

WORLD 7
JUDGE ALLOWS RELEASE OF JOHN BOLTON'S BOOK

MONEY 8
DIESEL PRICE HITS RECORD HIGH AFTER RATES HIKED FOR 14TH DAY IN A ROW

SPORT 10
MORTAZA TESTS +VE FOR COVID-19



sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY JUNE 21, 2020; PAGES 12-4 ₹4



USUALSUSPECTS SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Modi's leadership a hurdle in China's strategic agenda

The suggestion — it is probably more accurate to view it as an outburst — by Union Minister Ramdas Athawale calling on Indians to eschew Chinese food has been greeted with a mixture of bewilderment and ridicule. The Republican Party stalwart who is in alliance with the BJP has the tendency to make frivolous interventions in the Rajya Sabha which are calculated to provoke his adversaries. But his highly individualistic style doesn't imply that he lacks political sense. There is method in Athawale's seeming flippancy.

There is palpable public anger over the clash with Chinese forces on the Ladakh border that has led to the death of 20 Indian soldiers. The belief that China cannot really be trusted is a sentiment that first expressed itself during and after the border conflict in 1962 in which India was humiliated. The national humiliation rubbed off on Jawaharlal Nehru and India's first Prime Minister lost a great deal of his political sheen. It was fortunate for Nehru that the border war happened after the general election where the Congress coasted to a comfortable victory. Had the border conflict erupted into a full-scale war in 1961, the ire that was subsequently directed at VK Krishna Menon and Army Chief General Thapar would have been channelled against the Prime Minister.

The charge of trusting China and investing too much on developing a personal bond with Xi Jing Ping has now been levelled against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, while the Opposition is expected to use every opportunity to embarrass the Government and try and make political capital over the loss of soldiers' lives, the charge is unlikely to stick.

First, unlike Nehru who went out of his way to portray China as a natural ally in the larger fight against Western domination, Modi has presented the relationship with our eastern neighbour as a complex problem that warrants unending attention, including attempts to effect a personal bonding with the Communist leadership. It will be difficult to point to instances where Modi — unlike Nehru — has presented a rosy picture of bonhomie.

Secondly, where Nehru was relatively lax on national security, somehow believing that China shared common ideals with India, the Modi Government has taken the position that China — if not an outright enemy — is a determined adversary, and that India's strategic and economic evolution will have to factor in Beijing's subterfuge. India's focus for the past six years has been capacity enhancement and forging deeper relationships with other world powers.

True, there has been a major setback in Nepal. The present political dispensation in Kathmandu appears to have more or less decided that it must terminate its special relationship with India and move formally into the embrace of Beijing. This has added to neighbourhood complications and sharply underlined the fact that China will do all it takes to pin India down.

Finally, it is also clear that China has an aversion to Indian influence in Asia and the world. Archival documents now clearly reveal that the Chinese leadership developed an allergy to Nehru because they saw him as both arrogant and a man who rose above his station. It would not be surprising if the present leadership — notwithstanding whatever political tensions that may exist between the People's Liberation Army and the political leadership — entertain a similar view of Modi. They probably view Modi as more dangerous because his foreign policy is backed by India's growing economic importance in the world. Consequently, even if the military option is exercised with caution, Beijing will persist with its schemes to constantly undermine Modi.

The perception of Modi as a major irritant who dares to oppose the Belt and Road scheme and puts obstacles in the path of China's domination of the Indian market, witness the refusal to join RCEP, is very strong. China is a very determined power that does not play by the book when it comes to furthering its national and strategic interests. The decision to redraw the LAC in the Ladakh sector was an attempt to test India's responses and try and puncture Modi's reputation both internally and externally.

It naturally follows that a bid to weaken Modi internally is an important facet of this approach. Proof of Beijing's direct involvement in India's domestic politics may be difficult to come by at present. However, if the evidence of the Soviet Union's involvement in Indian politics as revealed by the Mitrokhin archives is anything to go by, the quantum of encouragement to individuals and institutions opposed to Modi is certain to be significant. The people of India should be alert to this possibility that their internal political differences will be used by China to further its larger strategic agenda. In this climate, countervailing pressure, including the economic and cultural boycott of China, is inescapable — although care must be taken to not alienate countries such as Singapore and Taiwan where there are large numbers of resident ethnic Chinese.

Yes, as the Athawale prescription indicates, there are often excesses. But even his idea has to be kept in perspective. The battle on the Home Front involves the detection and decimation of what is best called the Vichy mentality. No further elaboration is necessary.

PM's remarks misconstrued: PMO

Clarification says violence in Galwan arose because Chinese side was seeking to erect structures just across LAC, India would respond firmly to any attempts to transgress LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated before all-party meeting that Chinese "neither entered our territory nor has any post been taken over by them on the Indian side", the Government on Saturday issued a clarification that focussed on the bloody clash on the night of June 15 between Chinese and Indian jawans but remained silent on which side of the LAC it took place.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said attempts are being made to give "mischievous interpretation" to Prime Minister's remarks at the all-party meeting while referring to the Galwan valley clash in Ladakh on the intervening nights of June 15-16.

"As regards transgression of LAC, it was clearly stated that the violence in Galwan on June 15 arose because Chinese side was seeking to erect structures just across the LAC and refused to desist from such actions," clarified the PMO.

The clarification does not match with what has been stated by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) three times. The PMO said structures "across the LAC" while the MEA had said "on our side of the LAC".

The clarification came after



the PM faced barrage of question from military experts and strategic analysts on how the Indian soldiers were killed if the Chinese side didn't intrude into our territory.

But the statement didn't clarify if across the LAC has been used to describe the Indian side of the LAC or Chinese side.

"The Prime Minister was clear that India would respond firmly to any attempts to transgress the Line of Actual Control (LAC). In fact, he specifically emphasised that in contrast to the past neglect of such challenges, Indian forces now decisively counter any violations of

CLARIFICATION

○ The violence in Galwan on June 15 arose because Chinese side was seeking to erect structures just across the LAC and refused to desist from such actions, said the PMO

○ The clarification also does not match with what has been stated officially by MEA three times

○ The PMO said structures "across the LAC" while MEA had said "on our side of the LAC"

○ The clarification came after the PM faced barrage of question from military experts and strategic analysts on how the Indian soldiers were killed if the Chinese side didn't intrude into our territory

LAC (*unhe rokte hain, unhe tokte hain*)," said the statement from the PMO.

Attempts are being made in some quarters to give a mischievous interpretation to remarks by the Prime Minister on Friday, it said.

"The all-party meeting was also informed that this time, Chinese forces have come in much larger strength to the LAC and that the Indian response is commensurate. As

regards transgression of LAC, it was clearly stated that the violence in Galwan on June 15 arose because Chinese side was seeking to erect structures just across the LAC and refused to desist from such actions," the PMO said.

The Prime Minister paid glowing tributes to the valour and patriotism of our armed forces "who repulsed the designs of the Chinese there".

Turn to Page 4

India rejects Beijing's untenable sovereignty claim over Galwan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and China are now engaged in a bitter war of words for status of the Galwan valley with China laying claim to it and India terming it a "exaggerated and untenable" assertion.

China fired the first shot when it added a new twist to ongoing tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh by laying claim to the entire Galwan valley and blaming India for fomenting trouble leading to the bloody clashes on June 15 leading to killing of 20 India soldiers.

"India hit back by saying the position with regard to Galwan valley area has been historically clear. Attempts by Chinese side to now advance exaggerated and untenable claims with regard to LAC there aren't acceptable. They aren't in accordance with China's own past position," Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement on Saturday.

The MEA also said Indian troops were fully familiar with the alignment of LAC in all sec-

tors of India-China border areas, including in Galwan valley. They abide by it scrupulously here, as they do elsewhere, the MEA said.

The armies of the two countries are in a stand-off here for the last one month after the Chinese army stopped an Indian patrol and objected to the construction of a bridge. India, all along, has maintained that the bridge and the 250-km Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie road running parallel to the LAC is in its region and the Chinese have no right to interfere. Incidentally, India has finished the construction of the 60 metre bridge in the valley.

The Chinese official statement issued through its Embassy in the early hours of Saturday came hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with heads of all parties on the bloody brawl in the Galwan Valley and situation on the LAC.

In its statement the Chinese Government said "the Galwan Valley is located on the Chinese side of the LAC in the western section of the Sino-Indian border." On Tuesday, the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Western Theatre Command spokesman Colonel Zhang Shuili said, "China always owns sovereignty over the Galwan Valley region." Reacting to the PLA statement, India's Ministry of External Affairs described the claims as "exaggerated and untenable."

Accusing China of trying to create hindrance in patrol duty performed by Indian jawans, the MEA said, "Since early May 2020, Chinese have been hindering India's normal patrolling pattern in the area. This resulted in face-off which was addressed by ground commanders. We don't accept the contention that India was unilaterally changing status quo."

Turn to Page 4

PM surrendered our territory to Chinese aggression: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In one of his sharpest attacks on the Prime Minister, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Sunday alleged Narendra Modi has "surrendered" Indian territory to Chinese aggression.

A day after the Prime Minister asserted that the Chinese troops did not intrude into the Indian territory, Rahul Gandhi asked why and where were the Indian soldiers killed if the land, where the "violent face-off" happened, was a Chinese territory.

"The PM has surrendered Indian territory to Chinese aggression. If the land was Chinese: 1. Why were our soldiers killed? 2. Where were they killed?" Rahul asked through a tweet message.

Hours after the PMO issued a clarification regarding

Narendra Modi's concluding remarks at the all-party meeting on the border issue with China, the Congress stated that the PMO's statement was "clearly a lame attempt to obfuscate the truth".

Former Union Minister P Chidambaram too hit out at Modi and said his statements at the all-party meeting is "baffling" and left everyone "bewildered".

"It is quite obvious that the PM's statement contradicts the earlier statements made by the Army chief, the Defence Minister and the Foreign Minister. PM Modi's remarks have left everyone baffled and bewildered. If no Chinese troops have crossed into our territory what was the face-off on May 5 and May 6. Where were our troops martyred and injured," asked Chidambaram.

Turn to Page 4



Activists burn an effigy of Chinese President Xi Jinping during a protest in Kolkata on Saturday

PTI

Has China entered Doklam, clarify, Swamy asks Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Has the Chinese People's Liberation Army re-entered Doklam? BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy on Saturday referred to international media reports to ask if China has scrapped the agreement on Doklam with India which the two nations had agreed upon last year.

China had agreed to withdraw troops from Doklam after the agreement, however, with the ongoing situation over LAC, Swamy quoted sources as saying the Chinese People's Liberation Army has re-entered Doklam, and asked the Government to clarify on the issue if its true or baseless.

Turn to Page 4

Pompeo tears into 'rogue actor' China for 'escalating' border tension with India

Washington: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has criticised the Chinese Army for "escalating" the border tension with India and militarising the strategic South China Sea as he described the ruling Communist Party of China as a "rogue actor".

In a scathing attack on the Chinese Government, Pompeo said the Communist Party of China wants to undo all the progress the free world has made through institutions like the NATO and adopt a new set of rules and norms that accommodate Beijing.

"The People's Liberation Army has escalated border tensions with India, the world's most populous democracy. It's militarising the South China Sea and illegally claiming more territory there, threatening vital sea lanes," Pompeo said, a day after he expressed condolences on the death of 20 Indian soldiers. **PTI**

Detailed report on P4

CAPSULE

94-YR-OLD WOMAN BACK HOME AFTER 40 YEARS

Bhopal: Thanks to the Internet, a 94-Year-old woman from Maharashtra who had gone missing four decades ago has been reunited with her family. Unfortunately, when Panchubai, the woman, reached her grandson's house in Nagpur three days ago, she could not meet her son.

RAIN BRINGS RELIEF FROM SEARING HEAT IN DELHI

New Delhi: A spell of early-morning rain brought respite from sweltering weather in the national Capital and neighbouring areas on Saturday.

US arrests man for role in 26/11 on India request

Washington: Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana has been rearrested in Los Angeles on an extradition request by India for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack in which 166 people were killed, according to the US prosecutors.

Rana, 59, a childhood friend of David Coleman Headley, was recently released from jail on compassionate ground after he told a US court that he has tested positive for the Covid-19. Assistant US Attorney John J Lulejian told the court that the Indian Government, as per the bilateral Extradition Treaty signed in 1997, has requested the arrest of Rana with a view towards his extradition. **PTI**

Detailed report on P4

Home isolation valid as LG rolls back mandatory 5-day institutional stay

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After the Kejriwal Government raised objection to Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal's order for mandatory five-day institutional quarantine for Covid-19 patients, the L-G on Saturday said it would be required for only those who do not need hospitalisation and do not have adequate facilities for home isolation.

The order of five-day mandatory institutional quarantine was opposed by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Deputy Manish Sisodia in a meeting of Delhi State Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on Saturday. The L-G after the meeting

said in a tweet, "Regarding institutional isolation, only those Covid positive cases which do not require hospitalisation on clinical assessment & do not have adequate facilities for home isolation would be required to undergo institutional isolation."

After the Disaster Management Authority meeting, Sisodia said the LG's reservations over home isolation were resolved in the SDMA meeting and the home quarantine system will continue. "We thank L-G for this. Under the leadership of our Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, we will not let Delhi people have any inconvenience," he tweeted.

Turn to Page 4

Covid-19 IN INDIA



TOTAL CASES: 4,11,382
DEATHS: 13,346
RECOVERED: 2,28,144
ACTIVE: 1,69,842

CASES OVER WHOPPING 4 LAKH

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	1,28,205	6,053	64,153
Tamil Nadu	56,845	704	31,316
Delhi	56,746	2,112	31,294
Gujarat	26,737	1,639	18,702
Uttar Pradesh	17,135	529	10,369
Rajasthan	14,537	337	11,274
West Bengal	13,531	540	7,865
Madhya Pradesh	11,724	501	8,880
Haryana	10,223	149	5,128
Karnataka	8,697	132	5,391
Andhra Pradesh	8,452	101	4,111
Bihar	7,503	49	5,367
Telangana	7,072	203	3,506
Jammu & Kashmir	5,834	81	3,336
Assam	5,006	9	3,203
Odisha	4,856	15	3,534

HOME THEATRE

Sush power plugs all gaps



ARYA
DISNEY+HOTSTAR ORIGINAL
9 episodes

*ing: Sushmita Sen, Chandrachur Singh, Sikander Kher, Namit Das and Jayant Kriplani
Rated: 6.5/10

Sushmita Sen acs this crime family drama with finesse, power and ownership of the role of Arya Sarin, the daughter of a retired don and the loving wife of an otherwise good-hearted man who runs an illegal drugs business through his pharmaceutical company.

This series in its original form was a Dutch rage, but *Aarya* would have to fight for eyeballs, considering OTT platforms have got into the habit of Big Friday releases with growing regularity, thanks to COVID-19 closures.

Had it not been for the sterling performance of the ever beautiful Sushmita, *Aarya* would have been notches lower in public imagination. She is not just chiselled in her body frame but also as the simple yet doughty Arya who gets sucked into the business despite not wanting to. As a mother of three, very beautifully characterised children, she is a story of responsibility which she takes seriously enough to get her viewers on her side. Her performance all through the nine episodes is so strong and monopolising that you forget she is back on the screen after a decade long hiatus.

What eats into her presence somewhat is the creator Ram Madhvani's failure to build

moments, keep them short and not let the thriller sag in places. Each episode is longer than a short film, around an hour, and 12 of them put together makes you feel the need to hire an editor with a keen clip on wastage.

Though there are many characters populating this web series, and many do stand out in their cameos, Sikander Kher as an enigmatic hatchet man for her father, emits screen presence. So, it is almost criminal for the director to have used him as a reserve spare part when he could have added to the grilling sequences with more of a job to do.

Though it was also a comeback for Chandrachur Singh, he is dismissed too soon into peripherals despite him being as tasteful as he was in *Maachis* all those decades ago, but for the surprising flab he has gathered in the intervening years.

As crime family dramas go *Aarya* is there but not there on top. Also, screen time could have been cut and episodes reduced to manageable time, an hour being too long to switch to the next one in continuity.

The no-spoiler protocol takes one away from revealing anything about the story but suffice it to say, there is a ploy for Season 2 which probably would need fresh thinking.

The music powered by old Hindi songs, and some fusion music around the Bhagwat Geeta, is both soothing, nostalgic and mesmerising.

Meanwhile, Sushmita is a delight to be with, after such a long time. And yes, she is as arresting as usual.

Justice done Your Honor

YOUR HONOUR

SonyLiv
12 episodes
*ing: Jimmy Shergill, Varun Badola, Meeta Vashishth
Rated: 8/10

What a man can do or turn into when it comes to saving his progeny from law is what this intense, perfectly timed episodic drama tells you in a gripping, no-nonsense tale unfolding over some seven hours.

Seven hours for a web series is a good time frame and the director does well to limit episodes to not more than 35 minutes each. The timing of the episodes works very well with absorbing the story and not getting fatigued with screen time — if, that is, you have the kind of control to not be drawn into binge watching.

Your Honor persuades you into doing just that with the episode-from-episode tugging continuity which compels you into tuning into the next one with the inevitable "what happens next" question.



After a trial court judge's son gets involved in a hit-and-run case, Judge Khosla, always the protector of law and known for his honest judgements, does everything he can but shouldn't, to save his son from jail.

What complicates matters is the fact that the victim with serious head injuries, turns out to be the son of a dreaded criminal who Khosla had sent to jail for life.

The series stands tall on three principle pillars which go by the name of Jimmy Shergill, Varun Badola and Mita Vashishth. This does not mean that the capers by more than three others are not

fleshed out or play their part any less.

Shergill as the judge scripts a believable performance with unbelievable nuances as the server of justice plays with law as a toddler would with a chewy toy. His wide eyes, his holier than thou look, his chicanery hidden under his reputation for justice, Shergill helms a role not easy to navigate. As he turns from friend, honest citizen, respectful mentor and the ultimate server of justice to a selfish father with no qualms of manipulating friends, contacts and an intern to serve his purpose, is what fleshes out this gripping story.

Varun Badola, too, scripts the role of a man who rose from the underbelly of poverty to serving as an honest commandant of CRPF, thanks to the largesse of the Judge in whose home his mother was a maid, with precision and gumption. He forces you to feel for him and his predicament with his powerful performance which never goes into hysterics but is a textbook for histrionics.

Meeta Vashishth as the all seen nothing hidden senior inspector of a crime prone district is simply brilliant in body language, diction and screen presence. She simmers all through, infecting you with anticipation and angst.

The story, as mentioned, is taut, very you and me, simple and yet engagingly potent. Even for one moment you do not feel, it is an import from Israel, so beautifully from director E. Niwas adapted it to Punjab's sights and sounds.

Such content is welcome, even if the cinema halls reopen sometime in September.

Plan Your Stay At Home Father's Day

Not all superheroes wear capes. And that's certainly true for all the fathers out there who are truly the epitome of kindness and care. Perhaps the most underrated, our supercool Dads have silently shadowed us right from our first baby steps into this world. And no matter how tall we've grown, he is someone we will always look up to. On this Father's Day, take some time to bond with your favourite hero who made it all possible as &flix and &PrivéHD curate the perfect binge-watch experience for you two.

Buckle-up for an evening of intense sci-fi action and adventure with the coolest Dad films of Hollywood airing 3 pm onwards as part of Father's Day Special on &flix. That's not all! Bringing you a day-long binge of cinema that exalts this beautiful Dad-child bond on &PrivéHD starting 7 am.

An overprotective Dracula-Dad and his little sweetheart, a formidable dad-son duo in an epic robot-combat or a father-son team stranded in a post-apocalyptic world — sounds like the perfect recipe for a thrilling action ride. This Father's Day, it's time to #LeapForth into a futuristic world full of possibilities and a fantasy-filled ride with a bunch of monsters. Join the real-life dad-son duo Will Smith and Jaden Smith as Cypher and Kitai in their ultimate struggle for survival in the Academy Award-nominee and M. Night Shyamalan's masterpiece *After Life*. Root for your favourite robot in the action-legend Hugh Jackman and Dakota Goyo starrer *Real Steel*.

Discover the perils of a broken family as a divorced couple fight for the custody of their only son in the five-time Academy Award-winning movie *Kramer vs Kramer* on &PrivéHD. And prepare for a rib-tickling ride as the King of comedy, Robin Williams shows you how it's done in *World's Greatest Dad*.

MUSIC TO THE EARS

HCL, on June 18 announced the launch of 'Soundscapes', an initiative by HCL Concerts on the weekend of World Music Day, bringing to fore the rich and inclusive music from across the Indian landscape. The programme will host live, virtual performances. Soundscapes debuted on June 19 featuring popular Rajasthan folk musician — Mame Khan, followed by award-winning Sufi artist — Kavita Seth on June 20 and culminating with popular music performance by Dr Palash Sen with Euphoria on June 21. The performances will be live-streamed on Facebook page of HCL Concerts (www.facebook.com/HCLConcerts) at 7 pm.

KEEPS YOU ENGGROSSED

PENGUIN

Amazon Prime
*ing: Keerthy Suresh, Lingaa, Madhampathy Rangaraj, Master Advith, Mathi
Rated: 9/10



It is not very often that you get to see a mystery thriller film. But then *Penguin* is not a Bollywood product and for people from North India, we don't follow everything that comes out of Tollywood. Here is an advantage. The OTT platforms have made it possible for us to widen our viewership and *Penguin* comes as a pleasant surprise.

Interestingly, it is not your typical whodunnit thriller.

This is what works for this film that has been well-written and directed by Eashvar Karthik who has taken a woman as a central character to weave a story of a mother who embarks on a

journey to find her missing son. Keerthy Suresh who plays the mother on a quest plays to the gallery and her anguish comes across loud and clear. One identifies with her character and the need to find out who took her and why. It is a movie that is going to resonate with all the mothers out there.

The rest of the starcast lend their support to add to the storyline and despite the fact that the film has been released in Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam, the English subtitles make it easy to follow and keep one engrossed and glued till the end.

— Shalini Saksena

'Doing mythological shows was not my calling'

Known for shows like Miley Jab Hum Tum and Hitler Didi, RATI PANDEY never thought of exploring the mythological genre. She speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about what made her say yes to Dangal TV's Devi... and the challenges that came with it

■ What made you take up Devi Aadi Parishakti?

Initially, it was because of my relationship with Swastik Productions. Siddharth and Rahul Tewary are like a family. I am very thankful to them because whenever I have worked with them, it never felt that I am working for a producer. They convinced me to play Parvati.

■ Were there any apprehensions before saying yes?

When I was approached for the show, I was a little apprehensive because it was a mythological show and I hadn't done these kind of roles before, but they convinced me to do it. Now that I have stepped into it, it has been a great experience so far.

■ Did you have to go out of your comfort zone to get into the skin of the character?

Mythological shows are comparatively difficult as they are a costume drama. So I did have to step out of my comfort zone quite a bit, be it the makeup, the clothes or the accessories, all of them are extravagant. It takes almost four-five people and quite a few hours of putting it together. Not only this but even the language used is unlike what we speak for the daily soaps — *shudh* Hindi. Sometimes it takes extra effort to understand the meaning of the dialogues and then perform.

■ How did acting happen?

It started back in 2006. I started my professional journey with Tollywood which I didn't want to continue because of homesickness and other issues. Later, when I started doing TV shows, I was offered to play lead characters. The viewers liked my performance. Then I started enjoying the process. However, I still feel there is a lot more to do in life considering no age factor.

■ How easy or difficult was it to be a part of the industry?

It was easy working in the TV industry. I have completed 14 years now and there is a vast difference from the time we used to work before and

Mythological shows are comparatively difficult as they are a costume drama. So I did have to step out of my comfort zone quite a bit, be it the makeup, the clothes or the accessories, everything has to be extravagant



now. There is so much hate and hurry now. Sometimes you don't have time for yourself. I feel there should be lesser episodes and lesser time duration so that the actor can breathe and enjoy what they are doing. Also, there is been stagnancy at some point.

■ A role that comes close to you?

All these shows and roles are equally important for me. I had put in equal efforts and was equally passionate about them all. Furthermore, I have enjoyed all my roles to the fullest because all of them were unique in their own way. Having said that, *Mile Jab Hum Tum* will always be very close to my heart. The role of Nupur was unique.

■ What kept you busy during the lockdown?

Honestly, I needed time with my family, especially my parents and my niece and the lockdown helped me. I have spent quality time with them and their happy faces are what that keeps me going. We are all going through this pressing situation together.

The world is facing the wrath of this virus together. It is a very stressful situation and now we all are working towards as much normalcy as possible. Not everyone can stay at home, some people are depressed and upset because of difficult with every passing day. My message to all those people is to have a positive attitude and let's fight this together. Please reach out to the right kind of help whenever needed.

■ Up coming projects?

Nothing in the pipeline yet. But I am all in for new interesting opportunities and exploring new things like web series and short films.

Rajasthan duo wows America

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with SHAKIR and RIHAN about their journey to America's Got Talent, how they came together as a team and the hurdles they crossed to reach the stage

There are many rags to riches stories that inspire us so much so that we find a direct connect forthwith. One such story is of two brothers, hailing from Shikar, a village in Rajasthan — Shakir and Rihan.

Their journey from dancing in regional competitions to reaching *America's Got Talent* (AGT) is an example of how sheer hard work and dedication can take you places.

Destiny surprised Shakir in March, when he got a call from the show's team saying that they are welcome to audition for it.

"It was a dream come true. At first, I couldn't believe what I heard on the phone. It took me a few seconds to comprehend what had been said. Then I was on cloud nine," Shakir, who is 21, tells you.

The duo then flew to America before the lockdown happened to audition for the first round.

"We have cleared round one. We got a standing ovation from the judges. Once things are back to normal, we will be performing in the elimination round," Shakir says, who got interested in dancing when he was just 8.

"My elder brother loves dancing. I used to see his moves and that's how I got interested. Gradually, it became my passion. I took no professional training until I turned 18," he tells you.

It took Shakir years of practise and hard work to reach this stage. "I used to work at a car puncture shop. I had to leave my studies when I was in Class VIII. But never gave up on dance. I would wake up at 5, rehearsed till 8 in the morning and then go to work," he tells you.

Taking up dance was not at all easy for Shakir as he received a lot of resistance from family and friends.

"My family told me not to waste time dancing and focus on my work. The neighbours mocked as well. I had to face their taunts every day. So much so that I started changing my



route in order to save myself from the jibes. Some people even asked their children to not be seen with me as I would spoil them as well. But I was determined that I had to do something big in life and I braved everything that came my way," he tells you.

The reason why Shakir decided to team-up with his eight-year-old cousin, Rihan, was because he too had the passion for dance.

"Rihan saw me dancing and he got interested. Initially, I thought he is doing it for fun. I was apprehensive about whether he would be able to match my moves since he is so young. But, when I saw his love and dedication, I made him my partner," he says.

Both of them now practise for eight hours a day. "Rihan is a good learner. He catches all the moves at one go. It took a lot of

effort to make him comfortable with duo performance and now that he has learnt it well, my solo performance has become a little weak," Shakir says with a laugh.

For Rihan, dancing is all about relieving worries and having fun. "I enjoy dancing a lot. Shakir *bhai* is a great team member. He guides me well," Rihan says and adds that during rehearsals Shakir acts more like his mentor.

"Whenever Shakir *bhai* scolds me during rehearsals, I hit back at him saying: *Daanto mat na, kar lunga main*. Then he smiles and asks me to do it correctly," Rihan tells you.

The two have performed in shows like *Dance Plus 5*, where they were among the 30 finalists and *India's Got Talent*.

"The shows have changed our lives. My family was extremely happy that I managed to do something in life. After the

shows, our videos went viral on YouTube and everyone in our village has seen them. People come to my home to click selfies. Some even tell my dad: *Arey aap ka beta to TV par aaya, dancer ban gaya hai, aap to bade aadmi ban gaye hain ab*. It feels good when I see that smile and satisfaction on my parents' faces," Shakir tells you.

Shakir's dream is to win *Dance Plus* once. "My goal is to win the show, if not, then I want to be the runner-up at least," Shakir says.

