

OPINION 6
RECALL
FRONTIER GANDHI**MONEY 9**
RATE CUT WILL DEPEND UPON
MODERATION IN INFLATION: RBI**SPORT 12**
ENG PLAYERS TAKE
15% PAY CUT**BHUBANESWAR, SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹4**

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No more lantern in progressive Bihar: PM

Modi says NDA rule has ended jungle raj in Bihar, seeks vote for development

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Kick-starting his poll campaign by raising the developmental pitch in three back-to-back rallies in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday contrasted it with the "jungle raj" under Lalu Prasad, though without naming him or his party, and said the lantern (RJD's election symbol) has given way to electricity under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led NDA regime in the State.

He hit out at the Opposition on issues of nationalism, security and Ram Mandir and accused it of misleading the farmers on the farm laws brought in by his Government.

Extending his congratulations in advance to the people,

he said the voters have taken a resolve that they would not vote for those "who have a history of making the State Bimaru" and "did not allow" Nitish to work for 10 years.

Modi said all surveys predict that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would return to power in the State. "I want to congratulate the people of Bihar, as they have announced their decision well in advance.

Some people try to spread rumours at times and suggest that some "new power" is emerging, but people of Bihar are not going to be befooled by such acts," said the Prime Minister.

He said the NDA rule has ended lawlessness in Bihar, which is far developed now with electricity doing away

the need for lanterns for lighting homes. "People who are voting for the first time, they don't know how far Bihar has come. But, there was a time when people wouldn't go to their homes after deboarding trains in the night. There was a time when electricity was only available to rich people.

Poor people in Bihar were dependent on diyas. But now, there is no need for lanterns in Bihar," Modi said in his second rally at Gandhi Maidan, Gaya, complimenting BJP-JDU Government in the State.

The Prime Minister kicked off his election campaign from his first rally at Sasaram and later addressed rallies in Gaya and Bhagalpur for the first phase of poll, next week. Kumar and top BJP and JD (U) leaders were in attendance.

Rahul raps Modi on migrant crisis, Chinese aggression

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting the ground in Bihar to campaign for the Mahagathbandhan in the upcoming Assembly polls, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Friday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over issues ranging from the migrant crisis to the Chinese aggression to farm Bills, and the BJP over its election promises like of providing 19 lakh jobs which, he said, was similar to that of depositing ₹15 lakh in the bank accounts of the people.

Rahul and RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, who is the leader of the Opposition alliance, addressed a joint rally at Nawada, coinciding with Modi's first day of rallies in Bihar with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

With the PM citing the bravery of the jawans from Bihar in their clash with Chinese soldiers at the Galwan valley, Rahul accused Modi of having "insulted" the soldiers with his comment that nobody had intruded into Indian territory in Ladakh, and demanded that he tell the country when will the Chinese "be thrown out".

Addressing his first rally during the Bihar Assembly elections, Rahul claimed the Chinese army had indeed intruded into Indian territory.



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi along with RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav during an election meeting at Hsua in Nawada district on Friday

PTI

He said, "They have seized 1,200 km of our land. But when the Chinese army intruded, why did our Prime Minister insult our soldiers by saying that nobody entered into the Indian side?"

"The question is, Modi, when will you throw out the Chinese soldiers sitting in our territory," the Rahul said.

"Don't lie to the people of Bihar, Modi. Did you give jobs to people of Bihar? Last elections, PM promised 2 crore jobs, no one got them. In public, he says I bow my head to Army, farmers, labourers and traders. But once he reaches home, he only works for Ambani and Adani," the Congress leader said.

He also attacked the

Centre over the migrant crisis triggered by the pandemic-induced lockdown, alleging when workers from Bihar were being "chased away" from other States the Prime Minister did nothing to help them. He demanded that the Prime Minister tell people of Bihar how many jobs he gave them and when.

A huge gathering was seen at the Hsua rally venue, with people also crowding the roof of a college building where it was held.

RJD's Yadav, the chief ministerial candidate of the Mahagathbandhan, said the elections that were under way will not be fought on the issue of caste or religion but unemployment and poverty.

10 cr Covid tests in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Friday crossed the 10-crore Covid-19 tests mark after testing a record nearly 14.50 lakh samples, the highest in a single day. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said 5 crore samples were tested in the last 45 days with an average testing of more than 10 lakh samples per day in the last 17 days.

Terming the record testing as "a positive indication that we are moving in the right direction", Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, however, warned that the next three months are going to be decisive in determining the coronavirus situation in the country and urged people to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour in the coming festival season and winter months.

The Minister said that high level of comprehensive testing on a sustained basis has also resulted in bringing down the national positivity rate. In the last 24 hours, 14, 42,722 sample were tested taking the total tally to 10,01,13,085.

Vardhan, who reviewed the Covid-19 preparedness with the Health and Medical Education Ministers and other senior officials of Uttar Pradesh, also highlighted that the number of active coronavirus cases in the country are less than 7 lakh and the doubling rate has increased to 97.2 days.

He said in the last three

Record 14.5 lakh people tested in a day; recovery rate now touches 90%



months, the country has seen significant improvement in the Covid parameters but next three months are crucial.

"From recording over 95,000 Covid-19 cases in a day, they have been substantially reduced to less than 55,000 per day. The recovery rate of India is nearing 90 per cent. The Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is also declining. CFR stands at 1.51 per cent and is moving towards the target of being less than 1 per cent," he said.

"For a big State like Uttar Pradesh, it becomes important that maximum thrust is given to simple precautionary measures which are effective in preventing the spread of the disease to a large extent like wearing masks/face cover, especially in public spaces, and following hand and respiratory etiquettes," he added.

As many as 15 States and Union Territories, including Maharashtra, Kerala, Chandigarh, Goa, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Delhi, are exhibiting higher Covid-19 positivity rate compared to the national figure, indicating the need for higher levels of comprehensive testing in these regions.

Higher testing across wide regions has resulted in early identification of positive cases, prompt tracking through efficient surveillance and tracing, and timely and effective treatment in homes/facilities and in hospitals for the severe cases.

These measures in tandem eventually lead to lower mortality rate, said a senior official from the Ministry.

House panel warns penalty if Amazon disobeys summons

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce giant Amazon has refused to appear before a Joint Committee of Parliament looking into the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 on the grounds that its "subject matter experts are overseas" and that there are travel risks.

Taking it very seriously, the Committee has warned that if Amazon does not appear before the panel on October 28, "coercive action will be initiated" against it.

"The panel is unanimous in its opinion that coercive action can be suggested to the Government against the e-commerce company," said panel head Meenakshi Lekhi, reacting to Amazon's non-cooperative stand.

"Amazon has refused to appear before the panel on October 28 and if no one on behalf of the e-commerce company appears before the panel it amounts to breach of privi-



lege," she added. The Committee is looking into the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, following concerns expressed by the Congress. It has called all stakeholders, including Facebook and Twitter, to get an overview. The Committee is trying to seek "oral evidence" on the issues of data protection and privacy.

Facebook officials gave their presentation before the panel on Friday while Google, Twitter and Paytm have to do so on October 29.

Facebook's public policy head Ankhi Das appeared before the Committee and was asked some tough and searching questions by the panel, sources said.

Govt sets stock limit for onion traders to check its prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With onions now more expensive than some exotic vegetables and fruits, including apple, grapes, gooseberry and orange (imported) across India, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs on Friday imposed a stock limit of two tonnes for retailers and 25 tonnes for wholesalers till December 31 to improve the domestic availability of the commodity and provide relief to consumers. The Ministry has also supplied 35,000 metric tonnes of onion to State and Union Territories to maintain certain stability in prices.

Despite a ban on export, onion prices have seen a sharp rise over the last few days with staple vegetable now retailing for ₹100-110 per kg in Hyderabad, Mumbai, Nashik, Pune, Adilabad, Bengaluru, Pallakad, Puducherry, Suryapet, Thrissur, Panaji, Kota, Chennai, Cuddalore, Dharwad and Kozhikode. In



Thiruvananthapuram, Jammu, Srinagar, Ludhiana, onions are at ₹90 per kg. Besides, the prices of potato touched ₹50 a kg while tomato is selling at ₹70-80 a kg across metros.

Consumer Affairs Department Secretary Leena Nandan on Friday said that retailers can stock onion only up to 2 tonne, whereas wholesale traders are allowed to keep up to 25 tonne till December 31.

She said the Government had to invoke the Essential Commodities (Amendment) law — which was passed last month in Parliament — that allows it to regulate perishable commodities in the extraordinary price rise situation.

₹2.35L seized**Baleswar Supplies Officer arrested****PNS ■ CUTTACK**

The Vigilance police on Friday arrested Mir Raja Ali, Chief Civil Supplies Officer-cum-District Manager, Baleswar, on charge of collection of illegal gratification from different sources.

Acting on complaints, Vigilance officers had intercepted Ali in front of his office main gate while he was proceeding to his rented house by his official vehicle on Thursday.

They soon conducted a search in his office room and found a cash of Rs 2,34,900 kept in six paper packets in his table drawer, which he could not account for satisfactorily. He was forwarded to Court of Special Judge Vigilance on Friday and court remanded to judicial custody till November 2. The investigation was still in progress, informed an official release.

Capital gasps for clean air

'Severe' level in many areas, may get worse in 2 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

There has been no respite from hazardous air quality for Delhiites as the National Ambient Air Quality Index (NAAQI) plunged to 364 on Friday, the highest of the season. It's predicted to get worse in next two days.

Ten monitoring stations in Delhi entered the "severe" zone, according to the AQI monitoring mobile application SAMEER, developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

These include Alipur with AQI of 447, Shadipur with 441, Mundka with AQI of 419, Wazirpur with 432, Anand



Vihar with 405, Bawana with 413, Vivek Vihar with 422, Rohini 401, Jahangirpuri with AQI of 418 and Patparganj with 405.

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitor System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), a significant increase in stubble fire count was observed around Haryana, Punjab, and neighbouring regions which stood at 1,213 on Thursday.

"However, as the boundary layer wind direction is not fully favourable for pollutant transport towards the Delhi region, the SAFAR model estimate of stubble burning share in PM 2.5 is 17 per cent for today," it said.

An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered "good"; 51 and 100 "satisfactory"; 101 and 200 "moderate"; 201 and 300 "poor"; 301 and 400 "very poor"; and 401 and 500 "severe".

But deaths remain high

State Covid +ve cases continue to decline

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Covid-19 death toll in the State crossed the 1,200-mark on Friday with 18 more patients succumbing to the disease in 10 districts. The number of fatalities mounted to 1,214. While three each died in Khordha, Angul and Gajapati districts, two each died in Jajpur and Mayurbhanj. One each succumbed in Bhadrak, Dhenkanal, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur and Puri.

The casualties in Khordha were a 62-year-old man, a 60-year-old man (both of Bhubaneswar) and a 35-year-old man. The deceased in Angul were a 76-year-old man, a 38-year-old man and a 62-year-old man.

The deaths in Gajapati were of a 60-year-old man, a 45-year-old man and a 50-

- 18 more covid patients die; toll surges to 1,214
- 793 new covid cases; total reaches 2,77,887
- Day's highest 208 covid cases in Khordha again
- 2,377 patients recover; total recoveries 2,59,418

year-old man. The fatalities in Jajpur were a 29-year-old man and a 68-year-old man. The deaths in Mayurbhanj were of a 51-year-old man and a 70-year-old man.

The other deceased were a 43-year-old man of Bhadrak, a 66-year-old man of Dhenkanal, a 70-year-old man of Malkangiri, a 50 year-old man of Nabarangpur and a 64-year-old man of Puri.

Meanwhile, the positive cases rose to 2,77,887 on the day with 1,793 new cases being recorded from all 30 districts

and the State pool on the day. The cases continued to show a declining trend in recent days. Of the new cases, 1,031 were detected from quarantine and 762 were local contacts.

Khordha district recorded the day's highest 208 cases followed by Cuttack 160, Angul 107, Mayurbhanj 104, Sundargarh 99, Nuapada 84, Puri 82, Balangir and Jajpur 76 each, Bhadrak 68, Nabarangpur 65, Keonjhar 63, Bargarh and Kendrapada 61 each, Jharsuguda 53, Jagatsinghpur 52, Kalahandi 45, Baleswar

and Sambalpur 40 each, Koraput, Malkangiri and Nayagarh 34 each, Dhenkanal 22, Kandhamal 20, Ganjam 16, Rayagada 14, Gajapati 11, Deogarh and Subarnapur eight each and Boudh four.

