of Garbo) making his billions using people by driving them into false entrepreneurial modes which makes them mortgage their lives in the service of Garbo, the God who is the real demon.

Lives are torn apart, marriages break, loving couples and fathers turn into maniacal liars — all this as Garbo makes his money by giving his workforce pittance. Whoever deigns to raise a protest or even an eyebrow is dealt with by his naked foot assassin.



The story is dark, truthfully loose on honesty, too dependent on everything that's not really right but the way it is woven through may get it some converts.

There is humour to break into the intense intrigue, there is pathos to ruffle up an unconventional romance, there is a mirror to a dream that is very American, and there is a lot more for you to spend some time with this series.

Put together by Robert Funke

and Matt Lutsky, the story encases the pull and predicament of capitalism in its most naked form, eating into middle class mentalities like a moth on a mission. Some scenes are so raw and telling that you are almost driven away from your next shopping binge.

But that would be putting it mildly. The spiralled life of Stubbs will catch the eye as much as the emotion of all discerning viewers of this differently enabled series.



Interesting only in parts

LOST BULLET
Netflix
***ing: Alban Lenoir, Nicolas Duvouchelle, Ramzy Bedia**
Rated: 5/10

Now we know that whatever the case maybe, the bad guys always end up in the docks and the guy we thought was the bad one, ends up saving the day. It boggles the mind how the writers can come up with a storyline where the only person who is able to catch the bad guys is the bad guy himself. That does sound familiar and something that we find in our Bollywood movies.

So while the faces may not be familiar, there is a connection. Also, there is the whole chase sequence that even though one knows that the baddies will die there is a kind of fascination to keep clued in as to how things will progress, albeit along the expected lines, this one hour 33-minute French film that is dubbed in English has interesting moments but it is definitely not a patch on the *Fast and Furious* series when it comes to rigged cars that move at lightning speed.

But if you love cars and know anything about the engines and how the mechanics work, you may want to see this one.

— Shalini Saksena

Plan Your Week

In the web world, there are plenty of shows that tell the stories of solid, complicated, diverse women who are strong in a myriad of ways. Fighting all odds of stereotyping male dominated characters, there have been instances in the web world particularly where women characters have been portrayed in the new light and have turned to be beautifully multifaceted. From Sushmita Sen in Disney+ Hotstar's *Aarya* to Aahana Kumra in Voot Select's *Marzi* to Dia Mirza in Zee 5's *Kaafir* have reminded us to stand up for what we want, fight our foes fiercely. Some of them build a successful career, others find their love and calling, and some discover some unexpected talent. But all of them teach millions of female viewers to be brave and confident in a rightful way.

Here are the 8-power packed and stellar performances by the brilliant women in the industry

Sushmita Sen (Disney+Hotstar's *Aarya*)
 A loveable wife and doting mother of three, Sushmita Sen owns every scene, and deals with every emotion, be it disappointment, betrayal, love, anger, and frustration, with utmost finesse. Portraying the qualities and characteristics of the modern woman, *Aarya* showcases strength, grace, and vulnerability without compromising on either.

Dia Mirza (Zee5's *Kaafir*)
 Dia essays a young Pakistani mother who comes to India under a strange series of circumstances and is unable to go back home. Portraying the pleasant, sensible victim of border politics, Dia Mirza playing Kainaz shines bright in the narrative, that too in a manner that evokes empathy rather than pity.

Aahana Kumra (Voot Select's *Marzi*)
 From dealing with love and guilt in relationships to trying to fight the patriarchal system, the series shows what a woman coming out and accusing a man of rape goes through. Aahana steals the show with her performance where you see her crumble and feel her frustration and anger when she is not heard.

Shobita Dhulipala (Amazon Prime Video's *Made in Heaven*)

Shobita's character is an overused and banal trope of the cold-hearted gold digger who is as calculating as she is emotional. Tara is a confused



mix of all these odd and conflicting personality traits, which makes hers one of the most complex, multi-faceted female characters

Neha Sharma (Voot Select's *Illegal*)
 A new lawyer trying to make it in this cutthroat world, passionate about her work, great work ethic who is very outspoken. Neha steps out of her starchy image as a no-nonsense lawyer and certainly delivers one of the best performances of her career.

Ashvini Bhave (Voot Select's *The Raikar Case*)
 Plays the over-protective mother and wife, who transforms from being the meek matriarch to being the lady that stands like a rock with her family no matter what, to the venomous serpent who lurks underneath yet no one is aware of it.

Lara Dutta (Disney+Hotstar's *Hundred*)
 A glamorous woman who turned heads and set hearts aflutter, and yet hardly ever a tough-as-nails cop staring down male subordinates. Lara Dutta defined powerful. What's more? Saumya Shukla portrayed by her flawed yet funny, strong yet scared character with a talent that only a few knew about.

Kirti Kulhari (Amazon Prime Video's *Four More Shots Please*)

Kirti has always handpicked roles of a stronger and independent woman. The actor plays the role of Anjana, a successful lawyer and a single mother, in the show. Outlining a strong female friendship as the narrative and the everyday struggles they overcome in their individual lives. It call to the modern woman and her inner strength with compelling leads and story lines.

INDIA GLOBAL WEEK

Themed #BeTheRevival, India Global Week 2020 will be organised from July 9 - July 11, 2020. Over the course of three days, attendees will deliberate and discuss the business, strategic and cultural opportunities that India is

presented with as it looks to take its position on the global stage of great nations. Organised by India Inc. Group - the UK headquartered media house - the three-day online webinar will include sessions on Geopolitics, Business, Arts & Culture,

Emerging Technologies, Banking and Finance, Pharma, Defence and Security, Social Impact and the Indian Diaspora. The event will also feature high-powered country sessions on Australia, Japan, Singapore, the United States and the United Kingdom

'I would love to do action drama'

MADHURA NAIK, model-turned-actor who has been part of TV shows like *Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon* and *Tumhari Pakhi*, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about how her acting career began and the biggest attraction of being on the small screen

■ From modeling to an actor, how has the experience been?

It has been amazing and I can't complain. I started my modeling career in Paris. I just wish I had explored this more instead of coming to Mumbai and doing TV. There were some decisions that I was not sure of since I was only 18. If I could turn back time and go back to Paris, it would be a dream come true.

■ How did your acting career begin?

Modeling and acting were nowhere on the radar. I was studying Science and wanted to be a Genetic Engineer. But the road completely changed for me. What I am doing now, I am thoroughly enjoying.

■ Why TV?

Nobody from my family is from the entertainment industry. They are all doctors or engineers. After my assignment got over in Paris, I was asked to come back. I was staying in Europe, there was a huge cultural gap between the two countries. The modeling world is also so different from India hence I was asked to come home. But I did a music video for Universal and that was the video that Ekta (Kapoor) had seen. Everything that happened was by fluke. It is only recently that I have started making career choice because it has taken me such a long time to understand how the industry works and looking to doing web series not that TV has taken a backseat.

■ You have done so many TV show, what has been the attraction?

For me, doing TV is just like any other job. I got into acting by a casting agent for a Balaji show. Since then it has been from getting into one contract to another. That is the reason how and why I ended up being part of so many back-to-back TV shows. It has been a combination of quantity of work with quality.

■ What is a character that you loved doing?

I loved playing Tanushree Ambolkar in *Pyaar Kii Ye Ek Kahaani*. A lot of people enjoyed watching the show. One of the reasons I enjoyed the role was because Ambolkar played fashionista in the serial and I love to dress up and got to wear the kind of clothes I wanted to wear. Everything about that character fell into place.

■ How important is it to identify with the character one plays?

It has become an important part of me now after doing TV for so many years where I am able to understand that content. However, there were times when I faced challenges while doing a show that I could not relate to like the show *Naagin* were I played a shapeshifter. I couldn't relate to it. It was not like a sci-fi horror



drama. In *Naagin*, it was a full-on family drama and in the middle of it, one was shape-shifting and I couldn't find a connect.

■ What kind of roles do you love doing?

I been looking forward for a project that has action. I want to portray a strong character. It could be a cop or an action-driven role.

■ Does that mean that you have had some sort of training in doing action sequences?

No, I have not taken any formal training. But when I was in school it was compulsory to be part of Taekwondo and gymnastics. We had to be part of other sports as well. Since childhood, I have been drawn to sports so a action show is right up my ally. Also, once doesn't see too many woman-centric characters on TV so I would love to explore this genre.

■ Are the OTT platforms changing the

content being shown?

Definitely. I have been watching a lot of shows now which have the concept of woman-centric drama. The latest one is *Aryaa* starring Sushmita Sen. Because of OTT platforms, a lot of content is being rediscovered or is very close to reality. I am looking to doing more web series. My web show is releasing this month — *The Ghost Thesis* — a horror drama. I recently finished dubbing for it. I play a professor here and am part of a team who go hunting for a ghost in a palace.

■ How do you choose your projects? Do you have a checklist?

I don't have one. I wish I had it. We don't decide what kind of content comes our way. Sometimes, if you have a huge list of projects coming your way, it may be possible to choose but the kind of work that I get for TV is usually family drama or *saas-bahu* sagas. There is no checklist.

ALL COVERED UP

With *Unlock 2.0*, the shooting for several TV shows has resumed. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with actors who share their experience of adapting to the new normal on the sets

From the chart topper *Kumkum Bhagya* to the kids' most loved shows *Aladdin: Naam Toh Suna Hoga*, our favourite shows are ready to air fresh episodes after a three-month halt. Actors covered in masks and the crew in PPE kits, is the new normal on the sets. Joining the bandwagon is the sanitiser which is now leading from the front.

Like everyone else, the actors are also struggling to maintain social distancing on the sets and not let the pandemic affect their acting skills.

"Day one on the set was extremely difficult. You wake up and get to hear so many deaths and the increasing number of cases every day. It is indeed disheartening. It affects you in some or the other way. You have the fear of catching infections. However, we all are taking utmost precautions and there is a process of sanitisation that we have to go through before entering the sets. Also when you are shooting, you have your co-actors and it becomes extremely difficult to maintain social distancing. The new normal on the sets has changed completely,"

Siddharth Nigam, who plays *Aladdin* in Sony Sab's *Aladdin: Naam Toh Suna Hoga*, tells you. "The whole day on the sets, he says, is spent on what if we catch infection. 'Earlier, our focus was completely on the scene, but now we have to take care of other things as well,' Nigam says.

But like every coin has two sides, Nigam feels that there are certain pros and cons of the shoots resuming.

"The good thing is that a lot of people have got their jobs back. The ones who were sitting at home, unsure of what the future will bring are now back at work especially all the technicians and the spot *dadas*. They can now earn a living. But one con of this new normal is that, earlier we had a cast and crew of 200 people



Karan Jotwani, who plays Neel in *Qurban Hua*

but now that has been reduced to 50. But then it is for everyone's safety only," he adds.

Chhavi Pandey, who plays Tara in Sony Sab's *Tera Kya Hoga Alia*, tells you that she is excited to get back to work after a long gap.

"I am excited to enter the show as Tara. It has been a long gap since we have been shooting and I have been missing it a lot. It's like a new start for me as I will be working on a new show after this difficult phase and I am sure I will have fun with the entire cast. The character of Tara is very elegant and she is now going to be the Vice-

Principal of the English medium section of the school. I am looking forward to playing this character and I hope the audiences will enjoy it too."

Karan Jotwani who plays Neel in Zee TV's *Qurban Hua* tells you that his first day on the set was exciting yet apprehensive but the production house has made sure that the set is sanitised regularly.

"That's how it was. But that was okay because everyone was a little apprehensive about getting back to work amid the Coronavirus scare," Jotwani says.

The biggest apprehension was to follow all the norms and guidelines while shooting.

“There were a few apprehensions. One, once you get busy with a shoot, you forget about social distancing. Second, sometimes you just forget to wear a mask and you can't just take this risk while on the sets. These are the two fears that I had — Karan Jotwani

“There were a few apprehensions. One, once you get busy with a shoot, you forget about social distancing. Second, sometimes you just forget to wear a mask and you can't just take this risk while on the sets. These are the two fears that I had,” he tells you.

For Jotwani, adapting to the new normal is neither hard nor that easy. “This is one thing that we have to live with. The rising number of cases are of course a cause of worry but then the recovery rate of patients is high. Having said that, no one wants to get through the pain of being diagnosed with COVID-19. I agree that it is the new normal, but all we need to do is to be patient and take proper safety measures,” Jotwani adds.

C'garh to buy cow dung at ₹1.50 per kg

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh has decided to buy cow dung from farmers and dairy owners at ₹1.50 per kg.

Cabinet Sub-Committee Chairman and Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey announced on Saturday that the decision was arrived at a meeting held at 'Bheej Bhawan'. The cow dung will be bought under the 'Godhan Nyay Yojana'.

The proposal will be tabled before the Cabinet for approval.

Cabinet sub-committee members Forest Minister



Mohammed Akbar, Cooperative Minister Dr Premei Singh Tekam and Urban Administration Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Dahariya participated in the meeting. The state government is going to launch the 'Godhan Nyay Yojana' from the 'Hareli' festival (July 20) by procuring the cow dung

from farmers and cattle owners. The plan is to convert it into vermi-compost, said an official statement.

The Gauthan Committee or their nominated group will collect cow dung door-to-door. A procurement card will be made on which the quantity and paid amount will be recorded.

Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey directed Agriculture Commissioner Dr M Geetha and Agriculture Director Nilesh Kshirsagar to fast-track the construction of 10 permanent tanks for vermin-compost based on the area of 'Gauthan' in the state.

C'garh achieves 58% tendu leaves collection target



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

In the current season for 'green gold' (tendu leaves), Chhattisgarh has collected 9,72,697 standard sacks against the targeted 16,71,000 sacks -- a 58 percent achievement. Tendu leave pluckers

have earned ₹389 crore as income so far.

According to an official statement issued on Friday, the Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Cooperative Union has collected 81,998 standard sacks from Bijapur

district, 41,083 sacks from Sukma, 3,511 from Dantewada, 11,819 from Jagdalpur and 11,485 from Kondagaon district among others.

The quality of tendu leaves from Chhattisgarh is considered the best in the country.

Rewards for promoting, maintaining cleanliness

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Creating awareness and promoting cleanliness as well as maintaining good sanitation at individual and community level is set to fetch rewards.

Laying emphasis on sustainability of sanitation practices, Chhattisgarh Panchayat and Rural Development Minister T.S. Singh Deo said there is a need to constantly motivate the people to include cleanliness in their habit.

The focus should be on solid and waste management for better sanitation in the villages which have become open defecation free.

Singh Deo was on Friday reviewing the Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) campaign at his official residence-cum-office.

The Minister called for a



permanent model of solid and liquid waste management in rural areas. It should be a practical and economical model so that it can generate long term livelihood for those linked to it, an official communication quoted him as saying.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) Director Dharmesh Sahu briefed on the second phase of the Mission in 2020-

25. He said those creating awareness and promoting cleanliness and maintaining good sanitation at individual and community level, at blocks and districts, will be rewarded.

He added that under a work plan worth ₹930.64 crore, 1.23 lakh household toilets and 5,043 community toilets will be constructed. Work plan has been pre-

pared for 3,526 solid waste management, 4,130 liquid waste management and 54 plastic waste management units among others.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti is holding a Community Toilet Campaign from June 15 to September 15. In view of the return of migrant workers in large numbers, the government wants construction of public toilets fast-tracked.

Two arrested for ₹14.5 lakh loot, murder

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIGARH

Two men from Bihar who shot dead the driver of a cash van and looted ₹14.5 lakh while it was being deposited in the SBI ATM in Raigarh on Friday have been arrested within 10 hours of the crime, police said on Saturday.

"Police apprehended the accused within 10 hours of the incident," Raigarh Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh told the media on Saturday.

Around 2 pm, two bikers shot dead the driver, injured a guard, and looted the money in broad daylight in Kirodimal Nagar area of Raigarh.

"After intensive search operations following local inputs and CCTV feed, both the accused were arrested from village Kerajhar on Friday midnight," said



Inspector General of Police Deepanshu Kabra.

Police recovered the firearms used in the killing and the looted money from the men, the officer said.

Shortly after the incident, all routes leading from Raigarh to neighbouring states were sealed and intensive raids

were carried out, added Kabra.

The arrested men, from Bihar, were identified as Sudhir Kumar Singh (Siwan district) and Pintu Verma (Ramgarh district). Both hatched the plan 15 days ago and carried a recce of the place and followed the cash van for four days, police said.

Both had earlier tried to loot the Union Bank on Dhimrapur Road in Raigarh, said the police.

Police recovered 2 pistols, 2 country-made guns, 3 magazines with 26 rounds, 2 live cartridges, 2 knives, the bike used in the crime plus the looted cash.

C'garh reopens 16 RTO check posts on the state borders

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Government on Saturday decided to re-open the RTO barriers (check posts) located in 10 districts of state.

An order in this connection was issued on Saturday late evening.

Earlier, on August 10, 2017 the BJP government had closed all RTO barriers while reasoning that after GST there was not much use of these barriers.

After the order, 16 check posts in 10 districts will start functioning.

The check posts that will be re-opened are Patekorha, Chhote Manpur and Manpur in Rajnandgaon district; Chilfi in Kabirdham; Khamharpali and Bagbahara

As per the order the flying squad will also start functioning. The department officials appointed at these check posts have been asked to take charge immediately

in Mahasamund; Kevchi in Bilaspur; Dhanvar and Ramnugun in Balrampur; Ghuritola and Chanti in Korea; Rengarali in Raigarh; Shankh and

Lavakera in Jashpur; Konta in Sukma and Dhanpunji in Jagdalpur.

As per the order the flying squad will also start functioning. The department officials appointed at these check posts have been asked to take charge immediately.

Notably, while closing barriers in 2017 the then PWD and Transport Minister Rajesh Munat had told reporters that the state government was receiving revenue of around ₹100 crore annually from these checkposts.

Munat had described it as an important step towards making Chhattisgarh a barrier-free state. GST implementation was another reason for closing down of barriers, he had stated.

PM discriminates over soldiers' deaths: Baghel

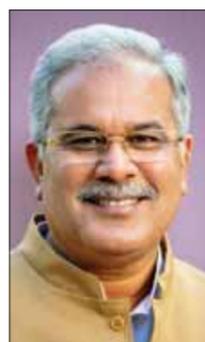
STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel alleged on Saturday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi makes discrimination within soldiers due to politics.

He made the charge while speaking to the media after attending a meeting of Congress District and Urban (City) Presidents held at the Congress State Headquarters, Rajiv Bhawan, Raipur.

The Chief Minister said that soldiers from Chhattisgarh were also martyred on the border with China but Modi only remembered and mentioned the jawans of Bihar in his speech.