On the other hand, Rihan's dream is to be a good dancer and make his parents proud. "I just want to become a good dancer, so that my parents will be happy and I can see that smile on their face," Rihan tells you.

(AGT is streaming on Voot Select and will be airing soon on Colors Infinity in India)

Recall staff on leave, Govt hospitals told

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Saturday issued an order asking hospitals and institutions to recall their staff who are on leave. The order said that leave will be granted only under the most compelling circumstances.

Special secretary SM Ali said that leave of any kind will only be granted under most compelling circumstances.

"All MSs, MDs, Deans and Directors of the hospitals and medical institutions under the Health and Family Welfare Department are advised to



issue directions to all the staff working under their control who are on leave of any kind to immediately report for their duties," the order said.

The directions came in the wake of a spurt in the number of coronavirus cases in the national capital and death of doctors and medical staff.

Delhi is under immense pressure to improve the health infrastructure as the city government expects coronavirus cases to climb up to 5.5 lakh by July-end.

As per the latest statistics of State Health Department (Delhi), the national capital has more than 50,000 cases, third highest cases in the country, while over 2,000 people have succumbed to the dreaded virus so far.

EDMC notice to 22 schools, 44 residential group housing societies in view of seismic stability

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The East Delhi Municipal Corporation has issued notices to 22 schools and 44 residential group housing societies in Shahdara following the instructions given by the Delhi High Court in view of the seismic stability and earthquakes in Delhi.

A senior EDMC official said that as per the structural security of the building, its structure audit report along with the existing building plan will have to be submitted within 30 days from the date of notice in the east Corporation office.

The official further said that the structure audit report

will be submitted through the listed structure engineers, whose information is available on the Municipal Corporation of Delhi website mcdonline.nic.in/eodb/.

"It would be necessary for owners to submit an audit report within 30 days. Thereafter building retrofitted can be made if required under the supervision of a registered structure engineer within six months," the corporation said in a statement.

The official further said that due to non-submission of report on time, strict action will be as per rules. Apart from this, EDMC has also initiated the same exercise for buildings constructed before the year 2001, he added.

CAIT starts national e-survey to assess opinions on boycotting Chinese goods

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has launched a national online survey among traders and people of the country to know their opinion regarding boycotting Chinese products.

CAIT national president B C Bhartia and secretary general Praveen Khandelwal said that the mood of the nation is quite visible since entire nation stands in solidarity with the Government and our forces and people are up in arms against China and stand committed to teach a lesson to China this time.

Bhartia and Khandelwal



informed that CAIT has asked for opinion of the people by posting nine questions in its online survey form which include the following questions. "Emotions and anger of the people is deeply reflected across the Country since

traders are holding continuous protests all over the Country in the past four days," he said.

The traders' body had already launched a campaign "Bhartiya Samaan-Hamara Abhiman" linked with boycott Chinese goods on 10th June which has elicited nationwide support from all corners of the Country. The campaign will continue till 31st December.

Khandelwal said that in about 14 hours of the launch of the online survey, the initial results are very encouraging which amply depict the mood of the nation.

The online survey will be running all across the country till 26th June.

Two arrested for creating FCI's fake websites to dupe people

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested two men, including a schoolteacher for allegedly creating fake websites of Food Corporation of India (FCI) to dupe people across the country.

The accused have been identified as Parab Sharan Singh (27), a resident of Ambala in Haryana and Vijay Kumar (42), a resident of Sonpat in Haryana, they said.

According to Anshyeh Roy, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Cyber Crime unit, a complaint was received from FCI that two fake websites had been created using the name of the organisation wherein, FCI website information was being misused. "The names of the websites were similar to that of the original one and the genuine FCI information was being misused by the fraudsters. During investigation, police took the technical assistance and arrested the website developer Parab Sharan Singh from Ambala around two weeks ago," said the DCP.

"On his instance, Vijay Kumar, the mastermind, was also arrested two days ago," said the DCP.

"Interrogation revealed that Kumar, an English teacher, got the idea to create fake websites of FCI and put up fake recruitment advertisements to dupe the job seekers," said the DCP. "He took the help from his associate Singh, a B.Com drop out, to create two fake websites of FCI. Efforts are being made to identify the involvement of others," he added.

Three held for stealing cash, jewellery worth ₹5 L after hypnotising elderly

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested three men for allegedly stealing cash and jewellery after hypnotising the victim in the national Capital.

The accused have been identified as Lakhvinder Singh (25), a resident of Punjab, Sonu Kumar (38) and Sunny (38), both residents of Panipat in Haryana.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, on May 27, a resident of Chhattarpur Enclave lodged a complaint where he alleged that when his 70-year-old mother was at home, a person called his name and entered the house.

"The accused hypnotised his mother and when she regained her senses, he fled with cash and jewellery about worth Rs five lakh," said the DCP.

"In a similar incident on June 2, accused went to a flat at Rajpur Khurd village where he told the woman that her husband was caught by police," said the DCP.

"The man introduced himself as

pany him to Mehrauli police station. He dropped her in front of police station and went back to her house. He hypnotised her kids and fled away with cash and jewellery of around Rs five lakh," said the DCP.

"During investigation, police analysed the CCTV footage and arrested Lakhvinder. On his instance, Sonu and Sunny were also arrested from a hotel at Gurgaon," said the DCP.

"Interrogation revealed that the accused used to roam in the area and gather information about their targeted house. Thereafter, Lakhvinder entered the house after calling the names of working family members who mostly remained out," the DCP said.

"After entering the house, he hypnotised the victim and asked them to bring the money and jewellery. The accused have committed more than 25 incidents in Delhi with similar modus operandi. Sonu and Sunny used to sale the jewellery," said the DCP adding that police have also recovered three cars, one bike, some gold ornaments, Rs 30,000 and fake police IDs from the possession of the accused.

Commissioner reviews Covid, crime situation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Commissioner of Police SN Shrivastava, on Saturday held a meeting with all the Deputy Commissioners of Police to review the Covid-19 and crime situation.

The CP also issued directions to ensure preventive measures so that the spread of pandemic be managed effectively. The officers were also directed to be more vigilant and take necessary steps as situation demand on ground to curb the crime.

On Saturday, the CP also awarded police personnel in recognition of their commitment and exemplary good work done by them.

"The CP Delhi granted Aasdharan Karya Purskar (AKP) to Constable Anuj Kumar Sharma, posted at New Usmanpur police station in North-East District by showing exemplary courage and presence of mind," said Anil Mittal, the Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO), Delhi Police.

"Anuj had apprehended one of the assailants who tried



to flee after firing. One pistol and two live cartridges were recovered from accused person. Anuj also remained instrumental in nabbing many criminals" said Mittal.

"Constable Dinesh, Assistant Sub-Inspector Ashangsomatai and Constable Chhotu Ram, Inspector Rajesh Malik, Sub-Inspector (SI) Neeraj, Head Constable (HC)

Raj Kumar, Constable Mukesh . Inspector VN Jha, HC Kapil, Constable Jitender and others police personnel and officials were also rewarded for their good work," said Mittal.

Lifetime adventure for some is routine for us.



JOIN INDIAN AIR FORCE TO BE A CUT ABOVE

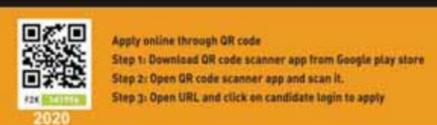
Online registration through <https://careerindianairforce.cdac.in> and <https://afcat.cdac.in>

ENTRY	BRANCHES
AFCAT 02/2020	Flying / Technical / Administration / Education
NCC SPECIAL ENTRY	Flying Branch (Air Wing 'C' certificate is mandatory)
MET ENTRY	Meteorology Branch

- Online test only for AFCAT entry
- Aadhaar Card is mandatory for online registration
- For more details, refer to Employment News dated 13 June 2020 and for detailed notification visit our website <https://careerindianairforce.cdac.in> or <https://afcat.cdac.in>

'DISHA' Cell, Air Headquarters, Vayu Bhawan, Motilal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110106
Tel: 011-23013690, Toll Free No.: 1800-11-2448, Website: <https://www.careerindianairforce.cdac.in>, E-mail: afcatcell@cdac.in

For Updates, follow us on: [Indian Air Force](#) [Indian Air Force@IAF_Mcc](#) [indianairforce](#) https://www.indianairforce_mcc



davp 1080113/0005/2021

Pompeo tears into 'rogue actor' China

For 'escalating' border tension with India

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has criticised the Chinese Army for "escalating" the border tension with India and militarising the strategic South China Sea as he described the ruling Communist Party of China as a "rogue actor".

Launching a scathing attack on the Chinese government, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the Chinese Communist Party wants to undo all the progress the free world has made through institutions like NATO and adopt a new set of rules and norms that accommodate Beijing.

"The PLA (People's Liberation Army) has escalated border tensions with India, the world's most populous democracy. It's militarising the South China Sea and illegally claiming more territory there, threatening vital sea lanes," Pompeo said, a day after he expressed deep condolences to India on the death of 20 soldiers in violent clashes with Chinese troops at Galwan Valley in Ladakh early in the week.

In his virtual address on "Europe and the China Challenge" during the 2020 Copenhagen Democracy Summit on Friday, the top American diplomat said that for many years, the West, in an era of hope, believed they could change the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and improve the lives of the Chinese people along the way. "Along the way, the CCP

took advantage of our goodwill while assuring us they wanted a cooperative relationship. As (former Chinese politician) Deng Xiaoping said 'Hide your strength, bide your time.' I've talked in other venues about why this happened. It's a complicated story. It's not one's fault," Pompeo said.

Over decades, European and American companies have invested in China with great optimism. It outsourced supply chains to places like Shenzhen, opened education institutions for PLA-affiliated students and welcomed Chinese state-backed investment in their countries, he said.

But the CPC decreed an end to freedom in Hong Kong, violating an UN-registered treaty and the rights of its citizens. This is one of many international treaties the party has violated, the secretary said.

"General Secretary Xi Jinping has greenlighted a brutal campaign of repression against Chinese Muslims, a human rights violation on a scale we haven't seen since World War II. Now, the PLA has escalated border tensions with India," he said. The clash in Galwan Valley is the biggest confrontation between the two militaries after their 1967 clashes in Nathu La when India lost around 80 soldiers while the death toll on the Chinese side was over 300.

The Chinese soldiers used stones, nail-studded sticks, iron rods and clubs in carrying out brutal attacks on Indian soldiers after they protested the erection of a surveillance post by China on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control in Galwan. "The CCP isn't just a rogue actor in its own neighbourhood. It lied about the coronavirus and let it spread to the rest of the world,

while pressuring the WHO to assist its cover-up campaign. Hundreds of thousands of people have died, and the global economy has been decimated," Pompeo said.

Even now, months into the pandemic, China has not provided access to live virus samples, facilities, or information about patients in December in Wuhan, he said. China is pushing disinformation and malicious cyber campaigns to undermine governments and to drive a wedge between the US and Europe, Pompeo alleged. "It's saddling developing nations with debt and dependency. It's strong-arming nations to do business with Huawei, an arm of the CCP's surveillance state. It's flagrantly attacking European sovereignty by buying up ports and critical infrastructure from Piraeus to Valencia," said the top American diplomat.

MUMBAI TERROR ATTACK

Pak-origin Canadian rearrested in US on India's extradition request

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana has been rearrested in Los Angeles on an extradition request by India for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack in which 166 people were killed, according to the US prosecutors.

Rana, 59, a childhood friend of David Coleman Headley, was recently released from jail on compassionate ground after he told a US court that he has tested positive for the COVID-19.

Assistant US Attorney John Lulejian told the court that the Indian government, as per the bilateral Extradition Treaty signed in 1997, has requested the arrest and detention of Rana with a view towards his extradition. He was rearrested in Los Angeles on June 10 following the extradition request by India, where he is a declared fugitive.

Lulejian said India has informed the United States that Rana is being prosecuted for a

number of offences, including the conspiracy to commit murder, in violation of Sections 120B and 302, and murder in violation of Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

He has also been charged with conspiracy to commit forgery for the purpose of cheating and conspiracy to use as genuine a forged document or electronic record. He made an initial court appearance on June 11.

On Friday, US District Judge Jacqueline Chooljian in the US District Court, Central District of California, scheduled his bond hearing for June 30. His attorney has been asked to submit his plea by June 22 and the federal government's response is due by June 26.

Lulejian said that the offences for which Rana's arrest warrant was issued are covered by Article 2 of the India-US Extradition Treaty. He tested positive for the COVID-19 upon his arrival to the Metropolitan Detention Center. He is currently in quarantine. He will be available to

appear by video or telephone for a bond hearing on June 30.

An arrest warrant was issued against Rana in India by Poonam A Bamba, District and Sessions Judge, Special Court of India's premier investigation agency National Investigation Agency (NIA), on August 28, 2018.

According to the federal prosecutors, between 2006 and November 2008, Rana conspired with his childhood friend Headley, also known as "Daoud Gilani", and others located in Pakistan to assist Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Harakat ul-Jihad-e-Islami, both US-designated terrorist organisations, to plan and carry out the Mumbai terrorist attacks. Pakistani-American LeT terrorist Headley was involved in plotting the 2008 Mumbai terror attack in which 166 people, including six Americans, were killed.

Headley, who has been made an approver in the case, is currently serving a 35-year prison term in the US for his role in the attack.

Amrapali: ED to question JP Morgan officials, including Chinese director

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) will begin detailed interrogation of JP Morgan India board members including a Chinese national to take forward its money laundering probe linked to the alleged diversion of crores of rupees of home buyers who wanted to purchase an abode in Amrapali Group's real estate projects.

What has come as a shot in the arm for the agency is a June 18 order of the Supreme Court directing the multi-national firm JP Morgan to transfer over Rs 140 crore plus interest from its bank accounts, that has been recently attached by the ED, to the escrow account maintained by the UCO bank.

The apex court said that the money would be used for completing the pending projects of the now defunct Amrapali Group.

Officials probing money laundering crimes said this is the first time that the apex court has sought transfer of such funds in its accounts after being satisfied with the provisional attachment order issued by the central agency.

Usually, funds once attached are kept in the bank accounts where they are and the order for attachment is sent to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority for

approval and subsequent confiscation of assets.

The ED had recently attached, as part of an order issued under the PMLA, more than Rs 187 crore funds of JP Morgan India Pvt Ltd kept in a bank branch in Mumbai.

The apex court, which is monitoring this case, had in December last year directed the ED to take charge of investigation and asked its Lucknow zone Joint Director Rajeshwar Singh to take action against JP Morgan under the anti-money laundering law and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and apprise it on a regular basis.

An ED team led by Singh attends the court hearings too.

The top court had cracked whip on errant builders for breaching the trust of home buyers, ordered cancellation of Amrapali Group's registration under real estate law RERA and ousted it from its prime properties in the national capital region by nixing the land leases in July last year.

Official sources said the investigating agency has now sought all financial documents, agreements, memorandum of understanding and others from JP Morgan India and will begin detailed interrogation and recording of statement of its directors like Gunjan Bahl, Hrushikesh Kar and Chanakya Chakravarty and few others.

Glenmark launches Covid-19 drug after DCGI nod, MRP at ₹103 per tablet

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Drug firm Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has launched the antiviral drug Favipiravir, under the brand name FabiFlu, for the treatment of patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 at a price of about Rs 103 per tablet.

The drug will be available as a 200 mg tablet at a maximum retail price (MRP) of Rs 3,500 for a strip of 34 tablets, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals said.

FabiFlu is the first oral favipiravir-approved medication in India for the treatment of Covid-19, it said in a statement.

It is a prescription-based medication, with the recommended dose being 1,800 mg twice daily on day one, followed by 800 mg twice daily up to day 14, it added.

The tablets are being pro-

duced by the company at its Baddi facility in Himachal Pradesh. The drug will be available both through hospitals and the retail channel, Glenmark said. The Mumbai-based firm had on Friday received the manufacturing and marketing approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

"This approval comes at a time when cases in India are spiralling like never before, putting a tremendous pressure on our healthcare system," Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Chairman and MD Glenn Saldanha said in the statement.

The company hopes that the availability of an effective treatment such as FabiFlu will considerably help assuage this pressure, and offer patients in India a much needed and timely therapy option, he added.

"Glenmark will work closely with the government and med-

ical community to make FabiFlu quickly accessible to patients across the country," he added. The company has successfully developed the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and the formulation for FabiFlu through its in-house research and development team, Glenmark said.

"We chose to initiate work on Favipiravir, as it has proven in-vitro activity against SARS CoV2 virus, which is the virus responsible for COVID-19. Second is it has a wide therapeutic safety margin for COVID-19 at the dose that we administer," Glenmark Pharmaceuticals President India Formulations, Middle East and Africa Suresh Vasudevan said at an online press conference.

Moreover, it is an oral product and that is a huge benefit especially when the hospital infrastructure is under strain, he added.



Fitness enthusiasts perform yoga on the eve of International Day of Yoga at Bhaderwah in Jammu on Saturday. PTI

FinMin against investment by neighbouring nations in pension funds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid growing tensions between India and China, the finance ministry has proposed putting restrictions on pension fund investments from any of India's bordering countries.

Foreign investment in pension funds regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority

(PFRDA) is capped at 49 per cent under the automatic route.

According to a draft notification circulated for comments on Friday, "A government approval would be required for the investing entity or individual from any of the bordering countries including China. The relevant provisions of FDI policy issued from time to time would apply in all such cases."

Any foreign investment from these countries will be subject to approval from the government. The restriction would be applicable from the date of notification by the Government of India.

Stakeholders can submit their comments on the draft within 30 days, it added.

The changes have been proposed in accordance with Department for Promotion of

Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) guidelines issued in April. Currently, government permission is mandatory only for investments coming from Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The development comes at a time when Indian and Chinese armies are engaged in a standoff in Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie in eastern Ladakh.

Twenty Indian Army personnel, including a colonel, were killed in a clash with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley on Monday night, the biggest military confrontation between the two sides in over five decades.

The situation has stirred anti-China sentiments in the country, with protestors and traders' bodies calling for boycott of Chinese products.

Has China entered Doklam, clarify, Swamy asks Centre

"US media sources (e.g., NYT) say China has scrapped the agreement with India made last year on Doklam - which India had claimed as a 'victory' - China withdrawing its military from Bhutan. Now sources say Chinese PLA has re-entered Doklam. MEA must clarify or say it is baseless," Swamy tweeted.

PM's remarks misconstrued: PMO

From Page 1

"The Prime Minister's observations that there was no Chinese presence on our side of the LAC pertained to the situation as a consequence of the bravery of our armed forces.

The sacrifices of the soldiers of the 16 Bihar Regiment foiled the attempt of the Chinese side to erect structures and also cleared the attempted transgression at this point of the LAC on that day," said the official statement.

There were varied interpretations and perceptions of the ground situation following the Galwan valley clash between the two sides and Congress president Sonia Gandhi has understood to have asked the Prime Minister at the APM that status quo ante should be restored on the LAC.

The PMO statement said that Government would not allow any unilateral change of the LAC.

"What is Indian territory is clear from the map of India. This Government is strongly and resolutely committed to that. Insofar as there is some illegal occupation, the APM was briefed in great detail how over the last 60 years, more than 43,000 sq.km has been yielded under circumstances with which this country is well aware. It was also made clear that this Government will not allow any unilateral change of the LAC," the PMO said.

The statement, however, makes no mention of the portion which the Prime Minister said "neither has there been any intrusion".

The clarification also does not match with what has been stated officially by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) three times. The PMO said structures "across the LAC" while MEA had said "on our side of the LAC".

The Congress on Friday also quizzed the Prime Minister on the status of Mountain Strike Corps with two Mountain Infantry Divisions for China Border sanctioned in 2013 during Manmohan Singh regime and which is yet to take a full shape.

PM surrendered our territory to...

From Page 1

In its rejoinder to the PMO statement, the Congress posed several questions before the Government, asking to state its position on the Galwan Valley, the site in Ladakh where 20 Indian soldiers were killed and 76 others injured in a violent face-off with Chinese troops on the night of June 15-16.

"First of all, PMO and the Government need to clearly state their position on the Galwan valley. Is Galwan valley not part of Indian territory? Why is Government not coming forward and strongly rebutting the Chinese claim over Galwan valley? If Chinese troops are present there, does it not amount to intrusion into and occupation of Indian territory? Also, why is the Government silent on intrusions in the Pangong Tso area?," asked Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala.

Chidambaram said even after the PM's statement on Friday, China had blamed India for the clashes and had reasserted its claim on the entire Galwan Valley.

"What is the Government's answer to this claim? Now that China is claiming the entire Galwan valley, will the Government of India reject this claim," he asked.

Stating that the PMO's statement "belittles the gravity of the situation" on the India-China Line of Actual Control (LAC), Congress chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala then pointed out that security experts, Army Generals and satellite imagery have confirmed not only one intrusion on June 15 but several intrusions into and occupation of Indian territory in the Ladakh area.

"If soldiers on LAC were carrying arms, why did they not open fire? Why should train infantry to dominate PLA in an unarmed encounter," the grand old party remarked.

"In the fourth paragraph, PMO's statement says that with reference to

the "events of June 15 at Galwan" the armed forces "repulsed the designs of the Chinese there. The Prime Minister's observations that there was no Chinese presence on our side of the LAC pertained to the situation as a consequence of the bravery of our armed forces." Clearly, the implication is that there was one intrusion on June 15 and it was repulsed," Surjewala said, asking: "But what about the intrusions between May 5 and June 15?"

"We refer to several statements of the Defence Minister admitting to the presence of Chinese forces 'in large numbers' and the statement of the Chief of Army Staff on 'disengagement'."

The Government has consistently demanded 'restoration of status quo ante'. We also refer to the statement of MEA dated June 7 that both sides agreed to 'resolve the situation in the border areas' and called for an 'early resolution'.

If there was no other intrusion into Indian territory, how were the Chinese present 'in large numbers' or why was restoration of 'status quo ante' being demanded or

"disengagement" and "early resolution" being sought?," he further asked.

"We also refer to the statement of MEA dated June 17, 2020 that referred to the agreement reached on June 6 on 'disengagement' and 'de-escalation'."

The June 17 statement also said "the Chinese side sought to erect a structure in Galwan valley on our side of the LAC." If Chinese troops are not present in Indian territory, why is the MEA harping on disengagement and de-escalation as late as on June 17, 2020?," Surjewala continued.

All these, the Congress said, unmistakably point to the presence of Chinese troops at several places in the Galwan Valley and Pangong Tso Area that have to be brought under "disengagement" and "de-escalation".

"Our information is that no such disengagement has been completed by the Chinese and, in view of their illegal claim to the whole of Galwan valley, the onus lies on the Government to protect our territorial integrity," Surjewala added.

and attempting to unilaterally change the status of border control."

It said "at the strong request of the Chinese side" India had "agreed and evacuated the personnel and facilities beyond the line".

The statement claimed that at the June 6 Corps Commander-level talks, India "promised not to cross the Galwan Estuary to patrol and build facilities, and the two sides agreed to withdraw the troops in batches through a meeting of local commanders."

India has so far insisted in the several rounds of military and diplomatic level talks that situation has to be restored status quo ante April this year.

Now it seems a tough task as the Chinese army is in the Galwan Valley trying to change the perception of the LAC. It has also not withdrawn its troops from other standoffs.

Home isolation valid as LG rolls back mandatory 5-day institutional stay

From Page 1

Earlier, opposing the L-G's order issued on Friday for mandatory five-day institutional quarantine, Sisodia had said, "Every day more than 3,000 patients are coming for Covid-19 treatment. According to the figures by the Health Department, by June 30 we will have one lakh patients, by July 15, we will have 1.25 lakh patients, and by July 31 we will have almost 5.25 lakh patients. This will be the scenario if we continue with the home isolation system."

Sisodia said the meeting also decided that 100 per cent Covid beds in private hospitals will be subsidised up to an upper limit of 60 per cent of total hospital capacity.

"The Central Government committee had recommended reducing rates of 60 per cent Covid beds in private hospitals, so less number of beds were available at lower rates. Now, 100 per cent beds will be available at lower rates," he said in another tweet.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, MEERUT CIRCLE MEERUT
APAR AYUKT UDDHYOG CAMPUS, SURAJ KUND ROAD MEERUT

E-Procurement Notice -3

Letter No.: 127/RED/V Pat/Tender-Work/File No-2020-21/ dated: 12-06-2020

1. THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, MEERUT CIRCLE MEERUT on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through e-tendering system from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, and C as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works.

2. Name of work as per table.

S. No.	Name of District	Name of Block/Constituency	Name of Work	Total estimated cost (in Lakh) Rs.	Bid security (EMD) (in Rs.)	Cost of Bid document (in Rs.)	Period of completion including rainy season
1	Ghazialbad	Ghazialbad	Construction of Goddown/Warehouse for Storage of V V Pat Machine at/Collectrate Compound) Ghazialbad.	172.00	3.44	2714.00	9 Month

(3) Date of availability of Bid documents on website - 22-06-2020. (4) Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement - 26-06-2020 up to 12.00 Noon. (5) Date of opening of bids through e-procurement - 26.06.2020 at 12.30 pm. (6) The Employer has right to issue addendum/corrigendum as per ITB clause-10 on-line which will not be published in any news paper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly. For further details please log on to <https://etender.up.nic.in> and download the bid document.

(**Dr. Ajay Singhal**) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, MEERUT CIRCLE MEERUT

U.P.: 152641, Date: 18.06.2020
 विज्ञापन वेबसाइट www.up.gov.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

India rejects Beijing's untenable sovereignty claim over Galwan

From Page 1

The MEA went on to add, "Subsequently in mid-May, the Chinese side attempted to transgress the LAC in other areas of the Western Sector of the India-China border areas. These attempts were invariably met with an appropriate response from us. Thereafter, the two sides were engaged in discussions through established diplomatic and military channels to address the situation arising out of Chinese activities on the LAC.

The Senior Commanders met on June 6, 2020 and agreed on a

process for de-escalation and disengagement along the LAC that involved reciprocal actions.

Both sides had agreed to respect and abide by the LAC and not undertake any activity to alter the status quo.

However, the Chinese side departed from these understandings in respect of the LAC in the Galwan Valley area and sought to erect structures just across the LAC. When this attempt was foiled, Chinese troops took violent actions on June 15 that directly resulted in casualties.

India said it expects that the Chinese side will sincerely follow the understanding reached between the Foreign Ministers to ensure peace and tranquillity in the border areas, which is so essential for the overall development of our bilateral relations.

On the other hand, the Chinese

statement said, "For many years, Chinese border guards have been patrolling and performing their duties here. Since April this year, the Indian border defense forces have unilaterally continued to build roads, bridges and other facilities in the Galwan Valley region. China has repeatedly made representations and protests on this, but the Indian side has intensified cross-border troubles."

The statement said China sought a commitment from India to "not cross the Galwan Estuary to patrol and build facilities", underlining its claims up to the confluence. China also claimed that in the early hours of May 6, Indian border guards "crossed the line into the Chinese territory in the Galwan Valley area by night, constructing barriers, blocking the normal patrol of the Chinese border guards, deliberately provoking incidents,

and attempting to unilaterally change the status of border control."

It said "at the strong request of the Chinese side" India had "agreed and evacuated the personnel and facilities beyond the line".

The statement claimed that at the June 6 Corps Commander-level talks, India "promised not to cross the Galwan Estuary to patrol and build facilities, and the two sides agreed to withdraw the troops in batches through a meeting of local commanders."

India has so far insisted in the several rounds of military and diplomatic level talks that situation has to be restored status quo ante April this year.

