

OPINION 6 NEW NORMAL WITH CHINA

WORLD 8 CHINA SANCTIONS TOP US OFFICIALS, POLITICIANS

SPORT 12 SEVILLA ALMOST BOOK TOP 4 SPOT

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SHILPA SHETTY GIVES YOGA TIPS TO FANS 11 VIVACITY

Gehlot passes muster, wins round 1

CLP backs CM, but crisis not over, another meeting today morning to win over 16-17 MLAs loyal to Pilot; Priyanka likely to mediate

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

The round one of the Rajasthan political crisis went to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Monday after he mobilised nearly 106-7 MLAs, including those from Independents, but the threat to his Government remained real with no sign of any climb down by Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot.

The party has called another round of meeting of legislators on Tuesday in its last effort, hoping that some of the supporters of Pilot would this time attend the CLP meeting. As of now, all the Gehlot supporters MLAs are residing at a resort at the outskirts of Jaipur where they were taken soon after the CLP meeting.

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi is likely to reach Jaipur to solve the dispute between Gehlot and Pilot. Pilot has been camping in Delhi with 16-17 MLAs and is reported to be also in touch with BJP leaders, though the saffron party has denied such speculation. Congress leaders have claimed that party chief Sonia Gandhi, senior leader Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Ahmed Patel, and P Chidambaram have spoken to Pilot several times over the last 48 hours, but so far he has not given any indication of a thaw.



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot (C), with senior Congress leaders Randeep Surjewala, Avinash Pandey, Ajay Maken and KC Venugopal, flashes a victory sign during a meeting with the party MLAs at his residence in Jaipur on Monday. PTI

Congress chief spokesperson and AICC nominee Randeep Surjewala said 109 MLAs of the Congress led Government in Rajasthan under Gehlot have given their letter of support. However, sources said smaller parties and a couple of Independents who have supported the Gehlot Government so far may abstain in case there is a floor test. Surjewala in a late night media briefing at Jaipur said

MLAs gave their support letter and thus they have failed BJP's attempts to topple the Congress Government. He said another Congress Legislative Party (CLP) meet will be at 10 am on Tuesday to discuss the political situation and that party had again requested Pilot and all MLAs with him camping in Delhi to attend the meeting at Jaipur. "They (MLAs) are requesting to come and discuss how to

strengthen Rajasthan and serve the eight crore people together. If there are some differences with someone, then they should say that with an open mind. Sonia and Rahul are ready to listen to everyone and find solution," Surjewala said. Rajya Sabha member and a close aide of Rahul, Rajeev Satav, has also been deputed to initiate talks between the two factions even as Ajay Maken and Surjewala are already making attempts.

Cong has failed to keep its house in order: BJP

Says blaming others for the instability of its Government not good

DIPAK UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Adopting a "wait & watch" approach towards the Rajasthan political crisis triggered by rebellion by Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, the BJP on Monday said the Congress has completely failed to set its house in order in the State and blaming others for the instability of its Government would not do any good to it.

The BJP has demanded that the Gehlot Government prove its majority in the Assembly at the earliest.

Pilot, who has not been able to muster enough support of MLAs to count on the BJP Government, has maintained that he will not be joining the saffron party in a fashion done by Jyotiraditya Scindia, who facilitated ouster of the Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh in March and crossed over to the BJP.

According to sources, BJP leaders are in touch with Pilot but awaiting the full unfolding of the numbers game.

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has held consultations with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the Rajasthan crisis a day before Pilot moved to Delhi making public his opposition to the State Chief Minister.

Sources, however, denied that Pilot met BJP Central leaders saying "rumours were spread by the Gehlot camp" to discredit the Deputy CM.

Asked about the BJP's move on the developing situation in the State, sources said, "Situation is not ripe for the BJP to step in directly." As about Pilot doing a Scindia, they said, "In Rajasthan rebel numbers need to swell up to 50 or more before opposition party takes the challenge of forming an alternative."

The BJP is hopeful that sooner or later it can replicate its MP template in Rajasthan too, given the "unbridgeable differences" within the Congress and trusts that a "bigger split" in the Congress is expected any day soon.

Responding to the charges that the BJP was engaged in the toppling game, BJP's Rajya Sabha MP and senior leader from Rajasthan Om Prakash Mathur said, "Congress should look within, as what it has done with the mandate given by the people."

I-T raids on Gehlot's 2 aides amid tussle

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the crisis in Rajasthan over power tussle between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his deputy Sachin Pilot, two of the CM's aides were raided on Monday morning by the Income Tax Department in a signature measure of the Central agencies alleged meddling in such political turbulence.

Similar moves by the Central probe agencies were initiated during the recent crisis in Manipur and in the run up to the toppling of the Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh. The probe agencies were similarly active in Karnataka before the political crisis that led to the fall of Congress (JD)S alliance Government last year.

The BJP has three front agencies and two of them, Income Tax and ED, have swung into action and it's a matter of time when the third one, the CBI, will also come into play. It's nothing but murder of democracy," said senior Congress leader Randeep Surjewala.

Rajasthan Government chief whip Mahesh Joshi condemned the Income Tax raids on premises linked to two Congress leaders. Joshi was

speaking to reporters outside the residence of the Chief Minister where a meeting of the Congress Legislative Party has been convened. "I condemn this. The raids are uncalled for and intended at threatening but we are not going to be distracted or scared by this," he said. "Entire country is watching this," Joshi added.

The IT Department raided Rajiv Arora, vice president of the party's Rajasthan unit, and Dharmendra Rathore and the searches yielded cash, jewellery, property documents and lockers. The searches were also extended to Bhillwara and Jhalawad besides Delhi.

In Delhi, the searches were conducted on the premises of Kohbari brothers who were allegedly awarded a mega irrigation project in Rajasthan and faced complaints of irregularities in the dam construction.

The searches were also conducted on the premises of Om Metals Infra Projects Ltd in Saket and Sanik Farms area here.

The ED teams carried out searches at Hotel Fairmount in Jaipur promoted by Ram Kant, close to Gehlot's son Vaibhav.

Big B, Bachchan junior better, stable in hospital

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The condition of Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan and his actor-son Abhishek Bachchan, who were admitted to Nanavati Super Speciality Hospital at Vile Parle in north-west Mumbai on Saturday night after they tested positive for Covid-19, is "better" and "stable".

Quoting the doctors attending on the father-son duo, informed sources at the hospital said that the two actors did not need any "aggressive treatment" for now. "Both Amitabh and Abhishek are better and clinically stable. They do not need any aggressive treatment," the sources said.

"Get well soon" message continued to flood various social media platforms from the Bachchan fans and well-wishers for the third consecutive day on Monday.

Earlier in the day, an overwhelmed Amitabh tweeted: "It shall not be possible for me to acknowledge and respond to all the prayers and wishes



expressed by them that have shown concern towards Abhishek, Aishwarya, Aaradhya and me. I put my hands together and say 'Thank you for your eternal love and affection.'"

Later in the evening, Big B put out one more tweet, this time in Hindi, thanking his fans and well-wishers for their messages wishing him, his son Abhishek, daughter-in-law Aishwarya and granddaughter Aaradhya.

While Amitabh and Abhishek were admitted to the Nanavati Hospital on Saturday, Aishwarya and Aaradhya, who tested positive for coronavirus on Sunday, are under quaran-



ting at their home.

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

"My father and I remain in hospital till the doctors decide otherwise. Everyone please remain cautious and safe. Please follow all rules!" Abhishek had said in another tweet.

Bengal BJP MLA found hanging with hands tied, party seeks CBI probe

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In yet another case of an Opposition leader dying a mysterious death, a BJP MLA from Hembatab constituency in North Dinajpur district was found hanging in the small hours of Monday.

Even as the local police suspected "a prima facie case of suicide", the saffron outfit called it "a cold-blooded murder" ahead of the next year's Assembly elections and demanded a CBI probe into the alleged assassination. The saffron outfit has also called "North Bengal bandh" on Tuesday.

Debdanranth Roy, a former CPI(M) MLA from Hembatab who had in 2019 joined the BJP, was found hanging from a wooden bar at the verandah of a shop about a km from his house, his relative Kshitish Roy said, adding "He was called out from his house about 1 am post midnight..."

when he did not return for several hours a search was launched and he was found hanging from a bar outside a shop about a mile away with his one hand tied to the rope."

Roy's wife said that "my husband seems to have been killed first and then hanged and why should his hands be tied."

It was a clear case of murder, Roy's other family members alleged adding he had a long unblemished political career. However, police claimed a suicide note was found inside his pocket. Inside sources said Roy's death could be linked to his financial dealings with two persons named in the suicide note. He had recently sold 6-7 bighas of land due to financial crisis.

Superintendent of Police Sumit Kumar said, "The police found the hanging body of Roy the local MLA who prima facie seemed to have committed suicide."

State sees highest one-day surge in Covid cases, 189 test +ve on Mon

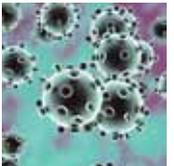
PNS ■ RANCHI

Jharkhand registered the highest one-day surge in the number of Covid-19 cases on Monday as 189 suspects, including 40 from Ranchi alone, tested positive for the virus, Government data revealed.

While no Covid deaths were reported on Monday as per government figures, at least two Covid-infected patients died on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, health officials said. The Covid death toll in the state now stands at 33.

Fresh Covid cases surfaced in 21 of 24 districts from Sunday midnight till 10 pm on Monday, said officials from National Health Mission (NHM), adding that 39 fresh cases were reported from Hazaribag and 20 from Pakur.

A bulletin released by the NHM on Monday stated that as many as 43 patients recovered from Covid infection on the day and the count of active cases reached 1579.



Monday's findings take the count of more than 100 in Jharkhand to 3963. The Covid mortality rate in state is 0.83 per cent and the recovery rate is 59.32 per cent, the NHM bulletin highlighted.

Jharkhand has witnessed a surge of more than 100 in Covid cases almost every day in July so far, health officials said, adding that non-migrants too were testing positive for the virus in non-containment zones this month.

The Government has so far collected samples of 1.93 lakh suspects and tested 1.84 lakh of them. Samples of chief minister Hemant Soren and his fam-

ily were also collected for tests earlier this month after a minister and an MLA tested positive for Covid-19. Besides, several policemen have also tested positive for the virus in Jharkhand, compelling the government to seal police stations.

The first Covid-19 case of State was reported from Hindipuri on March 31. A Hindiyan woman, who had attended the Tablighi Jamaat congregation in New Delhi, became the first Covid patient here. Soon, a flurry of cases in Hindipuri haunted the Government, and the locality was sealed. However, the cases have now reduced considerably in the locality and it is not a containment zone anymore, officials said.

A second wave of Covid-19 cases hit Jharkhand with the return of migrant workers. At least five lakh migrants returned to the state since the imposition of lockdown, and more than 2000 of them tested positive for Covid-19, officials said.

87% Jharkhand students pass CBSE Class 12 exams

Ranchi students top in Science, Arts

PNS ■ RANCHI

Eighty seven per cent of examinees from Jharkhand passed in the CBSE class 12 exams, the results of which were declared on Monday, officials from the CBSE regional office in Patna said.

As many as 35974 students from Jharkhand appeared for the CBSE class 12 exams held from February 15 to March 30, and 30992 of them passed, officials from Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said.

Students in Jharkhand outperformed their counterparts in Bihar, where 68.06 per cent students cleared the exams. The pass percentage in Patna region was 74.57, the lowest in India.

"Our students have done well. The pass percentage in Jharkhand is close to the

national average. Several hundred students from Jharkhand have secured more than 90 per cent this time," said Jharkhand's CBSE coordinator Manohar Lal.

Around 9000 students appeared for the exams in Ranchi. Delhi Public School (DPS) Ranchi's Ansh Makers secured 99.2 per cent marks in Science and was said to be the topper in state by the time this report was filed.

Ansh aspires to become an engineer and is preparing for Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). He attributes his success to his grandmother, who he lost last year. "My grandmother always motivated me to study and perform better. I lost her last year, but I think she had played a key role in moulding me," said Ansh, who wants to pursue engineering in Computer Science.

Ritu Kumari of Holy Cross School, Bokaro emerged state topper in commerce stream scoring 98.2 per cent marks, while Ria Srivastava from JVM



DPS, Ranchi Principal Ram Singh alongwith teachers and students show victory sign after the announcement of CBSE's Class 12th results at their school in Ranchi on Monday. Ratan Lal / Pioneer

Shyamli Ranchi bagged the crown of state topper in arts stream scoring 98.4 per cent marks in aggregate.

Nishchal Goel of DPS Ranchi secured 98 per cent in Commerce. For the first time, students of DPS Ranchi appeared for class 12 exams in humanities stream, and 36 of 43 students secured more than 90 per cent, DPS Ranchi prin-

cipal Ram Singh said. "It is a matter of pride for our institution that we have produced the state topper in Science. Our students have done exceptionally well this time. Nearly 80 per cent students secured more than 90 per cent marks," said Singh.

Students from other city schools also performed well. Purna Kumari of DAV Kapil



10th and 12th CBSE school students celebrate after the announcement of CBSE's Class 12th results at their school in Ranchi on Monday. Ratan Lal / Pioneer

Dev in Ranchi scored 98 per cent in Science. Out of the 361 students, who appeared for the exams, 91 secured more than 90 per cent marks.

Pranjal Singh Katiyar of Sarala Birla School scored 96.2 per cent marks, the highest among his school mates. Kashish Jain of the same school scored 95.2 per cent in commerce.

Ashish Ranjan of Kairali School scored 96.2 per cent in science, while Isha Snehal scored 95.2 per cent in commerce. Prashant Kumar of Oxford Public School scored 97.6 per cent in Science.

Chandraprabha from the same school scored 97.4 per cent in commerce.

Surendranath Centenary School's Animesh Singh scored

96.4 per cent and Anshika Choudhary scored 94.8 per cent in Science, while Kritika Gupta from the same school scored 96 per cent in commerce.

Meanwhile, students of Steel City, Jamshedpur registered a stellar performance in the class 12. Haridk Agrawal from DAV Public School, Bistupur was declared topper with 98.4 per cent marks in commerce. Toppers from all streams science, commerce and arts came from DAV Public School Bistupur.

In science, Mayank Kumar was declared the city topper scoring 97.2 per cent marks, he was followed by Anjali Kumar Jha who scored 96.8 per cent marks and was declared the second topper in school and the city. Jasmine Saha and Jayesh Nandan with 96.6 per cent marks were joint third topper in the school and Steel City. Ahsen Kamal and Apurva were jointly declared the fourth city topper scoring 96.4 per cent marks.

CAPSULE

CBSE 12 EXAM RESULTS: GIRLS OUTSHINE BOYS

New Delhi: Girls outshine boys in the Class 12 examination, results of which were announced by the CBSE on Monday, recording an increase of over 5 per cent in pass percentage.

'TAHIR USED RIOTERS AS HUMAN WEAPONS' New Delhi: Suspended MP and Councilor Tahir Hussain used rioters as "human weapons", who on his instigation could have killed anybody, a Delhi court said on Monday while dismissing his bail plea in the murder case of IB official Ankit Sharma.

PLEAS TO DISQUALIFY 2 UP CONG MLAS MIXED Lucknow: In a major relief to rebel Congress MLAs Aditi Singh and Prakash Singh, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Speaker Hriday Narain Dixit on Monday rejected their party's pleas to disqualify them. The speaker dismissed the petitions against both the lawmakers saying they lacked substance," a villian Sabha spokesperson said.

समाहरणालय, लातेहार (शु-अर्जन शाखा) समाहर्ता या समुचित सरकार

प्रारंभिक अधिसूचना (अधिनियम-30/2013 की धारा-11 (1) के अधीन)

संख्या- 164 / मू 30 दिनांक-07.07.2020
शु-अर्जन शाखा / समाहर्ता को यह प्रतिता होता है कि ग्राम-हेडक्वार्टर बाना-लातेहार...

Table with 10 columns: क्रम सं. (Serial No.), नाम (Name), वार्ड (Ward), प्लॉट सं. (Plot No.), भूमि का प्रकार (Type of Land), कुल क्षेत्रफल (Total Area), शुद्ध क्षेत्रफल (Net Area), अधिनामक रकम का नाम (Name of the amount), पुराना नाम (Old Name), नया नाम (New Name), और नंबर (No.).

यह अधिसूचना शु-अर्जन, पुनर्वासन और पुनर्व्यवस्थापन में उचित प्रतिक्रिया एवं पारदर्शिता अधिकार अधिनियम, 2013...

शु-अर्जन शाखा / समाहर्ता-सह-समुचित सरकार उक्त अधिनियम की धारा 12 में व्यापकबोधित एवं व्यापकबोधित कार्य...

समाहरणालय, लातेहार (शु-अर्जन शाखा) समाहर्ता या समुचित सरकार

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कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, बोकारो

ई-प्रोक्लामेंट सूचना RDD/SI/BOKAR/05/2020-21

Table with 5 columns: क्रम सं. (Serial No.), कार्य का नाम (Name of Work), प्रारंभित तिथि (Start Date), अनुमानित लागत (Estimated Cost), परिष्कार विवरण (Details of Work), and कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (Duration).

PR 230649(Rural Work Department)20-21'D

कार्यालय रॉकी नगर निगम, रॉकी कम्प्लेक्स, रॉकी, पिन - 834001

पत्रांक- 1402 दिनांक- 11.07.2020

प्रेस विज्ञापित
अगर बाजार, रॉकी में स्थित व्यावसायिक प्रीप्रोजेक्ट का या तो बिना सहीतक मजदूरी के निर्माण किए जाने या सहीतक मजदूरी के बिना...

प्र. 230668 Ranchi Municipal Corporation (20-21)_D
प्र. 230668 Ranchi Municipal Corporation (20-21)_D

समाहरणालय, लातेहार (शु-अर्जन शाखा) समाहर्ता या समुचित सरकार

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CBSE CLASS 12 RESULTS Hardik Agarwal of DAV School tops Jamshedpur



Anshul Kedia with 96.8 per cent was second topper in the school and city while Ayush Kedia was the third topper in the class XII exams of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)...

City PS sealed, Collectorate premises sanitised

Section 144 imposed in containment zones in Bokaro
PNS ■ BOKARO

Bokaro City Police station has imposed restriction in different areas in view of rising COVID-19 positive cases in the city...