For the entire day, the



Prime Minister remained in an election mood, the Chief Minister said.

The Prime Minister politically starts working for the state where elections have to be held soon, Baghel said.

Nine Maoists surrender

STAFF REPORTER ■ BIJAPUR/DANTEWADA

Nine Naxalites, including four with a total reward of ₹16 lakh on their head, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur and Dantewada districts of Bastar division, police said on Saturday. One of them is a tuberculosis patient and has been admitted in a hospital.

Two Maoists surrendered in Bijapur and seven in Dantewada.

Makdam Deva, 36, who surrendered in Bijapur, was an active member of the Jagarunda-Basaguda Area Committee. He joined the outfit in 1995 and carried a reward of ₹5 lakh on his head.

Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj. P said.

"Deva was involved in several attacks on police teams, including the Basaguda attack wherein two security personnel

were killed, as well as murder of civilians in the area," he added.

In his statement, Deva said he was disappointed as he was denied promotion in the Maoist outfit due to discrimination by senior leaders from other states against those who are from Chhattisgarh, the officer said.

Woman Naxalite Sumitra Chepa, who returned to her village after she was asked to leave a rebel camp on June 12 as she showed flu-like symptoms and the Maoists thought she had contracted coronavirus, also surrendered in Bijapur.

"Chepa was active as section commander of Maoists PLGA battalion number 1 and was involved in attacks in Sukma, including the 2014 Kasalpad attack in which 15 policemen were killed, and the Pidmel attack in 2015 wherein

three policemen lost their lives. She carried a reward of ₹8 lakh on her head," the officer said.

"Her corona report is negative, but she is suffering from tuberculosis and is being provided treatment at the Bijapur District Hospital," he added.

In Dantewada, seven Naxalites surrendered after being impressed by the 'Lon Varratu' (Return to Your Village) campaign launched by the local police, Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava said.

Among them, a woman cadre, Hadme Mandavi (20), a member of military platoon number 26, and Lakhma Mandavi (26), a Jan Militia commander, were carrying rewards of ₹2 lakh and ₹1 lakh on their heads respectively, he added.

The rest are lower rung members of the outlawed Maoist outfit.

Changes announced in examinations of IKS

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The system of examination and award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) at the Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh (IKSV), underwent a radical change on Saturday as regular classes have been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chhattisgarh Governor and Chancellor Anusuiya Uikey has given clearance for the amendment of conduct of examination and related issues.

The Amendment Ordinance Number 18 (Conduct of Examination) and Ordinance Number 60 (Degree of Doctor of Philosophy) have been issued.

As per the ordinance, except for final year semester course, the graduation (Under Graduate/Post Graduation) and Diploma courses, the evaluation



methodology will be based on intermediate semester and year-end examination evaluation held by the university and colleges.

The Governor directed

that the students should be informed about the conduct of examination and related activities at least a fortnight in advance.

Ph.D scholars, whose

this submission period has expired or is ending during the Covid-19 epidemic period, may be allowed six more months from the scheduled date of submission.

The University will hold the examination based on the circumstances of Covid-19.

All examinations conducted before March 14, 2020 -- after which the nationwide

lockdown started -- will be evaluated under the criteria laid down.

The ordinance states that the scheme of internal assessment is 50 percent grading marks obtained by the student while remaining 50 percent marks will be based on the previous semester or year's performance.

If the subject is not available in the previous session, then 100 percent evaluation will be done on the basis of internal evaluation of the current session.

The students will be permitted to improve on the marks obtained in the next semester year for which special examination will be held. Students' attendance during the lockdown period will be considered as 'attended'.

On completion of all the examination and evaluation for the current academic session, the special provisions will automatically be considered as annulled.

BJP to remain aggressive against govt: Raman



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh BJP will continue to aggressively point out the failures of the Congress government in the state, former Chief Minister Raman Singh said on Saturday.

He was speaking to the media after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interaction with BJP leaders and workers earlier in the day.

Reacting to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's comment that he remained in Chhattisgarh even after being the national Vice President of the party, Dr

Raman Singh said: "Why has he a problem with my being national Vice President? The working area is Chhattisgarh. And what work I do will be decided by my party President."

On procuring cow dung at ₹1.50 per kg, the former Chief Minister said: "The state government could not procure paddy at the promised rate, the promise of two years of paddy bonus and unemployment allowance to youth has not been fulfilled... Let the government procure it but it should also procure the paddy at the promised rate."

Chambal Expressway to be game changer for MP, UP, Raj: Gadkari

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that the proposed ₹8,250 crore Chambal Expressway could be a game changer for the poor and tribals living in far-flung areas of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday urged these states to expedite land acquisition, environment clearances and tax relief for the project.

vide cross-connectivity with the Golden Quadrilateral's Delhi-Kolkata corridor, North-South Corridor, East-West Corridor and Delhi-Mumbai Expressway.

"The upcoming expressway could be a game changer for tribals and poor living in the far-flung areas, specially Chambal region which is considered as one of the most backward areas in the country."

states will be the biggest beneficiaries to send their produce to Delhi Mumbai markets, this expressway will be a boon for primitive tribes like Saharia in Morena, Sheopur and other areas," Road Transport and Highways Minister Gadkari said, reviewing the project.

The proposed expressway will prove to be the newest model of infrastructure development jointly between the states and the Centre, he said. The about 404 km-long

expressway provides an alternate route from Kanpur to Kota through Madhya Pradesh, and then it joins the Delhi-Mumbai corridor.

Reviewing the project with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Jyotiraditya Scindia, Gadkari emphasised on expeditious environment clearances, land acquisition

and royalty/local tax exemptions to make the project see the light of the day soon.

He underlined that land acquisition should cater to the development of wayside amenities, besides industrial and commercial clusters with potential for having smart cities, mandis, hunar haats, among others, on both sides.

The expressway will offer huge employment potential in these districts and adjoining areas, he said.

Stressing on the need to bring down the cost, Gadkari said royalty and tax exemptions on the project material will save more than ₹1,000 crore.

He suggested that chief ministers of the states through which the road will pass should chair State-level High Powered Committee meetings to sort all state-specific issues which will facilitate faster implementation of the project.

Madhya Pradesh has already exempted royalty on

minerals for this project.

Gadkari also said he has directed NHAI Chairman S S Sandhu to prepare the DPR (detailed project report) at the earliest.

The project is expected to be completed in about two years after land acquisition.

The states will share the ₹650 crore land acquisition cost.

He also suggested forming a Chambal Development Authority for better coordina-

tion and progress of the region.

The minister said the project can also have logistics parks on the lines of multi-modal logistics parks being constructed in Indore, Jabalpur and Jaipur.

Senior officers of the state governments of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, as well as the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry and NHAI participated in the online review meeting.

Covid-19: 5 deaths in Noida, CMO among 83 new patients

PTI ■ NOIDA (UP)

Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar on Saturday recorded five more deaths due to Covid-19, while 83 more people, including the chief medical officer, were found positive for the infection in the district, officials said.

The death toll due to the novel coronavirus has now reached 28, while the tally of positive cases rose to 2,646, the highest for any district in the state, according to the data released by UP Health Department.

The number of active cases came down to 972 from 1,005 on Friday, as 105 more patients were discharged after treatment, the data showed.

So far, 1,646 patients have got discharged from hospitals in the district, it showed.

The recovery rate improved to 62.20 per cent from 59.98 per cent on Friday. It was 61.60 per cent on Thursday, 64.47 per cent on Wednesday, 65.36 per cent on Tuesday and 64.76 per cent on Monday, according to official

statistics.

The mortality rate of positive patients grew to 1.05 per cent from 0.89 per cent on Friday, according to the statistics.

CMO Deepak Ohri had developed influenza-like illness after which he was tested for COVID-19 and resulted in positive, Gautam Buddha Nagar officials said.

"He has been admitted to an isolation ward for treatment. His condition is stable," District Surveillance Officer Sunil Dohare said.

Meanwhile, senior doctor Nepal Singh will officiate as the chief medical officer of Gautam Buddha Nagar, the officer said, adding the CMO's office has been sanitised as per protocols for COVID-19.

On the other hand, 3,328 tests were carried out for COVID-19 across Gautam Buddha Nagar on Saturday, according to official data.

Of the total tests, 20 were TrueNat, 1,512 were RTPCR and 1,796 were antigen-based testings, the data stated, adding that 1,488 surveillance teams

were deployed for door-to-door screening in the district.

Gautam Buddha Nagar currently has the second highest active cases of COVID-19 after adjoining Ghaziabad district (1,118) in the state.

They are followed by Lucknow (490), Kanpur Nagar (328), Meerut (283), Varanasi (231), Aligarh (210), Bulandshahr (167) and Mathura (153), the data stated.

From Friday to Saturday, 772 new COVID-19 cases were reported across districts in the state, while 560 patients got discharged from hospitals and 24 deaths were recorded during the 24-hour period, it showed.

As of Saturday, there are 7,627 active COVID-19 cases in UP, while 18,154 patients have got discharged from hospitals and 773 deaths have been recorded so far, it added.

There are 2,35,433 active cases across the country, while 18,655 deaths have been recorded and 3,94,227 patients have got discharged, according to a central government data updated till Saturday.

Coronavirus: Positive trend in Delhi as less percentage of tested people found infected Recovery rate crosses 70 %

New Delhi: The Covid-19 positivity rate in Delhi has declined to 10.58 per cent after rising to nearly 37 per cent, and the average number of cases has also dropped by almost 1,000 over the previous week, indicating a welcome trend, though experts have cautioned the people against lowering their guard.

The national capital's recovery rate too has risen significantly crossing 70 per cent, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said. The national recovery rate is 60.81 per cent.

"Due to the efforts of Delhi's 2 crore people, the hard work has paid off. Congratulations to all corona warriors for taking the recovery rate of Delhi to over 70 per cent. We all need to work hard to defeat corona," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted.

Sisodia also took to Twitter to inform that out of 97,200 patients, 68,256 have been cured. He said that positivity rate, which is the percentage of

people who have been found positive out of the total tested for the coronavirus, has dropped to 10.58 per cent. It had risen to 36.94 per cent earlier.

For the seventh consecutive day, Delhi has recorded fresh cases in the range of 2,000.

On June 23, the national capital had reported the highest single-day spike of 3,947 cases. The city continued to see over 3,000 fresh cases per day till June 26, when it reported 3,460 infections.

From June 27 to July 4, the average fresh cases per day stands at about 2,495 compared to 3,446 cases per day the week before.

If the trend continues, experts have claimed that the city may go past the COVID-19 peak in early August.

However, they have warned that if social distancing and hygiene norms prescribed by authorities are not adhered to by the people, there could be a surge again. PTI

7,074 test +ve in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The beleaguered health officials in Maharashtra went into a tizzy on Saturday, as the state witnessed an all-time high of 7,074 new Covid-19 positive cases and the total number of infected cases crossed 2 lakh mark to touch an astounding 2,00,064 cases.

The day also saw a substantial increase in the number of reported deaths, as 295 more people succumbed to the pandemic in various parts of the state. The total number of deaths mounted to 8671 in the state.

The number of new infected cases has been rising for the past three days. On Thursday, there were a record 6330 cases, the number rose to 6334 on Friday and touched a new all-time high of 7074 cases on Saturday.

Of the 295 deaths, 124 deaths occurred in the last 48 hours and rest 171 are from the previous period.

Of the total 198 deaths reported on Friday, Mumbai accounted for 68 deaths taking the total number of deaths in the metropolis to 4,830, while the total number of infected

cases shot up by 1,163 cases to touch 83,237.

On a day when the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year touched 1,08,082, the recovery rate in the state stood at 54.02 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 4.33 per cent. The state

health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 83,295.

Out of 10,80,975 samples sent to laboratories, 2,00,064 have tested positive (18.51%) for COVID-19 until today.

Currently, 5,96,038 people are in home quarantine while 41,566 people are in institutional quarantine.

Pune Mayor tests Covid positive, under treatment

PNS ■ MUMBAI

Pune's Mayor Murlidhar Mohol tested Covid-19 positive on Saturday, sending the waves of anxiety through the city at a time when the civic health authorities are waging a grim battle against Coronavirus.

Making an announcement himself about his having contracted the pandemic, Mayor Mohol said that he underwent Covid-19 test after suffering from mild fever. The test turned out to be "positive" "My condition is stable. I will recover soon and return to your service again," Mohol

said in the evening.

With 841 deaths and 25,956 infected cases, the Pune city and district are the third worst-hit by Covid-19 after Mumbai and Thane in the state.

Mohol, who belongs to the BJP, was elected as Pune's Mayor in November 2019.

Mohol is the fourth high-profile politician after Cabinet ministers Jitendra Awhad, Ashok Chavan and Dhananjay Munde to have tested positive for Covid-19. Awhad, Chavan and Munde have long recovered from the epidemic and been discharged from the hospitals.

Delhi BJP reorganisation process begins; 35 teams formed to shortlist names for block unit presidents

New Delhi: The process of reorganisation of Delhi BJP has begun with the formation of 35 teams to shortlist names of local leaders to be appointed as presidents of the party's block units.

The 35 teams, each comprising two senior leaders, will shortlist by July 9 the names of potential block-level workers to be appointed as presidents. The shortlisting process will begin from July 6, said a senior Delhi BJP leader.

The party has decided to keep the upper age limit for block presidents to 45 years in order to groom young leadership at the local level. There are 280 block units of the BJP in Delhi.

The party leader said reorganisation of Delhi BJP was to start immediately after the appointment of Adesh Gupta as its new president last month.

It has been delayed due to preoccupations with coronavirus-related work and recent developments in the country, he said.

Appointments of district presidents and new office bearers in the state team will also begin shortly. The process may take at least a month, after which all the names will be announced simultaneously, he added. The reorganisation work was discussed in a meeting of Delhi BJP's core group last week. The meeting was also

The names of potential candidates for the posts of block and district presidents will be shortlisted after consultation with the present and former presidents, MPs and councilors and state office bearers in respective blocks and districts, said a core group member present in the meeting

attended by central observers for supervising restructuring of the Delhi unit, including national general secretary Arun Singh and BJP Mahila Morcha president Vijaya Rahatkar.

The names of potential candidates for the posts of block and district presidents will be shortlisted after consultation with the present and former presidents, MPs and councilors and state office bearers in respective blocks and districts, said a core group member present in the meeting.

The central observers had guided the state leaders to ensure that only "deserving" leaders with "good connect" in the field were included in the new team of Delhi BJP, he said. PTI

DU online registration process for admission extended till Jul 18

New Delhi: The Delhi University on Saturday announced that the online registration process for admission to undergraduate, post-graduate, M.Phil and Ph.D programmes has been extended till July 18.

The registration process has received tremendous response despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision to extend the date has been taken in view of the notification of declaration of CBSE result and the postponement of JEE and NEET examinations, according to an official of the varsity.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had announced that the results for class 10 and 12 exams will be declared by

Till 7.30 pm on Saturday, 3,32,359 aspirants had registered on the portal for admission to undergraduate courses while 2,17,971 had paid the registration fees

July 15. The HRD Ministry on Friday postponed medical and engineering entrance exams NEET and JEE to September in view of the spike in COVID-19 cases. The last date was July 4 but now it has been extended to July 18. Students will be able to register till 5 pm on the varsity's admission portal.

Till 7.30 pm on Saturday, 3,32,359 aspirants had registered on the portal for admission to undergraduate courses

while 2,17,971 had paid the registration fees.

During the same time, 1,30,781 aspirants had registered for admission to post-graduate courses while 1,01,718 candidates had made the payment.

As many as 23,111 aspirants had registered on the portal for admission to M.Phil and Ph.D programmes and 13,223 candidates had completed the process by making the payment for registration fees.

The varsity had commenced the registration process on June 20. This year, the registration was delayed owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

The entire process is happening online due to the pandemic situation. PTI

Tik Tok artists await Indian App to showcase their talent

DIVYA MODI ■ RANCHI

With the Central government imposing a ban on 59 Chinese apps including the popular entertainment platform Tik Tok on June 29, artists across Jharkhand claim that talent is not based on a particular app.

Showing support to the government's decision, the users of apps like Tik Tok and Vigo Video are worried about what happens to their content on the various social media platforms and hope that some similar Indian apps will soon be made for them to showcase their talent. Dhanbad

based Dharam Kumar and Vikas Kumar had about 1.43 lakh followers on Tik Tok and close to four lakh on Vigo Video. "We had been posting funny videos on Tik Tok for about six months and on the other one for almost two years now. Our videos were mostly on the native language of Jharkhand.

This is a very good decision taken by the government to ban Chinese apps. We will now post our videos on YouTube and hopefully a new Indian app will also be made soon." "The biggest drawback of this is that we have lost all our followers and will now have to start afresh.

Harsimrat Kaur Badal focused on safeguarding her position in the Union Cabinet, said the Chief Minister, adding that the Badals were appealing the BJP to save their alliance in Punjab at any cost.

Underlining the need to save Punjab and protect its interests, the Chief Minister said the Ordinances were 100% against Punjab and anti-farmers, as agreed by all political parties, except BJP and the Akalis. All the Kisan Unions, who he had recently met, also wanted immediate scrapping of these Ordinances, he added.

COVID-19, THINGS NOT GOOD

On the Covid situation, the Chief Minister said things were not good, as cases continued to rise across India, and even Punjab had touched the

Punjab reports 5 deaths, tally reaches 60K with new 172 +ve

40 coronavirus patients were discharged from various hospitals

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab on Saturday reported five more fatalities due to COVID-19, taking the death toll to 162 while 172 fresh cases pushed the tally to 6,109 in the state, according to a medical bulletin. Two deaths were reported in Moga and one each in Mohali, Hoshiarpur and Amritsar, the bulletin said.

Among the new cases, 61 were reported in Jalandhar, one of the districts worst hit by the coronavirus pandemic, followed by 46 in Ludhiana; 16 in Sangrur; nine in Amritsar; six in Bathinda; five each in Barnala, Ferozepur and Mohali; three each in Patiala and Kapurthala;

two each in Moga, Gurdaspur and Pathankot and one each in Tarn Taran, Hoshiarpur, SBS Nagar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Rupnagar, Fazilka, and Mansa. Of them, 16 people had a recent travel history to other states.

Forty coronavirus patients were discharged from various hospitals after they

recovered from the infection. A total of 4,306 people have been cured of the infection so far, according to the bulletin.

There are 1,641 active COVID-19 cases in the state, as of now, it said. Ludhiana on Saturday topped the COVID-19 tally in the state by surpassing Amritsar.