Now it seems a tough task as the Chinese army is in the Galwan Valley trying to change the perception of the LAC. It has also not withdrawn its troops from other standoffs.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that my client Sh. Malkeet Singh willing to purchase Freehold Residential Eastern side Portion of Plot no. 17 area measuring 50 sq. yds. out of Khata no. 254 (B-0) situated in waka moja Gonchi Tehsil & Dist: Fardabad Haryana, which is in favour of Sh. Ram Nath Sio Sh. Ganesh vide sale deed dated 13.10.1987 as Doc. No. 8559 SR FDS after the death of Sh. Ram Nath Sio Sh. Ganesh expired and leaving behind following the legal heirs namely Sh. Sohan Lal & Sh. Babu Lal (sons) and some property will be sold by legal heirs of Late Sh. Ram Nath Sio Sh. Ganesh to be Sh. Malkeet Singh Sio Sh. Kulwant Singh same property to be loan financed by Aavas Financiers Limited (Formerly known as AU Housing Finance Ltd.) Gurgaon Haryana. If any person is having objection right claim against the said property, contact to the undersigned along with supporting documents within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by any one.

Naveen Kumar Verma, Advocate
 F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010, Mobile: 9953871432

INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY SPECIAL

Yoga true panacea for community, immunity and unity in Covid times



RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'

On December 11, 2014, at the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his UN General Assembly address on September 27, 2014, the United Nations declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga (IDY) or World Yoga Day. What made this resolution global and spectacular is its universality and acceptability. The world is divided by geography and united by yoga is evident from the fact that more than 177 coun-

tries supported International Day of Yoga whereas 175 countries co-sponsored the resolution, which is the highest number of co-sponsors in any United Nations General Assembly resolutions of this kind till date. The initiative was proposed and implemented by a country in the UN body in less than 90 days, which is also the first time in the history of the UN General Assembly.

PM Modi wonderfully accomplished the vision within six months of being in power what we could not accomplish in the last 73 years since Independence - 'true recognition of our 5000 years old heritage of yoga.'

Maharishi Patanjali is known for his treatise on Yoga, titled "Patanjali Yoga Sutra". Aurobindo is credited with translating the essence of Yoga and Yogic practices from celebrated Hindu scriptures like Bhagwad Gita and the



Representational image

Upanishads. BS Iyengar and Maharishi Paramhansa Yogananda are widely regarded for disseminating the impor-

tant knowledge of Yoga around the world through important spiritual scriptures and by their disciplined and inspirational

lives. Swami Vivekananda is credited for being the greatest proponent of Yoga in the West and introduction of Indian

philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to them.

Today, Yoga is considered to be one of the most successful products of globalization and the most secular chord today connecting the divided world with a focus of health and happiness.

The report published by the US National Library of Medicine discovered that Yoga combined with meditation helped to delay the ageing process and prevent the onset of many diseases. Practising Yoga can enhance the mood of a person and also increases one's life span. Yoga not only helps in treating physical health but also the emotional and mental wellbeing. It not only adds years to your life but life to your years. Research findings show that practising Yoga causes molecular changes that encourage the circulation of immune cells. Yoga also helps ease depression. There is even

talk that Yoga could become a competitive sport at the Olympics, after the US successfully registered the discipline as an official sport.

From Hollywood to Haridwar, ordinary people to celebrities, everyone has taken serious note of the benefits of practising Yoga amid the pandemic crisis. I belong to the Himalayan state Devbhoomi Uttarakhand which has been the cradle of Yoga and Ayurveda. The whole world is looking up to us for seeking the course in the pandemic. When the world is confined to the four walls, Yoga has emerged as the most effective health tool to enhance immunity and maintain a balance of life. Ideally, we would have been celebrating the International Yoga Day with fervour like previous years but due to COVID-19, we are expected to adopt social distancing and celebrate the Yoga Day with our family in restrict-

ed domains.

Appeal to the entire nation and world community not to allow COVID-19, diminish the spirit of World Yoga Day which we have achieved in the last five years. Various reports and case studies have proved that Yoga and meditation is the best therapy to counter the psychosocial impact of COVID-19. Yoga has various "pranayama" that strengthen the respiratory system. Studies need to be conducted as to how "Pranayama" can counter the effects of Novel Coronavirus. Yoga is truly a panacea for community, immunity and unity. Yoga, Ayurveda and Adhyatma have been our message to the global community for ages and are perfectly relevant today. Yoga is undoubtedly the gateway to global peace and harmony.

(The writer is Union Human Resource Development Minister)

ROW OVER GALWAN FACE-OFF

Rahul leader of limited intellect: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting back at former Congress president Rahul Gandhi over his statement on the face-off between Indian and Chinese soldiers in Galwan Valley in Ladakh, the Government and the BJP on Saturday advised him to rise above "petty politics" and indirectly termed him "a leader of limited intellect".

After Rahul yet again came out with a tweet accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of surrendering Indian territory to China, Union Home Minister Amit Shah put out a video of the father of an injured

army man on his Twitter account to counter him.

Shah said, Rahul should stand in solidarity with national interest by shunning his politics over the issue at a time when the whole nation is united. "A brave armyman's father speaks and he has a very clear message for Mr Gandhi. At a time when the entire nation is united, Mr Rahul Gandhi should also rise above petty politics and stand in solidarity with national interest," Shah tweeted.

In the video, the father of an injured soldier is seen saying, "Indian Army is a very strong army and has the ability to

defeat China and other foreign countries. Rahul Gandhi should not do politics on the issue... My son fought and will continue fighting in the army".

Indian Army personnel were attacked by Chinese People's Liberation Army on June 15 night. The day after, the Indian Army stated that 20 of their men, including officers, were killed in an unprecedented violent clash with PLA troops at Galwan valley.

For his part, in an indirect attack at Rahul Gandhi, BJP chief JP Nadda while addressing a Jan Samvad rally said that a leader is damaging the morale of armed forces with his tweets

and showing his limited intellect at a time when soldiers are defending our India-China border.

"When we are fighting in Galwan, a leader is damaging the morale of forces with his tweets and showing his limited intellect... Let alone respecting PM Modi, you didn't even respect your own PM," Nadda said, in an apparent reference to Rahul Gandhi's act of publicly tearing the copy of the Ordinance being brought in by the then Manmohan Singh government to negate the Supreme Court order on disqualifying convicted MPs and MLAs.

Puri: Resuming int'l flights depends on other nations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Civil Aviation on Saturday said that resuming international flights depended on other countries opening their international borders.

Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Government will start thinking on resumption of international passenger flights in mid-July when it expects the domestic air traffic to reach 50-55 per cent of pre-Covid levels. Upper and lower limits on airfares may be extended beyond August 24 depending upon how the situation turns out.

Addressing a press conference along with Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola, the minister said that no decision on resuming international flight operations has been made so far. "The exact time when we will resume international flight depends on other countries to be open to receive flights," Puri said.

This could be due to the fact that depending on the Coronavirus situation of different countries, they could be having different procedures and restrictions on flight services which ultimately affects the international flights operating to and from India.



"Any suggestion that international traffic has opened up and we are the only one not to open up needs reality check. The exact time when we will resume international flight depends on the other countries to be open to receive flights," he said. "...In the absence of a decision on resumption of international civil aviation which will depend on other countries opening up, we are left with no option but to continue what I call evacuation and repatriation flights under managed and controlled condition," the minister added. Puri noted the domestic traffic will reach the pre-Covid level of 2019 by the end of this year. "It is the most optimistic projection for any country," he mentioned.

Furthermore, Kharola said both ends have to be ready and there has to be traffic if international operations to begin. "There is a significant amount of traffic between India and North American continent. We may think of opening flights on a case to case basis,"

he said. Kharola also said that upper and lower limits on airfares may be extended beyond August 24 depending upon how the situation turns out.

The government resumed domestic passenger flights from May 25 after nearly two months of suspension to combat the coronavirus outbreak, but placed lower and upper limits on airfares depending upon the flight duration.

It had said on May 21 that these limits would be in place for a period of three months. "Depending on how the situation turns out, the fare band may have to adjusted beyond that (August 24) also. But right now, it is only for three months," Kharola said.

India suspended international and domestic passenger flights on March 23 and March 25, respectively. While domestic passenger services resumed on May 25, international passenger services continue to remain suspended in India.

As per the ministry, close to 2,75,000 Indians have returned to India. While 1,09,000 returned under the Central Government's Vande Bharat Mission, 1,43,000 were brought back by private carriers. Additionally, around 4,000 returned by ships.

Make good use of opportunity: V-P to new RS members

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday urged the newly elected members of the Upper House to make good use of the opportunity of contributing to the transformation of the country over the next six years.

Naidu reminded them that it is an honour to be in the Rajya Sabha, an institution founded on the principle of federalism that guides law making and governance in the country. In his message of felicitations to the 61 members from 20 States, Naidu said, "The 61 members representing as many as 20 political parties besides Independents highlight the diversity of our polity and at the same time our resolute sense of unity of purpose and action. The elected represent a healthy mix of veterans and first timers to the House, all bound by solemn commitment to the transformation of our country and make the 21st century as India's. I fondly hope that all the elected make good use of this opportunity over the next 6 years".

Extending a warm welcome to the newly elected members, Naidu hoped to meet all of them at the earliest and wished them success in their endeavours to contribute their bit to the transformation of the nation.

Virus entering new, dangerous phase: WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With coronavirus cases alarmingly surging by 1.50 lakh in a day globally, the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Saturday warned that the Covid-19 pandemic is entering a "new and dangerous" phase with the virus outbreak accelerating across the countries which are in the spree of opening up of the economy.

Urging countries to remain extremely vigilant, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the pandemic is speeding up with the most number of cases reported in a day.

"The pandemic is accelerating. More than 150,000 new cases of COVID-19 were reported to WHO yesterday - the most in a single day so far,"

said Tedros at a press briefing at Geneva.

The coronavirus outbreak has wreaked havoc across the world killing at least 454,000 people and infected more than 8.5 million worldwide since the outbreak began in China late last year.

The WHO chief said people getting tired of lockdowns imposed to halt the spread of the disease and there was a need to open up to deal with economic damage but the "the virus is still spreading fast" and is "still deadly".

He added that "strict and sustained implementation" of public health measures to curb the spread of the virus remains essential but also noted the difficulty of carrying out such efforts in refugee camps, where migrants face huge risks of being sickened by Covid-19.

Glenmark launches Covid drug at ₹103 per tablet

New Delhi: Drug firm Glenmark Pharmaceuticals on Saturday said it has launched antiviral drug Favipiravir, under the brand name FaviFlu, for the treatment of patients with mild to moderate Covid-19 at a price of about ₹103 per tablet.

The drug will be available as a 200 mg tablet at a maximum retail price (MRP) of Rs 3,500 for a strip of 34 tablets, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals said. FaviFlu is the first oral favipiravir-approved medication in India for the treatment of Covid-19, it added.

It is a prescription-based medication, with recommended dose being 1,800 mg

twice daily on day one, followed by 800 mg twice daily up to day 14, the drug firm said.

"Considering a minimum of two strips per patient, Glenmark will be able to provide FaviFlu for about 82,500 patients in the 1st month itself. We will be closely monitoring the evolving situation and basis the situation, we will work to scale and meet the healthcare needs of the country," it said.

The company is producing the active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) for the product at its Ankleshwar plant, while the formulation is being manufactured at its Baddi plant.

GARIB KALYAN ROZGAR ABHIYAAN

₹50K-cr scheme to create jobs for migrant workers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched an employment scheme, 'Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyaan', for migrant workers, saying it will now give a boost to development in rural areas and villages where the talent from cities returned during the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

The Abhiyaan was launched by Modi via video conference in a village in Katihar district of Bihar in the virtual presence of chief ministers of five States — Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand — and a Minister from Odisha.

Launching the scheme, Modi said there are some people who may not appreciate efforts of villagers in the fight against the novel coronavirus but he applauds them for their efforts. The way villages have

fought coronavirus has taught a big lesson to the cities, he added. The scheme with an outlay of ₹50,000 crore will be implemented on mission mode in 125 days in 116 districts of the six States to which the maximum number of the migrant workers have returned.

The mission will be a convergent effort between 12 different ministries/ departments such as Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Road Transport and Highways, Mines, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Environment, Railways, Petroleum and Natural Gas, New and Renewable Energy, Border Roads, Telecom, and Agriculture. These 25 works are related to rural housing for the poor, plantations, provision of drinking water through Jal Jeevan Mission, and construction of panchayat bhavans,

community toilets, rural mandis, rural roads, cattle sheds and anganwadi bhavans, according to the Ministry of Rural Development, which is the nodal ministry for the project.

Underlining that migrant workers were always in the Centre's thoughts during the lockdown, the prime minister said it is an endeavour of his government that workers get jobs near their home and help in development of villages.

Before launching the scheme, Modi spoke to several migrants and enquired their current state of employment and also whether the various welfare schemes launched during the lockdown period were available to them.

Modi expressed satisfaction and said that earlier, money used to be given in the name of beneficiaries but it never reached them but now

things have changed. In the beginning of his speech, Modi paid homage to the soldiers of the Bihar Regiment who lost their lives in a violent clash with Chinese troops at LAC in eastern Ladakh.

The scheme is separate from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) ensures 100 days of employment per household in an year. MGNREGS is applicable across the country and a large number of works are allowed under the scheme even working on own farms by small Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers is allowed and government pay wages to them.

Whereas the Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana is a one-time scheme for providing employment to migrant workers who returned during the lockdown near their villages.





"Yoga is good for community, immunity and unity. In the midst of Corona crisis, Yoga has assumed even greater importance as it helps strengthen the respiratory system."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

21st June 2020

International Day of Yoga (IDY)

Today, from your home, join this global pursuit of health and well-being.

Stand together in solidarity with the rest of the world at 7am today by joining the harmonious performance of Yoga from your home.



MY LIFE MY YOGA

JEEVAN YOGA

For guidance on harmonious performance of Yoga based on Common Yoga Protocol tune into any of the following channels of Doordarshan at 6:15am today:
DD National, DD News, DD Bharati, DD India, DD Urdu, DD Sports, DD Kisan, all Regional Languages Satellite Services (RLSS) Channels & all Regional Kendras

You may also join live on the Facebook handle of the Ministry of AYUSH- [facebook.com/moayush/](https://www.facebook.com/moayush/)

For more details about IDY- 2020 and CYP, check out: www.yoga.ayush.gov.in/yoga/
www.ayush.gov.in www.un.org/en/observances/yoga-day

<https://www.facebook.com/moayush> <https://twitter.com/moayush>

TN sees single-day high of 2,396 cases

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

As Tamil Nadu recorded 2,396 coronavirus positive cases on Saturday, the highest number to test positive for the pandemic in a single day, even Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy has turned to God Almighty with prayers to save the State.

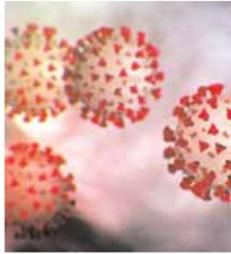
Out of the 2,396 persons tested positive on Saturday, Chennai accounted for 1,254. The day also saw 38 persons breathing their last due to covid-19 and this took the death toll in the State till date to 704.

The Government-issued medical bulletin said the total positive cases in the State till date touched 56,845. This means from the day the first coronavirus positive case was tested, 56, 845 persons have been diagnose with covid-19.

Saturday also saw 1,045 patients coming out of hospitals in the State fully cured the pandemic and the total number of patients who were cured of the disease till date reached 31,316.

Aggressive testing launched by the Government is going on in full steam as 32,186 persons were tested on Saturday and this took the number of persons tested for the disease till date reaching 8.21 lakh. Edappadi Palaniswamy told reporters that the State is in the forefront in testing for coronavirus and 85 laboratories were working round-the-clock across the State.

Out of the 38 persons who died on Saturday, 33 had comorbidities (serious ailments like diabetes, hypertension, kidney related issues) while the rest had no comorbidities. As the number of people



testing positive in the State proceeding on a northward journey, a sense of panic has gripped the administration. Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy has left everything at the feet of God Almighty as far as Covid-19 pandemic is concerned. In an interaction with journalists at Guru Nanak College at Velachery, a suburb in Chennai on Saturday, the Chief Minister said he was helpless and does not know when the coron-

avirus pandemic would subside.

"We are working to prevent the spread of the virus and protect people. We don't know from where the virus comes and how it spreads. As on date, the medical world does not have a medicine to treat the pandemic. I follow what the medical experts say and God alone knows when Covid-19 would subside," said the chief minister while one of the reporters asked him how long the pandemic would last.

Chennai and the neighboring districts have been locked down completely since the mid-night of June 19 and it will remain in the shut down mode till June 30. The chief minister said it was not possible at this juncture to tell whether the lock-down would be extended. "The government goes by what the medical experts say. I have one request

to the people of Chennai. They should not leave the city under any conditions. We are trying our best to control the spread of the corona virus and I am sure it will yield results soon," said Palaniswamy.

For the second day in succession, the Greater Chennai Corporation area wore a deserted look. Abhijit Nakulan, a management professional who has made Chennai his home for the last two decades said the city resembled a ghost town now.

"Roads are empty barring the occasional emergency vehicles. People are not venturing out as the Police has tightened the rule. We cannot move beyond the 2 km radius from our house to buy essential goods. I have never seen the City like this barring the day when former chief minister Jayalalitha died in 2016," said Abhijit.

Panic in Kerala with record 127 +ve cases on Saturday

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A sense of panic has gripped Kerala since Friday evening as reports of coronavirus pandemic spreading uncontrollably started trickling in from various districts.

The tension and anxiety reached new heights by Saturday evening as Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the people of the State that 127 persons have been diagnosed with covid-19 in a single day. "This is the highest number of covid-19 cases to be confirmed on a single day and the situation is grave," Vijayan said in his daily press briefing.

On Thursday evening, Vijayan had warned the people of any kind of lethargy in their approach towards coronavirus pandemic and since then the State has seen more than hun-

dred cases of the disease on each day.

Out of the 127 persons tested positive for the pandemic on Saturday, expatriates who returned to the State accounted for 87 cases while 36 persons returning to Kerala from other parts of the country too got infected with the virus, said the Chief Minister.

He said 3039 persons have been diagnosed with the pandemic while Saturday saw 288 patients getting admitted to the hospitals. "As on date a total of 1,450 persons have been admitted to hospitals with covid-19. We have put 1.39 lakh persons under observation in the State," said Vijayan.

There are 111 hotspots in the State which had claimed of flattening the corona curve in

May 2020.

Meanwhile Kadakampalli Surendran, Kerala's Minister for Tourism and Co-operation warned the people in the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram for their 'wanton' attitude and violation of government guidelines.

"What is happening here? There are restrictions imposed on the number of people who could gather for social events and even death related rituals. Though the government has limited the number of persons who could gather for such events to 20, I myself has seen many times of that number coming together. This is being viewed seriously and I have instructed police to take serious actions against the violators," said Surendran while speaking to reporters on Saturday.

BSF shoots down Pak drone along IB in Kathua

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ INTERNATIONAL BORDER, PANSAR

Alert jawans of the Border Security Force (BSF) early Saturday morning shot down a GPS fitted drone which carried a payload of around 6 kgs including a US made M-4 semi automatic carbine, 7 Chinese grenades and sixty rounds packed in two magazines, along the International border in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district.

After repeated incidents of arms dropping via drone in Tarn Taran area of Punjab in September 2019, this is the first incident of arms dropping along the International border in Jammu region.

Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier, NS Jamwal, who visited the border area along with senior officers told reporters, "BSF patrol party had first spotted movement of drone flying close to the International border around 5.10 a.m on Saturday morning". He said, BSF jawans observed it for some time and later the party commander shot it down. Jamwal said the drone was at a height of about 150/200 feet inside Indian territory when it was shot down.

He said the drone had possibly taken off from the close vicinity of Thakurpura border outpost of Pakistani rangers, located in Shakargarh-Narowal area on the Pakistani side of the border.



Pak drone shot down by BSF jawans in Hiranagar sector early on Saturday

On recovery it was found that it was a "Hexa copter (china made)" weighing about 17.5 Kgs. He said the BSF

intelligence branch was receiving inputs about the possible use of drones for ferrying arms and ammunition from Pakistan

into Indian side. Accordingly the troops were put on high alert and the border domination was exponentially increased and jawans were sensitized, he added. IG BSF NS Jamwal said, "it was a huge arms consignment and sufficient for carrying out any terrorist strike."

Director General of Police, Durbag Singh during his interaction with the media on June 8 had also dropped clear hints claiming attempts were being made by the terrorist operatives to supply arms and ammunition to their cadre and use of drones have been attempted. He, however, clarified that no such incident has come to light confirming the reports of arms dropping using drones from

across the border.

According to the official sources, the arms consignment was meant to be airdropped inside the Indian territory from where it was expected to be ferried to a hideout of terrorists with the help of a network of over ground workers in the region.

In the past, truck drivers working as active OGW's of terror outfits have ferried armed infiltrators and arms consignment along the road link to Kashmir valley from the notorious Hiranagar sector.

The BSF IGP informed that the drone had a winch mechanism with which the entire consignment had to be dropped to this side and it had to fly back to Pakistan.

Terrorist killed in Kulgam

PNS ■ JAMMU

An unidentified terrorist was killed by the joint teams of security forces in Likhdipora area of Kulgam while four civilians received injuries during intense exchange of mortar shelling along the line of control in Uri sector on Saturday.

According to police, the operation was launched by the joint teams of security forces on Saturday afternoon after receiving inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area. So far one terrorist has been neutralised while the operation in the area was still going on till



the time of filing the report.

In the Uri sector, the Pakistan Army targeted several civilian structures in the Kamalkote area of Uri in which at least four civilians received injuries. Pakistan had earlier violated ceasefire late Friday night in Tangdhar sector. In response the Indian army had given a befitting reply.

Protest against Jammu admin for paltry relief

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After two brothers died under mysterious circumstances during cremation of a Covid-19 patient on the outskirts of Jammu on June 18, the district administration on Saturday announced a paltry sum of ₹2 lakhs each to their next of kins on 'humanitarian grounds'.

Less than one hour after the announcement was made by the District Magistrate Jammu in one of the whatsapp groups of local media, widow of one of the deceased identified as Vimal Zadoo, along with her minor daughters and a handful of local residents

staged a protest demonstration and disrupted traffic on Jammu Pathankot highway against the decision of the UT administration.

Braving scorching heat, she sat in the middle of the road and questioned the higher government functionaries how she will survive in the absence of any earning member of a family.

The family members also refused to perform the last rites and demanded a compensation of ₹25 lakhs each, a government job for the widow and allotment of accommodation for the family of the deceased.

Till late evening, the Government had not issued

any statement in response to the demands raised by the family of the deceased persons.

Raising question marks on the conduct of the Union territory administration, Vimal Zadoo's wife alleged, "My husband died due to sheer negligence on the part of the district authorities. I am told by the son of a Covid 19 patient, my husband was not given water when he was gasping for breath and feeling suffocated ahead of performing last rites of a close relative". She claimed, "my husband was alright when he left home to perform the last rites of his uncle". "I last spoke to him when he was boarding the ambulance after wearing PPE

kits". She claimed he was exhausted as they forced them to wear PPE kits for more than 2 hours before the cremation took place. "They took them to different places before reaching Sidhra in the absence of any standard operating procedures on how to perform last rites of a covid 19 patients in Jammu".

"They killed my husband and his younger brother. Now they are offering me Rs 2 lakhs. How i will survive and raise my daughters with this money. Who will look after the needs of my children. How will I educate them and where will I stay. I am living in a rented accom-

modation". "Today everyone is standing with me, tomorrow I will be all alone. I demand justice from the government, she pleaded before the government functionaries with folded hands".

The police and other Government functionaries present on ground zero had a tough time and faced resistance from a large number of local residents over the unfortunate events leading to death of both the brothers at the time of cremation of a Covid 19 patient. The authorities later facilitated the family members and performed the last rites of the deceased brothers in Jammu.



Turbulent waves crash ashore along the promenade of Marine Drive, in Mumbai on Saturday

Highest single-day jump of 491 corona cases in Andhra

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh recorded the steepest single-day jump of 491 in coronavirus cases on Saturday even as the state's death toll reached 101 with five more fatalities due to the virus.

Two deaths each were reported from Krishna and Kurnool districts while one person died in Guntur district.

Anantapur reported the highest new cases (97) followed by West Godavari (65) and Chittoor and Krishna districts (51 each).

With 491 new cases during the 24-hour cycle, the state's total tally climbed to 8,452. As many as 138 people were discharged from the hospitals during the period, taking the cumulative recoveries to 4,111.

Health officials said 22,371 samples were tested during the last 24 hours, of which 491 tested positive. While 390 new patients are locals, the remaining are returnees from other states and countries.

They said 83 returnees from different states and 18 foreign returnees were found infected.

Meanwhile, the state government re-imposed lockdown in Prakasam, Anantapur and Srikakulam districts due to a large number of infections.

People were allowed to move out of their houses only to buy essential commodities. The movement of people and vehicles was restricted while all shops selling non-essential items were shut.

Raj: Private schools leave parents, teachers tormented

IANS ■ JAIPUR

The parents as well as teachers in Rajasthan are becoming the victims of the atrocities by private schools who are demanding increased fees from parents while leaving their teachers unpaid for last three months even when classes are being run online for students due to the lockdown.

As per the Rajasthan Government's initial guideline, schools were barred from taking any fee from students for three months that is — March 15-June 15 in view of the coronavirus outbreak.

However, as no other advi-

sory has come till date, the parents are being asked to pay due fees while teachers are left with pay-cuts and non payment of salaries.

Eventually, parents in thousands are running a 'No School, No Fee' campaign in the state, while teachers working in private schools are awaiting their salaries for the last three months, fearing job loss if they complain to authorities.

On Saturday, many distressed parents gathered at Central Park in Jaipur to launch 'No School, No Fee' campaign.

Speaking to IANS, one Sunil Yadav, All Rajasthan Private School Parents Forum

president, said, "Many parents gathered at Central Park and launched a 'no school, no fee' campaign today."

Expressing his annoyance for running online classes for small kids, he said, "Schools are running online classes just for the sake of collecting fees from students which should be stopped as it is harming kids' personality," he said, adding that the government, this year, should declare a zero year as there is no silver lining on normalcy returning soon.

Another parent, Meenu Goyal told IANS that the schools instead of giving waivers are in fact increasing

fees which is our major concern. "I requested my kids' school to bring down the increased fee, however, they rejected the proposal," she said.

Besides parents, the school teachers are also annoyed at the working model of schools as they have not been paid from April on pretext of delayed collection of school fees despite preparing online notes and videos for students.

A school teacher from a renowned private school in Jaisalmer said, "We have not been paid right from April and most of us are now on the verge of financial collapse. All our saving is gone."

Covid suspect missing from Hyd hospital found dead

Hyderabad: Twenty days after he went missing from Government-run Gandhi Hospital, body of a Covid-19 suspect was found in the mortuary of the same hospital on Saturday.

The body of the 39-year-old was found in the mortuary of the hospital, though the hospital officials have denied that the man was brought here.

Narendra Singh, a resident of Mangalhat area in Hyderabad, had gone to Gandhi Hospital on May 31 with suspected symptoms of Covid-19.

Singh had first gone to King Koti Hospital with her mother on May 30 but she had returned home from there. Singh was alone when he was shifted to Gandhi Hospital in an ambulance as he had developed suspected symptoms. He was reportedly in touch with the family over phone till May 31.

His mother lodged a complaint with Mangalhat police station after Singh went missing. The police investigations confirmed that he was taken to Gandhi Hospital but they could not trace him. The hospital authorities, however, denied that any person by this name was admitted there.

The man's family and police had been searching for him for 20 days. Police said the cause of the man's death is under investigation. Majlis Bachao Tehreek (MBT) leader Amjedullah Khan Khalid, who had been closely following the case, demanded a probe by the Crime Investigation Department (CID). He said the CCTV cameras installed in Gandhi Hospital were not functioning.

The controversy is the latest to hit Gandhi Hospital, the nodal facility for treatment of Covid patients in Telangana. It saw a series of incidents of goof-ups by the authorities and mix-up of bodies of Covid-19 patients over last few weeks.



A flock of pigeons fly over the Marina beach after the Government decided to aggressively impose another total lockdown due to surge in Covid-19 cases, in Chennai on Saturday

Digitisation and robotisation to counter future pandemics

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Though the world of modern medicine is yet to make any major breakthrough in developing a vaccine for Covid-19 pandemic, efforts are on by industrial experts to minimise the impact of future pandemics on the economies of nations.