Restrictions imposed, stringent norms in place

Kamani Centre and Sanjay Market keep shutters down
PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

The district administration has imposed restriction in different areas in view of rising COVID-19 positive cases in the city...

Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) management is also on high alert following a major fire in the plant...

AFFIDAVIT I, MARCEL KUJJUR, S/o RAMCHANDRA KUJJUR, R/o 96, Merle Hisri, Jharkhand - 835302, do hereby solemnly affirm & declare that my corrected name is MARCEL KUJJUR which is mentioned in adhar card - 29958438234, My name is RAMCHANDRA KUJJUR & MARCEL KUJJUR all names are same and one person for all purpose. Vide affidavit no. 02005, dated - 20/07, 2020

'JIMP rebel orchestrated BJP leader's murder to establish dominance'

Hired 3 youths for ₹3 lakh

PNS ■ RANCHI
A Left Wing Extremist (LWE) group, Jharkhand Jan Mukti Parishad (JJMP) area commander Manohar Parhaia orchestrated BJP leader Jaivardhan Singh's murder in Barwadhik block of Latehar in a bid to terrorise locals and establish dominance for collection of levy in the mineral-

rich region, police said on Monday.
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) district general secretary Jaivardhan Singh, who was said to be a contender for parliamentary elections, was shot dead at a busy market in Barwadhik on July 5, triggering hue and cry over deteriorating law and order situation in state.
Parhaia had promised to pay Rs.3 lakh to one Anshu Prasad, a former JJMP rebel, for killing Singh, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted to probe the case learnt



Arrested accused being presented in a press conference at Latehar in JP leader murder case on Monday. Anshu, who happens to be in his early twenties, then roped in one Satyam Thakur

and Rahul Gupta, both residents of Palamu, to perpetrate Singh's murder, the trio confessed to police during interrogation.
"Anshu roped in Satyam and Rahul for the murder. Rahul shot dead Jaivardhan Singh and Satyam fired in air while they fled the spot. All three of them have criminal records and are in their early twenties," said Anand.
The trio had taken shelter at the residence of Manohar Parhaia's brother-in-law, Suresh Parhaia after murdering Singh,

police said. "We have arrested Suresh too. Manohar is still absconding, but we are tracing its location," said Anand.
As per police records, JJMP is one of the 17 splinter outfits active in Jharkhand. At least 19 of 24 districts in Jharkhand are LWE-affected as per figures with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
The members of these splinter outfits, police say, are nothing more than hired guns and thugs who have unleashed a reign on terror on innocent villagers in Jharkhand hinter-

land. They are involved in trafficking children, extorting levy and even killing for sport, police say.
Splinter outfits have been involved in murder of politicians in the past as well. In 2017, at least three BJP leaders were shot dead by splinter outfits in different districts.
An AJSU party MLA Ramnesh Singh Munda was assassinated in Jharkhand by former dreaded Maoist Kundan Pahan. Kundan later surrendered as per the government policy.

Bed occupancy reaches high in Covid hospitals

MRIITUNJAY KUMAR ■ RANCHI

Increasing numbers of positive cases of COVID 19 generated another problem for the State Government as beds arranged for infected patients are being occupied fast and the Government has to create more beds to accommodate new patients.



Rajendra Institute of Medical Science in Ranchi. Pioneer photo

There are two main hospitals -- Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) and Central Coalfield Limited's (CCL) Gandhinagar Hospital, where treatment for COVID 19 infected patients is going on. As many as 100 patients can get treatment at RIMS where the total bed capacity of CCL Gandhinagar Hospital is 60. At present 79 patients are getting treatment at RIMS and 53 COVID 19 infected patients are admitted in Gandhinagar Hospital.

South Eastern Railway's (SER) Ranchi Rail Division has also established a 50 bed isolation ward at Railway Protection Force (RPF) barrack hospital along with all facilities including dedicated toilets to admit Corona virus infected patients. Similar arrangements have also been made at Railway Hospital at Hatia with eight beds in an isolated ward in which four beds allocated for male patients and four beds allocated for female patients.
A total nine patients died on Sunday after getting infected with Coronavirus which is the highest on any single day in the State. So far a total of 33 COVID 19 infected patients have died in the State.

51 Covid patients discharged from CCL hospital

Ranchi: A total of 114 corona infected were admitted at different times in the Central Hospital, Gandhinagar Ranchi, out of which 51 have been found to be healthy. Some patients were also referred to RIMS, Ranchi as required. On July 12 and July 13, a total of 17 corona infected were discharged from Central Hospital, Gandhinagar.
The corona test was conducted and all tests are detected negative. All 17 Corona patients returned home with the necessary medical kits when they were fully healthy. All health patients were very happy and expressed their gratitude to CCL, praising the CCL management and the doctors who supervised them, the paramedical personnel, the cleaning personnel and

all others. Presently, a total of 53 Corona infections are being treated at the Central Hospital, Gandhinagar, Ranchi. All patients are being treated by the team of CCL doctors and paramedical staff. The contribution of the scavengers has also been considerable. Director (Personnel), CCL, Vinay Ranjan congratulated all the medical and sanitation warriors for the 100 per cent recovery of corona patients and wished that all the patients also return to their homes soon after getting healthy. CMS CCL, Dr G Dham, CMS Gandhinagar Hospital, Dr Manju Mishra, Dr Ratneswari Jain, Dr Anjana Jha, CMS, Dr VK of Ramgarh Central Hospital, Dr AK Singh and others were commendable. **PNS**

Governor stresses on women's empowerment

PNS ■ RANCHI

Governor Droupadi Murmu on Monday urged the males to become emotional and honest in accepting one's talents and caliber of their female. She said that a lot of work is needed in women empowerment and in this connection, the Government was speaking at a webinar on the topic Gender Bias and Stereotyping, Gender Equality and Women's Right' organized by Central University of Jharkhand (CUJ).



Governor Droupadi Murmu addressed a webinar organized by Central University, Jharkhand on Monday. Pioneer photo

The Governor was speaking at a webinar on the topic Gender Bias and Stereotyping, Gender Equality and Women's Right' organized by Central University of Jharkhand (CUJ). The webinar was attended by CUJ Vice-Chancellor, Nand Kumar Yadav, Indu, SNTD University Mumbai professor Shashikala Banjari, Additional Secretary UGC, Urmila, BPSMV Sonapat Sushma Yadav among others.

The Governor said that Indian society is male dominated society, so we have to change this mindset. "We have to work taking into account both male and female. In the last few years a lot of work has been done in women empowerment and their social, economic condition has improved. Girl's interest in education has improved." The Governor urged the women sex to excel in all sectors. She talked about the various schemes launched by Union Government for making women sex economically stable and self-help groups for women.

The Governor on the occasion also talked about Prime Minister Narendra Modi Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyan. The campaign of the Government of India aims to generate awareness and improve the efficiency of welfare services intended for girls in Country. The scheme also aims to address the issue of declining child sex ratio index (CSR).

Several years back Grialaxmi, a self-help group (SHG) from State, was lauded for its efforts towards eradicating child labour from Goilka block in West Singhbhum district by the Union ministry of rural development.

The Governor claimed that during the 4th Conference on Women organized by UNO it was accepted that without bringing equality among women and male human rights and social justice cannot be attained. Murmu quoting Swami Vivekanand the great social reformer and philosopher said, "Swami Vivekanand said that the society is ignoring women sex. Developing society without taking women sex is just like a bird flying with single wings."

While on one hand the Governor lauded women schemes and Self Help Groups (SHG), she felt sorry for increasing cases of atrocities against women. She said, "Atrocities against women are regrettable. Such types of incidents bring a bad name to the entire society."
On the occasion also mentioned about Corona pandemic urging people to take preventive measures against the infection.

INBRIEF

EX-MLA FOUND POSITIVE
Former MLA from Bhawanipatpur Anant Pratap Dev along with three others his team members have been found to be Coronavirus positive. Former MLA's private secretary Pradeep Singh and his associates Mukteshwar Pandey and Rohit Verma have been found infected. The former MLA had met with the PHED Minister Mitlesh Thakur and other officials in Ranchi recently.

HAZARIBAG DC SELF-QUARANTINED
After Hazaribag DC's cousin was found Corona positive Deputy Commissioner Hazaribag Pradeep Singh has self-quarantined. The medical team has reached the residence and sanitized the whole area of DC residence. The team has taken samples of 33 staffs of the residence office and police guards. The confidential office of DC has started the work in the secretariat campus. Now there are 70 COVID patients and total cases have reached 264. As many as 184 patients have been released from the hospital after recovery.

ONE SNATCHER HELD
Police have arrested Pawan Kumar Rawat in connection with snatching of ₹10,000 and a mobile phone from a Sundaram Kumar at Barmasiya forest area under Lokainaranpur police station in Giridih, said SP Amit Renu. A case dated July 10, 2020 had been registered with Lokainaranpur PS to the effect. The incident had taken place on Barmasiya forest area under Thansinghdi OP in which Pawan Kumar Rawat had interrupted one Sundaram Kumar and snatched ₹10,000 and a mobile phone from him.

PAS BOKARO SHINES IN BOARD EXAMS
The Pentacostal Assembly School achieved 100 per cent results with 1/3rd of its board batch appearing students where 63 students securing more than 90% in AISSCE class 12th. The hard work of the students and the persistent labor of the teachers has brought glory to the institution & city. Miransha bagged the top position with 98% marks and 22 students scored more than 95%, while 63 students got more than 90% in the school.

MAOIST HELD IN GIRIDIH
Hardcore Maoist -- Toofan alias Toofan Manjhi alias Rajkumar Kisku alias Anil Kisku alias Pradeep Singh alias Anand Dha was arrested from Manjhihidi village area under Dumari police station by police in the anti-Maoists operation here on Monday, said SP Giridih Amit Renu. Superintendent of police Amit Renu said the Maoist was involved in killing several police personnel and local people recently near the Manjhihidi area under the Giridih police station. The arrested Maoist is close to area commander, Ajoy Mahto group. A senior police officer involved in the Maoist land grab operation in the area of anonymity, said that during preliminary interrogation, Toofan Manjhi has admitted involvement in more than dozen Naxal incidents.

UPA, BJP spar over handling of Covid-19

PNS ■ RANCHI

BJP State president Deepak Prakash on Monday lashed out at the Hemant Soren led government saying that the State Government has failed in Covid 19 management and is playing with the health of the people. The BJP state president, who was recently elected as Rajya Sabha MP claimed that from the beginning the government was not serious in handling pandemic.
Prakash said, "The Government was neither serious in implementing lockdown seriously nor the testing facility extended. The lack of government lack of seriousness was visible as neither legislator, minister followed government rules."
The BJP leader said that the Saffron party from the beginning had warned the State Government but the Hemant government was busy in gaining self-praise and cheap popularity.
Prakash said that the number of infected patients is increasing in the state day-by-



BJP State president Deepak Prakash speaking. Pioneer photo

day, but the government is sitting idle and least interested about increasing testing facilities. The Government's lack of seriousness can be gauged from the fact that there is a shortage of Covid beds at hospitals in State Capital the situation in rural areas is even worse. The Government has misled the people of State on God's mercy. He said, "People in the States are panicking knowing that there is a serious shortage of beds in hospitals."
The Government which could not ensure necessary facilities for patients in four months wherein I rode from my house to Ranchi, Kanishka Poddar.
Shahi who participated in the challenge from June 25 to July 10 was the senior most amongst 80 others and covered a total distance of 286 Kms in the course of 15 days.
"For me what started as hobby has now turned into a passion. Being an avid golfer, I love to spend my mornings amidst nature. But owing to the lockdown and the lack of physical activity is what has pushed me to take up cycling as a sport. Apart from being fun, it is also a great form of



Congress spokesperson Lal Kishore Nath speaking. Pioneer photo

Government is only busy in contract leasing, transfer posting. Defending the allegations made by BJP State president, Congress spokesperson Lal Kishore Nath Shaddeo said, "The allegations made by BJP chief is baseless as the Hemant government has played an active role in tackling Covid 19 crisis. The Government during lockdown has provided door to door ration, Jharkhand is the first State which is very much serious about migrant workers returning to Jharkhand from other states as the first train carrying migrant workers reached Ranchi."
He said, "The Hemant Government had said that if required the Government will airlift migrant workers and in this connection migrant workers were airlifted from Mumbai,

Cong slams BJP for Rajasthan imbroglio

PNS ■ RANCHI

Attacking the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), alliance partner in Chief Minister Hemanth Soren led coalition government in the State, Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee (JPCC) on Monday said that the entire Country is engulfed in global epidemic COVID 19 and BJP is engaged in purchasing and selling democracy.
Talking to media, JPCC Spokespersons, Alok Dubey, Lal Kishorenath Shaddeo and Rajesh Gupta said that when BJP leaders are seen to be failing in their arrival in the morning the Government in Rajasthan, with the help of their favourite officers sitting in various central investigative agencies, efforts are being made to intimidate Congress leaders. The humiliation of the mandate, public sentiment and patriotism has been in the blood of BJP-Jana Sangh leaders, their role in the freedom struggle of the Country is not hidden from anyone, now the BJP leaders are indulging in the



JPCC spokespersons Alok Kumar Dubey, Lal Kishore Nath, Rajesh Gupta, and Rajesh Duttu during a meeting. Pioneer photo

humiliation of public opinion and public sentiment in a new way, they added.
"By insulting the public sentiment in the democratic system, the BJP formed the new government in spite of not having a majority in other states including Goa, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, but now in Rajasthan also it is trying to break the limits of the democratic system. The people of the Country have now fully understood the true character of the BJP and as soon as the by-elections are held in Madhya Pradesh, the BJP Government will fall, while there is no possibility to get success to topple the Government in Rajasthan," said Dubey.
Hitting hard on BJP top leaders, Shaddeo said that in Bihar too, the erstwhile government was destabilised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. People get angry to raise their voice against them, sometimes get a notice to vacate the house and on sometimes their SPG security is lifted, he added.
Gupta said that the political control of the BJP leaders dropped so much that the senior leader of the party in Goa claimed to form the Government even before the funeral pyre of the late Manohar Parrikar was not extinguished, on the other hand under the slanders, political trick of intimidation, the raids are initiated by putting pressure on the investigating agencies at the whereabouts of various Congress leaders of the State, he added.

72-year-old cyclist covers 286 km in 15 days

DIVYA MODI ■ RANCHI

Cycling as a hobby has now turned into a passion. Being an avid golfer, I love to spend my mornings amidst nature. But owing to the lockdown and the lack of physical activity is what has pushed me to take up cycling as a sport. Apart from being fun, it is also a great form of

exercise. At my age and in the present circumstances it is extremely important for me to remain healthy. And nothing beats the feeling of fresh air on one's face in the early morning hours," said the cycling enthusiast.
"President of North Office Para, Shahi has been part of the Ranchi Cycling Club for the past two months. Seeing the youngsters taking up the task, Shahi too decided to participate with them.
"Initially I would only trek for about 10-12 kms and from my house but as my stamina built, I gradually started increasing the distance. One morning as a part of the challenge, I managed to ride for 35 kms wherein I rode from my house to Blue Pond in Ring Road and back in two hours time," said a beaming Shahi.
The senior citizen is of the



Cyclist RP Shahi with his grandson. Pioneer photo

opinion that cycling as a hobby is not only beneficial for one's well being but also great for the environment.
"In my opinion the government should make the Main Road a vehicle free street where only cyclists and pedestrians should be allowed to develop of parks and service roads should also be done across the City where not just elders but even children can cycle freely."
Shahi further added that cycling has led him to discover some hidden gems around the State capital which otherwise he would have never noticed when zipping around in a car.
"On a regular basis I generally cycle to Jagannath Temple and back. Right behind the shrine, there is a beautiful undiscovered pond covered with lotus which I have named as the Lotus Pond. It is a place which is very calm and serene and has been undisturbed even by the people of the neighbourhood," added the senior cyclist.
Recalling his days at BIT Mesra, Shahi said that he with some like-minded batchmates would often go off on cycling treks back then as well.
"I remember from 1966-68, a group of about six or seven of us would go on cycling expeditions. It would mostly be

one of the water falls. On one occasion I also remember cycling to Netharhat with this group. I have always been fond of cycling.
For the past two years, I would just pedal around for about a few kilometers for house errands or just to meet old friends in the vicinity," said a nostalgic Shahi.
Seeing him, his seven year old grandson Pratham Shahi has also developed a fondness for the sport. "My grandson awaits my arrival in the morning so that both of us can go for our little time together. We generally go to Mecon Colony which is about four kilometers from home. I feel for any person irrespective of age exercise is very important, though the best is undoubtedly in the early morning hours. This pandemic has shown the world that 'health is wealth.'"

Sahay flays PM for policy decisions

PNS ■ RANCHI

Former Union Minister and senior Congress leader Sahay today said, "A hoax or humbug, either way PM Modi has the dubious distinction of presiding over the destruction of economy, health of the people in the wake of uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 despite enforcing the 'longest' lockdown, damage to the social fabric, loss of credibility in border management with hostile neighbours, and unfaithful dismantling of the agricultural and industrial infrastructure of the country. And, it is so disturbing and saddening to see that all this is being

further perpetrated with impunity that had befuddled the populace in the past. The sanguine age-old lesson of history that all can't be fooled all the time is always forgotten by self-serving autocrats. Everyone now has an uncanny feeling that this uncontrolled spread of COVID signals the beginning of the end of this 'hoax'.
Sahay further stated, "It is important that we, in the epochal words of Pandit Nehru ji, defend people's interest with all our might and work for the end of this dark phase and aspire for the 'new dawn' spiritedly, unitedly and above all truly."



Former Union Minister Sahay speaking. Pioneer photo

NIA arrests two, including journalism student, in ISKP case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two accused in an Islamic State Khurasan Province (ISKP) case, including a journalism student, a 22-year-old girl from Maharashtra.

On Sunday, NIA teams carried out searches in Pune and arrested the two accused persons—Nabeel S Khatri (27), a resident of Pune and Sadiya Anwar Sheikh (22) who hails from Phulnagar, Yerwada, Pune in connection with Islamic State Khurasan Province (ISKP) Case, NIA Spokesperson said

al activities. They were also found to be in touch with Abdullah Basith, who is already lodged in Tihar jail in another NIA case (ISIS Abu Dabhi module),” the spokesperson said.