The virus count in Ludhiana has reached 1,017, followed by 947 in Amritsar, 834 in Jalandhar, 527 in Sangrur, 354 in Patiala, 286 in Mohali, 242 in Gurdaspur, 224 in Pathankot,

206 in Tarn Taran, 186 in Hoshiarpur, 148 in SBS Nagar, 133 in Muktsar, 122 in Moga, Fatehgarh Sahib, 116 in Moga, 114 in Rupnagar, 111 in Faridkot, 109 in Kapurthala, 107 in Ferozepur, 106 in Bathinda, 102 in Fazilka, 69 in Barnala and 49 in Mansa, according to the bulletin.

FIVE MORE TEST POSITIVE IN CHANDIGARH

Five more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Chandigarh on Saturday, taking the tally in the Union Territory to 459.

A 64-year-old woman, who lives in Daria, tested positive for the disease. Samples of her seven family members will be taken for testing, a medical bulletin said.

A 57-year-old man of sector 30 and a 27-year-old woman of Manimajra are among the fresh cases reported in the city on Saturday.

Two more COVID-19 patients were discharged after they recovered from infection, taking the number of those cured to 395, the bulletin said.

A total of 8,209 samples have been taken for testing so far and of these, 7,717 tested negative,

while reports in 31 cases are awaited, it said. There are 58 active cases as of now in the city and six people have died of the disease so far, the bulletin said.

PUNJAB CM CANCELS VARSITY AND COLLEGE EXAMS

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Saturday announced cancellation of university and college examinations in the state in view of the Covid pandemic, though the exams that are currently being conducted online by some universities will continue uninterrupted.

In his weekly Ask Captain Facebook Live session, the Chief Minister said university and college students will be promoted on the basis of their previous years' results.

However, students who want to improve their performance will have the option to taking a fresh examination later, once the Covid crisis is over. Universities and colleges are in the process of working out the modalities for implementing the decision, he said, adding

that the decision would be announced in the next few days. On the School Board examinations, the Chief Minister said the state is following the CBSE decision announced in the Supreme Court some days ago.

Capt Amarinder, however, urged all students to continue with their studies in right earnest despite the cancellation of their examinations. "You have to continue to work for your future," he told the students.

EX-SERVICEMEN CAN HAVE 6 ATTEMPTS IN PCS EXAMS

In an initiative for ex-servicemen, Capt Amarinder announced increase in the number of attempts for taking the PCS examination. While the SC candidates among the general category will continue

to get unlimited chances, as per the existing system, the general category ex-servicemen will now get six attempts, in line with the overall general category, instead of the earlier four chances. For the BC category of ex-servicemen, the number of attempts has been increased to nine, he said, adding that he had received several petitions from ex-servicemen to be put at par with the overall general category of aspirants. AKALIS HAVE SOLD OUT PUNJAB'S INTERESTS BY SUPPORTING ANTI-FARMER ORDINANCES, SAYS CAPT AMARINDER

Accusing the Akalis of selling Punjab's interests by agreeing to the anti-farm Ordinances in order to ruin the state's farming community, Capt Amarinder asserted that he would take the fight against

the anti-farmer Ordinances to the Centre. He said he would be writing soon to the Prime Minister for appointment of the all-party delegation which all Punjab parties, except the BJP, had unanimously decided upon.

"No matter what Sukhbir Badal or BJP say, once these Ordinances are passed, the Centre's next step would be to end the MSP regime and dismantle the FCI," warned Capt Amarinder, pointing to the recommendations of the Shanta Kumar committee.

"You can imagine what will happen to Punjab farmers if this becomes a reality," he said, adding that the procurement process will come to an end and Mandis will be finished once the Ordinances become law. The Akalis were only interested in protecting their political interests, with

6000 mark, with 157 deaths reported so far. He reiterated the importance of taking all precautions, including social distancing and wearing of masks. Pointing out that 4000-5000 cases were being registered every day for violations, including spitting on roads, he urged the people not to get complacent and violate the rules for their own protection and to save Punjab. "We can only control, not cure," said the Chief Minister, exhorting the people to follow all guidelines being shared by Sarpanches and others as part of Mission Fateh.

He made it clear in reply to a question that recruitment of doctors, paramedics and nurses was in progress on fast track with the Cabinet having taken a special decision to strengthen the fight against Covid

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DURG CIRCLE DURG (C.G.)

Durg, Dated: 29.06.2020

e-Procurement Tender Notice
1st Call

Online tenders in form "A" percentage rate basis are invited on behalf of Governor of Chhattisgarh dated 21-07-2020 :-

NIT No.	Name of work	P.A.C. (Rs. In lacs.)
65/Durg(Durg)/2020	ROAD MARKING IN HEAD QTR -I, 2, 3, & SECTION - SELUD UNDER ORDINARY REPAIR, IN SUB DIVISION PATAN, DIVISION DURG	128.37
66/Durg(Durg)/2020	ORDINARY MAINTANANCE WORK OF DIFFERENT NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING UNDER P.W.D. SUB DIVISION NO. 1, DURG	50.00
67/Durg(Durg)/2020	ORDINARY MAINTANANCE WORK OF DIFFERENT RESIDENTIAL BUILDING UNDER P.W.D. SUB DIVISION NO. 1, DURG	50.00
68/Durg(Bemetara)/2020	Construction of RCC Drain from Mumula Chowk Thankhamhariya to Karesara Road(Bypass Road) Length = 0.413 Km, Block - Saja	49.97
69/Durg(Bemetara)/2020	Construction of Devarbija Main Road to Mandi Ground App. Road Km. =1.75 Km, Block Berla	79.01
70/Durg(Khairagarh)/2020	SR Work in Work in Ghat Portion of Khairagarh Lanji Road (Sh 22) Km 20/8To 37/4 Block Khairagarh	49.95

Note-

- General Conditions, detailed NIT, Tender documents & other information of the above construction work downloaded from the Eprocurement web portal or departmental website <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>.
- NIT No. & Name of the Work should be essentially mentioned on the envelope through the Registered Post/Super Post in this office.

Superintending Engineer
P.W.D., Durg Circle Durg (C.G.)
Tel. 0788-2210876

G- 82108/5 Ryp/Dtd 4.7.20

BJP a party for service of society, says Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stating that the BJP is not merely an "election winning machine" but an organisation for the service of the society, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday lauded the "sewa" of the party workers in the time of coronavirus crisis and suggested that every 'mandal', district and State prepares a digital work of its experiences during the pandemic and releases it by September 25, on the birth anniversary of the Bharatiya Jan Sangh and BJP ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyay.

The Prime Minister, who was reviewing the work of party workers in the last four months of crisis and watching the presentations of seven BJP states through video conferencing, said the digitalisation from all tiers could finally be converted into one that of the entire country, "inspiring the future generation", not only within the country but globally too.

Modi said digitalisation should be done at least in three languages-mother tongue, Hindi and English. He said the work would give a great strength and inspiration to those who would get to read the "commendable service" done by lakhs of people during

the pandemic. Almost all top leaders, including BJP President J P Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and BJP-run State Chief Ministers including Yogi Adityanath, Shivraj Singh Chouhan and BJP state presidents were present in the BJP Headquarters here. The Programme was titled "Seva hi Sangathan".

Modi said he was proud that BJP proved that "service" was its primary aim and power was only a means to an end. "This tradition we inherited from our founding fathers and their hard work".

He said some observers see an organisation in context of elections only. "For us organisation is not an election winning machine, for us organisation means service for everyone's happiness and the idea of 'Nation first', Modi said and went on to say that BJP had tried to build an equal society.

He said BJP today represents all section of society with 52 dalit MPs, 43 tribal MPs, 130 OBC MPs and also having 150 tribal MLAs in "Vidhan Sabhas".

Presentations were made before the Prime Minister by the state unit chiefs of seven

states including the election-bound Bihar as also Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi and Assam. All the presentations detailed the distribution of food packets, face-masks, 'Paduka' and help rendered to stranded migrants in reaching their native places. Bihar state unit president maintained that but for the help provided by them not even 10 per cent of migrants could have made it to their homes during the lockdown.

Intervening during the Bihar session, the Prime Minister briefly spoke in the native language while lauding the work done by the party work. He said UP and Bihar has a great challenge and will have to work with the same zeal in future.

Similarly, he congratulated Assam unit saying they worked pro-actively and the work is 'showing' with people's confidence in BJP increased in the state.

Modi asked all state units to be alert and aware of the approaching festival season as "coronavirus danger is still the same". He asked the rest of the state units to send their presentations directly to him.

Nadda said 22 crore food packets were distributed in the last 68 days and 5 crore "Modi ration kits" were also delivered.

Modi exhorts tech community to participate in 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Close on the heels of banning 59 Chinese apps, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday invited the start-up and tech community to participate in the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge' and exhorted them to create an 'Aatmanirbhar App Ecosystem'.

"Who knows, I may also use some of these apps made by you," Modi said in a write-up on LinkedIn.

In a tweet, Electronics and Information Technology (IT) Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the PM has launched the challenge to encourage Indian application developers and innovators.

Today, there is immense enthusiasm among the tech and start-up community to create world class 'Made in India Apps', Modi said.

"To facilitate their ideas and products, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology along with the Atal

Innovation Mission are launching the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge', the prime minister tweeted sharing the link to the LinkedIn post.

Modi had given a call for an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (a self-reliant India) and had urged people to be 'vocal for local' products.

He said the app innovation challenge is for those who have such a working product or if they feel they have the vision and expertise to create such products.

"I urge all my friends in the tech community to participate", he said while sharing the write-up "Let us Code for an Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

India has a very vibrant tech and start-up ecosystem, which has done India proud nationally as well as globally, Modi said.

The country's youth have excelled in providing tech solutions across sectors, he said.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has also brought about a big disruption, which is being tack-

led through the use of technology to aid our day to day lives, the Prime Minister pointed out.

Everyone is aware of the huge potential of the market and the scale products can achieve if they can satisfy the demand, he said.

"Nowadays, we are seeing huge interest and enthusiasm among the start-up and tech ecosystem to innovate, develop and promote homegrown apps," Modi said.

"Today, when the entire nation is working towards creating an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, it is a good opportunity to give direction to their efforts, momentum to their hard-work and mentorship to their talent to evolve apps which can satisfy our market as well as compete with the world", he said in the write-up.

To help the start-up and tech community achieve this objective, the challenge will run in two tracks, which are Promotion of Existing Apps and Development of New Apps, Modi explained.

This challenge will be jointly hosted by the Government and members of the tech community to make it more holistic, he said.

The Government recently banned 59 Chinese apps, some of them immensely popular like TikTok and Shareit, on grounds of ensuring security and safety of Indian cyber space.

Zoya Khan becomes India's first transgender operator of Common Service Centre



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Zoya Khan from the Vadodra district of Gujarat has become the first transgender operator of the Common Service Centre (CSC) in India.

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad shared the news with her pictures of working in the office on his Twitter handle.

"Zoya Khan is India's first transgender operator of Common Service Centre from

Vadodra district of Gujarat. She has started CSC work with Telemedicine consultation. Her vision is to support the transgender community in making them digitally literate & give them better opportunities," he said.

Common Service Centres are facilities provided by the Government of India for delivering e-Services to rural and remote locations where availability of computers and Internet was negligible or mostly absent.

SIMMERING INDO-CHINA TENSION

Cong reminds Modi of following 'raj dharma'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Leh and addressed the soldiers, the Congress on Saturday said time has come for him to follow his "raj dharma" and tell the people of the country about the reality of Chinese "incursions".

The grand old party also countered BJP's claim that it was only Modi to visit a front-line. Former Union Minister Kapil Sibal said former prime ministers Indira Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri had visited forward locations to boost the morale of Indian soldiers and Jawaharlal Nehru too had also visited soldiers in the forward locations in NEFA in 1962 to boost their morale.

"But it appears that our prime minister stayed 230 km away in Nimu, Leh," Sibal said, taking a swipe at Modi's visit.

Posing a set of five questions to the Prime Minister, Congress asked Modi to say whether the actual picture of "Chinese occupation of our territory" up to the "Finger 4 Ridge" in the Pangong Tso area depicts the truth on the ground.

Sibal used satellite images of Ladakh's Pangong Tso from May and June to show Chinese structures in the area and asked the Prime Minister to at least speak the truth about it.

Sibal also asked Modi to stop doing the politics of "illusion and delusion" and showing "red eyes" to China, and protect Indian territory.

"The times warrant India

to look eye-to-eye at China and unequivocally tell them to retreat from their illegal and brazen occupation of Indian territory. Mr Prime Minister, this is the only 'raj dharma' that you must follow," Sibal said at AICC virtual Press conference.

"They say 'pictures do not lie'. Will the Prime Minister now tell the nation - is this Indian territory on which radars, helipad and other structures have been built by the Chinese in a brazen act of transgression?"

"Have the Chinese occupied our territory in Galwan Valley, including 'Patrol Point 14', where our 20 jawans of the 16 Bihar Regiment made the supreme sacrifice? Has China also occupied Indian territory in Hot Springs?" the Congress leader asked.

"Has China occupied our territory up to 'Y-Junction' (18 kms inside the LAC) in the Depsang plains, threatening India's strategic DBO airstrip, which is the lifeline for our military supplies to the Siachen glacier and Karakoram pass?" he asked.

On Modi saying this is not the India of 1962 and the era of expansionism is over, the former Union Minister said Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of the country, had told China then that India will never accept the Chinese claim-line.

According to Sibal, Nehru wrote to China, saying India will never submit to the demand for it to accept the

Chinese 1959 line, whatever the consequences and however long and hard the struggle may be.

The Congress leader said paradoxically, the Chinese 1959 line clearly depicted the entire Galwan Valley in India and it was only on June 16, 2020, a day after the fatal clashes, that China formally laid claim, for the first time ever, to the entire Galwan Valley.

"Isn't it correct that the local councillors of Ladakh, including BJP councillors, submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Modi in February about the capture of our land by China? What action did the prime minister take? Had he acted, wouldn't we have been able to pre-empt the brazen Chinese transgressions?" Sibal asked which was also seconded by the his party colleague and a former Jammu Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad.

In a clear message to China, Modi on Friday said the era of expansionism is over and that India's enemies have seen the "fire and fury" of its armed forces, as he made an unannounced visit to Ladakh, signalling India's firmness in dealing with the border row with the neighbouring country.

In an address to troops in Nimu, the prime minister paid glowing tributes to the 20 Indian soldiers killed in the Galwan Valley clashes and said tales of the bravery and valour of the armed forces are echoing in every part of the country.

Health Ministry revises dosage of Remdesivir for Covid-19 patients



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Friday revised the prescribed dosage of anti-viral drug Remdesivir for coronavirus patients from six days

to five.

According to the updated version of its Clinical Management Protocol for the coronavirus released by the Ministry, the patients must be injected with 200 milligram of

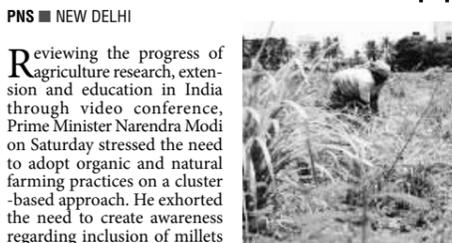
Remdesivir on day one and 100 milligram for the next four days.

The Ministry had on June 13 allowed the use of remdesivir for "restricted emergency use" in moderate coronavirus cases.

Hyderabad-based drug-maker Hetero has the approval to manufacture remdesivir for the treatment of coronavirus patients.

Last month, the company had said that it will deliver the first set of the medicine to Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat at a price of ₹5,400 per vial.

Modi stresses on need to adopt organic-natural farming practices on a cluster-based approach



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Reviewing the progress of Agriculture research, extension and education in India through video conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday stressed the need to adopt organic and natural farming practices on a cluster-based approach. He exhorted the need to create awareness regarding inclusion of millets like Jowar, bajra, ragi and several other minor millets in diet to ensure a healthy diet. PM appreciated the efforts towards developing varieties focusing on specific requirements of agro-climatic zones and exhorted the need for developing forward and backward linkages to assure better returns to farmers.

Reviewing the contributions of ICAR in developing new breeds of cattle, sheep and goats, PM Modi stressed the need for research on indigenous breeds of dogs and horses. PM Modi exhorted that study of grasses and local fodder crops should be undertaken to understand their nutritive value.

At the meeting, Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research cum-Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research & Extension, presented the priorities, performance and preparedness to face various challenges. ICAR has developed geo-referenced Organic Carbon Map of India, identified 88 bio control agents and 22 Bio pesticides which can promote organic agriculture.

According to the agriculture ministry, the PM directed

that start-ups and agri-entrepreneurs need to be promoted to ensure innovation and use of technology in agriculture and allied sectors.

He highlighted the need to leverage information technology to provide information on demand to the farmers. PM Modi also directed that Hackathons may be organised twice a year to solve identified problems and meet design needs for tools and equipment that can reduce drudgery if farming activity, given that a large number of farm workers are women.

They said the PM appreciated the efforts towards developing varieties focusing on specific requirements of agro-climatic zones and exhorted the need for developing forward and backward linkages to assure better returns to farmers.

The PM highlighted that avenues for enhancing bio ethanol from sugarcane and other crops need to be explored.

In an effort to bolster 'Kuposh Mukh Bharat' (India free from Malnutrition) 70 bio fortified varieties with enhanced Iron, Zinc and Protein content have been developed. Bhagwa,

a variety of Pomegranate, is rich in Iron, Potassium, Vitamin C and Anti-oxidants.

Poshan Thali and Nutri-gardens are being promoted through Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Pilots were conducted in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh involving 76 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and 450 model farms. In its presentation ICAR highlighted the Magic seeder in Punjab, Haryana and Delhi to address the problem of stubble burning after the harvest of paddy crop. There is a reduction of 52% in burning events in 2019 in comparison to 2016.

Modi's visit to military hosp in Leh —

Army rubbishes claim over hastily assembled hosp, fit soldiers posing as injured



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Army on Saturday termed reports in social media as 'malicious' claiming a hastily assembled hospital and fit soldiers posing as injured during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to a military hospital in Leh on Friday. Taking exception to reports hinting the event was staged, the Army said these were "malicious and unsubstantiated accusations" in some quarters regarding the status of the facility visited by the Prime Minister.

It is unfortunate that aspersions are being cast on how our brave Armed Forces are treated. The Armed Forces give the best possible treatment to their personnel, the statement said.

It is clarified that the said facility is part of the Crisis Expansion capacity of 100 beds and is very much part of the General Hospital complex.

The COVID-19 protocol had necessitated some wards of the General Hospital to be converted into isolation facilities. Hence, this hall which otherwise was normally used as a Training Audio Video Hall was converted into a ward ever since the hospital was also designated as COVID treatment hospital.