Besides, 44 cases were reported from the State pool. With 40,733 Covid tests done during the period, the State's cumulative tests rose to 42,40,241 so far.

However, another 2,377 patients recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 2,59,418.

Depression skirts Odisha; People feel relieved

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

People of Odisha heaved a sigh of relief during this festive season as the depression formed over the Bay of Bengal crossed the State coast towards Bangladesh on Friday.

The depression over northwest Bay of Bengal off the Odisha coast moved north-north-east wards with a speed of 24 kmph over northwest Bay of Bengal off the West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts, about 50 km southeast of Sagar Islands

(West Bengal) and 200 km west-south-west of Khepupara (Bangladesh), the Bhubaneswar MeT office said.

The depression is very likely to move northnorth-eastwards and cross West Bengal & adjoining Bangladesh coasts between Sagar Islands (West Bengal) and Khepupara (Bangladesh) over Sundarbans, the MeT office further informed.

It also forecasted that there is no rainfall warning for Odisha in next five days.

However, thundershower is likely to occur at one or

two places over costal districts as well as Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, Koraput, Malkangiri, Kandhamal, Ganjam and Gajapati districts during the next five days. The weather is likely to be dry in rest of districts.

Meanwhile, the conditions continued to be favourable for further withdrawal of southwest monsoon from some parts of Odisha during next two days and from remaining parts of Odisha during subsequent two days.

In BBSR Green Corridor created to shift patient

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Friday created a special 'Green Corridor' to shift a critically-ill patient from a private hospital at Nayapalli to the city airport.

As per reports, a special route was designated for shifting the patient belonging to Puri district, who was airlifted to Hyderabad.

Abhay Kumar Jena had developed serious infections in lungs after recovering from Covid-19.

He was operated in Bhubaneswar and an artificial lung was implanted and he was



airlifted to Hyderabad. A senior police official informed that the step was taken to ensure that the patient, in a dedicated ambulance, reached the airport in less than seven minutes.

"We had made provision to shift the patient from the hospital to airport. This was the

fourth green corridor set up for shifting patients to hospitals outside the state from Bhubaneswar," said a senior police official.

Two special police vehicles escorted the ambulance in which the patient was shifted to the airport from the hospital.

OEC to create 14 jobs by 2045 7,000 acres set for Odisha Economic Corridor

State urges Centre to go ahead with the project

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has identified at least 7,000 acres of land in coastal districts for the ambitious Odisha Economic Corridor (OEC), said sources.

Industries Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma has informed Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary Guru Prasad Mohapatra in this regard Sharma said the proposed OEC would generate Rs 20 trillion of manufacturing output and create 14 crore job opportunities by 2045.

The National Highway-16 and major airports and seaports would play a vital role in strengthening the corridor.

The OEC covering 100 km on either side of the NH 16 would come under 19 districts, which constitutes 63% of the State Area and 75% of its population.

These districts along with corridor comprise of 82% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), which is estimated to be Rs 6 lakh crore now,

The proposed corridor would boost various Union Government initiatives such as Sagarmala, Bharatmala, East Coast Economic Corridor Golden Quadrilateral and Make In India.

OEC covers Gopalpur, Paradip, Dhamra and Subarnrekha Ports and Biju Patnaik International Airport at Bhubaneswar, which are the prime gateways.

The corridor would connect the mineral-rich hinterland having 86% of coal reserves, 82% of iron reserves, 70% of bauxite reserves and 40% of natural gas reserve.

A two-tier institutional framework has been proposed for coherent corridor management, said a senior official of Industries Department.

Both State and national-level institutional framework would be in place for management of the corridor, said the official.

Restricted Puja shears idol makers of daily bread Income of whole year hit as products have no takers

ANIL DHIR ■ BHUBANESWAR

This is the only trade I know; I have mastered it from generations. I have gone through hard times before too, but never did I dream that one day people will not be allowed to celebrate festivals.

This year I am not even thinking of income, just managing to live is enough," lamented Dholo Behera, a well-known artisan of the Old Town of Bhubaneswar.

The Covid-19 pandemic has dampened the spirit of Durga Puja this year. The confusing SOPs and guidelines issued by the authorities and the courts have made matters worse. The few orders that the idol makers got were for smaller idols. The Puja Committees



had slashed their budgets, donations were scarce. Prafulla Swain, organiser of the Puja Pandal at the Dak Bangla Chhak says Government's directives restricting the height

of all idols this year and the directive to avoid soliciting donations from devotees unless it is voluntary has hit them hard. His small workshop is strewn with idols of Ganesha,

Khudurukuni and Vishwakarma which he had made for the earlier festivals.

Customers just did not come and the idols still stand in his shed. Many Durga idols had already been sculpted. Only the paint jobs remained. The unfinished handiwork, straw figurines on bamboo skeletons, can be seen piled up in the corners. Even the small idols which were sold during Diwali have no demand this year.

A few of the idol makers also made the Ravana images which are set alight during the Dussehra, but the authorities have even put a stop to this. Any assistance from the Government is far from their reach. Idol makers, whose fine craftsmanship has been the

highlight of all religious festivities for centuries, suffer in silence for their daily bread. Many of them have started looking for alternative sources of income, some even by selling vegetables.

Earlier this year, the Central Pollution Control Board had banned the use of plastic, thermocol, and Plaster of Paris (POP) in making idols of gods and goddesses for their safe and eco-friendly immersion. In a gesture of relief, the Centre stayed the ban on POP Ganesh idols for a year. This is too little too late.

"I wish I had not trained my children in our traditional occupation; they could have picked something else. Corona has stolen away our future and our identity," says Behera.

By-poll ₹30L aid for staff kin for Covid death

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has declared that the Government would provide an ex-gratia of Rs 30 lakh to the kin of the polling staffs and CAPF jawans engaged in the Tirtol and Balasore Sadar by-polls if any of them dies of Covid-19.

Also, the same amount of ex-gratia would be provided to the family of a polling staff and a jawan if they die due to violence or explosion during the by-elections, the ECI has decided. Notably, the by-polls to the Tirtol and Balasore Sadar Assembly constituencies are scheduled to be held on November 3.

Two arrested Fake packaged water unit busted in city

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A factory was unearthed on Friday in Chandaka area of the city, which was allegedly manufacturing packaged drinking water bearing names of reputed brands. Police arrested two persons, Sarbeswar Das and Harihar Sahoo, in connection with the incident.

Police had reportedly received a complaint from Bisleri Company regarding violation of agreement, duplication of articles i.e. label and brand by one Laxmi Beverages at Gramadih under the Chandaka police station. Following the complaint, a



case was registered and raid was conducted by a police team on the factory. During search it was allegedly ascertained that the proprietor of Laxmi Beverages Laxmikant

Nayak was illegally manufacturing packaged drinking water in the name of Natural Aqua and Amust brand without any license and authority from the appropriate authorities.

For Covid vaccination Govt to prepare health workers' database

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has geared up for preparation of a database of healthcare workers who will be vaccinated against Covid-19.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health & Family Welfare Department) Pradipta Kumar Mohapatra has written to the Indian Medical Association, Odisha State Branch, AYUSH Association, Nursing Association, Paramedic Workers' Association and Private Hospital Owners' Association in this regard. "It is anticipated that Covid-19 vaccine may soon be available and



Govt. of India has communicated for preparedness for introduction of new vaccine and creation of a database of Healthcare Workers (HCW) in both Govt. & private health settings," Mohapatra stated in the letter.

He asked the associations to contact the Collectors/Municipal Commissioners/CDM & PHOs/ADPHO (FW) of their respective districts for enrolling all healthcare workers in the database by October 29.

'Min Swain has violated poll code'

BJP urges CEO to file case

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Friday urged the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to file a criminal case against Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain under the Epidemic Act. A team of BJP leaders submitted a memorandum to the CEO alleging

that Swain violated the Special Relief Commissioner's guidelines, Covid restrictions and election code of conduct many times during BJD campaign in the Baleswar Sadar Assembly constituency.

"Minister Swain reviewed the BJD candidate's failure in the last election with thousands of students though as per Epidemic and Disaster

Management norms, there should not be any congregation of more than 200 people. He also didn't obtain any permission from the District Election Officer for the purpose.

He violated all Relief Commissioner's guidelines, Covid restrictions and election code of conduct. The team demanded that both the Relief Commissioner.

Govt fails to apprise HC on cases against legislators

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Registrar (General) of Orissa High Court giving a specific timeframe has informed the court that at least three special courts, one each in all the three revenue divisions of the State and eleven JMFC-level courts are likely to come up for expeditious trial of cases pending against the State's

sitting and former MPs and MLAs. The Government counsel, however, earlier this week had sought some more time from the court to file the details of these cases.

The court on September 23 had asked State Advocate General to submit details of pending cases against political leaders in pursuant to an order passed by the Supreme Court

on September 16. Taking up suo motu a writ petition filed by the High Court Registry, a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq and Justice BR Sarangi is adjudicating matter.

However, on Monday when Government counsel failed to submit details of cases, court adjourned hearing of matter to November 26.

DMs asked to keep close watch on onion price

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has tasked the district Collectors to monitor onion price and ensure the vegetable's availability at reasonable cost to people.

In a letter to the Collectors, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department, Commissioner-Secretary VV Yadav asked them to keep a close watch on the price and availability of onion in the market.

He also directed the Collectors to utilise the services of the field functionaries to frequently inspect both wholesale and retail business premises on a regular basis and ensure availability of onion at reasonable prices to customers.

Accepting that the rising trend of onion price has become a concern, Yadav said the State is facing shortage of the bulb vegetable due to the loss of crop in the States, from



which it is procured. Although the onion price hike is a national phenomenon, unscrupulous traders may resort to high profiteering and sell the vegetable at an exorbitant price in Odisha, the letter stated.

Ganjam girl killing Villagers stage dharna at DGP office

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA ■ BRAHMAPUR

The alleged Pramodini Nayak (22) rape and murder incident of Ganjam district's Deokhali village took a new turn as her mother Rama and a large number of villagers led by BJP Digapahandi Mandal leader Srikanta Padhi staged a demonstration in front of the office of DGP office at Cuttack on Wednesday protesting delay in action against the culprits.

Earlier, the deceased's family members led by Padhi had met DIG (SR) of Police Satyabrata Bhoi and Brahmampur SP Pinaki Mishra five times demanding arrest of the accused.

Later, they also planned to stage a demonstration at ADG (Crime) office. However, they



withdrew the decision as the ADG assured them to arrest the culprits and give justice to the victim's family.

As their promises of early action turned fruitless, Pramodini's mother and villagers went to the DGP office and staged a dharna there. According to allegation, the 22-year-old Dalit student along with her mother had

met her friend for some work at 8 am on May 10 this year. At 10 am that day, she had gone for a bath in a canal called Kanteijati Naal nearby her paddy field.

However, she went missing thereafter. After hours' searches, her body with multiple injuries was found in a 3-ft deep water source nearby canal.

189 new +ve in BBSR, total 28,299

2 more covid patients die; toll now 148

267 recover; total recoveries 25,619

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The single-day Covid-19 tally in the capital city Bhubaneswar dipped below the 200-mark for the first time in October with 189 positive cases being registered on Friday.

With this, the tally reached 28,299, which included 2,511 active cases. Of the new cases, 142 were local contacts and 47 from quarantine, the Bhubaneswar

Municipal Corporation (BMC) said. The local contacts included 11 cases from IRC village, nine each from Bomikhal and Khandagiri, six each from Nayapalli, Baramunda and Old Town, five from Saheed Nagar, four from Sahilashree Vihar, Jharpada, Satyanagar and Acharya Vihar.

The quarantine cases included four from Khandagiri and three each from Chakeisani and IRC Village. Meanwhile, two more persons succumbed to the disease in the city on the day, pushing the total toll to 148. However, 267 more people recovered from the disease on the day, taking the total recoveries to 25,619.