The investigation has revealed that accused Sadiya Sheikh was continuously in touch with Jahanzab Sami, Hina Bashir, Beigh and Abdullah Basith on various secure messaging applications and deliberating on ways to propagate the ideology of ISIS and further its activities in India.

They were trying to build up a cadre of ISIS in India by recruiting glibly youth for terrorist activities, the agency further said.

It has also come to light that along with Jahanzab Sami and Hina Bashir, accused Nabeel Khatri was also actively involved in the planning to carry out violent terrorist attacks in India by arranging logistic support such as procurement of weapons, fake and real IDs, and involvement of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) to further the activities of ISIS in India.

The court has continuously in contact with Jahanzab on various secure messaging platforms, the official said.

Ram Mandir would meet 'Hagia Sophia' fate: Terrorist Azhar

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Banned Pakistani terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed's Chief Maulana Masood Azhar has in a statement welcomed conversion of Hagia Sophia museum into a mosque in Turkey and expressed hope that Ram Mandir in Ayodhya would also become a mosque at some point in time.



Pathankot Air Base and Army Base in Uri (2016) and Pulwama (2019) among others.

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The JEM has been responsible for major terrorist attacks in India beginning from the hit on the Parliament House in 2001 to

Intelligence assessments here suggest the Jaish could target multiple controversial religious sites in the region, including in India, ahead of Muslim festival of Bakrid later this month. The Intelligence agencies are seized of the issue and counter-measures are being planned accordingly, sources said.

Interestingly, Azhar has also justified the hostage taking of people, including seven Chinese engineers, at Lal Masjid in 2007. China had defended Azhar against India's bid to ban him by the United Nations. Azhar is also believed to be harbouring some Uyghur groups that are waging

a struggle against Chinese oppression in the Xinjiang province.

Meanwhile, the Tahreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) or the Pakistani Taliban has upped the ante against the Pakistani security forces and fatally hitting them almost on a daily basis. The outfit is also opposed against exploitation of the local resources by the Chinese through mining rights and other projects in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Pakistan-Army and ISI have also formed fictitious Baloch groups to target Chinese interests and extract more funds from Beijing to provide security to their business interests, a counter-terrorism expert said.

The TTP operates along

the Pak-Afghan border inhabited largely by the tribals and is opposed to the oppression of their lot by the Pakistani Army and other agencies.

The way Azhar has forcefully mentioned Hagia Sophia, Babri Masjid and Lal Masjid in his speeches and internal communication indicates the terror group, under the patronage of the ISI, has hatched a grand conspiracy to execute some major nefarious designs.

During the last six months, both Azhar and Lashkar-e-Tayyaba have praised the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan about five to six times. This could be an indication that the terror masterminds see a godfather in Erdogan.

Special Court, New Delhi. Further investigation in the case is continuing, agency added.

NHAI to tie up with IITs for improving road infra ecosystem

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Monday said it will partner with institutes like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for improving the road infrastructure ecosystem. The objective is to leverage the intellectual prowess of students and faculty towards improvement of the road infrastructure ecosystem of the country.

"In its endeavour to provide world-class National Highways (NH) network, NHAI has approached all IITs, National Institutes of Technology (NITs) and reputed engineering colleges to collaborate and adopt nearby stretches of NH, on voluntary basis, as part of Institutional Social Responsibility (ISR)," the NHAI said in a statement.

The initiative would tie up faculty and students to better appreciate of local requirement, topography, resource potential, among others, and these vital inputs can be utilised by NHAI during different stages of the project, from construction to operation of NH stretches, it said.

This decentralised approach, besides building a sense of participation in decision making, also provides an opportunity to the students for hands-on-learning option for internship and future areas of research, it said.

Besides, the adoption of stretch by institutes opens avenue for access to important data, which can be used to improve the quality and safety

PTI slapped with ₹84 cr fine for 'lease violation', asked to pay within month

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has issued a notice to news agency Press Trust of India (PTI) for allegedly violating terms of the lease which it was allotted land for its Sansad Marg office in Delhi and asked to pay a penalty of ₹84.48 crore within a month.

The notice dated July 7, issued by the ministry's Land and Development Office, warned that an additional 10 per cent interest may need to be coughed out by PTI if it fails to furnish the concerned amount within the stipulated time period.

This comes two weeks after the Prasar Bharati expressed displeasure over the news agency's recent interview with China's ambassador to India, who said India was the aggressor in the June 15 skirmish in the Galwan valley and said that it is reviewing its annual subscription with the news agency. Prasar Bharati is among PTI's biggest subscribers.

According to the ministry officials, the PTI office is built on land leased to the agency by the government. The officials said PTI had not paid ground rent since 1984. "Since 1984, PTI has not paid the ground rent. Besides, they have misused the land-allotment terms by converting the basement into an office and several unauthorised construction was undertaken. Under the lease term, the basement is to be used only for storage purposes," officials said.

The notice that sought Rs

SC asks Madras HC to decide TN's plea for OBC quota in medical admissions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Madras High Court to decide on the plea filed by Tamil Nadu Government, against the Centre's decision not to grant 50 per cent quota to OBCs in medical seats surrendered by the state in all undergraduate, post graduate and dental courses in 2020-21.

A bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Hemant Gupta said the high court should decide the plea of the state government and others irrespective of the pendency of another case here.

In a hearing conducted via video link, the top court said, "All the contention raised in petitions (before it) should be decided by the High Court" and requested the High Court to deal with the case.

Earlier, the State Government had moved the Supreme Court on July 2 to seek the Centre to execute the High Court to expeditiously decide its plea challenging the Centre's decision not to grant 50 per cent quota to OBCs in medical seats surrendered by the state in all India quota for PG and dental courses in 2020-21.

It had assailed the June 22 high court order which refused to grant any interim order on the OBC quota row saying that a similar petition was already pending to be heard by the Supreme Court.

The apex court, which was scheduled to hear the case titled as Saloni Kumar versus Union of India on July 8, has adjourned the hearing and had fixed the case for a later date.



The State Government and various political parties have challenged the Centre's decision not to grant 50 per cent reservation to OBCs as per Tamil Nadu law

The High Court had fixed the state's plea on quota on July 9.

The State Government and some political parties such as DMK, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), CPI (M), Tamil Nadu Congress Committee and CPI had moved the high court after taking note of the Centre's submission that since 1986 no reservation has been provided in the AIQ (All-India quota) seats for medical admission as per the apex court directive.

"Direct the High Court to expeditiously hear and dispose of the writ petitions... the state government said in its plea before the top court.

The High Court has in effect declined to take up the writ petitions in spite of the fact that the respondents (Centre, MCI and others) had virtually conceded to the prayer sought for in the writ petition.

"The High Court has failed to appreciate that the respondents are stalling adjudication of the issue. The

SC to hear on July 24 pleas against blacklisting of foreigners for alleged Tablighi activities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it would hear on July 24 the pleas filed by foreigners challenging the Centre's orders that blacklisted more than 2,700 citizens of 35 countries from travelling to India for 10 years for alleged involvement in Tablighi Jamaat activities.

The matter came up for hearing through video-conferencing before a bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, requested the bench to adjourn the matter for two weeks.

The bench said the matter would be taken up for hearing on Friday next week.

The Centre had earlier sought dismissal of the plea and informed the top court on July 2 that it has issued individual orders on a case-to-case basis for cancellation of visas and blacklisting of 2,765 foreign nationals.

As per the information available, 1,065 FIRs have been lodged against the foreign Tablighi Jamaat members by 11 states and 2,765 such foreigners have been blacklisted so far, the Centre had said in its affidavit.

The sum of \$ 269 for foreigners (including 9 Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders) have been cancelled, it had said, adding that remaining 86 include Nepal nationals who do not require visas.

The top court was also informed by the Centre that 1,906 Look Out Circulars (LOCs) were issued against foreign Tablighi Jamaat members and 227 left India before the issuance of LOCs/Black Listing.

Pvt hospitals empanelled under CGHS will charge fixed rates

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday said that private hospitals empanelled under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) will charge beneficiaries the rates prescribed by the Delhi Government for COVID-19 treatment till their States fix their own charges.

Last month, the Government had decided to reimburse the cost of pulse oximeter (per family) purchased by Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries in case infected by the Covid-19.

An office memorandum issued by the CGHS director said the rates for treatment of COVID-19 in private-empanelled hospitals for CGHS beneficiaries shall be as per the package rate prescribed by the state government concerned.

"In case, no such rate has been prescribed by the state government in any CGHS city, the rates prescribed by the government of NCT of Delhi, shall be applicable till rates are notified by the concerned state government," the memorandum dated July 10, 2020 read.

Services for mothers, newborns, young children and adolescents crumbling: IAP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mothers, newborns, young children and adolescents are losing 20 per cent of their health and social services due to the Covid-19 pandemic across the world, according to the UN Secretary-General's Independent Accountability Panel (IAP).

"Health systems in both rich and poor nations are massively struggling and the services for mothers, newborns, young children and adolescents are crumbling," said Elizabeth Mason, co-chair of the UN Secretary-General's Independent Accountability Panel (IAP).

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Covid brings lots of extra-pulmonary manifestations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Becoming infected with SARS-CoV-2 or Covid-19 not only triggers substantial respiratory pathology, but also results into plethora of extra-pulmonary manifestations such as thrombotic complications, myocardial dysfunction, acute coronary syndromes, acute kidney injury, gastrointestinal symptoms, hyperglycemia and ketosis, neurological illnesses, ocular symptoms, and dermatologic complications among others.

According to researchers, SARS-CoV-2 seems to employ mechanisms for receptor recognition similar to those used by prior virulent coronaviruses such as SARS-CoV, causing the SARS epidemic of 2003.

"The coronavirus spike protein facilitates entry of the virus into target cells. The spike subunit of SARS-CoV and that of SARS-CoV-2 engage ACE2 (angiotensin-converting enzyme 2) as an entry receptor. In addition, cell entry requires priming of the spike protein by the cellular serine protease TMPRSS2 or other proteases.

The incidence of gastrointestinal manifestations has ranged from 12% to 61% in patients with COVID-19. A study of 150 patients. Gastrointestinal symptoms may be associated with a longer duration of illness but have not been associated with increased mortality, as per a review article published in the journal Nature (medicine).

The researchers reviewed a recent meta-analysis of 29 studies (of which the majority are from China), the pooled prevalence of individual symptoms was reported, including that of anorexia (21 per cent), nausea and/or vomiting (7 per cent), diarrhea (9 per cent), and abdominal pain (3 per cent). In a study from the USA, a higher prevalence of these symptoms was reported (anorexia, 34.8 per cent; diarrhea, 33.7 per cent; and nausea, 26.4 per cent).

SARS-CoV-2 may also directly damage the biliary ducts by binding to ACE2 on cholangiocytes. There is growing evidence of neurologic complications of COVID-19. Neurologic and ophthalmologic manifestations of Covid-19, said the researchers.

BABRI MOSQUE DEMOLITION CASE

I am innocent, says Kalyan after hearing

Lucknow: Senior BJP leader and former UP Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh on Monday accused the then Congress Government at the Centre of levelling "false and baseless allegations" against him in the Babri mosque demolition case and said he was "innocent".

"I was falsely implicated, I am innocent," he asserted as he left the court premises. The CBI court is currently recording statements of 32 accused under the CrPC Section 313, a stage in the trial that follows the examination of accused.

Another accused, including former deputy prime minister LK Advani and senior BJP leader M J Joshi, are yet to be examined at this stage. Their lawyers have indicated to the CBI court that they prefer to appear through video conferencing.

2 terrorists killed in Anantnag encounter

Jammu: In another successful operation, the joint teams of security forces on Monday gunned down two more terrorists of Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JEM) terror outfit in Srigufwara area of Anantnag district.

"During the search operation when the first contact was established with the hiding terrorists they were given the opportunity to surrender, however they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter", police spokesman said.

Police spokesman said, the operation was launched in the area on the basis of a specific report generated by Anantnag Police regarding presence of terrorists in Srigufwara area of Anantnag.

Army chief visits forward areas in Jammu-Pathankot

Mohit Kandhari ■ JAMMU Amid rising incidents of cross border firing especially in the Hiranagar sector of Kathua district, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Bipin Rawat on Monday reviewed the current security situation and operational readiness of the troops deployed on ground in Jammu-Pathankot region during his visit to the forward areas of the Rising Star Corps.

This route is considered the traditional route of infiltration by the handlers of infiltrators. Kashmir bound trucks carry arms consignment and even terrorists in small batches via the same route. So far two such attempts have been foiled by the alert security personnel and on both the occasions the terrorists were neutralized before they could reach Kashmir valley.

Earlier, on his arrival in Jammu, the Army Chief was received by Lt Gen RP Singh, GOC-in-C Western Command, Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, GOC Rising Star Corps, Maj Gen VB Nair, GOC Tiger Division and Air Cmde AS Pathania, AOC.

KERALA GOLD SMUGGLING CASE

Swapna, Sandeep sent to NIA custody for 8 days

Kumar Chellappan ■ KOCHI Swapna Suresh and Sandeep Nair, who were arrested by the National Investigation Agency on Saturday from Bangalore in connection with Gold Smuggling through Thiruvananthapuram Airport were on Monday sent to NIA Custody for eight days by a Special Court at Kochi.

Krishnakumar asked the NIA to produce the duo before the court on July 21. The agency told the court that it was in possession of all documents and evidences to prove their charges. The smuggling making use of the diplomatic route was happening since 2019, said the agency officials.

First senior Govt officer dies of virus in Bengal

Kolkata: The dreaded virus has claimed its first victim in State civil services rank with senior WBSC officer Debhatta Roy succumbing to the disease on Monday. Government sources said Monday Roy was tasked with the handling of migrant workers.

No respite in Kerala's cases as 449 more +ve

Kumar Chellappan ■ KOCHI Notwithstanding the fact that 449 persons were diagnosed with Covid-19 on Monday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that Kerala has the best coronavirus management programme in the country.

"There are attempts by some sections to portray the covid-19 management in the State in poor light. Kerala has the lowest Case Fatality Rate (CFR) in the world. The Global case fatality rate is 4.38, while that of India is 2.67, but Kerala's CFR is 0.39 per cent," said the Chief Minister in his interaction with the media.

Govt's move to evict Priyanka from house reflects arrogance, misuse of power: Pawar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI Dubbing the Narendra Modi Government's recent decision to take away the official residence of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's daughter Priyanka Gandhi in the national Capital as an "uncalled for move", NCP chief Sharad Pawar said here on Monday that the decision reflected both "arrogance" and "misuse" of power on the part of the Modi dispensation.

"Jawaharlal Nehru made an immense contribution to India's freedom. Subsequently, he contributed to taking the country on the path of democracy. His daughter Indira Gandhi and grandson Rajiv Gandhi sacrificed their lives for the country. Here is the family that sacrificed two of their members for the country and its earlier members had contributed their entire life to this country, Priyanka Gandhi comes from this family."

"After the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, his wife Sonia Gandhi has rebuilt the Congress. The ruling BJP may have political differences with the Congress, but it does not mean that it can misuse power and harass opponents. This kind of power goes to the head of the rulers, this kind of thing happens."

Travancore Royal family, devotees happy over Supreme Court verdict

Kumar Chellappan ■ KOCHI The Travancore Royal Family, erstwhile rulers of Kerala, expressed their satisfaction over Monday's Supreme Court verdict that quashed the 2011 Kerala High Court verdict which had removed the family's hold over the management of the Sree Padmanabha Temple, the centuries old shrine at Thiruvananthapuram.

delivered on Monday is a victory of not only the Travancore Royal family but the Hindus in the country too. "A secular government does not have the right to meddle with the rituals associated with the temple and this verdict substantiates and underscores that tradition. With this judgment, the Supreme Court has spoiled the designs of the Kerala Government to take control of the temple properties," said Bharathan who was in the forefront of agitations against the attempts by various governments to take over the temple.

As cases rising in TN, public transport banned till July 31

Kumar Chellappan ■ CHENNAI A total number of 4,328 fresh Covid-19 patients joined the list of persons afflicted with the pandemic in Tamil Nadu on Monday. The State also saw 66 persons succumbing to the disease in the last 24 hours according to the medical bulletin issued by the Tamil Nadu government.

Government banned public transport across the State till July 31. Monday also saw 3,035 persons getting discharged from hospitals across the State taking the number of recoveries till date to 92, 567. Out of the 66 deaths reported on Monday, 59 died with comorbidities.

Chennai continued to show a fall in the number of persons afflicted with Covid-19. Out of the 4,328 tested positive on Monday, 1,140 were from Chennai. Though the decrease in the number of patients in Chennai was not considerable, the capital city is showing trends that the pandemic has been contained. Experts attribute this to the fewer clinics launched by the Greater Chennai Municipal Corporation and Commissioner.

No further lockdown in Mumbai: BMC

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI With the doubling rate for Covid-19 cases in the country's commercial capital having increased to 50 days, Mumbai Municipal Commissioner IS Chahal on Monday made it clear that there is no plan to re-impose lockdown in the metropolis.

314 afflicted in J&K on Mon

PNS ■ JAMMU Ahead of the arrival of tourists in Jammu & Kashmir, via air route from July 14, the situation is turning grim especially in Kashmir valley. On Monday, 314 fresh cases of coronavirus were detected taking the total tally to 10,927. Out of these, 4,545 are active positive cases in the region.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 35 Years Approx, Sex: Male, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Build: Thin, Wearing: Full sleeves blue colour white dotted shirt and grey colour pant was found dead near in front of house no. 2126/2N10, Gali No. 4, Prem Nagar, Patel Nagar, Delhi on 10.07.2020.