The injured braves have been kept there since their arrival from Galwan to ensure

The injured braves have been kept there since their arrival from Galwan to ensure quarantine from Covid areas.

Army Chief General MM Naravane and the Army Commander have also visited the injured braves in the same location on earlier occasions, it said

quarantine from COVID areas. Army Chief General M M Naravane and the Army Commander have also visited the injured braves in the same location on earlier occasions, it said.

After the bloody skirmish on June 15 in the Galwan valley leaving 20 Indian army personnel dead, the injured soldiers were kept there to ensure isolation from COVID-19 affected areas.

On a surprise visit to Ladakh on Friday, Modi addressed troops at Nimu outside Leh and later visited the Leh military hospital and met the soldiers.

Stop-gap: ITBP director continues to helm BSF

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The BSF that secures the frontiers on Bangladesh and Pakistan continues to be headed by the ITBP Director General SS Deswal in a stop-gap measure for the last nearly four months after the former BSF chief Vivek Johri was repatriated to his parent Madhya Pradesh cadre on March 11.

The ITBP is the designated border-guarding force and Lead Intelligence Agency on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China while the BSF is in a similar role along the frontiers with Bangladesh and Pakistan.

For the last over two months, the Indian Forces are in a standoff positions with the Chinese Army at several points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh where the role of the ITBP has further increased as additional troops have been

rushed to augment a matching response to the buildup of the Chinese forces amid the tensions between the two countries.

The BSF also faces additional threat along the International Boundary (IB) with Pakistan in Rajasthan and Punjab as Pakistan's army is a "brother" army for Chinese counterparts and can potentially play a spoilsport in the event of an escalation with Beijing. The need for a full-fledged chief of the BSF is the need of the hour, insiders said.

While Johri is a 1984 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre who heads the police in the State, Deswal is a Haryana cadre officer of the same batch and took additional charge of the BSF on March 11 when the ITBP was one of the lead forces managing quarantine facility

in the country to screen and quarantine, at its Chhawla camp here, the Indians and foreigners evacuated from Wuhan which was then the epicentre of the Covid-19.

Besides the charge of ITBP, Deswal continues to hold the additional responsibility of the BSF till now.

"Consequent upon repatriation of Vivek Johri, (1984, IPS officer of MP cadre), Director General Border Security Force to his parent cadre, competent authority has approved that SS Deswal (1984-batch IPS officer of the Haryana cadre), DG, ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police) shall hold additional charge of the post of DG BSF vice Shri Vivek Johri, till the appointment and joining of the successor or until further orders, whichever is earlier," an order issued by the Home Ministry on March 10 had said.

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

Corrigendum

With reference to earlier published notice in this newspaper on dated 22.06.2020 for inviting tender for appointment of agency for watch and ward services at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, few modifications have been made and a Revised Notice is uploaded on our official website i.e. www.cipranchi.nic.in as well as in CPP Portal Website i.e. at the www.eprocure.gov.in.

Sd/- Director
 CIP, Ranchi, Jharkhand

MADHYA PRADESH MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN COMPANY LIMITED
 (Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
 NISHITHA PARISAR, BIJALEE NAGAR, GOVINDPURA, BHOPAL-23
 Phone No. 0755-2602033-36, Fax : 2589821
 No.MD/CZ/SE/IT/333

Bhopal, Dated : 04.07.2020

TENDER NOTICE

MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites bids for following item through e-tendering

Tender Specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs.)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of opening of tender
MD/CZ/SE/IT/ Tender/34 Dt. 04.07.2020	Appointment of an agency for AI Powered Automated Conversation Recognition and Response System at MPMKVVCL, Bhopal.	3.12 Crore	5000+GST @ 18% =5900 Plus Processing Fee	17.07.2020 at (12:00 pm)	28.07.2020 at (03.30 pm)

Other details are available on Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & www.mptenders.gov.in
 M.P. Madhyam/97832/2020

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (IT)

US sends aircraft carriers to South China Sea

Washington: Two US aircraft carriers were conducting exercises in the disputed South China Sea on Saturday, the US navy said, as China also carried out military drills that have been criticised by the Pentagon and neighbouring states.

China and the United States have accused each other of stoking tension in the strategic waterway at a time of strained relations over everything from the new coronavirus to trade to Hong Kong. The USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan were carrying out operations and exercises in the South China Sea "to support a free and open Indo-Pacific," the navy said in a statement.



It did not say exactly where the exercises were being conducted in the South China Sea, which extends for some

1,500 km (900 miles) and 90% of which is claimed by China despite the protests of its neighbours.

"The purpose is to show an unambiguous signal to our partners and allies that we are committed to regional security and stability," Rear Admiral George M. Wokoff was quoted as saying by the Wall Street Journal, which first reported

the exercises. Wokoff, commander of the strike group led by the Ronald Reagan, said the exercises were not a response to those being conducted by China, which the Pentagon criticised this week as "counter-productive to efforts at easing tensions and maintaining stability".

China dismissed the US criticism of its drills on Friday and suggested the United States was to blame for increasing tensions. US carriers have long carried out exercises in the Western Pacific, including in the South China Sea, according to the US navy.

At one point recently, the United States had three carriers in the region. China announced last week it had scheduled five days of drills starting July 1 near the Paracel

Islands, which are claimed by both Vietnam and China. Vietnam and the Philippines have also criticised the planned Chinese drills, warning they could create tension in the region and impact Beijing's relationship with its neighbours.

The United States accuses China of trying to intimidate Asian neighbours who might want to exploit its extensive oil and gas reserves.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also lay claim to parts of the South China Sea, through which about \$3 trillion of trade passes each year.

The US statement said the naval exercises gave commanders the flexibility and capabilities "that only the US Navy can command". AGENCY

WHO team to visit China next week to investigate virus origin

New Delhi: Amid global concerns that China delayed giving information regarding the novel coronavirus outbreak, a team of WHO (World Health Organisation) will visit the country next week to investigate the origins of the virus and its spread to human beings.

The visit will take place more than six months after the WHO's Country Office in China picked up a statement from the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission on cases of 'viral pneumonia'. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus spoke in January about an agreement with China for sending a team of international experts "as soon as possible" to work on increasing the understanding of the outbreak.

Covid-19 has killed over 500,000 people in the world and cases and deaths are increasing by the day.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, WHO said that a "thorough investigation" needs to be done into the origins of the virus.

She said that the WHO has been working with the Chinese

government for the visit. "A team is going to China next week to investigate the origins of the virus," Swaminathan told ANI.

"What is needed now is a good investigation going back before December to find out where and how it jumped from animal to human. Was there any intermediate animal or not or it directly jumped from bat to humans which are also possible? Bats have been implicated in other viral diseases — Nipah for example. It is possible it came directly. It is also possible that there was an intermediate animal-like in the case of SARS. That thorough investigation still needs to be done," she said.

Dr Swaminathan said that the Chinese government had reported an outbreak of "typical pneumonia cases" from Wuhan on December 31. "Our WHO country office in China picked it up and on January 1, WHO activated its international mechanisms which we do as part of international health regulations whenever there's any new signal gets reported. It is conveyed to everyone so that the whole world knows about it," she said. AGENCY

Nepal's ruling communist party meet to decide PM Oli's fate deferred till Monday

Kathmandu: A crucial meeting of Nepal's ruling communist party to decide the political future of embattled Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli was postponed until Monday to allow more time for the top leadership to iron out their differences over his autocratic style of functioning and anti-India statements.

The meeting of the Nepal Communist Party's 45-member powerful Standing Committee was scheduled to be held on Saturday at 11 AM local time. But it was postponed at the last minute. Prime Minister's press advisor Surya Thapa said the meeting was postponed until Monday as the top leaders of

the NCP required more time to forge an understanding on the outstanding issues.

The meeting has been postponed as NCP chairpersons Oli and Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda were busy holding internal consultations amid the rift in the party.

"The Standing Committee meeting has been postponed until on Monday as both the chairs needed time for further discussions," said Bishnu Sapkota, the press advisor to Prachanda. The meeting was supposed to begin at the Prime Minister's official residence in Baluwatar to find a way out from the intra-party crisis which is dragging the ruling

communist party close to a split.

During the meeting, majority of the party leaders were expected to demand Oli's resignation from the post of Prime Minister accusing his government of failing to live up to the people's expectations and responding effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many top leaders, including former prime minister Prachanda, have also slammed Oli for his anti-India remarks.

"The Prime Minister's remarks that India was conspiring to remove him was neither politically correct, nor diplomatically appropriate," he said on June 30. PTI

N Korea says it has no plans for talks with US

Seoul: North Korea on Saturday reiterated it has no immediate plans to resume nuclear negotiations with the United States unless Washington discards what it describes as "hostile" policies toward Pyongyang.

The statement by North Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui came days after President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, John Bolton, told reporters that Trump might seek another summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as an "October surprise" ahead of the US Presidential election.

Kim and Trump have met three times since embarking on their high-stakes nuclear diplomacy in 2018, but negotiations have faltered since their second summit in February last year in Vietnam, where the Americans

rejected North Korean demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capability.

Kim entered 2020 vowing to bolster his nuclear deterrent in face of "gangster-like" U.S. Sanctions and pressure.

Choe's statement followed a series of similar declarations by the North that it would no longer gift Trump with high-profile meetings he could boast of as his foreign policy achievements unless it gets something substantial in return.

"Is it possible to hold dialogue or have any dealings with the US which persists in the hostile policy toward the DPRK in disregard of the agreements already made at the past summit?" Choe said, referring to North Korea by its formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"We do not feel any need

to sit face-to-face with the U.S., as it does not consider the DPRK-US Dialogue as nothing more than a tool for grappling its political crisis," she said.

Some analysts believe North Korea would avoid serious negotiations with the United States at least until the November presidential election as there's a chance U.S. Leadership could change.

The North in recent months has also been ramping up pressure against South Korea, blowing up an inter-Korean liaison office in its territory and threatening to abandon a bilateral military agreement aimed at reducing tensions.

It follows months of frustration over Seoul's unwillingness to defy US-led sanctions and restart joint economic projects that would breathe life into the North's broken economy. AP

Heavy rain floods southern Japan, over a dozen presumed dead

Tokyo: Heavy rain in southern Japan triggered flooding and mudslides on Saturday, leaving more than a dozen people presumed dead, about 10 missing and dozens stranded on rooftops waiting to be rescued, officials and news reports said.

More than 75,000 residents in the prefectures of Kumamoto and Kagoshima were urged to evacuate following pounding rains overnight. The evacuation was not mandatory and it was not known how many actually fled.

"I smelled mud, and the whole area was vibrating with river water. I've never experienced anything like this," a man in a shelter in Yatsushiro city, in western Kumamoto, told NHK TV. He said he fled early fearing a disaster.

NHK footage showed large areas of Hitoyoshi town in Kumamoto inundated in muddy waters that gushed out from the Kuma River. Many cars were submerged up to their windows.

Mudslides smashed into houses and floodwaters carried trunks from uprooted trees. Several people were standing atop a convenience store as they waited for rescuers. AP

Democracy books disappear from Hong Kong libraries

Hong Kong: Books written by prominent Hong Kong democracy activists have started to disappear from the city's libraries, online records show, days after Beijing imposed a draconian national security law on the finance hub.

Among the authors whose titles are no longer available are Joshua Wong, one of the city's most prominent young activists, and Tanya Chan, a well known pro-democracy lawmaker.

Beijing's new national security law was imposed on Tuesday and is the most radical shift in how the semi-autonomous city is run since it was handed back to China by Britain in 1997.

China's authoritarian leaders say the powers will restore stability after a year of pro-democracy protests, will not stifle freedoms and will only target a "very small minority".

But it has already sent fear coursing through a city used to speaking openly, with police arresting people for possessing slogans pushing independence or greater autonomy and businesses scrambling to remove protest displays. AFP

Wong said he believed the removal of the books was sparked by the security law.

"White terror continues to spread, the national security law is fundamentally a tool to incriminate speech," he wrote on Facebook, using a phrase that refers to political persecution.

Searches on the public library website showed at least three titles by Wong, Chan and local scholar Chin Wan are no longer available for lending at any of dozens of outlets across the city.

An AFP reporter was unable to find the titles at a public library in the district of Wong Tai Sin on Saturday afternoon.

The city's Leisure and Cultural Services Department, which runs libraries, said books had been removed while it is determined whether they violate the national security law.

"In the process of the review the books will not be available for borrowing and reference," it said.

The law targets acts of subversion, secession, terrorism and colluding with foreign forces. AFP

Trump, Biden fight for primacy on social media platforms

Washington: On an average day, President Donald Trump sends about 14 posts to the 28 million Facebook followers of his campaign account. His Democratic rival, Joe Biden, delivers about half that many posts to an audience of just 2 million.

The numbers are similarly skewed in other spheres of the social media landscape.

On Twitter, Trump's 82.4 million followers dwarf Biden's 6.4 million. The president has spent years cultivating a ragtag digital "army" of meme makers and political influencers who retweet campaign messages hundreds of times daily.

Trump is outpacing Biden on Google and YouTube advertising by nearly 3 to 1.

As his reelection bid faces growing obstacles, his primacy in the dizzying digital world is one of his top advantages, giving him a massive platform to connect with supporters and push a message that ignores his vulnerabilities related to the pandemic, unemployment and race relations.

Biden and his allies are now working feverishly to establish a social media force of their own.

For the first time, Biden outperformed Trump on Facebook advertising in June, pouring twice as much money into the platform as the president. AP

Trump pushes racial division, flouts virus rules at Rushmore

Mount Rushmore National Memorial (US): At the foot of Mount Rushmore on the eve of Independence Day, President Donald Trump made a direct appeal to disaffected white voters four months before Election Day, accusing protesters who have pushed for racial justice of engaging in a "merciless campaign to wipe out our history".

The president dug further into American divisions on Friday, offering a discordant tone to an electorate battered by a pandemic and wounded by racial injustice following the high-profile killings of Black people. He zeroed in on the desecration by some protesters of monuments and statues across the country that honour those who have benefited from slavery, including some past presidents. "This movement is openly attacking the legacies of every person on Mount Rushmore," Trump said.

He lamented "cancel culture" and charged that some on the political left hope to "defame our heroes, erase our values, and indoctrinate our children."

He said Americans should speak proudly of their heritage and shouldn't have to apologize for its history.

"We will not be terrorised, we will not be demeaned, and we will not be intimidated by bad, evil people," Trump added.

"It will not happen."

The speech and fireworks at Mount Rushmore came against the backdrop of a pandemic that has killed over 125,000 Americans. The president flew across the nation to gather a big crowd of supporters, most of them maskless and all of them flouting public health guidelines that recommend not gathering in large groups.

The discord was heightened as the Trump campaign confirmed during the president's speech that Kimberly Guilfoyle, a top fundraiser for the campaign and the girlfriend of Trump's eldest son Donald Trump Jr., had tested positive for the coronavirus while in South Dakota. AP

US envoy forges ahead with troubled Taliban peace deal

Islamabad: Washington's envoy to Afghanistan stressed Saturday the economic benefits of the peace deal with the Taliban, forging ahead with an agreement that has run into new political obstacles both in the US and regionally.

Zalmay Khalilzad was wrapping up a week-long trip that included stops in Uzbekistan, Pakistan and the Gulf state of Qatar, where the Taliban negotiators are headquartered.

The US signed a peace deal with the Taliban in February to end 19 years of war in Afghanistan.

Khalilzad has sought to stress the economic benefits of the peace deal throughout his tour. In a series of tweets early Saturday, the US Envoy said he had met with the Qatar Investment Authority and the Taliban's chief negotiator Mullah Abdul Ghani, in the tiny Gulf state's capital of Doha.

"We agreed development

plans in support of peace can never start too early," Khalilzad tweeted.

However, Washington has recently become embroiled in a controversy over intelligence reports that Russia was paying money to insurgents with links to the Taliban to kill American and NATO soldiers. AP

Intelligence that Afghan militants might have accepted Russian bounties for killing American troops did not scuttle the US-Taliban agreement or President Donald Trump's plan to withdraw thousands more troops from the war.

It did give critics of the deal another reason to say the Taliban shouldn't be trusted.

The bounty information was included in Trump's president's daily intelligence brief on Feb. 27, according to intel-

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one male named **Abhishek Singh**, S/o Sh. Vir Bahadur Singh, R/o: B-62, Tihar Village, New Delhi, Permanent Address: Village-Aghaw, Post & PS Bankata, Distt.-Devariyaa (Uttar Pradesh) Age: 30 years, Height: 5'9", Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, Built: Strong, Mentally Weak, wearing Green colour T-Shirt, Sky Blue colour Half Pant and Blue Chappal in feet, has been missing from his house since 11.06.2020 at 03:30 PM. In this regard a DD No. 01A, dated 13.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/129/WD/20

SHO
P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-28525719, 8750871128

HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(Formerly, Himalaya International Limited)
CIN: L70102DL1992PLC047399
Regd. Office: 118, 1st Floor, 12 Gagandeep Building, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008
Tel. +91 11 45108609, Fax: +91 1704 225178
E-mail id: cs@himalayainternational.com | website: www.himalayafoodcompany.com

Results of Postal Ballot (E-voting)

Pursuant to Section 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 ('the Act') read with Rule 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 44 of the Listing Regulations, 2015, the Company had conducted Postal Ballot (conducted through the remote e-voting system only) for seeking approval of shareholders for the resolutions mentioned below:

The details of results of e-voting are as follows based on the Scrutinizer's Report dated July 4, 2020

Resolution No. 1	Special Resolution to Issue of Equity Shares on Preferential Allotment Basis			
Particulars	No. of Shares (through Postal Ballot)	No. of Shares (through E-voting)	Total No. of shares	% of total Net valid votes (In percentage)
Total no. of Votes received	-	29123313	29123313	N.A.
Less: Invalid Votes	-	0	0	N.A.
Net Valid Votes	-	29123313	29123313	100
Votes in Favour of Resolution	-	29120933	29120933	100
Votes against the Resolution	-	2380	2380	0*

The aforesaid Special Resolution was passed with requisite majority

Resolution No. 2	Special Resolution to issue and allot Share Warrants on Preferential Basis			
Particulars	No. of Shares (through Postal Ballot)	No. of Shares (through E-voting)	Total No. of shares	% of total Net valid votes (In percentage)
Total no. of Votes received	-	29123313	29123313	N.A.
Less: Invalid Votes	-	0	0	N.A.
Net Valid Votes	-	29123313	29123313	100
Votes in Favour of Resolution	-	29120933	29120933	100
Votes against the Resolution	-	2380	2380	0*

The aforesaid Special Resolution was passed with requisite majority

* Negligible

By the order of the Board of Directors
For Himalaya Food International Ltd.
Sd/-
Surabhi Maheshwari
Company Secretary
ACS 49957

Date: July 4, 2020
Place: Delhi

Jio killer app serves ₹13,500 pa spoiler on Zoom party

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

While video conferencing app, Zoom has a 40-minute limit on group meetings in its basic or free plan, JioMeet, soft launched on Google Playstore and iOS on Thursday, has a 24-hour limit on group meetings, absolutely free.