ICSI, NLU ink MoU for academic ties

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), New Delhi and the National Law University (NLU), Odisha have signed an MoU for academic collaboration between them.

Gracing the occasion as chief guest, Electronics and IT and Sports and Youth Services Minister Tusharkanti Behera said the role of education is very important to build a new Odisha and a new India as well.

"Thus, all educational institutes should be equipped with IT. Teachers and students should use the latest technology in the academic domain," he opined.

He said that the ICSI should teach students how to become good entrepreneur to become not only self-sufficient but also provide employment to others. He said the



ICSI and the NLU should work together to create new knowledge and innovations in various filed for the overall benefit of the society. ICSI president Ashish Garg said the MoU would set a significant milestone for closer academic collaboration between the ICSI and the NLU Odisha.

NLU VC (I/C) Prof Yogesh Pratap Singh said the MoU would create a strong commitment to work together and the collaboration would help students, faculties and members of both Institutes. Among others,

Prof S Sachidhanandam, Sr Adjunct Professor, NLU Prof A Aruna Srilakshmi, Chairperson, Academic Coordination Committee, Prof Mayank Tiwari, Assistant Professor, NLU, Odisha, CS Prabhat Kumar Nayak, Chairman, Bhubaneswar Chapter, Dr SK Jena, Director, ICSI, Dr Tapas Kumar Roy, Regional Director, ICSI, Kolkata spoke at the webinar on "Role of Professional Education in Current Times" organised during the MoU signing ceremony.

4 dists to get extra ₹14 cr from NITI

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The NITI Aayog has sanctioned Rs 14 crore to Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nuapada and Dhenkanal for their excellent performance and higher ranking among the Aspirational Districts.

With several Aspirational Districts performing exceedingly well, the NITI Aayog has sanctioned additional funds to these four districts of Odisha to take up various special developmental projects on agriculture, education, health and nutrition as well as drinking water and sanitation.

The Empowered Committee of the Aspirational Districts has considered the proposals of these districts and plans of action for taking up developmental projects and sanctioned the amount, said

sources. Nabarangpur district has been sanctioned Rs 5 crore to take up agricultural projects like integrated development of rain fed areas through micro-irrigation and extension of e-NAM Laboratory and awareness activities for marketing agricultural products.

Similarly, Nabarangpur will receive funds for creation of e-SMART classrooms and for creation of Anemia Mukta Blocks. Nuapada district, which secured first rank in Delta Ranking in Basic Infrastructure will receive Rs 3 crore for taking up infrastructure development in 25 Government schools with special focus on girls high schools.

The district is harping on development of girls education and accordingly funds have been allocated, sources said. Malkangiri district, which also

received acclaim of NITI Aayog for its higher ranking will receive nearly Rs 3 crore for taking up agriculture projects like development of an agro-ecology and agro-biodiversity institute. Secondly, Malkangiri has been sanctioned funds for development of Model Schools.

The district is taking up massive developmental projects in Swabhiman Anchal, which are the most backward zones of the State. Similarly, Dhenkanal for securing top ranking in financial inclusion and skill development will receive Rs 3 crore for taking up plan of action in regard to health, nutrition, education and drinking water and sanitation.

Funds have been allocated for taking up smart class room project for high schools, supply of piped water to rural house-

holds and healthcare programme in the district. Central Prabhari Officers and State Prabhari Officers of these Aspirational Districts have recommended these projects and taking them into consideration the Empowered Committee has sanctioned funds for these backward districts, which are aspiring to do better in various sectors.

The districts have been advised that Self Help Groups (SHG)s are to be associated in the initiative to increase livelihood options and for realization of better value for the agricultural products.

While taking up Anemia Mukta Block Project, deworming initiatives should also be included in the project and authorities are needed to take up screening males for anemia, the Aayog instructed.

As those who did so died

Here, locals dread worshipping Durga idol



RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

In a remote village of Kendrapada district, people fear to worship deity Durga by erecting Her earthen idol in a particular Medha at a particular land.

Nobody dares to enter into the land, where the medha has been kept since more than one and a half decades inside shrubs. Locals fear that if somebody dares to worship the deity, he has to face the same fate like the Ranabad family of Purba Nikirai village.

According to Kedar Jena, a villager of Purba Nikirai village, if somebody dares to worship the deity Durga by erecting earthen idols on the same wooden Medha during the Navaratri festivity, then it is sure that all his family members will die untimely. So people skip doing it.

The Medha is stated to be the oldest one in the locality. The Durga Puja here in the locality was started by Ranabad family during 1650s. One Nika Jena, who came from Khurda district, settled in the village 350 years back. He later worked under Aul Royal family and got the title of “Ranabad” from the then King of Aul.

Nika Ranabad started the Durga puja in the locality. Nika, while bathing in the

river Birupa, fished out the Medha of Kanak Durga from the river and later started worshipping the deity.

After his demise, his grandson Radhakrushna Ranabad took the initiatives and worshipped the deity Durga every year during the Navaratri time. But, he died untimely.

As a result, Radhakrushna's son, Jadumani Ranabad, later started durga puja by erecting idol on the same spot. As he failed to give birth to a child; so, he adopted his nephew Dushasan Biswal of nearby Kulasahi to run the tradition of worshipping Durga. Later, Jadumani died untimely in the year 1951.

Dushasan, the adopted son of Jadumani, later worshiped an earthen idol of Durga to carry on the tradition, but he too faced the same fate. He died day after Dussehra while going to his native village at Kulasahi, narrated septuagenarian Adetiya Jena.

Later, Saraswati Ranabad, the widow of Jadumani who was the last member alive in the family, organised the Durga Puja with the help of some locals by erecting an idol in 1990.

But she also died in 2005. After her demise, the Medha is laying amidst the shrubs on the puja Pandal.

In Mayurbhanj

Forest office gheraoed over man's death

Locals allege victim beaten to his last breath

PNS ■ BARIPADA



Locals of Nachhipur village under the Kaptipada police station in Mayurbhanj district staged protest in front of the forest office on Friday following the death of a villager under mysterious circumstances.

The family members of deceased alleged that he was beaten to death by forest employees on suspicion of being a poacher. Keeping the body in front of the forest

office, the locals gheraoed the office seeking justice. According to reports, Gajendra Nayak (45) had visited Similipal National Park last week and since then he was missing. Later, Forest Department informed his family that person was undergo-

ing treatment at a hospital. The officials again informed that the person died while under treatment in Cuttack. After his body reached village in morning, the irate family members and villagers protested alleging that the forest officials tortured and killed Gajendra.

In Mayurbhanj

Man stones kid son to death

PNS ■ BARIPADA

In a deeply-shocking incident, a man allegedly stoned his five-year-old son to death at Beladunguri village under the Badasahi police limits in Mayurbhanj district late on Thursday night.

According to reports, the accused Chepa Dehury had gone to his in-laws' house, where his wife and son were staying.

He became furious over the absence of his wife in the house and picked up his son, who was sleeping. He then crushed the child to death with a stone.

Later, villagers nabbed him and informed the police. The accused was arrested while further investigation by police was underway.

Kendrapada: Staff skip haunted office

After demise of colleagues in close succession

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The Civil Supplies office at Garadapur block under Kendrapada were not entering into the office room these days as they feared the office had been haunted. They have shifted the office to the nearby Rajib Gandhi Bhavan. One Kumar Chandra Nayak (35), who was working as data entry operator

at the Civil Supply office of Garadapur block died on September 20. After some days of the death of Kumar Chandra Nayak, another employee Yakub Khan, too died. As a result, panic struck among the employees looking at the death of the duo in a short span.

They now believe that the spirits of the duo staffers have haunted the office room.

Olympiad exams to be held online this year

19K students of R'kela appeared in tests last year

PNS ■ ROURKELA

The Science Olympiad Foundation (SOF) has announced that the Olympiad exams would be conducted online during the current academic year.

Considering the safety and health concern of students as paramount, all students would be allowed to appear the exams from their homes. Notably, millions of students appear the SOF Olympiad exams every year. Last year, around 19,000 students belonging to Class I to XII from Rourkela had

appeared the test. SOF Founder Director Mahabir Singh shared that extensive use of artificial intelligence, remote proctoring, video recording and various other tools would be used to ensure integrity of examinations.

He also informed that during 2019-20, over 56,000 schools from 32 countries registered for the six Olympiad exams and millions of students appeared in them.

The SOF would conduct four Olympiad exams this year, International General Knowledge, International English, National Science Olympiad and International Mathematics.

Registrations are open and students may register up to 15 days before date of each.

In Kendrapada

School committee head outrages teacher's modesty

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

A case has come to the fore under the Pattamundai police limits in which an assistant teacher of a Government primary school was molested by the president of school managing committee. The victim has filed a complaint with police.

The teacher of the Nayadia Primary School had been asked by the headmistress to come to the school on Thursday for an urgent official work. When she reached the school, she found the school was locked and the headmistress had not come. She telephoned to the headmistress, who asked her to collect the key from school managing com-

mittee president Abhaya Kumar Mallick, who after some time reached and unlocked the school. While the teacher was searching for the attendance register, Mallick allegedly outraged her modesty.

The victim lodged an FIR at the Choudakulat police outpost against Mallick. A case has been registered against the accused. Police have started an inquiry but have failed to arrest Mallick as he has fled from his village.

Meanwhile, local Block Education Officer Bhramarbar Biswal has issued a show-cause notice to the headmistress as to why she had given the school keys to Mallick and directed her to submit a reply within three days.

INBRIEF

TRUCKS COLLISION; 1 DIES, ANOTHER INJURED



Angul: A truck driver died on the spot and another one sustained critical injuries in a head-on crash involving two trucks on NH-55 at Bamur under the Kishorenagar police limits of Angul district on Friday morning. The deceased was identified as Prakash Nayak (32), a resident of Kuajhari under the Handapa police limits in the district. The identity of the injured driver, who was rushed to a nearby hospital, was yet to be ascertained.

BBSR-CHENNAI GOAIR FLIGHT TO RESUME FROM NOV 17



Bhubaneswar: Leading domestic carrier GoAir is all set to resume its direct flight services between Bhubaneswar and Chennai from November 17, for which booking has begun from Thursday. The flight G8-921 will take off at 11.05 am from Chennai and reach Bhubaneswar at 12.50 pm. The return flight G8-922 from Bhubaneswar is scheduled at 1.20 pm to land at Chennai at 3.05 pm. The GoAir decided to resume its flight in view of an increasing number of passengers following the Covid-19 unlocks.

FISH-LADEN VAN OVERTURNS IN PARADIP



Paradip: A fish-laden pickup van overturned near Paradip Garh, for which marine products worth lakhs of rupees were scattered on the road. The driver sustained minor injuries. The pickup van carrying the consignment of fish worth around Rs 4 lakh was en route to Digha from Paradip. Locals gathered and collected the fish instead of rescuing the driver. After the police arrived at the spot, the locals were restricted from taking away the fish.

LINEN CLUB LAUNCHES LINEN UTSAV

Bhubaneswar: Linen Club, the leading linen fabric and apparels brand in India from the Aditya Birla Group has launched its Linen Utsav campaign in Odisha. A pioneer in the industry, Linen Club is synonymous with the finest quality linen. Through Linen Utsav, Linen Club is offering its consumers an opportunity to try its new product innovations on both Linen Club fabrics and apparel. Linen Club has also introduced its linen mask range which is designed with special 3-layer shields. Consumers can also pick from Linen Club's ready-to-wear range. The showrooms are located at Janpath, Vani Vihar Square, Bhubaneswar, near Gurudwara, Janpath, Bhubaneswar and Cantonment Road, Cuttack.



OYO ROPES IN SOOD AS FACE OF ITS 'SBYE' DRIVE

Bhubaneswar: The OYO Hotels and Homes had launched sanitised stays in partnership with the Unilever in May 2020. Taking it a step further, the OYO on Thursday launched an integrated campaign “Sanitised Before Your Eyes” (SBYE) with Bollywood actor and OYO asset owner Sonu Sood as face of it to showcase the hospitality chain's sanitisation efforts in real-time and build trust within travellers. This consumer focussed campaign has gone live across TV and digital platforms with its first ad, ‘Pehle Spray, Fir Stay’, informed OYO head Mayur Hota.

