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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

China's altruism has egregious designs

There is a strong belief in India that China's territorial incursions in Ladakh are specifically aimed at showing India its subordinate place in a unipolar Asia. It is also suggested, not least by some China-watchers in our country, that just as the 1962 conflict aimed at puncturing Jawaharlal Nehru's pretensions of being a symbol of post-colonial Asian resurgence, this summer's tensions along the Line of Actual Control is calculated to tell Narendra Modi that he has to pay a price for being 'difficult' on issues such as the Belt and Road scheme and India's membership of RCEP.

Decision-making in China being largely opaque, it is difficult to ascertain what has prompted the People's Liberation Army to test India's resolve along the LAC. The timing, it would seem, is crucial. At one level, there is a certain new belligerence in China over the persisting suspicion that the spread of the deadly coronavirus from Wuhan isn't something that, while unfortunate, just happened. Beijing has become extra-sensitive to the description of Covid-19 as the "Wuhan virus", an expression initially popularised by President Donald Trump but which has since acquired a momentum of its own.

In recent weeks, China has become increasingly belligerent in its actions. The crackdown in Hong Kong was perhaps only to be expected by those who had no illusions of China's misgivings of open societies. However, Beijing's heavy-handedness has served to rekindle the Sinophobia that was in a state of relative hibernation.

In India's neighbourhood we have witnessed China's determined bid to draw Nepal into its sphere of influence. There has also been an attempt to bring Bangladesh closer to China by dangling hugely attractive trade lollipops. In both cases, the targeting of India is apparent... Maybe the next time we hear of the Chinese Consulate in Kolkata bankrolling Dragon Dance troupes in West Bengal and organising junkets for MLAs, we may realise that Beijing's philanthropy isn't exactly purposeless. China's biggest attribute is its long-term vision

The pandemic has seen the orchestrated bid to revive memories of a "century of humiliation" that China suffered until 1949 and assertions in the *Global Times* — the English-language newspaper of the Communist Party aimed at a foreign readership — that "The days when China can be put in a submissive position are long gone." Some China watchers attribute this anti-foreigner mood to internal difficulties: "Xi (Jinping)... seems to have concluded that it's better to pick patriotic fights abroad than to start tinkering with the system at home, giving his compatriots a few freedoms to compensate for stagnating wages and lost opportunities."

To what extent such an assessment is accurate isn't clear. However, in India's neighbourhood we have witnessed China's determined bid to draw Nepal into its sphere of influence. There has also been an attempt to bring Bangladesh closer to China by dangling hugely attractive trade lollipops. In both cases, the targeting of India is apparent.

Perhaps this is the appropriate for India to remind itself of China's use of historical grievances and memory could be used to determine the future of bilateral relations. In his book *Protracted Contest: Sino-Indian rivalry in the 20th century (2001)*, the American academic John W. Garver has explained the territorial ambitions of the Middle Kingdom: "In the modern Chinese nationalist view... China's traditional tributary system encompassed wide portions of Inner Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia... A map produced in Chinese textbooks in 1954 neatly illustrated the geographic scope of China's lost tributary system. This particular map... was intended to create a sense of bitterness, wounded pride, and thereby popular support for the PRC's efforts to wipe out "humiliation" of the past. According to the map, China's traditional sphere of influence included both Inner and Outer Mongolia, Xinjiang, Tibet, parts of Central Asia, the entire Himalayan-Karakoram region including Hunza and Gilgit in Northern Kashmir, Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim in the central Himalayan region, the small kingdoms of what later became India's northeastern states, Burma, Bengal, Vietnam, Thailand, and Sulu Island."

The map may appear a work of fantasy in today's context. However, it is prudent to be aware of the historical imagination of the adversary and its innate belief that the rise of China in the 21st century is unstoppable. These fantasies may explain the basis of China's present hegemonism — not least the conviction that it is the obligation of the tributaries to genuflect before the Middle Kingdom and acknowledge its overlordship.

Over the next time we hear of the Chinese Consulate in Kolkata bankrolling Dragon Dance troupes in West Bengal and organising junkets for MLAs, we may realise that Beijing's philanthropy isn't exactly purposeless. China's biggest attribute is its long-term vision.

India snubs Pak's mirage of goodwill

New Delhi rejects offer to reopen Kartarpur corridor all of a sudden during Covid times

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has virtually rejected Pakistan's offer to re-open Kartarpur corridor for pilgrims from June 29, terming it as an effort to "create a mirage of goodwill" and told the western neighbour that as per pact at least seven days notice was required prior to the travel.

"Cross-border travel has been temporarily suspended as part of measures to prevent and contain the spread of coronavirus. Further view would be taken in consultation with health authorities and other stakeholders concerned," sources said here reacting to the Pakistani proposal.

Pakistan has conveyed its readiness to India to reopen the Kartarpur Corridor on

Monday on the occasion of the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh, the Foreign Office said on Saturday, over three months after it was temporarily closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

India temporarily suspended the pilgrimage and registration for the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan on March 16 in view of the coronavirus outbreak.

"As the religious places are gradually opening up around the world, Pakistan has also made necessary arrangements to reopen Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for Sikh pilgrims," Pakistan's Foreign office said.

To ensure adherence to the health guidelines, Pakistan has invited India to work out necessary SOPs (Standard



Operating Procedures) for the reopening of the corridor. They said Pakistan was trying to "create a mirage of goodwill" by proposing to resume the Kartarpur pilgrimage from June 29 with a short notice of two days.

But the bilateral agreement provides for travel information to be shared by India with Pakistan at least seven days before the date of travel, they said. The normal way is to open

the registration process well in advance.

Moreover, Pakistan is yet to construct a critical bridge on their side across the floodplains of Ravi river despite having committed to it in the bilateral agreement, sources said.

It would also need to be seen whether pilgrim movement is possible and safe through the corridor during monsoon, sources said. In 2013, when the area was flooded, it had caused great damage to people in Punjab's Gurdaspur.

The 4.5 km-long corridor connects Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Punjab's Gurdaspur with Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, a small town about 4 km from the International Border, located at Narowal dis-

trict of Pakistan's Punjab province. It is the place where the founder of Sikhism Guru Nanak is believed to have spent the last 18 years of his life.

Pakistan in July last year agreed in-principle to build a bridge on the zero line of the Kartarpur corridor to provide all-weather connectivity. India had started work on a bridge on the zero line. Pakistan, however, had insisted on constructing a causeway, which India believes would act as a barrier, directing more floodwater towards India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kartarpur corridor on November 9 last year when on the same day the first batch of Sikh pilgrims left for the shrine of Guru Nanak in Pakistan.

Delhi on toes as locusts march on

Swarm spotted in Asola in S Delhi; Govt asks people to shut windows

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After the skies over many parts of Gurugram turned dark as swarms of locusts descended on the city around noon with some residents even sharing videos on the social media, the Delhi Government on Saturday put all districts on high alert and asked the district magistrates to coordinate with the fire department for spraying of pesticides and insecticides to prevent a possible attack of crop-destroying locusts.

An advisory issued by the Delhi Development Commissioner said residents can distract the locusts by making high-decibel sound through beating of drums, utensils, playing high-volume music, bursting crackers, and burning neem leaves. The advisory asked the people to keep doors and windows closed and cover outdoor plants with plastic sheets.

The district magistrates have also been advised to deploy adequate staff to make



A swarm of locusts flies over DLF area in Gurugram on Saturday PTI

villagers and residents aware of these measures.

"Swarms of locusts usually fly in daytime and rest during night. Therefore, they should not be allowed to rest during night time," it read. "Night spray of malathion or chlorpyrifos is useful. PPE kits may be used while spraying for safety, the advisory said.

Earlier, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai chaired an emergency meeting of senior officials where he was informed

that swarms have also reached the Asola Bhatti area in South Delhi.

He asked district authorities to remain on high alert. The forest department was directed to take various steps to repel the swarms of locusts, the official said.

He also asked officials of the agriculture department to make field visits to areas close to Gurugram.

The development secretary, divisional commissioner;

director, agriculture department and district magistrates of South Delhi and West Delhi attended the meeting, the official said.

However, the migratory pests are likely to spare Delhi for now, officials said.

The swarms of locusts, spread across two kilometres, entered Gurugam around 11.30 am, KL Gurjar of the Locust Warning Organisation, Ministry of Agriculture, said. The pests, he said, were headed towards Faridabad and Palwal in Haryana. According to the Union Ministry of Agriculture, a locust swarm moved towards Dwarka in Delhi, from there to Daulatabad, Gurgaon, Faridabad and this swarm has entered Uttar Pradesh.

In May, India battled a devastating desert locust outbreak. The crop-destroying swarms first attacked Rajasthan and then spread to Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

According to experts, broadly four species of locusts are found in India - desert locust, migratory locust, Bombay locust and tree locust. The desert locust is considered the most destructive. It multiplies very rapidly and is capable of covering 150 kilometers in a day.

BJP questions Cong on Chinese donations, slams its dragon link

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Turning the heat on the Congress on the Chinese funding of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in the past, the ruling BJP on Saturday questioned the Opposition party on the alleged donations it received from the Chinese embassy between 2005 and 2009 as well as from the "tax haven" of Luxemburg between 2006 and 2009. It also asked the Congress to explain the money it received from NGOs with commercial interests.

BJP president JP Nadda, who has been targeting the Congress for last many days, asked searching questions, including about alleged links between the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and China.

"Under the garb of China and Covid-19 crisis, one should not shy away from questions the nation wants to know," Nadda told newsmen while launching an attack on Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

On the Congress' queries on the status on the LAC, he affirmed India under Prime



Minister Narendra Modi is safe and secure, and its brave armed forces are fully capable of protecting the country.

"RGF took hefty donations from all major Indian corporates while they indulged in pro-poor rhetoric. In term corporates rewarded hefty contracts. Smt Sonia Gandhi should answer why there were so many deals given as quid pro quo", BJP chief alleged and demanded an answer from her.

National interest was "sacrificed" and donations into the family-run foundation was accepted, Nadda said.

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CAPSULE

DRUG CLAIM: FIR AGAINST RAMDEV, 4 OTHERS
Jaipur: In another jolt to yoga guru Ramdev, an FIR has been lodged here against him, Patanjali Ayurved CEO Acharya Balkrishna and three others for allegedly making misleading claims that the herbal medicine company has found a cure for Covid-19 called Coronil.

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY: 47 ARRESTED IN KERALA
Thiruvananthapuram: A total of 47 people, including youngsters, have been arrested across Kerala for allegedly seeking child abuse material on the darknet during the Covid-19 lockdown, the state police said on Saturday.

99-YEAR-OLD WOMAN BEATS VIRUS IN K'TAKA
Bengaluru: Offering a ray of hope to all those battling the deadly coronavirus, a woman here has successfully recovered from the disease at the ripe old age of 99, leaving the medical fraternity and her family elated.

29 FOREIGN TERRORISTS ACTIVE IN SOUTH KASHMIR
Srinagar: Jammu & Kashmir police said on Saturday that 29 foreign terrorists are active in South Kashmir but assured that the security forces are experienced enough to deal with them and wipe out militancy from Kashmir. "There is a presence of foreign terrorists in the upper reaches of Kokernag, Tral and Khrew," the IGP said.

ED grills Ahmed Patel in money laundering case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday questioned senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel at his residence in Delhi in connection with the Sandesara brothers money laundering case, officials said.

A three-member ED team reached Patel's home at 23, Mother Teresa Crescent in the Lutyns Bungalow Zone here around 11.30 am. The team members were seen wearing masks and gloves as a precautionary measures against Covid-19 pandemic.

"Modi Ji aur Amit Shah ji ke mehmaan aaye the... They came, asked me questions, I replied and they left," Ahmed Patel said.

The agency recorded Patel's statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and his purported links with '14,500 crore bank loan fraud by the Vadodara-based pharma firm Sterling Biotech and its main promoters Sandesara brothers.

The ED had summoned Patel, 70, twice for questioning in the case but the Congress Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat cited his inability to appear due to the Covid-19 guidelines that advises senior citizens to stay indoors.

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Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal review arrangements at the newly created sprawling Covid-19 care facility with over 10,000 beds on the Radha Soami Satsang Beas campus in Chhatarpur in South Delhi on Saturday PTI

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 5,29,331

DEATHS: 16,102

RECOVERED: 3,10,146

ACTIVE: 2,03,027

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	1,59,133	7,273	84,245
Delhi	80,188	2,558	49,301
Tamil Nadu	78,335	1,025	44,094
Gujarat	30,771	1,790	22,417
Uttar Pradesh	21,549	649	14,215
Rajasthan	16,944	391	13,367
West Bengal	16,711	629	10,789
Telangana	13,436	243	4,928
Haryana	13,427	218	8,472
Madhya Pradesh	12,965	550	9,971
Andhra Pradesh	12,285	157	5,480
Karnataka	11,923	191	7,289
Bihar	8,980	58	6,930
Jammu & Kashmir	6,966	93	4,225
Assam	6,920	9	4,815
Odisha	6,350	25	4,606

ORF too got China fund

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

While Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) is in the eye of storm for receiving funds from the Chinese establishment in 2005-06, it has now emerged that the foreign policy think tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF) too got funding from the Chinese consulate in Kolkata.

The ORF received ₹1.76 crore- ₹1.26 crore in 2016 and ₹50 lakh in 2017.

The donors' list and amounts received as grants from various institutions worldwide is available on the ORF website.

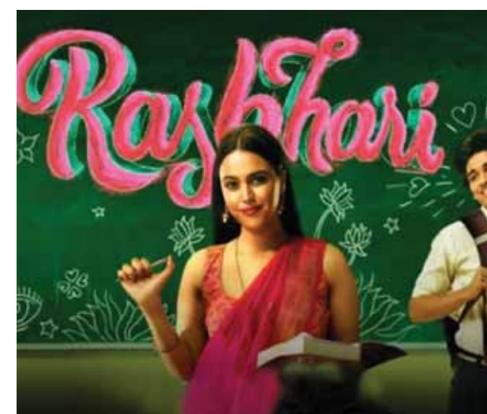
The ORF received three grants worth nearly ₹1.26 crore from the Chinese consulate in Kolkata in 2016 in three tranches — ₹7.7 lakh on April 29, 2016; ₹11.55 lakh on November 4, 2016; and ₹1,06,83,761 on December 31, 2016. A grant of ₹50 lakh was received by the ORF on December 1, 2017.

The ORF website claims it provides independent analysis on security, strategy, economy, development, energy and resources. The organisation also claims to bring together leading and young experts from the Government, academia, business and civil society circles across the world who provide quality research, recommendations and analysis on a wide range of policy matters.

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HOME THEATRE

Engagingly small town



RASBHARI
Amazon Prime
Season 1, Episodes 8
*ing: Swara Bhaskar, Ayushmaan Saxena
Rated: 8/10

This one comes with adequate corn and cola moments with Swara Bhaskar, as usual, living in the dual skin of Rasbhari. A coming of age story of a small town boy, his English teacher, his do-anything-for-you friends and his school sweetheart, this eight-episode sweet is complete in itself and yet leaves a convenient window for Season 2 and beyond.

Swara, as the English teacher, and also as the libido high Rasbhari, is a treat to watch though Ayushmaan as the boy in the bonnet is also outstanding. The sights and sounds of Meerut, a small city always in the 40 kmph gear and a satellite town to Delhi have been well captured by the director. The kitty party women, the dirty talk, the abuses and the stray cords of men are so

naturally part of the firmament that you start enjoying and expecting them as routine.

Indian content on OTT platforms, without any censors, has come of age, much like Ayushmaan who has wet dreams about his English teacher and spends most of his time talking and trying to lose his virginity. This, by the way, takes him to hilarious situations which punctuate this series. Losing virginity, talking sex and getting cheap thrills from voyeurism seem to be the sole purpose of his life — and of all his classmates — as he veers around to taking tuitions from Swara to learn more about life and respect.

Without being preachy or lofty, this simple, funny and well meaning series engages you gently, converting your reservations about abuses into sometimes shocked laughter and sometimes a surprising wait for the next one.

The series is soufle light, has its funny moments and keeps you engaged for most of the episodes.

Brilliant, brainy & blunt

MOTHERLESS BROOKLYN
Amazon Prime
Feature film
*ing: Edward Norton, Bruce Willis, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Bobby Cannavale, Cherry Jones, Alec Baldwin, Willem Dafoe
Rated: 6.5/10

It's 1950s Brooklyn, there is jazz in the air and an amateur detective (Edward Norton) has just lost his mentor boss to some shadowy men who abduct and shoot him in an alleyway just when he arrives there to rescue him.

That's the premise of the film which then delves into this amateur's quest into who the killers of his boss could have been. That he suffers from the Tourette Syndrome only heightens his histrionic skills which give colour to this largely black and white vintage Brooklyn film panning over boxed taxis, steaming pit holes and, of course, those delectable hats. Norton, who plays the central character of Lionel Essrog, is as good in front of the camera as he is behind it and also with the pen.

As writer-director, he does well to channelise this brainy intrigue that coasts from the underbelly of Brooklyn to its highest corridors of power, detecting deceit, drama and diehard criminals along the way, will go down well with cinema lovers of the intensely knowledgeable kinds.

After he loses his mentor (Frank Minna, played by the ever laconic Bruce Willis) to a dubious case gone wrong, he and his friends known as Minna's men as they were rescued by him from an orphanage and trained to become detectives, go on the trail with Norton's sharp mind skills emanating from his awkward ailment which gives him both twitches and the ability to retain a photographic memory and unfurl puzzles at the drop of a hat.

The film, adapted from Jonathan Lethem's novel of the same name, is brilliant, nuanced, thrilling in its own special way and a treat to watch if lunatic pace of the modern kind is not really your kind of thing.



Will keep you hooked

LINCOLN RHYME: HUNT FOR THE BONE COLLECTOR
SonyLiv
Season 1, Episodes 10
*ing: Russell Hornsby, Arreiele Kebbel
Rated: 7/10

Detective-helmed murder mysteries have their own natural pace and edgy chutzpah. The *Hunt for the Bone Collector*, A Season 1 Original on SonyLiv, is no different, only the chief detective is paralysed and confined to a wheelchair but with a mind moving like the cheetah.

The bone collector, who placed him in the chair three years ago, is back and so is detective Rhyme, played to perfection by Russell Hornsby. The return brings him back to the helm from his ultra tech enabled living room, from where he tells his newly picked partner Amelia Sachs "You are here so that I can be there", there being the crime scene. "You will be my eyes and ears", he tell her even as she retorts with "I may be your eyes and ears, but I have a mind all my own and so am more than just an equipment" Amid the banter, and the respect Rhyme commands from his entire team, Amelia including, there are a series of murder stories woven inextricably into the main hunt, that of the bone collector who has returned to New York with his signature three bodies and three clues.



The series, a resurrection of the Denzil Washington-Angelina Jolie film of 1985. Must say the film was more taut and happening than this series. That is not to say that Hornsby leaves any twitch of the face, any speaking eyes, any mind boggling brain storms to keep you less interested. The problem, however, lies in the interweaving of too many murder trails that have nothing to do with the bone collector.

The game between the two, Rhyme and the Bone Collector, is riveting whenever the focus returns to it. One wishes that the creator Mark Biancuilli had remained linear and fixated the show just on the cat and mouse ploys between Rhyme and his team pitted against the Bone Collector. The other murder cases fall by the wayside most of the time as they fail to match the intensity of the strings around the Bone Collector. Watchable, interesting and good for a slow burn.

Bewitching drama tale

BULBBUL
Netflix
*ing: Rahul Bose, Tripti Dimri, Avinash Tiwary, Paoli Dam
Rated: 6/10

There is a reason why child marriage is an offence and why the practice was done away with it. *Bulbbul* set in backdrop of 1881, takes one on a journey of a girl child married off to a much older man and the aftermath of what happens when she grows up alongside her *dewar* who is her age.

Director Anushka Sharma has chosen an interesting storyline to tell her story from the perspective of her lead protagonist Tripti Dimri — a *chudail* with *ulte pair* who is on the prowl and kills.

The locale has also been chosen well. A *haveli* with its deep dark secrets of the Thakur *khandaan* that need to be kept under wraps at whatever the cost — after all one will get to wear good clothes and gold jewellery to adorn your body.

While the setting is perfect for a horror movie, unfortunately, *Bulbbul* is just an engrossing film about whodunnit. But that also somewhat disappears as the story progresses and all is revealed at the climax with flashback. There is great performance by Tripti Dimri, a woman who is strong in the face of adversity and stands with her head held high despite all odds. A woman who in a patriarchal society makes a place for herself — a Goddess of strength who fights for the rights of women.

One just wished that the all the interesting things that went bump weren't tinted red or covered in a haze of mist. The idea of *chudail* killings and red is a bit too cliched. But still it doesn't put a dent in this drama-murder mystery. Makes for an interesting watch.

— Shalini Saksena



Manoj Bajpai rules

BHONSLI
SonyLiv
*ing: Manoj Bajpai, Santosh Juvekar
Rated: 8/10

If one wanted to see an actor do two contrasting roles, then the latest movie to release on the OTT platform — *Bhonsle* starring Manoj Bajpai — would be the perfect film to watch this weekend. It would make you wonder how an actor who can be part of such an intense film like this go and do a role of a psychopath doctor in *Mrs. Serial Killer*. But the truth is that the transformation that one sees of this versatile actor

is a treat.

Directed by Devashish Makhija and co-produced by Manoj Bajpai, the story revolves around insider versus outsider — Maratha Manus versus those who are from North India. While the subject has been a burning issue in Maharashtra, what really stands out here is the absolutely awesome performance by Bajpai.

Despite the fact that the movie is dead slow — nothing much moves forward but the whole idea to keep the North Indians away, there are very little dialogues. One can actually count the number of words that he has said in the entire film. It is his sheer stance,

presence, expressions and the way he moves, an old retired Mumbai cop, will keep one captivated till the very end.

The last time we saw such brilliance from the actor was *Aligarh*.

The movie goes on to show that one doesn't need to give an actor heavy dialogues that he needs to shout for him to leave an impact in a film.

Those looking for *masala* here, there is none. So this is not your typical commercial film that is set to entertain but it makes one internalise as does the movie through its characters as it unfolds. A film that one must watch for Bajpai's brilliance.

— Shalini Saksena

'I lost 12 kg for the role'

VARUN BADOLA tells MUSBA HASHMI what made him play Kashi Samthar in Your Honour on SonyLiv, how he had to lose 12 kg for the character and his most challenging role till date

- **What is your role in Your Honour?**
I play Kashi Samthar, a CRPF officer. He has known Judge Bishan's family for years. He sees Bishan as an elder brother. The problem arises when Bishan's son, Abeer, gets involved in a hit-and-run case. Bishan then pleads with him to sort out the matter, which leaves Kashi in a dilemma of either doing justice to his job or staying loyal to Judge Bishan.
- **What made you say yes?**
If you get a chance to do a web series with a good script you just can't let it go. This was the biggest reason. The character was good too. Also, in web series, you can work easily and swiftly, unlike TV where you have to work at a very fast pace.
- **How was the experience working with the cast?**
The experience was good. I shared a good rapport with the whole team. I have known Jimmy (Sheirgill) for a long time so it was like an add-on. Also, for this series I lost around 12 kg. I can't forget this. The shoots were all fun and happy, we were in Punjab, which is again such a happy place to be in. I could not have asked for more.
- **You have played a father a couple of times. How do you differentiate between these roles?**
All the characters are different. As for Raghav Shrivastav from *Mere Angne Mein*, he was more concerned about society, had the responsibility of the family so he was tired in his life. For Ambar Sharma, he lives in a metropolitan city, he has no one but his daughter in life. The difference in these characters is the mindset. Both the characters look at the world with a different mindset and that's what makes them different from each other.
- **Do you think OTT platforms will be the new normal, even once things get back to normal?**
I think so and makers should now gear up for the change because their direct competition is with OTT platforms, which is rich in content. They should try and come up with new concepts and stories that the audiences have never seen before. We all can see the pattern in the coming weeks and will get to know whether people will be willing to switch from OTT to TV again or not. It is the best time to work on the content and everyone irrespective of the medium should try and make as rich content as possible.
- **What was the most challenging role?**
Each and every role requires the same



There are a few lessons that I have learnt in the industry. One, see your work as work, don't make it your life. Second, do your work and come back to your people. I don't have a lot of friends in the industry but once I am done with my work, I retire to my den. This is what I love and have learnt to do

amount of hard work and effort. We give our all in whatever character we are playing. But to name one I think its Ambar Sharma. It takes a lot of effort, both mentally and physically, to deal with the mood swings that he has. Having said that, if your work doesn't throw any challenges, there's no enjoyment.

■ **In all these years, what has been your take away from the industry?**
One, see your work as work, don't make it your life. Second, do your work and come back to your people. I don't have a lot of friends in the industry, once I am done with my work, I retire to my den. This is what I love and have learnt to do. In this industry, you have to be mentally strong. Be happy in your life and love your work, it is the key.

Counting his blessings

MUSBA HASHMI speaks with AAYAM MEHTA, who plays Madhavanand Vyaasji in Zee TV's Qurbaan Hua, about his role and how he ended up being an actor

He is as spiritual in real life as his character of Madhavanand Vyaasji in Zee TV's *Qurbaan Hua*. The show is an intense drama about two passionate young individuals — Neel and Chahat, who are on a mission of their own, driven by the love and pride of their family.

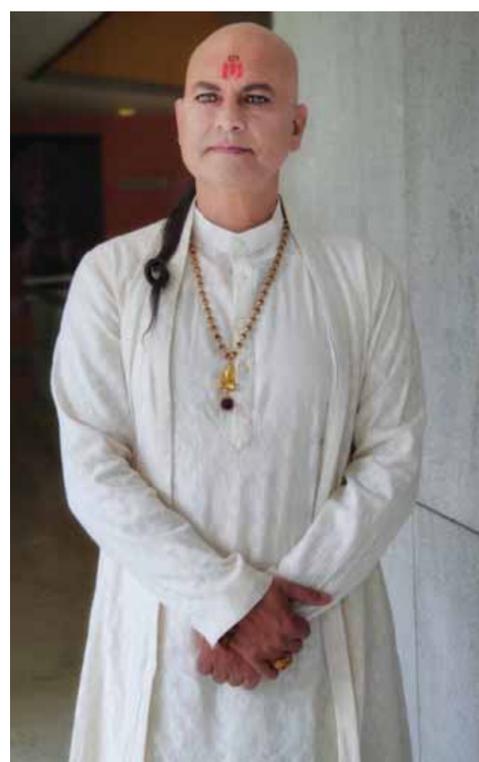
Meet Aayam Mehta, who plays Neel's father, a man of values and discipline.

"One thing that attracted me to play Vyaasji is that he is a *dharmik* person, he tries to follow religion to a T. Sometimes he does become a little stubborn, but otherwise he is a nice man. Just like me, he is open-minded and respects and believes in all religions and faiths," Mehta tells you and adds that the first thing he does in the morning is to thank God.

"There are millions of people in the world who are unable to see the day's light. Therefore, every morning when I open my eyes, I smile and thank God that he has given me another day to live. It's nothing short of a blessing," he says.

Mehta who has been part of shows like *Na Aana Iss Desh Lado*, *Rehnaa Hai Teri Palkon Ki Chaaron Mein* and *Kaal Bhairav Rahasya*, says that acting is all about imitating.

"Since our childhood, we all have imitated someone or the other. Acting means 100 per cent imitation of a character. When we imitate someone partially, we laugh it off but if we do it exactly to perfection, then you take it seriously. That's how actors work. For me, acting is an unnatural thing. Take an example, you have to shoot a death sequence. You go on sets, act like your mother has passed away but the director tells you that it is not looking real. That is when you have to step into the shoes of the character, imagine that the tragedy has happened with you and then come true emotions. This is nothing but an unnatural task for our



brain," he explains.

Acting was never on cards for Mehta. It was destiny that brought him into the field. "Like every other child, I was also confused. There were times when I wanted to be a cricketer like Sachin Tendulkar. It was only after I turned 16, that I realised my passion for acting. Back then, I didn't know that theatre was a thing. The mere knowledge that I had about stage plays was because of Ram Leela. Then I came across a play and got influenced by it. I enrolled myself in theatre. After six years, I shifted to Mumbai," he tells you.

Shifting to the City of Dreams was easy for Mehta, but the real challenges came after that.