Based on rate card of Zoom below where \$15 per month is the charge for more than 40 minute meeting time (which is equivalent to \$180 on an annual basis) to the host. In an apple-to-apple comparison, JioMeet is providing the same functionality and more, free of cost. This translates to ₹13,500 of spoiler savings for a host per year.

Zoom in a statement on JioMeet said, "Zoom has experienced intense competition since it was established in 2011 and yet we have become the platform of choice for millions

of participants around the world.

We know what it takes to become the unified communications platform we are today, including the immense amount of work and focus required to create our frictionless user experience, sophisticated security, and scalable architecture. The zero restriction on time limit targets is disrupting the Zoom digital experience. For instance in education, with 24-hour free JioMeet sessions, teachers will not be required to cut short their classes as they are forced to using Zoom. Similarly student won't be restricted to limit their questions and this may enhance the learning experience in both formal and informal education.

Friends, alumni networks and relatives will now not need to be caught in the "tyranny of 40 minutes," the free time allowed by Zoom runs out.

National and international seminars will experience complete migration a similar limitation because without any entry fee they can host their research - and conversation can spill over beyond 40 minutes easily for mutual benefit.

Sales demonstrations, especially, say, SMEs, kiranas, will be disrupted leading to enabling e-commerce. Likewise, brokers and any others needing constant and prolonged group video connectivity.

Collaborative cultural, social, musical, spiritual and events can be held which are livelihood source of performers and continue to keep social structure and fabric alive. Likewise democratic events.

Besides a price tag of zero, in terms of features and functionality JioMeet score on advantages. In a Zoom meeting, users can't expand a participant's video.

In JioMeet meetings users can expand any participant's video or Shared Screen's video by a double tap.

JioMeet has 2 advanced meeting settings over and above Zoom options. Allow participants only from my organization: If enabled only users from host's organisation (eg tcs.com or hll.com) can join that meeting. No potential snoops from other IDs.

It does not allow guest users. If enabled every user will be required to Sign Up before joining the meeting hence restricting anonymous users from joining the call.

Unlike Zoom, JioMeet users can switch from one device to another without dropping out of the call. Zoom allows Sign Up only with Email ID.

JioMeet allows sign up with Email Id and mobile number.

Inside the call, Zoom

shows 4 participants at a time on a single mobile screen (for

others, users need to scroll through multiple pages).

JioMeet allows 9 active participants on single mobile screen.

'Threatened' Zoom says not worried about JioMeet competition

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

With Reliance Jio launching a Make in India free video-conferencing application JioMeet that directly takes on Zoom, the US-based company said on Saturday they are not worried about the upcoming competition and know what it takes to become a successful unified communications platform.

JioMeet offers enterprise-grade host control and security that can be used for 1:1 video calls and hosting meetings with up to 100 participants. The application has

already been downloaded more than 1,00,000 times on Google Play Store within no time. Zoom has experienced intense competition since it was established in 2011, and yet we have become the platform of choice for millions of participants around the world," the company said in a statement. "We know what it takes to become the unified communications platform we are today, including the immense amount of work and focus required to create our frictionless user experience, sophisticated security, and scalable architecture."

Zoom added, JioMeet has created a solid buzz in India. Other highlights in the desi video meet app include easy sign up with either mobile number or email ID, meeting in HD audio and video quality. It offers support where the users can click on a JioMeet invite link and join from his or her browser without downloading the application.

Back-end technology optimises experience with HD video quality even at lower bandwidths and intuitive and user-friendly interface enhances overall conferencing experience.

Coal production nil in most mines during 3-day strike: Trade union leader

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The three-day nationwide strike by coal workers against the Government's decision to open the sector for private players led to almost nil production in most of the mines, and dispatch of the fuel was totally blocked, a trade union leader said on Saturday. Five trade unions, including RSS-affiliated Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, of Coal India have been on strike since Thursday to protest against the government's decision to start commercial coal mining. "The three-day strike in coal industry is big success... In most of the mines (in all the three days), production was nil and the dispatch was totally

blocked," Nathulal Pandey, president of HMS-affiliated Hind Khandan Mazdoor Federation, said. However, a Coal India official has said that coal production was 4.81 lakh tonne on Thursday, which is close to 38 per cent of the normal 13 lakh tonne per day, calculated as average of 10 days immediately prior to stoppage of the operations. CIL despatched 5.78 lakh tonnes on the first day of strike. This is around 42 per cent of the normal of 14 LTs/day, as per referred calculation. A coal Ministry official said that on Friday CIL produced 5.55 lakh tonnes of coal Friday, which is 42.7% of the 10 days average production (from June 22 to July 1) of 12.969 lakh tonne.

Liquidity to MSME rises as bank sanctions cross ₹1.10L cr

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government is going all out to ensure that liquidity concerns of the MSME sector are addressed on priority under its Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

As of July 1, 2020 public sector and private banks have sanctioned loans worth over ₹

1.10 lakh crore under the 100 per cent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, of which more than ₹52,000 crore has already been disbursed.

There has been a big jump in sanctions in the last couple of weeks. And just in the last six days up to July 1 sanctions have increased by a whopping ₹ 10,000 crore while disbursement has increased by ₹ 7,000

crore. In a tweet, office of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said: "As of July 1, the total amount sanctioned under the 100 per cent Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme by #PSBs and private banks stands at ₹1,10,343.77 crore, of which ₹52,255.53 crore has already been disbursed." The ECLGS scheme is the

biggest fiscal component of the ₹20-lakh crore Self-Reliant India Mission package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May. To ensure that the scheme achieves its objective of providing adequate liquidity to the MSME segment during the current difficult period, the finance ministry has regularly held meetings with the banks.

A finance ministry statement said that banks from both public and private sector have contributed to the success of the ECLGS. Of the ₹52,000 crore disbursement, public sector banks have released ₹ 33,000 crore to about 12,59,000 MSME accounts while private banks have disbursed ₹19,000 crore to about 1,45,000 accounts.

Coal India, NLC India JV to pump in ₹12,000 cr to install 3,000-MW solar power assets

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Coal India Ltd (CIL) and NLC India will jointly develop solar power assets of 3,000 MW with a likely investment of around ₹12,000 crore, sources said on Saturday. The two State-run compa-

nies had on Friday said they would form a JV to develop 5,000 MW of solar and thermal power assets across the country. A solar JV is already in process of formation with an initial capital of ₹10 lakh. Once the company is formed, the respective company boards will

decide the final contours of the project. At present, solar capex for each MW is around ₹4 crore," they said. The Government plans to impose 20 per cent basic customs duty on imported solar panels to boost the domestic industry, the sources said.

M Taj Mukarrum assumes charge of Director (Finance), POWERGRID

New Delhi: M Taj Mukarrum has assumed the charge of Director (Finance) of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) on 4 July, 2020. Prior to taking up this assignment, he was working as Executive Director (Finance), POWERGRID. M Taj Mukarrum has about thirty five years of experience in Power Sector which includes Long term Financial Planning, Financial Concurrence, CAPEX & O&M payments, vetting of Detailed Project Reports (DPR)/Revised Cost Estimates (RCE), Coordination for Project Financial Viability Appraisal by external profes-



sional Agencies for Consultancy Business Vertical including Smart Grid and Energy Efficiency such as Electric Vehicle Charging (eV), Energy Audits, setting up Smart Grid Cities Infrastructure, Railway Electrification Projects.

Greater Noida Authority providing online services

Greater Noida: The Greater Noida Authority is providing online services for its allottees, residents, farmers and investors. Due to coronavirus, most of its services have been made online by the authority. The desired information/information can be obtained as soon as people sit at home.

In order of the above, online services, Mitra App, Problem Solving System, WhatsApp and Helpline Centre are also working by the authority. Through which continuous

efforts are being made for timely and timely disposal of applications, complaints and applications received by the Authority. In the order of the above, a brief description of the settlements made in a month through various online services, Mitra app etc.

A month ago, the facility of Citizen Dash Board was started under which any person of general public, institution, intellectual and journalists, etc. can go to the above dash board to get the desired information, information and the latest status of pending case.

And by visiting the Greater Noida Authority's website (https://investnoida.in/Home.aspx) can be accessed by clicking the link titled 'Contemporary content'. Information on the following 3 points/update status and pending cases can be obtained by clicking on the following:

- 1- Mitra App
- 2- Online Services.
- 3- Department wise Pendancy.

NFL records all-time high fertilizer sale of 12.85 LMT in Q1

New Delhi:

Breaking all previous records, NFL has achieved highest-ever fertilizer sale of 12.85 Lakh MT in first quarter (April-June) of this financial year.

This is about 21.5% higher than the sales of 10.57 LMT made by company in the first quarter of 2019-20.

Other than significant growth in Urea sale, P&K fertilizers also recorded a growth



of 13% during the quarter. In the month of June 20, the company sold 5.30 LMT of fertilizers, up by 15.5% from the 4.59 LMT sold in the same month previous year.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

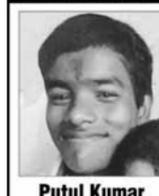


General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely: Sangeeta, W/o: Shailender, R/o: H.No. WZ-520, 4th Floor, Naraina Village, New Delhi, Age: About 30 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Hair: Normal Long Black, Wearing: Red Colour Suit, Salwar and Black Colour Leather Chappal in foot has been missing since 22.06.2020 from her house. In this regard DD No. 8A, Dated 23.06.2020 has been lodged at PS. Naraina, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing lady please inform the undersigned.

Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
PS. Naraina, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/135/WD/2020 Ph.: 011-25891181, 25892010, 8750871122

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Putul Kumar S/o Ramesh Bhatia R/o Village Punas, P.O. Birolli, P.S. & Distt. Samastipur, Bihar Aged : 15 years, has been reported missing since 30.01.2019 vide FIR No. 22/19 Dated 30.01.2019 u/s 363 registered at Police Station - Inderpuri, New Delhi. His physical description is as under:-**

Complexion : Wheatish, Height : 5', Face : Round, Build : Thin, Clothing : wearing green colour shirt, blue colour pant and hawai chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information or clue about this missing boy may inform SHO, Inderpuri, New Delhi at **E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Tele No. : 24368638/24368641, Fax: 24368639,**

SHO : P.S. Inder Puri, New Delhi
Ph. : 011-25832201, 8750871123

Govt. of Bihar
MUZAFFARPUR SMART CITY LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (e-tender)
Muzaffarpur Municipal Corporation, MUZAFFARPUR (Bihar)
INVITATION FOR BIDS (2nd Call)
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NIT No: 28/MSCL/2020-21
Muzaffarpur Smart City invites online proposals through this Expression of Interest for selection of a Agency to provide Green building consultancy to meet minimum GRIHA star rating for selected Buildings in the Administrative zone of Muzaffarpur city under smart city mission.

Sl.No	Description	Date
1	Online Sale/Download date of EOI documents	From 13.07.2020 (10:00 Hrs.) Till 20.07.2020 (14.00Hrs) (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) (Under Muzaffarpur Smart City Limited)
2	Pre EOI submission meeting	16-07-2020 (15:00 Hrs.) (At Conference Hall, MMC, Muzaffarpur)
3	EOI Submission Date (online)	21-07-2020 Till 15.00 Hrs.
4	EOI Submission in Hardcopy	22-07-2020 Till 15.00 Hrs.
5	EOI Opening Date	23-07-2020 At 16:00 Hrs.
6	Date for Presentation of methodology	25-07-2020 (15:00 Hrs.) (At Conference Hall, Muzaffarpur Municipal Corporation, Muzaffarpur).
7	Date for announcement of shortlisted bidders	28-07-2020 (Through E-mail to successful bidders)
8	Date(s) for Technical Discussions/ Clarifications leading to Formulation of RFP	30-07-2020 (Venue and Time will be announced)
9	RFP Publication Date (Tentative)	31-07-2020

EOI document shall be available on website: www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
For Queries & Clarifications, send e-mail to: muzaffarpur.ulb@gmail.com & muzaffarpurmartcity.mscl@gmail.com
Managing Director-Cum-CEO
Muzaffarpur Smart City Ltd.
PR No. 0003388(NI.NI.)2020-21

नौबल कोराना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु Toll Free No. : 104 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।
किसी भी तरह आपदा की जानकारी अथवा सुभाव हेतु जायदा प्रबंधन को हेल्पलाइन नं. 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

COVID - 19 PARCEL CARGO EXPRESS TRAINS

BOOK YOUR PARCEL IN TIME-TABLED PARCEL CARGO EXPRESS TRAINS (PCETs)

Northern Railway is operating Parcel Cargo Express Trains (PCETs) to ensure the faster and Time-Tabled delivery of parcel containing important and essential commodities. Interested rail users may book their parcels in these trains for its designated destinations and stoppages enroute. List of PCETs originating/terminating over Northern Railway is as under:-

Parcel Spl. No.	Station From	Dep. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Days of Run	Dates of run
00401	Guwahati	01:30	New Delhi	13:15	Fri, Sun	Upto 31.12.2020
00402	New Delhi	14:30	Guwahati	02:30	Tue, Thu	Upto 31.12.2020
00463	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	08:45	Mon, Sat	Upto 31.12.2020
00464	Amritsar	18:00	Howrah	08:30	Wed, Fri	Upto 31.12.2020
00465	Guwahati	01:30	Amritsar	19:45	Wednesday	Upto 31.12.2020
00466	Amritsar	07:50	Guwahati	02:30	Friday	Upto 31.12.2020
00467	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	06:30	Thursday	Upto 31.12.2020
00468	Amritsar	20:40	Howrah	08:30	Monday	Upto 31.12.2020
00621	KSR Bengaluru	17:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	14:00	Wed, Fri	Upto 25.12.2020
00622	Hazrat Nizamuddin	21:00	KSR Bengaluru	18:30	Fri, Sun	Upto 27.12.2020
00761	Renigunta	06:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:20	Tue, Sun	Upto 07.07.2020
00762	Hazrat Nizamuddin	06:00	Renigunta	16:15	Tue, Thu, Sun	Upto 09.07.2020
00763	Hyderabad Deccan	19:30	Amritsar	09:10	Friday	Upto 25.12.2020
00764	Amritsar	05:00	Hyderabad Deccan	18:20	Monday	Upto 28.12.2020
00901	Bandra Terminus	20:00	Ludhiana	03:00	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun	upto 14.07.2020
00902	Ludhiana	23:30	Bandra Terminus	06:30	Tue, Thu, Fri, Sun	upto 16.07.2020

The parties interested to book their Parcels in these trains may contact the concerned Divisional Officer / Parcel Supervisor. Division wise contact numbers of concerned Officers / Supervisors are available on Northern Railway's website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in at About us>Covid Corner>19 Parcel Trains section.

NOTE The time table and operation status of all the above mentioned trains can be seen on the National Train Enquiry System (NTEs)

Note: (1) Parcel have to be loaded/unloaded within allowed halt/time. (2) No passenger is permitted to travel by these trains. (3) The trains will be escorted by security officials.

Security Helpline No. 182 Integrated Helpline No. 139

Please join us on

1493/2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience - Our Concern
Visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Cricket Australia, players reach compromise on pay dispute



SYDNEY: A potential pay dispute between Cricket Australia and players was averted on Saturday after the governing body withdrew a contentious projection of financial losses from the coronavirus pandemic.

The decision to "reset" negotiations follows the resignation last month of CA chief executive Kevin Roberts, with his interim replacement Nick Hockley vowing to repair relations between the two sides.

The body in June forecast revenues would fall by nearly 50% in the 2020-21 financial year despite the pandemic hitting in the off-season and India's lucrative Test tour this year still set to go ahead.

Australian players, both

men and women, operate under a revenue-sharing arrangement and faced a significant knock-on effect in the amount of money distributed to their payment pool, which is a fixed %age.

The Australian Cricketers Association, which represents players, rejected the forecasts as hasty and issued the governing body with a notice of dispute, which could have led to a court standoff.

But CA on Saturday agreed to postpone its projections until it had a clearer idea of the financial impact of the pandemic. In turn, the ACA withdrew its notice of dispute.

"Today's agreement is a significant step forward in cricket's response to the challenges pre-

sented by the Covid-19 pandemic and should provide our stakeholders with renewed clarity and confidence about the summer ahead," CA said in a statement.

"Calculating revenue projections 12 months ahead during a once-in-a-century pandemic has not been without its challenges, but we believe we have arrived at a position that provides all parties with greater certainty about how to navigate the next year."

The move is seen as a common-sense approach from both sides, given the picture for the cricketing summer ahead remains unclear.

So far, only two tours involving Australia have been impacted by coronavirus — a two-Test tour of Bangladesh and a limited overs visit from Zimbabwe that have both been cancelled.

There is also doubt over whether Australia will be able to host the T20 World Cup, but its four-Test series against India scheduled to start in December is still expected to go ahead.

Officials also remain hopeful of having crowds for the popular T20 Big Bash League. **PTI**

Inzamam throws weight behind Babar to do well in all formats

IANS | LAHORE

Former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq has backed rising star Babar Azam, saying the Pakistan white-ball skipper has the numbers to back him amid constant comparisons with Virat Kohli.

"Babar is always compared to Virat Kohli but the latter has played a lot more cricket and if you look at their stats and performances at the stage Babar is now, he has not done badly at all," Inzamam told a TV channel.

The two modern-day greats are time and again pitted against each other, by fans and critics alike, for their impeccable playing styles and incredible consistency.

Azam recently stated that he doesn't want to be compared with India captain Kohli but with some of the top-class batsmen that have donned the jersey of Pakistan in the past.

"I don't want to be compared with Virat Kohli. It would be better if people compare me with one of the



Pakistani legends like Javed Miandad, Mohammad Yousuf or Younis Khan," Azam said during a teleconference as per Cricket Pakistan.

Azam and his Pakistan teammates have already touched down in England for their much-anticipated series in August which includes three Tests and as many T20Is.

"Babar struggled initially in Test cricket but we never had any doubt about his ability so we persisted with him and see today where he is standing in all formats," Inzamam added.

Recreational cricket to return in England on July 11

PTI | LONDON

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has announced the resumption of recreational cricket from July 11 after Prime Minister Boris Johnson gave the green light.