In Jagatsinghpur

Elderly couple dies gulping poison

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

A septuagenarian couple from Hasina village under Kujang block died reportedly after consuming poison owing to family feud two days ago. While the husband died on the spot, the wife died in the SCB Medical College and Hospital at Cuttack.

The deceased were identified as Kalandi Mohanty and his wife Swata Mohanty.

Allegations are rife that both had been abandoned by their children. They were being tortured by their daughter-in-law regularly.

Several times village gentlemen had persuaded the family members to take care of the old couple but to no avail. Left uncared, the couple consumed poison on Monday. Meanwhile, the Kujang police registered two unnatural death cases and began investigation.

Soldier with large heart, who lived life king size



MADHU SUDAN PADHI

My dear friend Colonel Shantanu Mohapatra lost his battle against Covid-19 in the Command Hospital, Pune after fighting for 12 days on

September 16. His family and friends from different walks of life are devastated at his untimely death at a relatively young age of fifty eight years.

Col Shantanu was born to Haripada Mohapatra and Pari Rani Mohapatra in Patapur Bazar, Rupsa under Baleswar district in 1962.

After his early schooling at Rupsa, he got selected to join Sainik School, Bhubaneswar (SSB) in Class 6th where we became classmates and friends for life from June 1973 onwards.

He joined the National Defence Academy (NDA) in his very first attempt in July 1979 with the 62nd course. After graduating from NDA, he joined the Indian Military

Academy (IMA) for specialised training to become an officer in the Indian Army. He was commissioned into the Armoured Corps (88 Armoured Regiment) in June 1983.

A war veteran who also participated in operations against militants in Jammu and Kashmir and North East, Colonel Shantanu served in Ladakh and in deserts of Rajasthan, where he drove tanks both in extreme cold climate and on hot desert sands. He also served the Governor of Bihar as ADC for sometime.

Apart from field postings, he worked as an Instructor at Armoured Corps Centre, Ahmednagar and as Head of Security at Defence Institute of

Armament Training, Pune for a few years. His achievements during his tenures in North East have been recognised by the Army headquarters.

Nicknamed “Moppy”, he was probably one of the most loved officers of his course for his social reach, amicable and caring nature, apart from being a helpful friend. “MOPPY” was friendly, jovial and full of life with an endearing smile.

He loved to travel and adventure having driven his SUV from Pune to his native place Rupsa a few times.

He was also fond of sports and music. He lived life king size and on his terms. Anyone who met him even once would never forget his spontaneous love and camaraderie. He was

a loving father to his daughters Tanu and Natasa and son Yash, a caring husband to his wife Ranjushree, a dutiful son to his parents and a responsible elder brother to his siblings.

For his friends of SSB, NDA, and IMA and beyond, he was a shining star whose passing away has cast a long shadow on our lives.

“We have risen from the dust and unto dust we shall return,” he had quoted in February 2020 when we had a random discussion during my last visit to Pune. Truly, “MOPPY” has returned to the dust to be in the lap of the Lord.

(The writer is a senior officer in Government of Odisha)



Society (OSACS), Vedanta con-

ducted the campaign at

J'suguda Vedanta holds HIV drive

OSACS, Vedanta conducts campaign at various places

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

The Vedanta organized an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in Jharsuguda's rural margins, reaching out to more than 2,000 people in the process. In collaboration with the Odisha State AIDS Control

Katikela, Bhurkamunda, Bhagipali, Brundamal, Kurebaga, Kelendamal, Orampada, Maa Samaleshwari Nagar, Banjari, Chithuapada, Badmal and Sunarimunda villages.

Under the project Jagruti, a Mobile Health Unit (MHU) team sensitized the masses on the various facets of HIV/AIDS, including prevention of the diseases and the need to address the associated stigma.

Navy ramps up operational readiness

Releases a video of an anti-ship missile destroying a sinking ship with precision

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of confrontation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Armed forces have enhanced their readiness. The Navy in a demonstration of its combat preparedness in strategic sea lanes around India carried out exercises and released a video of an anti-ship missile destroying a sinking ship. The Navy will continue high tempo of operations in the coming months too given the security situation at present.

Giving details of the exercise, the Navy said here on Friday the target was hit with “deadly accuracy” somewhere in the Arabian Sea. The missile was fired from the frontline corvette INS Prabal. This firing was part of a mega naval drill involving aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya and a number of warships, attack helicopters, aircraft and other assets of the Navy.

The Indian Navy



Spokesperson tweeted that the missile homed in on its target, an old ship, hitting with deadly accuracy at its maximum range. “#AshM launched by #IndianNavy Missile Corvette #INSPrabal, homes on with deadly accuracy at max range, sinking target ship,” he said.

Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh on Thursday reviewed the operational preparedness of his force at various shore-based locations as well as at sea.

He also addressed a select group of combatants of the Navy's Carrier Battle Group over a broadcast from the INS Vikramaditya, India's only aircraft carrier, and reviewed the force's overall combat readi-

ness, officials said.

In his remarks, Admiral Singh complimented his force for continuously maintaining “peak combat-readiness” and “high tempo” of operations over the past few months, they said.

The Indian Navy has significantly increased its deployment in the Indian Ocean Region, in an attempt to send across a message to China in the wake of escalation in tension between the two countries.

Giving an overview of the prevailing security situation, the Navy chief said the force will continue to maintain a high-tempo of operations in coming months.

“He also complimented the Carrier Battle Group and its

combatants for accurate and effective weapon firings, which left no doubt about the Navy's readiness to meet any emergent contingencies,” the Navy said in a statement.

A carrier battle group is a mega naval fleet comprising an aircraft carrier, accompanied by a large number of destroyers, frigates and other ships.

“Indian Navy continues to maintain a high tempo of operations and combat-readiness despite the COVID-19 pandemic by adhering to stringent protocols onboard warships, submarines and aircraft squadrons and bases, and is fully prepared to tackle challenges in the maritime domain,” the Navy said.

Captured PLA soldier was carrying sleeping bag, storage device

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Chinese soldier, who was apprehended in Ladakh on Monday and released a day later by India, was found carrying a sleeping bag, an empty data storage device and mobile phone besides his military identity card. He was identified as Wang Ya, an armourer in the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Giving this information here on Friday, sources said the soldier was caught in Demchok area of Eastern Ladakh. He was provided immediate medical assistance including oxygen, food and warm clothes given the harsh climatic conditions and high altitude. Both the armies have deployed more than one lakh soldiers besides heavy weapons all along the 1,800 km long LAC in Ladakh including Demchok.

The army on Monday had said the Chinese soldier had “strayed” into India from across the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Various security agencies interrogated him thoroughly for nearly one and



half days and later handed him back to the Chinese at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point.

This goodwill gesture came ahead of the proposed eighth round of Corps Commander level talks between the two armies to find ways to quickly disengage from the stand-off sites now on for the last five months. Incidentally, the last seven rounds since the face-offs began in early May were held at the same border meeting point where the soldier was handed over to the PLA.

The last round was held on October 12 where both the commanders agreed to continue the process of dialogue to ease the situation at the volatile border. The sixth

round on September 21 saw both the sides issuing a statement stating they will refrain from sending more troops to the border.

On Monday, the army also said the Chinese army had requested it on the whereabouts of the missing soldier. It also said the soldier will be returned as per established protocols after going through all formalities.

Following the handing over of the PLA soldier to China, Chinese newspaper Global Times reported that the Indian army's decision was viewed as a positive sign ahead of the eighth round of military talks.

Despite the diplomatic and military level talks over past few months, there was no breakthrough on the disengagement of troops from the friction points so far.

India has all along maintained that the onus is on China to carry forward the

process of disengagement and de-escalation at the friction points in the mountainous region.

Following the sixth round of military talks, the two sides had announced a slew of decisions including not to send more troops to the frontline, refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground and avoid taking any actions that may further complicate matters.

This round was held with a specific agenda of exploring ways to implement a five-point agreement reached between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at a meeting in Moscow on September 10 on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation conclave.

The pact included measures like quick disengagement of troops, avoiding action that could escalate tensions, adherence to all agreements and protocols on border management and steps to restore peace along the LAC.

Covaxin cleared for third phase of clinical trial



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covaxin, the coronavirus vaccine being developed by Hyderabad-based drug pharma Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has been cleared for the third phase of clinical trials.

The vaccine manufacture had applied to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on October 2, seeking its permission to conduct Phase 3 trials for its Covid-19 vaccine candidate.

“After successful completion of the interim analysis from the Phase 1 & 2 clinical trials of Covaxin, Bharat Biotech received DCGI approval for Phase 3 clinical trials in 26,000 participants in

over 25 centres across India,” said Bharat Biotech in a statement here.

Covaxin is being developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with ICMR's National Institute of Virology (NIV).

The pharma firm had sought the DCGI's permission to conduct Phase 3 randomised double-blind placebo-controlled multi centre trial of its COVID-19 vaccine, the statement added.

In July, the DCGI had given permission to Bharat Biotech to conduct Phase 1 and 2 clinical trials of its COVID-19 vaccine.

The primary end-point of the late-stage trial, used to determine the efficacy of a vaccine, will be to see if the

Aspirin use may cut death risk in severe Covid patients

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hospitalised Covid-19 patients who were taking a daily low-dose aspirin to protect against cardiovascular disease had a significantly lower risk of complications and death, compared to those who were not taking aspirin, researchers have said.

Aspirin takers were less likely to be placed in the intensive care unit (ICU) or hooked up to a mechanical ventilator, and they were more likely to survive the infection compared to those who were not taking aspirin, the researchers said.

In their study published in the journal Anesthesia and Analgesia, they said that the observation provides “cautious optimism,” for an inexpensive, accessible medication with a



well-known safety profile that could help prevent severe complications.

“This is a critical finding that needs to be confirmed through a randomised clinical trial,” said study leader Jonathan Chow from the University of Maryland in the US.

“If our finding is confirmed, it would make aspirin the first widely available, over-the-counter medication to reduce mortality in Covid-19 patients,” Chow added.

To conduct the study, the research team culled through the medical records of 412 Covid-19 patients, age of 55

on average, who were hospitalised over the past few months due to complications of their infection.

About a quarter of the patients were taking a daily low-dose aspirin (usually 81 milligrams) before they were admitted or right after admission to manage their cardiovascular disease.

The researchers found aspirin use was associated with a 44 per cent reduction in the risk of being put on a mechanical ventilator, a 43 per cent decrease in the risk of ICU admission and - most importantly - a 47 per cent decrease in the risk of dying in the hospital compared to those who were not taking aspirin.

The patients in the aspirin group did not experience a significant increase in adverse events such as major bleeding

while hospitalized.

Doctors often recommend a daily low-dose aspirin for patients who have previously had a heart attack or stroke caused by a blood clot to prevent future blood clots.

Daily use, however, can increase the risk of major bleeding or peptic ulcer disease.

“We believe that the blood thinning effects of aspirin provides benefits for Covid-19 patients by preventing micro-clot formation,” said study co-author Michael A Mazzeffi.

“Those at increased bleeding risk due to chronic kidney disease, for example, or because they regularly use certain medications, like steroids or blood thinners, may not be able to safely take aspirin,” he added.

First-of-its-kind flash flood warning system for South Asian countries launched



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A first-of-its-kind system for South Asian countries—India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan—that will provide alerts for flash floods 6-24 hours in advance was launched at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday. India also shares cyclone warning alerts with neighbouring countries.

The World Meteorological Department (WMO) has entrusted India with the responsibility of the Regional Centre of South Asia Flash Flood Guidance System for coordination, development and its implementation.

IMD director general Mrutunjay Mohapatra said at the online launch that the system will enable the member countries to issue impact-based forecasting of floods which are very sudden and of short duration at watershed and also city level.

Representatives of the member countries attended the event.

Flash floods are highly localised events of short duration with a very high peak and usually have less than six hours between the occurrence of the rainfall and peak flood.

There is a general lack of flash flood warning capabilities and capacities among countries across the world. Recognising that flash floods have a particularly disastrous impact on lives and properties of the affected populations, the 15th WMO Congress had approved the implementation of a Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) project with global coverage.

The system has been developed by the WMO Commission for Hydrology, jointly with the WMO Commission for Basic Systems and in collaboration with the US National Weather Service, the US Hydrologic Research Centre (HRC).