THE GOLDEN PERIOD OF TV WAS THE 80s. THE KIND OF SHOWS THAT WERE MADE BACK THEN, WE CAN'T EVEN MAKE 10 PER CENT OF IT NOW. TODAY, THE SERIALS ONLY DIFFER IN NAMES, THE STORY IS THE SAME. WE HAVE RUN OUT OF IDEAS

"One of my theatre co-actor, who was extremely bad at acting, shifted to Mumbai before me and within two weeks he was there on TV. Watching him on Doordarshan, I thought that Mumbai mein lagta hai actors ka akaal hai. Sabko kaam mil jata hai. Isko agar mil gaya to main to kitna acha hun. However, reality hit me hard when I went to the city. For about two years, no one even entertained me. And my co-actor too ran out of work. His first project became the last and he disappeared," Mehta recalls.

Mehta's first project was a one-day shoot where he was paid ₹600. "Initially, I ignored small roles because I was being told that I might get typecast. Then I started waiting for the right project to come. But gradually things turned for the better. Also TV was not my calling. I didn't want to be a part of shows that were never ending. My longest running show where I had a five-month stint was *Lado*. Then I did films like *A Wednesday*, *Zokkomon* and *Padmavat*," he tells you.

The reason why Mehta chose to not dig deep into TV was because he feels that TV is losing its essence. "The golden period of TV was the 80s. The kind of shows that were made back then, we can't even make 10 per cent of it now. Today, the serials only differ in names, the story is the same. We have run out of fresh ideas. There is no shelf life of serials. The daily soaps are running on tracks instead of a story. That was the reason I did limited shows, the ones which I think has substance in them. Like *Qurbaan Hua*, there's a story in it," he tells you.

With shoots resuming gradually, Mehta is all excited to go back to work. "We haven't had any confirmation from the team yet, but I am excited to go to the sets and meet the lovely cast again," he says.

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Delhi starts serological testing to trace & defeat corona

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government along with the Centre has started the serological testing to trace and contain the novel coronavirus as on Saturday Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a digital briefing said that around 20,000 testing is being done per day, and Government has plan for 13,590 hospitals beds for those infected by the virus while outlining a five-pronged response to the rising tide of cases in the city.

According to the Kejriwal Government, the five-key weapons against corona battle are—increasing beds in hospitals, testing and isolation, oximeters and oxygen concentration, plasma therapy treatment to save lives and serological survey.

Kejriwal said, "Delhi is fighting a tough battle against Corona. Our fight started in the month of March. In March,

when the pandemic had spread across the globe in various nations, Indians living abroad expressed their desire to return to their homes in India. The Central Government took the right decision by arranging for flights for people in other countries to come back to India."

In the month of March, as many as 35,000 Indians came to Delhi, especially from nations that had been badly hit by Coronavirus. CM Kejriwal said, "These people were screened at the airports for fever. Some were sent to RML and Safdarjung, but many were sent to their respective homes. Some people were quarantined, but more or less 35000 people were sent back to their homes."

There was very little information, facts, and guidelines available on Corona. When these people went back to their homes, naturally, the Corona got transmitted to their contacts. In those days, there were

no testing kits or testing labs available, testing was not done at the scale it is done today."

"Then, the lockdown happened. Because people were at their homes all the time, Corona did not spread rapidly and the transmission rate was low. When the lockdown started lifting in the last week of May, we had anticipated a spike in the number of Corona cases. This spike in Delhi can be noticed around May 15. As we entered the month of June, the cases had increased more than expected, and we started noticing the lack of beds and testing in Delhi. Because of a lack of beds, people were not able to get the treatment and there was also a sudden spike in the death rate in Delhi. We had two options, first was reimposing the lockdown and the second was fighting Corona. On asking the people of Delhi, we came across the view that the lockdown has to

be lifted someday or the other. Till when is Delhi going to remain in lockdown? The people said the lockdown can not continue indefinitely," added the CM.

Elaborating in five key weapons, Kejriwal said, "It was decided that we will collectively fight a battle against Corona. Five weapons were prepared to fight a hard-hitting battle against Corona."

Kejriwal said, "Our first step was increasing hospital beds. Our first decision was reserving 40 percent of bed capacity for the treatment of Corona patients in all the big hospitals in Delhi." "Second decision was declaring some of the hospitals in Delhi as fully dedicated COVID hospitals. Our third decision was attaching hotels to the hospitals. If a hospital has 100 beds, the hotel attached to it will have 200 beds, and the total bed strength of the hospital will

increase to 300 beds. In this way, we have increased the capacity of the hospitals. Some hotels were against it, and they went to the court to overturn our decision. We won the court case, and now 3500 beds have been installed in the hotels. Around 2000 beds have been prepared at the Radha Soami Satsang Beas Centre, and 10000 beds will soon be prepared for the treatment of Corona patients at the care centre. At the newly constructed Burari Hospital, 450 beds have been prepared for Corona treatment temporarily. In the first week of June, there were no beds available in Delhi. However, in the last week of June, there are 13500 beds in Delhi, out of which 6000 beds are occupied and 7500 remain vacant. There is no dearth in the number of beds in the government and private hospitals in the city. The Delhi government will be

arranging for more beds in the coming days."

On his second weapon which is testing and isolation, he said, "In the first week of June, we observed that people were not able to get tested accurately. Some labs were also showing inaccuracy in the results, they showed negative results positive and positive results negative. In the first week of June, we were conducting 5000 tests daily, now we are conducting 20000 tests daily. Now, we are not receiving any complaints regarding testing. We are conducting tests in every street and identifying Corona patients and isolating them. I want to thank the central government for providing antigen kits for conducting rapid testing in Delhi. We have also procured 6 lakh kits to conduct these tests, but the initial kits were given by the central government. They have supported us,"

"Our third weapon is oximeters and oxygen concentrators. The biggest issue in Corona is that a person may die due to constantly lowering oxygen levels. People who are recovering at home have been provided oximeters by the Delhi government, that detects your oxygen level accurately. We have advised the patients to check their oxygen level after every two hours. These oximeters are working as a Suraksha Kawach for Corona patients. If a person comes to a hospital, he should not suffer because of a lack of oxygen cylinders. We have procured around 4000 oxygen concentrators, and all beds in the Delhi government hospitals have attained supply of oxygen for the patients," Kejriwal said, adding fourth weapon which is plasma therapy treatment, he said, "The first plasma therapy trial was given to 29 patients in Delhi. These first trials were highly success-

ful, and the results were shared with the Drug Controller of India (DCI), which then permitted the trials for Delhi govt and private hospitals in Delhi. Plasma therapy has not proven to be effective in the treatment of patients with extreme co-morbidities or serious patients, but it has proved to be effective on moderate patients and it prevents the deteriorating condition."

Adding further more on his corona battle, he said that our fifth weapon is survey and screening. The serological survey in Delhi is starting from Saturday. "Through this survey, we will be able to detect in what places is the Corona spreading rapidly. Many such surveys and screening are conducted in Delhi,"

"Our victory is definite, we will certainly defeat Corona, and these five weapons will prove to be very effective in our battle," he added.

SDMC begins seismic survey

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to ensure seismic stability for the buildings, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has started identifying the high rise building and issuing notice to them to submit a structural audit report.

A senior SDMC official said that an inspection was carried out by the engineers of the building department in Sunny Valley Housing society, Sector 12 and Delhi State Housing Society, sector 19 of Dwarka area to check the retrofitting work.

"During the inspection, it is found that the work of retrofitting is in progress and is expected to be completed in eight months as there is paucity of funds," he said.

Earlier, a structural consultant was appointed in order to strengthen the building and to make it safe from seismic point of view after the civic body consulted for ensuring the structural safety of these buildings. "The consultant suggested retrofitting of the buildings by guniting, re-barring and

jacketing of columns and strengthening of beam," he said.

The Sun Valley society was constructed in the year 2003 on the land allotted by 'Delhi Development Authority'. With the passage of time it was noticed that cracks developed in columns and beams and reinforcement was exposed, he said.

The South Corporation had issued 77 notices to the schools and residential group housing societies and Institutions to submit a structure audit report. "The owners have been directed to submit a structural audit report of the building and the existing building plan will have to be submitted within 30 days from the date of notice in the South Corporation office. Action will be taken against those who do not comply with the norms," he added.

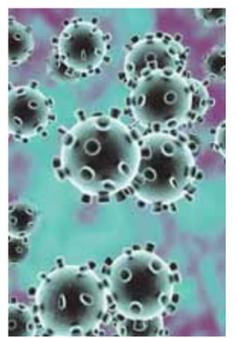
The move came after the Delhi High Court had directed the government and the municipal corporations to file a status report on structures in their jurisdiction in terms of seismic stability.

Extensive power infra for world's largest 10K-bed Covid facility

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Power discom BSES has laid 22 Kms of underground cables and installed 24 transformers to power the world's largest 10,000 bed Covid hospital set up for Covid patients in south Delhi's Chattarpur, would be able to accommodate over 10,200 patients.

A senior BSES official said that this is one of the largest projects, whose power infrastructure set-up in a record time. "This massive facility required an equally massive power infrastructure. For this, BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) was tasked with ready-



ing the power infrastructure in a record time of 15-days – by July 5, 2020. The first phase of

This massive facility required an equally massive power infrastructure. For this, BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) was tasked with readying the power infrastructure in a record time of 15-days – by July 5, 2020. The first phase of the work is completed and the remaining work is still under process

the work is completed and the remaining work is still under process and will be completed

before the deadline," he said. Originally, BRPL had been entrusted to provide an electric

load of 18,000 KW (18 MW). But, looking at the requirements, the power-load requirement has now been increased to 23,000 KW (23 MW).

The official further said that for catering to this massive load requirement, over 100 discom officials and workers are working round-the-clock under the direct supervision of the company's senior leadership team and in close coordination with the government and other departments.

"Moreover, for ensuring safety of the premises, most of the transformers being set-up are dry-type, which do not have requirement of oil and are

maintenance free," he added.

According to a BSES official, "BSES is always geared-up to ensure quality and reliable power supply to its consumers, under-all circumstances. We are closely watching the evolving Corona Virus situation in the national Capital and taking all appropriate measures to ensure reliable power supply to all residential, commercial and industrial consumers without compromising the safety of our employees. We are working closely with the authorities in this regard. For this project also, BSES officials are adhering to all the laid-down safety guidelines"

Three Khalistani sympathisers planning targeted killings arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three suspected sympathisers of the Khalistan Movement who were planning to execute targeted killings in various northern States, have been arrested by the Special Cell of Delhi Police. Police said that three phones with many "incriminating" videos and photographs related to the Khalistan Movement were also recovered from the possession of the accused.

The accused have been identified as Mohinder Pal Singh (29), a resident of Delhi; Gurtej Singh (41), a resident of Punjab; and Lovepreet (21), a resident of Haryana. Police said that three pistols and seven live cartridges were recovered from the possession of the accused.

According to Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, police got a tip-off regarding the activities of Mohinder, a sympathiser of Khalistan Liberation Force.

"He was planning to commit a terrorist activity in the national capital. Thereafter, a trap was laid near Hastal on June 15 and Mohinder was arrested," said the DCP.

Following his interrogation, Lovepreet was arrested from Kaithal district in Haryana. Later, the duo led the police to Mansa in Punjab where Gurtej was arrested," said the DCP.

"The arrested persons have disclosed their links with the Khalistan Liberation Force leaders settled abroad and revealed their plans to commit targeted killings on instructions from Khalistani militant sponsored by Pakistani's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)," said the DCP.

GTB hospital faces shortage of doctors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a haste to convert fifteen-hundred-bedded Guru Tegh Bahadur hospital as Covid-19 health centre for admitting confirmed or suspected cases of the disease, the State and Central Governments seem to have forgotten to post sufficient number of doctors to ensure

adequate care of the infected patients.

No efforts have been taken to recruit the doctors. Sample this: The number of posts lying vacant for Senior Residents at the attached medical college, University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS) — the medical college under Delhi University of GTB Hospital— in

2017 was 59 which increased to 97 and 98 respectively in 2018 and 2019. But vacancies are lying unutilised neither promotion of the existing faculty has been undertaken in the last three years.

In fact, some doctors are waiting for promotion for the last several years, as long as ten years.

The hospital seems to be nobody's baby even as patients suffer in want of sufficient number of doctors to take care of the patients grappling with the virulent virus which has gripped the world in its tentacles.

"Problem is of duality issue. UCMS is under Central government while the GTB Hospital is under Delhi government as a result centre and the state are passing buck at each other," said Dr Satendra Singh, Vice President UCMS Teachers Association.

How will UCMS-GTBH complex which is now a Covid-19 only hospital, battle this crisis as neither the Delhi University Vice Chancellor nor the Governing body Chairman (Dr Balram Bhargava, ICMR Chief) are acting to take concrete steps despite repeated reminders? asked Dr Singh.

He pointed out that first and second year post graduates

(PGs) from pre and para clinical departments are being asked to do duties of senior residents in Covid hospital. Also, as no senior residents have been recruited by UCMS, 1st year PGs from anatomy and physiology departments have been deputed at Covid care center at Mandolij jail.

For the last five years, no faculty has been recruited while existing faculty has left to join AIIMS Bhopal and Rishikesh, he said.

Covid-19 is a pandemic and we need senior resident and faculty to ensure better treatment of the patients infected with the highly virulent virus, Dr Singh said matter-of-factly.

Incidentally, the question of shortage of staff and delayed recruitment process as well as of promotion was raised in Parliament too three years ago but nothing has happened till date.



Constable opens fire at colleague after argument

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Following an argument over some issue, a Delhi Police constable fired a bullet at another constable inside Seemapuri police station in National Capital.

According to police, on Friday night, constable Amod Bhadana came to Seemapuri police station after completing his beat duty and was having dinner on the first floor.

"Around 10.30 pm, another constable Ravindar Nagar came in the room. They both had argument on some issue, following which, Nagar took out his service pistol and fired at Bhadana," said Amit Sharma, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Shahdara district.

"The bullet hit in his chest and he fell down. He was rushed to SDN Hospital from where he was transferred to AIIMS Trauma Centre. Bhadana is undergoing treatment in AIIMS Trauma Centre," said the DCP.

"A case was registered under section 307 (attempt to murder) and Nagar has been arrested. Further investigation is underway," said the DCP.

Rly finishes 200 pending works during lockdown

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways has completed more than 200 long pending works due to suspension of passenger services due to pandemic of Covid-19.

Projects that were pending for several years including yard remodeling, repair and re-girding of old bridges, doubling and electrification of rail lines and renewal of scissor crossovers which were bottlenecks were executed, a senior Indian Railway official said.

During this period Indian Railways focused on several long pending overdue maintenance works which required traffic block of long durations, he said, adding that these works were planned during lockdown period considering it 'Once in a lifetime opportunity' to wipe out these maintenance arrears and take up the execution of work without affecting the

electrification of rail lines and renewal of scissor crossovers. Pending for several years, these unfinished projects often confronted Indian Railways as bottlenecks," he said.

Apart from ensuring supply chains of all essential commodities running through parcel trains and freight trains, Indian Railways executed these long pending maintenance works during this lockdown period when passenger services were suspended, he added.

Some of these key projects which were completed are yard modification work in Jolarpetti (Chennai Division, Southern Railway) was completed on 21st May. It resulted in easing out of curve and enhancing the speed up to 60Kmph on Simlalanu end and facilitated Simlalanu reception and dispatch.

train service.

These works taken up for removal of bottlenecks and enhance safety include 82 rebuilding or rehabilitation of bridge, 48 limited height sub-way/road under bridge in lieu of level crossing gate, 16 construction/strengthening of foot over bridge, 14 dismantling of old foot over bridge, seven launching of road over bridge, 5 yard remodeling, 1 commissioning of doubling & electrification and 26 other projects.

Likewise dismantling of



old abandoned unsafe Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at Ludhinana (Ferozpur division, Northern Railway) was completed on 5th May 2020. Dismantling of this 135 meter

long old abandoned FOB structure over 19 tracks and 7 passenger platforms was overdue since 2014 after new FOB was commissioned. The official further

informed that work of re-girding of bridge on Tunga River (Mysuru Division, South Western Railway) was completed on 3rd May 2020. Dismantling of the unsafe deck of Kopar Road ROB near Dombivali (Mumbai Division, Central Railway) was completed on 30rd April and it resulted in enhanced safety. This deck was declared unsafe for road users in 2019 and covered six railway tracks below.

"Two projects of doubling with electrification in Varanasi division, North Eastern Railway were completed on 13th June. One of these projects is Kachhwa Road to Madhosingh section and the second is 16 km of Manduadhik to Prayagraj Section. This resulted in decongestion of east-west routes and facilitation of freight movement," he added.

Headley can't be extradited to India: US attorney

Rana faces extradition

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Mumbai terrorist attack convict David Headley cannot be extradited to India, but Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman co-conspirator Tahawwur Rana faces extradition, a US attorney has told a federal court while opposing his bail plea.

Rana, 59, a childhood friend of David Coleman Headley, was recently rearrested on June 10 in Los Angeles on an extradition request by India for his involvement in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack in which 166 people, including six Americans, were killed. He is a declared fugitive in India.

According to the federal prosecutors, between 2006 and November 2008, Rana conspired with Headley, also known as "Daoud Gilani", and others 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. He was made an approver in the case, and is currently serving a 35-year prison term in the US for his role in the attack.

The US is yet to file India's request for Rana's extradition, but is expected to do it soon. It is evident that the offences for which Rana was tried in the Illinois court will differ from the Indian offences mentioned in the complaint.

Rana in his defence has argued that US' decision not to extradite his co-conspirator, Headley, to India is inconsistent and bars his extradition.

However, Assistant US

Attorney John J Lulejian told a federal court in Los Angeles on Friday that unlike Rana, Headley immediately accepted responsibility for his conduct and pleaded guilty to all of the charges in the Superseding Indictment.

"Because Headley fulfilled the required terms, the plea agreement established that Headley would not be extradited to India. Rana's situation is different because he neither pleaded guilty nor cooperated with the United States.

"As a result, he is unable to avail himself of the benefits afforded to Headley through his negotiated plea. Thus, he cannot complain that he faces extradition, while his co-defendant does not," the US attorney said. Rana's bail application is due for hearing next week.

Early this week, his attorney told the court that the 26/11 convict is not a flight risk and has proposed a USD 1.5 million bond for his release.

"Rana should be released on a robust bond: secured by approximately USD 1.5 million in property pledged by family and friends and under the supervision of his daughter, Lemaan Rana, a matriculating medical student and Ph.D. candidate," Amy Karlin, the Interim Federal Public Defender, said in the court submission on behalf of Rana.

India seeks his arrest on a number of offences, including the conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit forgery for the purpose of cheating, and murder under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). He is sought for his role in 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

The US attorney urged the court to continue his detention pending the extradition proceedings to India. Describing Rana as a flight risk, the attorney said that no matter what bond package he offers, Rana poses an unacceptable flight

risk.

If the US extradites Rana to India and he is convicted of the charges, he may be eligible for the death penalty. Given what is at stake, Rana has an extreme incentive to flee and avoid facing these extradition proceedings, Lulejian said.

"He could accomplish this by going into hiding within the US, but he has a particular incentive to go to another country that may not extradite him without assurances from India that it will not seek, impose or carry out the death penalty," the attorney argued.

If Rana were to flee to Canada, his extradition from Canada to the US would take years and would require substantial resources by the governments of both Canada and the United States, and there is no guarantee that Canada would ultimately grant that extradition request, he said.

However, even if Canada granted the request from the

US, the terms of the US-Canada extradition treaty would prohibit the US from extraditing Rana to a third country, such as India, unless Canada granted its consent to do so, Lulejian said.

Not only does Rana have an incentive to flee, but he has numerous international connections who can help facilitate his flight, he told the court.

Rana ran an international immigration business for many years in Chicago, which allowed him to develop professional and personal relationships around the world.

"Moreover, he was convicted of plotting an attack with and providing material support to an international terrorist organisation based in Pakistan. These international connections enhance Rana's flight risk because they can provide the means to flee this jurisdiction and potentially avoid extradition to India," Lulejian added.

204 new Covid cases in J&K, total reaches 6,966

PNS ■ JAMMU

For the second consecutive day, the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday reported more than 200 positive cases of coronavirus in one single day, taking the total tally to 6,966 cases.

According to the media bulletin, "204 new patients of coronavirus were detected in Jammu & Kashmir on Saturday while two more patients died in Srinagar taking the tally of deaths due to Covid-19 to 93".

On the recovery front, a total number of 145 patients were discharged from different hospitals after they tested negative.

Out of 204 new positive cases, 13 were reported from Jammu and 191 from Kashmir division.

The highest number of 52 patients tested positive in Baramulla followed by 49 patients in Srinagar.

Out of 204 new positive cases, 13 were reported from Jammu and 191 from Kashmir division

Situation remained grim in two districts of Srinagar and Baramulla as a maximum number of 844 and 800 positive cases have been detected there.

Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag have reported 730, 759 and 633 cases respectively. Jammu district reported a maximum number of 325 cases with 59 active positive undergoing treatment followed by Udhampur with 259 cases (98 active), Ramban 215 cases (61 active) and Kathua with 211 cases (59 active).

According to the media bulletin, out of 6966 total cases, 2648 are active positive in Jammu and Kashmir. 448 are active in Jammu division and 2200 in Kashmir. More than 4200 patients have recovered, 1050 in Jammu and 3175 in Kashmir division.

167 die, 5,318 +ve in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

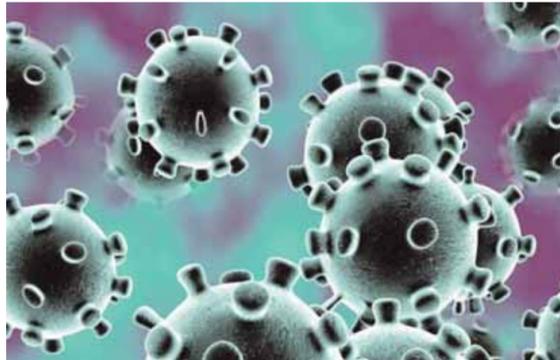
Maharashtra witnessed a biggest spike in the Covid-19 cases for the second consecutive day, as the positive cases jumped from Friday's highest tally of 5,024 to 5,318 on Saturday, while 167 new deaths were reported during the day.

With fresh 5,318 positive cases and 167 new deaths, the total number of infected cases in the state mounted to 1,59,133, while the total number of deaths rose to 7,273.

Of the 167 deaths reported, 86 deaths occurred in the last 48 hours while the rest 81 deaths were from the previous period.

Of the total 167 deaths reported, Mumbai alone accounted for 105 deaths, taking the total number of deaths in the metropolis from 4,179 to 4,284 now, while the number of infected cases went up by 1,402 cases to touch 74,252.

Apart from Mumbai's 105 deaths, there were 19 deaths in Pune, 10 in Jalgaon, 7 in Dhule, 6 in Solapur, 3 each in Thane, Nashik and Ahmednagar, 2 each in Palghar, Latur and one death each in Raigad,



Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur, Aurangabad, Osmanabad and Jalna.

With 84245 patients having been discharged from various hospital since ever since the outbreak of pandemic in the State, the recovery rate stood at 52.94 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 4.57 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 67,600.

With 32,735 cases and 819

deaths, Thane has emerged as the second worst-hit district after Mumbai in the state. Pune district has come third with 19,761 patients and 694 deaths till now.

Out of 8,96,874 samples sent to laboratories, 1,59,133 have been tested positive (17.74%) for COVID-19 until Saturday.

Currently, 5,65,161 people are in home quarantine while 36,925 people are in institutional quarantine.

Kerala: Over a lakh more become literate

IANS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala has registered over one lakh people becoming literate in the last three years, the Kerala State Literacy Mission claimed on Saturday. The new literates from various sections of society include tribals, fisherfolk, SC/ST and also the migrant population.

Mission director P.S. Sreekala said that from 2017 to 2020, a total of 1,05,565 new literates have emerged in the state.

"The hard work put in by our team among the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society has now yielded results," said Sreekala.

They include 10,972 tribals from Wayanad and Palakkad, besides over 30,000 living in over 2,000 colonies while close to 4,000 migrant labourers also successfully passed the examinations and over 8,000 from various fishing villages in the state.

Another highlight of this programme was when Bhageerathi Amma and Karthiyayini Amma were given the Nari Shakti Puraskar awards in March this year as the former is 105 and also became the oldest student in the country, while the latter is 98.



People stand in a queue to collect free ration from a shop during monsoon rain, in Guwahati on Saturday. Authorities have announced a complete lockdown of the city from today.



People collect firewood on the banks of Brahmaputra river, during the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown in Tezpur on Saturday

Andhra reports record 796 cases, 11 deaths in a single day

Amaravati: With every passing day, Covid-19 cases continue to pummel Andhra Pradesh. On Saturday, for the second time in as many days, the state reported its highest ever single-day tally of 796 cases in the last 24 hours.

The update which includes returnees from other states and overseas, takes the overall tally of Covid-19 cases in Andhra Pradesh to 12,285.

The state nodal officer reported that 24,458 samples were tested for the virus during the 24-hour period, ending 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Till date, the state has conducted tests on 8,16,082 samples. On Saturday, 263 persons were cured and discharged from hospitals in the state. The tally of cured persons now stands at 5,480 while 6,648 persons are currently undergoing

treatment for the infection.

With 11 persons reported dead from different districts, the death toll in Andhra Pradesh climbed to 157. Four each were reported from Kurnool and Krishna districts, while 1 death each was reported from East Godavari, West Godavari and Vizianagaram districts.

Of the 13 districts in the state, 12 districts reported fresh cases during the preceding 24 hours. Anantapur district reported the highest tally of 161 cases. East Godavari with 109, and Chittoor with 84 cases followed in the tally list. Other districts include Guntur with 71 cases and Kurnool with 69 cases Saturday saw a substantial increase in the number of Covid cases among people returning from other states. Compared to 34 cases on

Friday, as many as 51 new cases were detected in this category on Saturday. The majority of cases belonged to Tamil Nadu returnees with 22 positive cases, while 13 of the Covid positive samples belonged to returnees from Telangana and 7 cases from Maharashtra. In addition, 3 cases from Karnataka, 2 cases from Delhi and 1 case each from Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana were also detected in the last 24 hours.

As of Saturday, the overall tally of Covid positive persons who returned from other states stands at 1,815. Of this, the active cases tally is 704, while 1,111 persons have recovered till date. Saturday saw 4 cases from Kuwait returnees and 1 case from the Philippines. (only one case detected from foreign returnees to the State. IANS

K'taka Govt to set up 10k Covid beds in Bengaluru by Monday

Bengaluru: Karnataka Government is working towards arranging 10,000 beds for Covid-19 patients in the state capital by Monday evening, said a minister on Saturday.

"The process of identifying both government and private facilities necessary for the treatment of Covid-19 patients is being undertaken. The officials are personally visiting all suitable places and gathering information," said Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar.

After a video conference with senior officials, he said the government is identifying private hospitals, housing complexes built by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA), housing department, private construction companies, government and private sports complexes to create facilities for the patients infected with the deadly virus.

Other facilities being

explored included stadiums, hostels and large commercial complexes. Based on their suitability, they will be converted into either Covid Care Centres (CCC) or hospitals.

Besides, facilities where ventilators, high flow oxygen lines and other requirements are available will be converted into hospitals.

Since a week, 30-35 per cent infected cases are exhibiting symptoms and experts have been directed to identify asymptomatic cases as mild, moderate and severe to prepare treatment protocols

"Since CCCs do not require many facilities, the multi-storied residential apartment complexes built by BDA and housing department will be utilized. BDA has around 1,700 flats. BDA commissioner Mahadev will inform the exact number of flats available for use on Monday," he said. IANS

BJP questions Cong on Chinese donations...

From Page 1

A day before the BJP president and party spokesperson Sambit Patra had quizzed the Congress on the alleged diversion of funds from PM Relief Fund during the Congress-led UPA to RGF.

In its riposte, the Congress had called the BJP charges as "diabolical game of deception" by the ruling party to divert attention from the alleged Chinese occupation of Indian territory in eastern Ladakh.

Nadda asked the Congress to come clean on its "links" with China, and the details of its MoU with the Communist Party of China.

He said India's trade deficit with China soared to USD 36.2 billion in 2013-14 from USD 1.1 billion in 2004 and asked if it was "quid pro quo" from the Congress.