Table with columns: Account Number, Location / Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets, Encumbrances, if any known to the Bank.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL

HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR. Gist of e-tender. NIT No: MHCHD/TS/2020-21/33/e-tendering. Dated 07-07-2020. For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, e-tenders pledged to Executive Engineer, MHCHD, SGR, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered/ reputed/ and experienced firms having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works:

Piloting a revolt

Gehlot has numbers but Sachin Pilot has the perception and goodwill. Congress will suffer a body blow if he leaves



That ego wars have killed the Congress is old news. What's new is that it considers its factionalism as a championship round in an arena between suitable claimants to leadership and reveals in the challengers it produces as an asset rather than a weakness. Challengers mean a second round is ready and the top leadership can be held in check. And both can be used against each other. To the point that even when it is on the brink of disaster, now beginning to lose its State Governments despite a verdict in its favour, it refuses to acknowledge chal-

lengers who become the new winners and turns them into rebels. This is exactly what has happened in Madhya Pradesh and now in Rajasthan. This feudalistic pursuit, of course, flows from its dynastic leadership that wants to be feted as the only hope of a party of warring chieftains. The old warriors, who have unquestioningly accepted the primacy of Gandhis in deciding what's good for the party, humoured them even, have sought satrap status to rule over their home turfs on their terms in return for delivering election results. This mutual prosperity flourished till the political landscape itself changed to reward a more ground-up, fresh-faced and performance-driven parties and leaders. The Congress didn't even bother to broadcast its own structure by way of holding organisational polls, leave aside transforming itself. Even when Rahul Gandhi assumed leadership with his peers like Jyotiraditya Scindia and Sachin Pilot to usher in a new wave, it was merely cosmetic. Scindia and Pilot though chose to live down their dynastic entitlements and in their mid-40s, desperately wanted to create their own political legacy. To that extent, both gave up their comfort zones in Delhi and worked the ground in their States, resurrecting Congress fortunes in the process. But both were never given what they wanted, the chief ministership of their States despite delivering a winning verdict. The Gandhis were more scared of a senior revolt that would be difficult to quell than handling disappointed Young Turks, who being Rahul's friends and confidants, could, they thought, be won over. The Gandhi scion ultimately kowtowed to his mother Sonia Gandhi's propensity to go with old loyalists rather than risk them holding the party hostage by threatening breakaway units and worse, undercutting it. Rahul would never rebel because even the old hawks would endorse him so long as they continued their free run and left him to face the critique and responsibility of Congress fortunes. So there's no fight left for Rahul, who by the way has a soft corner for Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, too. The likes of Pilot, Scindia and Milind Deora resented being castaways who would have to wait perennially for their time to come as the old guard maintained status quo. And invested in politics as a career, they are now leaving the grand old party, one that has left thinking seniors like Kapil Sibal and Shashi Tharoor wondering if the party stables would be empty after "the horses had bolted."

Sachin Pilot has been deeply invested in Rajasthan, getting the verdict for the Assembly polls in 2018, when even Gehlot wasn't good enough to manage the scoreline, and ensuring favourable returns in the panchayat polls that came soon after the mammoth May 2019 verdict for Modi. Yet Gehlot got the chief ministership, partly because of his history with Indira Gandhi who always trusted his organisational skills and partly because of his hold on a sizeable number of party cadres with whom he could break away. This ability to rustle numbers is also the reason why he was able to parade about 100-odd MLAs in a show of strength compared to Pilot's claim of having about 30 MLAs, enough to dislodge the Government. Pilot's strength, the high command thought, has been incremental and he was, therefore, convinced to be his deputy. But Gehlot has never been one to share power or yield some degree of autonomy, hemming in Pilot's administrative powers by appointing crony bureaucrats in his ministries. Still Pilot held on, while disenchanting his own supporters who had bargained for some stake in the new dispensation. Matters came to a head when despite the Congress win in the Rajya Sabha elections, Gehlot accused him of toppling the Government and sent police summons to him for conspiracy. Pilot is a reluctant leaver and the Congress cannot afford to lose him so soon after Scindia flocked to the BJP. In fact, given the testimonials, the public perception and emotion are with Pilot even though he may not parade numbers. What will Pilot do? Joining the BJP won't help much, considering he won't be made Chief Minister either with aspirant Vasundhara Raje not expected to lie low. He could float a regional outfit but would still have to make a hard choice of supporting the BJP, which is keeping a hawk's eye on proceedings. Negotiating within the Congress is unlikely to give him much of legroom. But yes, by quitting, he could give the Congress a body blow and become a trigger for younger leaders like him to make copycat moves. The Congress needs him more. Censuring him won't stop the drift in the party.

Book a cycle

Like cab aggregators, micro-mobility apps have mushroomed in a post-pandemic world



As the country limps back to normal from a post-COVID lockdown, there has been a major change in consumer behaviour with apps and e-commerce ruling the roost. Doorstep deliveries are the new normal, from essential items like food and groceries to electronics and lifestyle goods. But one could not have expected even the future of our mobility, namely bicycles, to land at our doorstep. Micro-mobility service providers like Yulu and Smart Bikes are shifting their existing battery-operated two-wheeler network from non-functional zones, such as metro stations, to residential complexes where people are using them to run errands or do the short commute rather than take the auto or cab. With public transport systems yet not fully functional and given the sense of insecurity among the people to use them in these testing times, e-vehicles have emerged as a reliable, safe, cheap and personal mode of travel, especially for those who feel vulnerable. Besides, there are health benefits; you can foster an active lifestyle. And you can ride towards a fossil fuel-free future, notching up green miles.

Cycling for everyday transport has not been a part of the Indian scheme of things unlike say, New York, which introduced 40 miles of new NMT lanes for cyclists in the wake of the pandemic or Italy, which got 22 new miles of cycling lanes. The transition towards a non-motorised form of transport has been long overdue in our country. A survey by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy had estimated that the use of bicycles in major cities around the world would increase by 50-60 per cent. While the current plan is being run on a pilot basis in Delhi at a select few residential complexes, to achieve the long-term goal, we need to expand our infrastructure and develop more cycling tracks and sidewalks. To ensure that people, too, inculcate behavioural changes and make the shift to safer modes of transport, schemes such as car-free days and cycle-to-work programmes can be launched. What better time to start than now? The pandemic also has a big lesson for urban planning.

New normal with China

Now that India has sent a strong message to China and the rest of the world that it will not put up with any kind of bullying, we must Galwanise ourselves to deal with a hostile neighbour



A SURYA PRAKASH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's strong message to Beijing from Ladakh some days ago and the global support he has garnered for calling out China's hegemonic marks a much-awaited change in India's approach to the coercive tactics of this troublesome neighbour. China's attempt to redraw the boundaries in the Galwan Valley last month is only the latest in a long list of such incursions it has resorted to. While the brave soldiers of the Indian Army challenged the People's Liberation Army (PLA) men at the site, one has not seen similar assertiveness among Indian politicians, especially in the past.

This is something that is going on from the days of former Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru when he espoused a totally impractical and unrealistic notion of friendship with China. Strangely, he believed that ties with our neighbour would improve with the passage of time and, therefore, he went out of the way to build bridges with that nation. This included his eagerness to see China as a member of the United Nations Security Council.

However, China has never really reciprocated. It has shown no inclination to resolve border-related issues so that there be any finality to the demarcation of territories. It has preferred a Line of Actual Control (LAC) to a regular border as the vagueness of the description of a line separating the two nations enables it to nibble away at land on our side. It has kept the pot boiling for over seven decades. Apart from this, China has, over the years, befriended Pakistan, supplied it with arms and aided its nuclear weapons programme. It has also turned a blind eye to the terror factories that are run by Pakistan to wage a proxy war against India.

What does all this amount to? The truth is that China is an enemy nation and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is an enemy organisation, as noted lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani has opined recently. Prime Minister Modi's ringing message from Ladakh, his Government's firm resolve to ban Chinese apps and scrap many big projects, which were being awarded to Chinese companies, must have come as a shocker for our eastern neighbour. Never before had an Indian leader spoken and acted with such sternness. Modi's declaration that "the era of expansionism is over" is a sharp message to China that it must change its ways. It is also a message to the rest of the world that India will not put up with this kind of bullying any more.

The world has to realise that China and the world that expansionist policies tend to destroy humanity and pose a grave threat to world peace. History has also shown us that such powers, which believed in or attempted hegemonic policies, have been destroyed or forced to mend their ways. Modi's reference to "expansionism" and its deleterious effects on world peace brought back the dreadful memories of World War II. Modi was telling the world, without naming China, that that country, too, was behaving in a crazy way, with confrontationalist policies towards many nations.

Hitler's expansionist policy made the Germans believe that they were invincible, that they could gobble up all the neighbouring nations; and destroy the UK, Russia and the allies led by America. Hitler began his hegemonic misadventure with the invasion of Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia. Then came Norway, Denmark and Belgium, Yugoslavia and Greece followed by Luxembourg and the Netherlands. When he invaded France and later, Russia, he had bitten more than he could chew.

Looking back, one can say that was an act of extreme arrogance by a nation which was convinced about its invincibility. China's attempt to provoke India along the LAC comes alongside its attempts to challenge the maritime and sovereign rights of Japan, Australia, Vietnam, South Korea, Singapore and many other nations. The latest count says China has disputes with 23 nations, apart from going back on the promises made vis-a-vis



Hong Kong and Taiwan. This is a reminder to the world of the reckless and irresponsible behaviour of the Nazis 80 years ago. Many nations, including the US, Australia, Japan, France and several members of the ASEAN, have been highly critical of China after India blew the whistle.

The Prime Minister also sent across two other very important messages from Ladakh — that only strength begets peace and that India has stepped up and will continue to step up development of infrastructure along the LAC. These are very significant messages indeed and are meant for the domestic audience, which has been made to believe that neighbours will reciprocate decency and cordiality for decades. This myth needs to be busted once and for all.

China's response to the Prime Minister's speech is laughable. After having set itself on a confrontation course for many months, the Chinese Foreign Ministry issued a statement, saying this was not the time to ratchet up tensions along the border. It said India should avoid a "strategic miscalculation" with regard to China. This is strange because the way the dice has rolled out, it is China which has made a "strategic miscalculation" on India.

“THE CHINESE ARMY GOT A SHOCK WHEN INDIAN SOLDIERS STOOD UP TO THEIR BULLYING TACTICS AT GALWAN AND GAVE THEM A BLOODY NOSE. TILL TODAY, CHINA HAS NOT HAD THE COURAGE TO TELL THE WORLD THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES IT SUFFERED AT GALWAN. THIS SPEAKS A LOT ABOUT THE INNER STRENGTH OF THAT NATION”

While the talks are to disengage at the border and the Chinese Ambassador has issued a placatory statement appealing to Indians not to view China as a "war-like" country, we should not lower our guard. As the Prime Minister has said more than once, we need not put up with those who cast an evil eye on us. Also, pusillanimity does not bring peace. Strength does. (The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal.)

SOUNDBITE

The present pandemic demonstrates that the marginalised need to be assured of a minimum form of social security and effective dispersal of public entitlements.
Supreme Court judge
 —BY Chandrachud

Maybe break isn't a good word but you're allowed to bend instead of standing. People shutting down their small enterprises are committed to everything you're feeling. Give yourself time.
Actor
 —Ileana D'Cruz

I believe that our country needs a genuinely liberal party headed by centrist professionals committed to inclusive politics and respectful of India's pluralism.
Congress leader
 —Shashi Tharoor

Rahul Gandhi's jealousy is the reason behind decay in Congress. He doesn't allow young leaders to rise. He is not able to control his party and then he blames us.
Union Minister
 —Uma Bharti

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Worldwide impact

Sir — It is ironic that the US, the nation with the highest COVID-19 tally, has decided to withdraw from the WHO. US President Donald Trump has been functioning at the behest of China, the country which he believes is responsible for the spread of the virus. China promptly defended the WHO with vehement criticism of the US stand. As it is, the US has a tradition of withdrawing from groups and contracts. Ever since Trump assumed office, this has become the new norm. There is no denying the fact that the WHO's association with China in the wake of the calamity has not been above suspicion. The WHO has avoided direct criticism of China. And the latter has only good words to describe the world health body and it has, thus, often reciprocated China's goodwill. Nevertheless, the US' move to withdraw from the WHO is a perfect example of the country pursuing unilateralism. The move also illustrates the foreign policy followed by Trump. At a time when nations are fighting a health

Replicate the Dharavi model pan-India

His refers to the editorial, "The Dharavi project" (July 13). With a population density of 2.27 lakh people per square km against the national average of 382, Dharavi had the lethality to pose an existential threat to the rest of Mumbai. That public-private partnership, spruced up with community participation, chased away the COVID-19 in Dharavi is a classic example of team effort to ward off a disaster. People shutting down their small enterprises and daily wagers quitting their jobs helped the agencies achieve the impossible. That Dharavi constitutes just 2.6 per cent of Mumbai's cases with recovery at 83 per cent against Mumbai's 63 per cent is a glorious testimony of team spirit. An area where there is just one toilet per 500 people, maintaining hygiene and sanitation was a challenge. But the municipal corporation of Greater Mumbai did a fabulous job. Door-to-door screening, containment and mitigation strategies were rigorously implemented by the State Government and private health professionals. Private hospitals, fever centres, well-equipped quarantine centres, community kitchens together constituted Dharavi's best-in-class health infrastructure. There was no dearth of either critical medicines or medical gear like PPE kits, thermal scanners and pulse oximeters. Masks, gloves and sanitiser were

not only barbaric but also unconstitutional. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that the police-criminal-politician nexus works to settle personal scores. Such encounters are used routinely by the police to eliminate the criminals on the whims and fancies of those in power. This needs to change. The judiciary must intervene.
Rati Singh
 Via email

liberally donated by Bollywood. Private sponsorship of free food was also in abundance. Since the World Health Organisation (WHO) has also complimented it, Dharavi may well emerge as the global benchmark on how to win the coronavirus. Now when Dharavi has become a treasure-trove of knowledge, the Maharashtra Government must tap into it and replicate its best practices across the State to repeat the success. In fact, these practices should be replicated pan-India.
SK Prabhakar
 Gunagam

punishment — death penalty or life sentence — but this should have been done after all judicial processes were observed. Police brutality is unwarranted. That the police took the law into its own hands to deliver instant justice is

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Encounter the truth" (July 11). With the death of the dreaded gangster, Vikas Dubey, many questions will remain unanswered and unexplained. Nobody has any sympathy for the gangster but the incident gives a sad message where the police has acted as prosecutor, judge and executioner. No civil society can digest such a scenario. We need to focus on the politico-criminal nexus. Time for a change now.
AF Nadwi
 Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Why let criminals rule the roost?

If no action is taken by the rulers of the country, this disease will grip the whole nation and India will lose its charm as the world's biggest democracy



VK **BAHUGUNA**

The recent events in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh (UP), in which eight police personnel were ambushed by the notorious gangster Vikas Dubey, have exposed deep chinks in our democratic governance and rule of law. The brazen and inhuman manner in which the eight police personnel were killed by Dubey and his accomplices shows that hardened criminals have seeped deep into our administrative and law and order machinery. Circle Officer Mishra, who wrote about the nexus between the gangster and the in-charge of the Chauhanpur Police Station to his superiors, was shot in the head and his legs were cut off. The criminals had also stored kerosene to burn the bodies of the cops and dispose the remains in a well in order to bury all evidence of the massacre. However, they were forced to flee before they could execute their sinister plan. It is another matter that the UP Police liquidated the don soon after he was handed over to them by the Madhya Pradesh Police. After Dubey's encounter, there was a hue and cry over the killing but no one is discussing the true nature of this disease engulfing the country.

The daring attack on policemen in Kanpur has clearly shown that the "don of Shivji" had deep links with the police and political parties of all hues. He was a land-grabber and a strongman who was instrumental in mustering votes for politicians. Despite numerous murder cases against him, he was roaming about like a respectable citizen, attending meetings with big politicians and was very cosy with police personnel. Even then, how did he think that he would get away with the murder of eight policemen? The answer is easy to find. He was a criminal against whom 60 cases were lodged with the police. He reportedly killed many people in cold blood.

In one daring attempt he killed a Minister-rank politician inside the police station in 2001 and 19 police personnel were witness to this killing. But none of the police personnel deposed before the court despite the fact that two cops, too, were killed in that incident. As people say, justice is blind and in the end Dubey was acquitted of the crime. After this he became the uncrowned ruler of his area of influence, subjugating all Government officials and controlling and bulldozing all who opposed him.

This incident raises many questions. First, why did the UP Government not take any action against those 19 police personnel whose deliberate action was responsible for Dubey's acquittal? Why did the police not appear to higher courts and assess why the prosecution did not make a foolproof case as the murder was committed inside the police station? This is a big shame for the police, politicians and the Government. It also brings out the chinks in the judiciary which decided such cases in a clerical style. Why did the court not ask the prosecution about the attitude of the 19 police personnel? This reflects badly on the tottering criminal justice delivery system. The Indian judiciary needs to change its Victorian mindset in order to meet the challenges of modern society.

Though the general public has welcomed the elimination of this notorious criminal, it has been ruling the fact that the encounter ends all possibility of exposing the growing criminal-police-political nexus which is turning our country into a banana republic. This clearly shows that governance has been gradually slipping out of the hands of lawfully-empowered officials and into the hands of local mafia and politicians in the hinterland. This abdication has been accepted by the whole apparatus of legally-elected governments.

The second question is why this happens and allows small-time goons to become Frankenstein's monster? The answer lies in the fact that rural areas are still divided on caste or some other lines and most of the fights are related to land grabbing and developmental issues. Gram Pradhans control lot of funds and create their own groups. The local administration virtually becomes extinct and allows these gangsters to take over the reins and slowly a monopoly of criminals and their supporters comes into shape. All in the ugly chain become rich and powerful and rule the masses. Those who oppose are punished heavily or eliminated.

For instance, the principal of Dubey's school who taught him when he was a youngster, was killed for opposing the grabbing of his school land by the don, in a most inhuman way, while the village and revenue officials looked the other way. The culmination of such an environment is complete when politicians take help of criminals during the elections. It is no wonder then that out of 403 MLAs in UP Assembly, 143 have a criminal background, says a report of the Association for Democratic Reforms. Dubey, too, was tying with the idea of joining the BJP Democracy is thus gasping for air in the country.

The Dubey saga must prick the conscience of our politicians and also of the citizens who elect them and, of course, of the civil servants and police who are actually responsible for governing the nation. If no action is taken by the rulers of the country this disease will grip the whole nation soon and India will lose its charm and beauty as the biggest democracy of the world.

(The writer is a former civil servant)

IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THE PARTY CONVINCES SACHIN PILOT TO STOP. THOUGH THE PARTY DOES NOT END WITH THE DEPARTURE OF ANY ONE LEADER.

—CONGRESS LEADER
 SANJAY NIRUPAM



I WILL MAKE MY INTENT CLEAR SOON. I HAVE THE SUPPORT. YOU CANNOT KEEP MLAs AGAINST THEIR WILL FOR A LONG TIME. IT'S A LONG HAUL.