'India making all-out effort for safe return of Indians held hostage in Somalia'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is making all efforts for relief and safe return of 33 Indians including 25 labourers from Uttar Pradesh from Mogadishu, Somalia, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here on Friday. They were reportedly held hostage by a company there for the last eight months.

Giving this assurance in a tweet message, Jaishankar said “MEA and our High Commission in Nairobi are working on relief & return of 33 Indians stuck in Mogadishu, Somalia. High Commission of India in Nairobi, Kenya has taken up their predicament with Somali authorities. We are in touch with the Somali Embassy in India.” He also said we “hope for an early resolution.”

Sources said the Indians had joined the company 10 months ago.

In the first two months, the company treated them well, but from the last eight months, the workers were allegedly not paid their salaries.

CBI books persons under POCSO for posting obscene materials online

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against a private person of Delhi and unknown others under relevant provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Information Technology Act, 2000. The accused had allegedly created three accounts and around 20 channels / groups on Telegram App for sale of obscene/objectionable material (videos/photos) including CSAM (Child sexual abusive material).

It was further alleged that out of these, two accounts were for advertising posts / messages

for sale of obscene videos / photos including the CSAM, the CBI said in a statement.

It was also alleged that in response to the advertisement and after bargaining with the customers / seekers, the accused received the payments via Paytm / Google Pay among others.

On receipt of payments, the accused allegedly shared the link(s) of various group(s) / channel(s) of Telegram, in which objectionable material including CSAM, was being shared with members, the agency further said.

The accused allegedly sold the obscene videos / photos including CSAM for an amount of ₹250 by adding the

customer(s) / seekers into these groups / channels.

Searches were conducted recently at the premises of the accused at Delhi. The mobile phone recovered during the searches is being analysed and further investigation is continuing, it added.

A Special Unit “Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention/ Investigation (OCSAE)” has been created in CBI, New Delhi for matters pertaining to online child sexual abuse and exploitation. Apart from receiving various references/information, the unit is undertaking investigation of various offences relating to online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

New Parliament building to be ready by Oct, 2022, construction to begin in Dec

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The construction of the new Parliament building will commence in December 2020 and is likely to be completed by October 2022. The existing Parliament House building will be suitably retro-fitted to provide more functional spaces for parliamentary events, to ensure its usage along with the new building. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla chaired a review meeting regarding the construction of the new Parliament House on Friday along with Union Minister Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri.

The new Building will have

separate offices for MPs. Among other facilities for the Members, each seat for them in the Chambers will be comfortable (with blocks of two seats) and equipped with digital interfaces, which will be a step forward towards a paperless office.

Besides Chambers of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, the new Building will have a grand ‘Constitution Hall’, which will house, among other things, the original copy of the Constitution, digital displays for showcasing India's democratic heritage, etc. It was informed that the visitors will be given access to this

Hall to help them to appreciate and understand India's journey as a parliamentary democracy. The new Building will also have a MP's Lounge, a Library, six Committee rooms, dining areas and parking space.

During the meeting, Birla was briefed about the progress made in the shifting of facilities and other infrastructure from the area proposed for the construction of the new building. The barricading plan and the various mitigating measures to control the air and noise pollution during the construction process were elaborated.

Ivermectin lacks efficacy in Covid-19 treatment: ICMR study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Widely used for treatment of intestinal parasites and scabies, anti-parasitic drug, Ivermectin, may be off from the list of Union Health Ministry's Clinical Management Protocol for Covid-19 with a high-level panel of the ICMR citing lack of sufficient evidence on its efficacy based on randomised trials held in India and abroad.

Some states including Uttar Pradesh are already using the drug-off label not only as a treatment option but also as a prophylaxis against the virulent virus that has caused havoc across the world.

Already widely used against intestinal parasites and scabies, it is said to be relatively a safe and cheap drug.

The experts of the ICMR's National Task Force for COVID-19 and the Joint Monitoring Group held its meeting recently to deliberate on whether the drug should be included in the national treatment guidelines.

“Following deliberations, experts decided not to include Ivermectin in the national clinical management protocol for Covid-19 because of lack of sufficient evidence on its efficacy based on randomised trials held in India and abroad,” said a senior officer from the Ministry.

The Health Ministry has allowed the use of remdesivir for restricted emergency use purposes in moderate cases under “investigational thera-

pies” in the Clinical Management Protocol for Covid-19.

Interestingly, a white paper on Ivermectin drug as potential therapy for Covid-19 prepared by head of King George's Medical University's (KGMU) respiratory medicine department Prof Surya Kant and other senior doctors from different states of India in July 2020 had found recognition by the World Health Organization (WHO). The paper published in the Indian Journal of Tuberculosis Elsevier is now a part of the global literature on Covid-19, getting space on WHO's website.

The abstract of the article states that “A group of senior doctors with vast clinical experience met on July 19, 2020, under the aegis of the Academy of Advanced Medical Education. The panel looked at Ivermectin, one of the old molecules and evaluated its use in Covid-19 management. “After critical panel discussion, all the attending doctors came to a conclusion that Ivermectin can be a potential molecule for prophylaxis and treatment of people infected with novel coronavirus owing to its “anti-viral properties coupled with effective cost, availability and good tolerability and safety.”

Along with KGMU, Dr VK Arora (Delhi), Dr D Behera (Chandigarh), Dr Agam Vora (Mumbai), Dr T Mohan Kumar (Coimbatore), Dr Narayana Pradeep (Kerala) and a team of other doctors published the white paper.

HC ends its blanket order extending bails

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has decided that its blanket order extending all interim stays and bails granted prior to and during the COVID-19 lockdown would not remain in effect after October 31.

All undertrials whose bail period was extended have to surrender in a phased manner between November 2 and November 13, it said.

The court also said that the order would also be applicable to 356 prisoners who were granted bail by the high court and they would have to surrender before the jail authorities on November 13.

The high court on August 24 had extended till October 31 all the interim orders which were to expire on or after August 31 in cases that are before it as also the district

courts in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A full bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and justices Siddharth Mridul and Talwant Singh said that bail granted by the trial court to 2,318 under-trial prisoners involved in heinous crimes and which was being extended from time to time on the basis of the high court's blanket extension order, would come to an end on October 31 and all of them have to surrender in a phased manner between November 2 and November 13.

The surrender process would start on November 2 with the prisoners of Central District, Tis Hazari Courts and would culminate on November 13 with the surrender of prisoners from Rouse Avenue Courts Complex, New Delhi, the high court said in its order of October 20.

Maha announces ₹10 cr aid for flood-hit farmers

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Government on Friday announced a ₹10,000 crore relief package for the farmers who suffered huge crop losses during the heavy rain and the consequent floods witnessed in various parts of the State between June and October this year.

Talking to media persons after reviewing the situation arising out of heavy unseasonal rains and consequent floods in various parts of the state, chief minister Uddhav Thackeray unveiled a relief package for the affected farmers in Western Maharashtra, Marathwada and Konkan regions in the state. He said that the relief package would be disbursed to the farmers before the Diwali festival.

Of the total package, the Maharashtra government set aside ₹5,500 crore losses suffered by farmers, ₹2,365 crore

for carrying out repairs damages caused to roads and bridges, ₹1,000 crore for repairing damaged rural roads and restoring water supply system. ₹300 crore for urban development works, ₹239 crore for electricity works and ₹102 crore water resource works.

Crops on more than 10 lakh hectares were destroyed in the torrential downpour in over 10 districts in the state.

The chief minister said that the farmers would be compensated for crop losses at the rate of ₹ 10,000 per hectare of irrigated and non-irrigated land and ₹25,000 per hectare of horticultural land.

Uddhav said that the state government would have come out with a bigger relief package for farmers, had it not been for the Covid 19-triggered financial crisis that his administration was dealing with.

The Chief Minister slammed the Narendra Modi government at the Centre for

its delay in the release of a staggering ₹38,000 crore, which is due to the state towards compensation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and devolution of taxes for the current fiscal (2020-21).

Earlier in the day, the chief minister presided over a meeting called to review the rain and flood situation in the state. Deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat, Water Resources Minister Jayant Patil, Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Vijay Wadettiwar and Transport Minister Anil Parab were among the ministers present at the review meeting held at the chief minister's official residence "Varsha" here.

Uddhav had toured several parts of the rain and flood-affected affected areas in the state earlier this week. He had assured the farmers that the state government would come out with a relief package.

ED finds Kerala CM ex-secy's links with gold smuggling

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Enforcement Directorate has found that M Sivasankar, the former principal secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has links with the gold smuggling cartel consisting of Swapna Suresh, Sarith and Sandeep Nair.

The ED told Justice Ashok Menon of the Kerala High Court hearing the anticipatory bail moved by Sivasankar that the agency was in possession of documentary evidences of the role played by the bureaucrat in facilitating the clearance of gold smuggled through Thiruvananthapuram Airport. The Court after hearing both the sides said that it would announce the verdict on October 28. Justice Menon also asked the ED not to arrest Sivasankar till then though the agency was free to summon him for questioning.

Sivasankar has misused his position as the undisputed power center in the Chief Minister's Office to manipulate and influence the gold smug-

gling activities, the ED told the court. The ED submitted all relevant details establishing Sivasankar's role in gold smuggling and money laundering in a sealed envelop to the court. The judge said that he needs time to go through the entire report submitted by the ED.

The ED also told the court that Sivasankar was trying to mislead the sleuths and officials who interrogated him in connection with the gold smuggling scam.

Meanwhile the Congress and the BJP upped the ante demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Vijayan. "Vijayan is continuing in his chair only because of the help rendered by Swapna Suresh and Sivasankar. The duo and Vijayan are functioning as a mutual help cooperative society. Sivasankar and Swapn are going out of the way to help Vijayan from the case," charged Chennithala.

K Surendran, president, Kerala BJP, said that his party would launch a State-wide agitation seeking the immediate resignation of Vijayan.

Mufti: Will not raise national flag till restoration of J&K's special status

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Striking a "discordant" note in Sher maiden press conference after her 14 month long detention ended, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief and former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Friday crossed 'laksman rekha' while claiming she would not raise the national flag until Jammu & Kashmir's flag, constitution and the special status were restored.

Attacking the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) led Union government at the centre Mehbooba openly challenged them too by claiming "country will run on the Constitution and not on the BJP's manifesto".

Sitting in front of the flag of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in the lawns of her Gupkar residence, Mehbooba said "those who feel we have abandoned Kashmir are mistaken". Taking another dig at the centre she made another provocative remark 'dacoits snatched our flag'.

When Mehbooba Mufti was asked whether she was going to hold the Tricolour, she claimed, "My flag is this (pointing to the J&K flag on the table). When this flag comes back, we'll raise that flag (Tricolour) too. Until we get our own flag back, we won't raise any other flag... This flag forged our relationship with that flag. Our relationship with the flag of this country is not independent of this flag (Jammu and Kashmir's flag). When this flag comes in our hand, we will raise that flag too".

Commenting on the pre-vailing political scenario in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the role of the BJP led centre government Mehbooba Mufti said, "The people of J&K are expendable to them (Centre), what they want is territory".

"They say you can buy land in J&K, we've abrogated Article 370. Then they said they will give free vaccines. Today, PM Modi had to speak of Article 370 for votes. This gov-

ernment has failed to solve the issues of this nation". She said, the Constitution she believed in has been desecrated. "We need to unite and then only we can fight, no doubt we might face difficulties".

Referring to the Abrogation of Article 370 Mehbooba said, "On August 5, 2019 a dacoity took place and the Government of India snatched our special status illegally, undemocratically and unconstitutionally". She went on to claim, "a robber may be mighty but he has to return the stolen goods". "They demolished the constitution of India. Parliament had no power to take away our special status. Dictatorship will not continue for long", angry Mehbooba pointed out.

Responding to some tough questions posed by the local media persons, Mehbooba Mufti said, "I will not hesitate to give my blood for the restoration of special status. "Now it is time for leaders to sacrifice for the cause.

Khadse joins NCP, threatens to expose BJP leaders linked with land scam

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Minutes after he formally joined the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), former Bharatiya Janata Party leader Eknath Khadse on Friday fired his first salvo at his erstwhile party by threatening to expose the land scams involving the State BJP leaders in the coming weeks.