The trade-deficit has continued to increase during the Modi-Government post-2014 without seeing any reduction in favour of India.

ORF too got China fund

From Page 1

Dhruva Jaishankar, son of the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, is Director of the US Initiative at ORF.

Besides China, the list of foreign donors to the ORF include Delegation of the European Union to India, Australian High Commission, British High Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark, Consulate General of Japan and United Nations Development Programme. Technology giants like Microsoft, Netflix, Twitter and Facebook besides Mastercard are among other foreign donors of ORF.

The scrutiny of Chinese funding and their association with Indian institutions has come amid the ongoing stand-off between the countries in eastern Ladakh.

ED grills Ahmed Patel in money...

From Page 1

The money laundering case under probe relates to the alleged ₹14,500 crore bank loan fraud by the Vadodra-based pharma firm Sterling Biotech and its main promoters — Nitin Sandesara, Chetan Sandesara and Deepthi Sandesara. They are part of a family and absconding till date.

The Sandesaras are also facing separate probes by the CBI and the Income Tax

Department for their alleged nexus with some high-profile politicians and charges of corruption and tax evasion, respectively.

The ED registered a criminal case to probe the money laundering angle in the case.

Last year, the agency had questioned Patel's son Faisal and son-in-law Irfan Siddiqui in this case and recorded their statements.

Odisha to impose curfew in Puri for Bahuda Yatra

Bhubaneswar: For smooth conduct of the Bahuda Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his siblings without participation of devotees, the Odisha government has decided to impose curfew in the Puri district from 10 p.m. on June 30 to 10 p.m. on July 2, according to an official, here on Saturday.

The Bahuda Yatra (return chariot festival) of the deities will be held on July 1. Lord Jagannath and his siblings will return from Gundicha Temple on three wooden chariots during the Yatra.

The curfew would be imposed to prevent devotees from taking part in the Yatra, said Puri Collector Balwant Singh. No visitors would be allowed to the pilgrim town between July 1 and July 4, he added. Hotels have been asked not to allow any tourist during the period. After the Supreme Court allowed holding of Rath Yatra, the nine-day annual sojourn of the deities began on June 23.

85th Covid death in Agra, 7 new cases take tally to 1,184

Agra: One more fatality took Agra's Covid-19 death toll to 85, with a total of 1,184 corona cases in the Taj city, while 991 patients have so far been discharged upon recovery, health officials said on Saturday.

The number of active cases now is 109, according to the district magistrate P.N. Singh.

The total number of samples collected so far is 20,610. Health department officials said efforts were being made to increase the daily size of samples, particularly in the 64 hotspots.

The administration is trying hard to involve the private nursing homes and clinics in its strategy to combat Covid-19. A local private laboratory has been permitted to test samples at the government rates.

With the railways announcing postponement of regular train services, a large number of people have lost their livelihood. The state roadways bus stands also look largely deserted.

However, the pressure on borders with Rajasthan and MP has increased as a large number of vehicles from

Delhi are heading home. The police deployment on inter state borders has been increased as each passenger in buses or other vehicles has to go through the screening process. The UP border at Fatehpur Sikri saw a long queue of vehicles waiting to cross the checkpoint to enter Bharatpur district to head for different locations in Rajasthan.

Meanwhile, the divisional commissioner Anil Kumar has directed the district administration to up the testing facilities and streamline treatment procedures to help people in need.

An official said the focus now was on how to contain the spread of the virus in the hot zones where people were being screened and provided medical assistance.

On Friday, health camps were held at 21 spots to provide treatment to people. The technological upgradation and improved management has helped a large number of people after Dr Sanjay Kala took over as the principal of the SN Medical College, a few weeks ago.

K'taka SSLC student receives Covid +ve result during exam

Bengaluru: In the second Karnataka Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) board exam, 98 per cent of the 8.5 lakh students appeared for Mathematics across the southern state, said Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar on Saturday.

"The heavy turnout for the maths paper shows the confidence of students and their parents on preparations by the state government in conducting the board exams safely," Kumar told reporters.

The first board exam in English as a second language was held on June 25, as per the guidelines.

"My appeal to students and parents is not to congregate near the exam centres before and after the exam and comply with the social distancing norm besides wearing mask and sanitizing their hands. The safety of the students is as much of parents as the government," asserted Kumar.

A student in an exam centre at Arakalgud in Hassan district, about 200 km northwest of Bengaluru, however, tested positive for the virus, an official said.

"The student took treatment for dengue before the exams began on June 25 and gave his sample for Covid-19 test, which turned positive. The report came while he was writing the maths exam at the Arakalgud centre," SSLC board director V. Sumangala told IANS.

The board has arranged separate seating at all exam centres for students who tested positive, had cold, cough and other symptoms and those from containment zones.

"The health officials are taking steps to trace the student's contacts and quarantine them. All exam centres are sanitized and fumigated," she said. IANS

Modi must flay China publicly for incursions: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to publicly condemn China for its "brazen incursions" into Indian territory and urged the Government to take "strong and quick action" to resolve the Line of Actual Control (LAC) issue.

The grand old party alleged that the last six years have seen the biggest diplomatic failure under the Modi Government.

Former Union Minister Kapil Sibal said that the Prime Minister should address the nation and promise that anyone capturing Indian territory would be pushed back.



Addressing an online Press conference, Sibal said the entire nation and the entire Opposition would stand behind him and his promise.

"Some quick action is required," he said, seeking early resolution of the border dispute with China, while

noting that diplomacy and economic blockade with China would not work.

"Yes, the action should be strong (against China). The quality, nature and the timing of that action has to be decided by the Government," said the Rajya Sabha member.

He further said it was for the

Modi Govt has no plan to fight corona: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As COVID-19 cases crossed the 5 lakh mark in India, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday charged Prime Minister

Narendra Modi of "surrendering and refusing to fight the pandemic."

"Covid-19 is spreading rapidly into new parts of the country. The Government of India has no plan to defeat it,"

Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Targeting Prime Minister Modi, he said, "PM is silent. He has surrendered and is refusing to fight the pandemic."

The Congress leader also tagged a news report that

claimed the Union Government had "retreated" as no meeting of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) or the Group of Ministers had taken place and neither had the Health Ministry held its briefings on the pan-

dem.

Rahul Gandhi's allegations of "surrender to pandemic" comes after he had attacked the Prime Minister over the Chinese incursion and called him "Surrender Modi".

Government to decide and not the Opposition.

The Congress alleged that China has erected tents and structures near PP-14 in Galwan Valley, the place where 20 Indian soldiers sacrificed their lives.

He added that satellite

imagery also reflects construction of new black top roads by Chinese forces on the Galwan riverbed, erection of large numbers of military tents and presence of bulldozers and other heavy equipment.

"What is our Government

doing about it? The PM must clear the air and condemn these brazen Chinese incursions," he said.

Asking why the Prime Minister does not openly and publicly condemn the "brazen acts of infiltrations, incursions and occupation" of

Indian territory by China, he said, "I want the PM to publicly condemn China. We will support the Prime Minister."

Sibal said the situation is such that the PM's statement that nobody intruded into India is being used by the Chinese globally.

"We want the Prime Minister to address the nation and promise that if anyone has captured Indian territory, we will push them back. If you say so, the public and the entire Opposition will stand behind you and your promise," he said.

Steroid dexamethasone can be used for Covid-19 treatment: Health Min



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Saturday included an inexpensive, widely used steroid dexamethasone in the treatment protocols for Covid-19 patients in moderate to severe stages of illness among other therapeutic measures. The drug is also a part of the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) and is widely available.

The updated protocol includes the advice to use dexamethasone as an alternative choice to methylprednisolone for managing moderate to severe cases of Covid-19. The change has been made after considering the latest available evidence and expert consultation, the ministry said.

According to the revised 'Clinical Management Protocols for Covid-19', dexamethasone which is already used in treating lung infections besides in a wide range of conditions for its anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressant effects can be used as an

alternative to methylprednisolone which already existed in the treatment guidelines. The health ministry on June 13 had also allowed the use of antiviral drug remdesivir for restricted emergency use and off-label application of tocilizumab, a drug that modifies the immune system or its functioning, and convalescent plasma for treating Covid-19 patients in moderate stage of the illness as an "investigational therapy".

It also recommended hydroxychloroquine in patients during the early course of the disease and not on critically ill patients. The use of these drugs continues to be included in the revised treatment protocols under the 'investigational therapy'.

The revised treatment protocols for moderate cases advised considering methylprednisolone 0.5 to 1 mg/kg or dexamethasone 0.1 to 0.2 mg/kg for three days, preferably within 48 hours of admission or if oxygen requirement is increasing and if inflammato-

ry markers are increased. The duration of administration should be reviewed as per clinical response.

For patients having respiratory distress requiring mechanical ventilation, both non-invasive and invasive, the ministry said methylprednisolone 1 - 2mg/kg/day or dexamethasone 0.2 to 0.4 mg/kg per day should be considered for 5-7 days in two divided doses, if not given already.

"Note that a larger dose of glucocorticoid will delay the removal of coronavirus due to immunosuppressive effects," the treatment protocols stated.

The revised treatment protocols were issued as India's Covid-19 tally raced past the five-lakh mark on Saturday with the biggest single-day surge of 18,552 cases while the death toll climbed to 15,685 with 384 fatalities, the updated figure at 8 am showed.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), the corticosteroid dexamethasone was tested in hospitalised patients with Covid-19 in the United Kingdom's national clinical trial 'RECOVERY' and was found to have benefits for critically ill patients. According to preliminary findings shared with WHO, for patients on ventilators, the treatment was shown to reduce mortality by about one-third, and for patients requiring only oxygen, mortality was cut by about one-fifth.

Children more resilient to coronavirus, reveals study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Majority of children with Covid-19 in 26 countries fared well clinically compared to adults during the first four months of the pandemic, according to a study.

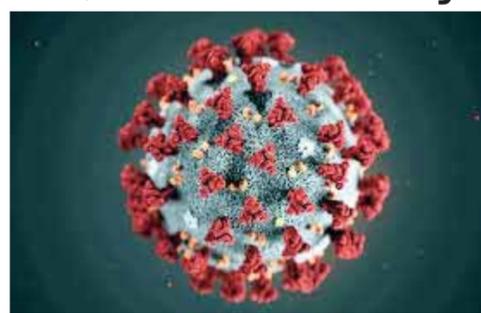
Published in E Clinical Medicine, a journal of The Lancet, the study is the largest systematic review to date of children and young adults with Covid-19.

Researchers from the Long School of Medicine at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio found that while 19 per cent of the pediatric population infected with the virus had no symptoms, 21 per cent exhibited patchy lesions on lung X-rays. Similarly, 5.6 per cent suffered from co-infections, such as flu, at least 3.3 per cent were admitted to intensive care units. Seven deaths were reported.

"Our data is compiled from 131 studies and encompasses 7,780 patients who span the pediatric age spectrum," said study senior author Alvaro Moreira, assistant professor of pediatrics at UT Health San Antonio and a fellowship-trained neonatologist.

"In the study we report the most common symptoms, quantify laboratory findings and describe imaging characteristics of children with Covid-19," he said.

The most frequent symp-



In 233 individuals, a past medical history was noted, and among this group, 152 were children with compromised immune systems or who had underlying respiratory or cardiac disease

The number of children with excellent outcomes surprised the research team. "Although we are hearing about severe forms of the disease in children, this is occurring in very rare circumstances," Dr. Moreira said.

Thankfully, he said, only a small number of patients met inclusion for multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children. Their disease paralleled the extreme forms of Covid-19 seen in adults.

Kidney failure was seen in nine pediatric patients, liver failure also in nine and shock in 19. Mechanical ventilation was required by 42 patients.

The study does not take into consideration a new surge of patients in New York, England and Italy where specialists are now starting to see children with multisystem inflammatory syndrome, Dr. Moreira said.

similar to the adult population, were fever and cough. Those were found in 59% and 56% of the pediatric population.

In 233 individuals, a past medical history was noted, and among this group, 152 were children with compromised immune systems or who had underlying respiratory or cardiac disease.

He has sought from the court to direct the AMC and State Government to reconsider the decision to declare Satellite Centre Cooperative Housing Society a micro

containment zone. He has sought that the civil application be heard under the suo motu PIL that is being heard by the division bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice JM Pardiwala related to the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown.

More Rajasthan teams deputed to help in controlling locust swarm in Haryana, UP: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As crop-threatening locust swarm enters the outskirts of Delhi, the Union Agriculture Ministry on Saturday said more teams from Rajasthan have been deputed to help in the control operations being undertaken in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

The locusts keep flying during day time and settle down only after dark in the evening. Ground control teams are constantly tracking them and will undertake major control operations once they settle down, it said, adding the control teams in Uttar Pradesh have been alerted in this



regard.

The control operations are underway in Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, it added.

"More control teams from Rajasthan have been moved to Haryana and UP to help in the locust control operations being carried out in these two States," the ministry said in a statement.

House made micro containment zone; Guj man moves HC

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

An Ahmedabad resident has filed a civil application in Gujarat High Court challenging the local civic corporation's decision to declare his housing complex a micro containment zone in view of the coronavirus outbreak.

Vishwas Bhamburkar has challenged Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's June 20 decision to declare Satellite Centre Cooperative Housing Society, where he stays, as a micro containment zone.

Bhamburkar also challenged the constitutional validity of the coronavirus-induced lockdown by claiming it forced people under "house arrest" without any backing of law, and left the vulnerable section struggling for survival with no safeguards provided to them before



implementation.

In his plea, which will be presented for urgent hearing on Monday, Bhamburkar said 12 people from his housing society had tested positive for novel coronavirus till June 13.

Of the 12 who tested positive, nine have recovered, while an elderly woman died, he said.

There has been no new case in the complex in the past 15 days, and therefore the AMC has no grounds to declare it as a micro-containment zone, he contended.

"While demarcating the micro containment zone is at the discretion of the municipal commissioner, this discretion cannot be used

indiscriminately, arbitrarily, unilaterally, illogically, and without having any basis in facts," he said.

He has sought from the court to direct the AMC and State Government to reconsider the decision to declare Satellite Centre Cooperative Housing Society a micro

containment zone. He has sought that the civil application be heard under the suo motu PIL that is being heard by the division bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice JM Pardiwala related to the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown.

The agency has re-registered the case of abetment to suicide earlier probed by Rajasthan's state crime branch, they said.

The case was referred to the CBI by the Rajasthan

CBI takes over probe in Raj police officer's suicide

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has taken over the investigation in the alleged suicide of Inspector Vishnudutt Vishnoi, in-charge of Rajgarh police station in Rajasthan's Churu district, officials said on Saturday.

The agency has re-registered the case of abetment to suicide earlier probed by Rajasthan's state crime branch, they said.

The case was referred to the CBI by the Rajasthan

government after allegations of pressuring the officer were levelled by the BJP and the BSP against Congress MLA Krishna Punia, who had denied the allegations.

Vishnoi, a popular officer in his department, had left two suicide notes, one addressed to his parents and the other to the district's superintendent of police.

In the suicide note to the SP, Vishnoi had said he was not able to bear the pressure put on him.

Form panel to look into affairs of Delhi Gymkhana Club, NCLT orders Govt

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Putting the 107-year-old colonial era Delhi Gymkhana Club under the Government scanner, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Saturday directed the Centre to constitute a five-member special committee to enquire into the affairs of the Club. The committee will look into issues related to the utility of the land leased out by the Government, constructions in progress without permission and membership issues, including waitlist and accelerated membership.

It has directed the Government to appoint two members on its General Committee (GC), managing its

affairs. However, it has permitted the general committee to carry day to day functions of the club by using its funds other than the fee collected from applicants for new membership. The tribunal has directed to list the matter on September 7, 2020, before it for hearing.

In an 81-page interim order the acting president NCLT Principal Bench B.S.V. Prakash Kumar said: "I have found prima facie case demonstrating that the affairs of the Club are being conducted in a manner prejudicial to the public interest, therefore, I hereby direct Union of India to appoint two of its nominees of its choice as Members in the General Committee to monitor the affairs of the Club along with



other GC Members and give suggestions to the GC". The order said that it will also file a report of recommendations, suggesting for better use of the club premises for the larger good in a transparent manner on equity basis within two months. The judgment said the club, which is in the midst of a takeover battle by the Centre, would be allowed to make no "new policy decisions, appoint new members and/or begin new constructions".

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) had moved the NCLT asking for replacement of the directors of the Club with government nominees to run the affairs of the company, and in the interim relief, asked for

suspension of GC and for appointment of an administrator until final order is granted.

The NCLT said it found prima facie case demonstrating that the affairs of the Club are being conducted in a manner prejudicial to the public interest.

According to the NCLT, the five-member committee will enquire into the issues related to the utility of the land leased out by the Government to the club, with regard to constructions in progress without requisite approvals or with approvals, suggestions for changes in Articles and Memorandum of Association, membership issues including waitlist and about accelerated membership, adherence of the Club to the Rules

governed by the Companies Act 2013.

The club, which shares a wall with the Prime Minister's residence at 7 Lok Kalyan Marg, has been under investigation for around three years. The Government has cited "parivar-waad" (nepotism), financial irregularities, misuse of allocated land and issues related to membership as the primary reasons behind its move to acquire the club.

The tribunal has also put several restrictions on the general committee, directing it not to take any policy decision or make any changes to the Memorandum of Association or Articles of Association till its further order.

Domicile certificate for 3rd generation of Pak refugee

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A third generation refugee from West Pakistan, Vivek Sharma, Saturday tasted freedom for the first time after receiving 'Domicile' certificate from divisional commissioner Jammu, Sanjeev Verma at a special camp.

Along with Vivek, 49 other bonafide residents belonging to different deprived groups, not entitled for Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) in the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir, were handed over these Domicile certificates.

"I am feeling independent after getting this domicile certificate", Vivek Sharma, resident of Bisnah tehsil told media persons. He said, "my grandparents had migrated from West Pakistan and since then our family was suffering in the absence of a permanent resident certificate".

He said, we are thankful to the government for giving us our citizenship rights and treating us at par with others. Vivek hoped many other youngsters like him can now apply for different job opportunities and compete with other children to earn his livelihood.

Members of Balmiki samaj,



Gorkha community and West Pakistani Refugees were shortlisted by the government in the first group who were handed over these Domicile certificates.

Addressing the small gathering, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Sanjeev Verma said, "it is a historic day today. The recipients of the Domicile Certificates included those sections of the society who were residing in J&K for the last more than 70 years but were deprived of their legitimate citizenship rights".

He said, they included West Pakistani refugees, people belonging to the downtrodden sections such as the Balmiki Samaj, Gorkhas and others. He said by handing them their domicile certificates we have fulfilled their long pending

demand. He said these people were living in Jammu and Kashmir for many years but were deprived of citizenship rights. By getting these Domicile certificates they too will have equal rights as other citizens of Jammu & Kashmir.

Mayor JMC, Chandar Mohan Gupta, said, "large number of people from Balmiki samaj were staying in Jammu for several decades. Parents and their children had no other option other than working as sweepers and safai karamcharis".

He said, now their next generation can lead a normal life and compete with others. They have been empowered in a real sense. "Their dignity has been restored by the BJP led Union Government at the centre", he added.

Patanjali's Covid drug claim: FIR against Ramdev, four others

Jaipur: In another jolt to yoga guru Ramdev, an FIR has been lodged here against him, Patanjali Ayurved CEO Acharya Balkrishna and three others for allegedly making misleading claims that the herbal medicine company has found a cure for Covid-19 called Coronil.

The complaint was filed at Jyoti Nagar police station in Jaipur on Friday.

Avnish Parashar, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), south, Jaipur, said: "Ramdev, Acharya Balkrishna, Balbir Singh Tomar, Anurag Tomar and Anurag Varshney, were booked under Section 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code and relevant sections of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, as per the FIR lodged by an advocate Balbir Jakhar".

Two of the accused including Balbir Singh Tomar and Anurag Tomar, are the chairman and the director of the Jaipur-based NIMS University. The fifth accused, Varshney, is a scientist at Patanjali Ayurved. Jakhar said the accused have endangered the common people's lives by making false claims of finding a Covid-19 vaccine as they neither informed the Rajasthan government nor the Centre about the

clinical trials of Coronil.

Patanjali Ayurved, on Tuesday launched Coronil tablet and Swasari vati medicine claiming that they can cure Covid-19 within seven days.

However, the AYUSH ministry expressed unawareness about the development and Patanjali was stopped from advertising the medicine within a few hours after its launch.

Patanjali earlier also claimed that the two Ayurveda-based medicines have shown 100 per cent favourable results during clinical trials on Covid-19 patients except those on a life support system.

The clinical trials were reportedly held in NIMS Jaipur.

While Ramdev claimed making a thorough clinical case study on patients admitted at NIMS, its Chairman, B.S. Tomar on the other hand said, "No clinical trial in our hospital was made for the drug as there was no serious case of patients admitted. Only 100 asymptomatic patients in our hospital were given a few ayurvedic medicines under the Patanjali banner. We did not ask for medicine to cure coronavirus but had only these ayurvedic immunity boosters who helped recovery of asymptomatic cases faster by 35 per cent."

Tral declared free of HM terrorists

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After declaring Tral, the 'hotbed' of terrorists in South Kashmir's Pulwama district free of Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists, the security forces have decided to focus their attention on eliminating a large number of foreign terrorists hiding in the upper reaches of the region.

Since June 1, 46 terrorists have been eliminated by the joint teams of security forces. According to the police records, the majority of them were eliminated in South Kashmir districts.

One of the poster boys of Hizbul Mujahideen, Burhan Wani, gunned down in the fierce gunfight on July 8, 2016 in Kokernag was a native of Tral. The HM commander had shot to fame after he started using social media platforms to motivate local youth to join the ranks of terror outfits.

Interacting with the media persons after paying rich tributes to a CRPF jawan, Shyamal K Dey, martyred in a terrorist strike in Bijbehara on Friday, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar, Saturday told media persons, "since 1989 Tral was considered an epicentre of terrorist related activity. He said, Hizbul Mujahideen, which is one of the oldest terror outfits in the region, was sheltering the cadre of other terror outfits. By eliminating the maximum number of Hizbul Mujahideen we have now cleared the area of the presence of HM terrorists in Tral".

He, however, added, Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists are still active in other parts of South Kashmir.

He said, "it is a big success for the joint teams of security forces. Soon we will neutralise more terrorists active in other pockets of South Kashmir".

Referring to the presence of foreign terrorists in the upper reaches of South Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said, "at present around 29 foreign terrorists are active in the area. Now we will be focusing on eliminating them. Soon after these terrorists will step out of their hideouts our sources will share inputs and we will launch anti terror operations to eliminate them".

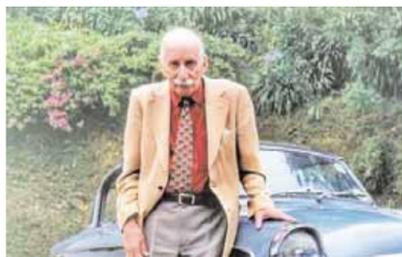
He said, foreign terrorists are better trained as compared to local terrorists. Sharing his assessment, IG Kashmir said, as compared to North Kashmir, the total number of active terrorists are more in South Kashmir districts. He said, the security forces are also launching operations in North Kashmir districts to track down the hiding terrorists in the area. He said, "our jawans are well equipped and trained to handle the situation on ground zero. He said, "we launch these anti terror operations after collaborating the technical intelligence inputs and human intelligence inputs".

Tributes paid to nation's 1st Field Marshal, Sam Manekshaw

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Memories of SHFJ Manekshaw, the country's first Field Marshal, came alive at least for a few hours on Saturday as the nation paid homages to him at his final resting place at Parsi Zoroastrian Cemetery in The Nilgiris on Saturday. Sam Bahadur, as he was addressed in reverence had breathed his last on June 27, 2008, at Nilgiris where he had settled down after retirement as the Chief of Army Staff in early 1973.

The Field Marshal's love for the mountains in the Nilgiris began when he served as the commandant of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, one of the sensitive positions he held during his



illustrious career in the Army spanning almost four decades.

Manekshaw shot into global fame when he led the country's forces in decimating Pakistan in the 1971 War, which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh from the then East Pakistan. The 1971 War has gone into the annals of history as Sam Bahadur's War because of the kind of leadership and



motivation provided by Manekshaw, the then chief of army staff.

India showed its affection and adoration for Sam Manekshaw by honouring him with Padma Vibhushan and then elevating him as the first ever Field Marshal of the country.

On behalf of the tri-services fraternity, Lt Gen YVK Mohan, Commandant, Defence

Services Staff College, Wellington laid a wreath at the final resting place of the revered soldier amidst presence of local Parsi community.

Born on 3rd April 1914 at Amritsar, Manekshaw saw action in the Second World War in the Burmese theatre. He was awarded Military Cross for

the conspicuous gallantry displayed in the face of the enemy.

Persons who had interacted with the Field Marshal even for a few minutes have a lot to speak about him. Even in his 90s, heads used to turn when Sam Manekshaw drove around Nilgiris in his favourite Sunbeam Rapier.

68 die of virus, 3,713 +ve in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI/KOCHI

68 persons succumbed to Covid-19 on Saturday in Tamil Nadu, the highest number to die on a single day since the coronavirus hit the State in January 2020. A Government medical bulletin said the day saw 3,713 persons testing positive for Covid-19, yet another highest number diagnosed with the pandemic.

As on Saturday, Tamil Nadu has 33,213 Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment in various hospitals in the State. Till date, 78,335 persons have been tested positive for the pandemic, said the release.

But the aggressive testing launched by the Tamil Nadu Government reached new heights by Saturday. Till date

10.25 lakh persons have been tested across the State while the day saw 32,068 persons getting tested in 89 laboratories working round-the-clock in the State.

The number of patients coming out of hospitals cured of the disease reached 44,094 by Saturday. While 60 of the 68 persons died with comorbidities, eight died only due to the coronavirus.

Out of the 3,713 persons diagnosed with Covid-19 on Saturday, 1,939 were from Chennai, 248 from Chengalpattu, 98 from Kancheepuram, 217 from Madurai and 146 from Thiruvallur. These are districts where lock down have been ordered till June 30 because of unprecedented increase in the number of covid-19 cases.

But districts like Thiruvannamalai (110) and

Vellore (118) are emerging as new concerns for the administration even as there are rumors about a possible extension of lock down.

Meanwhile, neighboring Kerala too recorded the highest number of covid-19 cases on a single day. Saturday saw 195 persons getting diagnosed with Covid-19 in Kerala. Out of this, 118 persons were expatriates who returned to the State and 62 were those from other States.

15 persons got infected through community transmission. 281 persons were admitted to hospitals across the State on Saturday. But Kerala is far behind Tamil Nadu in number of tests being held to find out the coronavirus cases. Till Saturday, Kerala has tested 2.15 lakh samples.

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General public is here by informed that one Female **Namely:** Sona, W/o Megi, R/o H.No. D-121, New TC Camp, Raghubir Nagar, New Delhi. **Age:** 35 years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Red Colour Sweater, Red colour Suit Salwar and Red colour Chappal in feet has been missing since 14.02.2020 at 09:00 AM from her House.

In this regard a DD No. 09-A dated 15.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi
E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph. 011-25453990
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> 8750871127
Ph: 011-24368639 24368641 DP/117/WD/2020

Thoothukudi custodial deaths: Madras HC strictures on police

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The death of P Jeyaraaj (63) and his son J Fenix allegedly due to police brutality in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district last Friday night has emerged as a controversy by Saturday with even national celebrities and human rights activists joining the chorus demanding justice for the father-son duo.

Jeyaraaj and his son Fenix (31) were arrested on June 19 and lodged in Kovilpatti sub-jail for keeping their mobile phone shop in the Sathankulam main bazaar area open beyond the permitted hours because of the coronavirus lockdown.

Jeyaraaj and Fenix were then admitted to the Kovilpatti government hospital on June 22. While the son died on the same night, the father breathed his last on June 23 morning.