The ECB's announcement on Friday night came after Johnson made a U-turn after his earlier suggestion that teas and dressing rooms were among major obstacles in the amateur and grassroots game — a traditional feature of British summertime — returning amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

An ECB statement said the UK Government's announcement pertaining to recreational cricket applies at this time to England only.

"The ECB is delighted that the UK Government has given the green light for recreational cricket in England to return from Saturday 11 July," the statement said.

"The latest update from the UK Government signals progression from Step 3 to Step 4 of ECB's roadmap to return for the recreational game, meaning competitive cricket matches in England with adjustments to respect hygiene and social distancing would be permitted."

Earlier on Friday, PM Johnson made a U-turn from his reservation of return of recreational cricket, saying he "sought scientific advice" after being "stumped."

"We do want to work as fast as possible to get cricket back, and we will be publishing guidelines in the next few days, so that cricket can resume in time for next weekend," he said.

Windies must draw on Headingley spirit: Simmons



West Indies' batsman Sharmarh Brooks plays a shot during day three of West Indies warm-up match at Old Trafford

PTI | LONDON

West Indies coach Phil Simmons says his team will have to avoid early setbacks which have often affected its overseas campaigns and take inspiration from the 2017 Headingley Test win to start the three-match series against England on the front foot.

A batting failure saw West Indies lose the opening match against England in Birmingham by an innings and 209 runs during their last Test tour in 2017. They staged a remarkable comeback in the second Test, chasing down 322 to record a five-wicket win in Headingley.

"We are drawing on that. The Test match before Headingley we were horrible and that seems to be like that most times we go on tour. We are trying to make sure that bad match is taken out of the equation and we start properly," Simmons said during the *Cricket, on the Inside* webinar.

"We are playing against one of the best test teams in the world and we need to start on the front foot. We're trying to bring back memories of Headingley and get the psychology right."

The three-match Test series, which will mark the resumption of International cricket following the coronavirus-forced break, begins at Ageas Bowl in Southampton in a bio-secure environment on July 8.

The West Indies team has a world class pace attack featuring the likes of Kemar Roach, Alzarri Joseph, Shannon Gabriel, Chamar Holder and Oshane Thomas but it is their batting that has not been able to live up to expectations.

The 57-year-old Simmons said the batting unit is trying to get into the best mental state ahead of the series.

"I think the batters have worked hard on getting to a mental stage of where they need to be because most of them have

Pope says absence of fans won't affect intensity

PTI | SOUTHAMPTON

England middle-order batsman Ollie Pope says the absence of spectators in the first Test against the West Indies will not lessen the team's intensity.

The three-Test series will be played behind close doors due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The second and third Test will be held in Manchester (July 16-20 and July 24-28).

"When we have big crowds in and the *Barny Army* are here it is amazing but we'll still be playing Test cricket and it's still the pinnacle," Pope said after England's intra-squad warm-up game.



A general view as the first ball is bowled during day one of a warm-up match by England, at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton

"Even if there's not a single person in the crowd it's still what we all dreamed of doing. There will still be the same nerves in the morning because so much rides on it. When that Test match starts up, crowd or no crowd, you are going to be really up for it."

The 22-year-old right-handed batsman said playing without spectators doesn't affect the quality of cricket.

"Whether we are going to play a bit of music out of the speakers I'm not sure but we scored runs here," he said.

"(Shai) Hope has got back-to-back hundreds here. It's about getting to the mental stage where you are prepared for a Test match in England, because it's different to many other places."

"The next three days of

can find ways of creating our own atmosphere I'm sure. We've got to find a way to do that when we get on top or when we need a bit of energy."

Pope said the intensity of the intra-squad three-day warm-up game at the Ageas Bowl here has put the team in the right direction ahead of the opening Test.

The practice game between Team Stokes and Team Buttler ended in a draw on the final day on Friday. Pope made 55

not out in Team Buttler's second innings to go with his 25 in the first.

"The quality of competition going on out there was really high-class throughout the three days. I think we're getting there. We're all moving the right direction," Pope said after the game.

"I felt pretty good in the first innings, and it was nice to spend a bit more time out there today. We're all moving in the right direction."

out spectators.

"I think maybe ... The senior guys it might affect a few of them because they are used to sold-out matches in England. But in the Caribbean there's not much crowds for Test so we are kind of accustomed to that," he said.

Bairstow, Moeen ignored for 1st Test

MANCHESTER: Wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow and spin bowler all-rounder Moeen Ali were on Saturday left out of England's 13-man squad for the first 'bio-secure' Test against West Indies, starting July 8.

Ben Stokes will lead the side and the squad features pacers James Anderson, Stuart Broad, Jofra Archer and Mark Wood in addition to all-rounders Stokes and Chris Woakes.

In the spin department, England have gone with Dominic Bess. Jack Leach has been left out of the main squad and is among reserves.

The most notable omissions from the 30-man training squad include Bairstow and Moeen.

Bairstow's position in the side had first become uncertain in 2019 after a prolonged run of low scores. He was initially left out of England's squad for their tour of New Zealand but was able to find a spot due to injury to Joe Denly.

Bairstow then got a spot on the tour of South Africa but scored only ten runs in two innings of the one Test he played. That left him with a tally



of only 334 runs in 2019 at an average of 18.55.

Moeen took a break from red-ball cricket after being dropped from England's set up mid-way through the Ashes. He went wicket-less in his first bowling innings in the warm-up match and picked up two wickets in the second, but Bess and Leach both got more wickets.

SQUAD: Ben Stokes (c), James Anderson, Jofra Archer, Dominic Bess, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler (wk), Zak Crawley, Joe Denly, Ollie Pope, Dom Sibley, Chris Woakes and Mark Wood. **PTI**

We stay clear of engagement with Kohli: Hazlewood

PTI | NEW DELHI

Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood says his team prefers to "stay clear of engagement" with Indian captain Virat Kohli whenever he is batting as it brings out the best in him.

Hazlewood and his proven pace colleagues will be up against the Kohli-led Indian team if its upcoming tour of Australia goes on as scheduled.

Speaking on *Star Sports show Cricket Connected*, Hazlewood talked about bowling to Kohli.

"We try to probably stay clear of engagement, obviously. I think that was fully evident throughout the (last Test) series (in 2018)," Kohli said.

"I think he likes to get in that tussle and it probably brings out the best in him, especially when he's batting, that was always a no-go-zone for the bowlers."

However, the ploy is not quite the same when Kohli is leading the team out on the field, according to Hazlewood.

"I think it's a different case if the guys are batting and he's



in the field, you know they can get him engaged there and sort of work him out a little bit if possible.

"...But certainly when he was batting, it was just leaving him to his own devices, and hopefully, we get him in a bit of a switched off mood and take advantage of that," the pacer said, referring to the planned upcoming engagements.

During the show,

Hazlewood also said that Cheteshwar Pujara is the one player who wears down the bowlers with his workman-like approach to batting.

"Pujara will grind you down and make you work for his wicket, he really puts a price on his wicket and we saw that last time in Australia."

Kohli's men are scheduled to tour Australia for a four-Test series, beginning on December 3 at Brisbane.

Aavishkar Salvi is new Puducherry head coach

CHENNAI (PTI): Former India seamer Aavishkar Salvi has been appointed head coach of the Puducherry senior team for the upcoming domestic season.

The development was confirmed by a Cricket Association of Pondicherry (CAP) official who also informed that former Mumbai first-class cricketer Onkar Khanvilkar will be assistant coach and former Rajasthan keeper Dishant Yagnik will don the role of a fielding coach.

All the appointments are for one season.

Confirming the development, Salvi said, "This is my second stint with Puducherry as I was their head coach for the first season. This time, they have reappointed me." "It is exciting. We don't know when the cricket season will start, but still if an association is preparing themselves, it is a good thing to be part of it," added Salvi, who played four ODIs for India.

Indian coaches to get 4-yr contracts, 2-lakh salary cap to be removed

NEW DELHI: The Sports Ministry on Saturday removed the ₹2 lakh cap on the salary given to Indian coaches for training elite athletes in a bid to encourage them to produce better results.

The move is also aimed at attracting former players to become high performance trainers.

The announcement came after the ministry's decision to extend the contracts of all foreign coaches till September 30 next year.

"Several Indian coaches are showing very good results and need to be rewarded for their hard work. The Government is also keen to attract the best coaching talent from across the country to train elite athletes and we do not want the cap on compensation to be a deterrent for good coaches to join," Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said.

The ministry release said the increased remuneration and longer contract period "is to attract ex-elite athletes into the high performance sporting ecosystem, and to use their experience and skill to train athletes bound for major international competitions, including the Olympics."

The future hiring — both

Indian and foreign — will be for a four-year cycle in sync with the Olympics to ensure continuity.

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) welcomed the move, saying it will encourage domestic coaches to produce better results as they have been put on par with their foreign counterparts.

"IOA and National Sports Federations wholeheartedly appreciate the decision of the Sports Ministry to remove salary cap of domestic coaches. The cap was limiting our coaches who have been producing high-performance international medalists," IOA Secretary General Rajeev Mehta said.

"This decision is also encouraging for more sports persons to choose coaching as a profession now. With new steps to improve the coaching education, domestic coaches would be on par with international coaches in the future."

The ministry said eminent coaches already working in various Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) would also be allowed to join on deputation and be eligible for the 4-year contract as well as the higher salary structure.

The remuneration will be decided on the basis of their performance as an athlete as well as

his or her success as a coach.

"All new coaches and existing coaches who are given the new contract will be imparting training at National Camps and SAI's National Center of Excellence (NCOEs), and will be selected jointly by the Sports Ministry and the National Sports Federations," a ministry release said.

Welcoming the move, chief national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand said: "This is a long standing request of the sporting fraternity. I am very happy with the decision because it will give a great boost to the overall sporting ecosystem by attracting many talented coaches and eminent ex-athletes to join the profession."

The Sports Ministry will also resume grassroots-level talent scouting with an eye on 2028 Olympics when the situation arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic improves.

The elite Indian coaches/ex athletes, including those from the PSUs and leading sports promotion boards will be part of the Talent Scouting Committee which will be touring various parts of the country to scout raw talent in the age group of 10-15 years. **PTI**

Boxing camp at NIS likely from August 1: Niewa

NEW DELHI: A full training camp for boxers is likely to start on August 1 at the National Institute of Sport (NIS) in Patiala, according to men's boxing High Performance Director Santiago Niewa. NIS allowed the boxers to return to the facility and on Friday, the first batch consisting of 13 men and three women arrived.

While boxers were sent away to their respective homes before the first lockdown was declared on March 25, Niewa has been stuck at NIS for three months now. Uncertainty over how he would get to his native Sweden and how he would get back to India in time for a national camp, whenever it was held, meant that Niewa ended up staying put in Patiala.

"I have not seen my wife and daughters for six months. They were supposed to come in March but that was not possible and I was supposed to go there in May or June which was also not possible," Niewa said. "But this is a very extreme situation and we just have to (deal) with it. At some point this will hopefully end and I will be



able to go."

Niewa said that there have been conversations with the BFI about potentially going back home. "But the situation was very difficult. There were no flights and we also wanted to start the camp in June. I want to start the camp before I go over there because it is possible that once I go I won't be able to return," he said.

While his wards are trickling back into the facility, Niewa cannot meet any of them yet as they have to first go through their mandatory self-isolation period. "Before the lockdown we sent all the boxers home. Now the boxers are coming back, the first

batch of 13 men and three women have arrived. I cannot meet any of them for the next one week at least. There are more to come in the coming weeks," he said.

In keeping with the SAI Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the resumption of training, the boxers arriving at NIS are those in the mix for the Tokyo Olympics. "For more people to join and get ready it will take a minimum of two weeks. So I would be very happy if we can start a camp by August 1. We believe that we should be able to start something before August 1 maybe even from July 15."

"But I know that (the situation is such that) you

Jaipur to get new 75K capacity stadium

JAIPUR: Jaipur shall soon be getting one of the largest cricket stadiums in the world, with a seating capacity to accommodate around 75,000 spectators.

The world-class green stadium shall have modern grand pavilion stands, corporate boxes, plush sports field, modern club house and many other world class features for indoor games and sports training facilities, said Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) Secretary Mahendra Sharma. He added that the stadium will be spread over 100 acres of land.

"The land has been finalised in Chopn village, 25 km from Jaipur on the Jaipur-Delhi Highway and the construction is expected to begin in the next four months," he added.

Sharma said that those coming to the stadium, including players as well as the audience, would get world-class facilities. There would be flood lights installed in

accordance to the ICC guidelines, with modern pressbox for media and broadcast.

A parking facility to accommodate around 4,000 vehicles would be made in the stadium.

Sharma informed that this will be the third largest stadium after the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad and the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Australia. While Motera has a seating capacity of 1.10 lakh, the MCG can accommodate 1.02 lakh spectators.

The stadium would further accommodate two practice grounds which can be used for Ranji Trophy matches. Also, there will be two restaurants, 30 practice nets for players and a press conference room with a seating capacity of 250.

The stadium would be constructed in two phases; first phase to be developed with 45,000 seating capacity while the second would have a seating capacity of 30,000. **IANS**

Teenagers only have to focus on themselves - its not until we get older that we realise that other people exist
— Jennifer Lawrence



FROM THE INSIDE

Grasping Guruism

Unfettered devotion is how spiritual journeys begin. They culminate with the realisation of the divinity within

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4

Truth is simple, spontaneous

We can't change nature's course. But we can negotiate with the challenges coming our way intelligently and minimise the damage



COVID TAILS

KEEPING THE HOPE ALIVE

With only essential services being permitted during the lockdown, CGS Hospital in Gurugram, remained open to deal with all sorts of veterinarian crisis. From feeding the strays to handling emergency surgeries, all vets were on duty with staff, in spite of the possibility of Covid-19 exposure on a regular basis, writes DR SALISHA WHITNEY CORREIA

"We are serving a mission much greater than ourselves, and in helping the voiceless at this time of strife, we are truly following the Veterinarian's Oath"

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has caused a sudden change in the operations worldwide. With the lockdown commencing March 22, 2020, citizens were urged to stay at home to contain the spread of the virus. To keep ourselves entertained, many of us resorted to watching online films, many of which were ironically based on Virus outbreaks! One noticeable feature in most of these 'End of the world' themed movies is the absence of the adversities faced by animals/pets.

The sudden home confinement of the human race has altered the lives of animals, pets and strays alike. On the one side, nature was its best with self purification of rivers, migratory birds returning to nest, turtles seen on the Mumbai coast after decades, multiple sightings of peacocks, etc. and then, you have the species that has domesticated itself over the years, namely, cats and dogs suddenly left stranded without a constant source of food owing to closure of restaurants and malls. Pet dogs had to be restricted to relieving themselves on a balcony or a diaper mat at one end of a room due to confinement constraints. All outdoor activities for pets came to a halt. Many pet owners have mentioned that their pets were initially overjoyed to have their parents home all day. As with us, everyone wants their space, and pets started demanding some quiet at home. Then came the question of pet health care.

With only essential services being permitted during the lockdown, veterinary clinics remained open for limited hours with curtailed staff. CGS Hospital (a unit of CGS Charitable Trust), which is a part of the philanthropic wing of DLF Ltd., situated in Gurugram, remained open only for emergencies primarily only during the first week, but later due to increased number of pet illness cases, surgeries, pet hospitalisation and critical care requirements, the hospital was routinely functional. Most of the pet clinics being closed or running for a few hours only with shortage of staff caused an increase in footfall at CGS during the lockdown period. All vets were on duty with staff, even though

it was difficult at times for veterinary nursing staff to cross the Delhi border and no public transportation in Gurugram as well. Veterinarians at the hospital were extremely committed to helping pets in need in spite of the possibility of Covid-19 exposure on a regular basis.

The Pasha wing, a dedicated unit of CGS Hospital committed primarily to serving destitute dogs and cats was also functional daily to help stray dogs and cats as most NGOs also were providing only Emergency cases. A notable mention is the successful surgery of stray dog, Ruby, who was struggling to deliver at the side of the road for two days, and owing to the lockdown, her regular feeders and caretakers couldn't reach her. However, one family managed to bring her in the few hours of the morning for an emergency Caesarean section that managed to at least preserve the life of one puppy after rigorous veterinary neonatal care. The jubilant cries of that healthy puppy gave reward to the attending vet's sleepless night!

With restaurants and roadside eateries shut, as an initiative to help the hungry and starving stray dogs and cats, CGS Hospital provided fresh food to approximately 300-500 stray dogs. These strays were fed twice daily by the hospital team.

It is only when one believes that there is light at the end of the tunnel, can one emerge as one's best self and truly help another selflessly. This was aptly showcased by two daily wage labourers who when rummaging through the garbage at Sikanderpur found an emaciated sickly puppy. They immediately rushed on foot to the hospital for urgent veterinary care and continued to bring that puppy for the next five days, both in the morning and evening for necessary treatment. "Blessed is the man who has nothing and yet gives". They even managed to rustle up a small leash and collar and gave the chap a name — Lucky! And indeed, lucky he was! This incident moved me to tears and reinforced our belief in the goodness of humanity.

"Fearing Pandemic Covid-19 is not the answer to the current situation. CGS hospital is here to help you and your pets. We are reaching out to both pet owners to quell doubts regarding the spread of Covid in pets," says Dr. Samar Singh Mahendran, Director, CGS. The CGS Vets also provided free tele-OPD assistance to our regular



DR. SAMAR SINGH MAHENDRAN
Director, CGS Hospital

FEARING PANDEMIC COVID-19 IS NOT THE ANSWER TO THE CURRENT SITUATION. CGS HOSPITAL IS HERE TO HELP YOU AND YOUR PETS. WE ARE REACHING OUT TO ALL PET OWNERS TO QUELL DOUBTS REGARDING THE SPREAD OF COVID IN PETS

clients who were unable to bring their pets to the hospital.

During the 100 days of lockdown, the hospital kept even functional advanced diagnostics like Computerised Tomography (CT) Scan, which was exceptionally beneficial to diagnose a disc prolapse in suddenly paraplegic Labrador, Max. Dr. Vikash Chauhan, a certified veterinary radiologist at CGS hospital said: "Unfortunately due to the lockdown, many veterinary clinics and external labs weren't open routinely and pets were affected. We managed to diagnose three cases of long standing intestinal perforations via abdominal CT Scans and successfully operated and saved the lives of those pets. The joy and satisfaction of a life saved is the ultimate reward."