Two days after after he resigned from the primary membership of the BJP, 68-year-old Khadse, his daughter Rohini Khadse-Khevalkar and 72 party activists from his home district of Jalgaon district joined the NCP in the presence of the party's national president Sharad Pawar, State party unit president Jayant Patil and several party leaders.

Khadse indicated that many more BJP leaders from the State, who were not happy with the J P Nadda-led party would join the NCP in the com-

ing months. "Many people from the BJP wanted to join the NCP. But, due to technical difficulties, they are not joining the NCP. After the Corona crisis blows over, I intend to hold a mega rally in Jalgaon where you will know what is the strength of Nathabhau (as Khadse is known in the state political circles)," Khadse said.

Without taking the name of former chief minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis whom he has accused of harassing him for four long years, Khadse targeted Fadnavis once again for "foisting" a molestation charge against him and ordering several inquiries against him.

"A woman was used by them to malign me. They steeped to low-level politics. A case of molestation was registered against me. Several inquiries were ordered against me. I was sidelined within the Assembly polls. My daughter

Rohini was forced to contest the State Assembly in October last year. I had not asked the party that my daughter be given a ticket," Khadse said.

Recalling a conversation with State NCP president Jayant Patil, Khadse said: "In a conversation with Jayant Patil some time, I had expressed my desire to join the NCP. Patil jocularly told me: if you join the NCP, then the BJP will unleash ED against me. Then I told him: if the BJP unleashes ED against me, then I will release CDs against the BJP leaders".

Khadse went to hand out to the BJP leaders that he would expose them about their alleged involvement in land scams. "The BJP-led government had harassed me by framing me in a land scam. Let some days pass, I will expose all such BJP who grabbed plots of land illegally... I will also demand action against those who slapped cases against me by violating the

rules".

Welcoming Khadse to his party, Pawar said that with the entry of the ex-BJP leader, the NCP would grow further in north Maharashtra. "The people in Khandesh (north Maharashtra) were all along close to the Gandhi-Nehru ideology. But, in between, there was some change in the political atmosphere in the region. Now, with the entry of Nathabhau, the second chapter has begun in Khandesh. He has promised to build the NCP in Khandesh. I believe in him fully".

Dismissing speculation in a section of media that there was unhappiness over the entry of Khadse and that he might be made a minister, Pawar said: "For the past few days, I am reading all kinds of speculative reports in the media. There is no truth in the speculation that Ajit Pawar is unhappy over Khadse's entry to the NCP.

If he is absent today, it is because of Covid-19 precautions he is taking. On his part, Khadse did not put forward any condition before joining the NCP".

Earlier, in his welcome speech, State NCP President Jayant Patil said that it was rather "unfortunate" that Khadse had suffered a lot humiliation in the BJP because of trumped up charges. This was despite his contribution to the growth of the BJP in the state.

"Now that he has joined the NCP, the people in the BJP will realise that 'Tiger (Khadese) Zinda Hai' and 'picture abhi baaki hai'. His entry will strengthen the NCP," Patil said.

Beginning his career as a sarpanch of Kothali village, Khadse was elected to the State Assembly for six terms from 1989 till 2019, from his home town Muktainagar.

Khadse was a minister in

the Sena-BJP government (1995-1999). Subsequently he became a Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly. He was a strong contender for the chief minister when the BJP came to power in the state in 2014. However, Devendra Fadnavis pipped him to the post.

Khadse was the number two in the Devendra Fadnavis-led BJP Cabinet. At one stage, he held 10 crucial portfolios with him.

Khadse was in isolation within the BJP ever since June 4, 2016, when he resigned from his post as the State Revenue Minister over irregularities in the purchase of a plot of land at Bhosari in Pune district. Later in May 2018, Maharashtra's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had reportedly given a clean chit to Khadse in the alleged Pune land scam. He finally quit the BJP on Wednesday.

Cong-led UDF is led by by Muslim League in Kerala: LDF

KOCHI: Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, the CPI(M) secretary, charged on Friday that the Congress in Kerala has surrendered the leadership of the party to the P K Kunhalikutty-M M Hassand-Jama at a Islami. "It is this triumvirate which will lead the United Democratic Front in the next Assembly election in the State," Balakrishnan told media persons while announcing the CPI(M)-led LDF's decision to admit the Kerala Congress (Mani) to the front.

The CPI(M) boss in Kerala said

that the leadership of the Congress-led UDF would be vested with the Muslim League hereafter. "Earlier, the UDF was led by the Kunhalikutty-K M Mani-Oommen Chandi axis. Now the leadership of the UDF has been handed over to the axis consisting of M M Hassan, Kunhalikutty, and M I Abdul Aziz (the Ameer of Jamaat e Islami, Kerala)," charged Balakrishnan.

Kunhalikutty is the all India general secretary of the Muslim League and is rated as the main strategist and strongman of the party. Hyder Ali

Shihab Thangal, the scion of the Kadappanakkal Family which leads the Muslim League has appointed Kunhalikutty as the point-man of the party for the upcoming elections to the local bodies and state assembly. Hassan, Congress leader is the UDF convener and the party's poster boy. The general feeling among Kerala's commentators is that the CPI(M) is playing the Hindu card with this allegation.

"The Marxists fear that there would be a consolidation of minori-

ty votes in the next assembly election. The minorities are likely to vote for the Congress-led UDF and this has put the Marxists in a tight spot. That's the reason why they went out of the way and pleaded with the Kerala Congress (Mani) to join the LDF," said P Rajan, former editor of Mathrubhumi and a seasoned commentator.

He said the Assembly election would see the repeat pattern of the 2019 Lok Sabha election from the State. The UDF won 19 out of the 20 Lo Sabha seats in the State.

Five killed in blast in TN fireworks factory

Madurai (TN): At least five people, including three women, were killed in a blast at a private fireworks factory here on Friday, police said. Citing initial probe, police said chemicals which were being mixed and stuffed caught fire due to friction leading to a series of explosions, severely damaging the structure. The victims were charred to death. Several other workers managed to escape to safety, police said, adding fire service units from Virudhunagar and Srivilliputhur were used to put out the blaze. **PTI**

Valmikiis: We'll fight oppression, but conversion is no solution

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

In Ghaziabad, Valmiki society has got a strong reaction to the religious conversion of 50 Valmiki families to Buddhism in protest of Hathras incident. Leaders of the society have said that this is the personal decision of these people. But it is wrong to relate this decision to the Hathras incident. Such a step cannot be a solution to a fight. We have to fight for the rights but conversion is wrong. We have trust in our law.

The intelligence system is gathering input for whatever has happened in Ghaziabad. For this, the teams have been constantly reconnaissance in the neighborhood.

Shyoraj Jeevan, a former member of the National Sanitation Commission said "we will fight against the oppression on us by staying in the same caste. We will always be a Valmiki. All the people of

our neighborhood and family have converted to Christianity but people still called them Valmiki Christian. No battle is fought by caste or religious conversion. What has happened in the Hathras incident, we would say that despite being Hindu, we had to face persecution in the Hindu government. We had to fight for justice. The upper castes do not support us and even sometimes they beat us on going to the temples and the tube well. If the government prohibits such incidents then why would anyone change their religion? But I would like to tell the people of Ghaziabad that they have done wrong".

Billu Chauhan, State General Secretary, Sanitation Labor Union told that "I cannot comment on why this happened in Ghaziabad. But this never happened in Aligarh nor will it happen. We have a faith

in our Constitution and Government and the law. We put our side in the Hathras incident in democracy. It is a different matter whether the government agrees or not. The problem we have is that we are called Hindus, but we do not get justice in this Hindu government with that status. For this, we fought our battle in Hathras incident and will fight further if needed".

Pradeep Bhandari, Chairman City Cleaning Labor Union said that "people of Ghaziabad have their own faith and are free to take any decision. There is no restriction on conversion. But we have nothing like this here. The government has accepted our demands about their decision in the Hathras incident. Now we have faith in the CBI investigation and the court. The court will give its verdict based on the outcomes of investigation".

Female foeticide will lead to big problem

Aligarh: Navratri worship is held in whole country as a symbol of women empowerment and all nine images of chain daughters. Dugra deity are worshiped for nine days and on the last day, girls are fed with the end of puja. But shortage of girls had hit hard and it is not easy for arranging girls for mass feeding in the localities. Also because of corona, the families are scared to call the children at the end of puja.

JNMC faculty gets award

Aligarh: Mr Salman Khalil, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine J N Medical College (JNMC), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has been conferred with the VDGOD Professional Association Hyderabad's 'Best Researcher Award' for his contributions to collaborative and methodologic research in the applications of statistical methods to the field of medicine, and for showing excellence in biostatistics teaching.

Morcha for reservation of SC/ST/OBC in AMU

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

AMU Bachao Morcha has been formed to provide reservation to scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and backward class students in AMU. Front leaders have announced that on 23rd January, they will march to AMU with thousands of students on the day of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary and submit a memorandum regarding demands to the Vice Chancellor of AMU.

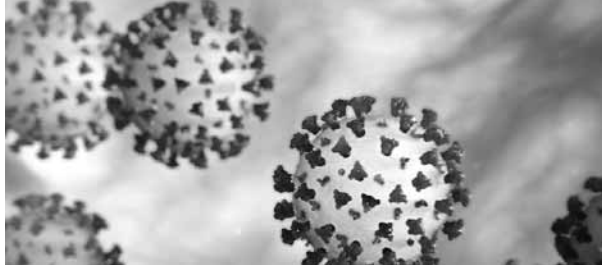
Saurabh Chaudhary will be the Morcha president and Amit Goswami will be the general secretary.

In a meeting at Center Point, the Front leaders told the media persons that in AMU, scheduled caste, tribe and backward class students are deprived of reservation for 100 years.

The Karnataka health department has been identifying Primary Health Centres, anganwadis and community health centres to ensure proper distribution of vaccines once available, official sources said

available. However, official sources told PTI in New Delhi that the coronavirus vaccine, once avail-

Covid-19 tally crosses eight lakh in Andhra



Amaravati: Andhra Pradeshs COVID-19 tally crossed the eight lakh mark on Friday but the infections declining trend was clearly evident as the last lakh cases came in a longer span of 23 days.

A record 80,238 samples were tested in 24 hours ending 9 am on Friday, turning out 3,765 fresh cases of the pandemic and taking the cumulative to 8,00,684.

Also, 4,281 patients got cured while 20 more succumbed, the latest bulletin said.

The state now has 31,721 active cases after 7,62,419 recoveries and 6,544 deaths, it

said.

Andhra Pradesh is only the second state to log over eight lakh COVID-19 cases after Maharashtra which has recorded more than 16 lakh infections.

The total infection count of Andhra Pradesh crossed the seven-lakh mark on October 1, taking 14 days to rise from six lakh. It had breached five lakh cases on September 17 after reaching the first one lakh on July 27.

The state so far tested 74.28 lakh samples for the infection, at the rate of 1,39,101 per million, with an overall positivity rate of 10.78 per cent. **PTI**

Bihar reports 1,093 new cases, 8 more deaths

Patna: Bihar on Friday reported 1,093 new Cases of COVID-19, taking the state's tally to 2,10,388, as per a bulletin issued by the Health Department.

The state also recorded eight more COVID-19 deaths, following which the toll rose to 1,034, it said.

Two of the latest deaths were reported from Patna, while one each from Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Jehanabad, Begusarai, Purnea and Saran, it said.

The Patna district, which has reported 34,055 cases so far with 2,532 patients undergoing treatment at present, has registered the highest number of COVID-19 deaths in the state at 256. The recovery rate has increased to 94.32 per cent in the state, the bulletin said.

Total 1,41,869 samples were tested for COVID-19 on Thursday. **PTI**

Free Covid vaccine: K'taka CM says he'll take a call once vaccine is available

Bengaluru: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwath Narayan on Friday hinted that the COVID-19 vaccine, once available, might be administered free of cost to citizens, as he pointed to the universal vaccination undertaken by the Government in the past.

He, however, also maintained that the government would take a decision on this

once the vaccine is available. "Once the vaccine comes, the government will decide on it.