Relations and friends of the father-son duo allege that they died because of assaults by the cops on the hapless

persons. There was a big furor all over Tamil Nadu by Tuesday itself. Leader of the Opposition M K Stalin demanded the immediate suspension of the policemen responsible for the "cold blooded murder" of Jeyaraaj and Fenix by the policemen. "Only an investigation by a central agency would bring to light what exactly happened to Jeyaraaj and Fenix. We do not have any trust in the probe by Tamil Nadu Police," said the DMK leader on Saturday. The DMK declared a solatium of ₹25 lakh to the bereaved family which was handed over to the relatives of the deceased by M K Kanimozhi, MP representing Thoothukudi Lok Sabha Constituency.

Not to be left behind, the ruling AIADMK too announced a cash relief of ₹25 lakh from the party coffers to the bereaved family. The Edappadi Palaniswami Government too announced an amount of ₹20 lakh to the family.

But Stalin in a statement released on Friday demanded a Governmental assistance of Rs One crore to the family and a job to one of the family members. On Saturday Tamil Nadu Information Minister C.Raju called on the distressed family and handed over the solatium of ₹20 lakh announced by the Chief Minister.

The Madras High Court hearing a suo motu petition passed strictures in the State Police. A Division Bench of the MHC ruled that police brutality has become endemic and said that the police were overreacting to situations because of the stress caused by the Covid-19 crisis.

It is reported that Fenix went to the police station to find out from the cops why his father was taken into custody at late hours and a wordy duel broke out between him and the policemen on duty. The police remanded both under sections 188, 269, 294(b), 353 and 506(2) of IPC.

Vande Bharat Abhiyan: 22,251 Indians arrive in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As many as 22,251 Indians have so far returned to Mumbai from various parts of the world by 145 "Vande Bharat Abhiyan" special flights organised by the Union Government.

Of the 22,251 Indians who arrived in the metropolis from various countries till Saturday, 8,070 people are from Mumbai, while 7,686 are from different parts of Maharashtra and the remaining 6,495 are from other states of the country.

More number of Indians are expected to arrive in Mumbai by another 26 special flights till July 1.

The Indians have so far arrived by Vande Bharat Abhiyan special flights in Mumbai from countries like Great Britain, Singapore, Philippines, United States, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Oman, South Africa, Indonesia, Netherland, Japan,

Germany, Ukraine, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Tanzania, Spain, Ireland, Qatar, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Nairobi, Mauritius, Brazil, Thailand, Kenya, Miami, Vietnam, Italy, Sweden and Ethiopia.

Of the returnees, those from Mumbai are being kept in various institutional quarantine for a period of 14 days in hotels across Mumbai, while the returnees from other parts of Maharashtra and other states are being sent to their respective district headquarters through the authorities concerned or the state governments, so that they could head to their homes where they quarantine themselves.

CH. CHARAN SINGH UNIVERSITY (CAMPUS) MEERUT

Sir Chhotu Ram Institute of Engg. & Tech. (SCRIET)
Institute of Business Studies (IBS) UPSEE Code-1506

Registration/Admission Notice for 2020-21
B.Tech./ MCA/ B.Sc. Computer Science (Hons.)
BBA/ MBA/ MBA (HA) MBA-HA (Integrated)
Online Registration/Admission in B.Tech-1st year & lateral entry in B.Tech 2nd year, B.Sc. Computer Science (Hons.), MCA, BBA, MBA, MBA (Hospital Administration), MBA 5-Years Integrated course (Hospital Administration) offered in University Campus are opened. For more details, visit official web portals www.ccsuweb.in or www.ccsucriet.org.in or ccsuniversity.ac.in/scriet or contact: (0121) 2770083, 2774974, 2763064, 7310979626, 7310774527.

REGISTRAR

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता

आगरा वृत्त लो.नि.वि., आगरा
दिनांक-19.06.20
इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1895/14एम-आ090/2020, दिनांक 18.04.2020 द्वारा "जनपद मथुरा में छाता शेरगढ़ नौहड्डाल बाजना गोमट मार्ग के कि०मी० 27 में सेतु का पुनः निर्माण कार्य" की निविदा ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की गयी थी। अतः विशेष कारणोंवश उक्त कार्य की निविदा की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधित किया जाता है।
1. निविदा अपलॉड करने का प्रारम्भिक दिनांक 07.07.2020
2. निविदा प्राप्त करने का अन्तिम दिनांक 14.07.2020 अपरान्ह 12.30 बजे।
3. प्री-बिड मीटिंग का दिनांक 09.07.2020 अपरान्ह 12.00 बजे।
4. निविदा खोलने का दिनांक 14.07.2020 अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे।
अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगे।
(ब्रिजेश कुमार दीपक) (योगेश पवार)
अधीशासी अभियन्ता (अधीक्षण अभियन्ता)
निर्माण खण्ड-1, आगरा वृत्त, लो.नि.वि., आगरा

KEY CORP LIMITED					
CIN: L65921UP1985PLC007547					
Regd. Office: 16/16-A, Civil Lines, Kanpur 208 001					
Email: keycorppltd@gmail.com ; Ph: +91 512 3013416, 3010422, 2305416					
STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2020 (₹ in Lacs)					
Sl. No.	Particulars	Current Quarter ended 31.03.2020 (Unaudited)	Corresponding Quarter ended 31.03.2019 (Unaudited)	Year to date figures for current period ended 31.03.2020 (Audited)	Previous year ended 31.03.2019 (Audited)
1.	Total income from operations (net)	90.47	92.68	182.50	187.07
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	(19.44)	74.81	18.88	120.59
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary items)	(19.44)	74.81	18.88	120.59
4.	Equity Share Capital	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
5.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous year)	0.00	0.00	2116.14	2097.26
6.	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (of Rs 10/- each)				
	Basic:	(0.33)	1.24	0.31	2.01
	Diluted:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs 10/- each)				
	Basic:	(0.33)	1.24	0.31	2.01
	Diluted:	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Notes: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, of BSE and also on company's website at www.keycorppltd.com.
2. Above results have been approved by the board of directors of the company at its meeting held on 27.06.2020.

Place: Kanpur
Dated: 27.06.2020

By order of the Board
(G. D. Maheshwari)
Director

Pawar rubbishes Fadnavis 'NCP sought tie-up with BJP' claim

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Saturday rubbished senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis' claim that the NCP had made an offer to his party two years ago to team with it to form a Government in the State, by saying the former Chief Minister was trying hog publicity by making all sorts of claims.

Talking to media persons at Satara in western Maharashtra, Pawar took a dig at Fadnavis - who is currently the leader of the Opposition - for the latter's claim about the NCP having made an offer to the BJP to form a government with it after ditching its then ruling alliance partner Shiv Sena.

"Devendra Fadnavis is trying to hog publicity by making all sorts of claims. He has a lot of time on hand now to do so," Pawar said. Earlier this week, Fadnavis had created a stir in the state political circles by claiming that the NCP had made overtures to the BJP to join it to form a government in the state. "At that even discussions had taken place between the two parties. However, the BJP's top leadership had advised us against joining hands with the NCP, after snapping

ties with our long-time ally Shiv Sena. But, we had told them that with our alliance with the Shiv Sena intact, we would not be averse to taking as a third partner in the then ruling alliance. Though the talks between the NCP and BJP proceeded further, nothing happened later," Fadnavis had claimed at a news conference in Pune.

In a subsequent public interaction, Fadnavis had also claimed: "Our leader

Amit Shah was the architect behind my being sworn in as the chief minister along with NCP leader Ajit Pawar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is our leader. But, I can call Amit Shah even at midnight. But, we cannot take everything to Modi. I enjoy proximity with both the Prime Minister and Shah. They stood solidly by me during my five years as the chief minister. Even today, they stand by me".

My meeting with Pawar sahib, Ajit dada had nothing to do with politics: Bhosale

Mumbai: BJP MLA Shivendra Rajee Bhosale, direct descendant of Maratha warrior chhatrapati Shivaji, met NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar at Satara, sparking all kinds of speculations in the state political circles.

After the meeting, Bhosale scotched the speculations and said: "My meeting with Pawar sahib and Ajitdada had nothing to do with politics. I met about them about pending development work in my constituency". At the meeting, Bhosale spoke to

Pawars about 40 acres of land belonging to Industrialist Bajaj group lying vacant at the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC). He wanted Sr Pawar's intervention on what to do with the vacant land - whether the Bajaj group should start its factory or give it to someone else. Sr Pawar promised to organise a meeting with Bajajs in near future.

A three-time NCP MLA from 2004 to 2014, Bhosale had switched over to the BJP in the run-up to the October 2019 State Assembly polls.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: US LAWMAKER

'Time for world to come together against China'

China's actions in Ladakh part of large-scale military provocations against neighbours



Washington: China's recent aggression in eastern Ladakh is part of its large-scale military provocations against its neighbours and the US will not stand for unprovoked, premeditated military action for the purpose of antagonising and intimidating peaceful nations into submission, an influential American lawmaker has said.

In a tweet, the Republican lawmaker said that the US will not stand for unprovoked, premeditated military action for the purpose of antagonising and intimidating peaceful nations into submission.

"Now is the time for the world to come together and tell China that enough is enough," Yoho said.

Earlier in the day, Congressman Dr Ami Bera, the longest serving Indian-American lawmaker in the House of Representatives, expressed concern over the Chinese aggression along its India border.

"I encourage China to use its longstanding diplomatic mechanisms with India to deescalate the situation rather than force to settle boundary

issues," Dr Bera said in a tweet.

As the Chair of the House Foreign Subcommittee on Asia, Bera said that he is "concerned by the continued Chinese aggression along its border" with India.

"While this is a matter between China and India, it is my view that increasing military forces on either side of the Line of Actual Control will be counterproductive and unhelpful," he said.

In early June, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Representative Eliot Engel expressed being "extremely concerned by the ongoing Chinese aggression" along the Line of Actual Control.

The Indian and Chinese militaries are engaged in a border standoff in Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie in eastern Ladakh.

The two sides are engaged in diplomatic and military talks amidst escalating tension following the violent clashes in Galwan Valley on June 15. Twenty Indian Army personnel were killed in the clash. **PTI**

20 US senators seek emergency refugee protection for Afghan Sikhs, Hindus

Washington: As many as 20 US senators have urged the Trump administration to grant emergency refugee protection to Sikh and Hindu communities in Afghanistan facing persecution as religious minorities.

In a bipartisan letter addressed to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, the senators called on the State Department to prioritise resettlement opportunities under the US Refugee Admissions Program allocation ceilings for Afghan Sikh and Hindu communities.

The population of Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan have plummeted markedly due to years of persecution by the Taliban and more recent terrorist actions perpetrated by ISIS Khorasan (ISIS-K), they said.

"This Administration has repeatedly highlighted protecting religious freedom as a top foreign policy priority," the senators wrote.

"Sikh and Hindu communities in Afghanistan face an existential threat from ISIS-K because of their religion. To protect religious freedom, we urgently ask that you take these essential steps to defend these threatened religious minorities," they said in the letter. **PTI**

The letter also calls on Pompeo to offer additional support to members of the Sikh and Hindu communities that choose to remain in Afghanistan, and to ensure that Afghan religious minorities benefit from the USD 20.6 million in American aid already provided to address COVID-19.

"Ensuring that religious minorities receive US COVID-19 assistance should be a priority in all countries where protection of religious minorities is a challenge," the senators added.

The letter was written by senator Robert Menendez, Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, and senators Thom Tillis, Dick Durbin, Patrick Leahy, Dianne Feinstein, Kirsten Gillibrand, Tim Kaine, Kamala Harris, Bob Casey, Chris Van Hollen, Bernie Sanders, Patty Murray, Chris Coons, Ed Markey, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, Mark Warner, Ben Cardin, and James Lankford.

"ISIS-K targets religious minorities in Afghanistan and poses an existential threat to Afghanistan's Sikh and Hindu communities in particular," the letter said. **PTI**

Vandalising national monuments now punishable offence in US

Washington: US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order to prosecute those who damage national monuments, making it a punishable offence with up to 10 years in jail.

The order comes in the wake of rioters defacing and destroying historical sites, monuments and statues in the country as violence erupted following the brutal custodial death of African-American George Floyd on May 25. The president has accused radical left for the violence.

Trump, in a strongly worded executive order on Friday, said: "My administration will not allow violent mobs incited by a radical fringe to become the arbiters of the aspects of our history that can be celebrated in public spaces."

Over the last five weeks, there has been a sustained assault on the life and property of civilians, law enforcement officers, government property and revered American monuments such as the Lincoln Memorial, Trump said.

"Many of the rioters, arsonists and left-wing extremists who have carried out and supported these acts have explicitly identified themselves with ideologies — such as Marxism



— that call for the destruction of the United States system of government," he said.

Under the order, the federal government is directed to prosecute any person or entity that damages or defaces religious property and withhold certain federal support from state and local governments that fail to protect public monuments, memorials and statues from destruction or vandalism.

Anarchists and left-wing extremists have sought to advance a fringe ideology that paints the United States of America as fundamentally unjust and have sought to impose that ideology on Americans through violence and mob intimidation, Trump said.

They have led riots in the streets, burned police vehicles, killed and assaulted government officers as well as business

owners defending their property, and even seized an area within one city where law and order gave way to anarchy. During the unrest, innocent citizens also have been harmed and killed, the president rued.

"These criminal acts are frequently planned and supported by agitators who have traveled across state lines to promote their own violent agenda. These radicals shamelessly attack the legitimacy of our institutions and the very rule of law itself.

"Individuals and organisations have the right to peacefully advocate for either the removal or the construction of any monument. But no individual or group has the right to damage, deface, or remove any monument by use of force," Trump said.

The law authorises a penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment for the willful injury of a federal property. The executive order also directs that those who incite violence and illegal activity are prosecuted to the fullest extent under the law. State and local law enforcement agencies that fail to protect monuments, memorials and statues will be subject to the withholding of federal support. **PTI**

Appeals court: Trump wrongly diverted \$2.5B for border wall

San Francisco: A federal appeals court on Friday ruled against the Trump administration in its transfer of \$2.5 billion for military construction projects to build sections of the US border wall with Mexico, ruling it illegally sidestepped Congress, which gets to decide how to use the funds.

women in uniform, as well as their families," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat.

The 9th Circuit ruled that the Trump administration not only lacked the authority to authorize the transfer of funds, "but also violated an express constitutional prohibition designed to protect individual liberties." The vote on both rulings was 2-1 with judges appointed by former President Bill Clinton in the majority and a Trump nominee dissenting.

The panel said the government was proceeding with border wall construction without ensuring compliance with any environmental regulations, thereby harming the interests of Sierra Club members who visit the border region for hiking, bird watching and other recreational activities.

The panel also held that the government failed to show that construction would halt the flow of illegal drugs.

It said the administration had cited drug statistics but didn't address how the wall would have an impact on the problem.

"The executive branch's failure to show, in concrete terms, that the public's interest favors a border wall is particularly significant given that Congress determined fencing to be a lower budgetary priority and the Department of Justice's data points to a contrary conclusion," the majority wrote.

After the Supreme Court gave the green light last year to begin work on the wall using Defense Department money, the Justice Department vowed to continue to defend the administration's efforts to protect the southern border. **AP**

4 Rohingya men killed in gunfight with Bangladesh police

Dhaka (Bangladesh): Four suspected members of a Rohingya group allegedly involved in kidnapping for ransom were killed in a gunfight with Bangladeshi police near the sprawling refugee camps where refugees from Myanmar live, officials said.

The gunfight took place Friday when a team of security officials was searching for the gang leader in a forest near the Rohingya camps at Cox's Bazar, said police Inspector Pradeep Kumar Das.

Another inspector, Morzina Akhter, said the suspects opened fire at police, sparking the gunfight that led to their deaths. Police also recovered about 40,000 drug pills and locally

made guns, he said.

According to authorities and local media reports, the gang led by Abdul Hakim has kidnapped many locals for ransom and killed those whose families failed to pay.

It had allegedly abducted at least seven Bangladeshis over the last two months and killed three hostages. Hakim remains at large. While human rights groups acknowledge there are criminal elements among some of the Rohingya refugees, they have urged authorities to thoroughly investigate such cases.

In March, police fatally shot seven suspected members of a Rohingya gang allegedly involved in drug dealing and human trafficking. **AP**

BLACK LIVES MATTER



Two young women take part in a Black Lives Matter anti-racism protest rally in Berlin, Germany on Saturday **AP**

Trump grateful for Indian-Americans' support: WH

Washington: US President Donald Trump is "incredibly grateful" for the "widespread support" he has received from the people of India and Indian-Americans, the White House has said in response to a survey suggesting that over 50 per cent of the community members in some key battleground American states are switching over to him in the presidential election in November.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Matthews made the comments while responding to a question on a recent survey results that Indian-Americans, who traditionally vote for the Democratic Party, are switching towards Trump, a Republican, in the November 3 election.

Trump is seeking re-election to the White House in the November 3 presidential elections.

"President Trump is incredibly grateful for the widespread support he has received from the people of India and from millions of Indian-Americans across the United States," Matthews told **PTI**.

According to the survey results conducted by Al Mason, co-chair of the Trump Victory Indian-American Finance Committee, more than 50 per cent of Indian-Americans in the battleground states of Michigan, Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania and Virginia are crossing over to support Trump.

During his more than three and half years of his presidency, Trump has made an extra effort to reach out to the Indian-American community.

His close relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi — reflected in the two leaders jointly addressing massive public rallies in Houston and Ahmedabad — has helped him make deep inroads among the Indian-Americans. **PTI**

Democrats renew health care attacks on GOP as virus builds

Washington: Democrats are intensifying their attacks on President Donald Trump and his Republican allies over health care, hoping that an issue that helped lift the party during the 2018 midterms will prove even more resonant as the White House seeks to repeal the Affordable Care Act during a public health crisis.

Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, told an audience in the swing state of Pennsylvania this week that efforts to undermine the Obama-era health care law were "cruel" and "callous."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Trump "beyond stupid" for trying to roll back the law and introduced legislation that would expand the scope of the overhaul, essentially daring Republicans to vote against it.

The health care law has been a flashpoint in American politics since its enactment a

decade ago.

Once a cudgel Republicans used against Democrats, the tables have turned as the law — and its protection for preexisting conditions — has become more popular.

Democrats believe that their advantage on the issue will only grow as the Trump administration renews its push to nullify the law even as coronavirus infections surge.

"Trying to take away health care in the middle of a pandemic is like throwing out the sandbags during a hurricane," said Jesse Ferguson, a longtime Democratic strategist.

"The pandemic has made clear for people how important it is to them that their neighbors have health care. It's no longer a nicety that others have health care; it's now a necessity." Still, the Trump administration filed a brief Thursday urging the Supreme Court to strike down the

health care law in its entirety, in support of a lawsuit brought by Texas and other conservative states against it. The brief came on a day that the U.S. saw a record number of new coronavirus cases, with 37,077 reported Thursday.

If the lawsuit is successful, some 20 million Americans could lose their health coverage, and protections for people with preexisting health conditions also would be put at risk.

Trump has long expressed a desire to protect those with preexisting conditions but has not said what he would do instead. Even some Republicans say the party should avoid relitigating the issue.

Doug Heye, a longtime Republican strategist, said the Democratic attack ads essentially write themselves.

"For me, it's really easy to see how Democrats will be able to out-message Republicans on this," he said. **AP**

Dems warn against overconfidence in fight against Trump

Washington: President Donald Trump is entering the final four-month stretch before Election Day presiding over a country that faces a public health crisis, mass unemployment and a reckoning over racism.

His Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, is raking in cash. And a series of national and battleground polls suggests growing obstacles to Trump's reelection. But the election is far from locked in. Biden and his leading supporters are stepping up warnings to Democrats to avoid becoming complacent. Former President Barack

Obama and Michigan Gov Gretchen Whitmer insist that plenty could change between now and November 3 and that the party must be vigilant against Trump, who knows few boundaries when it comes to his political foes.

"We understand that what happens five months before the election and what happens at the election can be very different things," Whitmer said.

Michigan was one of the Midwestern states that Trump carried by a razor-thin margin in 2016, helping him win the Electoral College even as he lost the popular vote. **AP**

Around the Globe

Belgrade (Serbia): The Serbian Government says Defense Minister Aleksandar Vulin has tested positive for the Covid-19. The Ministry says in a statement that Vulin has no symptoms of the virus and is feeling fine.

Rome: Italy registered 30 more deaths of people with coronavirus infections on Friday, with 16 of them in Lombardy, the northern region that continues to still have by far the highest daily tally of new confirmed cases.

Johannesburg: Britain's Royal Air Force says the first in a series of flights taking coronavirus aid to Africa has departed for Ghana with materials for a field hospital with capacity for nearly 100 people.

Houston: A federal judge on Friday ordered the release of children held with their parents in US Immigration jails and denounced the Trump admin's prolonged detention of families during the coronavirus pandemic.

Germany cautions virus risk still high as economies restart

Berlin: German Chancellor Angela Merkel cautioned Saturday that the coronavirus pandemic is far from over, as regional outbreaks gave rise to fears of a second wave.

Two of the largest US states reversed course and reinstated some coronavirus restrictions amid a surge in new infections. India reported more than 18,000 new cases, pushing its cumulative total over the half-million mark, the fourth highest globally behind the US, Brazil and Russia.

Elsewhere, Egypt and Britain said they would ease virus controls, while China and South Korea battled smaller outbreaks in their capitals.

Merkel said in her weekly video podcast that getting Europe's economy back on track is her primary goal as

Germany takes over the rotating European Union presidency next week, but stressed that everyone shared a "joint responsibility" in following social distancing, mask and hygiene rules as lockdown rules are relaxed.

German authorities renewed a lockdown in a western region of about 500,000 people last week after about 1,300 slaughterhouse workers tested positive for COVID-19, in an attempt to prevent the outbreak from spreading across the area.

Germany has recorded nearly 195,000 coronavirus infections and only around 9,000 deaths, with more than 177,000 recoveries, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally.

"The risk posed by the virus is still serious," Merkel said. "It's easy to forget because

Germany has gotten through the crisis well so far, but that doesn't mean we are protected, that the risk has been averted; that is not the case, as is demonstrated by these regional outbreaks."

Fans of Germany's Schalke soccer club planned to demonstrate later in the day at the stadium against chairman Clemens Toennis, one of whose companies owns the slaughterhouse where the outbreak began.

Workplace and living conditions for migrant workers employed at the facility have come into focus after the outbreak. In the US, the daily number of confirmed infections surged to an all-time high of 45,300 on Friday, eclipsing the previous high of 40,000 set the previous day, according to Johns Hopkins. **AP**

Charles Webb, author of 'The Graduate', dies in England

London: Charles Webb, a lifelong non-conformist whose debut novel "The Graduate" was a deadpan satire of his college education and wealthy background adapted into the classic film of the same name, has died. He was 81.

Webb died June 16 in Eastbourne, England, of a blood condition, said his friend Jack Malvern, a Times of London journalist to whom Webb's final book was dedicated. Webb was only 24 when his most famous book was published, in 1963.

The sparsely written narrative was based closely on his years growing up comfortably in Southern California, his studies in history and literature at Williams College in Massachusetts and his disorienting return home. **AP**

Nepal to reopen its second border point with China for supply of essential goods

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal has decided to reopen its second border point with China after five months for the supply of goods like construction material and equipment necessary for hydropower and airport projects, according to a media report.

Nepal on January 29 closed its two border points with China -- Tatopani and Rasuwagadhi -- to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

The Tatopani border point was opened on April 8 to bring medicines and health equipment from China.

The two countries have now agreed to resume one-way traffic to Nepal through the Rasuwagadhi border, the Kathmandu Post reported.

The exact date to reopen the border has not been finalised, it said.

Hari Prasad Pant, chief district officer of Rasuwa, said that reopening the border point had been discussed between authorities from the two countries at the Nepal-China Friendship Bridge (Miteri Bridge) on Wednesday.

As per the agreement, Chinese cargo drivers will drop the goods at Nepal border point. Once the Chinese loaders and drivers return, Nepali drivers and loaders will receive the shipment and take them to the respective places.

Initially, four trucks will be allowed daily. The number will be increased gradually.

"We have accorded priority to import essential goods, mainly construction equip-

ment, in the first phase," said Punya Bikram Khadka, chief customs officer at Rasuwa Customs Office.

As the financial closure of most of the projects like hydropower and airport need to be completed by mid-July, the priority will be given to import their equipment, he said.

A large number of equipment of Bhairahawa and Pokhara international airports has been stranded in the border point after the lockdown was imposed in January.

Khadka said that people's movement would not be allowed on either side of the border except the workers and the drivers.

Nepal has so far reported 12,309 coronavirus cases with 28 deaths.

Petrol price up 25 p, diesel 21 p

RATES HIKED BY ₹9.12, ₹11.01 IN 3 WEEKS



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol price on Saturday was hiked by 25 paise per litre and diesel by 21 paise, taking the cumulative increase in rates in three weeks to ₹9.12 and ₹11.01 respectively.

Petrol price in Delhi was hiked to ₹80.38 per litre from ₹80.13, while diesel rates were increased to ₹80.40 a litre from ₹80.19, according to a price notification of state oil marketing companies.

Rates have been increased across the country but the final retail selling price differs from state to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or VAT.

In Mumbai, petrol price went up from ₹86.91 per litre to ₹87.14, while diesel rate was hiked to ₹78.71 from ₹78.51.

Co-operative banks under RBI supervision | President promulgates Ordinance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind has promulgated the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 to bring all urban co-operative banks and multi-state cooperative banks under the supervision of the RBI in order to protect the interest of depositors.

The Ordinance amends the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as applicable to cooperative banks, an official statement said on Saturday.

"The Ordinance seeks to protect the interests of depositors and strengthen cooperative banks by improving governance and oversight by extending powers already available with RBI in respect of other banks to Co-operative Banks as well for sound banking regulation, and by ensuring professionalism and enabling their access to capital," it said.

The amendments do not affect existing powers of the State Registrars of Co-operative Societies under state co-operative laws, it added.

The amendments also do not apply to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) or co-operative societies whose primary object and principal business is long-term finance for agricultural development, and which do not use the words "bank", "banker" or "banking" and do not act as drawers of cheques, it said.

"The Ordinance also amends Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, to enable making of a scheme of reconstruction or amalgamation of a banking company for protecting the interest of the public, depositors and the banking system and for securing its proper management, even without making an order of moratorium, so as to avoid disruption of the financial system," it said.

There are 1,482 urban cooperative banks and 58 multi-state cooperative banks having about 8.6 crore depositors with total savings deposit of about Rs 4.85 lakh crore.

The decision assumes significance in the wake of scams in cooperative banks, including the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, affecting lakhs of customers who are facing difficulty in withdrawing their money due to restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The RBI had placed regulatory curbs on PMC Bank on September 23, 2019, after finding out certain financial irregularities and misreporting of loans given to real estate developer HDIL.

Earlier this month, the RBI had put restrictions on withdrawals from People's Co-operative Bank, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had introduced 'The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020' in the Lok Sabha on March 3, 2020, which is pending approval. The proposed law sought to enforce banking regulation guidelines of the RBI on cooperative banks.

In her February 1 Budget speech, Sitharaman had proposed amendments to the Banking Regulation Act with an aim to increasing professionalism and improving governance among the cooperative banks.

RBI extends enhanced borrowing limit under MSF till September 30

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Amid the ongoing economic woes created by the coronavirus pandemic, the Reserve Bank has decided to extend the enhanced borrowing facility provided to the banks to meet their liquidity shortages till September 30.

The RBI, as a temporary measure, had increased the borrowing limit of scheduled banks under the marginal standing facility (MSF) scheme from 2 per cent to 3 per cent of their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) with effect from March 27, 2020.

Under the MSF, banks can borrow overnight funds at their discretion by dipping into the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR).

This relaxation, which was granted till June 30, 2020, has now been extended till September 30.

"On a review, it has now been decided to extend this enhanced limit till September 30, 2020," the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a circular.

Banks may continue to access overnight funds under the MSF against their excess SLR holding, it added.

The marginal standing facility rate currently stands at 4.25 per cent.

The RBI has also extended the relaxation on the minimum daily maintenance of the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) at 80 per cent for a further period of three months till September 25, 2020.

On March 27, the minimum daily maintenance of the CRR was reduced from 90 per cent of the prescribed CRR to 80 per cent till June 26, 2020.

This was done in view of the continuing of hardships faced by banks in terms of social distancing of staff and consequent strains on reporting requirements.