—RAJASTHAN DEPUTY CM
 SACHIN PILOT

Fix accountability

The only way to prevent and eliminate custodial deaths is to make the senior police officers directly accountable whenever such incidents occur in police stations under their jurisdiction



GOVIND **BHATTACHARJEE**

On June 26, three days after the father-son duo, P Jayaraj and Bennix, died after being brutally tortured in police custody in Sathankulam in Tamil Nadu (TN), a non-governmental organisation (NGO), the National Campaign Against Torture (NCAT), brought out its annual report for 2019. It revealed that a total of 1,731 people had died in custody in India during 2019, which is a whopping five deaths every day. A majority of these deaths, 1,606, happened in judicial custody and 125 in police custody, like the present ones.

The methods of torture used, like driving nails in the body or rods through the private parts, burning or other atrocious methods of torment would put even the medieval Inquisition to shame. It also highlighted that 75 per cent of the victims belonged to poor and marginalised communities or minorities, who have practically no access to legal remedies.

Investigations into these cases almost always lead to closure without any culpability being established and instances when someone is actually punished for the deaths are extremely rare. The deaths are attributed to either "natural causes" like prior illnesses and "injuries sustained prior to police custody" or "unnatural causes" like suicides. As per the statistics provided in the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)'s latest report on *Crimes in India, 2018*, in cases of 70 deaths in police custody, not even a single arrest was made, let alone conviction.

As per the Constitution of the country, policemen are public servants and a police station is considered a public property. Therefore, the duty and the behaviour of a policeman must conform to the country's law, respect basic human freedom and obey as well as maintain law and order. However, the ground reality is far from this and time and again, policemen are involved in custodial violence and deaths.

To prevent custodial violence, elaborate guidelines to be followed in all cases of arrest or detention were prescribed by the Supreme Court in its 1996 verdict in the DK Basu vs State of West Bengal case, and subsequent judgments made in 2001 and 2015. These guidelines are observed only in their breach. Any inquiry by a human rights group through the Right to Information (RTI) Act or otherwise almost always draws a blank, with the information sought being "unavailable".

In 2015, Section 176 (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) was amended by replacing the earlier provision of inquiry by an Executive Magistrate with that by a Judicial Magistrate. This is also rarely conducted or conducted mechanically, only to satisfy the formalities. Only after the nationwide outrage after the Sathankulam incident, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court ordered a Judicial Magistrate's inquiry into the incident and the five policemen were arrested in the case and transferred to the Madurai Central Jail from Tuticorin. Now, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is probing the case.

In 2006, the apex court also directed that every State should have a Police Complaints Authority where anyone can lodge a complaint against policemen. Only a few States such as Kerala, Jharkhand, Haryana, Punjab and Gujarat have set up the authority. But that has not prevented custodial deaths — Punjab,

INVESTIGATIONS INTO THESE CASES ALMOST ALWAYS LEAD TO CLOSURE WITHOUT ANY CULPABILITY BEING ESTABLISHED AND INSTANCES WHEN SOMEONE IS ACTUALLY PUNISHED FOR THE DEATHS ARE EXTREMELY RARE. THE DEATHS ARE ATTRIBUTED TO EITHER 'NATURAL CAUSES' LIKE PRIOR ILLNESSES AND 'INJURIES SUSTAINED PRIOR TO POLICE CUSTODY' OR 'UNNATURAL CAUSES' LIKE SUICIDES. AS PER THE STATISTICS PROVIDED IN THE NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU'S LATEST REPORT ON *CRIMES IN INDIA, 2018*, IN CASES OF 70 DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY, NOT EVEN A SINGLE ARREST WAS MADE, LET ALONE CONVICTION



along with Uttar Pradesh (UP) and TN, recorded the highest number of deaths in police custody in 2019.

In 1994, in its 152nd report, the Law Commission had remarked that despite all legal and constitutional safeguards, "The growing incidence of custodial torture and deaths has become a disturbing factor in society and the gory tales of dehumanising torture, assault and deaths in the custody of police are being reported almost in every morning newspaper". It observed that inquiries are conducted as a mere formality. Even more than 25 years later, things have not changed one bit on the ground. At best a monetary compensation is offered by the State. In the TN case, the State Government announced a compensation of ₹20 lakh and the DMK's Theothukudi MP Kanimozhi declared a compensation of ₹25 lakh for the bereaved family. However, this is not enough to make up for the loss of the main bread-winners of the family, which is not lacking off and is seeking justice for the two men.

But in other cases, money usually silences the victims' families, who mostly come from poor and marginalised backgrounds. In a rarest of the rare instances of its kind, for torturing a man to death in custody in 2006, a Delhi Sessions Court sentenced five UP policemen to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment in 2019. They had manipulated records to erase all evidence of custodial death before closing the case as a suicide.

The judge very aptly remarked on that occasion, "One of the reasons for custodial death is that the police feel that they have the power to manipulate evidence as the investigation is their prerogative. And with such manipulated evidence, they can bury the truth. They are confident that they will not be held accountable even if the victim dies in custody and even if the truth is

revealed." The fact remains that the inter-departmental solidarity will always tend to shield the perpetrators and give them protection in such cases. This gives them a sense of invincibility and gives them a licence to kill with impunity. The failure of the judicial system to bring the culprits to book follows as a natural corollary to the failure to fix accountability.

Indeed custodial torture should have no place in a civilised society but in our criminal justice system, it has been institutionalised. Torture and extra-judicial killings deem even to have acquired some legitimacy in the eyes of the public, as shown in the Hyderabad killing of four gang-rape accused by the policemen last December.

Whitewashing and covering up are the norms. After the Sathankulam incident, the top police brass was busy trying to cover up the case, citing essential procedures. The Judicial Magistrate inquiring into the murders was intimidated by three police officers, the crucial CCTV footage in the police station was erased and the woman constable, who courageously deposed against her colleagues and whose testimony finally nailed the murderers, was under constant threats and intimidation.

It was only the widespread public anger that forced the TN Government to arrest the five culprits, transfer the probe to the CBI and take the extraordinary step of transferring the Sathankulam Superintendent of Police to keep him under "compulsory wait" at the DGF office, probably the first ever. This, however, is no punishment, and once the public anger subsides, it will be business as usual.

In the US, the 46-year-old George Floyd had struggled for nine minutes under the knee of the white Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, beseeching and begging for his life — "I can't breathe". Actually the chokehold has

been suffocating the US justice delivery system for the Blacks for a long time but the incident triggered the pent-up anger and resentment, leading to protests and violence that spread like wildfire across the globe.

The 'Black Lives Matter' movement upset many Indians, too, who voiced their anger on the social media. But no protests against police atrocities have erupted across our cities after the deaths of P Jayaraj and Bennix. Either we are too scared or we just don't care if cops go on a rampage. In the US, it has led to calls for police reforms and defunding the police. Use of chokeholds has been banned and it has also forced US President Donald Trump to issue an executive order for establishing a database to track police officers with a history of "excessive use-of-force complaints" in their records. Derek Chauvin had a history of using excessive force; such persons in future would carry it in their service records. This will likely serve as an effective deterrent.

The 18th Century French political philosopher Montesquieu wrote in his magnum opus, *The Spirit of Laws*, "There is no greater tyranny than that which is perpetrated under the shield of the law and in the name of justice". If we aspire to have some semblance of a civilised society, we must eradicate such tyranny. The only way to prevent and eliminate custodial deaths is to make the senior police officers directly accountable whenever such incidents occur in police stations under their jurisdictions. A death should be reflected in their service records and should carry a negative weightage in their promotions and postings. Senior police officers alone can prevent this, and only when they are made directly accountable will this course stop.

(The writer is a former Director General at the Office of the CAG of India and an academic.)

China cannot be sued for Coronavirus

The Govt is protected by ambient sovereign immunity and misconduct, even if proved, will not be able to cater to sufficient grounds for its waiver



SONAM **CHANDWANI**

The wilful, negligent and unmindful attitude of the Chinese authorities has led to the catastrophe of COVID-19. While some consider the inaction and lackadaisical behaviour of China coupled with suppression of information as "treason against humanity", the possibility of maintaining a successful lawsuit against our neighbour has to be explored rigorously.

There have been a couple of instances where the Chinese authorities have caused humongous damage to human life and

economies across the globe. There have been charges alleging creation and release, accidental or otherwise, of the Novel Coronavirus and of unleashing biological warfare. In all probability, positive outcomes of such legal challenges are highly sceptical. Chinese authorities have deliberately chosen denial over the saga and deserve the condemnation of the entire world. The regime of transferring patently false information all this while has made things unnecessarily worse as we stand today. Legal liability, however, is a disparate phenomenon. Here we need to realise, that the Government of China is protected by the ambient sovereign immunity, and misconduct, even if proved, will not be able to cater to sufficient grounds for a waiver of that immunity.

Sovereign immunity is not just a judicial favour for foreign regimes. International treaties of shared under-

standing and reciprocity not allowing people to sue the country primarily guide it. The difficulty at this stage arises as the act of China, despite being in the nature of criminal negligence, fails to fall in the bracket of exception laid down by the international law to the immunity enjoyed by the States, and rather, there is a specific bar upon the exercise or performance or the failure to exercise discretionary powers regardless of whether the discretion is being abused. Possibly, the reckless behaviour of the Chinese Government is basked into the very idea of sovereign immunity.

The next leg of the argument revolves around the proposition that China did very little to stop the spread of the virus. Unfortunately, the thrust of the argument on legal principles is tremendously weak. Sovereign immunity does not work on benevolence but reciprocity, China has been rejecting all such allegations and is certain to junk every summons it receives, ultimately making the entire exercise a futile thing. The World Health Organisation's (WHO's) International Health Regulations, 2005 is being referred to in order to assert that China violated its international obligations. Articles six and seven of the WHO regulations make timely notification and information-sharing obligatory on the country where an outbreak takes place. Consequently, China has been denying all such allegations, which in turn nullifies the violation as the legal liability could only be fixed if the country consents to it. There is a very minor and primarily a technical gateway to drag China to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) over the Coronavirus pandemic provided in the WHO's Constitution. This provision does not require the consent of the defendant country. A member country will have to establish or create a doubt that China deliberately withheld information from the WHO and the international community at large. Article 63

of the WHO's Constitution provides the legal basis for this route. Tort law generally rests on the proposition that people will take reasonable care if they know there is an inherent danger that could cause harm to others. Under sovereign immunity, the cost of misbehaviour of the Government tend to lie where they fall. The concept of international law and henceforth laws to tackle it were conceptualised a few years back. However, the absence of robust legislations possibly will not entail any punishment for another country's recklessness and the motive is opposite to be political.

Nevertheless, for the massive economic fallout, China cannot be allowed to go scot-free. Perhaps, world leaders have to work in mutiny to diplomatically pressurise China for causing the pandemic and the present situation. On the contrary, China has called the allegations xenophobic, which invalidates all possible actions undertaken

as of now. Further, the most difficult part of the regime is to prove the deliberate intention of China in causing all the trouble the world is in at present. In a nutshell, China has a strong position to rescind all legal allegations brought against it by world players, including the WHO. It is a very bleak proposition to contemplate that China will eventually compensate for the major fallout and global recession caused by its laxity and disregard for the state of affairs. However, the legal remedy of filing lawsuits seems to be futile to avoid any bulging aspiration to possibility of any fruitful upshot and conclusion. Nevertheless, how good the sequel stands will be eventually proven, as and when the lawsuits already instituted, are heard by the judiciary, while the wise option would be to avoid any bulging aspiration to be accrued from the judicial reaction to the legal battle.

(The writer is Managing Partner at KS Legal)



COVID-19 ON THE MARCH GLOBALLY
 Poorer nations will need support to deal with both the pandemic and its broader impact. Hunger and poverty are surging and could kill more people than COVID-19. Leadership can't come from the US, as it withdraws from the WHO and finding agreement within the EU is proving hard. But for everyone's sake, we must recognise and honour our ties. (The Guardian editorial)

IN RESPONSE TO XINJIANG BAN

China sanctions top US officials, politicians

Beijing: China on Monday imposed visa restrictions on some top US officials and politicians in the latest response to America's move to sanction several Chinese officials for alleged human rights abuses targeting ethnic minority groups in the Muslim-majority Xinjiang province.

US Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Samuel K. Brownback, Congressman Chris Smith and US Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz. The CECC is headed by Rubio, a vocal critic of China. Announcing the ban on US officials, Hua reiterated "Xinjiang is entirely an internal affair of China, and the US has no right to interfere. The Chinese government's determination to protect its sovereignty and crackdown against terrorism, separatism and religiously forces is unshakable."

Russian University claims successful trials of 1st Covid vaccine

Moscow: The clinical trials of the world's first coronavirus vaccine on volunteers has been successfully completed at Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University, Sputnik news agency reported quoting an official. The Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University began clinical trials of the vaccine produced by Russia's Gamalei Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology on June 18.



"The safety of the vaccine is confirmed. It corresponds to the safety of those vaccines that are currently on the market," Lukashov told Sputnik. "The further vaccine development plan is already being determined by the developer's strategy, including the complexity of the epidemiological situation with the virus and the possibility of scaling up production, Lukashov added."

EU, Turkey clash over Hagia Sophia, Mediterranean drilling

BRUSSELS: Turkey and the European Union clashed on Monday over Ankara's decision to change the status of Hagia Sophia from a museum to a mosque and its continued energy exploration in disputed Mediterranean waters. After their first face-to-face meeting in months, the 27 EU foreign ministers said that they "condemned the Turkish decision to convert such an emblematic monument as the Hagia Sophia, EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell said."

"This decision will inevitably fuel the mistrust, promote renewed division between religious communities and undermine our efforts at dialog and cooperation," he said after the meeting of EU foreign ministers. He said there was "broad support to call on the Turkish authorities to urgently consider and reverse this decision."

Former Mueller prosecutor writing book on investigation

New York: A top prosecutor for special counsel Robert Mueller has a book coming out this fall about the two-year investigation into the alleged ties between Russia and the 2016 campaign of President Donald Trump.

Monday that Andrew Weissmann's "Where Law Ends: Inside the Mueller Investigation" will be published September 29. Weissmann, one of the target of criticism from Trump supporters, is calling the book a meticulous account of Mueller team's probe and its ongoing battles with the Trump administration.

Maryland Governor says GOP needs 'big tent' after Trump

Washington: A Republican governor rumoured to be eyeing a run for the White House in 2024 said Sunday that the GOP needs to be a "bigger tent party" after President Donald Trump leaves office. Maryland's Larry Hogan, who has been known to break with Trump, told NBC's "Meet the Press" that he doesn't know what the future holds in November and ignored the assault undermined our ability to uncover the truth. My obligation as a prosecutor was to follow the facts where they led, using all available tools and untethered by the onslaught of the president's unique powers to undermine our work.

141 dead or missing in floods in China

Beijing: Over 140 people have died or are missing in the catastrophic floods that have been wreaking havoc in China since last month, affecting more than 37 million and damaging 28,000 houses, media reports said on Monday. China's State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters upgraded the emergency response for flood control from level III to level II on Sunday, as incessant downpours continued across vast stretches of the country. Over 2.4 lakh people have been evacuated in the faces "flood catastrophe" with 435 rivers in spate, testing the strength of some of the water barrages including the world's largest Three Gorges Dam.

Taliban kill 11 in assault on Afghan intel compound

Kabul: Taliban insurgents launched a complex attack on an intelligence compound in northern Afghanistan on Monday that began with a suicide bombing and killed at least 11 intelligence agency personnel, officials said. The attack took place in Aybak, the capital of the Samangan province. Sediq Azizi, a spokesman for the provincial government, said another 63 people were wounded in the attack and the ensuing clashes.

A suicide bomber struck the compound, followed by two insurgents who opened fire. Both were killed in the gunbattle, Azizi said. The blast from the initial bombing could be heard miles (kilometers) away and damaged several nearby buildings. Abdul Khalil Musadiq, a provincial official, said many of those wounded were civilians, including children. "The Taliban and government forces have been trading blame over a recent surge in violence across Afghanistan — even as efforts continue to try and bring about the start of direct peace talks between the government and the insurgents."

DEMAND NOTICE

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 50-55 years of age whose name, residence and family is unknown had been found dead near A Block, Sector-5, Bawana Barwala, Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. In this regard a vide has been registered with DCP-56 dated 04.07.2020 at P.S. Narela Industrial Area, Delhi.

TRUMP'S RELECTION OPERATION HIRES 1,500 FIELD STAFFERS

Washington: The Republican National Committee and President Donald Trump's campaign have hired 1,500 field staffers, aiming to convert their financial advantage over Democrats into votes in November. Trump Victory, the joint field effort of the two organizations, announced Monday the hiring of an additional 300 staffers set to hit 20 target states by Wednesday in the largest field operation ever mounted by a Republican.

Postal voting for over 700,000 Sri Lankan officials begins amid new Covid-19 threat

PTI ■ COLOMBO: The postal voting for over 700,000 Sri Lankan officers, who will be on duty on August 5 for the parliamentary polls, began on Monday amid a new security measures, following a sudden spike in COVID-19 cases in the country. The voting will go on for 5 days with two days reserved next week for those who fail to cast their vote this week. Over 700,000 officers who will be on election duty on August 5 are eligible to cast their vote. The election authorities said the voting in the north central town of Rajanagara was indefinitely postponed due to a COVID-19 threat.

US: Judge blocks federal executions; admin appeals

Terre Haute (US): A US district judge on Monday ordered a new delay in federal executions, hours before the first lethal injection was scheduled to be carried out at a federal prison in Indiana. The administration immediately appealed to a higher court, asking that the executions move forward. The 7th Circuit Judge Tanya Chutkan said there are still legal issues to resolve and that "the public is not served by short-circuiting legitimate judicial process."

Florida reports largest, single-day spike in virus cases

St. Petersburg (US): Florida has shattered the national record for the largest single-day increase in positive coronavirus cases in any state since the beginning of the pandemic, adding more than 15,000 cases as its daily average death toll continued to also rise. According to state Department of Health statistics, 15,299 people tested positive, for a total of 269,811 cases, and 45 deaths were recorded on Sunday. California had the previous record of daily positive cases — 11,694, set on Wednesday, New York had 11,571 on August 15.

Scientists identify two antibodies from llamas that can neutralise coronavirus

London: Scientists have demonstrated that two small, stable antibody variants derived from the South American mammals llamas can neutralise the novel coronavirus in laboratory tests. The antibodies can prevent infection with the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 by blocking its interaction with the protein ACE2, which it uses as a gateway to enter and infect cells.