Till now the government has been giving universal vaccination for free, so it will continue.

The Chief Minister will decide on it," Narayan said in response to a question about providing COVID vaccine free

of cost, as announced by some other states.

Speaking to reporters here, he said during the prevalence of communicable diseases, governments have to come forward for the protection of society and fulfill its needs.

Narayan is also the member of state government's COVID-19 task force.

On Thursday, the BJP in

its manifesto for the Bihar assembly elections promised free COVID-19 vaccines, once it is available, for all.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan too have assured free immunisation against coronavirus for all sections of people in their states as soon as a vaccine is made

able, would be distributed under a special COVID-19 immunisation programme with the Centre procuring the doses directly and making it available for priority groups.

According to them, the Centre will procure the vaccine directly to make it available to the priority groups free-of-charge through the existing network of states and districts.

States have been asked not to chart separate pathways of procurement.

The Karnataka health department has been identifying Primary Health Centres, anganwadis and community health centres to ensure proper distribution of vaccines once available, official sources said.

Health Minister K Sudhakar has said a meeting

has been convened here next week to discuss how the vaccine should be administered, once available.

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said last week that India is expected to have a COVID-19 vaccine in a few months and the country should be in the process of delivering it to people in the next six months.

Vaccine politics

Perhaps the BJP forgot that as a party in governance, it is answerable to all citizens, not just those of poll-bound States



Political adventurism shouldn't trespass reason. And governance is about contextual maturity. Besides, certain issues are just not meant to be politicised, especially something as serious as the Coronavirus vaccine, a hope that's sustaining the entire nation which could still end up being the worst-hit in the world. That, too, at a time when an effective vaccine is like the proverbial El Dorado, as trials are still going on and there is no proof yet that it would work on a mass scale. Even assuming it does, every citizen, graded according to priority and co-morbidities, has a right to be administered a shot. And any smart Government would try to sound altruistic enough about protecting all citizens, if not mean it, only to reap political gains.

Agreed politics is all about making tall claims that are rarely achieved. Still, for all the eloquence, there ought to be some sense of prudence and judgment. Most importantly, no party can advocate anything that is morally questionable. In this sense, the ruling BJP has overreached itself a bit much, promising the voters in Bihar free vaccines, without realising that it is implicitly saying that official benefits will now flow selectively among those who vote for it as a quid pro quo. That sounds as bad as a public threat. Worse, its promise is not just another instance of poll populism — it's an attempt to manipulate the anxieties caused by the most lethal pandemic to have ravaged the world in more than a century. And when somebody like Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman makes the announcement, it shows that the Government is desperate about the poll arithmetic of the party it represents than pursuing holistic policies, that it is cavalier about the demands of science and health protocols and is unconcerned about lives, leave alone being compassionate. However, this isn't the first time the party has made such questionable promises. There was talk that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted to launch a home-grown COVID vaccine by August 15 to mark the nation's 72 years of Independence. Apparently, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was under pressure to fast-track clinical trials but widespread criticism about compromising efficacy for the sake of political expediency and pressure from scientists ensured that a life and death question was not made a mockery of. Yet the BJP's claim of free vaccine doses has already trivialised a grave issue into a point-scoring exercise. A similar announcement followed in Tamil Nadu, where the elections are due next year. AIADMK leader and Chief Minister E Palaniswami promised the shots on the basis of his proximity to the BJP. In other words, tradeoffs of this nature will be made to buy the allegiance of federal parties. One wonders what the BJP's stand would be in Bengal, where it is seeking to dislodge the Trinamool Congress? But the BJP's fatal flaw has certainly galvanised the Opposition. Delhi Chief Minister and leader of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Arvind Kejriwal was quick to point out the plight of the people in non-BJP ruled States while National Conference leader Omar Abdullah called the announcement a "blatant populism" that "shamefully exploits COVID fears." He even wondered if the BJP would be paying for these vaccines from the party treasury. So when the Union Minister of State for Health, Ashwini Chaubey, tried to clear the air, it was too little too late. According to him, the Centre had prepared an elaborate plan on distributing the vaccine and identifying those who would be given "preference." He even added that every State would be given free Coronavirus vaccines. But Amit Malviya of the BJP's IT cell further complicated matters when he said that like all programmes, the Centre would provide vaccines to States at a nominal rate. And health being a State subject, the Bihar BJP unit had decided to give it free if elected and that other State Governments, too, can decide to do the same. This is not unexpected, as it has become normal for the ruling dispensation to change its stand on what subjects under the State List can be manipulated by the Centre. Except that the Opposition is not buying this narrative with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) urging the Election Commission to restrain the BJP from "signing a poll deal using the vaccine."

The larger concern is that the political parties will still get away making wild claims during the Bihar elections, the results of which will be announced in November. And no trial results will be available before December, leave aside the prospect of a rollout by the beginning of next year. Would the voter bet on something that has still not seen the light of day? The Government should instead focus on the vaccine administration process and set up a seamless cold chain infrastructure, both of which are humongous challenges. Vaccine preservation is a tricky business as wide swathes of vials could go bad if safety norms are not adhered to and the temperature controls are not monitored strictly. The COVID vaccine has to be stored at temperatures lower than other known vaccines. The Serum Institute has already raised questions on the Government's ability to keep aside ₹80,000 crore for the rollout. Is the Government equipped to handle this without roping in the private sector? If so, how much will the private sector be ready to subsidise costs? Besides, how will those at risk be mapped, considering that most Indians have a heavy disease burden and co-morbidities? Vaccine distribution and administration will be no less of a logistical challenge than the general elections and will require the Centre and States to work together. So before it promises the moon, the BJP should realise that gravity is rude and it alone would land with a thud if it doesn't pursue collaborative politics on COVID for its own good.

Filthy air?

US President Donald Trump has a point about Indian air quality and it is no laughing matter



People living in north India, particularly Delhi, under truly choking conditions would not really disagree with US President Donald Trump's statement about India's air being filthy. They should hope that this ultimate repudiation of our ambient quality and pollution in a US presidential debate might force the Central and State Governments to finally do something about it. Like it or not, Delhi's air knocks years off the lives of its citizens and if farmers want the sympathy of the urban populace and the media over the new Acts, they will not get it till they stop burning stubble that leaves a haze and blocks sunlight every morning. The persistently poor air quality in India is now officially a global joke and our politicians' reluctance to deal with the issue holistically because they do not want to irritate their agricultural votebank is an even bigger one. Hundreds of crores have been raised as green cess in Delhi; why is this money not being used to subsidise agricultural machinery for farmers in North India so that they can get rid of crop waste in an eco-friendly manner? The lives of our children are being ruined by chronic pulmonary conditions such as asthma and politicians are trying to blame everything under the sun but the most obvious cause. They can't even attack the automotive industry anymore as it has moved to very low emission BS-6 vehicles now. There could soon be medical evidence to prove a direct connection between high levels of pollution and the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Say what you will about Donald Trump, he does speak about a lot of things without filtering them through political doublespeak. He was proven right about China and he is absolutely right about Indian air quality.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has the political capital to do something about this and he must because inaction on this front will taint his legacy. The right to clean air should be a given and like it or not, this impacts the poor and underprivileged whom Modi and even Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claim to stand for the most. The chattering classes with access to air purifiers can afford to live with it. So whether Trump remains in office or the US gets a 46th President, the time for Indian politicians to act is now.

opinion06

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was a rare example of community transition, who showed how easy it was to shed the cult of violence and walk the path of peace

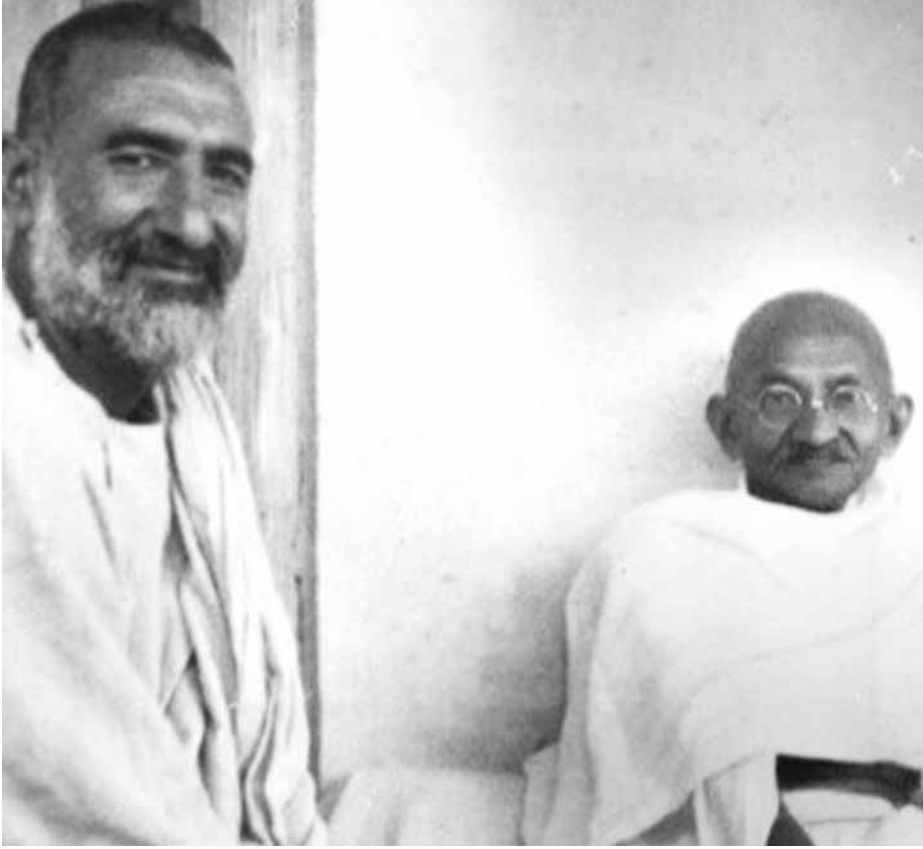


JS RAJPUT

India completed the year-long celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2. One had the privilege of participating in several learned deliberations on the relevance of Gandhian ideas in the present context. In most of these, it was rather a unanimous conclusion that Gandhi's principles, values and his life could give a healing touch to suffering humanity in a world characterised by wars, violence, distrust, hatred, fundamentalism, terrorism, arms race, hunger, poverty, ill-health and much more. Peace, non-violence and religious harmony remain elusive commodities. And Gandhi successfully demonstrated a non-violent path to human dignity, harmony and liberty. He could influence leading personalities within and beyond India, who plunged headlong into creating a peaceful world by following his values and successfully achieving attitudinal transformation within their communities and nation.

The life of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, also known as Bacha Khan and Frontier Gandhi, presents one of the most scintillating examples of achieving a rare community transition from violence as a cult to the path of peace and love as the value of total commitment. His name may appear just as unfamiliar to most young Indians as his role as a stalwart in the Indian freedom struggle, and after Independence, as a fighter for his people in Pakistan, that he waged till his last breath on January 20, 1988. He finds little resonance even in India for various reasons.

In July 1942, Jawaharlal Nehru issued a statement on the happenings in the Frontier Province — now in Pakistan — clearly indicating how scarce the news from there was, and that too, was "often tainted and contained many wrong allegations." Nehru had personally experienced difficulty, during his own visits to the Frontier Province, in sending out proper news through normal agencies or otherwise. He further observed that restrictions on such news being sent out were stricter in the Frontier Province than elsewhere in India. He then revealed a painful truth: "The result is that the people in the rest of India know little of what is happening in this highly important part of the



country." In this very statement, Nehru wrote about Frontier Gandhi. He said: "Few people know about the work that Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan has been carrying on during the last six months. He does not believe in ostentation but he has gone to villages seeing his people, organising them and encouraging them in every way. Thus, he has covered the entire province."

Apart from numerous impediments from various quarters, Khan also had to face false propaganda of vested interests. Born in 1890, he was greatly touched by the devastating misery of his own people and after which, he concluded, was due to the lack of education and consequent ignorance. He started schools and the British did not like it. He was 19 when he was first imprisoned and then it was a life in and out of jails of the Britishers, and then the Government of Pakistan. His historic movement, Khudai Khidmatgar, was launched to overcome poverty and banish the British from India. He was, till the end of the freedom struggle, for a united India.