Outdoor pets sometimes find it hard staying indoors and numerous reports of falls of cats and dogs from high rise building terraces and balconies during the lockdown was strange. Three cats had to undergo surgery to repair their hard palate injuries. Mirza, the yorkie who had a Humpty-dumpty like fall and fractured his femur, has recovered well post fracture stabilisation surgeries at the Hospital. It is best that pets aren't allowed to venture out onto roof tops on their own and are supervised when left on balconies to relieve themselves.

Stray dogs seemed to have claimed the streets during the initial lockdown phase but as the lockdown opened, a drastically high number of road accidents resulting in fractures were noticed sadly.

Pet shops in most areas were closed and even online supply of pet supplies was lagging behind. Regular deworming and ectoparasite treatment was not easily available to pet owners and thus began the vicious cycle of intestinal worm infections.

Lyla, a friendly Dobermann was presented with the complaint of chronic vomiting. She was diagnosed with oesophageal nodules via an Endoscopy and is getting the appropriate medical treatment she deserves. Minimally invasive diagnostic and surgical options have been in focus in the medical world recently. Lyla and many other pets have benefitted from Endoscopic and laparoscopic procedures at the hospital.



Dr. Shiram Ganesan, the veterinary ophthalmologist has treated many emergency eye trauma cases, corneal ulcers, glaucoma and cataract cases in pets during this lockdown period, referred from far and wide. Some pet owners have crossed state borders with special permissions just to treat their pets' ocular issues due to lack of such expertise at their towns.

Loneliness and a need for companionship has led to a sudden surge in the number of puppies adopted or purchased in Delhi NCR. Sadly, many of them tend to fall prey to viral infections like Parvo virus and require hospitalisation. The hospital infectious ward was filled during the lockdown phase but thankfully, most puppies emerged triumphant over the disease. There is always a special bond between each vet and a Parvo survivor puppy. Having personally treated quite a few during this phase and now vaccinating them post recovery, it is always a special experience for me. There is no thank you as heartfelt as seen in the eyes of a Parvo survivor pup!

These are only a few examples of pets helped by dedicated vets at CGS Hospital. Veterinarians all over the world need to be applauded for the wonderful work they are doing inspite the odds. It is our profession, but also our passion to serve the voiceless.

With resilience and peer support, not only the vets, but each and every employee of veterinary hospitals and clinics continue to brave the odds, providing valuable service to the dogs and cats that come to them. We believe in our hearts that we too are COVID Warriors!

The writer is a post graduate veterinary surgeon practising at CGS Hospital, Gurugram.



A MAN SHOULD FIRST DIRECT HIMSELF IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO. ONLY THEN SHOULD HE INSTRUCT OTHERS
— GAUTAM BUDDHA

GRASPING GURUISM

Unfettered devotion is how spiritual journeys begin. They culminate with the realisation of the divinity within, says HINGORI, as he shares what makes a guru



You, me, the birds, the bees, the tree, its roots and every atom in the cosmos, are part of the same source — the supreme consciousness. Experientially understanding this is where we need to get to. The buck starts from, and eventually comes back to you.

We aspire for divinity even though we are already divine, unaware of our true whole self. Instead, we search for divinity in other people, places and things. Which door we knock on is all destiny's play, and if destiny is kind to us, we will find on the other side of the open door, a *Siddh* Guru, who will lead us onto the path of spiritual evolution, back to our true selves.

In principle, a guru is not a person, but a concept that embodies infinite wisdom and universal knowledge. Thus, in a guru-disciple relationship, the disciple emulates not the person he refers to as his guru — but his *gunas* (qualities). With all the technology, information and spiritual content being so easily available in every language, do people still need a guru?

Most of us know ourselves at a superficial level. That is, what we perceive ourselves to be. Or worse, what we believe others perceive of us.

A *Siddh* Guru who has the intuitive knowledge to recognise you beyond your physical self, knows you at the

three distinct levels of the body, mind, and spirit. He knows you not only in the physical form you are in now, but also who you were and will be in lives of the past and future. A *Siddh* guru always knows the strength of a potential disciple's spirit. He will also try to sense the connection between the person's destiny and his spiritual growth.

Nobody can introduce you to yourself better than your Guru. By introducing you to you, he introduces you to your destiny and *gunas*, helping you to accept yourself on an as-is-where-is basis. He leads you to understand and engage in self-acceptance and self-respect leading to an egoless self-worth of your own spirit.

Only when a disciple understands the totality of who and what he is, can he play music to the words 'Tat Twam Asi' or 'That You Are' which means, at the core, you are a part of the consciousness supreme.

This responsibility is immense. The concept of a guru is far more exalted and profound, because not only is he a role model, he takes on the disciple's karmic debt and leads him out of it to whatever extent possible. It is imperative for the guru to ensure the disciple's spiritual transformation.

On his journey towards spiritual advancement, a disciple goes through various stages of evolution, from *shradha* (devotion) to *bhakti* (worship).

A GURU GIVES KNOWLEDGE, GATI AND CLARITY; FACILITATES THE LIFTING OFF OF THE VEIL OF MAYA; AND WALKS YOU THROUGH EVERY STEP OF REALISATION THAT THE WORLD WE PERCEIVE IS ONLY A DELUSION, THE REALITY LIES BEYOND IT. HE TEACHES YOU NOT ONLY TO ACCEPT BUT ALSO TO LIVE THIS REALITY

The final stage however, is not of worshipping the guru, but instead, worshipping the guru within YOU. While devotion is a matter of heightened emotion, acceptance is a more centred approach without emotion as its power source. Therefore, even though the journey may start with devotion, it ends with acceptance and self-worship.

It is not easy to assess the stage of evolution of spiritual people. There is no standard metric. A man on the street may be more spiritually advanced than one in saffron. Looks and style, knowledge of scriptures and oratory abilities do not necessarily a spiritualist make. There are other attitudes and practices, coupled with destiny and intent that make an individual rise on the spiritual ladder. A guru looks for certain qualities in his disciple:

Sense of Awareness: For a disciple to observe his own thoughts, reactions and actions, which your guru may require you to change for your improvement.

Flexibility: your guru may want for you to have mouldability and nimbleness to change behaviour and reaction patterns set from past experiences.

Non-dogmatism: Dogmatic thinking chains one down to rituals, defeating the purpose of freeing you from the illusion that is *maya*. A guru wants a disciple to let go of this one

form of execution.

Sense of Sacrifice: There cannot be service without sacrifice and practice. To acquire certain spiritual skills, one may need to sacrifice certain pleasures.

Sheer Guts: Spiritual service includes safeguarding people against such external forces and negative energies transmittable through practices like black magic.

Initiative: While philosophy does sound impressive, it takes initiative and intent to put that philosophy into practice and go beyond expected levels of attainment and act intuitively.

Obedience: Disobedience and obedience are the snakes and ladders in the game of Guruism. Disobedience leads your guru to relinquish his responsibility towards you as you have shown a lack of faith in him.

Loyalty: Loyalty to the guru and his mission is a critical component for acceptance by any spiritual master.

Spiritual training in physical presence of the guru ensures an interaction, where one learns not only through theory but also from the teacher's responses, body language, instant corrections and so on. The guru often leads by example and it is a disciple's curriculum to perfect the prescribed practices and not just understand theory. There is vast difference between attending a lecture in a classroom and reading scriptures online.

Discipleship needs continuous monitoring and interaction. Such training includes rewards and admonitions. Many use their guru as a crutch, and not a launch pad. It is necessary for us to understand that a guru is the remover of ignorance and the one who bestows internal knowledge.

Physical presence of the guru is a luxury one cannot bank on for an extended period of time. His teachings and philosophy will succeed him. As a tribute to the teacher, the disciple must implement a collection of his teachings and instructions.

Many a *Siddh* guru can awaken the power of knowledge or intuition in his disciples by using their will power or spiritual energy. A guru facilitates the lifting off of the veil of *maya*. He walks you through every step of realisation that the world we perceive through our five senses is only a delusion, the reality lies beyond it. He teaches you not only to accept but also to see and live in this reality.

The guru introduces the disciple to the disciple's inner being, and within that being lies the ultimate guru. Wishing you luck in the journey of finding the divine with you!

The writer is the author of Hingori Sutras series of spiritual books



HIDDENSOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

The new scourge



Human mind is the main source of stress as well as its main victim. Stress has always been a major psychosomatic issue afflicting human health from ancient to the modern times. For the ancient man, the problem was anxiety of the uncertain. Little knowledge, naturally, proved dangerous. The irony is that with more knowledge, we worry more now. As technology infiltrated our lives, life got derailed, and went offline. George Orwell's proverbial big brother is getting bigger causing more and more anxiety and stress to human beings. *Aadhar* that was supposed to make life easier has become a cause for concern. While the banks are insisting on data and digitisation, the cyber thugs are swindling money from accounts with consummate ease giving sleepless nights to the customers. But this is not the only cause of online driven anxiety. The *Coronakaal*, as we can call it now, is giving a double whammy. On the one hand warnings galore from many sources are scaring people to abnormal levels, while on the other, the work from home is making many experience virtual hell. A new mega organism, the online CEO, has emerged on the scene. Relaxing in the cool climes of homes the corona age boss is keeping all employees in his loop on the toes. Shooting mails at the oddest of the hours he is issuing directives by the minute. One step forward two steps backwards, that is the nature of command, because he himself is not sure what to do. Needless to say all this is leading to excessive stress as the hapless employees are continuously on alert for the next mail or WhatsApp message on their mobiles. These nightmarish experiences are slowly but surely threatening to become a full blown health crisis. Already, anxiety and stress related disorders are on the rise and frustration is leading to depression and even suicides. And you cannot blame this on Corona only. It is the big bug, the bloated bossy ego of haughty minded people that is the root cause. While Corona related data of distress is available, the online distress is making life more miserable. People are already feeling the Zoom fatigue which may be a generic expression for all the different online platform related stress. There is ample evidence to suggest that exhaustion from excessive video chatting is harmful to both mind and the body, as the total psycho-biology gets affected. It is time we thought of a tweak in workmen's compensation act to include executives who are increasingly becoming victims of on line stress due to idiosyncratic fancies of some people. There could not be a better time to enact the right to disconnect legislation that is waiting assent as a private member's bill, given the agony and torture employees are subject to. Many western nations already have such legislation in place to protect employees from online firing directed at them. Not only privacy and freedom but life as a whole is at stake as this round the clock monitoring and maneuvering is driving people crazy. As oldspak is being replaced by newspak in a new Orwellian global order, human beings become puppets tied to online strings. And the key deliverables in this new order are stress and anxiety. What Orwell visualised in 1984 is being realized in 2020.

Pathak is a professor of management, writer, and an acclaimed Public speaker. He can be reached at ppathak.ism@gmail.com

Vedic astrology & earthquake

Indian astrology, using the *Panchang*, can calculate the upcoming astronomical events with complete accuracy, says ACHARYA PRAVEEN CHAUHAN

The world today is technologically very advanced. But, despite these advancements, no invention till date has been able to predict the occurrence, place of origin or the frequency of the earthquake. Although science has been successful in setting up departments and a Richter scale to measure an earthquake, but, they are still lacking in predicting time, place and frequency of an earthquake. Scientists only accept a handful reasons behind the occurrence of these earthquakes — movement of tectonic plates; breaking of rocks within the earth surface; increase of temperature in the innermost earth surfaces leading to gas formation and eventually volcanic eruption.

Vedic Astrology is part and parcel of the Vedas. Astrology is the science of knowing what lies in the future. The utility of astrology is as clear as that of meteorology. But, a meteorological department can only predict the weather for only a few days with the help of their devices.

Indian astrology contains a few pointers about the future of earthquakes, with the help of which the astrologers predict the occurrence of these earthquakes. However, Indian astrology, using the *Panchang* can calculate all the upcoming astronomy events with complete accuracy.

Eclipse and earthquake: No earthquake ever happens during the eclipse period. However, there is a probability of earthquake in the coming post-eclipse lunar phase of full moon or new moon (*Purnima* and *Amavasya*, respectively).

Time of earthquake: As per vedic astrology, the probability of occurrence of the earthquake is high during mid-day (12 pm) to sunset and from midnight to sunrise.



Retrograde Planet and earthquake: When major planets such as Jupiter, Mars and Saturn move to retrograde, there is a chance of earthquake.

Planetary transits and earthquake: In Planetary transit, apart from the position of major planets such as Jupiter, Saturn and Mars, there should be a compliance in the positions of major astronomical bodies such as Moon and Rahu, like: Mars and Saturn should be opposite to each other; Sun, Mars, Saturn and Rahu in Kendra (1st, 4th, 7th and 10th house of horoscope); Sun, Mars, Saturn and Rahu transit to 8th house of horoscope; *Shadasthak* Yoga of Mars and Saturn, Mars and Rahu, and Sun and Mars.

Such planetary transit situations

increase the prevalence of an earthquake.

Months and earthquake: As per Vedic astrology, there is a high-probability of earthquakes during summer (mostly May and June) solstice, and winter (mostly December and January) solstice.

Meteorite and earthquake: There are several meteorites in the universe. But, when these meteorites are in proximity to the earth or sun, the chances of the occurrence of the earthquake increases.

Apart from these, the position of Uranus, cruel planets (*kur grah*) and the collision of stars too have an important role in bringing about a disastrous and devastating earthquake.

The writer is a Delhi-based Astrologer and Palmist and can be reached at info@astropraveen.com

What matters in the long run

One must figure out what suits one's nature, circumstances, available resources, while in quest for God, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

The answer is quality of life. The word quality is defined as the standard of something when it is compared to other things like how good or bad something is. Why is quality of life all important? Because we are eternal souls and very small. This smallness is in comparison to God, whose parts we are, who is far too big to be really comprehended by the human brain. God is omnipresent. The Cosmic design does not allow us to ever get bigger, because these bigger souls will begin clashing for supremacy.

How can we improve our situation? The answer again is: we can improve the quality of our lives. Usefulness comes first. In this material world people are respected/given attention as long as they are useful. It is not possible to exist well on the basis of your laurels. That was earlier. This world is very cruel in this respect. Even the family members begin to treat those, who are no longer useful as burden. We cannot blame anyone for this, because there are always duties for everyone. In my case, if I spend a lot of time establishing a better connection with God by doing various spiritual practices, I am given respect for doing that. Rather my family feels more secure due to my spiritual acts. Following '*dharma*' is very important for me. This defines my personality. Doing '*paropak*' (good deeds by helping others) is similarly very satisfying to me, that is whatever I can do, limited as I am due to my resources.

Resources are important to me. I am still engaged in doing business. These resources allow me facilities and comforts, which are important to me. Essentially, I am a householder; becoming a *sannyasi* is not my goal in this life. Writing on spiritual topics, which relate



to current events as far as possible gives me enormous satisfaction, because God is involved in this activity; He guides. This activity actually gives me the maximum satisfaction. I mostly judge myself on the progress made on this front.

Lastly, my connection with God provides to me everything superior like peace, bliss, support, security, guidance, wisdom, help, energies of various kinds like '*atmabala*' — the strength of the soul, maintenance of my family and forgiveness for mistakes made by me, inadvertently of course. Thankfully, there is a good connection between God and me. I mostly get God's guidance during my sleep in night, which I can recollect upon getting up.

Everyone must figure out what suits one's nature, circumstances, available resources, etc. However, the following guidelines will be quite handy in establishing what will enhance the quality of one's life. Our lives revolve around our duties, therefore, we have to keep them uppermost in our minds. Similarly, *dharma* should define our

character and attitude. Without them, the quality can be ordinary only. What we aim for must be lasting. This is ensured by a connection with God, who controls everything mine or yours. And this connection will ensure peace, without which there is no superior existence.

In the end, I must mention that sense enjoyments occupy an important place in our lives, but these should be appropriate only, that is what is required indeed by our bodies, minds, intelligence, etc. Anything beyond degrades; does not enhance the quality of life. Sense pleasures of momentary nature are always temporary. They should not dominate our psyche. Only then, we will advance in the quality of life index. And this effort should be ongoing life after life, because we exist eternally. We should ensure that the next life will be better than the present one. The Cosmic design allows this continuity; we should take advantage of it. After all, the next life will also surely come.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

India, China's quest for influence in S Asia

Even as the whole world is facing an unprecedented global health and humanitarian crisis with the rapid spread of Covid-19 pandemic, China sees this as an opportunity to push her geopolitical agenda. And, the same is explicitly evident in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region where China is unmistakably aiding her geopolitical agenda with humanitarian assistance. Unlike India, the Chinese approach in South Asia or in the Indian Ocean region (IOR) is neither benign nor in accordance with the principle of mutual benefits and inclusiveness. In fact, it is merely guided by China's national interest. And, interestingly, amused with growing Chinese influence in their economic and security domains, many small countries of the region are not interested to realise the long term consequences of China's growing clout. As most of the small countries of South Asia and the IOR are set to face worse economic crisis in the post Covid period, China is ready to exploit the situation for its own political, economic and strategic gains.

The recent report titled "A Global Survey of US-China Competition in the Coronavirus Era" by Hudson Institute, the USA, explicitly mentioned that China's immediate goal in South Asia is to limit any "defiance" from India and thwart its expanding partnership with the US. China's penetration into India's region of influence (South Asia and IOR) is indeed a strategic loss for India. The neighbours in the Chinese debt trap are undoubtedly a potential threat for India's security. Further, the report rightly mentioned that now China, the second largest economy in the world, is succeeding its South Asia strategy through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which distributes loans and invest in large infrastructure projects across the region.

After Pakistan and Sri Lanka, now Nepal, despite some resistance from its own citizens, is preparing to plunge into Chinese debt trap. Nepal's recent political adventure, the constitutional claim after updating the country's map without historical facts and evidence, is merely a conspiracy by ruling political party to ignite the anti-India sentiments for immediate domestic political gains and to appease China. Certainly, it will not be prudent to blame India's neighbourhood policy for such a muddle



in the Indo-Nepal bilateral ties.

The small countries of the region such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Maldives choose to prefer "omni-directional friendship with shifting tilts" where ruling party or parties and their leaderships primarily determine the direction of the tilts. The change of guards in Sri Lanka and Maldives in 2015 and 2018 respectively assured the curtailment of Chinese influence in their respective countries. The ouster of the pro-China Mahinda Rajapaksa Government in Sri Lanka in 2015 and the Abdullah Yameen Government in Maldives in 2018 was sighing of relief for India; while to India's chagrin, KP Oli returned as Prime Minister of Nepal in 2018.