Requested Comm Min to allow export of PPE kits: Gadkari

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said he has requested the Commerce Ministry to allow export of Personal Protective Equipment kits, as the country is producing it in large quantities. Addressing a webinar on the occasion of International MSME Day, Gadkari, who also holds the portfolio of Road Transport and Highways, said about two months ago that India imported PPE kits from China via a special aircraft but now the country's industry and MSMEs were manufacturing lakhs of PPE kits per day. "Now, already I have requested the commerce ministry" to allow export of PPE Kits from India, the minister said, adding that it was being considered. Stressing that PPE has export potential, he said that people are getting orders for PPE kits from Dubai, Canada, the US and European countries. Recently, Indian apparel export industry body AEPIC had also urged the government to lift the ban on exports of PPE kits as its production has reached 8 lakh units per day.

Gadkari also launched report of GAME National Task Force for MSMEs, entailing industry wide recommendations to boost the units and entrepreneurial dynamism in India. Meghalaya CM Conrad Kongkal Sangma; Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat, Karnataka CM BS Yediyurappa and Punjab Minister of Education and Public Works Vijay Inder Singla also spoke on the steps their States were taking to boost the MSME Sector, which contribute about 48% of India's exports and provide employment to 11 crore people. The recommendations from the report "Improving Economic Dynamism and Accelerating MSME Growth" are likely to help MSMEs 'Survive, Revive, Thrive and Sustain'. The task force chaired by K P Krishnan, IAS (Retd), Former Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and co-chaired by Ravi Venkatesan, Founder GAME and Former Chairman of Microsoft India and Bank of Baroda presented the highlights of the recommendations.

OIL back in black on lower taxes

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) has reported a net profit of ₹925.64 crore for the March quarter as opposed to a loss last year as lower corporate tax offset a dip in oil and gas prices.

Net profit in January-March at ₹925.64 crore compares with a loss of ₹208.54 crore in the same period a year back, the company said in a statement. The company said it opted for the new concessional tax regime, paying an effective tax rate of 25.17 per cent in lieu of giving up exemptions. Current corporate tax rate is 35 per cent. "This has resulted in reversal of deferred tax liability of ₹821.01 crore during 2019-20," the statement said.

The lower tax rate offset drop in revenue from slump in oil and gas rates.

Natural gas oil price realisation during Q4 (January-March) of FY20 and FY 2019-20 got adversely affected due to fall in international crude oil prices because of Covid-19 and collapse in understanding between OPEC and Russia on continued production cuts," it said.

Average crude oil price realisation during January-March (Q4 FY 2019-20) was USD 52.18 per barrel, which was lower by 15.51 per cent as compared to a price realisation of USD 61.76 a barrel during Q4 FY2018-19.

Total revenue was up marginally to ₹3,583.72 crore in Q4 from ₹3,583.72 crore a year back. For the full 2019-20 fiscal, the company's net profit was almost unchanged at ₹2,584.06 crore on a revenue of ₹13,648.71 crore.

Average crude oil price realisation was lower by 11.31 per cent to \$ 60.75 per barrel in 2019-20, as compared to \$ 68.50 during 2018-19.

Average natural gas price realisation during 2019-20 improved to \$ 3.46 per million British thermal unit as compared to \$3.21 during the preceding fiscal.

OIL said crude oil production dipped 5.7 per cent to 3.134 million tonnes in FY20. However, production for Q4 was 1.48 per cent higher at 0.758 million tonnes as compared to 0.747 million tonnes in Q3 2019-20.

Natural gas production during FY 2019-20 was marginally lower at 2,801 million standard cubic meters as compared to 2,865 mmscm during 2018-19.

The board of OIL has declared a final dividend of 16 per cent (₹1.60 per share) for 2019-20.

"OIL has availed the option of (tax dispute resolution scheme) Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Scheme, 2020 for settlement of its pending Income Tax disputes which is pending for approval of designated authority," the statement said, without giving details.

On the blowout at a gas producing well in Baghjan field in Assam, OIL said efforts to control it are going on.

"Teams of OIL, ONGC and international expert are working to control the well at the earliest," it said.

"Due to blow out, there is production loss of about 80,000 standard cubic meters per day of natural gas which is only about 1 per cent of OIL's daily natural gas production."

CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION DIPPED 5.7 % TO 3.134 MILLION TONNES IN FY20- OIL

SBI sanctions loans to over 4 lakh MSMEs under credit guarantee scheme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State Bank of India (SBI) has sanctioned loans to over 4 lakh accounts under the ₹3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for MSME sector, hit hard by the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

On the occasion of International MSME Day, SBI managing director CS Shetty on Friday addressed MSME customers and employees across the nation video conference.

SME products were highlighted to the customers to increase awareness and enable them to choose the right product for their business, SBI said in a statement.

At the national level, the bank has sanctioned loans to over 4 lakh customers under guaranteed emergency credit line (GECL) facility so far, a senior bank official said. About ₹20,000 crore has been sanctioned to eligible MSME customers under the scheme which was launched on June 1.

The scheme will be applicable to all loans sanctioned under GECL facility during the period from the date of announcement of the plan to October 31 or till an amount of ₹3 lakh crore is sanctioned under the scheme, whichever is earlier.

The main objective of the scheme is to provide an incentive to member lending institutions to increase access and enable availability of additional funding facility to MSME borrowers, in view of the economic distress caused by the COVID-19 crisis, by giving them 100 per cent guarantee for any losses suffered by them due to non-repayment of the GECL funding by borrowers.

The statement further said Chief General Manager, Delhi Circle, Vijay Ronjan committed unhindered support to MSMEs by SBI in times to come. SBI deputy managing director and Chief Operating Officer Saloni Narayan also participated in the video conference.

SEBI: Liquidity window for MFs induced confidence in system

PTI ■ KOLKATA

A joint move by SEBI and RBI for Liquidity window to the mutual funds has helped induce confidence in the system, though not much demand for the scheme was seen, the capital market regulator said on Saturday.

In view of the possible redemption pressure that the mutual fund industry may face after the abrupt winding up of six debt schemes of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund, the central bank announced a special liquidity window of ₹50,000 crore for mutual funds in April end.

"The move by SEBI & RBI jointly to extend a liquidity window to mutual funds helped build confidence in the system, though not much use was made of the window," an Indian Chamber of Commerce statement quoted SEBI whole-time director G Mahalingam as saying.

No further details on this was shared. Mutual Funds need to be torch-bearers of faith for the retail investor, he said.

Under the special liquidity scheme, the RBI will conduct repo (repurchase agreement) operations of 90-day tenor at a fixed repo rate of 4.40 per cent for banks. According to the RBI, banks can avail funds under this facility exclusively for meeting the liquidity requirements of "mutual fund" houses by extending loans and undertaking outright purchase of and/or repos against the collateral of investment grade corporate bonds, commercial papers (CPs), debentures and certificates of deposit (CDs) held by the fund houses.

Under special liquidity scheme, the RBI will conduct repo (repurchase agreement) operations of 90-day tenor at a fixed repo rate of 4.40% for banks

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Sh. Narayan Khanna S/o Sh. Suresh Khanna R/o F-40, Ilrd Floor, Venedashan Park, New Delhi-110015 has purchased a property bearing no. C-7A, Upper Ground Floor, Sudershan Park, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-15 from Monika Garg W/o Sumit Garg R/o F-22, Sudershan Park, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-110015. Any person(s) having any right by way of any title or claim can contact to my client's mobile no. 8095724985 or undersigned with documentary evidence in support of the said claim thereto within 7 days of the publication of the said notice, failing which, claims if any shall be deemed to have been waived.

MOHINDER DHAWAN (Advocate)
Bar Room 3, Civil Side, Tis Hazari, Delhi-54

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPED GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Parveen D/o Dilawar Khan R/o H. No. 521, Gali No. 4, Vijay Park, Maujpour, Delhi.** Age: 15 yrs, Height: 5', complexion wheatish, long face, medium build. Wearing yellow colour suit-salwar and Black chappal in feet has been kidnapped from her house since 25.08.2017.

In this regard a case **FIR No. 513/17 U/s 363 IPC dated: 16.09.2017** has been registered at PS **Jafrabad, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in S.H.O.,
Ph.: 011-24368638 P.S. Jafrabad, Delhi
011-24368641 Ph.: 011-22560192, 2217073
DP/118/NE/20

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a dead body of male **Age: Approx 50 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'5", Built: Normal, Face: Oval, was wearing Full Sleeve Shirt, White colour Banyan, Black Pant and Maroon colour Chappal in feet, was found at Shop No. 148 Teliwara New Qutub Road, Near Pull Mithai, Delhi on 20.06.2020.** In this regard a **DD No. 06A, dated 20.06.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi.** His dead body has been preserved in Bara Hindu Rao Hospital Mortuary for 72 Hours. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi Ph.: 011-23529707, 23528060

DP/315/N/2020

CHEATING CASE ED opposes closure of probe against Naresh Goyal

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has objected to the Mumbai Police filing a closure report in a cheating case registered earlier against now-defunct Jet Airways, its promoter Naresh Goyal, and his wife.

Stating that the police didn't consider crucial facts of the case, the ED has filed an intervention application before a court.

Jet Airways, Goyal and his wife Anita were booked on charges of cheating and a criminal breach of trust in February this year by MRA Marg police on a complaint filed by city-based Akbar Travels India Private Limited alleging that they were cheated of ₹46 crore by the Goyals.

In its closure report filed before a court a month later, the police stated that there was no evidence to probe the case further.

In its application, the ED stated that the police had failed to consider the facts that were crucial in establishing the case against the Goyals.

Meanwhile, the Akbar Travels has decided to challenge the closure report in court. "The report by the city police seemed to have been filed without any proper investigation. No investigation has been done on our allegations of personal assurances by the director (of Jet Airways) and also on foreign account details provided by the complainant," Akbar Travels's counsel Dharmesh Joshi said on Saturday, adding that they will file a petition on July 6.

As per the complaint filed with the police earlier, Jet Airways had done business worth ₹900 crore with Akbar Travels between 2018-19.

It alleged that the airline and its promoter have failed to pay ₹46,05,68,036 to the travel company.

Despite knowing the financial crisis at Jet Airways, which was in position of no return, Naresh Goyal made false promises. He willfully induced the travel company to take booking on behalf of the airline, the complaint stated.

The ED is conducting a probe against the Goyals and the defunct airline under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and Foreign Exchange Management Act.

MEYER APPAREL LIMITED

CIN: L1810HR1993PLC032010
Regd. Office: #412, 4th Floor, Orient Bestech Business Tower, Khandsa, Sector-34, Gurugram -122004, Haryana, India

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that meeting of the Board of Directors of Meyer Apparel Limited is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 8th July 2020 at 1:00 PM at #412, 4th Floor, Orient Bestech Business Tower, Khandsa, Sector-34, Gurugram -122004 to consider and approve, amongst other items, the audited financial results of the Company for the fourth quarter and year ended March 31, 2020. Arrangement will also be made for participation of Board members electronically through video conferencing facility. This notice is also available on the website of the company at www.meyerapparel.com and on the website of BSE Ltd at www.bseindia.com, where the company's shares are listed.

For Meyer Apparel Limited
Place: Gurugram Sd/-
Date: June 26, 2020 R.K. Sharma
CFO & Company Secretary

SPARKLING (INDIA) FINSHARES LIMITED

CIN: L14900DL1994PLC082222
Registered Office: Unit No. 355, 3RD Floor, Aggarwal Khandi Plaza Plot No. 8, I.S.C.I., Khandi Ghori, Mayur Vihar New Delhi - 110096 IN, Email: sparklingindia@gmail.com, Website: www.sparklingfinshares.com, Tel. No. +91-9827178451

Intimation of Postponement of Board Meeting

In furtherance to our notice dated 22/06/2020 and due to COVID19 Pandemic circumstances and SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD/IR/P/2020/110 dated 26/06/2020 regarding relaxation of time gap between two board / Audit Committee meetings, this is to inform you that meeting of Board of Directors of the Company scheduled on June 30, 2020, has been postponed till further notice. Revised schedule of the meeting for the approval of audited-financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended March 31, 2020, and related businesses shall be communicated to the Stock Exchanges in due course pursuant to the applicable provisions of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. Further details are also available on the website of the Company i.e. at www.sparklingfinshares.com and also on the website of BSE Limited i.e. <http://www.bseindia.com> and the Calcutta Stock Exchange Limited at www.cse-india.com where the shares of the company are listed.

For Sparkling (India) Finshares Limited
Sd/-
Date: June 27, 2020 (CHERUKU SAGARIKA)
Place: New Delhi Director DIN: 07167198

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Arman, S/o Mainul Haq, R/o Jhuggi No. A-225, Near Petrol Pump, Shastri Park, Delhi** has been kidnapped since 12.02.2016. In this regard, **FIR No. 120/16 u/s 363 IPC dated 13.12.2016 has been registered at P.S. Seelampur, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the kidnapped boy but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the kidnapped boy is as under:

Name: Arman, Gender: Male, Age: about 3 years, Height: 2', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing: Red colour jacket and sky blue colour pajama.

If anyone has any information regarding this kidnapped boy, kindly inform SHO/ Seelampur, Delhi.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Seelampur Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-22560742, 22561272
DP/112/NE/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found on 21.06.2020 at 23:36 HRS In front of Ran Basera Footpath, Jahola Village near Church, New Delhi.** In this regard **DD No. 0063A, dated 21.06.2020** has been lodged at Police Station, Sarita Vihar, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: About 43 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, ID Mark: A Mole on right Eyebrow, A black Tread Tied on right Ankle, Wearing: White Sandal and grey pant.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO Police Station, Sarita Vihar, Delhi Ph.: 011-26825553, 8750870921

DP/83/SE/2020



Lights, camera, sanitiser & action

This is not the first time that the industry has been hit. Spanish flu and the arrival of cable TV network had also affected it. But it managed to overcome both. The same would happen with COVID-19 pandemic and the sector would bounce back with the new normal, says filmmaker **ASHISH ARYAN**

On one of the lazy Sundays this March, I was watching a dystopian film *Contagion* by one of my favourite directors Steven Soderbergh. In a particular scene Matt Damon, the protagonist is told by the police, "The border is sealed. The governor has declared quarantine." It was unforeseeable at the time that a few days later we will meet the same fate as Damon with the demon named COVID-19.

Last three months were like those Hollywood films where the world is coming to an end and then saved by Super heroes during climax. Well thanks to our Medical staff and front liners that the world is slowly opening and trying to walk back on it's feet but it's going to be a long journey before it starts running once again like *Forrest Gump*.

But before peeping into future let's look back at the history some 100 years back when Spanish flu affected the cinema industry worldwide in 1918. Americans had to close their theatres for more than four months resulting into multi million dollars loss forcing producers to stop the production of movies. Indian film industry which was in nascent and silent stage was only five years old at that time. But an interesting thing happened soon after, American film industry saw significant investment from Europe in 1920s. Some of the Hollywood analysts observed a tectonic shift of power from actors and stars to directors and filmmakers.

Is history going to repeat itself again. Are story tellers going to lead the front? We don't know yet. We have been screaming that 'content is king' from our rooftop for more than a decade but in reality the king still lives in Galaxy and not in a writer's laptop. Is this once in a century pandemic going to change all the equations that we just pretended to fix all these years. Well the coin is still in the air and we don't know whether it's going to be heads or a tail.

The industry has been coiled in a dialectical

shift this pandemic, trying to embrace changes, to adapt, innovate and evolve. Let's first talk about the scuffle between Producers and Multiplex chains. The latter is threatening with grim consequences in future if they keep on releasing their big budget films on OTT platforms. On the other side Producers Guild immediately issued an official statement that their first priority is to survive during this pandemic and recover the cost so that they can further pay the outstanding amount to their crew members and people involved with the project.

After all, if the makers don't survive how are they going to produce films in the coming years, even for a theatrical release? The coming years for entertainment should not only be for surviving but proliferating creatively even in adverse circumstances.

As far as I know, theatre is going to stay forever. This is irrespective of the current damages the pandemic has entailed on the cinema industry worldwide. A similar kind of threat around the possible relevance and business of theatre was felt around the arrival of cable television in the 1990s. The risk was felt once more with the advent of Reliance's Bigflix in 2008 and then again in 2016 when Netflix and Amazon Prime launched their services.

In another event of conflict noted internationally, Netflix locked horns with Cannes film festival and French theatre distributors over a Korean movie named *Okja* directed by *Parasite's* Director Bong Joon Ho. Netflix wanted to side-step the French law and waiting period of 36 months between the theatrical and the online release and stream the film immediately on its platform post festival run.

Even after these doubts and clashes what happened? Did people stop going to theatres in India or worldwide? No! In fact, in 2019 the Indian film industry grew by 15.3 per cent generating close to three billion dollars. Interestingly, movie theatres had contributed more than half of it. Not

COVID-19 CRISIS ALSO SEEMS TO BE PAVING WAY FOR GOOD STORYTELLERS, THE ONES WHO DON'T DEPEND ON STARS OR BIG BUDGET SETS. A NEW YOUNG FILMMAKER CAN EASILY ADAPT TO NEW CHANGES AND CAN LAUNCH HIS WAY IN LIMITED RESOURCES WITH EVEN A CREW OF FIFTY PEOPLE WHICH, BY THE WAY, IS ALSO AS PER THE GOVERNMENT'S GUIDELINE

to forget the innumerable Hollywood movies those are dubbed in multiple Indian languages ringing continuous bells at the cash counter.

Undoubtedly, the stocks of PVR and INOX have plunged to less than half but in reality, it's the single-screen owners who are bearing the maximum brunt of the crisis. Out of the 9500 screens across India, the single screens which are close to 6000, are struggling to keep afloat since their monthly income keeps the engine running. We need prayers for likes of Maratha Mandir or how else are we going to watch *DDLJ* on a big screen?

Now let's talk about the other side of this ongoing global crisis. Everyone including the filmmakers, writers and content creators seem to be on a zoom call these days with the OTT creative teams. Streaming platforms are running out of content as the audiences locked inside their four walls are consuming content like a hungry panda devouring watermelons. Now the question is who is going to produce more and more watermelons when the field is rough!

Honestly, I as a writer-director would prefer opting for a streaming platform than for a traditional producer. The current crisis has stripped us of the luxury of a plan and predictability. The producers are therefore not in a position to sign new projects due to limited clarity over the previously signed projects. On the other hand, the traditional film studios are now demanding 'corona friendly-scripts' that simply means fewer locations and lesser crew.

Even the Hollywood franchises like *Jurassic World*, *Matrix*, *Mission Impossible* and *The Batman* backed by giant studios are hanging in one of the several stages of production. Then there is a major doubt about the revenues generated in theatres when these films are released. Imagine yourself with masks and face shields sitting on a recliner keeping an eye on who coughs or sneezes as if theatre is a war zone. How many of us are going to risk our lives at the cost of

entertainment? Films with larger than life sets, war and super hero films with 500 background artists have to wait a little more before social distancing norms fades away in coming years.

This crisis also seems to be paving way for good storytellers, the ones who don't depend on stars or big budget sets. A new young filmmaker can easily adapt to new changes and can lay out his way in limited resources with even a crew of fifty people which, by the way, is also as per the guideline as directed by the Government. I made *Kanpurriye* (which is now streaming on Disney Hotstar) in a very tight budget with limited resources collaborating with some of the best talents only because they loved the script.

Now since the world has turned upside down the writers are working on scripts around the pandemic. It will be interesting to see the tales they are going to narrate about the vacant, silent highways cutting across cities and about the hundreds of masked travellers in a local train. Now *bhai* doesn't need a gun to kill fifty men in a thriller, he can simply cough and sneeze and walk out in slow motion. Till now the films on paradigm-changing subjects like *World Wars*, *9/11* attack were shot with a full-fledged crew, with a thousand people on set without the stress of maintaining six feet distance. You work while making sure that you don't get sick by the flu while working passionately on something you love. This time the equations are completely new and the challenges are bigger.

After all, is there anybody conceiving a plot on musical comedy with a few hundred background dancers? I doubt! On the other hand, if you want to make another *Bahubali*, you can start writing now because, maybe, in the next two to three years our environment will be more conducive for such humongous productions. Maybe!

Till then get used to directors calling the shots with a new command, 'Lights, Camera, Sanitiser and Action'.

GUIDELINES TO RESUME SHOOTS

Despite over 1.5 lakh confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Maharashtra, the State is all set to resume shoots after a gap of four months. The Producers Guild of India have come up with a set of guidelines that need to be strictly adhered to.

- Hand washing and sanitising is mandatory for everyone on entry, exit and during the shoot.
- Each crew member will be provided with a triple layer medical mask and gloves which will be mandatory to wear during the entire shoot.
- Avoid handshakes, hugs and kisses and other physical greetings.
- Designated people will only be allowed to open doors if any.
- Sharing of cigarettes should be stopped on sets/offices/stu-

- dios
- Edible items used in scenes in which the actor has to consume either a beverage or food must be handled in a hygienic manner.
- Three types of sanitisers must be available: Hand, surface and space sanitisers.
- Social distancing measures to be implemented — minimum two metres distance between colleagues to be maintained.
- Dedicated personnel assigned to check the temperature of the cast and crew.
- Ambulance, doctors, and nurses should compulsorily be present on the sets while shooting.
- Pregnant crew or crew member whose spouse is expecting can't be allowed on the set for the shoot.
- Actors above age 65 should not be part of the cast.

- No audience to be part of any shoot.
- Producers to avoid open calls and assign specific call timings for cast and crew members.
- Casting directors have been asked to conduct digital auditions.
- All trials and fittings of clothes should happen at the actor's residence and look test should take place via video call.
- To commence shooting producers and production houses will have to apply for permissions to the State Government.
- The State Government will allow shoots only in the non-containment zone of the State.
- Proper training about precautions to be taken during the shoot to be given to all involved in the shoot.
- Carry out a drill every day with entire staff regarding precau-



tions so that it becomes a habit.

- Crew, artists and participants will be called at-least 45 minutes prior to shoot to

ensure thorough implementation of safety precautions.

- All operational managers must familiarise themselves with the operational and con-

tingency plans and explain the same to all staff working with them.

- All unit members wanting to work in the shooting should

- submit negative COVID-19 reports
- It is recommendatory that hotel accommodation be provided to all unit members and not mandatory.
- Displaying posters to develop consciousness about preventive steps and promoting hygiene, along with emergency helpline number, at easily noticeable/strategic places on shooting sets/dining place/edit rooms.
- Complete studio will be sanitised daily before the shoot; sanitisation will be undertaken by a Government authorised agency.
- Keep the restrooms clean and sanitised at all times.
- Make sure there are enough sanitisers and hand wash at all times.
- It's important to ensure a consistent and a secure lock-up

- to prevent any unauthorised personnel from entering.
- Adequate hand sanitiser dispensers to be kept at all entry and exit points along with the cafeteria, vanity vans to be used throughout the shoot by all crew members.
- Advisable to give portable chairs over standard benches.

Meanwhile, some of the guidelines that were recommended have been amended.

It is not compulsory to cast real family members as family members in shows/films because every person is not an actor as it is a specialised profession.

The entire custody and possession of the set has been left in the hands of the producer without any external interference or inspector to ensure safety and security of all the unit members.

'Dravid taught me there's life beyond cricket'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Test batting mainstay Cheteshwar Pujara cannot describe in words the influence that Rahul Dravid has had on his life but says he will always remain grateful to him for teaching the importance of switching off from cricket.

Often compared to Dravid, who was considered the 'wall' of Indian cricket, Pujara said he is thankful to Dravid for teaching him how to keep personal and professional lives separate.

"He helped me understand the importance of switching off from cricket. I had the same thought, more or less, but when I spoke to him, it gave me a lot of clarity about it and I was sure of what I needed to do," he told *ESPNews*.

"I also saw in county cricket how they keep personal and professional lives separate. I value that advice a lot. Many people consider me to be focused. Yes, I am focused, but I also know when to switch off. There is life beyond cricket."

In his illustrious international career, Dravid amassed 13288 runs in 164 Tests and 10889 runs in 344 ODIs. He also captained India in 79 ODIs, winning 42 of them, which includes the world record of 14 successive wins while chasing.

"I cannot say in one line what Rahul bhai means to me. He has always been an inspiration, and will remain one," Pujara said.

His mental fortitude and batting technique is often compared to Dravid but Pujara said "despite my enchantment with him" he never tried to "copy him."

"There is a similarity in our games, but that's not because of my fascination with him. That came mainly through my experiences with



"I ALSO SAW IN COUNTY CRICKET HOW THEY KEEP PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LIVES SEPARATE. I VALUE THAT ADVICE A LOT. MANY PEOPLE CONSIDER ME TO BE FOCUSED. YES, I AM FOCUSED, BUT I ALSO KNOW WHEN TO SWITCH OFF. THERE IS LIFE BEYOND CRICKET."

Saurashtra, where I learned that scoring a hundred alone isn't enough, you have to carry your team," he said. "That is how I learned responsibility - it is about helping my team to raise a big total, and for that I ought to attach importance to my wicket. I learned that from my junior cricket days with Saurashtra, which was a weaker team in domestic cricket."



Rohit's relaxed batting doesn't mean lack of hard work

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan on Sunday said that national team vice-captain Rohit Sharma did not lack in hard work in his early years even though his body language suggested a "relaxed" attitude to his batting.

"A lot of people are mistaken when they see a guy who has a lot of time and he is slightly more relaxed than compared to Rohit. Then you say he needs to work hard," Pathan was quoted as saying by Star Sports show 'Cricket Connected'.

He said the same things were said about another former India opener, Wasim Jaffer.

"... When he used to run he used to run very relaxed, when he used to bat he had lot of time and we used to think - why isn't

he working hard - but actually, he was working really hard.

"Similarly with Rohit, from outside we used to think he might need to work harder, he might need to put more application," said the 35-year-old Pathan who played 29 Tests between 2003 and 2008.

Pathan said Rohit "always talk about sensible things" and that is why he is successful as a batsman as well as captain of IPL side Mumbai Indians.

"He used to always talk about working hard and he used to always talk about the team first as well, that is why you see some of the results he got at the captain of the Mumbai Indians team."

"He got the beating of not playing the World Cup and then came back really hard because of a strong mind set after 2012."

Roberts slams Hetmyer for pulling out of Eng tour

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

West Indies pace legend Andy Roberts has slammed batsman Shimron Hetmyer for opting out of the England tour because of health concerns amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Along with senior pro Darren Bravo, Hetmyer pulled out of the tour of UK and forced the Roger Harper-led selection committee to make some last-minute changes.

"They would have played an integral part of the batting. As much as we don't like the way Hetmyer has been playing, he is one of the batsmen for the future. But somebody has to get into his head and let him realise that you can't score runs sitting in the pavilion," Roberts said in an episode on Michael Holding's YouTube channel.

According to Roberts, the challenge for most West Indies batsmen was they "don't really train and practise enough to work the ball into gaps. We believe in boundaries."

"I am glad to see there is a sort of a resurgence in the last couple of months, not years, just the last couple of months - there are some youngsters are coming through and I hope that we don't try and expect too much off them too soon," Roberts said.



Thomas looks overweight: Rose

PTI ■ KINGSTON

West Indies speedster Oshane Thomas is "overweight" and needs to work harder on his fitness to maintain pace and prolong his international career, feels former pacer Franklyn Rose.

Rose, who took 53 wickets in 19 Tests and 29 scalps in 27 ODIs between 1997 and 2000, said he is concerned about the fitness of Thomas, who is currently in England for next month's three-Test series.

"I am a bit concerned because he looks overweight to me. I never met the guy, but I know he has a lot of talent, and that's why the Windies has taken him to England on tour. But he needs to keep working hard and be hungrier for success," Rose was quoted as saying by Jamaica gleaner.

The 23-year-old Thomas is yet to play a Test but he has captured 27 wickets in 20 ODIs and 15 wickets in 12 T20Is.

He took just two wickets in two innings in the West Indies inter-squad practice match at Old Trafford.

Thomas' ability to bowl over 90 miles per hour catapulted him to the West Indies set-up but Rose doubted if he will be able to maintain his pace.

"If I come on the scene bowling 90 miles per hour, I would want to maintain that for another five years. The question is, can he maintain that speed



at the highest level if he is not at peak fitness?"

"I can see that he has a lot of talent, and let me be clear, this is not about bashing Oshane Thomas. It is about helping him to achieve his optimum in cricket."