A major study by a team of Indian and Russian experts to understand the possibility and feasibility of how digitalization and robotization would help in reducing coronavirus impact in industries is underway and a solution is expected by the end of June 2020. The findings are expected to address issues like preventing joblessness and uprooting of migrant workers which were witnessed immediately after the nation-wide lockdown.

The study is being carried out by the Russian autonomous non-profit

organization ANO Data Economy and Zyrfa, a Finnish-Russian industrial digitalization company.

A release by Zyrfa said the team of professionals would focus on the losses and impact caused by the Covid-19 and suggest ways and means like digitalization and robotization which could minimise the impact of future pandemics.

The desired results of the research are an express evaluation of the current production situation and the creation of clear measures to digitalize transform manufacturing companies looking at the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, it said.

The main goal of the research is to elaborate mechanisms to support the digitalization of enterprises. The adaptation of industrial business processes to the new realities should be a development tool for companies, and should help to stimulate compet-

itiveness," said Vladimir Dozhdev, Director, Department of Digital Technologies, Russian Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The release further stated that the study would cover issues; how digitalization can solve problems caused by the pandemic; key digital technologies in the production processes, the main barriers to the digitalization in industry and the priorities of the State and of businesses.

The results of the study will be presented by the end of June. Based on the results of the survey, ANO Data Economy will draw a list of projects in Russia and India, designed to reduce the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the economies of the two countries, to help industrial enterprises to recover more quickly, and to define the prospects of IT cooperation for Russian and Indian companies.

Judge allows release of John Bolton's Book

Washington: A federal judge ruled Saturday that former national security adviser John Bolton can move forward in publishing his tell-all book despite efforts by the Trump administration to block the release because of concerns that classified information could be exposed.

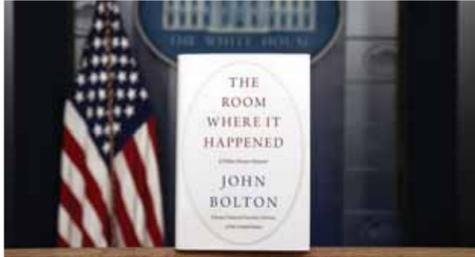
The decision from U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth is a victory for Bolton in a court case that involved core First Amendment and national security concerns.

But the judge also made clear his concerns that Bolton had "gambled with the national security of the United States" by taking it upon himself to publish his memoir without formal clearance from a White House that says it was still reviewing it for classified information.

"Defendant Bolton has gambled with the national security of the United States. He has exposed his country to harm and himself to civil (and potentially criminal) liability," Lamberth wrote. "But these facts do not control the motion before the Court."

The government has failed to establish that an injunction will prevent irreparable harm."

From a practical perspective, the ruling clears the path for a broader election-year read-



ership and distribution of a memoir, due out Tuesday, that paints an unflattering portrait of President Donald Trump's foreign policy decision-making during the turbulent year-and-a-half that Bolton spent in the White House.

Soon after the ruling was released, Trump tweeted that Bolton "broke the law by releasing Classified Information (in massive amounts)."

He must pay a very big price for this, as others have before him. This should never to happen again!!!"

Bolton's lawyer, Chuck Cooper, applauded Lamberth for denying the government's attempt to "suppress" Bolton's book. Publisher Simon & Schuster said the decision "vindicated the strong First Amendment protections against censorship and prior restraint of publication." Bolton's team

insisted that Bolton had spent months addressing White House concerns about classified information and that Bolton had been assured in late April by the official he was working with that the manuscript no longer contained any such material. Bolton's lawyers said the Trump administration's efforts to block the book were a pretext to censor him for an account that the White House found unfavourable.

The Justice Department sued this past week to block the book's release and to demand that copies be retrieved.

Officials said the book contained classified information and that Bolton had failed to complete a prepublication review process meant to ensure former government officials do not improperly disclose national security secrets in books they write. AP

China to establish national security bureau in HK

Beijing: China plans to establish a special bureau in Hong Kong to investigate and prosecute crimes considered threatening to national security, as state media on Saturday reported some details of a controversial new national security law being imposed on the city. Bodies in all Hong Kong government departments, from finance to immigration, will be directly answerable to the central government in Beijing, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Details of the proposed national security law — which has been strongly criticized as undermining the semi-autonomous territory's legal and political institutions — emerged as the body that handles most lawmaking for China's top legislative body closed its latest meeting.

The bill was raised for discussion at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress but there was no further word on its fate, Xinhua said.

Tam Yiu-chung, Hong Kong's sole delegate on the Standing Committee, told Hong Kong public broadcaster RTHK that the law was reviewed but no vote had been taken, and that it wasn't clear

when it would be further vetted. The Standing Committee meets every two months.

The bill was submitted Thursday for deliberation, covering four categories of crimes: succession, subversion of state power, local terrorist activities and collaborating with foreign or external foreign forces to endanger national security.

Beijing has repeatedly said it is determined to press ahead with the legislation and bypass Hong Kong's legislature despite heavy criticism from within Hong Kong and abroad, including from the U.S., which says it will revoke some of the preferential conditions extended toward the city after its transfer from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

Britain has said it will offer passports and a path to citizenship to as many as 3 million Hong Kong residents. Group of Seven leading economies called on China to reconsider its plans, issuing a joint statement voicing "grave concern" over the legislation that is said would breach Beijing's international commitments as well as the territory's constitution.

Beijing has repeatedly denounced the moves as rank interference in its internal affairs. AP

Thousands headed to indoor Trump rally, raising virus fears

Washington: Tens of thousands of people from many States are converging on Tulsa for an indoor rally and other campaign events Saturday for President Donald Trump, raising concerns that the gatherings could help fuel nascent spikes of coronavirus cases in many places.

State and city health department officials were already bracing for a possible surge in COVID-19 cases from large outdoor demonstrations against police brutality held across the country.

Now the Trump rally — at an indoor arena that can hold 19,000 people and is expected to be at capacity — is shaping up to be the first indoor event of such a massive scale since the coronavirus pandemic took hold and many states issued stay-at-home orders.

Tulsa has seen the largest increase in cases in Oklahoma in recent days, and several bordering states, including Arkansas, have seen spikes in community spread of the virus in recent weeks.

"I think there's no question that indoor events are more risky than outdoor events. But we don't really know how big that difference is. And certainly other aspects, like how tightly packed things are ... Will make a big difference," said Justin Lessler, an associate professor of epidemiology at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



Lessler said large events like the rally or the protests have the "potential to be super spreader events," but their potential to drive the pandemic is short-lived.

"The larger factor is what happens when people go home," he said. "If everybody goes home and doesn't respect the social distancing factors and goes out into the community, then they could push the spread."

Tulsa County health officials have said they are particularly concerned about the event at the BOK Center because of a recent spike in

cases: Oklahoma set a high for new cases last Thursday, with 450, and Tulsa saw 125 new cases Friday. Other health experts are worried that attendees could unknowingly take the virus back to their respective hometowns and states, seeding additional outbreaks.

The Trump campaign acknowledged the risk in a waiver it asked attendees to sign that absolves them of any responsibility if someone should get sick.

It has said it will hand out masks and hand sanitizer, but there is no requirement that participants use them. AP

FRANCE

Demonstrators stage protests against police violence

Paris: Hundreds of people in Paris protested Saturday against racism and police violence and in memory of Black men who died following encounters with French police or suspicious circumstances.

Many protesters congregated in the central Place de la Republique. Some carried a placard bearing the words "Justice For Ibo," a reference to Ibrahima Bah, 22, who died in an October motorbike crash near a police operation. Bah's family suspects officers were responsible.

The protesters planned to march to the former home of Lamine Dieng, a 25-year-old Franco-Senegalese man arrested in 2007 who died in a police van. A separate demonstration in support of undocumented workers planned to join up with the anti-racism march.



People march holding a banner during a protest in memory of Lamine Dieng, a 25-year-old Franco-Senegalese who died in a police van after being arrested in 2007, in Paris on Saturday. AP

Last week, it emerged that the French government agreed to pay 145,000 euros (\$162,000) to Dieng's relatives after 13 years of legal wrangling.

Demonstrations have erupted across the globe decrying racism and police brutality

after the brutal death in the United States last month of Black American George Floyd.

In Paris, both of Saturday's protests were authorized by French authorities, who have been exercising caution over protests in recent weeks as the

country emerges from coronavirus restrictions. Other protests on Saturday in the French capital have, however, been banned, including an anti-racism demonstration near the U.S. Embassy by the Black African Defense League, and another protest linked to recent violence involving Chechens in the French city of Dijon.

A small group of activists staged a flash protest Saturday outside the French Health Ministry in support of state medical workers, who are demanding higher pay and more hospital staff after France's once-renowned health care system struggled to cope with the virus crisis following years of cost cuts.

The protesters sprayed red paint on the ministry building, symbolizing blood, and on a mock medal. AP

UK demonstrators hold fourth weekend of anti-racism protests

London: Anti-racism demonstrators are holding a fourth weekend of protests across the UK, despite a ban on large gatherings because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Demonstrations were taking place Saturday in cities including London, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Hundreds assembled for a socially distanced Say No to Racism rally in Glasgow's George Square, where earlier this week members of the far right attacked a refugee-rights gathering. In Edinburgh, protesters including "Trainspotting" author Irvine Welsh called for the removal of a statue of Henry Dundas from its column in the city's St. Andrew Square. The late 18th-century Scottish politician

was responsible for delaying Britain's abolition of the slave trade by 15 years until 1807. During that time, more than half a million enslaved Africans were trafficked across the Atlantic.

Hundreds of thousands of people have held mostly peaceful anti-racism protests across Britain since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25, urging the UK to confront its own history of imperialism and racial inequality. After some protesters scuffled with police and defaced a statue of wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill in London, and demonstrators in Bristol toppled a statue of slave trader Edward Colston, counter-protesters rallied last week with the stated aim of protecting monuments. AP

Shooting in Seattle protest zone leaves 1 dead, 1 injured

Seattle (US): One person was killed and another was in critical condition in a pre-dawn shooting in Seattle's protest zone, authorities said Saturday.

The shooting happened at about 3 a.m. In the area near downtown known as CHOP, which stands for "Capitol Hill Occupied Protest" zone, police said in a statement on Twitter.

Seattle Police Sgt. Lauren Truscott told The Seattle Times that she didn't know whether police had taken anyone into custody and that she had no immediate details about how the shooting unfolded.

Investigators were reviewing reviewing public-source video and body-camera video for clues and authorities planned to disclose more information about

the shooting later, Truscott said.

Two males with gunshot wounds arrived in a private vehicle at Harborview Medical Center at about 3 a.m., said hospital spokesperson Susan Gregg. One died and the other one was in critical condition in the intensive care unit. Protesters have cordoned off several blocks near a police station in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood in the wake of demonstrations against police violence since the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis several weeks ago. Police have largely retreated from the zone after clashes with protesters ended with people throwing things at police and police tear gassing people and using other crowd control munitions. AP

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

US Embassy in Kabul battling virus infections

Kabul: The US State Department says COVID-19 infections have been reported at its embassy in the Afghan capital and the staff who are affected include diplomats, contractors and locally employed staff.

The State Department did not say how many were affected. An official at the embassy in Kabul, who could not be identified because of not being authorized to talk to the media, said as many as 20 people were infected, the majority of whom are Nepalese Gurkhas, who provide embassy security.

"The embassy is implementing all appropriate measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19," the US State department said.

The infected staff are in iso-

lation in the embassy while the remainder on the compound are being tested, said the embassy official, who also said the embassy staff have been told they can expect tighter isolation orders.

Afghanistan has 28,424 confirmed coronavirus cases.

International aid organizations monitoring the pandemic's spread in the country say the numbers are much higher because of a lack of testing capabilities as well as access to testing.

They also fear the highly contagious disease has spread throughout the country with the return of nearly 300,000 Afghans from Iran, the hardest hit country in the region.

Iran has recorded more

than 200,000 cases and 9,392 deaths.

Few of the Afghans who returned from Iran were tested before they fanned out across the country to their homes.

Earlier this month the International Rescue Committee warned Afghanistan was on the brink of a humanitarian disaster mostly because the government does not have the capacity to even test 80% of coronavirus cases.

Until now a handful of NATO troops have also tested positive for the infection.

At the US Embassy, the State Department said a sanitization of the premises was being carried out to "prevent further outbreak." AP

Slaughterhouse virus cases exceed 1,000 in Germany

Frankfurt (Germany): An official in north-west Germany says the number of workers infected in a coronavirus outbreak at a slaughterhouse in Rheda-Wiedenbruck and for their family members.

The regional government has issued a quarantine order for all 6,500 workers and managers at the Toennies firm's meat processing facility in Rheda-Wiedenbruck and for their family members.

German news agency dpa quoted regional official Sven-Georg Adenauer as saying Saturday, "We have no significant introduction of coronavirus into the general population." More than 3,000 workers have been tested thus far. Testing continued Saturday at the facility with the support of police and 25 military personnel, dpa reported. Some employees were under a so-called working quarantine, meaning they only are allowed to travel between home and work. AP

Zimbabwe's Health Min arrested in Covid graft case

Harare: Zimbabwe's health minister was expected to appear in court on Saturday to face allegations of illegally awarding a multi-million-dollar contract for COVID-19 testing kits, drugs and personal protective equipment to a shadowy company.

The country's anti-corruption agency arrested Obadiah Moyo on Friday as the scandal roiled the country and played out on social media, where some local journalists exposed how Moyo allegedly chose the company to sell medical supplies to the government at inflated prices that included face masks for \$28 each.

The government cancelled the contracts following public uproar.

One of President Emmerson Mnangagwa's sons was forced to issue a statement denying a link to the company after pictures emerged of the Zimbabwean representative of the firm enjoying the company of the president and his wife and sons at several events.

The representative, Delish Nguwaya,

and some top officials of the national drugs procurement agency are already facing criminal charges related to the scandal.

Nguwaya is accused of lying in saying the company was a drugs manufacturing company based in Switzerland, "whereas it was merely a consulting company with no experience in the manufacture of drug and medical products," according to the charge sheet.

The scandal comes as health professionals including nurses and doctors in Zimbabwe are on strike demanding to be paid their salaries in U.S. Dollars.

They argue that inflation that is now above 750% and the erosion of the value of local currency have rendered incomes worthless. Most traders charge for their goods in U.S. Dollars in the southern African country that has long faced economic collapse.

The health professionals also have complained about lack of adequate protective gear as the number of coronavirus cases rises. AP

Around the Globe

Dhaka: Bangladesh on Saturday decided expansion of South Korean-style kiosks to collect samples for COVID-19 testing by engaging non-government or private organisations to intensify coronavirus testing. Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said the South Korean approach called Walk-In Sample Kiosk (WISK) appeared safe and effective in collecting samples as the makeshift booths created scopes for COVID-19 suspects to be tested avoiding hassles and saving time.

Islamabad: Pakistan on Saturday reported 153 coronavirus deaths, the highest spike in a single day in the country, while the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases crossed the 171,000-mark, health officials said. According to the Ministry of National Health Services, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Pakistan rose to 171,665 after 6,604 new infections were recorded in the last 24 hours. The total death toll stands at 3,382 after 153 more deaths were registered.

Beijing: China has reported 34 new coronavirus cases, including 22 in Beijing, where the health officials have submitted the virus genome sequence from the recent clusters of COVID-19 infections to the World Health Organisation, officials said on Saturday.

Kathmandu: Nepal's coronavirus tally climbed to 8,605 on Saturday after the country reported 331 new infections. The Ministry of Health and Population said the new cases include 282 males. Altogether 176 COVID-19 patients were discharged from hospitals after recovery in the past 24 hours.

Babies with Covid may have only mild illness, mostly with fever: Study

Washington: Researchers, including an Indian-origin scientist, have shown that infants under 90 days of age who tested positive for Covid-19 tend to be well, with little or no respiratory symptoms.

According to the study, published in The Journal of Pediatrics, fever was often found to be the primary or only symptom in new born babies infected with the novel coronavirus.

While there is limited data on infants with COVID-19 from the US, our findings



suggest that these babies mostly have mild illness and may not be at higher risk of severe disease as initially reported from China," said study lead author Leena Mithal from the Northwestern University in the US.

"Most of the infants in our study had fever, which suggests that for young infants being evaluated because of fever, COVID-19 may be an important cause, particularly in a region with widespread community activity," Mithal said.

However, she added that

evaluation for bacterial infection in young infants with fever remains important.

In the study, the researchers assessed 18 infants, none with a significant medical history.

Of the 50 percent of these infants who were admitted to the hospital's general inpatient service, none required oxygen, respiratory support, or intensive care.

According to the study, indications for admission were mainly clinical observation, monitoring of feeding toler-

ance, and ruling-out bacterial infection with empiric intravenous antibiotics in infants younger than 60 days.

Of the infants admitted to the hospital, six out of nine had gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms such as poor feeding, vomiting, and diarrhea.

The scientists said upper respiratory tract symptoms of cough and congestion preceded onset of GI symptoms.

They said young infants also had notably high viral loads in their nasal specimens despite mild clinical illness.

"It is unclear whether young infants with fever and a positive test for SARS-CoV-2 require hospital admission," Mithal said.

"The decision to admit to the hospital is based on age, need for preemptive treatment of bacterial infection, clinical assessment, feeding tolerance, and adequacy of follow-up," she added.

Mithal believes there may be opportunities to utilise rapid SARS-CoV-2 testing to determine disposition of clinically well infants with fever. AP

Govt invites suggestions to amend MV rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Centre has invited suggestions and comments from all stakeholders including general public on the proposed amendment in the Motor Vehicle Draft rules for facilitating MOUs with neighbouring countries involving movement of passenger or goods vehicles.

An instant Notification to this effect has been issued by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways following requests from various Government Departments and States regarding supporting rules required under the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act 1988, for the facilitation of Movement of Vehicles Carrying Goods and Passengers between Indian

All such regulations have been finalised to facilitate operations under MOUs which have been signed between India and other neighbouring countries

States and other neighboring countries from time to time.

The Ministry has notified rules for the facilitation of bus service between Amritsar and Lahore (2006), between New Delhi and Lahore (2000), between Calcutta and Dhaka (2000) and Amritsar and Nankana Sahib (2006).

All such regulations have been finalised to facilitate operations under MOUs which have been signed between

India and other neighbouring countries. MORTH had also notified rules on 17.10.2018 regarding Movement of Bangladesh registered LPG trucks in Indian Territory for supply of bulk LPG to LPG Bottling Plant at Bishalgarh, Tripura.

"Taking into consideration all above mentioned cases and for the facilitating the operation of MOUs, involving movement of goods or passengers between India and neighbouring countries, it has been decided to establish standard guidelines rules for the facilitation of Movement of Vehicles Carrying Goods and Passengers between Indian States and Other Neighboring Countries," said a senior MoRTH official.

Over ₹65k cr given through DBT to PMGKP beneficiaries

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

More than 42 crore beneficiaries have been extended cash support through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) totalling ₹65,454 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) till June 19, the Finance Ministry said on Saturday.

The ₹1.7 lakh crore PMGKP package was announced by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on March 26 to protect weaker and most vulnerable sections of society from the impact of the nationwide lockdown due to Covid-19 outbreak.

Under the package, the Union government announced free food grains and cash payments to women and poor senior citizens and farmers. It's swift implementation is being continuously monitored by the central and State Governments.

So far, the Government has transferred ₹8,488 crore

into the bank accounts of PM Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries. Also, 8.52 crore free Ujjwala cylinders have been booked and delivered during April and May. As many as 2.1 crore cylinders have been booked in June so far of which 1.87 crore free cylinders have been delivered.

A ministry statement said that as of June 19, the Government has also released ₹996.46 crore for the benefit of 65.74 lakh EPFO account-holders whereby the Centre had decided to make the entire 24 per cent PF contribution of both employers and employees for a further period of three months.

Moreover, 20.22 lakh members of EPFO have taken the benefit of online withdrawal of non-refundable advance from their EPFO accounts totalling ₹5,767 crore.

The Government had also released the first instalment of PM-KISAN (₹16,394 crore)

and transferred it to 8.94 crore identified farmers who got ₹2,000 each directly in their bank accounts.

The Govt had also disbursed ₹30,952 crore to women Jan Dhan account-holders till June 19. A sum of ₹10,325 crore was disbursed to 20.65 crore such account-holders (100 per cent) as the first instalment of ₹500 each. Moreover, ₹10,315 crore had been credited to 20.63 crore women Jan Dhan account-holders (100 per cent) as the second instalment. A sum of ₹10,312 crore was credited to 20.62 crore (100%) women Jan Dhan account-holders as third instalment.

In addition, the central government had also released ₹2,814.5 crore to about 2.81 crore old-age persons, widows and disabled persons in two instalments. Each beneficiary received an ex gratia of ₹500 each as the first instalment and another ₹500 each as the second instalment. For each

instalment, the Government disbursed ₹1,407 crore to 100 per cent of the identified beneficiaries.

Also, 2.3 crore building and construction workers have so far received financial support totalling ₹4,312.82 crore.

So far, 113 lakh tonnes of food grains have been lifted by 36 states/UTs for April and 37.01 lakh tonne of food grains have been distributed, covering 74.03 crore beneficiaries. Moreover, 36.42 lakh tonne of food grains have been distributed, covering 72.83 crore beneficiaries for May 2020 and 13.59 lakh tonne of food grains distributed to 27.18 crore beneficiaries by 29 states/UTs for June 2020.

Out of 5.8 lakh tonne of pulses allocated for three months, 5.68 lakh tonnes were dispatched to various states/UTs. A total of 3.35 lakh tonnes have been distributed so far to 16.3 crore of the 19.4 crore beneficiary households.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailways
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. : 53/2020
Dated : 19-06-2020
SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS

e-Procurement Tender Notice
The following Tenders have been floated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender Closing time is 14:30 hours of the Due date of the Tender. For all indigenous offers, Earnest Money Deposit will be accepted only via online system as available on www.ireps.gov.in

Tender No.	Brief Description
LM205150	Bed/cot/side steel locker.
LM205019	Battery Operated Drill system.
LM197040B	Enclosure Base & Cover.
LM197134	2D echo cardiography.
LM197131	Optical Coherence Tomography.
LM197170	Supply Installation & testing.
LM205130	Supply Installation & testing.
25.20.4616	IOH replacement kit.
25.20.4613	Overhauling Kit.
25.20.4632	AOK kit for tap changer.
82.20.5087B	Personal protective Kit.
38.20.2293	OH Kit for Distributor Valve.
33.20.1384	Spring Pot.
29.20.1412	Primary Axle Damper.
29.20.1413	Secondary vertical Damper.
29.20.1187	Active speed sensors.
18.19.5002A	Contractor 3 pole 250 Amps.
29.20.5002	Set of spairs for IGBT.
26.20.5001	Set of spairs.
29.20.5001	Set of PCB Cards.
29.20.1459A	Special Repair Kit.

Note:- Due dates of Tender Opening:
S.No. 01 on 23-06-2020; S.No. 02 on 03-07-2020; S. Nos. 03 to 10 on 06-07-2020; S.No. 11 on 10-07-2020; S.No. 12 on 13-07-2020; S.No. 13 on 21-07-2020; S.No. 14 to 16 on 22-07-2020; S.No. 17 to 21 on 24-07-2020.

Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs.25 lakhs.

For details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager, A0773 Secunderabad.

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

E-commerce policy may incentivise kiranas for joining online ecosystem

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

India may soon incentivise kirana stores which become part of the e-commerce ecosystem by converting their operations to handle both online and offline sales.

The special package of incentives for the smaller format mom and pop stores is likely to be a part of the e-commerce policy being drafted by the Commerce and Industry Ministry. We will offer incentives for kiranas willing to integrate their operations on the e-commerce platform so that the switchover could be swift. The incentives could be in the form of interest subventions on loans required for the switchover or as one time grant," said officials privy to the development. Several technology companies and e-commerce entities, including Facebook, Walmart and Amazon, have offered to provide necessary technologies that would help kiranas integrate with e-commerce platforms. Trade bodies have also launched various initiatives for

this switchover that also requires small store owners to get necessary skills to handle online sales.

The policy is also likely to encourage the existing e-commerce players to join local stores on their formats and facilitate their sales. In fact, e-commerce companies would be asked to put full details of the sellers on their marketplace so that buyers can take informed decisions and even look to use products sold on the platform by nearby shops for swift delivery and service.

The Draft National E-commerce Policy was floated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade last year for stakeholder comments. The policy is expected to be finalised this month and announced subsequently. The overarching objective of the policy is promotion of e-commerce ecosystem in the country, increasing jobs and rural productivity, along with exports. The policy is also expected to put in place an e-commerce regulator with penal powers.

AVIATION SECRETARY Limits on airfares may be extended beyond Aug 24 depending on situation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government-imposed upper and lower limits on airfares may be extended beyond August 24 depending upon how the situation turns out, Aviation Secretary PS Kharola said on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference along with Kharola, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Government will start thinking on resumption of international passenger flights in mid-July when it expects the domestic air traffic to reach 50-55 per cent of pre-COVID levels.

The Minister also said that all 650 commercial aircraft that are in India will start flying and operating flights by the end of the year. The Govt resumed domestic passenger flights from May 25 after nearly two months of suspension to combat the coronavirus outbreak, but placed lower and upper limits on airfares depending upon the flight

duration. It had said on May 21 that these limits would be in place for a period of 3 months.

"Depending on how the situation turns out, the fare band may have to be adjusted beyond that (Aug 24) also. But right now, it is only for three months," Kharola said at the press conference here. On May 21, the aviation regulator DGCA issued the Govt-decided fare limits for these bands - domestic flights with less than 40-min duration to have lower and upper limits of ₹2,000 and ₹6,000, for 40-60 min ₹2,500 and ₹7,500, for 60-90 min ₹3,000 and ₹9,000, for 90-120 minutes ₹3,500 and ₹10,000, for 120-150 minutes ₹4,500 and ₹13,000, and for 150-180 minutes ₹5,500 and ₹15,700.

International passenger flights continue to remain suspended in the country. However, the Govt started Vande Bharat Mission on May 6 to help stranded people reach their destinations through special flights.

Diesel price hits record high after rates hiked for 14th day in a row

Petrol up 51 paise

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Diesel price on Saturday hit a record high after rates were hiked by 61 paise per litre while petrol price was up 51 paise, taking the cumulative increase in rates in two weeks to ₹8.28 and ₹7.62 respectively.

Petrol price in Delhi was hiked to ₹78.88 per litre from ₹78.37, while diesel rates were increased to ₹77.67 a litre from ₹77.06, according to a price notification of state oil marketing companies.

Rates have been increased across the country and vary from State to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or VAT. The 14th daily increase in rates since oil companies on June 7 restarted revising prices in line with costs after ending an 82-day hiatus in rate revision, has taken diesel prices to new high. Petrol price too is at a two-year high.

Over 96,000 trained as Yoga instructors, trainers under skilling initiatives: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

On the eve of International Yoga Day, the Government on Saturday said about 96,196 candidates have been trained as yoga instructors and trainers through various skilling initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

The Government's other programmes on skilling include Recognition of Prior Learning, Short Term Training and Special Projects.

The States with the highest number of skilled candidates are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala, West Bengal, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said.

"Yoga is an invaluable gift to the world from India that has roots in our ancient Vedic traditions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also stated that yoga has emerged as one of the biggest mass movements in the quest for good health and well-being across the globe in the last few years."

"Aligned with his

vision, we have been working closely with Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council to build awareness regarding various career prospects in the field of yoga and encourage youth to embrace yoga for a promising future," Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey said.

In the post COVID-19 era, Pandey said he foresees an urgent need of skill sets enhancement of the potential workforce with a surge in demand for certified yoga instructors and trainers.

"We are committed towards our vision to make yoga truly global and empower youth across the country to explore lucrative career opportunities in the field of yoga," the Minister said.