India, China's jostle for influence

in the region is continued during pandemic also, although, means and intentions are not the same. Yet, mid of the Covid-19 crisis, India has scaled up its diplomatic outreach and humanitarian assistance in the most part of the world, including South Asia and the IOR. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to create an emergency Covid-19 fund for SAARC countries, India's Covid medical diplomacy and the Indian Army and Navy's initiatives to help the neighbouring countries to deal with the growing numbers of coronavirus cases in such an unprecedented situation at domestic front, must be appreciated. India's Covid medical diplomacy is not only about export of medicine, but also includes online training programme for the

officials of health-care professionals of SAARC countries and dispatch of the teams of military doctors to Maldives, Nepal and Kuwait. India supplied medicine, both on commercial and the grant basis, to more than 100 countries. But immediate neighbourhood remains the key priority for India as it supplied the medicine to immediate neighbours by Indian aircraft and Air force flights and to others by commercial couriers.

For India, Covid-19 pandemic is an occasion to coordinate, cooperate and lend assistance to smaller neighbours to fight against pandemic and create greater impact in the long term. Medical diplomacy has emerged as an effective tool of India's Covid diplomacy, and certainly

enhancing India's goodwill with many countries. But China is not behind; during the Covid pandemic, China is enhancing its influence in the region by providing medical hardware and other assistance to smaller countries of the region. China, which has already made her potent presence in the region through various means such as economy, trade, defence and soft power, is now ready to neutralise the Indian efforts in her immediate neighbourhood. And, undoubtedly, this is one of the key reasons why despite the good intention and approach India's neighbourhood first policy has not been much successful in last decades to meet the expectations.

How to manage China's rising profile in South Asia in the post-

Covid period will certainly be an uphill task for India. However, it was never an easy task for any extra regional powers to dominate the periphery of any regional power; advantage of geography blends with good neighbourhood policy might help India to balance China in the region. Although, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to regain its influence in the region India is making all efforts to engage neighbours more meaningfully, but the situation demands some extra efforts and calibrations. Finding ways to correct the past mistakes in the neighbourhood policy is one of the most daunting tasks for India's foreign policy makers.

In the neighbourhood, India needs to embrace the logic of economic interdependence and ensure the timely completion of ongoing connectivity and development projects. During his six years of tenure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited all neighbouring countries and ensured satisfactory progress on political, diplomatic as well as physical connectivity fronts. New Delhi seems determined to connect eastern neighbours through BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal) sub-regional initiative and with the construction of more than 10 new check points to facilitate trade and movement of vehicles along the borders of eastern neighbours: Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Complaining against Chinese economic influence in the neighbouring countries and China-linked security concerns in India's vicinity, intangible or tangible, is indeed a futile exercise. However, India should avoid the habit of downplaying China-related security concerns in South Asian water. The China's base and port strategy in South Asian littoral states or in the IOR or presence of Chinese submarines in the Andaman water are definitely not only to serve the China's commercial interest. To balance China in South Asian water or in the IOR, beside the capacity building and capacity enhancement, with or without Quad India should not hesitate in engaging the US and other like-minded major and middle powers in the region, especially in the vicinity of the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

(The writers are Delhi-based International relations and foreign policy analysts)

China, which has already made her potent presence in the region through various means such as economy, trade, defence and soft power, is now ready to neutralise the Indian efforts in her immediate neighbourhood. And, undoubtedly, this is one of the key reasons why despite the good intentions and approach, India's neighbourhood first policy has not been much successful in last decades to meet the expectations. India needs to correct the past mistakes in the neighbourhood policy to overcome Chinese sinister designs



AMIT KUMAR



SMITA TIWARY

OTHER VOICE

A mission towards Atmanirbhar Bharat

The unprecedented situation which has arisen globally because of the Covid-19 pandemic has brought before the world many valuable learnings — sustainable and collaborative practices to become self-reliant are the truest harbingers of healthy societies, economies and healthier nations. As we battle Covid-19 today and reconcile with the possibility of a new endemic infectious disease, we must realise that "atma nirbharta" is the only way to not only cushion us from the socio-economic blow that this pandemic has dealt us but also prepare us for what lies ahead in a post Covid-19 world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a clarion call to all our scientists, start-ups, industry saying that "a self-reliant India is the only way forward — Atmanirbhar Bharat."



RENU SWARUP

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), since its very inception in the late 80s, has been committed to delivering solutions for societal challenges with a focus on "Make in India." Today, as we are positioned from discovery research to translational research, from academia to startups from institutional collaboration to knowledge translational clusters DBT has transformed the scientific innovation spectrum in India.

As appropriately said by our Prime Minister it is imperative that we don't conflate a self-reliant India with a self-centered India. International



cooperation and collaboration are at the core of self-reliance — India's progress will undoubtedly contribute to global progress. The Department of Biotechnology and its Public Sector BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council) has epitomised this value by initiating multiple collaborative research and development programmes with several countries and philanthropic organisations in diverse areas of biotechnology.

Vaccine research and

development has been a core focus-area for DBT. In a matter of national pride, in 2018, ROTAVAC — a vaccine to fight rotavirus developed with support from the Department of Biotechnology — became India's first indigenous vaccine to be prequalified by WHO. Rotavirus is a highly contagious disease that claims lives of nearly half a million children every year across the world — prequalification allowed ROTAVAC to be procured by GAVI and UN agencies for use in low and middle-income

countries. Today 1 out of 6 children in the world receive India-manufactured vaccines. In 2019, DBT launched the Ind-CEPI mission programme aligned with the Global CEPI, to calibrate efforts on developing vaccines for diseases in India that could have epidemic potential, even as it prepares a multi-year plan to focus on development of vaccines for malaria, dengue, chikungunya and tuberculosis.

Similarly, since 1987, the Indo-US Vaccine Action Program (VAP), a bilateral

programme of the DBT, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India; and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health, the USA, has supported countless research and capacity strengthening programmes in priority areas like viral hepatitis (such as hepatitis C), typhoid, rabies, rotavirus diarrhoea, acute respiratory infections, tuberculosis, parasitic diseases (leishmaniasis, malaria), HIV co-morbidities, streptococcal infections and dengue. It's no surprise then that the Indo-US VAP has been recognised internationally as a model bilateral programme in biomedical research. The Indo-EU collaboration for development of an influenza vaccine is another such example.

In our effort towards self-reliance, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), established by the Department of Biotechnology, has consistently exemplified the ideation-to-innovation model by identifying and incubating efforts towards needs-based product-focused research and development.

More recently, in the fight against Covid-19, DBT-BIRAC has led from the front. Within the first few weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic, DBT-BIRAC announced a Covid-19 research consortium to develop safe and effective biomedical solutions to combat SARS-CoV-2. The consortium

received an overwhelming response and has, so far, supported over 70 proposals for development of diagnostics, vaccines, novel therapeutics, repurposing of drugs and other technologies to find solutions for the healthcare challenges of this pandemic. More than 20 different Vaccine Candidates are being developed by our indigenous developers from industry, startups and academia.

A true example of our mission towards self-reliance is the development of indigenous diagnostic kits for Covid 19. In March 2020, when the first few testing activities began we were totally dependent on imported kits. The Government took immediate action and with a combination of enabling policies and funding opportunities, today we have over 20 Indian manufacturers and a kit production capacity of more than 1 lakh kits per day. To meet this requirement, the Department of Biotechnology and BIRAC through the National Biopharma Mission have set up a manufacturing complex at AMTZ Vishakapatnam. The requirement of indigenous components, reagents and other related parts is now being met through N-BRIC, a National Biomedical Resource Indigenisation Consortia set up in a PPP model to cater to our needs to meet the targets of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

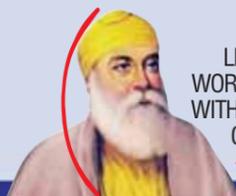
BIRAC has been fast tracking many innovations such as

glucose-monitoring and hypertension monitoring which are critical in Covid-19 management. Similarly, several companies are being supported to scale-up production and manufacturing of testing and screening kits, PPEs, ventilators, etc. From extending financial support to solutions that are ready for deployment to accelerating vaccine development and encouraging vaccine research, DBT-BIRAC are playing a catalytic and enabling role in battling Covid-19 with indigenous solutions through its 16 research institutes, more than 1000 startups, and 50 bio-incubators. The DBT-BIRAC team is also working along with the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to provide a rapid response regulatory framework for the discovery to delivery process of Covid-19 innovations.

As the world is looking at finding quick solutions for meeting the huge healthcare challenges which Covid-19 outbreak has brought before us, our effort is to ensure that our innovations continue to focus on scalability, sustainability and replicability.

As we prepare ourselves for a new world, our focus has to be on the importance of indigenous research and development of impact-driven innovation, this is key for our march towards an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

(The writer is Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India)



LET NO MAN IN THE WORLD LIVE IN DELUSION. WITHOUT A GURU, NO ONE CAN CROSS OVER — GURU NANAK



YOUR WEEK AHEAD



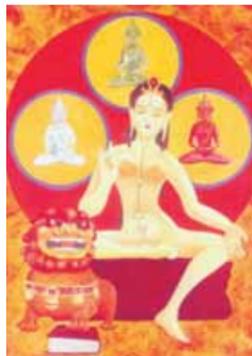
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week you would be conscious about your health and devote time towards your well-being. Every action makes a difference. Think positive, follow wellness practices and remember that healthy mind stays in a healthy body. Success is guaranteed. On the career front, you need to be alert, agile and patient as you attempt to juggle between your family, friends, work, finances, health and new challenges this week. Prioritise your needs and activities and carefully manage your time. Financial constraints may be felt and you may find it difficult to start a new venture due to lack of funds. You will feel lucky in the matters of the heart. Things are smooth and you will enjoy the company of your loved ones.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Bring balance in work and family; body and mind. You are very imaginative and spend a lot of time thinking, dreaming and weaving stories. The desires and passions would be on a high this week, making you a weak person. Your efficiency may go down. Physical exercise will help you stay grounded. On the career front, things will move as per your desire, giving you much scope and hopes for the future. Be prepared for a surprise. An important project may be assigned to you. You may work for a cause and attain immense satisfaction. You are caring and generous to the needs of your loved ones and devote a lot of time looking after them. You may feel alone in the later part of the week and may plan something exciting with your loved ones.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 19

Working on keeping a balanced perspective about life will help you to stay healthy this week. Moderation is an important part of living a sensible and healthy life. Those suffering a health issue, must consult their doctor and get themselves examined. On the professional front, you are the leader and people will look for your guidance. Focus your attention completely on your goal and be very careful not to reveal any weaknesses or personal doubt. Through will power and self-control you will come out with the solutions for tough times. You enjoy the company of friends and relatives. Things should be going well especially on the love front. You can look forward to at least one pleasant reunion with someone that you have been apart from for some time.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

Some negative forces are at play against you this week. Be cautious of your health. This is a time when you need to watch out against pressure — overwork, exertion, and stress. Addictions and obsessions could get dominant upon you. Pay attention to diet, exercise, and making time to rest and eat healthy food. Career-wise, new job opportunity is on the cards. If you are trying to switch over or looking for your career to start, this is the time when you are called for. Those in business will earn good money this week. This is still a time that calls for financial restraint. Save for the hard days. Be open to new possibilities and stimulate your imagination to allow your talent to unfold. You may end or put to close a stale relationship with the one you loved.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week is good in terms of health. You are in a mood to entertain and socialise. This will prove to be refreshing, rejuvenating and give you hopes and dreams. Joy and celebrations are on the cards. Career-wise, this week is mixed with positive and negative energies. You have both mental and physical agility. Anticipation makes you an avid learner and an excellent student. Your sharpened skills would motivate you to perform exceptionally well. You will experience a sudden personal growth if you use your energies for something meaningful. This is a good time for you in terms of a relationship. If you are already committed, make sure that your communication is very clear. Ensure to take some time to talk to each other.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Friday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

Some external forces are likely to cause worry this week. Health may be the other reason for stress. Trust your instincts and don't fill yourself with negative feelings. Do not get upset and restless. Meditation, yoga and Pranayam activities would be good for you at this time. Gather your strength and self-confidence. Professionally, your work will pick up momentum, though, in the beginning, you would be slightly apprehensive and negative. In later part, you may be all fired up of the issues that you are particularly passionate about. This week if you have set your mind to accomplish your goals you can achieve anything you desire. You will fall short of words to express yourself when it comes to love. True love allows for space between the lovers.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Wednesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

Health-wise, things would be satisfactory. You will experience prosperity, progress and happiness this week. You are likely to have several clear flashes of important spiritual insights during this period. Share and discuss with others, you are all on a spiritual journey, and your insights are likely to be valuable for others. Some doubts on the career front will become clearer but all is not revealed at this point. This week you are focused in your approach. A pleasant surprise may be coming your way soon concerning work. You may come up with some new processes that make your work-life simpler and less stressful. This is the time to stay away from building new relationships. Time is not right for deep bonding and pure love.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Health-wise, this week will be fabulous. If you are waiting on test results of some kind, they are likely to be good. You will be calm, relieved and inspired. You are in touch with your spirituality now and that makes it a great time for you to reach out to others, and to share your wisdom and joy. Something may be troubling you concerning your professional life. Worrying about your job is not going to help matters. Focus on what you can control, and try to leave your anxiety behind. Be open and straightforward in your approach to work. There are many hassles on the personal front. Your spouse may have other priorities in life than your love. This is not a time to act out in rage, instead, look at the situation from a place of love and compassion.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Health needs attention. Find means to relax. Laughter is the best remedy. The stress of work could be neutralised by enjoying yourself and create a lighter environment. Bring balance in everything that is associated with exercise. Make it a way of living, relaxation and your emotional and mental wellbeing. On the career front, you are successful in performing tasks that involve cooperation and team harmony. You are going to get a great deal accomplished with high spirit in a short period. If you are committed, your relations will be more mature and have understanding. This is a good time to take important decisions related to the relationship. This is the time when you can fuse life in dead relationships.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Medical issues need immediate attention. You may need to a change your routine, environment or experiment with different spiritual traditions. Listen to your body. Groomed look and good communication skills work wonders at work. Focus on your working style, attitude and your dealings with the people around you. Bring desirable changes if you see that things are not moving as per your requirements. Be a good listener. Co-operation and harmony at the workplace will get you great results. This week does not predict a sound relationship. You may feel emotionally hurt and broken. Love relationships could be disheartening. Try to sort out the differences and find a solution.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week you will not compromise on health issues, which is good. You can create order out of chaos by carefully categorising your thoughts and mapping out what needs to be done in order to solve the problem. Try to be little flexible, sensitive and soft in your approach. Career-wise, you have a sharp mind and are ready to take risks. Your professional approach at this time will benefit you. Avoid silly debates otherwise, you will find yourself in a heated argument. You'll find a solution to a recent quarrel but don't let your pride stop you getting immediate clarification. This is an excellent time for a new relationship. If you are already committed, your relationship may move to new, higher, more fulfilling levels. Your confidence level will be high.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Tuesday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You need attention and care of the loved ones. Any health problems manifesting now may be a result of neglected emotional issues. Create your energy and enthusiasm. Find the most upbeat and spiritually aware person that you know, and talk to him/her about what makes them tick. You will learn helpful things. You may have recently come through a very difficult time on the career front. Make sure that you don't make the same mistakes that will contribute to the problem. Worrying about your job is not going to help matters. You are not in a mood to tolerate boss order or higher tone. Patience is the key. You are fully charged up with emotions and sentiments. You try to fulfil the demands of loved ones. This is a good time to express feelings if you love someone.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Wednesday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Truth is simple, spontaneous

The truth is simple and spontaneous. It is within everybody's sight. We just need to look at things with an open mind. The paradox, however, is that simple truth eludes our attention. Our mind has become so complex that we can't take note of simple things. We rather prefer going in circles in search of underlying truth, more often ending up having a fractionated view.

We all know that when glaciers melt, water streams emerge, which ends in the sea. All through its run, it extends life. But for water there will be no vegetation on ground, in fact, no life. Fruit born by trees and the crops grown sustain us. If we stop eating but we can still live on water, but mind will stop working. So goes the saying: "Anna se buddhi, jala se prana", meaning that food grains nourish our mind, and water sustains life. Not only that, the trees absorb carbon dioxide that our body discharges, and in turn, release fresh oxygen to sustain our life. The trees also maintain weather cycle. Water running down the stream, as also in the sea evaporates, leaving behind all impurities, forms cloud and then rains to

recharge our water resources and life cycle. This way you can see, how interconnected and interdependent our lives are.

You don't need a rocket science to understand such fundamental truth. Such truths not in our reckoning, we lose track of our collective obligations, and remain centred to our self-centric aspirational urges. Otherwise, we would have cared not to vitiate environmental conditions — not been careless to pollute our water resources and the environment around. Had the people in Wuhan state of China maintained their sense of hygiene, they would not have picked up the Coronavirus, which has overtaken the whole world. In fact, we have lost our sense of proportion so much that but for pandemics overtaking us, we don't remember that the world is a unified organism, where no individual has a reality independent of the whole. The obvious implication is that if ever something happens at one end of this world, its effect will reach far and wide and so it happened. This pandemic is therefore a wake up call for all of us.

The question now is: how to remain live to the above realities. It is again, not



a rocket science. You just need to clear off the clutters of mind, purify your mind so as to rise above all its limitations and preconditioning, and truth will be forthcoming spontaneously. The other day I was being interviewed on the probable outcome of the recent eclipse. One of the viewer asked me: "Sun is the soul of the earth. If the Sun itself becomes afflicted during eclipse, how can people on earth remain good?"

Well, a cloud coming in way of the solar light, will though restrict its reach to us, but can't anyway bring down the solar intensity. During the solar eclipse, Moon comes in between the Sun and Earth, and so, it is almost like a temporary clouding effect. The Sun can no way be afflicted at all, I answered. The anchor then asked me: "Sir, the pundits are suggesting so many remedial measures to ward off the evil influence of eclipse, but you have taken an altogether different approach. How is this difference in approach?" Well, the pundits are stuck to their beliefs, and so are having a coloured vision of this natural annular phenomenon, mostly to serve their vested interest. Any of the remedial measures they are suggesting can't appease the cosmic forces nor could they change

their course. Nobody on the earth is capable of changing the course of nature. We have to bear with intelligently, what the cosmos offers. Well, on my part, I am looking at the whole phenomenon holistically and with an open mind, free from any preconditioning whatsoever. So, I am able to see truth in black and white.

Truth of life is that the cosmos is subject to continued twists and turns and with related bearing on our life cycle. We can't change nature's course. But we can certainly negotiate with the challenges coming our way intelligently and minimise the damage, as we have been successively doing during cyclones and such natural calamities. The call of the time is to purify our minds. We may then remain alive about the living realities of life. We may be able to spontaneously and effortlessly strike truth. Accordingly, we could prepare ourselves to negotiate with the challenges coming our way intelligently.

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