I was hurt when dropped: Viswanath

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Yesterday stylish batsman Gundappa Viswanath on Saturday revealed that he was "very, very hurt" after his distinguished career came to an abrupt end following a poor Test series against Pakistan in 1982-83.

Along with Sunil Gavaskar, he was one of the minstays of the Indian battling line-up through the 1970s, playing some fine knocks against the best pace attacks of that era.

However, a poor outing in a six-Test series against Pakistan cut short his career as he was dropped for the tour of the West Indies and subsequently could not make it to the 1983 World Cup squad.

"I was very, very hurt when I was dropped. At that time, in all the three times (innings) I took wrong decisions. It is part of the game. But in that (situation) in two innings, if I had scored well, they would not have removed me," Viswanath said on Star Sports 1 Kannada show Diggajara Dantakathae.

"Kapil's captaincy was not announced but it was almost known to everyone."

Known for his legendary square cuts and flicks, Viswanath, the first superstar batsman from Karnataka to play for India, played a pivotal role in the state's Ranji Trophy triumphs.

He quickly rose from domestic to international cricket because of his batting prowess. He came to the limelight under the captaincy of Erapalli Prasanna for Karnataka and under Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi for India.

"Thanks to Prasanna who pushed for me initially. It helped me play for the state. Pataudi was playing for Hyderabad in the Ranji Trophy. As a part of Karnataka team, we had to play against him. He (Pataudi) saw me closely there."

'We need to prepare well to take on WI'

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

England skipper Joe Root said West Indies boasts of a "formidable" bowling attack and his team will have to be well-prepared to face it during next month's three-Test series beginning on July 8.

England had suffered a 1-2 loss against the West Indies in their away series last year and the visitors will be rely on their potent pace unit to retain the Wisden Trophy when the opening Test gets underway at Ageas Bowl, Southampton.

"We are very aware of the skill West Indies have and what they will bring to this series," Root told BBC Sport.

"One thing that stood out was how formidable their bowling attack can be. It is really important we prepare well and we are ready for all of that."

Talking about his rival



skipper Jason Holder, who had hit a double hundred in the second Test to emerge as the leading run-scorer in 2019, Root said: "Jase is one of the most well-respected guys in international cricket."

"He took the job at a young age and we are starting to see him at the peak of his career. He comes across as a very good bloke.

I am looking forward to chatting to him from a social distance."

Root might miss the opening Test against West Indies if it coincides with the impending birth of his second child.

The three-Test series will mark the return of international cricket following a coronavirus hiatus.

'Younis' appointment shows Misbah not good enough

IAN S ■ LAHORE

Former Pakistan opener Aamer Sohail said that Younis Khan's appointment as the team's batting coach shows that the Pakistan Cricket Board could not trust head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq with the role. Misbah was also the batting coach of the team while holding the other two positions and Sohail said that batsmen may not feel comfortable talking about their problems to someone who is also a head coach and chief selector and hence the appointment of Younis was necessary.

"The fact is that Misbah-ul-Haq for reasons best known to the PCB, was given the roles of head coach and chief selector,



and he was also looking after the position of batting coach," Sohail wrote on *PakPassion.net*.

"Many of us commented then that this was not a good idea as batsmen who are struggling in some aspect of their batting are unlikely to share their

problems with the batting coach who happens to be the chief selector and the head coach as well."

"In that context, Younis Khan's appointment, whilst recognising his experience, is proof 0-2 that the PCB are accepting the fact that they made the wrong decision by entrusting Misbah with so many roles. What the PCB are implying is that Misbah is not a good enough batting coach which is why they had to bring in someone like Younis Khan into the picture as a batting consultant."

Misbah's history of being too defensive as a captain may make him a bad mentor for Babar, who is currently leading Pak in limited-overs cricket. "If Babar has been identified

as Pakistan's captain in at least two formats of the game, then it's incumbent upon the PCB to help him become the best captain he can be. This can be achieved by identifying any weaknesses in his leadership qualities and by good mentoring. But if Misbah is to be Babar's mentor, then we have a problem because he was himself criticised for being a average captain," he said.

"The onus is on Misbah to be honest about his own deficiencies as a captain and to make sure that Babar does not make the same mistakes he made, especially when it comes to making sure that the younger players are given good chances to ensure a brighter future for Pakistan cricket."

PTI ■ KARACHI

PAK LEAVES FOR UK TODAY

Pakistan will leave for their tour of England on Sunday with 20 players and 11 support staff, the PCB said on Saturday, even as seven out of the 10 coronavirus-infected cricketers returned negative when they were tested the second time.

The Pakistan Cricket Board said the team will be departing for Manchester.

PCB chief executive Wasim Khan told reporters that fast bowler Musa Khan and wicket-keeper-batsman Rohail Nazir who were among the reserve players had also tested negative

and would be leaving with the team.

Khan made it clear that the 10 players who had earlier tested positive would be sent to England only after two of their successive tests return negative.

Out of the 10 players and one official, who had earlier tested positive during the PCB testing programme, Fakhar Zaman, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Hafeez, Mohammad Rizwan, Shadab Khan and Wahab Riaz have teste

Khan reiterated that the six players who have now tested negative will undergo a third round of testing at some stage next week and if they return negative, then the PCB will make arrangements to send them to England.

"I am aware Mohammad Hafeez and Wahab Riaz took personal tests outside of our process prior to the second PCB testing. While their results came negative, as per the PCB testing programme, they are deemed to

have one negative test following a positive test.

"Therefore, once they are retested and receive a second negative result under the PCB testing programme, they will be available to join the squad in England," Khan said.

The chief executive said upon arrival in Manchester, the squad will be transported to Worcestershire where they will undergo the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) testing before embarking on a 14-day

isolation, during which they will be allowed to train.

The players leaving on Sunday are Azhar Ali (captain), Babar Azam (vice-captain), Abid Ali, Asad Shafiq, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Iftikhar Ahmad, Imad Wasim, Imam-ul-Haq, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Abbas, Musa Khan, Naseem Shah, Rohail Nazir, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood, Sohail Khan, Usman Shinwari, and Yasir Shah.

SUPER 8

Bayern wrap BuLi season with 4-0 win against Wolfsburg; Dortmund stunned as Bremen escape relegation on final day

AP ■ BERLIN

The German football league's restart is complete. Borussia Mönchengladbach qualified for the Champions League and Fortuna Düsseldorf was relegated by a single point on the last day of the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Germany becomes the first major European men's soccer league to complete a full season after restarting during the coronavirus pandemic in empty stadiums.

The Bundesliga pioneered the widespread virus testing of players and socially distanced training sessions which have since been copied by other competitions across the continent.

Bayern Munich secured its eighth straight title two games earlier and finished with a 13-point advantage over Borussia Dortmund in second. Bayern was presented with the trophy on Saturday, its chant of "champions" echoing around Wolfsburg's empty stadium.

Gladbach secured its return to the Champions League for the first time since 2016-17 by beating Hertha Berlin 2-1 to finish fourth ahead of Bayer Leverkusen.

Breil Embolo held off two



defenders to set up Jonas Hofmann to score Gladbach's opening goal. In the second half the roles were reversed as Hofmann played in Embolo to tap in at the far post off a well worked short corner routine.

A second-minute goal from Kevin Volland was enough for Leverkusen to beat Mainz 1-0. Leverkusen could still qualify for next season's Champions League by winning the Europa League, which will be finished as a mini-tournament in Germany in August.

Five gave Werder Bremen much hope of avoiding automatic demotion on the last day. It had beaten only last-placed Paderborn in its previous five

games and lost the other four. Bremen was left counting on a favor from Union Berlin to beat Düsseldorf, and claim a surprise 6-1 win of its own against Cologne in order to climb out of the automatic relegation spot.

"We were never dead and there was always a chance," Bremen midfielder Davy Klaassen told Sky.

Werder fans soon began gathering outside the stadium to celebrate avoiding relegation. The club pleaded with them to "avoid big gatherings of people" because of the coronavirus.

Bremen hoped pride would prompt Union's players - who were already assured of survival - to give their all against

Gladbach secured its return to the Champions League for the first time since 2016-17 by beating Hertha Berlin 2-1 to finish fourth ahead of Bayer Leverkusen

Düsseldorf. Bremen's stadium DJ even played Union's anthem before kickoff against visiting Cologne.

Japan striker Yuya Osako opened the scoring in the 22nd, before news came through that former Bremen striker Anthony Ujah had given Union the lead against Düsseldorf. Milot Rashica and Niklas Füllkrug bolstered Bremen's lead while Düsseldorf increased its pressure but couldn't force an equalizer before the break.

Ujah set up Christian Gentner for Union's second in the 54th as Bremen scored three more with only a consolation goal for Cologne's Dominick Drexler.

Union finished with a 3-0 win over Düsseldorf, which was left ruing a run of games it drew after having led.

"I'm sorry for our fans. We fought and fought and fought," Düsseldorf coach Uwe Rösler told Sky. The players "gave me everything and it wasn't enough."

Union goalkeeper Rafa Gikiewicz had a muted goodbye in his last game before a transfer.

"It's really hard with the coronavirus restrictions, but hopefully next season I can return to say goodbye to the fans properly," he said.

Bremen will next face a two-leg playoff against the team that finishes third in the second division, most likely Heidenheim or Hamburger SV, to see which plays in the Bundesliga next season.

The first leg is on July 2 with the second leg four days later.

Bayern beat Wolfsburg 4-0 to finish on 100 goals for the season, one short of the record. Robert Lewandowski scored a penalty for his 34th Bundesliga goal of the season as the Polish forward finished as the league top scorer for the third season in a row.

Bayern had 16 league wins from 17 games in 2020, blemished by only a goalless draw against Leipzig. Bayern can win a domestic double against Leverkusen in the cup final on July 4.

Dortmund slumped to an unexpected 4-0 defeat to Hoffenheim in an echo of the defensive problems which often plagued its bid for the title. Andrej Kramaric scored all four goals for Hoffenheim.

Timo Werner scored twice for third-placed Leipzig in his last game for the club before a transfer to Chelsea in a 2-1 win over Augsburg. Werner matched a 46-year-old league record by scoring his 17th goal of the season away from home.

Freiburg dismantled Schalke 4-0 to extend Schalke's record winless run to 16 games. Eintracht Frankfurt beat already relegated Paderborn 3-2.



Aspas twists title race

Celta's forward 88th minute free kick hold Barca for 2-2 draw

AP ■ MADRID



Sevilla drew with Valladolid 1-1 on Friday for its fourth straight setback in the Spanish league, missing a chance to retake third place from Atlético Madrid.

Lucas Ocampos converted an 83rd-minute penalty kick to salvage the tie, the fourth consecutive for Sevilla since it returned from the coronavirus break with a win in the Seville derby.

Kiko Olivas opened the scoring for Valladolid in the first half at Ramón Sánchez-Pizjuán Stadium.

The result kept Sevilla in fourth place, one point behind Atlético Madrid, which on Saturday hosts Alavés. Atlético has won three straight and is unbeaten after the pandemic break.

"We really needed this win," Sevilla forward Suso said. "We dominated and had our chances, but the ball didn't go in. It's tough when the other team stays in the back like that."

Sevilla had resumed with a 2-0 win against rival Real Betis in the city derby, but it drew three straight since then - against Levante, Barcelona and Villarreal.

Valladolid also won in its first match after the break and was winless since, with two draws and a loss at Atlético Madrid. It moved to 14th place with Friday's draw.

Olivas got on the board with a header after a long cross from a set-piece in the 25th minute. Ocampos equalized from the penalty spot after a handball by a defender inside the area.

Valladolid nearly retook the lead when an 87th-minute close-range shot by Rubén Alcaraz prompted a tough reflex save by Sevilla goalkeeper Tomas Vaclik.

Sevilla's Munir El Haddadi had a 55th-minute goal disallowed by video review for offside. It took nearly three minutes for the VAR to make the call.

One of Sevilla's best chances in the first half was a shot by Ocampos that struck the woodwork when the game was scoreless.

League leader Real Madrid visits last-place Espanyol on Sunday, while second-place Barcelona on Saturday visits a red-hot Celta Vigo, which is near the relegation zone.

JUVE OPEN 7 POINT LEAD

AP ■ ROME

Cristiano Ronaldo is back in form. He set up two goals and converted a penalty to help Juventus beat 10-man Lecce 4-0 on Friday and boost its chances of claiming a record-extending ninth successive Serie A title.

Ronaldo had struggled since soccer resumed in Italy, but his return to form pushed Juventus seven points clear of second-placed Lazio, which hosts Fiorentina on Saturday.

"What's important is that we continue to get results," Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri said when asked about their increasing advantage at the top of the table.

"We struggled at the beginning and then we managed to get going at the end of the first half. But I saw a good mentality because even when the match was over, we still continued to attack." Lecce remained in the relegation zone but is level on points with Genoa, which occupies the last position of safety.

Lecce started brightly but its chances of getting anything from the match diminished when defender Fabio Lucioni was shown a straight red card for a last-

RONALDO HAD STRUGGLED SINCE SOCCER RESUMED IN ITALY, BUT HIS RETURN TO FORM PUSHED JUVENTUS SEVEN POINTS CLEAR OF SECOND-PLACED LAZIO

man challenge on Rodrigo Bentancur, leaving the visiting side in 10 men for nearly an hour.

"Until the sending off the match was balanced," said Lecce coach Fabio Liverani, who also bemoaned the number of players he is missing through injury.

"Maybe if we had had every player available I could have made different moves. At the moment I have a maxi-



mum of 14 players available. But I am sure that with a bit of fortune, getting some players back, we can have our say in matches against direct rivals." Juventus scored all of its goals after the red card and in the second half, but struggled to break down the visitors.

Ronaldo had several chances but sent an overhead kick past the left post and somehow headed over an empty goal from two yards out.

However, the Portugal international set up Juve's opener eight minutes after the break as he cut the ball back to Paulo Dybala who curled into the roof of the net from the edge of the area. Ronaldo then got on the scoresheet himself with his second penalty in as many matches after he was tripped by Luca Rossetini.

Ronaldo also set up Juve's third in the 83rd minute, back-heeling the ball for Gonzalo Higuain to score shortly after coming off the bench. Matthijs de Ligt headed in a Douglas Costa cross two minutes later to cap a great night for Juventus.

Wolves push Villans to drop zone

AFP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Nuno Espirito Santo backed Wolves to step up their bid to qualify for the Champions League after Leander Dendoncker sealed a 1-0 win at Aston Villa that lifted them into fifth place in the Premier League on Saturday.

Nuno's side made it three successive victories since the Premier League restart thanks to Dendoncker's clinical finish in the second half.

Wolves have yet to concede a goal following the coronavirus hiatus and are now just two points behind fourth-placed Chelsea and three ahead of sixth-placed Manchester United.

Both Chelsea and United have a game in hand on Wolves due to their FA Cup involvement this weekend.

But with fifth place potentially offering Champions League qualification if second-placed Manchester City's European ban is upheld, Nuno's men are firmly in contention to play in the continent's elite club competition for the first time in 60 years.

"What's in front of us will be very tough but it's a welcome week to recover. We will prepare ourselves to compete and see what happens," Nuno said.



"I'm very happy for Leander Dendoncker, he gives so much to us and he truly deserves this moment."

Wolves are unbeaten in eight league games and have won three successive top-flight away matches for the first time since 1980.

In contrast, their struggling midlands rivals Villa are without a win in eight league games and remain rooted in the relegation zone on goal difference.

Second-bottom Villa have now played a game more than the teams around them and have just six matches left.

With fixtures against Liverpool and Manchester United up next, Dean Smith's team are in serious danger of an immediate return to the Championship.

"We more than

matched a top-six team today but they managed to get a goal from the edge of the box out of nothing and we didn't convert the chances we had," Smith said.

THREATENING RAID

Smith had complained about the fixture schedule that saw his team playing for the fourth time in 11 days.

His fears were confirmed when defender Matt Targett limped off with a leg injury after 10 minutes.

Wolves were on top and Joao Moutinho's free-kick was flicked goalwards by Raul Jimenez, but Orjan Nyland was well placed to save.

Matt Doherty led another threatening Wolves raid, the wing-back bursting into the Villa area to shoot

into the side-netting. Villa captain Jack Grealish was being deployed in a central mid-field role rather than his usual wider position and he tested Rui Patrício with a low strike from the edge of the area.

Nyland had got away with a horrendous mistake in Villa's first game of the Premier League restart when he carried the ball into his own net against Sheffield United, only for Hawk-Eye to fail to award the goal.

Luck was on Nyland's side again when he threw the ball straight to Diogo Jota late in the first half, but the Wolves forward shot hurriedly over the bar with just the blundering keeper to beat.

Douglas Luiz was narrowly off target from long range as Villa tried to change the momentum in the second half.

But Nuno sent on Adama Traore after the break and the electric winger immediately made an impact.

Dancing through the Villa midfield, Traore found Jimenez and his raking pass reached Jonny, who took up Dendoncker on the edge of the area.

Unleashing a perfectly-placed low drive, the Belgian midfielder beat Nyland in style for his fifth goal of the season.

Robben announces comeback



NETHERLANDS: Former Netherlands international Arjen Robben is coming out of retirement to rejoin FC Groningen, the club where he made his professional debut at the age of 16.

He hopes to get fit enough to play again next season. "We're coming home, back to Groningen," Robben said in a video posted on the club website on Saturday.

The 36-year-old Robben also sounded a note of caution.

"At this time, I'm not sure it will happen," he said.

"What I am sure of is that my drive and motivation will be 100%. It will be a tough physical challenge, but I'm going for it."

Robben played two years at Groningen before moving to PSV Eindhoven and then to Chelsea, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich. He won league titles at the latter four clubs.

He played 96 times for the Netherlands, including in the 2010 World Cup final where the Dutch lost to Spain 1-0 in extra time. He retired from playing football a year ago. AP

Seniors motivated us during confinement: Lalremsiami

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Young Indian women's hockey team striker Lalremsiami says skipper Rani and her deputy Savita played a big role in keeping the players motivated during their two-and-a-half month's confinement at the SAI South Centre in Bengaluru due to the coronavirus-forced lockdown.

Lalremsiami, one of youngest members of the Indian women's hockey team, said senior players like Rani and Savita kept the morale of the players high during the lockdown.

"Had it not been for seniors in the team like Rani and Savita, who played a huge role in keeping us youngsters motivated, it would have been difficult for us to spend so many days in our hostel rooms with barely any activity apart from some fitness workouts in our rooms," said Lalremsiami, who hails from Mizoram.

Lalremsiami, Salima Tete, Rajwinder Kaur and Sharmila are some of the new entrants to the Indian women's hockey team set up and have climbed up the ranks swiftly with commendable performances at the international stage.

"At first, when SAI went into a lockdown in mid March, we (youngsters) never understood the gravity of the situation but followed the rules of not going outside the campus. It



was only when we attended a brief talk/presentation by a team of doctors who explained about the pandemic that we realised it was a serious issue and we need to be vigilant all the time," the Mizo player said.

"The seniors also spoke to us about the situation and encouraged us to speak out if we had any issues," she added.

She said chief coach Sjoerd Marijne and scientific advisor Wayne Lombard constantly checked on the players and ensured that they were doing well.

"But senior players went out of their way to help us and ensure we don't feel home sick. They would keep us busy with their stories in the Indian team and experiences from Rio Olympics. These stories inspired me to play for India at the Olympics."

Lalremsiami is currently

in institutional quarantine at her home town Kolasib in Mizoram following the one-month break given by Hockey India earlier this month.

"Initially, I had decided not to go home because of the 21-day institutional quarantine which is compulsory as per state rules. But it has been more than four months since I met my mother and the rest of family. I was really drawn towards seeing them because once we return to SAI Centre Bangalore on 19 July, my focus will only be on hockey," she said.

"The DC (District Collector) has ensured I have a comfortable stay during the quarantine and they check on me everyday. I am very thankful to the state government for showing so much care and concern. It feels good to be back in my home state."

'I don't want to typecast myself'



■ **Your fondest memory from the sets of Thappad.**

My fondest memory is being surrounded by women. Not only the cast but even the crew was largely women. Now, we try and hire as many women as possible. I was surrounded by women and was being looked after. *Yeh khaalo, baal mein ye laga lo, workout karo, alag alag umar ke log mujhey aakar boltey they.* I was the most pampered person on the sets.

■ **Did you have any apprehensions while working on the film considering the society that we live in?**

Yes. There were two things. One, while writing,

Mrunmayee (the co-writer) and I were not ready to over-dramatise the narrative, we were trying to keep it as life-like as possible. Which was rather a daring thing to do because the film was about just one slap actually. The plot of the film was very thin. If you are making a film with such a thin plotline, you might resort to doing something melodramatic and we were not doing that, so, there was a constant fear that it should not become a bland and boring film. The second fear was that if the men of our country would come and watch the film. We were apprehensive about that and were trying the best we could do without compromising on the integrity of the film. We did that. To our surprise, we were wrong on both accounts. They all loved the film and the biggest success as a director was that men loved the film as much as the women did. I have had men calling me and breaking down while talking about the film.

■ **What was your reflex when you completed the film, amid all these fears of balancing everything out?**

This is the most tragic journey that a director goes through. Because he is the part of the whole process and it becomes impossible to remain objective so the best thing to do is to safeguard what you are up to. Suppose, I had shot a film in one way and edited in the same manner but suddenly the background score had become very dramatic then it will just pop out the whole narrative. It will scream out

remain the same. Of course, with bigger experience of making films, you have a fair judgement but you never get the real experience of the film as a new film.

■ **Your films are all about diversity. No two films are the same. How do you juggle all these variations?**

I have no clue, I do not have a definite answer to this. I think of a story, I end up writing that along with my writers with all my heart and passion. Maybe I have a taste for different genres. More than that, and I discover this while I speak to you is that I am not out to make a brand for myself. That Anubhav will make this kind of movie, I am not consciously out to do that, so, maybe that helps me. I am always in a new zone, working very hard, I am not known for a specific genre or space, so I don't actually have an answer to this.

■ **What kind of films do you watch?**

I don't watch super hero and fantasy films. I can't relate to the *Game of Thrones*. I've just finished watching a film called *Da 5 Bloods* by Spike Lee, on Netflix. Then I've watched *The Wasp Network*. Most of that stuff is either political or very personal. I loved *Jojo Rabbit* too.

■ **Lately, you've made Article 15 and then Thappad. You are exploring these social issues, what made you explore this?**

Why to use brackets? They are so different from each other. These are films that I got inspired by at different stages in my life, and I made them. When I look back, you don't know the stuff that I'm working on right now, there is a Force feature

that I'm working on. Socio-political, personal, those kinds of films and that's what is happening to me right now, I'm getting attracted to those things and it may change, it may not, I don't know. I was making *Dus*, I was making *Cash, Ra. One* and then *Mulk*. I don't know if there's any more chapters to be opened or maybe I'm done with all the sad stuff.

■ **One thing that makes you uncomfortable when you are on sets.**

There are a few things. I don't like too many people, I don't like the murmur. A lot of times you'll find me screaming for silence and I get very disturbed when somebody doesn't know what is happening. If an actor doesn't know his or her lines or hasn't read the scenes before we started setting it up. I get disturbed because I don't understand why people do it if they don't love it. So that is very unnerving for me. But most of the times it doesn't happen to me because we work with the same team mostly and the actors are my favourite people on the sets.

■ **Now that the film is premiering on Zee Cinema today at 9 pm, a message that you would like to give to the viewers?**

I feel that the people who watch TV are not the ones who are active on social media. They are mostly on OTT platforms or theatre. Not a message, but I'm hoping to hear from them. I don't know how will they do it, I could be terribly wrong, maybe they are on social media as well. Maybe some journalist should help me know that, I'll be very grateful.

Talktime
ANUBHAV SINHA
The man behind films like Dus, Article 15, Mulk and Thappad, Sinha is known for his versatility. He tells Musba Hashmi his fondest memory from the sets of Thappad, one thing that makes him uncomfortable and why he chose to explore different genres

I DON'T LIKE TOO MANY PEOPLE ON THE SETS, I DON'T LIKE THE MURMUR. A LOT OF TIMES YOU'LL FIND ME SCREAMING FOR SILENCE AND I GET VERY DISTURBED WHEN SOMEBODY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING. IF AN ACTOR DOESN'T KNOW HIS OR HER LINES OR HASN'T READ THE SCENES BEFORE WE STARTED SETTING IT UP, I GET DISTURBED

the attention for no reason. So, you have to be loyal to what you have in the starting and hope that the end product will

SOUNDS OF INDIA

On World Music Day, Soundscape was launched to represent diverse melodies of the soul of India. SHALINI SAKSENA caught up with MAME KHAN, KAVITA SETH and PALASH SEN who talk about their experience of being part of the online initiative



Palash Sen

Since the lockdown was announced on March 24, 2020, all entertainment has shifted to online platforms — be it releasing movies or holding dance workshops or even organising concerts. On World Music Day, HCL Concerts launched Soundscapes, bringing to fore the rich and inclusive music from across the country's landscape. The program, that will bring virtual performances every fortnight will feature a selection of popular artists from a variety of independent genres like Sufi, tribal, regional and folk styles with rare instruments, melodies and words to wow the audiences all over the globe.

With this initiative, HCL Concerts, which had been focused on promoting classical performing arts, has expanded its efforts to also include other genres of music and offer listeners a complete bouquet of music.

Rohit Kaul, Head, HCL Concerts tells you that while they had started to bring to people classical music, over the last few years, they had been expanding their genres. "We have organised folk songs, invited Devu Khan and even Kavita Seth. We have been consciously expanding but with Soundscapes we are pushing our boundaries and including artists who can be part of our concerts," Kaul says.

There were three reasons for this expansion. First, the platform has always seen itself which connects artists and the audience and bring them together on a common platform. Second, over the years they have been



Kavita Seth

getting a number of requests, from the artists and the audience to expand and include other genres to serve independent artists who do a lot of live performances. Third, since the platform has gone digital and physical concerts are not going to take place in the near future, Soundscapes gives an opportunity to serve a much larger set of artists and digital concerts are easy to do.

The name stems from the platform's idea to expand. Just like they have Baithak where artists talk about their art and themselves, Soundscapes represents expansion of genres across India. This way, the audience can get attached to a certain initiative.

"After much deliberation, we felt that an expansion was in order. Eventually, good music is good music. We want to provide a certain kind of experience to our audience by bringing to them quality music. The good part was that the expansion has not

been tough at all. Artists have been forthcoming and we had artists like Palash Sen, Mame Khan and Kavita Seth on our debut. Since we are looking at folk, regional and contemporary genres, we wanted veterans in this field who can stoke a feeling of nostalgia and give a contemporary feel. These three artists fulfill all our requirements — diversity and versatility," Kaul tells you.

Palash Sen says his reason for saying yes was simple. "When Euphoria first started back in October 1998, HCL was one of the first companies to invite us to play for their employees in

December. Our relationship goes back almost 32 years. The platform has primarily been promoting classical so when they came up with this new idea,

I was excited to get an opportunity to play for them. The experience of being part of a concert from the comfort of one's home while the artist performed from his was interesting. Communicating through the digital medium was a great experience even though the whole idea of being in one place as opposed to being on stage with the energy flowing was a tad difficult to adjust to. But we are living in difficult times and we have to get used to the new normal and do everything ourselves including looking after



Mame Khan

our health. For a performing artist, this is time that will prove if he can survive, only those who rely on purely their craft, and not the usual props of instruments, will be able to do so," Sen says.

He had to adjust to the concept of singing into the phone sitting at home. "It is good that I have a great smartphone. One doesn't have an amplifier on the phone and one can only use those sounds that will add to your voice and make the song sound nice on a smartphone. This experience was so different from anything that had been done in the past — on stage, the artist is larger than life. But here, the artist becomes a part of your home and that is the biggest joy," Sen says.