There are three specific courses for yoga - Yoga Instructor (NSQF 4), Yoga Trainer (level 5) and Senior Yoga Trainer (level 6).

Beauty & Wellness Sector Skill Council also has vocational education courses in Yoga for CBSE schools.

PRAKASH WOOLLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED
CIN:- L17291UP1979PLC004804
Regd. Office:- 18th Km Stone, Delhi Moradabad Road NH-24, Village Amhera, Distt. J.P. Nagar, UP- 244102
Website:- www.prakashwoollen.com Email:- info@prakashwoollen.com

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation And Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Monday, 29th June, 2020 to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and financial year ended on 31st March, 2020 among other things.

A copy of the said Notice and the Financial Results shall also be available at the Company's website at www.prakashwoollen.com and on Stock Exchange Website at www.bseindia.com

For Prakash Woollen & Synthetic Mills Limited
Sd/-
VIJAY KUMAR GUPTA
WHOLETIME DIRECTOR & CFO
DIN: 00335325

Place:- Village Amhera (Amroha)
Date:- 19.06.2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

Dy. CSTE/C/W/Northern Railway, DRM office, 2nd floor, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet system from experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar nature of work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the following work:

Name of work	*S&T work for provision of UFSBI clock instruments, L-Xing gates & power supply arrangement in c/w doubling between Roza - Sitapur City section of Moradabad Division of Northern Railway*.
Approximate cost of the work	₹311.00 Lakhs
Earnest Money	₹3,05,100/- (Rs. Three Lakh five thousand one hundred only)
Completion period	06 (Six) Months

Date, Time & Place for submission and opening of tender.
Tender will be available on www.ireps.gov.in website from 20.06.2020 to 11.30 Hrs on 15.07.2020 and will be opened on 15.07.2020 after 11:30 hrs. Tender can be uploaded from 01.07.2020 to 11:30 hrs on 15.07.2020 and will be opened on 15.07.2020 after 11:30 hrs.

The detailed e-tender notice and document will be available on Northern Railway web site i.e. on www.ireps.gov.in from 20.06.2020 to 15.07.2020. Bidders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

No. 178-Sig/CW/32/97/PT-1 Dated : 19.06.2020 1398/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Vipul S/o Sita Ram, R/o H.No. H-3/522B, Kunwar Singh Nagar (Behind Gori Shankar Mandir), Ranholah, Delhi, Age: 17 years, Height: 5'2", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Yellow T-Shirt-Black Half Pant and bathroom chappale in feet is missing/kidnapped since 30.05.2020 from the area of P.S. Ranholah, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 609/20 u/s 363 IPC dated 02.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. Ranholah, Delhi.**

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in SHO
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Ranholah, Delhi.
Fax : 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-28363001, 28363002
DP/211/OD/2020 28363003

Trump intends to nominate Indian American to IDFC Board

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has announced his intention to nominate leading Indian-American global venture capitalist Deven Parekh as a member of the Board of Directors of an independent agency of the Government that provides financing for private development projects.

The nomination of Parekh to be a member of the Board of Directors of the International Development Finance Corporation will be for a term of three years.

He is the managing director at software investment firm Insight Partners.

Parekh previously served on the Overseas Private Investment Corporation board from 2016 to 2018 and was a member of the advisory board of the United States Export-Import Bank from 2010 to 2012.

Over 7,600 MT crude oil production lost to Assam blockades: OIL

IANs ■ GUWAHATI

The State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) has lost production of over 7,627 MT of crude oil from 33 wells and around 10 MMSCMD of natural gas from five gas wells due to blockades by protesters in two districts of Assam, an OIL official said on Saturday.

The senior official said that as experts from the USA and Canada associated with Singapore-based M/S ALERT, firefighters, NDRF and engineers intensified efforts to douse the oil well fire in eastern Assam's Tinsukia district on the 12th day on Saturday, local people and various students organisations had forced OIL to stop its operations at many drilling locations and nine work-over locations in Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts.

The agitators are blocking roads and obstructed oil and gas production for the past many days to demand higher compensation for the affected and holding OIL responsible for the mishap. The OIL has so far provided Rs 30,000 to each of the affected families.

Locals said the fire had left a trail of devastation in the adjoining areas, including a famous lake.

Farms with standing crops as well as ponds and wetlands in the adjoining villages have also been affected.

Meanwhile, the Assam government on Friday extended the enforcement of the Essential Services Maintenance (Assam) Act, 1980 for another six months to prohibit strikes and agitations by employees, workers and technical personnel in the oil and gas sectors.

"Any service in any oil field or refinery of any establishment or undertaking dealing with the production, supply of petroleum products including natural gas, would fall under the purview of the ESMA," an Assam government official said in Guwahati on Saturday.

Meanwhile, an OIL official said that a detailed plan has been drawn up with the help of Indian and foreign experts to control the flow of gas from the

burning well and to cap it.

"The plan is getting executed as per schedule and it is proposed to cap the well on July 7 after taking all necessary safety precautions," the official told IANS while refusing to be identified.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday reviewed the situation arising out of OIL's well blowout and fire in Baghjan, around 550 km east of Assam's main city of Guwahati.

In the meantime, the Army has started to build a 150-metre bridge over a water body to facilitate technical works to control gas leak and oil well fire, following request from Tinsukia Deputy Commissioner Bhaskar Pegu.

"The Army is ferrying 17 truckloads of material for the bailey bridge from 3 Corps base at Misamari in the Tezpur district," the OIL official said.

Gas and oil condensate leak at the oil well at Baghjan started on May 27 but caught fire on June 9, killing two OIL firefighters and injuring many others.

Govt warns against large-scale phishing attacks using Covid-19 as bait

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has warned against a large-scale cyber attack against individuals and businesses, where attackers may use COVID-19 as a bait to steal personal and financial information.

India's cybersecurity nodal agency, CERT-In has issued an advisory warning that the potential phishing attacks could impersonate Government agencies, departments and trade bodies that have been tasked to oversee disbursement of Government fiscal aid.

The phishing campaign is expected to start on June 21, 2020 with cyber attackers using email IDs such as "ncv2019@gov.in", it added.

The attackers are expected to send malicious emails under the pretext of local authorities that are in charge of dispensing Government-funded COVID-19 support initiatives.

It is further notified in pursuance of Regulation 47(2) of the Listing Regulations that the further details may be accessed on Company's website (www.sfcindia.com) and may also be accessed on website of Metropolitan Stock Exchange (www.msx.in).

Pursuant to SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 the "Trading Window" for dealing in shares of the Company shall remain closed from 1st April, 2020 till 48 hours after the said financial results are declared to the Stock Exchanges.

For Supraneet Finance & Consultants Ltd. Sd/-
Place: Delhi (Deepthi Jain)
Date: 20.06.2020 Company Secretary

HUDCO organises webinar to mark 6th International Yoga Day

New Delhi: Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO), organised a Webinar on 'AYUSH for Holistic Healthcare during COVID Outbreak', to mark the 6th International Yoga Day. The Chief Guest Durga Shanker Mishra Secretary, MOHUA stressed the benefits of traditional Indian medicine systems in boosting immunity and promoting well-being by achieving a healthy balance

between mind and body.

Further, he highlighted the revival of these systems, which have been an integral part of Indian culture, and now their global acceptance.

M Nagaraj, CMD HUDCO shared information about the sanitation/ social distancing/ health care measures taken by HUDCO to ensure a safe working environment. The key speaker, Dr DC Katoch, Joint Advisor, Department of AYUSH, provided tips on self-care protocol for holistic and healthy living, especially during the current pandemic Covid-19, through the use of Unani, Siddha and Ayurvedic medicines along with practice of Yoga.



Amazon, BigBasket get nod for liquor delivery in West Bengal

PTI ■ KOLKATA

E-commerce giant Amazon and Alibaba-backed BigBasket have got approval to deliver liquor in West Bengal, according to a document.

Online grocery platform BigBasket said this will be the company's first foray into the country's liquor delivery segment. The clearance also signals Amazon's entry into the space, likely for the first in India. State-owned West Bengal State Beverages Corporation Ltd invited the two companies to sign the agreements for empannelment for home delivery after finding them eligible, as per a notice dated June

19. BevCo, the sole wholesaler of liquor in West Bengal, also invited 2 Kolkata-based companies - Senrysa Technologies Pvt Ltd and Golden Goenka Commerce Pvt Ltd for the signing of agreements. Asked when BigBasket would start operations, its CEO Hari Menon told PTI, "I cannot confirm now how soon we will start, but yes it will be the first for the company." Amazon did not comment on the approval. Food ordering platforms Zomato and Swiggy have already started delivering alcohol in WB with Kolkata and Siliguri after getting the required approvals, followed by the signing of agreements.

SUPRANEET FINANCE AND CONSULTANTS LIMITED
Regd. Office: C-55/2, Wazirpur Industrial Area, Delhi-110 052
Ph: 011-42952500, Fax: 011-42952555
E-Mail: info@sfcindia.com
Website: www.sfcindia.com
CIN : L65921DL1989PLC035261

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Regulation 29(1)(a) read with Regulation 47(1)(a) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 (the Listing Regulations) that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the company will be held on Monday, the 29th June, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. at Regd. Office of the company, inter-alia, to consider & approve the audited Financial Results for the Quarter / Year ended 31st March, 2020 and any other matter with the permission of chair.

It is further notified in pursuance of Regulation 47(2) of the Listing Regulations that the further details may be accessed on Company's website (www.sfcindia.com) and may also be accessed on website of Metropolitan Stock Exchange (www.msx.in).

Pursuant to SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 the "Trading Window" for dealing in shares of the Company shall remain closed from 1st April, 2020 till 48 hours after the said financial results are declared to the Stock Exchanges.

For Supraneet Finance & Consultants Ltd. Sd/-
Place: Delhi (Deepthi Jain)
Date: 20.06.2020 Company Secretary

CHITTARANJAN LOCOTIVE WORKS
OPEN TENDER

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162 Date: 16/06/2020. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link . Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Qty.; Earnest Money Deposit (₹); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST); [1]; 75203830; Safety Flooring for WAG-9HC/WAP-7/WAP-5 Locos to Drg/Specn. No. RDSO/2006/CG-12 REV.1, and drawing no.1209-18-406-211 Alt.-4; 3583 MTR; 00; 15/07/2020 at 11:00am. [2]; 37193741A; Tube For WAG-9/WAP-7 Drg./Specn.1209-01.312-160 ALT-1; 105 NOS; 80560; 17/07/2020 at 11:00am. Office Address: Dy. CMM-III/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340708. Or SMM/M, 9163340712.

Principal Chief Materials Manager Sd/-439 CLW/Chittaranjan
Like us on: www.facebook.com/cwrrailways



BOLLYWOOD NOT SUSHANT

Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide last week has once again exposed the underbelly of Bollywood and how people who are not from the industry find it tough to make space for themselves. SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with actors and directors who say that the B-town has proved that all that glitters is not gold

The one person people probably didn't expect to take his life was Sushant Singh Rajput. He was what the common man aspires to be. A brilliant A-grade student who left his engineering two months before his graduation to pursue acting and then make a name and place for himself in Bollywood. His suicide on June 14, 2020 at the age of 34 has shocked everyone. Not just because he was a popular and a successful actor but because when people looked at him, they were motivated and inspired — that if he could do it — so can they. He is a powerful motivator and therefore the shock, anger and demand that those responsible be named so that Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR) can get justice.

Vivek Agnihotri, director of films like *The Tashkent Files* and *Dhan Dhan Dhan Goal* tells you that there is a reason why people who are not from the industry are unable to get the kind of recognition that they deserve. "In the last decade or so, since foreign studios came in the independent producer system died down. Singleplexes died and multiplexes came in. The power from hundreds of producers concentrated in the hands of a few studios. From thousands of distributors, it got reduced to a few multiplexes. When the power got centralised and with no background in filmmaking, they started buying stars. This meant that the stars got more media face, got more marketing. Today, one sees less than a handful of production houses and a few stars. The discrepancy between the big stars and mid-level stars is huge," Agnihotri says who is working on his next project — *The Kashmir Files*.

One is told that earlier if one actor was paid ₹1 crore another would be paid ₹75 lakh and yet another ₹50 lakh. Today, if one star gets ₹100 crore the other gets ₹1 crore. "If one director is paid ₹20 crore the other is struggling to make ₹25 lakh. Also, stars have become producers and producers have become distributors and directors. Ego comes into play. If you don't surrender to those in power and their style of functioning or interfere or interrupt their success, they have the power to destroy careers," Agnihotri tells you.

He cites a case in point. If a small budget film is released at the same time as a big budget film, the production house would col-

lude with multiplexes to keep the small film away from the theatres. "Therefore, smaller films seldom survive. Hence, many actors who have become successful after a lot of struggle surrender to these power houses," Agnihotri opines.

He doesn't agree that people who are from the industry have not been talking about the issues that plague it, they have been, but unfortunately, the media doesn't cover them. "There are so many struggling actors and directors who keep committing suicide, go into depression, leave the industry or become addicts and alcoholics but nobody cares. The media only covers big news. All that the media covered when SSR's ex-manager committed suicide three days before he did, was that she had taken the drastic step," Agnihotri says.

He tells you that from the time Jiah Khan committed suicide back in 2013, nothing much has changed nor is it likely to. This is because it requires a lot of media support.

"If one wants things to change, the media has to constantly talk about it. Sadly, the entertainment space is sold and all the big people give them money and the big get bigger and small, smaller. When the #METOO Movement came, it became big because the media supported it," Agnihotri tells you.

There is a reason why the people from within the industry don't talk about the ills that exist. "They are here to make a career, to express themselves creatively and not to fight. There are few who do fight but are isolated by the industry. When I fight, the big people don't let my film release, they put zero stars next to my film and review it three days before it is released so that the film dies. The reason why I fight is because I am an independent filmmaker and don't care much for the industry. But many succumb to the system," he says.

He also tells you that we are a corrupt nation and it is in our DNA and hence we don't speak against what is happening around us. "People who come here, as long as they make a name and money for themselves, they don't really care what is happening to those who are struggling. This exists across all sectors. Ultimately, after eight-10 years, one realises that one's merit and talent is not going to them anywhere and they give in," Agnihotri says.

He says that it is okay for a father to pro-

mote his son in a film. "It is his right. But if he keeps promoting him film after film even though the son has given 15 flops and the father still invests in him and goes out of the way to promote him, that is what nepotism is all about, when you keep promoting the son at the cost of genuine talent," he says.

Karan Verma, a National Best-Selling author of *Jack & Master* tells you that the massive furore over SSR's suicide is because he was a symbol that everyone looked up to — a man from a middle class, an outsider, a brilliant student — who came on his own. Started his career with TV and had some successful films. He epitomised the aspirations of the middle-class. For him to take this step has hurt people. Till we don't open vistas for outsiders, things are not going to change," Verma says.

He recalls the time when he was studying engineering and later pursuing MBA and writing for TV. He had wanted to pitch a few ideas for films and met some people from the industry, some nice and some hostile.

"I also signed a couple of films but they never saw the light of the day due to internal politics. There is a lot more that meets the eye. This is a crazy world. I am more careful now. Who pushes whose cart and where this is what it boils down to? Creativity and talent that should be primary are unfortunately secondary," Verma says.

The only way to change the system is to start celebrating those who have made on their own. "If we can bring in this cultural change, it can make a big difference. He opines that the reason why actors who face prosecution don't speak about openly is because they want to maintain relations. They understand how power rests with a few. Not everyone is as gasty as Kangana Ranaut. It is important to tell real stories, be honest and talk about their struggles. I always tell people the struggle I faced just to get my book published. How difficult it was to get shelf space and be on Amazon list. The problem is that once you become successful, you become part of the gang and never bother to give the real picture. You don't want to ruffle feathers and just want to enjoy fruits of labour," Verma tells you. He opines that SSR's suicide has the potential of becoming something big.

"This lockdown due to COVID-19 has made people look within and they are no

THERE ARE SO MANY STRUGGLING ACTORS AND DIRECTORS WHO KEEP COMMITTING SUICIDE, GO INTO DEPRESSION, LEAVE THE INDUSTRY OR BECOME ADDICTS AND ALCOHOLICS, BUT NOBODY CARES. THE MEDIA ONLY COVERS BIG NEWS — VIVEK AGNIHOTRI, DIRECTOR, THE TASHKENT FILES

longer in awe of the celebrities at present. They have understood that there is more to life than success. People are no longer dazed by the glitz and glamour. Media has to speak about it and build a narrative that it is cool to celebrate those who have made it big on their own and encourage them," Verma says.

Jagnoor Aneja, actor and fashion choreographer who began his career as a dancer and then went on to open his dance school and then a modeling school and went on to do four reality shows says that SSR's death has exposed chinks in the armour.

"For now, the reports don't point that money was an issue. Industry insiders themselves are tweeting about how he was pressurized, that despite being such a talented actor he was depressed and at 34 he took such a harsh step. One can only imagine the trauma and pain he was going through. The industry knows who the people are but due to the unity, nobody is taking the names," Aneja says.

"It was so good to follow SSR's career graph. Everyone in the Shiamak community would talk about his rise and growth. It was so inspiring for so many people and not just in the industry," he tells you. "Why should nepotism exist in the first place? Why should anybody have the power to cast anyone anywhere. But star kids are born with the silver spoon. All that the parent has to do is call a producer and they fall at their feet. On the other hand, you have people like Kangana Ranaut or SSR who didn't have a Godfather. It was their sheer talent that propelled them from ground zero to the top. It is good that Kangana Ranaut is so vocal about it. There are so many talented people who don't even get a chance. There is a lesson for everyone here — one must support people. If you are a nobody one spends years in getting the right contact. We keep auditioning and then come to know that a star kid has been cast. Why hold an audition in the first place," Aneja asks? His nine-year career in the industry has not been easy either. To get the right contacts that he needs for his modeling school, he had to slog. "Getting to the right people is tough," Aneja says.

He tells you that in the last 20 years, the industry has grown so much so that Bollywood comes in as the third largest film industry in terms of revenue globally. Due to the growth, more doors opened. But it also

means that one needs the right kind of contacts. If you have the right contact, they will make an actor out of you. But if you have the talent but no contacts, you give an audition and be shelved. "I tell my people to be street smart," Aneja says.

Tia Bajpai who starred in films like *Haunted 3D* and *1920: Evil Returns* tells you that it is extremely difficult for people from outside to make it big.

"The luxury of making a mistake is zero. One mistake and one is out. I have been at the receiving end. Despite two successful films people have not even recognised me. I have been to award functions and I am not even acknowledged. It is a mindset, if your movie is making ₹100 crore you are deemed a successful actor. There is a simple math if a movie made in a budget of ₹5 crore does a business of ₹50 crore, it is a success. This movie can't be compared with a movie made on a budget of ₹100 crore. Even though I did a horror film, people said: 'Oh she has just done horror films,'" Bajpai says.

Sadly, if one talks about what is happening to you, you are bullied. It is like a classroom where a child is bullied by a select few. "It is difficult to accept people who are outsiders. This is your wish. But at least don't bully them. Don't be mean to them. Let people be and don't try to bring them down. There are so many talented people out there. But half their life is spent just trying to get an audition with a big production house. Then there is the whole thing of one being a TV actor. People look down at you and one is taken very seriously. I have faced this personally," Bajpai tells you. However, the fact that she is also a singer makes it easy for her to give space to her creativity.

"Everyone makes a mistake. One should not be shunned just because one of your films flopped. More so, if your fans love you. Nobody has the right to decide who made it big and who didn't. Everyone has a fan following. It is sad that the industry ranks actors. Nobody has the right to rub their idea of success on the other. Take SSR. Now people are saying how good and loving he was. If he was so good, loving and had friends why was he all alone? Why was he battling depression? Obviously, everybody was not loving him. Why this hypocrisy? Who are you to decide who is good and who is bad? Everyone should give everyone a fair chance," Bajpai says.

TRAVAILS FROM SOUTH

PAYAL GHOSH tells MUSBA HASHMI how the industry sidelines the talent from the South and how the bias is difficult to handle

There have been many talks about how the B-town is unwelcoming or rather unappreciative to the actors coming from Tollywood. Some dared to speak up about the issue while others succumb to the biasedness.

Payal Ghosh, who made her Bollywood debut with *Patel Ki Punjabi Shaadi*, tells you that while working in the Southern industry her dream was always to join the B-town. "I have grown up watching the all time hits of Bollywood and like any other child my goal too was to join the industry. While I was working in the South, I knew that Bollywood is the destination. However, it felt like I was living in a bubble. When I entered the industry, I understood that actors from the South are not welcomed here or are taken for granted," Ghosh tells you.

She recalls the time when someone even told her not to disclose her work if she wants to make a career in the industry. "I was told not to tell anyone that I have worked in the Southern cinema. I was a newcomer back then and thought why would I do that. Having an experience is an added advantage and so will be the case here. And I was sure that I wouldn't hide my work. But soon after I realised that Bollywood is not like what one sees from outside. There was a person who even said 'arey yeh to South se aayi hai, easily mil jayegi'. It felt so bad and ridiculous to hear that. I think talent is talent and it should be seen that way," she says.

Now when Bollywood is running out of content, they are looking up to South, she adds.

"These days, Bollywood is only about making biopics or remaking films from the South. If you want to typecast the actors from the industry why do you want to remake a film in Hindi with the same direc-

tor from the South," Ghosh asks.

Getting a chance in the industry, she says, is like a Herculean task for outsiders. "I knew that it was not as if I would be getting an offer from Karan Johar. I know that I will have to survive on my own and I am sure that I can, on the basis of my talent and craft. Opportunities are less that's true but one just needs to keep looking for them," Ghosh says.

She went on to say that the auditions for certain big films is just an act of promotion. "They have already decided the cast. They just call in the young talent to create a buzz about their film. It is like an act of promotion," Ghosh says.

The recent controversy on nepotism, she says, is just a wave and it won't earn any results until the audience decide to ban their films. "If the audience wants that everyone should get equal chances in the industry and the nepotism culture be stopped, then the only way out is to stop watching their films," she says.

'Nepotism is part and parcel of Bollywood'

MUSBA HASHMI ■ NEW DELHI

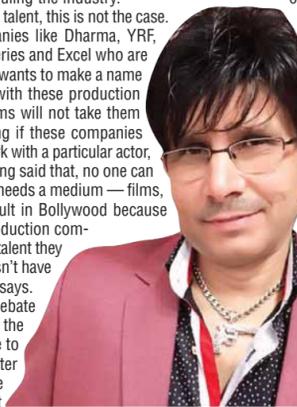
Film critic, actor, producer and writer Kamaal Rashid Khan aka KKK is famous for voicing his opinions on social media. After the untimely death of Sushant Singh Rajput, Khan has spoken about how nepotism is ruling the industry.

"It is not as if Bollywood kills talent, this is not the case. But yes, there are some companies like Dharma, YRF, Nadiadwala, Balaji Telefilms, T-Series and Excel who are behind every big film. And if one wants to make a name in the industry he has to work with these production companies only, doing small films will not take them anywhere. It goes without saying if these companies decide that they don't want to work with a particular actor, his or her career is finished. Having said that, no one can kill talent but to showcase it one needs a medium — films, and getting this chance is difficult in Bollywood because of the internal politics. Every production company wants to give chance to the talent they know and not someone who doesn't have a Godfather in the industry," he says.

KKK too feels that all the debate that is happening is in the heat of the moment and things will continue to work the way they did before. "After Guru Dutt sahab, Sushant is the only big actor who took his life at

such a young age. Therefore there is so much hype about it. Also no one will take such a huge step for a mere reason like he lost a film or someone wrote bad about him. There must be something big going on with him that made him take the step. I think it all started with Drive. When an actor's film releases on an OTT platform instead of theatres, it is a setback for the actor because there are chances that he will be typecast. This was a big strike on Sushant's career.

Since, I was not in touch with him for the last one-and-a-half-year, I don't know what exactly has happened with him. But I am sure, there must be a thousand reasons that made him give up. But like I said, nothing much will change in the industry. Just like in politics, there is a law of land in Bollywood too. If one wants to sustain in the industry he has to work according to the industry otherwise he is free to go back home. Therefore, after sometime, everything will get back to normal and star kids will continue to get opportunities. If they have the talent they will sustain, if not it's a dead end for them as well. In the end, it is all about talent, if one has it, there is no way he will be denied work," KKK tells you.



Smith can't wait to play against India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Star batsman Steve Smith is looking forward to India's tour of Australia, saying he can't wait to play in the much-anticipated series which will be "incredibly special".

India will tour Australia for three ODIs, four Tests and three T20Is between October this year and January, 2021.

"They are an amazing side and can't wait to play them when they come out to Australia this year, will be something incredibly special," Smith was quoted as saying in *Star Sports* show *Cricket Connected*.

India's tour will begin with a T20I match on October 11 at Brisbane. The other two T20I matches will be played on October 14 (Canberra) and October 17 (Adelaide).

The four-match Test series begins on December 3 at Brisbane. India are then scheduled to play a Day/Night Test from December 11 to 15 in Adelaide. The third and fourth Tests will be held in Melbourne (December 26-30) and Sydney (January 3 to 7).

The ODI series is scheduled to begin on January 12 in Perth, followed by matches on January 15 (Melbourne) and January 17 (Sydney).

Smith also spoke about his friendship with India captain Virat Kohli, describing him as a "terrific guy".



ICC World No 1 Test bowler Pat Cummins & No 1 Test batsman Steve Smith will make it difficult for India to repeat 2018 feat

"I had few conversations with him (Virat) off the field, few messages here and there in recent times just to see how things are going in India. He is a terrific guy and we both

play hard out on the field and play as well for our respective teams and its part of the game," said the former skipper.

During last year's ODI World Cup, Kohli had asked the Indian fans at the Oval to applaud Smith and not boo him, a gesture which earned the Indian captain the prestigious ICC Spirit of Cricket award.

Recalling the incident, Smith said he appreciated Kohli's gesture.

"Virat's gesture in the World Cup to the Indian fans that were giving me (Smith) and David Warner little bit of a stick, I appreciated that and I share that with him straight up," he said.

"He is a terrific guy and the way he has led the Indian team has been amazing."

Was standing at Lord's balcony hoping Dravid would get a hundred: Ganguly

IANS ■ KOLKATA

It was on June 20, 1996 that Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid, two of India's best batsmen, made their Test debuts against England at the Lord's Cricket Ground in London.

While Ganguly went on to score a 100, Dravid was not so lucky and got out just 5 runs short of the landmark.

"He (Ganguly) batted at 3, I came in at 7 in that game. So I had a long time to watch him bat and bat very well actually. I did feel really nice for him that he got that hundred," said Dravid in a video posted by the ICC on their Twitter handle.

"And from my side, it was like I also have a chance to make it count. So, when he got out I used it a little bit as a motivation and an inspiration," he added.

Ganguly played a superb knock of 131 for which he consumed 301 deliveries. The stylish knock was studded with 20 boundaries. Dravid, meanwhile, faced 267 deliveries during his knock which consisted of 6 boundaries.

"I was too engrossed in my performance to be honest. When he (Dravid) came into bat, I was already at 70 odd," recalled Ganguly.

"I remember my 100 scoring shot which was a cover drive through point and he was at the non-striker's end. I finished the day at 131, I got out an hour after tea and he carried on," he added.

"He came back the next



Sourav Ganguly celebrates after scoring his maiden Test hundred on his debut game against England as Rahul Dravid applauds him at Lord's Cricket Ground on June 20, 1996

morning and got 95. I was standing at the Lord's balcony hoping that he would get a hundred.

"I have seen him play at the under 15s, then Ranji Trophy together. I had seen his debut at Eden Gardens and then seeing his debut at Lord's. So, I watched his career closely. It would have been great had we

both got hundreds that day," added the current BCCI chief.

Ganguly, 47, played a total of 113 Tests and 311 ODIs for India in which he scored 7,212 and 11,363 runs respectively.

Dravid, on the other hand, represented India in 164 Tests, 344 ODIs and one T20I in which he scored 13,288, 10,899 and 31 runs respectively.