According to the scientists, including those from The Rosalind Franklin Institute in the UK, passive immunisation with these antibodies, given as a patient virus-neutralising agent — either from people previously infected with SARS-CoV-2 or purified antibodies — can be a useful therapy for COVID-19. They said antibodies against the 2002-03 SARS pandemic virus could prevent infection of cells by blocking the binding of the virus spike protein to ACE2.

Table with 2 columns: Name of the Borrower / Demand Notice, and Property Address of Secured Assets. Lists various individuals and their residential addresses in Noida and Gurgaon.

Table with 4 columns: Particulars, Quarter ended, Year Ended, and (Rs. in Lakhs). Shows financial performance for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2020.

UNITED TEXTILES LIMITED. Regd. Off: 7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar. Includes financial data and contact information for the company.

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM PUBLIC NOTICE / TENDER NOTICE. Table with 7 columns: SR NO, NAME OF DEPARTMENT, NAME OF WORK NOTICE, OPENING DATE, AMOUNT, WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT, and TENDER REF. NO.

UTTAR HARYANA BIJLI VITRAN NIGAM PUBLIC NOTICE / TENDER NOTICE. Table with 7 columns: SR NO, NAME OF DEPARTMENT, NAME OF WORK NOTICE, OPENING DATE, AMOUNT, WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT, and TENDER REF. NO.

Retail inflation at 6.09 per cent in June



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail inflation rose by 6.09 per cent in June, mainly on account of higher prices of food items, the Government data showed on Monday.

Food inflation in June increased by 7.87 per cent, according to Consumer Price Index (CPI) data.

The inflation figures are based on data collected from limited markets in view of the restrictions imposed on account of coronavirus pan-

demia, the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation said in a release. The data collected, however, did not meet the adequacy criteria for generating robust estimates of CPIs at the state-level, it added.

The retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index was 3.18 per cent in June 2019.

The Government had released truncated CPI data for April and May in the backdrop of the lockdown to contain COVID-19 pandemic.

CAIT aims to dent China's ₹4,000 cr biz during Rakhi

TO SEND 5,000 RAKHIS FOR SOLDIERS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Traders' body CAIT, which has called for the boycott of Chinese products, on Monday said it has resolved for a "Hindustani rakhi" next month and dent China's estimated Rs 4,000 crore of trade during the festival. The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) would also hand over more than 5,000 rakhis to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to be further sent to soldiers guarding the country's borders.

The CAIT, which has 40,000 trade associations and seven crore members across India as its members, has announced for a "purely Hindustani Rakhi festival" on August 3 and dent China's estimated Rs 4,000 crore trade during the festival, it said in a statement.

"This time any rakhi made by China or any rakhi-related product from China will not be used! In order to encourage the brave soldiers who are guarding the borders of the country, the women's wing of the CAIT will give 5,000 rakhis to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for the soldiers," the traders' body said.

The CAIT said that according to an estimate a trade of Rs 6,000 crore takes place every year in India on Raksha Bandhan in which China alone contributes about Rs 4,000 crore.

"Not only is finished rakhi imported from China but also rakhi-making products like foam, paper foil, rakhi thread, pearls, drops, decorative items for rakhi are also imported. Due to CAIT's campaign to boycott Chinese goods, no Chinese goods will be used in rakhi this year and we are confident that China is set to lose about Rs 4,000 crores of business," Sushil Kumar Jain, the Delhi-NCR unit convener of the CAIT, said. He said the CAIT has sent a message to all

its state chapters and other major associations working in all the states that Chinese rakhi or related products should not be sold.

"CAIT has also urged various state chapters to get people working in raw settlements in the cities, self-help groups of women, women working in anganwadis, small artisans and others to make rakhis and sell them in markets which will also be a great help to people of all these classes," Jain said.

At the same time, CAIT has also urged small scale industries to make Rakhis using Indian goods, he added.

The trade body said that its women wing would also give rakhis to soldiers posted at military hospitals in each city of the country.

The women wing of CAIT in every city of the country, will also tie rakhi to police personnel engaged in safety and security tasks thereby giving a message that every person of the country stands firmly with the Army and the police force of the country, the statement said.

₹ settles flat at 75.19 against US \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee settled on a flat note at 75.19 against the US dollar on Monday amid high volatility in the domestic equity market.

The ₹ traded in a narrow range as investors awaited retail inflation data for further cues, forex dealers said.

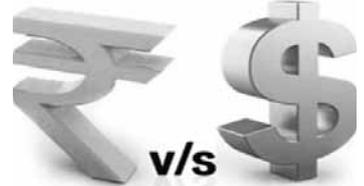
During the four-hour trading session, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 75.08 and a low of 75.21 against the US \$.

The rupee closed at 75.19 against the US dollar, up by just 1 paise over its previous close. It had settled at 75.20 against the greenback on Friday.

"While weak US currency supported the local unit, foreign fund outflows and concerns over rising COVID-19 cases weighed on investor sentiment, traders said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the dollar's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.03 per cent to 96.62.

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty came off the day's



highs due to losses in financial stocks. The BSE Sensex settled 99.36 points, or 0.27 per cent, higher at 36,693.69 - giving up about gains of 330 points from its intra-day peak.

The NSE Nifty closed 34.65 points, or 1.15 per cent, up at 10,802.70.

Foreign institutional investors were net sellers in the capital market as they sold shares worth ₹1,031 crore on Friday, according to provisional exchange data. Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, fell 1.25 per cent to USD 42.70 per barrel.

Meanwhile, the number of cases around the world linked

to the disease has crossed 1.29 crore and the death toll has topped 5.69 lakh.

In India, the death toll due to COVID-19 rose to 23,174 and the number of infections spiked to 8,78,254, according to the Health Ministry.

"Rupee consolidated in a narrow range ahead of the important inflation number that will be released today evening.

Expectation is that it could grow 45.30 per cent in June compared to growth of 5.84 per cent in the previous month," said Gaurang Somaiya, Forex & Bullion Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

DPIT to soon approach Cabinet for 74 pc FDI through auto route in Defence :Sources

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The DPIT would soon approach the Union Cabinet to seek approval for relaxing norms to allow up to 74 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in defence manufacturing under the automatic route, with a view to attract overseas players in the sector, sources said.

"They said the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has discussed the matter with the Defence Ministry.

The decision to permit up to 74 per cent FDI in the defence manufacturing through the automatic route was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May while announcing the fourth tranche of the ₹20 lakh crore stimulus package for the coronavirus-hit economy.

As per the current FDI policy, 100 per cent overseas

- ◆ The move was aimed at boosting domestic industry as India imports about 70 per cent of its military hardware
- ◆ India's defence industry has received FDI equity inflows of USD 9.52 million (\$56.88 crore) during April 2000 and March 2020

investments are permitted in the defence industry - 49 per cent under the automatic route, while beyond that the government approval is required.

In July 2018, the Government had relaxed foreign direct investment norms in the defence sector by bringing up to 49 per cent FDI under the automatic route.

The move was aimed at boosting domestic industry as India imports about 70 per cent of its military hardware. According to the DPIT data,

India's defence industry has received FDI equity inflows of USD 9.52 million (\$56.88 crore) during April 2000 and March 2020.

Under the Government route, foreign investors have to take prior approval of the respective Ministry/department, while in the automatic route, the investor just has to inform the RBI after the investment is made.

Total FDI into India increased by 181 per cent to USD 73.45 billion in 2019-20.

RBI turns net purchaser of US \$ in May, buys USD 4.363 bn



PTI ■ MUMBAI

After being net seller of the US currency in the first month of this fiscal, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) turned net purchaser in May as it bought USD 4.363 billion of the greenback on net basis, according to RBI data.

During the month, the RBI bought USD 4.663 billion from the spot market while sold USD 300 million. In April, the central bank had sold USD 1.142 billion US dollar on a net basis. The central bank in May

2019 had bought USD 2.538 billion of the greenback on a net basis. It had purchased USD 5.118 billion and sold USD 2.580 billion in the spot market in May 2019. In FY20, the central bank was net purchaser of the US dollar at USD 45,097 billion. It had bought USD 72,205 billion while sold USD 27,108 billion in the spot market. In the forward dollar market, the outstanding net sales at the end of May stood at USD 1,958 billion, compared to a sale of USD 1,739 billion in April, the data showed.

Non-financial services sector may take 25% hit in revenue amid COVID-19 disruptions: Survey

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Non-financial services sector may witness up to 25 per cent fall in revenue and business disruptions of up to 12 months, according to a survey by the Protiviti India's Business Resilience Barometer survey.

The survey, however, noted strong revival initiatives amidst fall in revenue and business disruptions.

"Investments have been prioritised and planned out in augmenting the revival," said Nirmalya Gupta, Managing Director, Protiviti Member Firm for India. Gupta further said "industries would go for cost optimisation around

their current/conventional ways of operating in some of the key business areas and certainly in the non-key areas and use the resources and cash available in more intelligent and efficient initiatives under the "new normal environment".

As per the survey report, human capital, support functions and infrastructure costs are likely to witness major cost reduction. The survey reveals there have been "strong revival initiatives amidst fall in revenue of up to 25% and business disruptions of up to 6 months for financial services organisations".

Around 55% of organisations expect layoffs due to the lockdown ends and do not expect hiring to revive before at least 60 days, the survey said adding that real estate and construction industry is expected to see the most layoffs.

Gold rises ₹120, silver zooms ₹858

Gold prices continued upside on Monday

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices jumped ₹120 to ₹49,960 per 10 gram in the national capital on Monday following gains in global prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹49,840 per 10 gram. Silver also rose by ₹858 to ₹53,320 per kg from ₹52,462 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, gold was trading with gains at USD 1,805 per ounce, while silver was quoting at USD 19.03 per ounce. "Gold prices continued upside on Monday on concerns over surge in COVID-19 cases in the world," HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

COVID-19 Vedanta launches phase 2 of 'meal for all' programme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mining giant Vedanta Ltd on Monday said it has launched the second phase of its 'meal for all' programme under which it would provide meals to 38,000 daily wage earners and their families across Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

The programme will be a week-long initiative with a target of reaching 38,000 daily wage earners and their families in the three cities, the company said in a statement.

The daily wage earners are being provided with ration kits consisting of daily essentials such as rice, pulses, refined oil and spices along with a pair of slippers. More than 11.08 lakh meals were provided to daily wage earners in the first phase of the programme.

Sitharaman reviews working of health workers' insurance scheme

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the insurance scheme for health workers fighting Covid-19, as announced under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGK). The meeting, through video conferencing, was attended by senior officials from Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and the New India Assurance Company Ltd. A presentation was made by the Chairman & Managing Director of New India Assurance providing details about the highlight of the scheme and its status of implementation as on date.

Officials from Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provided an overview of the mechanism being followed with states' nodal authorities to expedite the claims, also highlighting the need while reaching out to the family of deceased as well as obtaining the legal heir certificate.

Of the 147 intimations received till date, claim documents have been submitted for 87, out of which 15 have been paid, four approved for payment while 13 are under examination. Further, a total of 55 claims have been found ineligible out of which 35 claims fall outside the scope of the cover like police personnel, municipal workers not related to hospitals, people from Education, Revenue Departments, etc. while another 20 claims submitted have the cause of death other than Covid-19 like cardiac arrest, etc.

Tech Mahindra brings 210 employees home

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

Tech Mahindra has facilitated return of over 210 of its employees and their dependents stranded in the United States due to COVID-19 induced lockdown.

A special chartered flight carrying them took off on Monday from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and will land on Tuesday.

The firm in a statement said it has ensured the well-being and safety of our entire employee, customer and partner ecosystem which is critical in the collective fight against this global pandemic.

"Bringing our US-based associates and their dependents back home conveys our commitment towards our core values of ensuring employees safety first, and reiterates Tech Mahindra's ability to be adaptable and agile in keeping mission-critical systems on for global clients from anywhere in the world, even during times of crisis," Tech Mahindra Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer CP Gurnani said.

Telangana announces initiative to help 100 startups

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC) along with some leading incubators and enablers here have announced a programme to support over 100 startups scale up.

Reijg HydStartups is a large-scale mentoring programme for startups to reijg strategy to pivot towards customers and increased revenue post-Covid-19.

As startups have been struggling due to economic slowdown caused by Covid-19, the TSIC along with incubators, like T-Hub, CIE-IIITH, IKP, RICH and TIE, has designed the initiative. The initiative will support the ecosystem and help with startups.

A programme for strategy reijg, followed by pitch preparation for equity funding, debt or corporate market access will be provided, according to a release.

AUTOMATION TO DEAL WITH COVID-19 CHALLENGES PNB to focus on self-service: Rao

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Punjab National Bank proposes to accelerate self-service and focus on automation with a view to optimise the workplace and employee well-being with the challenges following the outbreak of coronavirus, the lender said in a message to shareholders.

"The current crisis will steer the banking industry to remote working which is likely to shape the cost structure in the days ahead," PNB's MD and CEO S S Mallikarjuna Rao said in a letter to shareholders.

He noted that MSME, agriculture, agri-based industries, healthcare, among others, present ample opportunities for growth and lending.

"The bank will accelerate self-service and automation initiatives through greater focus on technology to foster optimisation of processes, employee and workplace," he said.

Rao said 2019-20 started with an overarching goal towards 'Year of Profitability

and Creating Value', leaving the adversities of the previous financial year behind.

In the last financial year, PNB's operating profit increased year-on-year by 13.4 per cent to ₹14,739 crore. After a gap of two years, the bank registered a net profit of ₹ 336 crore for 2019-20.

On amalgamation of two public sector banks - Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India - into PNB, Rao said the amalgamation process provides significant benefits to PNB and its customers besides providing scale and growth.

"The amalgamation has propelled the bank to the position of the second largest public sector bank in the country and will enable us to realise operational, revenue and cost synergies," he told shareholders. On way forward for PNB, he said the bank's prime goal will be to strengthen the balance sheet, which will create a foundation for sustainable profitability

going ahead.

The bank will continue its focus on asset quality management and capital improvement in the post-pandemic environment, apart from continuing the accelerated momentum in recovery, product leadership, technology, efficiency, and small ticket lending," Rao said.

Going forward, he said PNB's endeavour will be to enhance value through multi-pronged digital transformation strategy and greater focus on better underwriting prudence and risk controls.

He said the bank is considerably strengthened with the amalgamation. "As a bigger entity, we have revamped our products and delivery channels. It is our mission to build a global size, future-ready institution which will substantially contribute to the country's growth," Rao said.

He exuded confidence that in its new avatar, PNB 2.0 will scale still greater heights and continue its growth trajectory.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unknown dead body of male, name and address unknown. Age: about 40 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: shallow, Built: Medium. Face: Oval, hair black wearing dark grey colour T-shirt and pant found dead at near Shanti Dev Mandir Chhapewala Chowk, DBG Road Karol Bagh, New Delhi on 04.07.2020.

UNKNOWN

In this regard a DD No. 41-A Dt. 04.07.2020 has been lodged at PS DBG Road Karol Bagh, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the following. S.H.O., PS DBG Road Karol Bagh, New Delhi Ph.: 011-23613252, 23537374

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unknown dead body of male, name and address unknown. Age: about 35 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: wheatish, Built: thin, Face: oval wearing half sleeves blue T-shirt and black shorts and bare footed was found dead at near Britania Chowk, Lawrence Road, Opp. Shakurpur Shamshah Ghat, Delhi on 01.07.2020.

UNKNOWN

In this regard a DD No. 24-A Dt. 01.07.2020 has been lodged at PS Keshav Puram, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the following. S.H.O., PS Keshav Puram, Delhi Ph.: 011-27195810, 875087223

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is hereby informed that one person namely Mohd. Parvez S/o Mohd. Miraz, R/o house no. H-368 J.J. Colony Bawana, Delhi. Age: 37 Yrs., Height: 5'1", Wheatish Complexion, Face: long, Built thin wearing green colour T-shirt black colour lower and green colour rubber chappal in feet is missing since 26.06.2020 from his house. In this regard DD No. 117-A Dt. 28.06.2020 has been lodged at PS Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person, but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may kindly inform to the following. E-mail: dc@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-23011334 Ph.: 011-23014046 011-23015218 PS Narela Industrial Area, Delhi Ph.: 011-27787592, 27787593

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Khushboo D/o Mani Prasad R/o H.No.391, Sec-10, Punerwas Colony, Narela, Delhi Aged-20 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 18.06.2020 at about 11:00 AM from her residence vide DD No.86 A Dated 21.06.2020 registered at Police Station Narela, Delhi. Her physical description is as under-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 4'9", Face: Long, Hair: Long Black, Clothing: Yellow coloured Suit, Salwar and Sandal in feet.

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

Sd/- SHO, Narela, Delhi Tel. No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 Tel.: 011-27280435, 27282350 DP/320/ON/2020 Mob.: 7065036323



pioneer HEALTH

LoseCarbs

Carbohydrates are often blamed for weight gain, but a right proportion and a good choice can help to lose and maintain a healthy weight. Good carbohydrates consist of fibres which gives a longer satiety value and are often low in calories. Low carbohydrate diets as a way to rapid weight loss, are however gaining more of attention today



DOCYARD

DR INDU BANSAL
Director, Radiation Oncology

NARAYANA SUPERSPECIALITY HOSPITAL, GURUGRAM



Keep count of your drinks

Different types of beer, wine, or malt liquor can have very different amounts of alcohol content. It's important to know how much alcohol your drink contains. In the US, one standard drink (or one alcoholic drink equivalent) contains roughly 14 grams of pure alcohol, which is found in: 4.2% alcohol content; some light beers, 12 ounces of regular beer, which is usually about 5% alcohol, 5 ounces of wine, which is typically about 12% alcohol, 1.5 ounces of distilled spirits, which is about 40% alcohol.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism (NIAAA) defines moderate drinking as up to four alcoholic drinks for men and three for women in any single day and a maximum of 14 drinks for men and seven drinks for women per week.

There are various health problems associated with alcohol intake as depression, dementia, mental health problems, alcoholic hepatitis, anemia, arrhythmias, cirrhosis, fatty liver, gout, high blood pressure, nerve damage, seizures, stroke, chronic disease of the heart muscle, known as cardiomyopathy, some types of cancer. All types of alcoholic drinks, including red and white wine, beer, cocktails, and liquor, are linked with cancer. The more you drink, the higher your cancer risk.