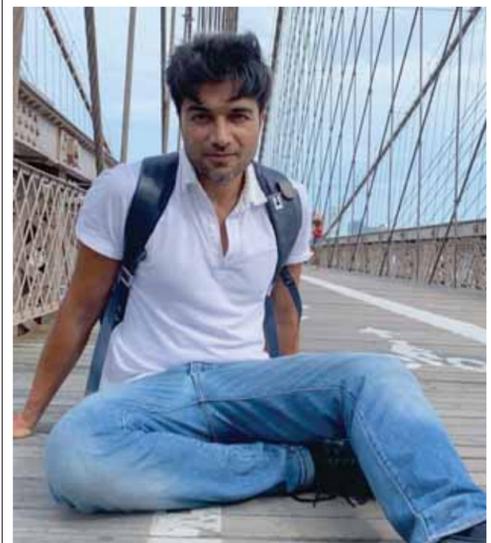
He tells you that creatively, he didn't have to make any changes. "People know what Euphoria is about and what to expect from us. This is an HCL Concerts for Euphoria — this is who I am and this is what my band is about. The only difference was that instead of 12 of us performing, there were four of us. If you talk about Euphoria, we are the taste of India now and are deeply rooted in our culture albeit westernised," Sen says whose passion lies in the fact that he is singing for himself and God.

Kavita Seth, known for her ghazal and sufi songs, says that she had a bit of preparation to do since there were no musicians but then she found a way to work around it. "I had assumed that people would like these songs and went with that even though there were no accompanying instruments. I had to change the song list. Music has such healing properties and has helped me in these testing times. I chose songs that had positivity and sent a message of hope and charge and those that I could sing with just a tanpura in my hand," Seth says.

She opines that for an artist, the whole idea is for him to perform, it is good that such platforms have stepped up and given an opportunity to share the art with the audience. "Another good is that one can reach out to people across the globe. When performing live, there is limited reach but online gives you the ability to reach out to millions," Seth says.

Mame Khan says that such digital platforms are a great way to connect with the audience especially in these times of COVID-19. "For music lovers, this platform is great for artists. To perform on World Music Day was such an honour for me. I know what kind of songs my audience likes. I have been doing shows for the last 30 years. On the basis of the experience garnered, I chose my songs for this concert for the prep centred around how to get the technical issues — how to use technology and then perform accordingly. However, the excitement to perform remains the same," Khan says.

'Creating something new is challenging'



Actor-model GAUTAM GUPTA, who was last seen on TV in *Kuch Toh Hai Tere Mere Darmiyaan*, recently did a music video *Wajah*. He speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about why he took up the project and future plans

◆ **How did you come on board the project *Wajah*?**
Last year, around May-June, Just Music approached us with this amazing song. We heard the song and decided that we (Smriti and I) had to do it. They liked our chemistry in our couple videos and the fun we portrayed. They wanted to recreate that in the video. We had wanted to shoot the video back then but we couldn't due to the rain. Then they decided to shoot in Armenia in November.

◆ **What were the challenges that came — grueling shoots and travel?**
Shoots are always a challenge because we want to make it something great, new and challenging. We want people to enjoy watching us. As TV actors, it is very important for us to stand out. There are so many songs that come out. Yes, we went to a challenging place to shoot it and it was done in a day. But it didn't make a lot of difference to us as TV actors. We shot from 4 am till 12 at night. It was freezing cold in Armenia in November. The situation required us to be in freezing cold waters at times or run across the city without all bundled up in warm clothes. My co-star in the song Smriti (my wife) was pregnant. We had to make sure she was comfortable at all times.

◆ **What made you say yes to the project?**
When the makers approached us, we saw no reason to turn it down. The music is amazing, lyrics are great and it has been shot well. We are happy that we are part of this song.

◆ **Was acting always on the cards?**
No, acting was not always on the cards. When I finished college, I was introduced to acting by a friend of mine. I started doing a couple of workshops on the side with work and realised that I had interest in it and acting became a part of my life.

◆ **Congratulations on being parents. How's your daughter doing?**
She is doing great. Being parents is such a great feeling. It is so much fun to watch her do all the antics. It is also great that we are getting to spend so much time with her. Otherwise as TV actors, it is not possible to be there all the time. We are making most of the time that we have been given.

◆ **What made you start creating prank couple videos?**
The idea is to help couples rekindle the love and romance in their life that they have lost because they have got caught up with their job and forgot how to connect with their spouse. Through our videos, we just let people know that one doesn't have to do big things, small things matter too. The pranks that Smriti and I play on each other are fun and it gives the other person time to come up with a better option and keeps things alive.

◆ **What has been the funniest and craziest video the two of you have created?**
Smriti and I keep playing pranks on each other all the time. We of course choose the perfect time and setting. He placed a hand mirror in front of Smriti's face who was sleeping and woke her up. When she got up and saw herself, she let out a scream. To get back at me, she came up with a plan. She told me that I had to follow everything that she did and if I won, I could get whatever I wanted. She drank some water and I did the same. She danced. I did the same and then she spat out the water in the glass. I had drunk mine. I lost.

◆ **What next?**
When it comes to acting, we are creating more couple comedy shows. The show is based around all the comments that we have received from our fans who want to add that zing and fun to their romantic life. We are trying to create a comedy show around such people.

Take care of your furry friends

The monsoon is a tricky time for pets, as rain showers and high levels of moisture in the atmosphere can lead to many infections or other problems. Keeping our pets dry is the key objective for the season and here are some things you should know:



Washed up: So it's a nice and sunny day and your pet goes out for a walk. Suddenly it starts pouring and now your pet reaches home completely wet. What is key to know here is to clean your pet a little before drying them off thoroughly. The most advisable action is to give your pet a plain water bath. Lukewarm water works better, as it helps to reduce the drop in body temperature due to the weather. After this, you give them a

good rub down with a towel. Please note, hairdryers come in very handy this season, especially if your pooch has long fur. For breeds with long fur, dirt clots can increase the risk of allergies, and so should be more thoroughly groomed. Extra care must always be taken to dry paws as they contain sweat glands through which the passage of the infection will be quicker.

Keep it dry: Play close attention to keeping your pets coat and paws dry in such weather. Being exposed to very high levels of moisture can easily lead to skin infections, bad odour and inflammation of the paws.

Watch out for ticks and lizards: This is a big one! Yes, with all this moisture in the air

and stagnant water that collects on the streets, conditions are perfect for breeding season. You have to take extra care to ensure your pets don't get ticks, and if they do, take appropriate measures to get rid of them. Tick collars and shampoos are advisable, but do speak to your vet to know what products are best for your breed. You even have to be careful of frogs and lizards that tend to come out more in this type of weather. Your pet may run to one of these animals while playing in the park and may get bit as a result. These bites can be poisonous, and so it is imperative to consult a vet as soon as possible.

A tight leash: It's always a good idea to keep your pets on a shorter leash during these

months. It helps to keep them from running into big puddles of water, or even drinking from these puddles. This water can be contaminated, as our sewage systems tend to overflow due to excessive rain. Consult a vet if your pup starts showing signs of poisoning. Also, with sudden or loud thunder and lightning, animals can get frightened and dash off in fear. Keep them close, or better yet don't take them out in bad weather.

Have fun: Many dogs love to get wet or swim. For these water lovers, you should let them loose in the rain as often as you like. What is advisable is to do it on a day you plan to bathe them.

The writer is Devanshi Shah, Founder PetConnect

the pioneer agenda

So many roads. So many detours. So many choices. So many mistakes.
— Sarah Jessica Parker



FROM THE INSIDE

Top quarantine reads

A reviewer's selection of four books that would keep you good company if stuck at home

2



4

Don't stigmatise eclipse

We can't stop Nature's phenomenon from happening, but we can certainly minimise the damage through human efforts

With the physical distancing norms becoming a pre-requisite in the current pandemic scenario, the future of work will be a combination of Working From Home (WFH), in-office facilities at limited capacity, gig-workers, and Talent as a Service (TaaS) model, writes VIKRAM AHUJA, as he sheds light on

THE NEW NORMS OF EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT



COVID-19 has not just brought with it a health and social emergency, but also a massive economic crisis to the world. With thousands of people losing their jobs during the two-month-long complete lockdown, India is likely seeing the biggest recession since 1979. Rampant job losses have gripped the economy, and the IT sector has seen an immediate impact. Startups and mid-sized companies now have to make a tough choice between business sustenance and their workforce. So, recruiters have held back on rolling out offers, and laid-off employees.

In this unprecedented scenario, job seekers are understandably devastated about their next step in an unstable market. Overall, this is a gloomy time for job seekers and companies alike. Yet, great companies were born in times of recessions and slowdowns. So, there is certainly a reason to be optimistic! Certain sectors like healthcare, ed-tech, and media and entertainment services have remained strong.

As we transition to a post-COVID era, we are seeing that large enterprises and MNCs are already picking up on their recruitment efforts and are transitioning to remote hiring and video interviews. The belief is that since business is slowing down globally, there is an opportunity to utilise their Global Capability Centers (GCCs) in India to be more efficient in the long-term.

THE CURRENT SCENARIO

With the supply of applicants higher than the demand, job seekers must focus their efforts on standing out from the pack. What this means for them is that they need to invest more time on themselves and hone their people and communication skills in order to put their best foot forward in the interviews.

In our recent survey, we found that nearly 67% of applicants want to be helped with mock interviews, and a whopping 73% would like to focus on the softer aspects like resume writing to market themselves and their capabilities better. While most schools and courses train engineers to code and help them up their technical know-how, there seems to be a big gap in coaching them on how to present themselves in a way that helps them get noticed in the first place and open doors to great opportunities. Simple things like being prompt and curious, how to dress for an interview, how to engage with the recruiter, etc., have a great deal of impact on hiring decisions.

Companies that are ramping up their hiring efforts are migrating to virtual platforms to remotely interview, onboard, and engage with employees. This online ecosystem not only elimi-

nates location restraints but provides the benefits of speed and scale too. Since the pandemic, all public events like job fairs, conferences, and networking events have been canceled. Some employers are now relying on online events like hackathons to source the best candidates.

In the case of first-level filtering, bot-based screening is gaining popularity. Employers can filter out candidates with a set of pre-defined questions. This significantly reduces the time and effort taken to manually check the basic requirements. An uptick in the usage of online skill-based assessments and virtual whiteboard interviews for technical roles also seen. Therefore, the focus remains on educating enterprises regarding the best practices for video interviewing and emphasising on seamlessly replicating their current processes while working remotely to ensure a better candidate and recruiting experience.

One thing that job-seekers must be mindful of is that businesses have suffered too in these trying times, with some looking at a setback of anywhere between 3-12 months. In this environment, companies are slashing pays for senior management while protecting their junior employees. However, we do expect an overall market salary drop of 8-12%. This could possibly be the normalisation of inflated salaries that we have seen as a result of the startup bubble over recent years.

FUTURE OF WORK

With the physical distancing norms, the future of work will be a combination of Working From Home (WFH), in-office facilities at limited capacity, gig-workers, and Talent as a Service (TaaS) model.

Many IT companies in urban locations have transitioned to a WFH model rather seamlessly focusing on business continuity without affecting their productivity and output. With a successful trial period, many industry leaders have recognised that home is a viable option and provides some productivity benefits. We think companies will post-evaluate the cost-efficiency, productivity, and practicality of office versus WFH and implement new structures accordingly. A hybrid model is what seems to be the most expected.

Certain sectors, like manufacturing, F&B, hospitality, and retail, require physical presences and there is not much room for adjustment. Whereas in tech, the question looms now more than ever on whether an office is required at all. Nothing can replicate physical collaboration especially when innovating but the show must go on and we must adapt. In such cases, companies are also testing a 33% model, where only one-third of the work-

EVEN AS WE USHER IN A NEW ERA FOR WORK, WE MUST BE COGNIZANT OF THE OPPOSING EFFECT OF A PERPETUAL WFH MODE — BLURRING OF WORK TIME AND SPACE. THE REDUCED PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES BETWEEN THE TWO OTHERWISE SEPARATE SETTINGS COULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR SOME TO UNPLUG, THEREBY IMPACTING 'LIFE-WORK' BALANCE AND FAMILY DYNAMICS. IT CAN ALSO BE DEMANDING FOR HIGH-PRESSURE ROLES, SOMETIMES PRESSURING PEOPLE TO BE 'ON' FOR LONGER HOURS, THEREBY LEADING TO HIGHER LEVELS OF STRESS AND EVENTUAL BURNOUT

force will be expected to work physically from the office.

Companies are also likely to leverage the gig economy in the coming months due to an increased acceptance of working with peers remotely. Companies can now bring in resources who are experts in their tasks on project-basis. This will allow them to get work done faster, better, and cheaper than hiring a full-time resource. We found that, given the right opportunity, nearly 55% of software engineers in India would consider becoming a freelance developer or consultant.

Another emerging trend among businesses that are stretched for resources is TaaS. After Software as a Service and Platform as a Service, TaaS is the latest disruption in the recruitment world. Just like cloud-based solutions changed the way enterprises used software, the 'talent cloud' infrastructure looks at transforming the way top enterprises think about scaling their teams. TaaS is a highly cost-effective and resource-rich substitute for internal recruitment efforts. The model offers a higher velocity of work with talent-on-demand — available anytime with multiple engagement models including full-time, remote, and project-based. TaaS isn't a new phenomenon *per se*, as many seasonal businesses have been functioning using this model for years. However, sustaining and growing a full-time business in an uncertain economy in the post COVID19 era is adding a lot of pressure on mid-large sized companies, who are now embracing the contingent workforce strategy.

These new working models not only provide flexibility and a larger pool of opportunities for job-seekers and gig-workers; it is also a big leap towards a more accessible and inclusive workplace. Remote working is no longer a lifestyle choice. It is opening doors for candidates to an array of jobs that weren't available to them before due to geographical limitations and even make jobs accessible to candidates with special needs or chronic illnesses.

WORKPLACE ENTERS HOME: THE FLIPSIDE

But even as we usher in a new era for work, we must be cognizant of the opposing effect of a perpetual WFH mode — blurring of work time and space. The reduced physical boundaries between the two otherwise separate settings could make it difficult for some to unplug, thereby impacting 'life-work' balance and family dynamics. It can also be demanding for high-pressure roles, sometimes pressuring people to be 'on' for longer hours, thereby leading to higher levels of stress and eventual burnout.

It could potentially also take away the focus you are expected to give to work. There are certainly a lot of distractions at the office, but it could be a lot worse when working from home. Especially when you are not a self-starter. Staying motivated and focused on work while catering to the demands of the family calls for extra effort.

Women are especially concerned with working from home set-up because of the extension of gender norms, attributing care roles to them in the domestic spheres. Women are often responsible for housework and childcare and are more likely than men to spend time on chores. Amidst the lockdown, many women have quit jobs or have taken sabbaticals in order to meet the demands of their families and home-schooling requirements for their children. Parents are now managing round-the-clock childcare while trying to meet work-related deadlines.

It is an unfair truth that event today, women with caregiving roles are viewed as less committed to work. It is up to employers to pay extra mind to the motherhood responsibilities at play. Long-term flexible working hours can relieve work-to-family conflict, giving women more control over their schedules. This trend has been picking up in Nordic countries in the past few years with 90% of employees benefiting from flexible work schedules. Employees can tap into their most productive and creative hours while also ensuring they can step away from work to prioritise persona tasks.

Today, focusing on increasing the number of women-hires has been a priority for many companies who have started to think about diversity as a big part of their talent strategy. Increased flexibility in WFH roles is giving them an opportunity to encourage more women-candidates to apply for these roles. Owing to this, we have seen a 40% increase in female applicants.

Other challenges like lack of real-time collaboration, lower levels of motivation and productivity among teams, personal distractions, departure of social elements we associate with corporate lives, and even finding a reliable wifi need some serious consideration. But challenges done have to be a 'bad' thing. It's only a matter of time before we think up solutions. After all, necessity is the mother of inventions!

There's no doubt that remote work is on the rise. And these emerging working models are not just helpful for the employees, but also benefit employers who are looking to hire and retain the best talent. So, essentially what started off as a stop-gap solution to a crisis, is now a *sine qua non*.

The writer is the co-founder of Talent500 by ANSR, a talent acquisition enterprise for Fortune 500 companies and founder of Byond Travel



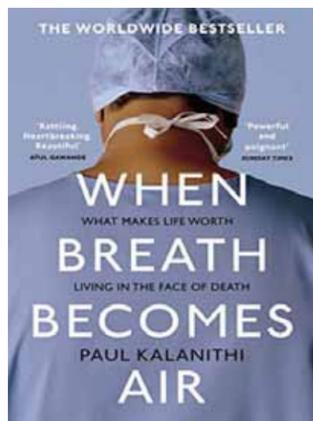
IF YOU ONLY READ THE BOOKS THAT EVERYONE ELSE IS READING, YOU CAN ONLY THINK WHAT EVERYONE ELSE IS THINKING — HARUKI MURAKAMI

Making constructive use of time can prove to be a killer during the current pandemic, but not for a book lover, writes NEHA YADAV, as she reviews and recommends a list of

Four must read books

So how are you holding up during the pandemic? A tough question to treat, these really are trying times for people trying to stay sane and functional during this period. As a book lover, I spent this period catching up on my reading. Sharing my impressions of the top four from my reading list:

WHEN BREATH BECOMES AIR BY PAUL KALANITHI



An inherently sad book which despite its grim undertone is accidentally inspiring. It's an emotional investment worth making. At the age of thirty six, Paul Kalanithi, a doctor nearing the completion of his training as a neurosurgeon is diagnosed with stage four lung cancer. He goes from being a healthy individual with limitless potential ahead of him to a very sick man with an uncertain future. After the grim diagnosis, Paul struggles to answer the philosophical questions that plague him. "The tricky part of illness is that, as you go through it, your values are constantly changing. You decide you want to spend your time working as a neurosurgeon, but two months later you may feel differently. Death may be a one time

event, but living with a terminal illness is a process." Paul never claims to have the answers, but he perseveres and fights to live.

The book will give you tremendous insights about how to live a rewarding life in the looming presence of death. *When breath becomes air* is his memoir for his daughter who was eight months old when he passed away.

One of my favourite moments in the book is when Paul is lying on a bed in the same hospital room where his wife is giving birth to their daughter, Cady. Cradling his child for the first time, he writes, "The possibilities of life emanated before us."

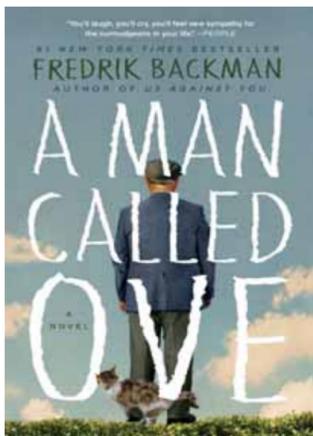
The book opens with a heartfelt revelation and it promises to be nothing less than an absolute page turner.

"I flipped through the CT scan images, the diagnosis obvious: the lungs were matted with innumerable tumors, the spine deformed, a full lobe of the liver obliterated. Cancer, widely disseminated. I was a neurosurgical resident entering my final year of training. Over the last six years, I'd examined scores of such scans, on the off chance that some procedure might benefit the patient. But this scan was different: it was my own." — Paul Kalanithi

A MAN CALLED OVE BY FREDRIK BACKMAN

Fredrik Backman is a Swedish writer who, after dropping out of college, worked as a freelancer until only a few years ago. His co-worker told him a story about an old man whose impolite outburst was calmed by his wife. Backman's own wife told him he was like that: often difficult in social situations. Backman saw the potential for a story about a similar old man. A man he decides to call Ove.

Ove is a fifty nine year old recent widower who lashes out at his neighbours (and anybody else) when they violate his very uncompromising perception of how things ought to be. A few months after his wife passes away, he decides to kill himself, making careful preparations. But his neighbours, who vary from



eccentric to entertainingly bothersome, continue to interrupt his efforts. He ultimately strikes up an unlikely and unwanted friendship with an Iranian family living next door, and slowly begins to change his mind about a number of things.

Backman shows how easy it is to become isolated and bitter in this modern world, but also how easily we can be led back to a brighter, more connected world through simple human contact and affection.

The book has already been adapted into a film in Sweden, which was also nominated for an Oscar. Definitely read the book before Hollywood decides to make a film out of this which I'm very sure they will.

This heart warming book is about the transformations we go through in life and how different events within our life affect, shape and make us who we are today. This book is all heart, go read it, you won't regret it.

"*Living someone is like moving into a house, Sonja used to say. 'At first you fall in love with all the new things, amazed every morning that all this belongs to you, as if fearing that someone would suddenly come rushing in through the door to explain that a terrible mistake had been made, you weren't actually supposed to*

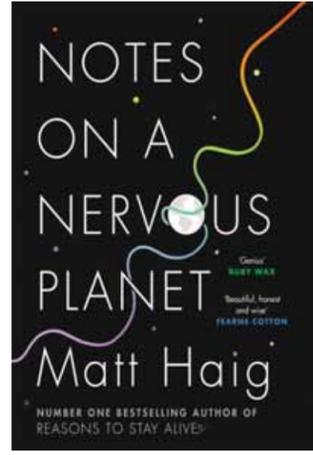
live in a wonderful place like this. Then over the years the walls become weathered, the wood splinters here and there, and you start to love that house not so much because of all its perfection, but rather for its imperfections. You get to know all the nooks and crannies. How to avoid getting the key caught in the lock when it's cold outside. Which of the floorboards flex slightly when one steps on them or exactly how to open the wardrobe doors without them creaking. These are the little secrets that make it your home." — Fredrik Backman

NOTES ON A NERVOUS PLANET BY MATT HAIG

A truly timely and important book that everyone living on this nervous planet should read. Haig's honest and personal experiences shine through on every page and his writing is like a cup of tea and a warm blanket making you feel that no matter how crazy the world can get everything is going to be ok.

This book also addresses depression, panic attacks and how to deal with them. Or at least get better at it.

"It's all right that the world is crazy, as long as I make my little corner of the



world sane." Diane Lockhart from *The Good Fight*.

The above quote perfectly summarises this book. This is the sort of book that you can finish in one sitting or slowly devour it and learn a life lesson from every chapter.

There is no better time to dive into this book than right now.

The author shares his observations about today's "nervous planet" we live on, overloaded with technology and social media connecting people all over the world, yet leaving them feeling alone. This book is even more relevant today because of everything that the world is going through.

The first half of the book is light, witty with loads of insight into tech, consumerism and media. But it's the second half where things picked up for me. He gets down to issues and talks about ways of dealing with all the chaos that surrounds us. How distracting and numbing ourselves is the real enemy and how just being more aware can make the world and us just a tad less nervous.

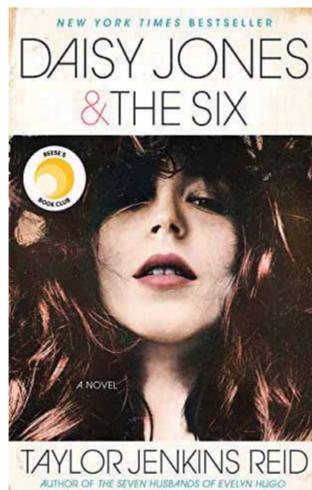
"One frustration with anxiety is that it is often hard to find a reason behind it. There may be no visible threat and yet you can feel utterly terrorized." — Matt Haig. You can also follow the author on Instagram for some daily affirmations.

DAISY JONES AND THE SIX BY TAYLOR JENKINS REID

This is a love story rooted more in the pulp-romance genre than rock-and-roll. Given the music industry's notorious sexism, Taylor Reid deserves credit for creating female characters who are more self-aware and determined than the foolish men around them. It's an incredible story of a band that wanted to change the world, so they did. It's one of those books where you check if the band was real, if the people which are in the book truly existed. It's all very real. It's hard to believe it's not a biography.

One of the things I enjoyed the most about the book is the format in which it has been presented to us.

The book is a series of interview



extracts and because of that we have very intriguing multiple point of views. A lot is left to the reader to decipher the situation being presented.

Set in one of the greatest eras of rock & roll, this story had everything you would want: drugs, sex, ambition, ego and talent. Although the story itself is great, the way the author chose to tell the story — as an oral history — is how this novel had me hooked. By letting the characters tell the story themselves, Reid built incredible depth to these characters.

The book has many fantastic songs, which we can only read as poetry. But the good news is that Reese Witherspoon has bought the rights to the book and is turning it into a mini series, which means the songs will come to life. Here's hoping that Lady Gaga sings them.

My favourite quote from the book: "I had absolutely no interest in being somebody else's muse."

I am not a muse. I am the somebody. End of fucking story." — Taylor Jenkins Reid

The writer is a bibliophile and communications professional based in Singapore

NEW ARRIVALS

CHECKMATE
Nihshanka Debroy
Westland, ₹399

AD 455, Central India
The marauding Svetahunas manage to take prisoner Harshavardhan, among the bravest of Bharatvarsha's warriors. In captivity, he fashions a game of combat strategy with black and white pebbles, preparing for the day when the Svetahunas and his people face-off in battle — a war that will determine the future of Bharatvarsha. His compatriot Kalidasa, a famed poet, shares Harshavardhan's captivity and the hope to save their country.

Present day, New Delhi
When her estranged father Rajinder Joshi dies suddenly, Vinita is called in from New York to take charge of his forty-year-old company, AveoGen, now floundering for lack of leadership. As she sorts through his papers and effects, Vinita discovers tantalising clues to Rajinder's long-standing obsession — the origins of chess and the identity of its creator. Shuttling between boardrooms and unknown historical sites, Vinita must battle both her inner demons and her father's many enemies to arrive at the truth.

Nihshanka Debroy's impressive debut flits seamlessly between two eras to deliver an unputdownable thriller.

GONE AWAY: AN INDIAN JOURNAL
Dom Moraes:
Introduction by Jerry Pinto (Kindle edition)
Speaking Tiger, ₹294

The book essentially chronicles the early part of Dom Moraes' life, when he is emerging as a writer and poet. It is brilliant mix of autobiography and travelogue, his skill as a journalist draws out intimate, interesting and quirky details of the people he met. Full of humour and entertaining anecdotes, *Gone Away* is also an insightful picture of India in the 1960s. Unforgettably funny is the account of the Sikkimese soccer match played in an impenetrable mist and involving the loss of several footballs kicked over an adjoining cliff. Yet, though humour and irreverence prevail through the pages, this is a book which catches and holds the mood of modern India.

The mysterious tale of The Kelu Tree

Timeless Tales from Marwar is a compilation of stories collected and written by VIJAYDAN DETHA, and beautifully translated from Rajasthani to English by VISHES KOTHARI. An excerpt:

Heard this story from Santokh Kanwar. Parental home Borunda. Caste Charan. She heard this story in her marital home, Devariya, from a barber's wife. Twenty four years old. — Bijji

At the hour of death, the parents impressed upon their seven sons many a time to keep their only sister well, to take good care of her and not to let her suffer in any way. To find her a good match. Give her a good dowry. If she suffered after they went, even after dying they would not attain moksha. However, the son's wives were absolutely horrid. If they had their way, the sister would suffer for sure.

The brothers reluctantly agreed to their parents' wishes, but the old couple could not trust them much. Their lives left their bodies with great difficulty.

And with the death of the parents, the wives lost whatever shame they had left. They would make their *nanad* toil all day. They would curse and abuse her. The *nanad* would go behind the house and sob to lighten her heart. Every day, the wives would mutter and curse that the man who married the girl would surely have rotten karma; so useless she was! However, the *nanad* was actually quite deft and thoughtful. Beautiful too. If her sisters-in-law didn't see this, what was she to do! It was the colourful festival of the Teej of Saavan, to welcome the monsoon. On every tree, swings were hung. In every lane, groups of girls, decked out in their finery and *singaars*, appeared. But that poor girl, the sister to seven brothers, stood crying behind her house in filthy clothes. With whom could she share her pain!

When the youngest brother saw his sister sobbing, his heart melted. In all the other homes, today was the day when sisters would deck out in their best. The brother slowly approached his sister and asked her the reason of her misery. However, she kept silent.

Though the youngest brother was scared of his wife, he still had some respect and love for his sister. With some trouble, he had found a prospect for his sister and had fixed up the engagement.



She was to be married on the fifth day of Saavan — just two days hence! The sister would go away to her husband's home. Ram knows when she would return!

When the brother kept asking questions, the sister finally revealed to her brother her pain: she too wanted to wear a beautiful new *ghaghra* and *chunari* and go play and celebrate on the swings. The brother went to all his sisters-in-law to ask them to lend their fine clothes, but none of them agreed. He finally went to his own wife. She agreed but on one condition: if her silken *chunari* or *ghaghra* were spoiled, she would dye them again in his sister's blood! The brother thought what damage could come in just one day. Even then he asked his sister to be extremely careful and handed her the new clothes. And got bound by the promise he made to his wife.