'Born leader' Ganguly inspired India to win on foreign shores: Srikanth

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former chairman of selectors Kris Srikanth likened Sourav Ganguly with West Indies great Clive Lloyd, and described the current BCCI president as a born leader, who inspired the Indian cricket team to dream big on foreign shores.

"Ganguly was proactive. He was the guy who was able to form the team combination. Like how in 1976 Clive Lloyd formed the winning combination (for the West Indies team), Sourav put the correct team together and then inspired them," Srikanth said on *Star Sports 1* Tamil show *Cricket Connected - Aattam Thodarum*.

"That's why Ganguly was a successful captain, even in foreign conditions. They started winning abroad. Ganguly is a born leader," the former India opener said. Meanwhile on the same show, former India spinner Laxman Sivaramakrishnan lavished praise on Srikanth's captaincy style, saying the dashing opener had the capability of leading the national team for a long period.

"Cheeka (Srikanth) was an aggressive captain. He

provided a lot of results. He was very proactive," Sivaramakrishnan said.

Srikanth was made the captain of the Indian team in 1989, and incidentally it was under his captaincy Sachin Tendulkar made his debut. He remained the captain of the team for India's tour of Pakistan in 1990 before being dropped for his batting failures.

"A player like (Sachin) Tendulkar made his debut under Cheeka's (Srikanth's) captaincy. Cheeka's encouragement to Sachin Tendulkar at that young age gave him confidence and he went on to become the world's best batsman," Sivaramakrishnan said. "We've had a lot of inspirational captains, but I always feel Cheeka could have captained more," added Sivaramakrishnan, who rose to fame after the 1985 World Series.

He recalled that former India skipper Sunil Gavaskar's guidance helped him in the 1985 World Series in Australia, which India won.

"Gavaskar's captaincy and his man management... I was only 19-years-old and I needed guidance and Gavaskar gave me that guidance perfectly."

Mortaza tests +ve for Covid-19

PTI ■ DHAKA

Former Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza has tested positive for Covid-19, becoming the second high-profile cricketer to be infected with the deadly virus.

Last week, former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi had tested positive for the contagious disease.

Mortaza was reportedly unwell for the last couple of days and tested positive for the contagious disease on Friday. He is currently in self-isolation at his residence.

"He has been suffering from fever for two days. Covid-19 test was conducted on Friday and we got the result today. He has been found positive. He's now staying in isolation at home in Dhaka. Please pray for him," Masrafe's younger brother Morsalin Bin Mortaza told *United News of Bangladesh*.

According to local media, some of Mortaza's family members had tested positive earlier.

Mortaza, who is also a member of Bangladesh parliament, was quite active with his philanthropic activities amid the pandemic, lending a helping hand to his natives in his hometown and constituency Narail.

Besides Mortaza, former Bangladesh cricketer Nafees Iqbal, who is the elder brother of ODI captain Tamim Iqbal, has also tested positive for coronavirus.

The *Daily Star* newspaper reported that Nafees himself confirmed that he has contracted the deadly virus and is currently in home isolation in Chittagong.

Malik to meet Sania & kid before joining team in Eng

KARACHI: Pakistan all-rounder Shoaib Malik, who plays only the T20 format, was on Saturday granted permission to join the national squad late in England so that he can spend some time with his family, whom he has not seen for nearly five months.



Malik has been in Pakistan since the coronavirus outbreak while his wife, tennis player Sania Mirza, and one-year-old son Izhaan, have been in India due to the ban on International travel.

A 29-member Pakistan squad will depart on June 28 for Manchester but Malik has been allowed to reach England on July 24 after the ECB agreed for his late arrival.

"Unlike the rest of us, Shoaib Malik has not seen his immediate family for nearly five months due to his commitments and the subsequent international travel bans following the Covid-19 pan-

dem," PCB Chief Executive Wasim Khan said in a statement. "As travel restrictions are now slowly easing out and there is an opportunity for a family reunion, it is appropriate that at a human level we show compassion as part of our duty of care and respect Shoaib's request."

"We have spoken with the ECB who understand the situation and have agreed to make an exception by helping Shoaib enter the country on 24 July. Of course, Shoaib will follow the UK Government's policies on visitors entering the country before integrating with the side."

The 38-year-old former captain has retired from Tests and One-day formats. The three-match T20 series against England is slated to begin from August 29 while the Test series starts from July 30.

After reaching Manchester, the Pakistani players will travel to Derbyshire for a 14-day quarantine period. Apart from training and practicing, there will be intra-squad matches to compensate for the lack of practice matches due to non-availability of local teams as the ECB is yet to commence its domestic season. PTI

Virus-forced break has prolonged Anderson's career

PTI ■ LONDON

England's strength and conditioning coach Rob Ahmun feels the coronavirus-forced break has "without a shadow of doubt" prolonged pace spearhead James Anderson's career by a year or two.

Anderson is among a group of 55 players asked to return to England training ahead of the three-match Test series against West Indies, scheduled to begin on July 8. The 37-year-old has been bowling in the nets while following social-distancing norms.

Ahmun has been monitoring Anderson's performance since he resumed training post the Covid-19 hiatus. "I've been in pretty close

contact with Jimmy all the way through this. Even from the calf injury last year he's actually improved his physical capacities all across the board, which for a 37-year-old international bowler to do is fantastic," Ahmun told *Sky Sports*. "Again, it's just testament to the level of preparation and hard work that he actually puts into his physical training. He understands that if he doesn't do that, that he'll probably not get onto the park. So for him the physical stuff is a vital part of his day-to-day match preparation," he added.

England's all-time leading wicket-taker Anderson has struggled with injuries over the past year. He injured his calf during the first Ashes Test



James Anderson stretches during training session at Old Trafford

against Australia and most recently he was forced to leave the team's tour of South Africa in January owing to a rib problem.

"We took a lot of learnings away from the James Anderson experience last year, to be honest, and part of that was the competitive cricket that the players need to be exposed to before they go back to performing on the highest stage," Ahmun said.

"This is why we've got this big squad, so there will be an inter-squad match just to make sure that these lads are prepped as much as possible. We've also tried to engineer the training sessions so that our best bowlers are bowling at our best batters as well," he added.

WI will rely on pace attack against Eng: Gabriel

MANCHESTER: West Indies would unleash its pace attack to subdue hosts England in the upcoming Test series, a strategy which paid them rich dividends at home last year, says Caribbean fast bowler Shannon Gabriel.

The 32-year-old, who is returning from a major part in Windies 2-1 over England in 2019. "I don't think the plans should change too much from what we did in the Caribbean. We used pace and that worked. What we did was suc-

cessful. I don't think we should fix anything that is not broken," Gabriel told media.

Gabriel, who has played 45 Tests, is among the reserves for this tour but is confident that he can regain full fitness before the series starts on July 8.

He had undergone an ankle surgery recently.

"After being away from the game so long, almost six or seven months, you're kind of hungry to get back on the field. I'm looking forward to the warm-

up games and then we will take it from there. I've played a few Test matches before, so I know how to prepare," Gabriel said. "The last time I played (for West Indies) was the India series (last Sept) in Jamaica. I want to play, I want to be ready to play against England. "I'm fully motivated. If you're playing for your country and you're not motivated, you really should be on the field. This is not about half-hearted. You have to be all in," he said.

West Indies will have two inter-squad warm-up matches in Manchester before they travel to Southampton for the series-opener. PTI

Would like to play 2021 Test C'ships final if India plays it: Sree Paes concerned about Tokyo Games

NEW DELHI: Fast bowler Sreesanth said that while he is open to playing for India again if given the opportunity, he is not back in the Kerala Ranji setup to compete.

"I'm not here to compete, I'm just here to help and share my experiences and in that process if the selectors give me a chance then why not, I would like to play the 2021 Test Championships final if India plays in it," he told the *New Indian Express*.

Kerala Cricket Association had said that it would consider the 37-year-old after his ban ends in September for the Kerala Ranji team. Sreesanth said that there is no longer a fear of failure for him.

"I've been blessed to get this opportunity. There is no fear of failure or success. A lot of people don't want to compete because of a fear of failure or even of success, they



don't know what to do with success," he said. "I think I am blessed to have a balanced approach now which is to just share experiences and help players, regardless of who they are." The BCCI had banned Sreesanth for life in August 2013 for

Solidarity Cup postponed

JOHANNESBURG: Cricket South Africa (CSA) on Saturday indefinitely postponed the launch of its innovative 3T/Cricket competition, Solidarity Cup, scheduled to take place on June 27. After talking to various stakeholders, the CSA felt more

work is needed to stage the tournament and took the decision to postpone it. The tournament was set to mark the resumption of live cricket in South Africa following the coronavirus-forced break from the sport. PTI

his alleged involvement in the spot-fixing scandal that rocked the 2013 Indian Premier League. In 2015, however, a special court in Delhi acquitted him of all charges. In 2018, the Kerala High Court had struck down the life ban imposed on the cricketer by the BCCI and also quashed all proceedings against him. However, a division bench of the High Court restored the ban. Sreesanth then moved the Supreme Court against the order. And last year in March, the apex court upheld his guilt but asked the BCCI to reduce his quantum of punishment. The cricket board then reduced his life ban to seven years which will come to an end in August this year. The 37-year-old, has so far played 27 Tests, 53 ODIs and 10 T20Is taking 87, 75 and 7 wickets respectively. IANS

KOLKATA: Leander Paes is ready to unleash his 'new version' when the sport resumes but the veteran tennis star fears that the organisers may not be able to pull off Tokyo Games and the legacy he wants to create by playing his eighth successive Olympics could remain an unrealised dream. Paes, who turned 47 on Wednesday, had announced that 2020 would be his last season and Tokyo Games was expected to be his swansong event but the Covid-19 pandemic upset his plans. "I'm really concerned about the Olympics because that is relevant to my history, my legacy," Paes said. "I was on a *One Last Roar* season, culminating

with the Tokyo Olympics. But now that is pushed back to 2021, with the global economy, also going down, how will those corporate sponsors for the Olympics, still stand their ground to support the Olympics?" he asked. Without a vaccine to tackle Covid-19, Paes said the future looks gloomy for the Olympics to go ahead even in 2021. "How will the Japanese sporting governance still be able to conduct the Olympics, especially if it is behind closed doors?" the most successful doubles player in the history of Davis Cup with 44 wins, asked. "Where is the revenue coming from, knowing that

and millions. But I'm not allowed to even chop a tomato, unless I do very very cautiously." Paes said he has used the Covid-19 triggered lockdown to further re-invent himself. "Last year in September 2019, I looked to retire because I was jaded from 30 years of playing the sport. I had to take time away, I had to read, I had to spend time with my father, it was such a blessing that I've had over the last 93 days, to be able to interact with my father." "When the lockdown opens up, and I do come back to my profession, I'm a new version of Leander, of that 30-year-old athlete," he said. PTI



the stadiums are empty. It's all an issue that we will face. Sport is such a big business, if you've got athletes who are 100 million dollars worth athletes. "Each of my playing hands is insured for millions

Pogback but Kane can't

Paul makes instant impact on his return as late Bruno penalty forces Spurs to share points



Manchester United's Bruno Fernandes celebrates with Paul Pogba after scoring his side's first goal

AFP ■ LONDON
Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer believes he can rekindle Paul Pogba's best form after the Frenchman made a big impact in his first appearance for six months in a 1-1 draw at Tottenham on Friday.
Solskjaer left the World Cup winner on the bench from the start, but Pogba won the penalty for United's equaliser, converted by Bruno Fernandes, with a sublime piece of skill to bamboozle Eric Dier.

Pogba has been beset by ankle injuries this season, making just nine appearances, and has been heavily linked with a move away from Manchester.
"Paul always has a point to prove because he wants to be the best," said Solskjaer. "He's had such a frustrating season with his injuries."
"For me Paul has shown today how he can contribute. I just look forward to getting him fitter so he can get back to his best."
A point does little for either side's chances of breaking into the top four.

Watford snatch late point

AFP ■ WATFORD

Premier League strugglers Watford rescued a dramatic 1-1 draw against Leicester thanks to Craig Dawson's last-gasp overhead kick on Saturday.
Watford's hopes of avoiding relegation looked set to be dented by Ben Chilwell's superb 90th minute strike.
But in a remarkable conclusion, Hornets centre-back Dawson launched himself into an acrobatic effort moments later to claim his first goal for the club.
"It's something you practise in training and it probably doesn't go in very often. I'm delighted with my first goal. It was obviously a very important goal and it was good to get a point in the end," Dawson told *BT Sport*.
Watford climbed to 16th place, one point above the relegation zone, but they could be passed by West Ham, Bournemouth and Aston Villa depending on their results this weekend.
Leicester remain third, six points



Craig Dawson, left, celebrates after scoring Watford's opening goal against Leicester City

ahead of fourth-placed Chelsea, as they look to secure a spot in next season's Champions League.

United remain in fifth, two points behind Chelsea, but Spurs were even more desperate for the points as they remain in eighth, four points further back.
Jose Mourinho was on course to get the better of his former club when Steven Bergwijn's strike gave Spurs a half-time lead.
However, Mourinho was left frustrated when United's second half pressure finally told nine minutes from time when Fernandes converted from the spot.
Fernandes then thought he had won a second penalty, but a VAR review decided there was little contact as he went down under another challenge from Dier.
"We know Manchester United has an incredible record this season of penalties given, so we knew everything in the box was dangerous for us," said Mourinho.
"I think in the first penalty, the referee made this decision which I admit is difficult for referees, but then the VAR is a different story."
"Referees can make mistakes but I don't think VAR should make mistakes, then the second penalty is incredible for me."

SAINTS WIN
Earlier at Carrow Road stadium, Southampton pushed Norwich closer to a return to the Championship after second half goals from Danny Ings, Stuart Armstrong and Nathan Redmond earned a 3-0 win.
Victory for the Saints lifts them 10 points clear of the relegation zone, but Norwich remain seven points adrift of safety at the bottom of the table.
Ings continued his fine season by curling his 19th goal of the season into the far corner.
Armstrong then took advantage of some weak Norwich defending to find space on the edge of the box to slot a low

FROM BAD TO WORSE

Arsenal keeper Leno stretched off in agony in 1-2 defeat



Arsenal's goalkeeper Bernd Leno grimaces on the ground after getting injured

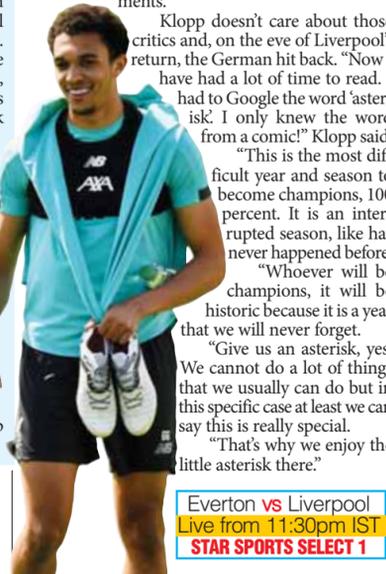
AFP ■ BRIGHTON

Arsenal's challenge to return to the Champions League next season faltered once more as Neal Maupay's 95th minute winner handed Brighton a vital 2-1 win in their battle to beat the drop.
Nicolas Pepe's stunning strike gave the visitors a deserved lead at the Amex, but the Gunners defensive problems reared their head again as Lewis Dunk bundled home from a short corner.
Maupay had angered the Arsenal players for his part in a serious injury suffered by goalkeeper Bernd Leno in the first half.
And the Frenchman rubbed salt into those wounds with a fine finish deep into stoppage time to snatch all three points.
A second defeat in four days leaves Arsenal still eight points outside the top four in ninth, having played a game more than fourth-placed Chelsea.
A first league win of 2020 takes Brighton five points clear of the drop zone in 15th.
shot past Tim Krul.
And Redmond rounded off the scoring against his former club 11 minutes from time as the hosts were caught on the counter-attack.

Call us the 'asterisk champions!'

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool can move within touching distance of the Premier League title when the runaway leaders face Everton on Sunday.
Jurgen Klopp's side will play for the first time since the Premier League was suspended in March as the title chasers make the short trip to Merseyside rivals Everton.
Liverpool, 22 points clear of second placed Manchester City, need two wins from their remaining nine games to end their 30-year wait to be crowned English champions.
If the Reds beat Everton, they can wrap up the title with another victory against Crystal Palace at Anfield on Wednesday.
Klopp's men have not been in action for 106 days and the Liverpool boss is relieved to return after talk the season might be declared null and void, which would have deprived his team of the title their superb season deserves.
Liverpool had been on course to become the first English champions to be crowned in March after recording 27 wins from 29 matches.
However, Liverpool's inevitable title will now come with an asterisk according to some pundits, who claim the Premier League's new normal of matches behind closed doors with more substitutes allowed has taken the shine off the leaders' achievements.
Klopp doesn't care about those critics and, on the eve of Liverpool's return, the German hit back. "Now I have had a lot of time to read. I had to Google the word 'asterisk'. I only knew the word from a comic!" Klopp said.
"This is the most difficult year and season to become champions, 100 percent. It is an interrupted season, like has never happened before.
"Whoever will be champions, it will be historic because it is a year that we will never forget.
"Give us an asterisk, yes. We cannot do a lot of things that we usually can do but in this specific case at least we can say this is really special.
"That's why we enjoy the little asterisk there."



It's your turn Madrid

Barca's goalless draw against Sevilla give Zidane's men chance to go atop

Sociedad vs Real Madrid
Live from 1:30am IST
FACEBOOK

SEVILLE: Gerard Pique said La Liga's title race is Real Madrid's to lose after Barcelona were held to a goalless draw against Sevilla on Friday.
Barca's first slip-up since returning from the three-month hiatus hands Madrid the chance to regain top spot this weekend.
After their emphatic 3-0 win over Valencia, Zinedine Zidane's side will move level on points with the Catalans if they beat Real Sociedad on Sunday and above them due to their superior record head-to-head.
"Seeing what we've done in the last two rounds, it's going to be very difficult to win this league," said a despondent Pique afterwards.
"From what I've seen, it's very hard to see Real Madrid dropping points."
Sevilla, in third, and Valencia, in eighth, always looked capable of shifting the dynamic at the top of the table, with Madrid capitalising to climb back to the summit for the first time since they beat Barcelona on March 1.

Real unaffected by Barca blip: Zizou

MADRID: Zinedine Zidane insists nothing has changed in La Liga's title race despite Barcelona handing Real Madrid the chance to go top of the table if they beat Real Sociedad on Sunday.
"Nothing changes," said Zidane in a press conference on Saturday. "People can say one thing or another but what interests me is the game tomorrow. I have my opinions but I am not going to say them because the same could happen or the complete opposite."
"Everyone can give their opinion but we are thinking of the next match. It's what engages us and nothing else."
Asked about Pique's analysis, Barcelona coach Quique Setien said: "I think it comes from frustration. I am optimistic. I think it will be tough for anyone to take maximum points."
A valuable point for Sevilla, meanwhile, gives them a five-point cushion over Getafe in fifth, albeit having played a game more.
Barca could have few complaints at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan.
They never really troubled Sevilla for any

MUNICH: Robert Lewandowski claimed the record for the most goals scored by a foreigner in the Bundesliga as champions Bayern Munich swept past Freiburg 3-1 on Saturday, while Werder Bremen look set to be relegated after losing at Mainz.
After Joshua Kimmich gave Bayern an early lead at a spectator-free Allianz Arena, Lewandowski scored twice in the first half to give him 33 league goals in 30 matches this season, having netted a total of 48 times in 41 games in all competitions.
The Poland striker's tally beats the previous record of 31 goals set by Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang in 2016/17 for Borussia Dortmund.

Lewa breaks another BuLi record

Bayern striker becomes first non-German player to score 33 goals in a single season



At the foot of the table, Bremen are set to be relegated for the first time in 40 years after they slumped to a 3-1

triggers a relegation play-off at the end of the season.
To have any chance of staying up, Bremen must now beat Cologne at home next weekend and hope 16th-placed Fortuna Dueseldorf, who drew 1-1 at home to Augsburg on Saturday, lose at mid-table Union Berlin.
The race for the final two Champions League is wide open after teenage phenomenon Erling Braut Haaland clinically converted two crosses to seal Dortmund's 2-0 win at third-placed RB Leipzig.
Dortmund, who will finish second, and Bayern have both qualified for next season's Champions League, but two out of Leipzig, Gladbach and Leverkusen can still join them.
Moenchengladbach boosted their chances of Champions League football next season with a 3-1 win at bottom side Paderborn, who had defender Uwe Huenemeier sent off for a double yellow card.
Leverkusen dropped to fifth, two points behind Gladbach and three adrift of third-placed Leipzig, after their 2-0 defeat at Hertha Berlin, whose Brazilian striker Matheus Cunha and former Watford forward Dodi Lukebakio both scored.

France to re-open stadiums for fans, up to 5K allowed

AFP ■ PARIS

Up to 5,000 spectators will be allowed to attend sports events in stadiums in France when they re-open on July 11, the French Government announced on Saturday.
The limit applies to "big events, stadiums and concert halls", the Government said, but it may be raised later in the summer.
"A review of the national epidemiological situation will be carried out in mid-July to

decide if it is possible to relax (the rules) in the second half of August," it added in a statement.
Although football's Ligue 1 and 2 and rugby's Top 14 league decided to end their seasons in April after they were halted in March, the Government's decision means a crowd should be able to attend football's French Cup and League Cup finals.
A date has not been sent for either match but they are expected to be played at the end of July.



West Brom go top as Championship returns

LONDON: West Bromwich Albion moved into first place in the Championship after a 0-0 draw against Birmingham as the English second tier returned to action on Saturday after a three-month suspension due to virus.
Slaven Bilic's side moved above Leeds on goal difference, but it was a missed opportunity after dominating their local rivals at the Hawthorns.
Matheus Pereira fired wide as Albion failed to score for a third straight league game.
Leeds travel to Cardiff on Sunday and will regain top spot if they avoid defeat in Wales.
Albion still is seven points clear of third placed Fulham in the race for automatic promotion with eight games left.
Fulham were rocked by two late goals in their 2-0 defeat against west London rivals Brentford at Craven Cottage.
The fourth placed Bees climbed to within one point of Fulham.
Nathan Jones picked up a point on his return as Luton manager as Callum McManaman earned the bot-

We learnt from our experiences: Bibiano

NEW DELHI: India U-16 head coach Bibiano Fernandes sounded positive about the tough draw for India's campaign in the AFC U-16 Championship in Bahrain, reiterating his belief in the ability of his boys to perform at the big stage.
In a Live chat with *AIFF TV*, Bibiano said: "I was following the draw Live but I did not keep any expectations for it. When I saw our group, I told myself that my team has already given a good account of themselves in qualifiers. I believe from the bottom of my heart that these boys can perform against the countries in the group."
India was clubbed alongside Korea Republic, Australia, and Uzbekistan in Group C on Thursday. India had in the last edition in 2018 lost to Korea Republic by a solitary goal in the quarterfinals wherein a victory would have earned them a slot in the FIFA U-17 World Cup.
However, Bibiano dismissed notions about the match against Korea Republic to be a 'revenge match'.
"It looks like that — doesn't it," he laughed. "But Korea will also think on the same lines. What's important at this stage is how soon we can get back to training. The boys need to hit the right chords before the tournament starts."
"There are so many things you can learn. The way you look at the tournament and change your approach is one of them. We learnt from our experiences from 2018 and have hence, changed and instilled the learnings while scouting these boys, and also in training." **IANS**

Bergamo wakes up from virus nightmare to resume Atalanta's dream

AFP ■ BERGAMO

Atalanta vs Sassuolo
Live from 11:00pm IST
SONY TEN 2 NETWORK

Bergamo's Atalanta return to action on Sunday, hoping that a resumption of their incredible football success will signal the historic Italian city's return to normality after being devastated by coronavirus.
The province suffered 6,000 more deaths than usual during the Covid-19 outbreak, including 670 in Bergamo city which has a population of around 122,000.
Almost everyone there has lost a relative, friend, colleague or neighbour.
It is now known that the Champions League match between Atalanta and Valencia on February 19 played a significant role in spreading the deadly virus.
Around 46,000 spectators

gathered at Milan's San Siro to watch Atalanta crush the Spanish team 4-1. With every goal, local fans fell into each other's arms, at the stadium and in bars.
'BIOLOGICAL BOMB'
The coronavirus was already known in China but at the time seemed far away from northern Italy.
But that soon changed, and from March 4 the number of cases in Bergamo rose sharply, leading some doctors to label the football match a "biological bomb" which had exploded.
After the second leg was played and also won, 4-3, on March 10 in Valencia, Atalanta



coach Gian Piero Gasperini called for a big party to be held "later" as the team made it to the Champions League quarter-finals.
There followed over two months of lockdown in Italy, and tourists are yet to return to this pretty UNESCO World Heritage Site city.
On Sunday, Atalanta take on Sassuolo in their first post-virus Italian Serie A match, to be held without fans present, but with

the team known as *La Dea* resuming what was far and away their best season ever.
"This match represents a small return to normality," said Atalanta supporter Andrea Sigorini.
"But as the staff and players have said, our thoughts will be with those who have been through such difficult times," he said.
"We're in a hurry to see Atalanta play again, given the level they're playing at," he added.
Those who are rejoicing at the resumption of football, even behind closed doors, are desperate to know how their so-far incredible season ends.
Atalanta occupy the fourth and final Champions League qualifying spot in Serie A and sit three points clear of fifth-placed Roma with a game in hand.



What attracted you to Axone?

The writer-director Nicholas Kharkongor of this film is an old friend. I couldn't be a part of his directorial debut *Mantra*. Every time we would meet, I would pull his leg and tell him that the least he could do was give me a cameo in that film.

When he wrote this, he told me he had written a story on North-east people and had a walk-in role and now I couldn't complain that he had not given me a role. He sent the script across and it blew me away as it was well-written. Initially, I thought I would be doing it for my friend but it was the other way round.

Was it worth doing this walk-in character?

Of course. It goes without saying that it was. It is important to support films like these. If we don't then we don't consider cinema as a powerful medium because it is about creating awareness. Even if we can get five people to think twice, the work is done. On top of it, the film is entertaining and funny.

Do you think that a movie on this subject was waiting to be told?

Absolutely. On one hand we portray ourselves to be global and being aware and evolving. On the other hand, there is so much discrepancy. Not talking about

Talktime
VINAY PATHAK
He shot to fame for his role in *Khosla Ka Ghosla* and went on to do films like *Bheja Fry* and *Dasvidaniya*. He speaks with Shalini Saksena about his recent releases and tells that the script is the most important thing for him

I NEVER DO A JOB FOR A PLATFORM. IT IS ALWAYS THE SCRIPT FOR ME. THERE IS NO COMPLICATION OR MYSTERY HERE. IF I LIKE THE STORY, I TAKE IT UP. A WELL-WRITTEN SCRIPT WILL SELDOM HAVE A WEAK CHARACTER

a particular aspect or subject is not going to take it away. We talk of an ideal society and world and are proud of our culture and heritage. But there are so many adversaries that we need to address and be ready for that change.

Another movie of yours released recently — Chintu Ka Birthday? How did you come on board for the film?

I met Satyanshu (Singh) and Devanshu (Kumar) the writer-directors for the first time and they loosely narrated the film.

I instantly fell in love with it. It is such a beautiful film and said yes. It was easy for me to reach the film but difficult for them to make it.

How much would people relate to Madan Tiwari?

Very much. He is such an endearing character. I see Madan Tiwari and the writer-director. Where I come from, I have seen and grown up with people who are all about goodness. I think it is very relatable. Also, the character is set in real space and topical as well.

Usually such films have few takers. Does it make sense that a select few see it?

I wouldn't say that such films are watched only by a select few. Both *Axone* and *Chintu Ka Birthday*, released

on the OTT platform on two consecutive Fridays, have been watched by hundreds of thousands and accessed by them in the right way. I have done small indie films all my life since I like the space.

What is the attraction of doing a project for an OTT platform?

I never do a job for a platform. It is always the script for me. There is no complication or mystery here. If I like the story and the way it has been written I take it up. I feel that a well-written script will seldom have a weak character.