There is consistent evidence that alcohol is a carcinogen. 3.5% of all cancer-related deaths were because of alcohol consumption. 5.5% of all new cancer occurrences and 5.8% of all cancer deaths worldwide were attributable to drinking alcohol. But in spite of this only 13% of people understand that cancer is one of the health risks associated with alcohol consumption. The more you have of it, the less you can see its effect on you.

There is evidence that alcohol consumption increases the risk of seven different types of cancers — that of the mouth, throat, voice box, esophagus, bowel, liver and breast. Whereas smoking is linked to at least 15 types of cancer, the most common being lung cancer. It may also increase the risk of cancers of the skin, pancreas and prostate. Even low levels of drinking (up to two drinks a day) were associated with an 8 to 23% higher risk of prostate cancer when compared to no drinking. Alcohol is thought to be the cause of between 5% to 11% of all breast cancer cases.

A recent BMC Public Health study suggests that the cigarette equivalent of a bottle of wine is five cigarettes for men and ten for women. The authors estimate that in non-smoking men, the absolute lifetime risk of cancer—that is, the risk of developing cancer during one's lifetime—associated with drinking one bottle of wine per week is 1.0%. For women, it is 1.4%. Thus, if 1,000 men and 1,000 women each drank one bottle of wine per week, around 10 extra men and 14 extra women may develop cancer at some point in their life. In men, this risk appears to be associated primarily with cancers of the gastrointestinal tract, whereas in women, 55% of cases appear to be associated with breast cancer. The authors also found that drinking three bottles of wine per week — a level known to increase the risks of a wide range of different health problems — was associated with an increase of absolute lifetime cancer risk to 1.9% in men and 3.6% in women. This is equivalent to smoking roughly eight cigarettes per week for men and 23 cigarettes per week for women.

We all know drunkenness is nothing but voluntary madness. Drunk never looks good. So, please take a pause and think. Less drinking more thinking. Try a big cup of sobriety — now that's a good stuff. Wake up with no hangover.

SUMMERCoolERS

CHERRY: A cherry is a stone fruit. These tiny fruits are loaded with vitamins and antioxidants that help in reducing skin signs of aging and making it look fresh and glowing. It also helps in regulating blood pressure because of the high potassium content. The phytochemicals in cherries help reduce bad cholesterol levels. They work wonders as sleep stimulants. If you want to have a good night's sleep then grab a cup of cherry juice before going to bed and after waking up in the morning. Cherries are a good source of melatonin, which helps to regulate our sleep cycles. Cherries have also been found to help with jet lag. Sweet cherries have a low glycemic index of 22 — lower than apricots, grapes and peaches. This makes them a better snack than many other fruits, especially for diabetics. Furthermore, these small berries are good enough to keep you hydrated and energetic throughout the day.



COVID-19 is not only a respiratory illness, but it can trigger several neurological disorders as well, says DR RAJNISH KUMAR

If you feel COVID-19 is a respiratory disease then you need to think again. As a day passes, it has been emerging as the biggest threat to trigger a huge range of neurological disorders. Stroke, anxiety, confusion and fatigue are the few names from the long list. There are many instances when people have complaint of challenges in staying focused, problems with the memory and extreme tiredness after the mild illness.

Neurological experts suggest that earlier nobody realised that the virus does cause problem in the brain and after much analysis they realised that there could be many factors including lack of oxygen flow to the brain, blood-clotting and a hyper-inflammatory response of the immune system that a patient might be going through. However, it is still not clear whether the novel virus itself is affecting the brain too. Though the recovery rate from the coronavirus infection has gone up, many believe that getting back home from the ICU is the beginning of much neurological disorder that a patient never had before.

There have been evidences from the past that how a massive lockdown had affected the brains of the people. During the end of World War I, a mysterious neurological syndrome known as encephalitis lethargica appeared and went on to affect more than a million people worldwide. There is limited evidence of its causes, and whether the trigger was influenza or a post-infectious autoimmune disorder is still unknown. Some patients had movement disorders that looked like Parkinson's disease,

which affected them for the rest of their lives. What researchers say? Neurologists are working hard to have a better understanding of how coronavirus infection is affecting their patients when various researches have estimated that the deadly virus is causing neurological impact. A recent researchers at the University College London (UCL) have studied the brain of 43 patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infections who developed neurological symptoms, like inflammation, psychosis and delirium. The scientists identified 10 cases of temporary brain dysfunction with delirium, 12 cases of brain inflammation, eight cases of strokes and eight patients with nerve damage. Most of those with inflammation were diagnosed with acute disseminated encephalomyelitis (ADEM), a rare disease that the researchers said has increased in prevalence during the pandemic.

Whereas, when the research was conducted in aged patients, with an age group of 60 and above, it has been seen that they didn't develop any respiratory problem but with the neurological disorder instead becoming the first and main symptom of COVID-19. Even a study in China, has found out finds that the strokes, altered consciousness and other neurological issues are relatively common in more serious cases of COVID-19. They studied the 214 cases of severe coronavirus illness treated in Wuhan city during the early phase of the global pandemic, doctors reported that 36.4 per cent of patients displayed neurological symptoms including disorientation or confusion, headaches or even seizure. Some even had impairments in taste or smell.

As the disease has been around for a matter of months, we might not yet know what long-term damage COVID-19 can cause. Doctors need to be aware of possible neurological effects, as early diagnosis can improve patient outcome. We've already seen evidence that COVID-19 can evoke an extremely strong immune response, which is called a cytokine storm. During a cytokine storm, the body overproduces immune cells and proteins to the point where they can attack tissues, leading to blood clots and organ failure in some cases. At this point, there's so little data on these patients that these explanations are only ideas.

We now need detailed studies to understand the possible biological mechanisms ... so we can explore potential treatments. A prospective, observational study with a larger number of patients that includes more specific neuroimaging and other diagnostic tests is warranted for more conclusive evidence. Research should focus on if responses like the cytokine storm can actually explain these neurological symptoms. Similar to the UK, which has a surveillance programme called CoroNerve, India should also have such program on an urgent basis so that the physicians can report neurologically symptoms of COVID-19 with the hope of better understanding the effect of the coronavirus on the brain.

The writer is Head of Department Neurology, Paras Hospitals, Gurugram

UNMASK YOUR SKIN PROBLEMS

Wearing face masks for long durations can cause flare-up of acne problems.

DR AJAY RANA shares simple tips that can help

At this time, the world is facing the COVID-19 pandemic, a crisis that has never been seen before. Today, wearing a mask is one of the most effective ways to combat the spread of the virus. No matter where you go, the Government has now mandated customers and visitors to cover their mouth and nose with a mask or any piece of clothing. Masks keep us safe from touching our face constantly. Which is the most common habit to spread this deadly virus. Also, if someone is coughing or sneezing, it provides a guard against spreading droplets to get contact with other individuals. But wearing the mask for prolonged periods can cause a lot of skin problems for many people.

Wearing face masks for a long duration can cause flare up of acne problems. Sweat, oil and makeup are present on the skin and when we cover them with a mask, it becomes occluded. And when we breathe into the mask, the humidity develops in the mask, increasing the chances of acne.

There has been an increase in cases of perioral dermatitis. Moisture and vapour, as well as any secretions such as saliva or mucus, are trapped inside the mask. It acts as an irritant dermatitis to the skin and upset the natural balance of the skin layer around the mouth. This results in rashes, redness, irritation and scaling around the nose and mouth. Sometimes tiny pimples or pustules appear in clusters around the skin of the lips.

Humidity due to wearing masks for longer duration makes the skin layer too moist, trapping all this moisture inside the mask. It is almost like diaper dermatitis. But when the skin is in that moist environment and then we take the mask off and let the air out, then sometimes it can become too dry also and cause dryness of the skin with itching and redness.

There are many simple things we can do to protect our face from the side effects of wearing masks. Sometimes, it also depends on the type of mask we are wearing. If it's a cloth mask, you need to wash it on a regular interval.

If you are at home, where not many people are present, then avoid wearing masks for extended periods of time.

If your skin seems too much on the dry side, use a gentle, hypoallergenic moisturiser. Don't use something such as witch hazel or rubbing alcohol that will be even more irritating to the skin layer.

Use a neutral cleanser, a mild soap or good face wash to clean your skin.

If you're using disposable masks then after using it, hang it up in a sunny place to dry for a day or two before using it again.

Consult a dermatologist if you do not know how to manage your condition, without waiting for it to aggravate.

The writer is Dermatologist, Aesthetic Physician and Founder-Director of ILAMED

DadiKa Kehna

Rains bring along a plethora of diseases like dengue and malaria. The adage 'prevention is better than cure' can't be truer when it comes to these two illnesses. ROSHAN DEVI shares tips that can help keep the pesky pest away

Monsoon is a welcome change after the scorching hot summer days. Unfortunately, it brings with it a woe of problems not to mention diseases like Dengue and Malaria. Prevention is better than cure. Here is what people need to do to ensure that their surroundings and homes are free from mosquitoes. The most important thing to keep in mind is to get rid of all the water that has been standing in tubs and planters. Fill in fresh water. If you use a cooler, drain out all the water. Let it dry before you fill fresh water. Did you know that Tulsi keeps the mosquitoes away? Just keep Tulsi in the planter at the entrance door and windows to keep the mosquitoes at bay. Camphor is another home remedy that will help in getting rid of mosquitoes. Close all the doors and then light a camphor. After about 30 minutes, there won't be any mosquitoes. Believe it or not, garlic is a great way to get rid of the peskies. Crush a few cloves and boil them in water. Pour the solution in a spray bottle and spray it around. The solution kills mosquitoes instantly. Don't worry, the house will not reek of garlic.

Planting health

Plant-based diets offer all the essential protein, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, and minerals for optimal health, says ROHIT SHAH

There are many arguments regarding the best diet. Nevertheless, health and wellness communities admit that diets highlighting fresh, whole ingredients and minimising processed foods are excellent for overall wellness of the body. The whole-foods, plant-based diet does just that. Dropping the phrase 'plant-based diet' is in a buzz when talking about nutrition these days. But why is it so hot right now? Because it focuses on minimally processed foods, specifically plants, and can improve your health, boost energy levels, and prevent chronic diseases. Plant-based diets also offer all the essential



protein, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, and minerals for optimal health, and are also higher in fiber and phytonutrients. Plant-based VS vegan: The vegan doesn't consume any animal products, including meat, eggs, milk, dairy, and honey. Yet, a vegan diet is not always as nutritionally virtuous as a plant-based lifestyle. The focus of vegan is usually set to avoid animal products, but the priority is not set on unprocessed whole

lifestyle is more of a flexible and broad way of thinking about nutrition and ingredient quality. Moreover, with a plant-based diet, the focus is on simple, nutritious and whole foods. So if you're probably thinking of moving to a plant-based diet sounds like a great idea, but you don't know where to start. Don't worry, we've got you covered.

Eat ample vegetables. At lunch or dinner, fill half your plate with vegetables at lunch and dinner. Try to include plenty of colours when picking your vegetables. Enjoy vegetables as a snack with salsa, hummus or guacamole.

Include whole grains for breakfast. Start with quinoa, oatmeal, buckwheat, or barley. You can also add some nuts or seeds along with fresh fruit. Go for greens: Try a variety of green leafy vegetables such as kale, collards, spinach, and other greens every day. Steam, grill, braise, or stir-fry to preserve their nutrients and flavour.

Besides all these, the most effective and nutritious plant based food is Hemp and hemp seeds. It's because, they are one of those few superfoods which are incredibly healthy. The writer is Co-founder & CEO, Hemp Horizons Pvt Ltd

Trend
Slasher

Shilpa gives yoga tips

Months of being confined at home and the inability to go for a walk or hit the gym has led to stiffening of muscles and back-ache among many. Actor and fitness enthusiast **SHILPA SHETTY** has a few simple yoga tips.

Recently, Shilpa shared a video on her Instagram where she can be seen performing *Vyaghrasana*, *Marjariasana*, and *Utthana Vyaghrasana* among other asanas that help enhance flexibility of the body.

"Our bodies are getting rusty without the same movement, agility, and exercise we were accustomed to; before this pandemic hit us. Daily travels have drastically reduced for a majority of us, leaving us with very little physical activity," says she.



'The main reason I've joined YouTube is to broaden my horizons. My aim for this channel is to introduce everyone to the real Daisy, to show who I am. This is basically my way of connecting with my fans on very real terms. I'm super excited to start my journey. I know I'll get as much love as I do on my other platforms.'

—Daisy Shah

It is flashback day for actor **KAJOL** as she went down memory lane to recall the time when she sported wavy and voluminous hair.



Taking to her Instagram account, Kajol posted a picture in which she is seen flaunting wavy and curly locks.

"What... I swear this hairstyle was in trend... once upon a time," she captioned the image, which seems to be from the 1990s. She added, "#InStyle #UnnaturalPerm #MeWhenI."

Reacting to the throwback image, fans showered her with a lot of funny comments.

'Honoured to work for a cause'

Oscar-winning actor **REGINA KING** says it is always an honour to be part of a piece of work that is entertaining and socially relevant.

She cites that as the reason for being part of the television series *Watchmen*.

"It's definitely an honour to be able to have been a part of a piece of work that was entertaining but also socially relevant," Regina said.

"Prior to *Watchmen* I had done *Seven Seconds* and *American Crime*, and both of those shows had commentary rooted in them, around the things that are going on in our country right now," she added.

The fight against COVID-19 continues to take place all over the world. With most of us homebound owing to the home-sheltering and social restrictions, we have been able to spend quality time with the family.

For those with young children, managing work from home as well as keeping the little ones occupied has been challenging. Children are often bored at home and wish to go out, play and meet their friends, however, that's best restricted right now. Thankfully, children do not seem to have suffered serious illnesses owing to this pandemic, but its best to equip them with information about the right way of safeguarding themselves against diseases.

Parents have a major role to play while teaching and inculcating these good habits. To make optimum utilisation of the lockdown, Dr Gurudutt Bhat,

NEW GOLDEN RULES

Here are a few habits that you need to teach your child in a COVID-19 world



Consultant Pediatrician, Fortis Hospital Kalyan and Dr Jeshal Sheth, Sr. Consultant, Pediatrician and Neonatal Intensivist, Fortis Hospital Mulund, suggest some habits that you could gradually inculcate in your child:

- ◆ Always maintain a distance of two metres or six feet between yourself and the other individual when you go out or even see your friends.
- ◆ Always follow cough etiquettes, which means that you cough or sneeze in your elbow sleeves.
- ◆ The virus enters the body if we touch our nose, mouth and eyes. So always wear a face mask that covers the nose and mouth while outdoors and do not touch your face. Do not remove your mask or touch it till you reach home.
- ◆ Take bath if possible when you come home, if not, wash your hands thoroughly.
- ◆ Eat healthy, home cooked immunity boosting food, including vegetables, fruits and legumes.
- ◆ Continue to be in touch with their peers and family members, not physically but by digital means.
- ◆ Incultate a habit of physical activity comprising fun indoor

- ◆ Proper use of the internet and online tools with appropriate use of child-safe tools must be taught.
- ◆ Instill in them the habit of reading, writing or following a hobby of their choice.
- ◆ This is the best time to get to know your kids. Understand the challenges that they might be facing. It is recommended to talk about the importance of mental health, especially during these challenging times.
- ◆ Proper use and respect for all service workers that are helping COVID-19 patients.

While you are at home, make the most of your time and teach your children life lessons by setting an example by things you regularly do. It could be spiritual, reading to them or even as basic as dinner table discussions.

—IANS

Thank you, next

Author **ZIYA US SALAM**'s new release,

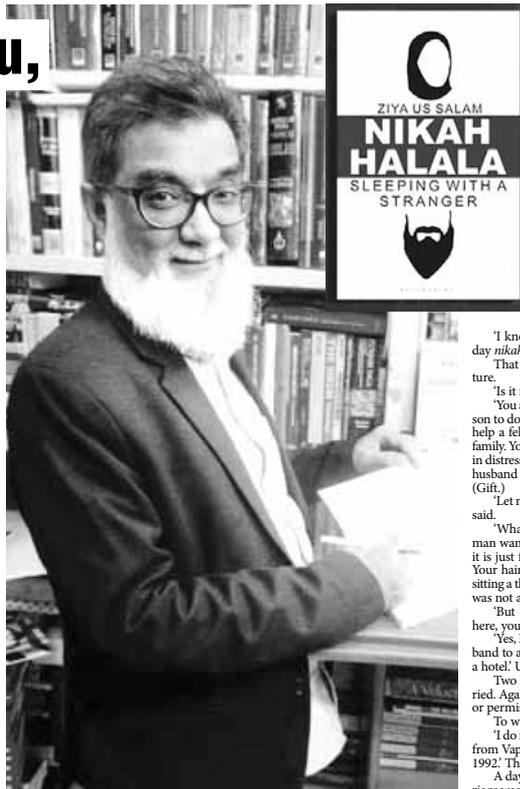
Nikah Halala: Sleeping With a Stranger, exposes the sordid reality of instant triple *talaq* and fake marriages in Islam, a tradition unique to the Indian subcontinent that ends up mocking faith and punishing women for the crimes of men.

An extract:

Muslim society in India remains in a state of denial when it comes to *nikah halala*. The Quran allows divorce twice. After that the spouses either live together happily or divorce gracefully. Nowhere does it allow marriage with a pre-arranged date of divorce to a new man only to go back to the former husband.

Nikah Halala: Sleeping with a Stranger by Ziya Us Salam is a probing exercise that exposes the cycle of instant triple *talaq* followed by a fake marriage, which too ends with another instant triple *talaq* that allows the woman to marry the former husband. While the holy book does not mention instant triple *talaq*, this tradition is unique to the Indian subcontinent that claims to bring squabbling couples together but ends up making a mockery of the faith and punishes women for the crimes of men.

The first-ever book to talk of the subject, *Nikah Halala* presents the sordid reality of mock marriages against the background of Quranic injunction on the sub-



ject and exposes the departure in practice from the teachings of the holy book that gives divorced women complete freedom to follow their path.