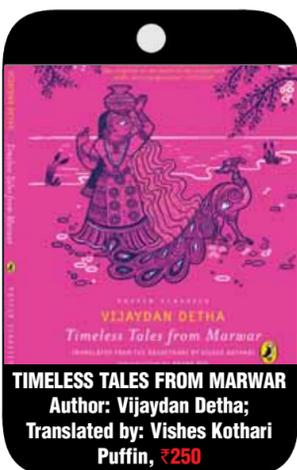
The sister's luck was so bad that as she swung on the swings, it suddenly began to pour so heavily that despite her being most careful, the silken clothes got drenched. Fully soaked! The colour of the *chunari* began to run. In great fear she went home. As soon as her brother's wife saw the state of the clothes, she flared up and hissed like a black snake! Went and lay down. The husband tried

to calm her, but she just would not listen. "Being a man, you go back on your words," she taunted. "Either spit 7 times and lick it up or fulfil your promise."

One can live without a sister, but how can one live without a wife! Till his sister was killed and the *chunari* was not dyed in her blood, the brother's wife vowed that she would partake neither grain nor water. Fast unto death! The brother said that the day after tomorrow the groom would arrive with the wedding procession. Who all would he give answers to? To which the wife replied, "If a witch runs away before her wedding, what can her brothers possibly do? Not a soul would get to know what happened!"

Helpless, the brother had to agree. At midnight, as the girl lay sleeping, the two cut her head off. After dyeing the *chunari* in her blood, the wife broke her fast and gorged on *choorma* to her heart's content! The brother took his sister's body two miles away, dug a deep pit and buried it. With an hour of the night left, he came back and quietly went to sleep.

Where the sister was buried, there began to grow a tall and slender *kelu* tree, which swayed gently in the breeze. As fate would have it, the girl's *jaan* procession came down that same road.



Suddenly, the groom's father saw the tall, slender tree swaying in the breeze. He thought how great it would be to tie the *toran* at the bride's home! He asked the barber in the procession to go and cut the tree and get it. But what a matter of surprise it was that when the barber bent down to cut the tree and a voice from the ground was heard: "Barberji, O Barberji, don't cut this *kelu* tree. *Sinner* is the brother, *sinner* his wife. *Dyed the chunari with the sister's life!*"

The barber fled in fright. Panting, he returned and narrated the tale. The groom's father said that surely he must have imagined it. He then ordered the *dholi* to cut the tree. The *dholi* hurried and bent to cut the tree, when, just as before, he heard: "Dholiji, O Dholiji, don't cut this *kelu* tree. *Sinner* is the brother, *sinner* his wife. *Dyed the chunari with the sister's life!*"

The *dholi* also fled in fright. Then the groom's younger brother gathered courage and came. He too was just about to cut the tree, when he heard a voice: "Devarji, O Devarji, don't cut this *kelu* tree. *Sinner* is the brother, *sinner* his wife. *Dyed the chunari with the sister's life!*"

And the younger brother fled in fright. The groom's elder brother mocked

all of them and said, "Go and die in a puddle of water. A five-year-old kid isn't as scared as you all are." Muttering, he headed to the tree. He was just about to cut the tree, when he heard: "Jethji, O Jethji, don't cut this *kelu* tree. *Sinner* is the brother, *sinner* his wife. *Dyed the chunari with the sister's life!*"

The older brother also took to his heels. Told his father everything. The father got quite annoyed. He said, "You all are just wasting time. Can't cut a little tree, how will you even sire children?"

He walked towards the tree. He held it with his right hand and was just about to cut it with his axe, when he heard a voice from the roots: "Susraji, I O Susraji, don't cut this *kelu* tree. *Sinner* is the brother, *sinner* his wife. *Dyed the chunari with the sister's life!*" The father of the groom was scared. But he thought maybe he was imagining things, so he once again got ready to use his axe. Again the same voice called out to him, and this time even he fled! "Brothers, it was true! Never seen such a thing, never heard such a thing!" he huffed.

This time, the groom went himself. As soon as he held the tree, he heard: "Husbandji, O Husbandji, you may cut this *kelu* tree. *Sinner* is the brother, *sinner* his wife. *Dyed the chunari with the sister's life!*" The soft stem got hacked in one blow of the axe. But yet another wondrous thing happened — as soon as the tree was chopped off, the earth miraculously parted and from it emerged a beautiful woman, her face veiled!

Then she kept no secrets from her husband. Told him all that had befallen her. Hearing everything, the wedding procession did not even go to the village. They took their wedding *feras* around the stump of the *kelu* tree instead of the holy fire! And the *jaan* took the *beendni* and returned from there itself...!

The sister of seven brothers had a wonderful life in her marital home. Bathed in milk and gave birth to healthy children! And as for those seven brothers and their wives, they got struck by the plague. Such a death!

Timeless Tales from Marwar written by Vijaydan Detha and translated by Vishes Kothari is published by Penguin Random House (Puffin)

China's sinister game in guise of peaceful rise

China is on the full course of aggression. It is an old habit for the Middle Kingdom. However, it does it in the guise of "Peaceful rise", and "China Dream".

The latest episode of Chinese brutality across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh simply demonstrates the fact that the Xi Jinping regime has become desperate to grab more and more territories. Xi is a megalomaniac. He wants to be everything—President, Chairman of the Central Military Commission and the head of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC). Unfortunately, the Chinese parliament i.e. National People's Congress (NPC) passed much talked about legislations to remove the two terms limit imposed on Presidents since the 1990s.

Therefore, this allows Xi to remain in power for ever and he does not need to retire in 2023. Thus his power grab has been so complete that the CPC voted to enshrine his name and political ideology in the Constitution of the country. This truly elevates his status to what had been enjoyed by Chairman Mao Zedong from 1949 to his death till 1976.

These all instances are very critical for the international community as they altogether have granted Xi freedom for unilateral actions with impunity. This is a unique diversion in Chinese political order from what had been known as the "collective style of leadership" that existed till 2012. The latest example is the current Covid-19 pandemic that has engulfed the world since December. In fact, China has taken full advantage of the crisis to extend its control over more Indian territories on this front of the LAC. Despite having all the existing diplomatic and military understanding so far, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has come across the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.

However, Delhi may repeat the same mistakes Nehru did if it trusts the Chinese. Starting from 1947, both the politicians and policy makers sitting in Delhi had the impression that the top national security threat will always come from Pakistan. Hence the forces were always geared to prepare and take on challenges emerg-



ing from the Indo-Pak border. It is to be noted that even our first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Defence Minister VK Krishna Menon thought that China could never pose a threat to India. Thus Menon wanted our full defence forces to be always alert on the Indo-Pak border front only, not on the border with China, or in any point on the McMahon Line. Further, Nehru emphasised on his friendly relationship with Chinese Premier Zhou En-lai just before the Indo-China War in 1962. Thus the misjudgement and complacency that the early leadership developed towards China had cost us dearly in 1962. After the war in 1962, Nehru himself acknowledged in Parliament that our defence preparations on the eastern front were much weaker than what we had in the western border. Looking at the current LAC stand-off, it seems India has not learnt lessons from its past mistakes and misjudgements of weak presence on the

eastern border.

Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Mukund Naravane recently expressed his concern in Delhi over India's readiness to counter challenges emerging from two fronts — China and Pakistan. It is absolutely true that India has to deal with two prominent geopolitical rivals for now, apart from other small irritants, like Nepal, now raising their ugly heads. So, why to wait and watch? It's an urgent moment for the nation to see things and reassess its strategic vision towards the threat coming from Beijing.

The very nebulous nature of the border between India and China should have cautioned us much before. It is more than 4,000 km border that we share with China starting from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh. And since 1962, incursions have been taking place all along this border irrespective of whichever party was in power. In 1975, during the time of Indira Gandhi, there

had been an apprehension that China might come up to aid Pakistan to settle the disturbances in East Pakistan. Fearing that Indira had immediately signed the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation with the USSR to assure help from Moscow. In reality China did not move in that direction. In 1988, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi landed in Beijing for a much better understanding and then to settle the border disputes, but hardly that could bear any significant fruit.

Of course, we have mutual understanding and a relative calm along the border for some time, but the Chinese has started developing massive infrastructure facilities all along the border with India. Miserably, India could not match the pace and be ready to fight infrastructure facilities in comparison to its counterpart. However, since 1962, and particularly after the 1990s, successive Governments have spent large amounts in enhanc-

ing our defence portfolio backed by superior information and technology. It must be said here that with the opening of our economy, what has followed is our desire to be there in the club of elite powers in the world. And this has definitely moved us on a fast-track growth, making us being heard across the world. After the fall of the USSR in the 1990s and the end of the Cold War, the global power calculus has changed.

And India had to come out of the closet of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and had to look for a possible rapprochement with the US. However, it took time for Delhi to come out of the Nehruvian dogma for quite a long time. During all these years, Beijing grew bigger and has made its presence felt all across the world. The West has failed to read the Communists in China because the successive leaders in Beijing in the post-liberalisation phase have been able to adjust the market economy to

that of their socialist ethos. So the western assessment of falling of the Communists and China opening up to the democratic front had all fallen flat. In fact, the US and the rest of its Western allies have indirectly helped China to become a global power. And along with these powers, today India is paying the price of having an ever emerging power on its eastern front. So we have to deal with Beijing and particularly the Xi's imperial designs.

After 1962, Chinese incursions have taken place in 1967, 2013, 2014, 2017 and in this year itself. And every time, the PLA has been successful in forcing into our sovereign territories all along. The reason behind for such regular incursions is that this entire set of frontier is not settled in most of the places. After 2013 and 2014 incursions, the status quo ante was restored with much difficulty, both through diplomatic and military parleys.

For now, what the PLA has done in Eastern Ladakh, par-

ticularly in Galwan Valley is unimaginable. Such actions on the part of the Chinese Governments violate the signed agreements of 1993, 1996, 2005, etc, for maintaining peace and tranquility on the LAC and on the McMahon Line. Further these violent overtures put our 45 years of bilateral understanding to a halt. The current land grab spree by the Xi regime has contradicted the agreements reached between both the countries in Wuhan and Chennai summits in 2018 and in 2019 respectively.

Certainly, today's India under the Narendra Modi Government is not that weak India of 1962. Our forces are well equipped. We are globally better placed. With our advancement in science and technology, especially in the field of information, communication and space research, we are a power of global reckoning. Our statecraft and diplomacy can easily mould global public opinion and make us heard around the globe. Much more than what draws home our strength is we have a large mass fully aware about China's nasty game plans.

Can we trust China anymore? What to do next? How can India make sure that the PLA does not grab our land anymore? Surely we can't trust Xi and his team. For now, we need to look for peaceful solutions. When both the sides are negotiating for disengagement at the current situation, even satellite imagery shows that the PLA is once again building up structures on the point where our 20 soldiers and an officer were martyred. So, we need to make our preparations for any eventuality and which we can do much better now than before. We cannot be complacent anymore and retain our positions all along the LAC. It is not a time for blaming the Government. It is time for showing our total strength. We should not waste our time for political blame game. Let our forces stand up to any misadventure that comes from the other side of the LAC. Meanwhile, our diplomatic efforts and military preparedness must go on an equal footing.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

Today's India is not that of 1962. Our forces are well equipped. We are globally better placed. With our advancement in the field of information, communication and space research, we are a power of global reckoning. Our statecraft and diplomacy can easily mould global public opinion and make us heard around the globe



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Problem of unemployability lies in education system

A real 21st-century teacher is the one who can train students to use and interpret information effectively to derive benefit for the society and the nation. Teachers should update themselves. In this way, we can help Bharat to become *atma nirbhar*

Current education system in India is neither creating enough 21st Century global skills in students to meet the industry requirement nor training them in life skills. Employers have to reskill and upskill even the best degree holders to make them relevant for today's job requirement. This implies that we need to reinvent ourselves to make our students capable of handling uncertain future in store for them.

Alongside employment, the purpose of education, according to Swami Vivekananda, is man-making, life-giving, character-building, and assimilation of noble ideas. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam opined that the main aims of education are to build character and to cultivate human values in students, to develop a scientific attitude with a spiritual foundation, to build confidence to face uncertain future, and to develop a sense of dignity, self-respect, and self-reliance. How do we, the teachers, learn to teach in this scenario?

The Gurukul system prevalent in ancient India can help us in fulfilling the dual objectives of education. Gurukul was the residential centre of learning originated 5000 BC in the Indian sub-continent. Gurukul was supported by public donations; therefore, it had the freedom to decide the subjects to be taught,

design its own curricula, pedagogy, and methods of evaluation. Bloom's Taxonomy (remembering, understanding, applying, analysing, evaluating and creating) has similarity with the six levels of learning prevalent in Gurukul — *abhyas*, practice or the recitation of the text taught, understanding of the meaning, *phala*, comprehension of results; *arhavad*, the study of explanatory texts and *upapati*, attainment of conclusions.

Gurukul believed in a paradigm that nothing can be taught. *Gurus* were facilitators and guides and did not actually train the *shishya's* mind, but only showed them how to perfect their instruments of learning. Thus, Gurukul was successful in developing self-confidence, discipline, and control; character formation; social awareness; personality, intellectual, spiritual and emotional development; critical thinking and preservation of knowledge and culture. So, how can we integrate this Bhartiya vision and system of teaching and teachers in our present system to make it relevant in the 21st century? Gurukul system may become robust if we realign it with the present-day needs using ICT tools.

SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO

Covid-19 has forced us to embrace online pedagogy. Since we are not prepared to



completely embrace it all of a sudden for the want of skills and resources, blended pedagogy can yield intended results. Teachers need to optimally use ICT tools in imparting education. Why students today learn more from the internet than the classrooms is that the former is more engaging and provides unlimited time and space for learning. Today's students have an addiction to screen learning in audio-visual mode. How can we replicate this in the classroom environment? We need to encourage

them to join global communities on social media and other engaging platforms.

The current buzzword is "experiential learning". We should have blended curricula encompassing theory, tutorials, practical, dissertations/projects, excursions, field study, internships, etc, and make students to experience these to enrich their learning domains. We should cite examples from national, regional, and local perspectives; narrate success stories of our national heroes; and also from nature,

to explain the concepts to capture the imagination and thought process of the learners.

Young brains need stimulating experiences to retain concepts for long memory. A 21st-century teacher should go even beyond this to make sure that students, alongside learning, are also analysing, applying, and finally interpreting it to create a new knowledge base for the good of the nation. Learning outcome-based Curriculum Framework of UGC becomes relevant in this context.

Students should be exposed to the trans-disciplinary discourse of learning to find solutions to the issues of national significance. As such, 21st-century teachers need to be life-long learners (*yavad-jevait adhiyate viprah* = The Wise Pursue Learning Throughout Life) by becoming co-learners to students. It is possible that what we learn today may become irrelevant tomorrow. Therefore, we should believe in the paradigm of learning, unlearning, and relearning. This enables us to be relevant as teachers forever. The 21st-century teacher should be able to create opportunities for students to take pride in their learning. Since peer learning and sharing experiences are the norms of the day, students should be encouraged to share their work with their peers and take pride. We ought to provide a co-operative learning environment for students. We can teach them to create blogs, post opinions, and make audio-visuals on a variety of topics. We should also encourage them to earn through skill development activities alongside learning i.e. earn while you learn. Real learning takes place only when the focus is on practical and applied knowledge and in creating awareness in social, emotional, moral, ethical, spiritual, and creative aspects of life. There lies the importance of a

real teacher able to create curiosity in learners and make their life purposeful. Four pillars of education, namely, learning to know, learning to do, learning to be, and learning to live together should always remain engraved in the thought process of teachers and taught.

To conclude, a 21st century teacher should become an awakened global leader to encourage and inspire students to become inquisitive. In the future, success will not depend on a degree, but on the ability to learn, interpret, apply, and innovate. A real 21st-century teacher is the one who can train students to use and interpret information effectively to derive benefit for the society and the nation. Teachers should update themselves annually to present to the students their new versions. In this way, we can help Bharat to become *atma nirbhar*. We should believe in our ancient doctrine of learning i.e. "May auspicious thoughts come to us from all over the world" to make our ancient wisdom "*Om Sarve Bhavanu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niraamayaah*" to become true.

(The writer is Vice Chancellor, Doctor Hari Singh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, a Central University, Sagar. Views expressed here are his own, not of the university)



RAGHAVENDRA P TIWARI



SCIENCE IS NOT ONLY COMPATIBLE WITH SPIRITUALITY; IT IS A PROFOUND SOURCE OF SPIRITUALITY — CARL SAGAN



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

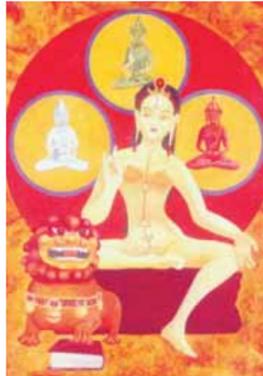
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week confusion will prevail. There will be many issues concerning health that might crop up. There may also be some hidden matters to deal with. ENT problem might surface, making you run to the doctor and may occupy a lot of your time. You need to learn to prioritise things. On the career front, you share a good bonding with your colleagues and the people at work. This is the right time for attending conferences and negotiations. Your compromising attitude at this point in time will lend you a good opportunity. This is a good week for relationships and will bring a smile to your face. You will learn a lot more about how to take your relationship further. You will be able to make room for new people and new experiences.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Friday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

Your physical well-being depends on your mental well-being. This is a time when you need to be very conscious of your intuitive urges and reactions, and bring them into balance with the greater good and meaning in life. This is not a time to act out in rage or hatred, instead look at the situation from the perspective of love and compassion. Career-wise, pay more attention to what people around you are doing. Be cautious of politics at the workplace. Some negative forces are at play at your workplace, conspiring to put you down. Avoid making important decisions now. You will have delays and overspending problems in all your dealings. And this will affect your relationships too. Be practical, and bring a balance in life, that is mandatory at this point in time.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Don't consider the first diagnosis you hear about your health as the final decision. Get a second or even third opinion before you sign up for anything irrevocable. Be open to spiritual healing, but if you are struggling with a serious illness, know that a cure is not always equated with healing. You may require some therapy or surgery. On the career front, those in business will make a considerable move. Hold your head up high and know that you have a lot that you're bringing to the table. Financially too, you may do better than you had ever dreamt of. You need to be trustworthy and reliable otherwise a rise in mental distress and misunderstanding with the family is indicated. You have to be extra careful to avoid arguments and communication gaps.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Tuesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week you will feel renewed energy and charm in your life. The repair, care, and attention you have been providing to your body will leave you in high spirits. You will be in a happy state of mind. This is also the time to rely on divine faith. New direction will make you believe that the divine spirit is working in your best interest. Professionally, you feel a new spark and a sense of creativity within yourself. You are more confident and aggressive in your approach and decision making now. Recognition, praise from friends and authorities, promotion, and other changes for the better are likely to take place. On the personal front, limited conditions from the past might have made you detached from the world. You feel cheated and deceived in a relationship.

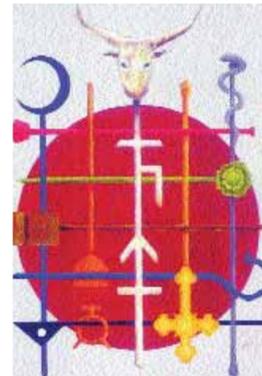
Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Tuesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You are working hard to meet the challenges of life. Slow down and look after your health, which is of prime importance at this time. Your herculean efforts give you what you want in life. On the whole, the element of vitality is very strong in you and you are raring to go. This is an excellent time to begin or amp up a fitness plan. At work, you are bold and courageous in your undertakings and actions. Your creative energies are high and you have a good sense of direction in life. You may head a meeting, conference, or just lead a project which requires group activities and handle it with command. Things are not well on the love front. You may face disappointments and depression. Do your homework before you get into personal relationships.

Lucky number 25
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

You are mentally strong this week. Your open-mindedness and straightforwardness will help you grow. Add generosity and pinch of kindness in your attitude. Showing your authority is as important as being gentle. On the professional front, you are giving more in terms of your time and energy to the organisation you are working for. A powerful person is likely to support you. On the whole, your career front is looking up. You will be little detached at a personal level. Romance and close personal relationships are not going to make headlines for you this week. Listen to what your inner voice tells you. Stress levels need to be taken into consideration. This is a temporary phase, you will be on the right track soon.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you will feel fresh, rejuvenated, and inspired to move ahead. Health remains good. A good diet, nutrition, exercise, and living life natural indicates your resolve. Spiritually and emotionally you feel fulfilled. Your enthusiasm and charm are increasing, causing envy in others. On the career front, you may find that the situations are not favourable at the workplace and may make up your mind for a change. Believe that you hold the power to change your situation. You may be holding yourself back because you fear to move into the future. Seek new opportunities, for a better future. On the personal front, you should be flexible and go with the flow right now. Stick to your principles at the same time honour other's intelligence as well.

Lucky number 28
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Saturday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you will grow stronger and be ready to face any obstacle in your life. Even when facing serious health challenges, a positive attitude can work wonders. Your firm stand and necessary care in health will go in your favour. Restricted diet, exercise, and adequate rest keep you healthy. On the professional front, a good news is on the cards. Your connections with people will grow. You are an expert in fitting things together in new or unusual ways and that makes the work a lot smoother. Those looking for a job will find the right fit. You are extremely well balanced and organised, work-wise. Co-operation and harmony in relationships will be your major concern this week. Be a good listener, trust your instincts, and connect with your innermost desires.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Mustard
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week you are disciplined and know the needs of your body, mind, and spirit. You have a clear vision. Your concentration during this time is commendable. Health remains perfect. Your creativity will make you move constantly. You should use your positive energy in creative works, as an inner sense of satisfaction will give you more confidence. On the career front, other people may not understand or support your new ideas or proposals, but if you know that you're right, go right ahead, and try to make them understand your point of view. Love relations are under question. It is important to give your partner time and space. You need to share your feelings with the one who you trust and find out a possible solution.

Lucky number 30
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Be cautious regarding health. You are likely to be under stress from various factors, so it's important that you be gentle with yourself. If you are angry, vent it out; release your anxiety rather than turning your anger and sorrow upon yourself. Relaxation is crucial in this time. Professionally things are not in your favour. You may face some false allegations, interference from higher authorities, or interrogation. You may need some assistance to find a better approach to work. Don't hesitate to ask. If you're looking for work, take it as a sign to look at things in a different way or focus on a different field than the one you've been pursuing. Love and marital affairs occupy your mind but you are unable to find a smooth going.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Wednesday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Health will require your attention. As would a family member's health. You need to let go of old wrongs and past hurts to move forward. Help your loved ones to see the truth. Meditation, freedom, and relaxation, is useful now. Learn to express yourself; don't suppress your feelings and requirements. This a good week career-wise. The business people will see financial stability and gains in financial ventures. People will respect you more and your popularity will increase. Your social status shall enhance. Those who are in a job, favour from the boss is likely, your works and endeavours are taken into consideration and appreciated. This period may see you get restless on the relationship front. You have to make sincere efforts to make your partner happy.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Monday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Some negative forces are at play and you have to fight them this week. Seasonal ailments might make you inactive and dull. Proper diet, exercise and rest is the mantra of a healthy life. If you compromise with the basics, you may have to face the repercussion of it. The working environment is not conducive, and may cause frustration at times. You may have been treated badly by someone. Don't waste your time and precious energy plotting revenge. Get on with the next phase of your life. If you're looking for work, a potential position that you'd pinned your hopes on may not come through. This week you can be the master and a mentor in your relations. You are attracted to people who are very creative and maybe more than usually focused on your career now.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday

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ASTROTURF

BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Don't stigmatise eclipse

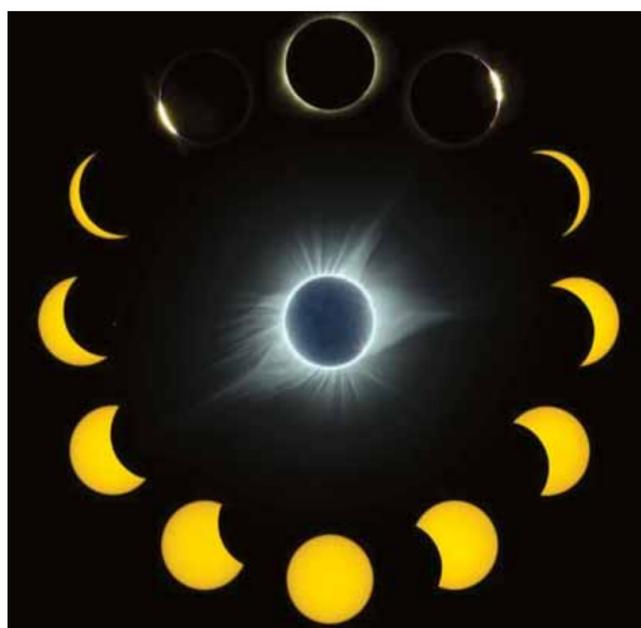
On the day of eclipse, last Sunday, from early morning, I was flooded with calls from all those seeking to learn how to mitigate its curse. They wanted to know: Is it necessary to observe fast during the eclipse time? Why no cooked food should be kept in house during eclipse? A detailed list of food grains identified with each zodiac sign (Moon sign of an individual) that should be offered to pundits to ward off evil influence of eclipse is in wide circulation on social media platform. What is its relevance? Is eclipse necessarily a curse? Why are doors of temple closed during eclipse? The eclipse is over but for future reference, the readers need to be made aware of truth.

First, let me reiterate that eclipses are usual astronomical phenomenon that take place at periodic intervals. These are a part of nature's process of periodical realignment of the energy orchestra of the cosmos, vital to run the life cycle. It would, therefore, be unfair to term this usual cosmic phenomenon as a curse that would call for its mitigation. To understand what an eclipse means in real terms, it is desirable to first understand what Rahu and Ketu mean in real

terms. Two imaginary points where the elliptical paths respectively traversed by the Sun and Moon, cross each other, are marked as Rahu and Ketu, also known as nodal points. Whenever a New Moon happens close to the nodal point, Moon intercepts Solar radiation from reaching the earth. This phenomenon is termed as Solar eclipses.

For a moment, let us assume that solar eclipse could bring about some unseemly effect in nation's and individual run of life in the emerging times. The question now is: Is it possible to reach out the two imaginary celestial points to appease them? Second, can these imaginary points selectively respond to offerings of different colours of food grains identified with specific zodiac signs made to pundits, and relieve us of our suffering? It is simply difficult to digest, no matter how much assumed Puranic stories try to justify.

Now, let us understand, what happens during Solar Eclipse. Because Moon stands in way of solar radiation reaching out the earth during eclipse, the amount of infrared ordinarily available gets significantly reduced. Here, it is pertinent to note that it is the infrared



available with solar radiation which keeps bacterial growth in check. And cooked food or cut fruits remain vulnerable to quick bacterial growth. In olden days proper facility for preservation of food was not available. Nor was such heating mechanism in place that could be effortlessly ignited to warm up the food just before you eat. Accordingly, in order to ensure intake of healthy food, the elders improvised a method to avoid such food as would be susceptible to bacterial invasion. In today's time, we are equipped with proper preservation facility. Also, we have user friendly heating devices that could be effortlessly used to warm up our food as and when we need. So, the age old practices of fasting and not to have in store cooked food or cut fruits during eclipse are no longer relevant as of now.

Now coming down to the closure of temple doors during eclipse time, it again appears to be an unmindful exercise by the self-acclaimed custodians of our belief system. Temples are supposed to be the place of abode of deities, symbolising divine bodies, supposedly engaged in discharging different heavenly duties vital to our existence. Is it humanly possible to ever put the system

driving the universe individually and collectively to a state of rest? Don't you think that if it were possible, the system as such will collapse? How long shall we allow the ignorant to drive us crazy with such ill-conceived blind beliefs?

It is high time that we show doors to the charlatans known to instil a sense of unnecessary assumed fear in gullible people's minds to serve their vested interest. In so far as the possible good or bad implication of eclipse is concerned, it has already been detailed in the previous issue.

But having said that, let me make it clear that if we are aware, we can prepare ourselves to intelligently negotiate with the challenges coming our way. We can't stop cyclones, pandemics, earthquakes and societal churning from coming. But, through human efforts, we can certainly minimise the damage, as we have been successfully doing during such eventualities. The so called belief driven remedial measures would do no good.

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