Do you think your image as a comic actor makes filmmakers offer you certain kind of roles?

I would say yes, if I had not got to do varied characters. In my career I have done all kinds of roles, I have played negative characters, I have done light-hearted roles, I have done serious dramas. I have done comedy and if people associate me with that, I shouldn't be complaining here.

What is the best thing that you like about your profession?

To be able to tell different stories. I love listening to stories, watching them and reading them. If I get an opportunity to tell a story, there is nothing greater than that.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with beauty experts and stakeholders about how the pandemic has completely changed the experience of visiting a salon

The COVID-19 has drastically changed our lives. Things that we took for granted and did without even questioning the hygiene standards today, has us paranoid. But the lockdown that followed due to Coronavirus meant that many of us missed the grooming that we were so used to. Now that the Government has allowed salons to open, albeit the guidelines, people are all set to sit on the grooming seats again.

While some may find it strange but a bride dressed to the nines with a matching mask and the beauticians covered with PPE kits has become the new normal. You step into a salon only to find higher than ever hygiene practices in place. Unfortunately, social distancing norms go for a toss in the not-so-big salons.

The life post lockdown has changed including the experience of visiting a salon, which was once considered as a place to relax and unwind. The fear of catching infections from a public place is marring the purpose, but then there are people who are tired of experimenting with DIY hair styles and a visit to the salon is the only option.

However, salons and parlours are taking all safety measures to eliminate the risk of infection. A case in point is L'Oréal Professionals.

"After the Unlock 1.0 was announced and with the gradual reopening of services and salons in mind, we developed a 'Back to Business' hygiene and safety guide for our salons outlining hygiene and operating guidelines. We will also be helping hairdressers exceed the usual salon safety and sanitary measures, to keep themselves and clients safe by supplying masks, hand sanitisers along with new operating guidelines," says DP Sharma, Director, Professional Products Division, L'Oréal India.

This guide was distributed to 45,000-strong salon network and over 1.7 lakh hairdressers, ahead of the lockdown restrictions being lifted. The support guide includes post-lockdown advice around ensuring the safety and wellbeing of customers and employees; safer operating procedures; including hand cleansing, tool disinfecting, salon routing, pre-booking, reorganisation of salons to space



out appointments and electronic payment, all to ensure social distancing requirements. These guidelines are now available to all hairdressers or salon partners — L'Oréal Professionnel, Matrix, Kérastase and Cheryl's Cosmeceuticals.

It goes without saying that people will have certain apprehensions therefore to gain the customer's confidence, the brand is encouraging salons to share measures they are taking on social media.

"Communication is key and letting your customers know that you are taking new, extra measures to ensure their personal health and wellbeing will be vital to building trust. We are encouraging the staff to post all the precautions taken on social media so that people know that we are abiding by the norms. We have engaged with local TV channels, where salons have reopened, for a walkthrough so they can capture the measures adopted to ensure safety and hygiene and communicate these initiatives to a wider audience. When consumers get a



Aashmeen Munjal, Director, Star Salon & Academy

preview of the precautions at their trusted salon, from a trusted media channel, their confidence is reinforced.

We are also encouraging our salon partners to share testimonials from customers that have already visited the salon, as the real-life experience of a satisfied customer is one of the most convincing ways to convey a salon is safe and ready for you," Sharma tells us.

Even if the salons are following the precautions to a T, there are certain

services that are expected to see a decline. "Personal grooming is intrinsic to us, and the services that come under it — haircuts, colour services, hair spa treatments — remain integral to creating an overall sense of well-being and beauty. We expect all these services to bounce back. Some will bounce back sooner than others like haircuts and root touch-ups for greys. While others, with more personal and close contact, like threading and waxing, could see a bit of a decline in the near future. Eventually, however, these services will all find their place back in our lives," he tells us.

Aashmeen Munjal, Director, Star Salon & Academy agrees with Sharma and says customers are more inclined towards getting haircuts and hair colour. Waxing and threading is not in demand. "Even facials have seen a decline, people are just replacing it with bleach, which requires less contact," Munjal says.

To promote hygienic threading services, Munjal says, the staff is being trained to use the thread with

their neck instead of mouth. Finger scissors are also taken in use for threading, to minimise the contact between the client and the beautician.

Not only the services are witnessing a massive change but also the design and setup of salons is evolving. "We have removed waiting sofas from our salons to maintain social distancing. Our staff are staying in well prepared and sanitised rooms. There are six rooms in the salon and only one customer is allowed in one go. Even at the reception, there is only one person to attend customers. Overall, it's a completely different structure with less staff," she explains.

Neha Sharma, Director, Lucullan Studios, tells you that they have mandated the Arogaya Setu app for all customers and staff. "We do regular temperature checks of our staff in front of the client and vice versa, to ensure customer satisfaction. The studio is sanitised after every use. All the tools are properly disinfected at regular intervals. We are also promoting digital payment methods," she tells you.

'Music is my therapy'

Singer SHANNON K's single, I Do, is doing rounds on the Internet. She speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about how she juggles work and academics, advice she takes from father Kumar Sanu and why trolling and bullying is a subject for her song

What is your recent single I do about?
All my previous songs have been about the different stages of love but this was something that I hadn't done before. The concept of remembering someone you loved after you've separated and wanting the best for them is beautiful. You remember them but you also remember how difficult it was for both of you to understand each other and that you didn't know what you were doing wrong at the time so you blamed them. You know now that you weren't the victim so you just want them to be happy with whoever they're with now. It reflects on the saying that if you love someone you should let them go. With that in mind my entire team came up with these beautiful ideas of how we can present and convert this meaning visually and I think they did an amazing job at that.

I am the queen from Casino also released recently. How different was it to sing a track for webseries?

It was certainly a new experience for me to sing for a web series. I had fun working on the project and learning things along the way. I feel like if you know and understand the meaning behind the song it'll be easier for you to emote the emotions through lyrics and style of music.

Is it hard to juggle between singing and studying?

It wasn't hard to juggle between my music and studying since music for me is like a therapy and I've never really been good at studies. Although my parents priorities were always for me to complete my studies first which I did so now I can focus a bit more on music.

You have been vocal about the ills of trolling and bullying. You also released a song Give Me Your Hand. What made you pick this subject?

Give Me Your Hand was written by my sister, Annabel and I. It was beautifully produced by Kyle Townsend. The song talks about my experiences of how I faced bullying, along with that this song gives a beautiful message about not losing hope and fighting for yourself and being nothing but your true self. I realised that there must be thousands of people out there who are still struggling to raise their voices about the issue and we tend to ignore it, which is why I wrote this song to tell them that they aren't alone. I'm grateful and thankful to my fans who showed so much love and appreciation to the song which led to me receiving an award. I think that the song has paved a way for me to connect with people. I'm all for supporting people in tough times and the fact that so many of them overcome their depression by listening to the song makes me feel happy. There's a quote of mine: You are made for a reason, to shine!

You made your Bollywood debut with Duggi. How did that happen?

It was an entirely new experience working in Bollywood. Initially, I was nervous to step into Bollywood. I am not that fluent in Hindi but I somehow managed to understand the meaning of the song. It was super fun working with Himesh Reshammiya. He's an amazing producer and all his songs are absolutely phenomenal.

A song that you can play on loop.

There are so many songs that are on a loop for me but I'd have to say it is *Everything I Do, I Do It* for you by Bryan Adams. I love classic songs because they always inspire me to learn and think more creatively when it comes to my own songs. Also who doesn't love Bryan Adams!

An advice from your father that you abide by.

My dad always advised me to never be a replica of someone but to learn the qualities from the legends and have an input of your creative style in it so that you become a unique artist. I also take recording and performing advice from dad. He is very strict when it comes to music so I make sure that I do my best in whatever that I am doing.

What are your upcoming projects?

My new single is on its way and some other songs from Bollywood too. So I am super excited and geared up for the future!

FATHER, DEAR FATHER



Get your dad to take a break and unwind a little on this day. Sit him down and let him tell you all the fun stories from his boyhood or just kick back and watch the sun go down together. Fix yourselves a Black Dog Scotch Sunset to accompany your sense of taste along with this visual treat.

- INGREDIENTS**
- 60 ml Black Dog Triple Gold Reserve
 - 25 ml Espresso
 - 10 ml Cinnamon Cordial
 - 1 Orange Wedge

WOODFORD RESERVE MULE

INGREDIENTS

- 1.5 oz Woodford Reserve Bourbon
- Dry ginger ale

METHOD

- Fill a mug with ice.
- Add Woodford Reserve.
- Top with ginger beer.
- Garnish with a lemon wedge.

- Garnish: Cinnamon Stick, Orange Peel
- METHOD**
- Pour the whisky in a glass filled with ice and squeeze in an orange wedge. Add the cinnamon cordial to enhance the complex notes and for a longer finish. (Alternative: Use warm sugar syrup infused with a stick of cinnamon as an alternative to the cinnamon cordial).
- Express some orange oil and add in the espresso for a creamy and sophisticated twist.
- Tip:** Squeeze the orange peel for it to release the oil.



SURPRISE YOUR HERO

Themed cakes by FernsNPetals can be a great option to treat your food-loving father on his special day. With the superhero-themed cake make him realise that he is indeed the hero in your life.

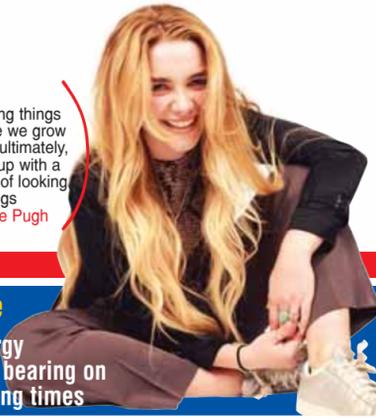
Most of the fathers hesitate in pampering themselves with things that will cost them even a penny. Because all they want is to shower wealth on their family.

So on this day, gift your father a L'Oréal Men Expert Barber Club Short Beard & Face Moisturiser that will do the job for you.



the pioneer agenda

We're learning things every decade we grow through, and ultimately, you do end up with a different way of looking at things
— Florence Pugh



FROM THE INSIDE

State of mind & quality of life

The state of mind is that epicentre which creates ripples across the past, present, and the future of our lives

2



4

The effect of an eclipse

Eclipses speak of changing energy dynamics of nature with related bearing on the course of a nation in emerging times

There is a deep rooted stigma that prevents people from seeking help or sharing their story. If not caught on time, it can lead to serious implications, writes DR. PRERNA KOHLI

MENTAL HEALTH

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM



The recent events have drawn a lot of attention towards mental health and made us understand how pervasive depression is. Many of us need to have a clear understanding of depression, which is very different from temporary low moods or bad moments. Depression is a state of low mood and aversion to activity. It makes one sad, helpless, worthless and one can also be irritable, antisocial and feel ashamed. It's a deeper feeling of sadness and people who are clinically depressed cannot simply will themselves to feel better or snap out of it. It leads to a variety of emotional behaviour and causes physical and thought problems. It decreases the ability of the affected to function at work and at home. It can also cause irregular sleep patterns, weight loss or weight gain. If one feels lonely and helpless, thoughts of suicide can occur.

MAPPING THE DISORDER

Several factors play a role — certain chemicals in the brain may contribute to depression. It could be genetic too, passed on from families, down the line. If someone suffers from low self esteem or is stressed, then depression is more likely. It could be a personality type as well. Pessimists are more prone to depression. We also cannot discount the contribution of external factors, especially in these troubled times when the entire world is dealing with an unprecedented event.

Depression can be triggered by external factors as well — such as violence, neglect, abuse or major events like losing a job, divorce. In certain cases, even medication can play havoc. Substance abuse too can play a big role. If you are addicted and have a constant need for a substance, that too can lead to depression. People mostly show signs of a low state of mood; they don't enjoy things that brought them happiness earlier.

When our mental health is not all right, then it has a major affect on the daily life. It affects one's physical wellbeing and results in changes in appetite. It brings out mood swings — one also tends to be neglectful of their surroundings, their home may come across as untidy, laundry could be lying around... One doesn't have the same kind of energy and enthusiasm that they did before. Relationships, friendships change — one makes constant excuses to avoid meeting and often complains that they are too tired. They are often irritable, it affects their decision making, focus and concentration. There are various types of depression, such as substance abuse disorder,

abuse disorder, seasonal affective disorder, postpartum depression and a whole lot of other forms that one needs to understand.

The depression statistics in India, as per a mental health survey conducted by NIMHAMS, indicate that 1 in 20 people suffer from depression, 1 in every 4 women, and 1 in every 10 men suffer from depression. Mental morbidity amongst a productive work force between 30-49 years is at 33 per cent. 150 million Indian need mental health care and only about 30 million are seeking this help. There is a severe shortage of professional health care workers in India — statistics show there are only 4,000 psychiatrists, 3,500 psychologists, 3,500 mental health social workers. 0.06 per cent of the health care budget in India is spent on mental health care.

BUILDING A SUPPORT SYSTEM

People should be more mindful in their everyday life with their friends, family members so they can tell signs. One can notice people and see signs, like absence of eye contact or will, lack of motivation, no routine and could also have a dry mouth. Dark under eye circles could also mean lack of sleep. Statements like, 'leave me alone'; 'I will be fine'; 'don't worry'; 'no one understands me and gets me'. It is important to have red flags, when one hears these kinds of statements, or witnesses such behaviour in a person. Sometimes, depression has a physical manifestation as well. A constant upset stomach can also mean depression or anxiety if someone is not keeping well and is stressed.

At such times, the role of family and friends becomes critical. Family members should increase communication and that can make a difference and help someone. A good listener can be helpful. Pay attention, connect with them. If someone withdraws, you need to understand their pain. Depression is a disease, not a taboo. Families can do activities together so that they feel loved, wanted. Socialising helps. Human beings are not designed to be alone. Lifestyle changes also help. A fast paced life can also have an effect on one's mental health, this includes eating junk food and excessive drinking, etc. A lot of self-care and routine is important. Exercising helps as would maintaining a journal or even, picking up a hobby. This restores a sense of achievement and increases self-confidence and a sense of well being.

Despite showing signs of depression, it takes one around four to six years before they acknowledge and consult a specialist. A student commits suicide every hour in India,

every three seconds there is an attempted suicide, which is a leading cause of death amongst young people in India. There is a deep rooted stigma and this prevents people from seeking help or sharing their story. If this is not caught on time and one does not seek an intervention — unfortunately, people don't even understand the purview of this illness — it can have serious implications. There is stigma and shame attached to the word depression and this stems from the lack of understanding the ailment. People feel that if they suffer from mental health issues it could have an effect on their jobs, or someone will not get married, or they will not be accepted because they are different.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Apart from depression, there are many other mental health issues which afflict our society. Domestic violence is a very serious cause of concern and we need to be more vocal about it and show that we are here to help and support. A lot of women suffer from depression because of the physical abuse that one goes through. If not checked, domestic violence keeps escalating. It needs to be addressed right at the beginning and nipped in the bud. The victim needs to speak up and if they don't, the abuser in their mind justifies it and normalises the abuse. Have the courage to speak to someone and let them know that it has happened. Make a support group. The government has also shared a few numbers where one can reach out anonymously. One can also talk to their partner, or the person who is abusing, that this is not alright and see how one can work their way out.

As a clinical psychologist, I encourage people to speak up and not accept this behaviour. One can reach out to their mothers for guidance. Children learn what they see at home and children also pick up these signs. Abuse is not normal, it is the violation of a person's fundamental right and should be addressed.

Family also needs to be supportive at times such as this and intervene. One must not be judgemental — that too can have a negative effect.

MENTAL HEALTH IN THE TIMES OF PANDEMIC

Of course, mental health is a great concern especially in this time of great uncertainty. The Covid-19 pandemic has led to great displacement and isolation as people are caught in lockdown, as well as economic anxiety. People who have lost their jobs or have fears

that they will lose their jobs should work on a plan B and look at increasing their skill sets and widening their options. They can look for other jobs and ask for help. It is absolutely alright to ask for help, and one should not be embarrassed about it, especially as this is a unique situation and has affected millions globally.

Reach out to friends, family and ask for help. It is only a matter of time. People should keep themselves busy. Reading, writing and learning new thing may prove to be helpful at this time.

One is bound to feel isolated and helpless, especially when one has to cut from social life, or work from home, but this is the time to ask for help and not stay quiet. If something is bothering you — you have anxiety, depression or other thoughts — they must be addressed. Online trolling can also lead to depression as can being on social media for an excessive amount of time, one can curb this and set a routine for themselves. Routines help immensely and can make one feel better and have more self-worth.

The first step in addressing this ailment is acknowledging it and understanding that you have a problem. As I mentioned, it takes about four to six years for one to address the issue, that is why it is important for others to look for signs and step in, and help, if they can. We need to make sure that it doesn't result in suicide. National Crime Record Bureau stats reveal that there is an attempted suicide in India every three minutes and a student commits suicide every hour.

Mothers needs to bring up their children, and boys in particular, very mindfully and also teach them the value of respecting another individual and their life.

We need to make this a public health issue, have people speak about it and remove the stigma around this — we have done this for cancer, diabetes and even HIV. The right kind of awareness through conversation, dialogue and understanding of what depression is, would make mental health acceptable and people will open up and share their feelings, emotions and suffering. It is very important to speak about it through media and events. The government must also step in and do their bit and acknowledge that people suffer from an illness that needs to be addressed.

The writer is a clinical psychologist, four times gold medalist, who practices Logotherapy. She is a published author and has received multiple honours, including the 100 Women Achievers Award by the President of India

THE RIGHT KIND OF AWARENESS THROUGH CONVERSATION, DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT DEPRESSION IS, WOULD MAKE MENTAL HEALTH ACCEPTABLE AND PEOPLE WILL OPEN UP AND SHARE THEIR FEELINGS, EMOTIONS AND SUFFERING





TRUTH CAN BE STATED IN
A THOUSAND DIFFERENT
WAYS, YET EACH ONE CAN
BE TRUE
— SWAMI VIVEKANANDA



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

The deluge and after



Future historians may be tempted to draw a line between the Before Covid (BC) and the After Deluge (AD) world, given the impact of the novel coronavirus on the entire humanity. As our aptitude in terms of science, technology and medicine provide little clue to the pandemic, we need to reset the attitude, the way we look at the world. It was some kind of auto correction effected by the perfectly intelligent system like Nature. The unbridled consumption of humanity was untenable and the warning is loud and clear — mend your ways. Nature is a grand Supra-system, the planet earth being a sub system that needs to be in an equilibrium with the larger whole. When this is disrupted the remedial action to restore the equilibrium sets in motion. Of late, the faulty consumption patterns were disturbing the equilibrium and there were signals of distress coming up in many forms, climate change being one. However, they were ignored and rampant consumption went on leading to the present crisis. It is a typical case of market response to system. Now the system needs to respond. The big question is how. The forced lockdown is that act of penance that would train humanity to think anew. The whole perspective has to change. The outlook, the philosophy and the life styles will require a reorientation. The marketing driven, consumption fuelled economic philosophy will have to shift to a conservation oriented economic philosophy harping on the long run sustainability focused economic models that would check greed and discourage vulgar consumerism. As the scary future scenario painted by the mathematico-statistical graphics projected by many research agencies day in and day out warn of the possible apocalypse, the world never appeared so close to the deluge that the old testament talked about. Remembering the anguish of God that made him send the deluge may not be out of place. The relevant portion from the book of Genesis part 1 is paraphrased here. First, God created a world that was good and fit for mankind. But when man corrupted it with sin, God decided to destroy his creation, saving only the righteous Noah. Let us forget, let us recapitulate God's anguish as quoted — "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the Earth, and he was grieved in his heart." So the decision to destroy man was there. Let us figure out what went wrong. Excessive and unethical consumption led to a huge disruption in the ways of the world creating a lopsided model of development. This tampered with the market or the nature. It has, finally given a grim warning to mankind to mend its ways. Some were already saying that most of the consumption we did was unnecessary and not needed. Now most people are realising it. This has to be the way of life in the post Covid World and we must reset our moral compass to resort to more sensible economic models of development based on ethical consumption. Human beings must now realise that they were created to be the most supreme of creatures. In their untempered arrogance, they squandered this advantage. It is time to question where we stand today.

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

STATE OF MIND & QUALITY OF LIFE

The state of mind is that epicentre which creates ripples across the past, present, and the future of our lives, writes ANTANO SOLAR JOHN



Life is all about the choices that we make, but how often do we realise that these choices are tied to the state of mind that we have at that time? Motivational Gurus and coaches stress on the importance of seizing the day, making the most of it, but if somebody is depressed the entire time, they would not even notice the opportunity right in front of them. We all know of people who had made the most stupid mistakes in their lives and when you'd ask them why, they would simply say "I wasn't thinking clearly, I was just so angry!" Essentially, the state of mind is that epicentre which creates ripples across the past, present, and the future of our lives.

THE STATE OF MIND DETERMINES OUR MAP OF THE WORLD

Every individual has a unique way of looking at the world and their own lives. This map of the world keeps changing, depending on our state of mind at that given point.

Think about it: you meet a friend when they are feeling happy and you ask them about their life and they say all the nice things like "Luck really favours me, I have the best spouse, I feel really blessed." However, you ask them the same question once they have had a fight or met with failure and they would be quick to conclude "I've had such a difficult life, I wish my partner

was supportive and understanding."

We create these maps of the world whenever we go through emotions or experiences of high-intensity, be it something traumatic or pleasant. However, when we are going through high-intensity fear or anger, the maps that we create are often way inaccurate.

THE QUALITY OF OUR LEARNING

Our brain is a patterning machine. It learns a pattern, anything new, and obsessive-compulsively applies it in various other areas of our lives. When someone is in a happy or pleasant state of mind, what they rivet their attention to and what the brain learns is significantly different from when we are in a bad state of mind.

When people are going through fear, the brain overlearns. This over-learning of fear makes a person stuck in a "circular belief system". They would feel afraid that something bad may happen when presented with any of the trigger factors. However, since the fear would take their attention to thoughts inside their mind and their own feelings, their attention would not be on the road or task ahead, they would invariably end up making some mistakes, thus strengthening their fear. At an unconscious level, this belief system will continue to deepen how we felt.

For most people, this kind of circular belief system is not about accidents but about how they relate with

PERSONAL EVOLUTION COMES FROM BREAKING THE EXISTING UNUSEFUL PATTERN AND INSTEAD DELIBERATELY CREATING A NEW USEFUL PATTERN THAT IMPACTS THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE EXPONENTIALLY

people they love. And for most people it is not fear that creates a rigid and inaccurate unconscious circular belief but emotions like anxiousness, unrealistic expectations, hurt, anger, irritation and many other emotions that people accept as part of their lives when it comes in thresholds of less intensity. So, when a person has some levels of anger and they are able to control it, they may be successful in not acting on that anger, but they would have completely failed in learning from that experience. And to improve the quality of life, it is important to go beyond controlling emotions and instead experiencing new and resourceful emotions even in challenging situations.

STATE OF MIND AS A CAPABILITY

We have all taken certain capabilities for granted. For instance, creative people often have this ability to disassociate. They are able to step out and look at their work as a third person. When an artist or a coder takes a step back to review and is able to give the final touch to the painting or fix a major bug, they have successfully demonstrated disassociation. Surgeons use a drug called Ketamine which has the same impact on patients undergoing surgery; once the drug is induced, their consciousness experiences a strange visualisation, they see themselves float out of the body and see their body as a third person and they don't feel any pain of

the knife. Most geniuses, however, naturally disassociate on demand without even knowing they do it, thus easily evaluating their own work from another person's shoe.

To the same end, on demand state shift or the ability to be in a high performance and high quality state of mind even in challenging situations is a capability. This state is not the one that makes you scream at the top of your lungs "yes, I can do anything" but one where your mind is completely neutral, empty, devoid of any self-talk. It is a state where your attention is not on the inside but is riveted on the outside, the task at hand, and you are spontaneously performing the right thing, one after another. With this capability, you are able to remain contextual and shift your personality, depending on the context, while making the most of various situations in life.

A lot of times people don't have the capability to shift those states of mind. However, once you develop this really important capability, you start having new experiences in life and start developing more such innate capabilities. After a point, it becomes a cycle that continues to get fuller and better by itself. Remember how depressive thoughts accumulate to depression and begin to physically reflect in your body? The same is possible for exhilarating thoughts as well, when you are exuding a natural vibe, where your charisma and drive oozes out, no matter where you go.

HOW WE ARE IS NOT ETCHED ON STONE

The most liberating thing about human beings is that we have limitless choices. This is not the same as learning and unlearning in life. We need to unlearn what is not useful but here is a radically different proposal: what if you learn something in a context and then park it aside and learn something else. Over a period of time, you would have expanded the range of emotions you go through, the responses you have. The same would reflect in the range of people that you are able to connect with, influence, get the work done, and build relationships with.

Remember, be it bad or good, neutral or extra-ordinary, depressive or exhilarating, a natural vibe comes from stored patterns. Patterns come from repetition. Personal evolution comes from breaking the existing unuseful pattern and instead deliberately creating a new useful pattern that impacts the present and the future exponentially.

The writer is the co-inventor of personal evolution technology called Excellence Installations Technology (EIT) and the chief mentor to EIT Entrepreneurs who are disrupting the fields of Education, Health and Business

Balancing the moral fibre

Obedience to the rule of law is the basic requirement for a democracy to flourish. It is the minimum guarantee citizens promise each other, writes VADHAN

You might have heard wise men say that if you have committed no wrong then you need have no fear of God. The inverse is true of the people who have done wrong. They will always fear the repercussion of their actions.

What if they don't fear the repercussions? What if they are twisting and turning the law to suit their end? What if the common man is helpless to stop the wanton abuse of power? Whom does one turn to?

God, of course. Righteous people are known to be God fearing. The people who commit wrong are said to have no fear of God. As they say in Hindi, "Arey, bhagwan se toh daro!" Which only means that if you aren't afraid of anything else, at least have Fear of God.

Why is there no fear of the law? What does it say about us as a people if we as a whole think that defiance to the law is the norm? Let me give you an example. In most countries in the world when a traffic policeman stops a vehicle for violation of traffic rules, there is no question of an argument with the officer of law.

You accept the responsibility, pay the penalty and promise never to break the law again. In India, we actually get off the vehicle and argue with the officer of law that he is in fact wrong. At which point, we give a clear statement of defiance of the law. That's when we really and truly break the law. If that doesn't work, we pull names. It is like saying that the perpetrator is above the law merely because he is affiliated to the powerful. All this means we have no respect for the law and no fear for it. Defiance is the norm.

There is evidence to show on public record that some of our elected leaders have had criminal records. Forget the tainted people who seek our votes, what does it say about us as a people if we vote for the criminal for the money and gifts they give us?



It's like biting the proverbial forbidden apple in the Garden of Eden. Once we bite that apple, we grow a very weak moral backbone.

The moral fabric of society has eroded to a point where law has no meaning in the day to day life of the common man. In fact, that is what my book is about. The loss of morality in social life and in public life. No matter how hard the government works to bring in systems and processes to introduce transparency and honesty into public life as long as we the people are ready to succumb to individual caprice and sacrifice societal harmony, nothing will change.

Take for example COVID-19 infected people spitting on policemen doing their job. Take the common man being antagonistic to doctors who are front liners fighting the pandemic. Where is the morality? Where is the drive for the common good? We are driven by religion, political colors, regional conflicts, rich and poor parity,

caste, color, creed. We are driven by just about everything except moral values.

If unchecked, the lack of morality will lead to the complete meltdown of a mutually conducive civil society. In my book, *Fear of God*, erosion of the moral fabric of society leads to vigilantism. The story states that one should obey the law and be protected by it. If one breaks the law, he should be answerable to it. And in cases where people believe they are above the law, well the Fear of God has its own fiery brand of justice.

Obedience to the rule of law is the basic requirement for a democracy to flourish. It is the minimum guarantee citizens promise each other. It is based on morality and fair practice. Just like a house is run based on unscripted rules of love, morality and honesty, so to a country. If we follow the unscripted rules at home, why not for the country? Because at the end of the day, it is the same thing.