An extract:

Islamuddin was not one to rest on his laurels. Through one member of his growing

circle of friends, he heard of a possible vacancy at a mosque in Bombay. It was at Dharavi. The friend put in a good word and Islamuddin started for Bombay. But before that, he packed off his wife and children to Sasaram. He was now single in the big, bad city. He got the job all right but found himself lost and overawed by the

pace of life. It was then that an uncle of his friend, through whom he got the job, put his hand over his head. He told him about what to expect from worshippers, how people often moved out at the end of the prayer without waiting for a collective *dua* to begin. One day, he came up with a proposal that was to change how Islamuddin looked at his wife, his children and, indeed, Islam itself. The uncle, clearly in the late 50s, and manifestly prosperous, suggested he marry a girl. Startled, Islamuddin reminded him, *'Aapko toh pata hai hum bivi-bachhe wale hain'*. (You know, I am married with a wife and kids.)

'I know. I am only suggesting a one-day *nikah*.

That is all,' the uncle cleared the picture.

'Is it not *haram*?'

'You are like a son to me. Will I ask my son to do anything *haram*? This is only to help a fellow Muslim brother to save his family. You will be helping a fellow Muslim in distress,' the uncle insisted, adding, 'Her husband might give you some *nazarana*'.

(Gift)

'Let me speak to my wife,' Islamuddin said.

'What for? How will she know? If a man wants, he can keep four wives. And it is just for a day. You are a young man. Your hair has not gone grey. Your wife is sitting a thousand kilometres away...' Uncle was not about to give up.

'But I have no place to bring a wife here, you know that.'

'Yes, I know. I will ask her former husband to arrange a room in the vicinity of a hotel.' Uncle solved another problem.

Two days later, Islamuddin got married. Again. Without his wife's knowledge or permission.

To whom?

'I do not remember her name. She was from Vapi, I think. It was in 1991 or early 1992.' That is all he can recall in 2019.

A day later, he divorced her. The marriage was consummated. Divorce effected faithfully.

It was to be the first *nikah halala* of his life. Neither before nor afterwards was he sure of the religious validity of the act.

A couple of years later, in 1994, he married another woman. She was from Surat. Her husband was well-educated. He used to teach in a college in Jaipur, I remember. He came with the proposal, Islamuddin

reveals. 'To you directly?' 'No, to the uncle. Nobody ever came to me directly. It was always through that uncle.'

Did uncle solemnise the *nikah halala* himself? 'Who else would do it? Something like this is like charity. One hand should not know what the other has given.'

Sometime in mid-1998, Islamuddin was joined by his wife and children, effectively putting an end or at least a comma to his career as a *halala* husband.

'Do not say that. It was always to help out, to protect families. Otherwise, is there a dearth of women for sex in a place like Mumbai? I left my family more than 40 years ago but never touched a girl out of wedlock.' Fake wedlock, he might clarify. Islamuddin, as we said, always looked for avenues for growth. He learnt from another friend in Mumbai that Dubai offers much more money for the same job.

'But for better chances to find an opening, you will have to shift to Delhi. The agents first come to Delhi. It is only if they do not get qualified people there that they go elsewhere,' he was told.

Once again, Islamuddin packed off his wife to Sasaram; his daughter and elder son were anyway married and settled in Sasaram and Patna respectively.

Once in Delhi, he found a job first in Nizamuddin, then a little later at a small mosque in central Delhi. He was paid better, given accommodation too. Even as he waited for a Dubai opening, a *halala* opportunity arose.

In July 2019, a man working in the fashion industry had divorced his wife through instant triple *talaq*. Some three months later, he wanted her back. Once again, through word of mouth, Islamuddin was approached. This time he readily agreed.

'Will you not ask your wife?'

'No, no, it is not needed.'

'Will you charge anything for it? How much will be the *nikah*?'

'*To jisko husband ki marzi ha, de dijiye.*' (Give whatever her husband wishes.)

We cannot stay here, I am old now. So the *nikah* will have to be solemnised some distance away. And they will have to book a room in a hotel and bear the expenses. But what about the *nikah*?'

'*Woh bhi humein hi dena hoga?*' (I will have to give that too?)

'Yes, Sir. In Islam, marriage cannot be solemnised without *mehr*'.

'Yes, I know. Make it ₹500. But make it fast. I might have to go to Dubai any day. I want to finish your job before going.'

Islamuddin was a seasoned *halala* husband.

NOW A HOME AFFAIR

In keeping with ITC Hotels' commitment towards enhancing gourmet experiences, the chain has announced its partnership with a food delivery platform to offer customers responsible dining in the comfort of their homes



protocol. The latter showcases an array of authentic global culinary delights and also celebrates indigenous flavours of the region

with the chain's culinary initiative — 'Local Love'. Thus, diners can enjoy the subtle flavours of different cuisines, authentic to a

region and culinary style. Anil Chadha, COO of ITC Hotels, said, "We have always showcased the finest culinary



traditions through our globally acclaimed signature brands. However, in a world where change is the order of the day, it has been our endeavour to ensure our patrons continue to enjoy their favourite cuisines through an outreach dining experience in the comfort and safety of their homes. As part of ITC Hotels, Responsible Luxury initiative, the 'WeAssure' programme follows a stringent

hygiene and safety protocol for pan-India home delivery of food to their valued guests. The collaboration with Zomato will further assist us in responsibly delivering our unique culinary experiences using their advanced distribution network across the country."

"ITC Hotels are known not just for their luxurious hospitality but also for their culinary delights. We are glad to partner with them. With the growing trend of celebrations at home, we believe that ITC's exclusive gourmet and indigenous food offerings powered by our wide on-ground delivery network will offer great food delivery options for consumers celebrating small or large occasions. Zomato will ensure that its safety measures are well implemented in every delivery," added Mohit Sardana, COO, Food Delivery, Zomato.

Zomato has implemented eight Max Safety measures to ensure utmost safety of food. These measures include — restaurants follow WHO practices; contactless delivery; both restaurant staff and delivery partners wear masks; temperature checks and sanitisation stations for both kitchen staff and delivery partners and mandatory use of Aarogya Setu app.

Man City free to play Champions League

CAS lifts club's two-year ban from European competition, cuts fine to \$16m

AFP ■ LONDON

Manchester City's two-year UEFA ban from European football has been overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), the Lausanne-based court said on Monday.

The CAS ruled that the English Premier League runners-up did not breach financial fair play (FFP) rules by disguising equity funding as sponsorship, and also imposed a lower \$10 million (\$15.7 million) fine for failing to co-operate with the continental football governing body.

The club welcomes the implications of today's ruling as a validation of the club's position and the body of evidence that it was able to present," City said in a statement.

The decision means Pep Guardiola's team will compete in next season's Champions League, for which they have qualified by finishing second to Liverpool in the Premier League. The club also leads Real Madrid 2-1 in this season's round of 16 after the away leg.

City was accused of deliberately inflating the value of income from sponsors with links to the Abu Dhabi United Group, also owned by City owner Sheikh Mansour, to avoid falling out of FFP regulations between 2012 and 2016.

The case against City was reopened when German magazine Der Spiegel published a series of leaked e-mails in 2018.

"Most of the alleged breaches reported by the (UEFA) adjudicatory chamber of the club financial control body were either not established or time-barred," CAS said in a statement. UEFA had ruled in February that



TOP-4 RACE INTENSIFIES

LONDON: Manchester City's success in overturning its Champions League ban on Monday has huge ramifications on the Premier League and the remaining two teams that will qualify for Europe's top club competition. Chelsea, Manchester United and Leicester — and maybe Wolverhampton Wanderers and Sheffield United, too — are now fighting for two qualifying spots instead of three with two weeks of the season remaining.

The most concerned team is likely to be Leicester. In the top four since September — and, in December, even looking like the most realistic title challenger to Liverpool — Leicester has imploded, collecting only two wins from its last 11 league games stretching back to the end of January.

After losing to relegation-threatened Bournemouth 4-1 on Sunday, Leicester will find itself in fifth place if Man United beats Southampton on Monday. United appears much more likely to secure a top-four finish and return to the Champions League after a season's absence.

City had committed serious breaches of FFP regulations and failed to co-operate with its investigation, handing them a ban and a \$30 million fine.

City denied any wrongdoing and their appeal was heard over three days by the CAS last month.

Without Champions League football, the side could miss out on at least £100 million (\$175.3 million) in prize money and broadcast revenue, as well as match day and other income.

The FFP regulations are designed to stop clubs running up big losses through spending on players. They also ensure sponsorship deals are based on their real market value and are genuine commercial agreements — and not ways for owners to pump cash into a club to get around the rules.

City cheered the decision that will have huge ramifications on the club's finances and potentially the future of Spanish manager Pep Guardiola and star players such as Kevin de Bruyne and Raheem Sterling.

While Manchester City and its legal advisers are yet to review the full ruling by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the club welcomes the implications of today's ruling as a validation of the club's position and the body of evidence that it was able to present," City said in a statement.

Since Sheikh Mansour's takeover 12 years ago, City's fortunes have been transformed from perennially living in the shadow of local rivals Manchester United to winning four Premier League titles in the past eight years among 11 major trophies.

Last Saturday, they secured qualification for the Champions League for a 10th consecutive season with a 5-0 win at Brighton.



Foxes collapse at Vitality

AP ■ BOURNEMOUTH

Dominic Solanke scored twice as Bournemouth's bid for Premier League survival was boosted by a 4-1 victory over Champions League-chasing Leicester, which was reduced to 10 men.

Solanke's weak shot trickled under Schmeichel's woful attempt to save.

Leicester defender Caglar Soyuncu sent off for kicking Wilson as he attempted to retrieve the ball from the net after Solanke's goal.

They were the striker's first goals since joining from Liverpool in January 2019 after failing to score in his 38 previous league appearances.

Bournemouth's first win in 10 games, a drought stretching back to February 1, moved them to within three points of 17th placed Watford, with three goals left for all the teams in the relegation fight.

But Bournemouth turned the game on Sunday in its favor during a two-minute spell which saw Leicester lose a player.

Fourth-placed Leicester will drop to fifth if Manchester United beat Southampton on Monday, leaving their hopes of Champions League qualification in danger.

In the 66th minute, Leicester keeper Kasper Schmeichel boot a goal-kick into Wilfried Ndidi's back, forcing his teammate to trip Callum Wilson.

"I didn't see that coming but we are not good enough to get too comfortable. We will finish where we deserve to," Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers said.



Sevilla almost book top 4 spot

AFP ■ SEVILLE

Sevilla all-but secured Champions League qualification by beating relegation battlers Real Mallorca 2-0 on Sunday in La Liga.

Lucas Ocampos scored a first-half penalty before Youssef En-Nesyri added a second late on to move Sevilla nine points clear of fifth-placed Villarreal.

With three games left and the superior head-to-head, Villarreal are not mathematically out of contention but they would have to take maximum points and see Sevilla lose both of their remaining matches.

"Champions League qualification was our objective," said Sevilla's Fernando Reges. "We are very close and now we just have some small steps left to make it."

Finishing in the top four would be an impressive achievement for Sevilla and their coach Julen Lopetegui, who took over last year following his nightmares in charge of Spain and Real Madrid.

They could even yet finish third, though they sit level on points with Atletico Madrid.

Defeat damages Real Madrid's hopes of avoiding relegation. They remain three points behind Atletico, who have a superior record head-to-head and a game in hand against Getafe on Monday.

Milan keep European hopes alive

NAPLES: AC Milan kept their hopes of European football alive on Sunday with a 2-2 draw at Napoli that leaves them with a strong chance of reaching the Europa League.

Franck Kessie's penalty 17 minutes from time gave Milan a battling point in Naples after Giovanni Di Lorenzo and Dries Mertens had put the hosts deservedly ahead with an hour gone.

The draw leaves Napoli in sixth place and the final Europa League spot, but as Genaro Gattuso's side have already qualified for the competition's group stage by



winning the Italian Cup, seventh place currently offers a place into the qualifying rounds.

"When you get results and put in strong performances against this kind of opponent, it really boosts your confidence," said Milan coach Stefano Pioli.

Tho Hernandez gave the away side the lead against the run of play with 19 minutes gone when he met Ante Rebic's brilliant cross with a thumping volley, but Napoli responded brilliantly to going behind.

ted out to Di Lorenzo, who tapped home.

Mertens put the hosts ahead on the hour mark when he set Jose Callejon's low cross with a shot that was deflected past Donnarumma by Alessio Romagnoli.

From there it looked like there would only be one winner but the hosts were given the perfect chance to equalise when Nikola Maksimovic brought down Giacomo Bonaventura in the area. Kessie made no mistake from the spot, rifling his finish past David Ospina.

PSG welcome fans with 9-0 win

AFP ■ PARIS

Paris Saint-Germain routed second division Le Havre in a friendly on Sunday remarkable not for the 9-0 score, but because it drew the biggest crowd for a match in one of Europe's Big Five football nations since early March.

The French Government relaxed the health protocols before the weekend to allow for a total attendance of 5,000, including players, journalists and staff, at games and while the match at Le Havre was not the first to be played, the others involved only lower-division clubs.

For the game at Le Havre, the tickets, priced between 30 euros (\$34) and 60 euros, sold out in six minutes.

"It is a victory for French football, sport in general," said outgoing Sports Minister Roxana Marcineanu who was at the match.

"I am delighted that football in France can resume in a popular way, with more people in the stadiums. It is the only country in western Europe to be able to do this," Unlike Germany, England,

Italy and Spain, France abandoned its league season in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, but when the other four countries resumed their leagues, they did so behind closed doors.

Although social distancing rules were in place, fans took a few liberties once they were in the 25,000-capacity Stade Ocean on Sunday.

On the field, Neymar and Mauro Icardi each scored twice and Kylian Mbappe once before PSG made 10 changes leading 5-0 at half time.

Pablo Sarabia, with two, Idrissa Gueye and Arnaud Kalimuendo scored in the first 15 minutes of the second half to complete the rout as PSG started to warm up for a busy few weeks in late July and early August.

PSG are due to play Saint-Etienne in the French Cup final on July 24 and Lyon in the French League Cup Final on July 31 before resuming their Champions League campaign away to Atlanta on August 12.

Both French finals will be at the 80,000-seat Stade de France in Paris.



Pellegrini wants Betis fighting in Europe

MADRID: Manuel Pellegrini's main goal in his new coaching job with Real Betis is to make the Spanish club a regular in European competitions.

Pellegrini was officially introduced as Betis' new coach on Monday after signing a three-year deal that will begin next season.

"This is a team that has to be fighting for European competitions," the Chilean coach said. "It needs it as an institution and it will be my main objective to help the club take that leap and achieve better results on the field."

Pellegrini helped Villarreal thrive in Europe more than a decade ago, making it to the Champions League semifinals in 2006 and quarterfinals in 2009. He also led the club to runners-up finish in the Spanish league in 2008.

"If they told me before arriving at Villarreal that we would play in the semifinals and quarterfinals of the Champions League, or that we would finish second in La Liga,



people would have said that that was crazy," the 66-year-old said in a statement issued on Monday.

"I'm convinced that Betis has a squad with a lot of quality and that can achieve great things," Pellegrini said. "I will try to help with my experience to try to get the most out of the team."

U-17 WWC will be held behind closed doors in worst-case scenario: AIFF

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup will be held behind closed doors only in the worst-case scenario, All India Football Federation general secretary Kushal Das said on Monday amid a continued rise in the country's Covid-19 case count.

Already postponed once, the tourney is to be held from February 17 to March 7 next year as per the revised schedule.

"In the worst case scenario, we will have to do it behind closed doors and that will be a pity (especially after the grand success of the

I-LEAGUE MUST GO ON

NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation plans to go ahead with the 2020-21 I-League season even if the clubs' star foreign recruits are unable to make it due to the coronavirus-forced travel restrictions.

International flights remain suspended since March owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The league must go on even if without foreigners. But there are other people including the league committee chairman, Mr Subrata Dutta (who will also be needed to be on same page) AIFF general secretary Kushal Das said on Monday. PTI



England's batting still their nemesis: Hussain

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

England's batting continues to remain their 'nemesis' despite the focus being on stand-in captain Ben Stokes' questionable decisions in the opening Test against the West Indies, feels former skipper Nasser Hussain.

Questions were raised even before the match began as senior pacer Stuart Broad was dropped from the crucial encounter. Stokes then handed the visitors the ball after winning the toss under grey skies, resulting in England being bowled out for 204 in the first innings.

"Let's not get lost with the Broad issue or the toss issue. England having batted first were bowled out for 204 — that is still their nemesis," Hussain was quoted as saying by Sky Sports.

"They did well in South Africa, but in England, against the Dukes ball, they often find themselves 20-3, 30-3, and without

Root in the side this week that was a nightmare. That is still the issue for England," he added.

The two teams head to Manchester to play the second Test of the three-match series, starting on Thursday, and Hussain feels England need to replicate the series-winning batting performance they put up earlier this year against South Africa.

"They are going to a good surface at Old Trafford. Root is back and they have to bat like they did in South Africa this winter and at points in New Zealand. Not by being 204 all out."

Hussain said maybe England underestimated West Indies, citing that had it been the Ashes, Broad would have been a definite starter.

"All I would say about Broad is that if this had been the first Test of an Ashes series, would he have been playing, I would say, yes, 100 per cent? So why wasn't he playing against the West Indies?"

"Was it because we underestimated West Indies and took them lightly? They hold the Wisden Trophy — we have underestimated them in the past and they have beaten us, so why do it here?"

Hussain said the West Indies played 'exceptional cricket' and the win will boost their confidence heading to Manchester.

"It's great for West Indies on so many different levels. They deserve it for coming over to England (amid the coronavirus pandemic) and doing what they have had to (quarantine and be in a bubble)."

"Winning like that was absolutely phenomenal — and that's why it was an important win. Imagine doing all that and then losing after bosing this game. They would then have driven up to Manchester thinking 'we have done all the right things and we are 1-0 down,' Hussain added.

NZ cricketers start squad training

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's top cricketers returned to squad training on Monday at the country's High Performance Centre in Lincoln after a prolonged break caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a statement issued on Monday, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) announced that six national camps will be conducted till September.

"New Zealand's top male and female cricketers will return to squad training at the NZC High Performance Centre in Lincoln this week, in the first of six national camps scheduled for the coming winter months," read the release from NZC.

"The South Island and Wellington based BLACKCAPS and WHITE



Nicholls, Matt Henry and Daryl Mitchell. Skipper Kane Williamson will be part of the batch that will start training next week in Mount Maunganui.

The men's team players trained in the second half of the day. New Zealand's first camp in Lincoln will get over on July 16. It will be followed by training camps in August (10 to 13) and September (dates not yet decided). PTI