The writer is a lawyer and the author of *Fear of God*

Focus on what you do

Nothing happens by chance. Our past deeds both good and bad bring good and bad results. We call this destiny, says AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

A lot of our energy and time is wasted on thinking or even discussing what others are doing or should do. Unless this is someone for whom you are responsible, are we not wasting our time and energy? For example, we are obsessed by this Corona virus. What can we do about it? Nothing except focus on what precautions we can take to prevent ourselves from getting infected. No, that is not so attractive.

Then, what should we ideally do? For that to become clear to us, we must have some basic knowledge of the Cosmic Design. God after creating this universe has put a system in place. He has made rules for its administration, which is essentially "karmaphala" principle. In short, it means: what you sow you reap. God is the owner of this creation. Nothing happens by chance. Our past deeds both good and bad bring good and bad results. We call this destiny.

Another big fact about which we should be aware is that this system does everything. Lord Krishna has spoken about it in *The Gita* (verse #3.27). The system uses us as mediums in what it has to accomplish. It picks out persons who would fit those roles.

We, souls, are small and will eternally remain so. We should accept this reality. For example, when a newly-wed bride joins a household, the role of mother-in-law is quite important. She is secure in her position; the bride has to make her place. However, the situation turns around as the mother-in-law begins to age and is unable to do many chores, which made her important earlier. The bride is now fully entrenched and dominates. Both the mother-in-law and the bride were small; only what they did made them



more important or less important. We, all, are so small that we cannot even control our own minds and senses; we need God's help in this matter. If we seek God's help, we can get a better control over our minds and senses, which help in improvement of the quality of our lives.

The same fact holds in the matter of duties. We, small souls, have minor duties to do, though we may feel that we are important. Yes, in the personal context it maybe true, but in the large context our roles are always small and will remain so. This is the Cosmic Design. However, these minor duties must be done, and a wise person gets God involved in this; God guides and helps both in establishing what our duties are and in doing them. A truly wise person does not waste time and energy in getting involved in duties of others. After all we have very limited or no influence in activities of others, no matter how close we maybe. Our

focus should be on our own duties, doing them well. We need lots of improvements in our selves. Where is the time and energy for getting involved in the affairs of others. We can be at best be interested observers only.

Therefore, let us do our parts well and if we involve God, we can really excel; we will know what our duties are and can get God's help in doing them well. With God in the picture, we will gain peace and bliss also — the ultimate prizes. How do we involve God in our lives? There is one simple way, and that is to become "Godmaya". I am personally trying to be "Ramamaya" by chanting "Rama" as much as is convenient. Lord expects this from us because we must deserve what we seek. Chanting the word "Rama" is an act of the highest order. Do it and reap its enormous benefits.

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

Hong Kong becoming China's Achilles heel

China has once again unsettled the trouble-torn island of Hong Kong. Despite the threat of Covid-19 pandemic, millions of HongKongers have braved their way to join in the massive anti-Government rallies in various parts of the city. This is not the first time the islanders have vowed to stand against the mainland legislations, threats and at times violent forces, but many youngsters say that protest against oppression is in "their DNA". This all make it clear that Hong Kong has become a permanent Achilles heel for the power elite in China.

At this moment, it is worth recounting the historical background of the island and how Chinese rule has become a sore point for the freedom-loving HongKongers. Hong Kong was a British colony from January 26, 1841 till July 1, 1997. Its first Constitution, long before the coming of the current Basic Law, was proclaimed on June 26, 1843, in the form of Queen Victoria's Letters Patent entitled the Charter of the Colony of Hong Kong. This 1843 Charter authorised the establishment of the Legislative Council and eventually empowered "the Governor for the time being... with the advice of the said Legislative Council... to make and enact all such laws and ordinances as may from time to time be required for the peace, order and good government of Hong Kong". The Letters Patent of 1888 replaced the Charter of 1843 and added two significant words i.e. "and consent" after the words "with the advice". After more than 150 years of British colonial rule, Hong Kong was handed over to the Chinese Government on July 1, 1997 as a part of the agreement signed between then British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang on December 19, 1984. And this historic Sino-British Joint Declaration that put an end to one of the richest colonial treasures of the UK in Asia precisely brought home a new "Basic Law" to guide the future governance system of Hong Kong. In fact, this Basic Law could rightly be regarded as the "Mini Constitution" of Hong Kong. It must be noted here that this law was passed by the Chinese parliament known as the National People's Congress (NPC), which came into effect on the very day of withdrawal of the British colonial regime over the island i.e. July 1, 1997. Interestingly, it was passed by the NPC as the provisions entailed in the Article 31 of the Constitution of China to establish Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region (SAR). This is how Hong Kong was later known as the HKSAR in the lexicon of global politics. Today, Hong Kong is ruled by a Chief Executive known as Carrie Lam and a Legislature (Legco).

What brings constant anxiety to the Hong Kong residents is the intervention of Beijing in the very autonomous structure guaranteed to it by the Chinese Constitution itself in the form of Basic Law. And this law is absolutely inviolable and has to be



Hong Kong Riot police detain a protester during a protest in Causeway Bay, Hong Kong, on June 12, 2020

AP/File

in place for 50 years i.e. up till 2047, from the very date of the handover in 1997. The crux of the Basic Law is that it provides a system of "One Country, Two Systems" very unique which has never ever been practised by the authoritarian leadership of the mainland China. This refers to the idea that Hong Kong would enjoy a high degree of autonomy with executive, legislative and independent judicial power. Especially, the Article 5 of the Basic Law requires that the socialist system and policies practised in the mainland, not to be practiced in the autonomous region of Hong Kong and the existing capitalist system and the way of life before the transfer of the territory to China would continue for coming half a century from 1997.

Although the HongKongers were absolutely apprehensive of the hidden agenda of the Communists of China, they were gradually coping with their new future under the "One Country, Two Systems" till mid-June 2014. But by June 10, 2014, the Xi regime issued a new policy report asserting its authority over the island territory. This virtually created panic among the Hong Kong citizens. This report directly indicated that the interests of China must prevail over the constitutional autonomy of the HKSAR. This ignited furour across the island and massive protest rallies

were organised against the secret agenda of the Xi and Co. Certainly, with Xi, the hate and anguish of the people of Hong Kong against the Chinese Government are on the rise.

What HongKongers are mainly aiming at? The current and the latest bone of contention are two sets of legislations: One that is a Bill approved by the NPC for a controversial Hong Kong National Security Law (NSL). This Bill rightly threatens to limit freedoms already enjoyed by the people in this international financial hub. Further, such legislations will bypass the city's legislature. Its aim is to punish those acts which subvert the power of the Chinese Government and the State. And the other Bill that was passed by the Legco amid these protests is what makes it illegal to insult the "March of the Volunteers" i.e. the Chinese National Anthem. And anyone found guilty of abusing the anthem would face up to three years in prison and a fine of up to 50,000 Hong Kong Dollars (\$6,450). The critics of the anthem Bill say it is an infringement of the right to free expression that the people of HKSAR enjoy, but the pro-Beijing majority says such a step is in the need of the hour for the HongKongers to display appropriate respect for the National Anthem.

What marks the latest round of protests particular is that the pro-

testers quietly celebrating the anniversary of historic anti-Government protest that rocked the former British colony last June. In Hong Kong, don't mistake a "blue flag" for anything else, but only for a police warning to "an illegal assembly". And this June, the city police and thousands of plain-clothed security agents constantly waved the blue flags emblematic of recurring law and order situation in the city.

On the occasion of first year of anti-Government stir, Lam publicly aired that Hong Kong can't bear any more chaos. More than a million people came out to the streets on June 9 last year to protest against a Bill that would have allowed people to be extradited to the mainland, where the courts are no other than the organs of the Communist Party of China. To smooth HongKongers' ruffled feathers, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang reiterated the 'One Country Two Systems' is China's national policy and there is no question of abandoning it any time soon.

Why then the HongKongers are on the road again? Why the city administration of Carry Lam is not giving audience to the leadership of the movement? Is the Xi regime has any plan to rein in the protesters the way it unleashed brutality in Tiananmen Square on June 1989? What course of action the interna-

tional community should follow? These are quite tricky questions for anyone involved in this long haul, starting from the rally goes to the Lam administration to hardened Communists of the mainland. For the islanders, they have made it plain and simple to Beijing that they would love to continue with the autonomy guaranteed under the historic Basic Law of July 1, 1997 when the UK handed over the territory to the Chinese Government. Lam will not oblige the protesters simply because she can't go against her bosses sitting in Beijing. She is helpless and fully tied to what Xi and his team dictates. She is a survivor, so to say. Though Xi and his Government are regularly indicating the use of force and not to tolerate any attempt to violate internal peace and order within its territory, but he won't be able to do what Deng did on Tiananmen protesters in 1989. Today, for such actions, China would lose much more than what it did three decades earlier. The right course of action for the global community would be to pressure and impose sanctions on China to restore the constitutional autonomy of Hong Kong till 2047. Xi should not be in a hurry. He should not make it a part of grand "China Dream" and the "Belt and Road Initiative".

Beijing's proposed new laws, the dictatorial posture of Xi and the

Lam administration's subservience have altogether pushed the people of Hong Kong to the wall under China. Currently what has been observed is that a lot many elders are fast taking sides with their young brethren. And for the West, Hong Kong is the only ray of hope, the springboard and the pedestal from where it could probably challenge the dictates of the mainland's Communist empire. However, resorting to these legislations as scalpel against the pro-democracy activists would neither help Xi or any future Chinese leader, nor would permanently quell the rebelling islanders. Hong Kong's yearning for independence or autonomy is not to be viewed as an immediate problem. It is not an optional catastrophe for China. The PRC and its leadership have to deal with it as long as Hong Kong is within it. Let us make it clear to Xi that the pro-democracy struggle in this part is not an unfounded fear. It has grown over decades of the HongKongers' constant association and churning with the ethos of liberal democratic credentials for decades. Simply playing cat & mouse with the next generation of youngsters would push the island territory to another "boiling point of Asia".

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

After enjoying centuries of autonomy under the liberal democratic values of the West, the HongKongers are unable to digest the curbs on their way of life by constricting legislative moves by the Communist leadership of China. For the youngsters, protest against oppression is in their DNA. The right course of action for the global community would be to impose sanctions on China in order to force the Communists hand to restore the constitutional autonomy of Hong Kong



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Don't lose sight of long-standing fight against undernutrition

The Covid-19 pandemic has jeopardised the battle against undernutrition and hunger among children. The need of the hour, therefore, is to at least protect, if not enhance, the budgets for the crucial nutrition related service delivery programmes like Anganwadi Services, Midday Meal, POSHAN Abhiyan

As the wave of the Covid-19 pandemic grips the globe, the entire population of affected countries has been left vulnerable. Especially worrisome has been the long-term impact that such a crisis can have on children in the coming days and years. Though medically, it has been observed that children have been less affected by the deadly virus, concerns of them being the "hidden victims" of this global health emergency cannot be overlooked.

There is no doubt that ensuring a healthy life for children needs a holistic approach amid this pandemic. This entails not just tackling the immediate threat of the virus on children but also looking at the long-term effects of this crisis on children's nutrition, health and overall well-being. These concerns have also found voice in the UN agenda for action brought out earlier in April this year, to tackle this "health crisis from becoming child rights crisis".

With the nationwide lockdown in place since March 24 (Unlock 1.0 for the grown-up), the undivided focus of both the Union and State Governments' machinery has been on attending to the immediate medical needs for Covid-19. The apprehension is that the crucial services like providing immunisation, regular health check-ups and supplementary nutrition to children, pregnant women and nursing mothers through programmes like the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) have taken a

backseat in different parts of the country. These can have negative effects on the long-term health of children, far beyond the comprehensibility of the lockdown phase. Globally, there is evidence to show that during the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, reduced access to treatments led to huge rise in the number of fatalities among children due to malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. Closer home, encephalitis in Bihar's Muzaffarpur, in the midst of the lockdown, with conspicuous shortfall in paediatric ICUs is a point of grave concern.

How is India placed on the nutrition front?

In terms of numbers, India's health and nutrition related indicators paint a far from rosy picture. With 35 per cent of children being stunted, 17 per cent being wasted, 33 per cent being underweight and almost 40 per cent of adolescent girls being anaemic (Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey, 2016-18), the need for sustained and focused Government interventions to reduce these numbers cannot be stressed enough. India's position in the Global Hunger Index stood at 102nd in 2019, out of a total of 117 countries. It is not surprising then that, only about 6 per cent of all children between 6 and 23 months in India are able to get a minimum acceptable diet. Needless to say, children and women from marginalised communities, migrant worker families, tribal population,

etc, are disproportionately disadvantaged in this regard. The 15th Finance Commission, taking cognizance of the situation, has recommended, in its 2020-21 report, a grant of ₹7,735 crore be transferred to States for the year 2020-21, with its first instalment released from the Centre by May 2020.

The pandemic has overstretched an already strained health infrastructure, with huge pre-existing human resource shortages, far beyond its capacity. The networks of community health workers like those associated with the Anganwadis (under ICDS), Accredited Social Health Activists or ASHAs (under National Rural Health Mission) and others are understaffed and overburdened as they juggle between their conventional duties of looking after the well-being of children and mothers and their new found roles as Covid warriors.

These raise grave concerns regarding delivery of crucial services like antenatal and postnatal care, vaccinations, routine check-ups, provision of nutritious food, etc, which can leave intergenerational footprints on the health of children.

The immediate loss of income and employment, due to the lockdown-induced crisis, has caused many rural families to reduce their dietary intake, reports a study of 12 States undertaken by a consortium of civil society organisations. The effect of such severe living conditions on the nutrition of pregnant women and children can hardly be

fathomed. Moreover, the stringent restrictions of the lockdown have left limited scope for Government interventions like Anganwadi care and provision of hot cooked food in schools. The Central Government's directive to supply dry rations or cooked food to the 11.6 crore children beneficiaries across the country under the Midday Meal scheme is fraught with implementation challenges in different States. Even in States that have taken proactive stance in this regard, delivering supplies to remote corners of the States have proved to be a major challenge for the Anganwadi workers who have been extensively involved in this mammoth task. In such a situation, there is an urgent need for sustained Government support to these vulnerable families. Further, a quick adaptation of the new modalities of functioning for these Government run programmes is vital for reaching out to the most vulnerable women and children, solely dependent such Government support.

What lies ahead

There is an anticipation that resources earmarked for these programmes, as for many other social sector schemes, might be diverted for tackling the immediate health crisis and these could see substantial decline in the supplementary budgets that the Union Government is expected to announce soon. Needless to say, even as the Union and the State Governments seek out extra funds

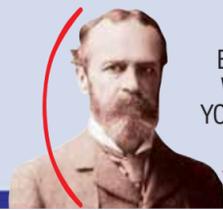
by drawing upon resources from various sources, curtailing funds from crucial health and nutrition related schemes can prove to have disastrous outcomes, especially for children. Regular and persistent efforts towards fighting several non-Covid diseases like malaria, diarrhoea, encephalitis, etc, which critically affect children with low immunity levels are bound to receive a major blow if there are shortages of funds.

The need of the hour, therefore, is to at least protect, if not enhance, the budgets for both the crucial nutrition related service delivery programmes like Anganwadi Services, Midday Meal, POSHAN Abhiyan, etc, and the conditional cash transfer interventions like Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana and others. Further, the Union Government can also consider relaxing some of the eligibility norms of these schemes to extend the benefits to many more. While focusing on the battle against Covid, we must not lose sight of our long-standing fight against under-nutrition and hunger. A multi-sectoral concerted approach towards nutrition at early stages of life, as endorsed in the MOSPI 2018 report, has become an undeniable imperative, more so than ever, to provide a fighting chance to our children in the long battle against not just this present pandemic but for future crises as well.

(The writer is associated with the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability)



SIMONTI CHAKRABORTY



BELIEVE THAT LIFE IS WORTH LIVING AND YOUR BELIEF WILL HELP CREATE THE FACT — WILLIAM JAMES



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

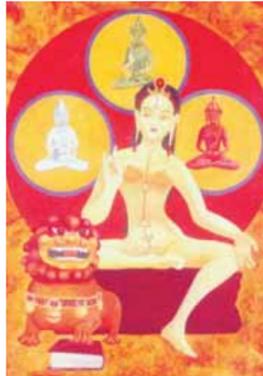
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

You can solve any problem with a firm approach to life. Restless mind and aggression gives nothing but hypertension. You have an intelligent and sensitive nature. You may suffer if there is no outlet for your feelings. On the career front, go ahead with creative ideas along with your colleagues and peers. This is the time for making deals, connections and collaborations. This week, an increase in your confidence is indicated. Don't hurry, finish what you have started before you decide to call it off. Your logical nature may affect your relationship. Avoid heated arguments. You need to be grounded and firm in your decisions. In love, your partner may be very inquisitive and demanding. Be honest with him/her.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Health is good, but worry, stress, and anxiety are likely to affect your peace of mind this week. Make sure to take good care of yourself. Balance in exercise, food and water intake, and getting adequate rest is a must. Breathing exercises and meditation will prove to be particularly useful for you at this point. On the career front, some unexpected event may surprise you. You may decide to leave your job if you are currently working, even if it's a good job because your heart is no longer in it. You want to follow your dream, no matter what it is. On the relationship front, this week you will be able to establish a solid connect with the family line and work as a pillar of strength for your immediate family members. You will be practical and grounded.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Manage your stress level to stay healthy. Deal with any problems that come up physically and try not to avoid them. Make sure to get enough rest. If you need healing, ask for it. Hearty talk with dear friends will go a long way towards keeping you healthy and sane. On the professional front, conflict with a superior may lead you to change track. Try not to close all doors, unless you have another opportunity. You are aware of how delicate this time is, so try to be calm. Self-improvement projects will be successful and bring you confidence. You will make progress by making corrections. Be adjusting with the current environment; success is within your reach. Your relationship needs work. Pay attention to your partner to improve your relations.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you are outgoing and energetic. Health will be good. Some quick movements will keep you busy and you will enjoy doing so. You will have the drive and determination to move forward. Don't try to force things, as that is likely to backfire on you. Professionally, this is not the right time to take important decisions. You may feel as if your energy is blocked. Secret motives, undercover information could cause tension. There is a need to go deep into the matter and find a solution for your anxieties, fears and psychic blocks so that they no longer haunt you. Keep an eye on your subordinates. This week you will feel romantic and passionate about love. The time and energy you have invested in the past is now ready to pay rich dividends.

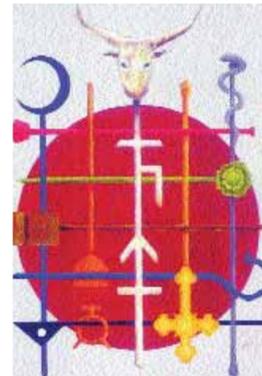
Lucky number 7
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You may be repressing your emotions. If so, this will impact your body negatively. Be careful about how, when, and where you vent your emotional reactions. Anything that reduces your stress level will be helpful now, even a five-minute walk. Your emotions are the gateway to opening up your spiritual life. This is a great time to take some time off from work, if you can, to relax. Introspection, solutions, commitments and altercations can and should be made now. This will bring positive changes in your career. If you are already in a committed relationship, you can enjoy a happy, generous, fair and balanced relationship for at least a while. You and your partner should have a fair contribution to the relationship.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week your health graph shows great improvement. Those dealing with a serious illness, new and improved healing modality or new doctor will offer great hope. Think positively and expect the best, and do not hesitate to ask for healthcare if you need it. Your life will get a new meaning if you reach out to spiritual practices and keep faith in God. Keep your professional and personal life separate. You are likely to try a different tactic or may even choose to leave the job that you are currently in. This time being sensitive, if you do plan to stay back then look for alternate ways to make your work easier. Mild conflicts with the loved ones are indicated. Allow your partner to have his or her space for a healthy relationship.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

You will overcome persisting problems and ease tensions in your relationships. A little sorrow arises in your career area, but you will overcome the situation and understand the necessity for that brief sorrow. As peace and joy enter your work zone, you will see that the previous change simply energised you to enter a more profitable phase. The week looks promising in terms of finance. The money will be coming your way through different sources. Your dream may come true, maybe not in a form you expected. Various events are likely to happen that will guide you in a direction that is most auspicious for you. Don't lose hope when things are not as per your planning. Destiny knows what is right for you.

Lucky number 2
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week health issues may bother you. Take it one moment at a time, think positively, and know that it may take a while to get to the bottom of what is happening. Believe in yourself, ask questions, and educate yourself as much as you can. Keep working and things will be fine. Big ideas coupled with stamina and determination can help you achieve your targets, that is, if you choose your activities and projects wisely. This is a period of increased learning, joining an educational course, vocational training, and research and for master degree. Artistic interests will draw your attention. Remember that love doesn't know of age. Love can mean that someone is about to sweep you off your feet. Give them a chance. Existing relations find ways to bring more charm in their life.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This is a good time to improve your health. You will keep a positive attitude. This week you would be loving towards everyone and everything. Share that good energy, others might need it too. Going for a walk or practicing yoga with your friend or partner is good for your health and wellbeing. Professionally, you will be wise to follow established social structures and traditions. Some of you may consider starting your own business or join the family business. You feel happy being self-employed than working for others. You may meet someone new through your work, or feel attracted to a colleague. Those in a committed relationship, make sure to keep your communication very clear.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



CANCER June 21-July 22

You are on a fast track. Be careful when exercising; there could be minor injuries or sprains. If you're in the process of healing from an injury, don't overdo it, or you could end up in worse shape. Use your energy in creative pursuits. There may be some constraints in the workplace — lay offs/ stagnation/ retirement or maybe you will find that your job is very demanding. Worrying about your job is not going to help matters. Focus on what you can control, and try to leave your anxiety behind. Conflicts, difference of opinions are foreseen on the relationship front. There is restlessness and unreliability. Your relation with the spouse may get affected. Learn to value others' opinions and words.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Stress may take a mighty toll on you this week. Look at ways to ease your risk factors and to deal with this stress. If all else fails, think about changing your lifestyle and the things that you have been spending your money on. On the career front, you need to take care of your emotional matters — relationships with colleagues and boss — which had given you tense moments in the past. The situation will improve and you must make the best use of this time to repair and improve your relationships and enhance your career. The changes you make at this time will lead to interesting money-making opportunities later on. Try to give your partner some breathing space. A change in lifestyle may not please everyone but it should lift your spirits.

Lucky number 5
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

You may learn something new about your health. State of confusion and mystery is likely. If you feel that something is amiss with your health, do not let it pass. Reach out for medical assistance and get yourself checked. Support yourself with proper diet, exercise, nutrition and vitamins/minerals. On the career front, you may miss a wonderful opportunity which held the potential to bring satisfying improvement in your status. Focus on your strengths, on what you do, have and can do, not what you can't do and don't have. Keep in mind that a little effort goes a long way if you're looking to improve your love life. On the relationship front, this is a good time to look hard at yourself as to whether you are being realistic with regards to love.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Sunday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



ASTROTURF

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

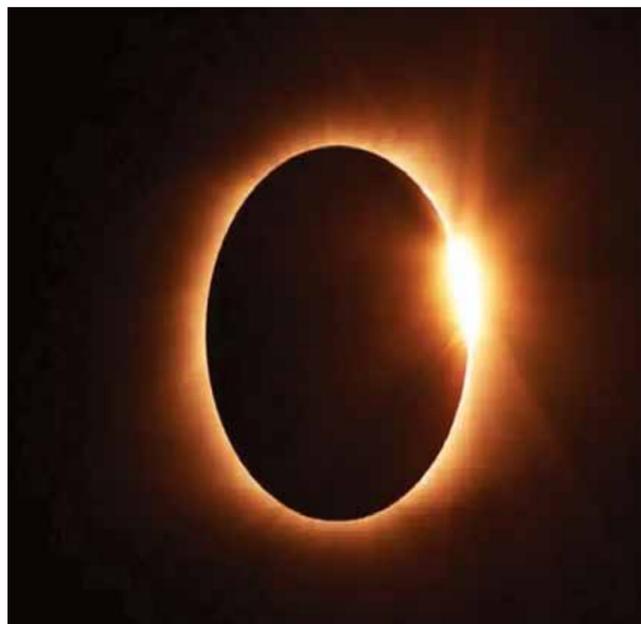
The effect of an eclipse

We will be witnessing annular Solar Eclipse today. For more than a fortnight, the so called self-acclaimed arbiters of people's destiny — half knowing astrologers — have been foul mouthing on Youtube channels on pitfalls in individual life because of this eclipse. They have been scaring people born with Gemini, Scorpion and Capricorn as their Moon signs about impending danger in their lives. Insensibly inducing a sense of fear in people's life is simply unethical. The other day, a friend of mine, worried about his son born with Gemini Moon sign, called me for necessary clarification. After dispelling his unfounded fear, I thought that truth be told.

Let me make it clear, Eclipses are periodic astronomical phenomenon sighted at least four times every year. It speaks of changing energy dynamics of nature with related bearing on probable course a nation may go through in emerging times. In case of individuals, however, it is only when eclipse happens within 2 degrees of major planets or important cusps in one's birth chart that could point to probable changes due in life. Otherwise, it will not make any

impact in individual life. Here again, study suggests that if ever eclipse happens close to the Sun, Moon, Jupiter, and Venus in one's birth chart, are indicative of a very promising time ahead. If, however, it happens close to natal Mars or Saturn, speaks of impending danger ahead. Let me quote a few examples for the sake of clarity of what came through following solar eclipse on their natal Sun. Harry Truman and Frank Roosevelt were elected President of USA. George, the Duke of York succeeded his brother King Edward VIII of Great Britain after he abdicated power. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated following solar eclipse on his natal Mars. John F Kennedy was assassinated after solar eclipse fell on his natal Saturn. So, a generalised sign wise implication of the eclipse is simply despicable.

Now coming to impact of eclipse in nation's course of life, it needs to be seen in the backdrop of the implications of chart drawn at the time of Solar Ingress in Aries sign (the first sign of natural zodiac). Scorpio sign was rising, which being 8th house of the natural zodiac with its lord Mars placed square to Uranus points to serious difficulties ahead. This, when read together with



Rahu in the 8th house square to the sign lord Mercury, point to a very high mortality rate. All planets lying between Ketu and Rahu, too speak of difficult situation ahead till such time the Sun crosses natal Rahu towards November end.

The present eclipse is happening over natal Mars in India's independence chart. It implies a serious security concern all across. Mars being 7th and 12th lord in nation's Independence chart, points to war like situation and cracks appearing in diplomatic relations with some foreign countries. The nation may go on offensive most likely towards the Northern border as the eclipse is happening in North sign Gemini. Armed, Police forces may be under great pressure. Incidentally Mars happens to be 3rd and 8th lord in the eclipse chart, which again speaks of high mortality rate, already in evidence. Also, there is possibility of death of important personality.

Eclipse is happening in the 10th house of the chart drawn at the time of New Moon. Mercury, the lord of the eclipse sign Gemini is in retrograde motion. Loss of reputation of those at the head of affairs because of policy flip-flop is not ruled out. Diplomatic failure is likely. People's discontent will be in sight,

particularly the youth and intellectuals. Sun, Moon, and Rahu, all placed square to Mars in a watery sign implies a very difficult situation ahead before polity. Tempest and sea storm are likely. Travel Industry shall continue to go through tough time, already in evidence because of Coronavirus.

Kindly note that the eclipse gets repeated at the same point in the zodiac exactly after 19 years, meaning that it would have happened on the same day in 2001 and 1982. Also, the effect of solar eclipse may last for as many years as the number of hours for which eclipse would be in sight. Following similar nature of eclipse in 2001, there was terrorist attack on Indian Parliament. The ruling party lost power in 2004. After 1982 eclipse, Indira Gandhi was assassinated in 1984. With ever changing dynamics of time, exact repeat pattern is not possible. But certainly, we are headed towards a difficult time. Let us watch out how the future evolves.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Write to him at G-102, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110 025
Tel: 91-11-49848475/9818037273
Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com