Khan was inspired by Gandhi's message of non-violence and he knew how difficult it would be to convince his "freedom-loving" Pathans to execute the idea. He had the courage and conviction to accept the challenge and he achieved this miracle. The type of attitudinal transformation achieved by this charismatic

personality could only be termed unparalleled. He gave a new interpretation of force, courage and valour to his people and the community. This, he could do through his creative leadership, deep and thoughtful interpretation of Islam as a religion of peace. He was a man with a universal message of brotherhood and camaraderie. He knew how vibrant the cultural heritage of his people and the region was, and how this cradle of learning and culture sank "into a state where there was no room left for such good work such as education and learning."

While India was celebrating the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, an erudite scholar of post-Independence history, RNP Singh, was searching literature and sources in libraries and institutions to put up an authentic account of the great Gandhian, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. And how India ignored his contributions which had the potential to bring forth peace not only to the erstwhile North-West Frontier Province (NWFP), Afghanistan and Baluchistan but to the entire Middle East region, and even beyond.

Singh has established, based on his study, how great was the measure of wrong done to this frontline freedom fighter and an exceptional devotee of Gandhi. In his seminal work, *Durand line: Did India Fail Frontier Gandhi*, Singh very

succinctly summarises: "He was among the very few leaders of undivided India who, by dint of their sincere effort and selfless service to their people, rose to eminence and earned a niche for themselves in the top political hierarchy of the country. Yet in spite of having earned a place among the galaxy of eminent leaders, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan never advanced his claims to recognition in the Indian context." One could say without hesitation that India failed Bacha Khan, his Pakhtoon people and the NWFP. There is no other way out of this but to follow the path shown by Gandhi and Bacha Khan.

During the freedom struggle, Gandhi tried his best to persuade the Muslim League and Mohammad Ali Jinnah to give up the two-nation theory. He failed in his persuasion and India suffered the ghastly tragedy of the Partition. And we still need persistent efforts to strengthen our efforts to cement the age-old mutual harmony between the two major communities.

Inspired by the increasing influence of Gandhi, whose persona and ideas had begun to influence the remote North-Western part of the empire and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, young Bacha Khan opened schools for both boys and girls. He organised young people under the banner of servants of God — *Khudai Khidmatgar* —

who, contrary to the prevalent tradition, decided to follow the Gandhian path to achieve freedom for India and its people. To these highly motivated and committed people, his message was, "The fundamental principles of all religions are the same though the details differ because each faith takes the colour and flavour of the soil from which it springs... I cannot contemplate a time when there will be one religion for the whole world." And this came from a devout Muslim who never missed a *namaaz* and who also had "the spirit of brotherhood" innate in himself more than many so-called orthodox Muslims.

Religious fundamentalists and protagonists of the two-nation theory, expectedly, disliked him and his approach and inflicted numerous cruelties on him and his followers once they came to power. The persona of this Frontier Gandhi, sufferings that he endured even after Independence, must be revealed to young Indians, who are working for religious amity as the core value that could lead India to its destination of honour and acceptability in a strife-torn world.

What happened to Bacha Khan or what was done to him is summed up by Mohammed Arif Khan in the foreword to the treatise by Singh: "As an Indian, I feel that what we did to Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and the Pashtuns in 1957 was very unfair. The Pashtuns had voted in 1946 for a united India but the decision of the Indian leadership reduced them to being subservient to the breakers of Indian unity. The result was that Khan and his followers were treated as traitors and he spent more time in jails of Pakistan after 1947 than in British jails before 1947." All this happened in spite of the fact that the top Indian leadership of the freedom struggle was fully aware of the significance of Bacha Khan's contribution and his unflinching commitment to a united India. Sadly enough, India was divided. Even Gandhi, who had declared that Partition could take place only over his dead body, accepted it. All that the great Bacha Khan could say to the Indian leadership that had accepted the Partition of this great country was: "You have thrown us to wolves." He and his people were left at the mercy of those who never liked him for his liberal stance on Indian culture, history and his progressive ideas about religious harmony and social cohesion.

(The writer works in education and social cohesion)

SOUNDBITE

Bihar deserves investment. Who will ensure this? Those who turned Bihar into 'jungle raj' or those who are delivering good governance in Bihar and are dedicated to the State's development?



Prime Minister
—Narendra Modi

When I was 21, I felt like the Asian Games was a different platform. There was a lot of pressure because everybody had their eyes on you and the game.



Cueist
—Pankaj Advani

I don't believe a full lockdown is the right course. To all those enduring these restrictions in all parts of the country, I want to repeat my thanks for your bravery and your patience.



UK Prime Minister
—Boris Johnson

By the end of January, enough vaccines will be available for all of our seniors as well as our healthcare workers and first responders.



US HHS Secretary
—Alex Azar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BJP's new low

Sir — The BJP has sunk to a new low by promising free Coronavirus vaccine shots for the people of Bihar. This only proves that the party is fearful of being defeated and hence is selling the fear of the pandemic to the people. The fact of the matter is that the Coronavirus vaccine is not the private property of the BJP and it cannot decide which States can have free access to it. Its leaders need to realise that they are also in power at the Centre and the entire country's well-being is their concern and not limited to the States that are or might be under their rule. If they want to give away free vaccines, then they will have to do so in all the States and not only in Bihar. After the dismal performance of the Janata Dal (United)-BJP coalition in handling the pandemic, the returnee migrants' issues and not to forget the floods, the NDA is offering free vaccines to woo the electorate. It should instead focus on improving the conditions in core sectors like education, employment and healthcare.

Noor Ahmad
Hyderabad

Death penalty is not a deterrent

The Karnataka High Court rightly said that an "attack on anybody's daughter is an attack on our daughter." The observation came in the context of upholding the trial court's order of sentencing seven accused to life imprisonment for the gang-rape of a law student on the Jnana Bharathi campus in Bengaluru in 2012. The court noted that the difference between the 2012 Nirbhaya case and the gang-rape of the law student was that in the former, the girl died but in the latter, the survivor discontinued her studies and traumatised, returned to her homeland in Nepal.

The High Court has recommended amending provisions of the Indian Penal Code to include capital punishment for gang-rape in addition to the existing provisions of life imprisonment with fine. The death penalty already exists for rape-cum-murder cases, as in the Nirbhaya case, but is not applicable for cases of gang-rape in which there has been no death. However, studies don't prove that the death penalty is a deterrent. It could also lead to perpetrators making sure that their



victims are left dead or in no state to make a complaint or recognise them. Also, in a larger number of cases, the accused is known to the victim and the looming fear of the former being handed out a death penalty could stop one's family from reporting the crime. Hence, we need to strengthen the process of rehabilitation.

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Noxious haze

Sir — Once again, US President Donald Trump has made a critical reference to India during a presidential debate. Earlier, he had questioned India's Coronavirus data amid criticism of his handling of the pandemic. And recently he called India's air "filthy" while claiming that the US has the "lowest

carbon emission." Contrary to Trump's claim, the US stands second in the world in terms of carbon emission. It leaves a bigger carbon footprint than the majority of the world's population. However, in terms of his comment on India's poor air quality, the truth is that he was just stating a known fact. New Delhi has indeed been blanketed in a noxious haze. Smoke

from stubble burning in its neighbouring States, vehicle fumes and industrial emissions have been turning the Capital's air toxic every winter. It was the world's most polluted capital city for the second straight year in 2019, according to Swiss-based group, IQ AirVisual. Additionally, according to the State of Global Air 2020 study, that was released on October 21,

air pollution caused the death of 4,76,000 new-borns in 2019 and nearly two-thirds of the deaths came from harmful fumes emanating from cooking fuels. The study also highlighted that more than 1,16,000 Indian infants died due to air pollution in 2019. So, while Trump's comment might sting, the Indian Government should take the poor air quality of India, especially Delhi, seriously. The blame game between the Centre and the States needs to stop and adequate steps should be taken.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Low-key festivities


Sir — The festive season has started but at no cost should we let our guard down during the ongoing pandemic. We will have to celebrate with caution. Use of face masks, adhering to social distancing and avoiding crowded areas should be everyone's priority. This year, let us pray from our humble abodes.

Rishav Vats
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

An exaggerated clampdown



GWYNNE DYER

The young Nigerians who were protesting at Lekki Toll Plaza in Lagos recently were not the African touring company of *Les Misérables*. Lekki is one of the poshest suburbs of Lagos, full of gated communities and most of the protesters were literate, media-savvy youths who reeked of urban cool. The army killed them anyway. Or maybe it killed them precisely because of who they were. IZZY@theleventh, who does not explicitly say he was there, tweeted: "They removed the cameras two hours before, turned off the street light and the LED billboard and deployed soldiers to open fire at the crowd singing the national anthem...they brought tanks!! Over 78 people are dead. The Nigerian Army then began to put the dead bodies in their trucks."

The numbers may be exaggerated: One eyewitness told the *BBC* he had counted about 20 bodies and at least 50 injured after the soldiers opened fire. Official sources have denied that anybody was killed, or that the army was even there. But *Channels Television* has videos showing men in Nigerian Army uniform walking calmly up to the barricade and firing into an angry but non-violent crowd. The massacre comes after two weeks of protests, mostly in southern Nigeria, that were initially targeted on the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).

Almost all Nigerian police forces are corrupt and brutal, but SARS specialised in robbing, torturing and sometimes murdering prosperous and trendy young people. If you were young, had hair of a different colour or tattoos, and were in a flashy car, you stood a statistically significant chance of having an unpleasant encounter with SARS. The protests began two weeks ago after pictures allegedly showing a man being beaten to death by SARS circulated on social media. Muhammadu Buhari, a military dictator 35 years ago and now back at 77 as Nigeria's elected President, recognised the danger and acted fast. Within two days he abolished SARS, promising it to replace it with a kinder, gentler force — but the protesters had heard that story before, and besides they had already moved on to broader targets.

Nigeria is a powder keg at the best of times, and with lengthy lockdowns this is not the best of times. Protests exploded across southern Nigeria, and not all were non-violent. On October 19 a mob burned a police station in Yaba, another upscale suburb of Lagos, and 120 km to the east in Benin City armed crowds freed more than a thousand prisoners from two jails. The State claims that the protests have been infiltrated by criminals and in some places that is clearly true, but that's not why the ruling political class is panicking. That's not why they shot down well-educated, trendy but law-abiding young people in Lekki. It's because those in power fear a youth revolt that could not only transform the country, but split it in half.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation (200 million people), is really two countries. The southern, mostly Christian half, with all the oil and ports and most of the industry, is around 95 per cent literate. Only one of the 19 northern, mostly Muslim States is over 50 per cent literate, and half the young women in the northern region have no formal education whatever. Naturally, relative prosperity shows the same disparity. Only 27 per cent of the southerners live below the poverty line and 72 per cent of the northerners do. Yet it is young southerners who are on the brink of revolt, because it is the political domination of the north that keeps the ruling kleptocracy in power.

It starts with the army, whose officer corps has been dominated by Muslim northerners since colonial times. That is why Muslim military dictators and elected presidents from the north have ruled Nigeria for 38 of the 60 years since independence, but even Christian presidential candidates from the south are in hook to northern interests. The traditional rulers and religious authorities of the north control the big banks of voters that can be sold to the highest bidder, and it is in their interest to keep those voters ignorant and obedient. The southern kleptocrats, who buy the votes, have an equally strong interest in the system as it lets them go on stealing: One-third of Nigeria's oil revenues over the past 50 years have ended up in foreign bank accounts.

The young men and women in the streets of Lagos may not realise that their rebellion could endanger an entire corrupt system, but those who benefit from it certainly do. Which is why their response has been so extreme. What happens next matters a lot, because 25 years from now Nigeria will have overtaken the US in population and become the third-biggest country in the world. It would be nice if by then it was a stable, well-educated democracy where prosperity extended beyond the south.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work'.)


analysis

07


POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I THINK I HAVE GREAT RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALL PEOPLE. I AM THE LEAST RACIST PERSON IN THIS ROOM.

—US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP




HE (TRUMP) POURS FUEL ON EVERY SINGLE RACIST FIRE. THIS GUY HAS A DOG WHISTLE ABOUT AS BIG AS A FOG HORN.



—FORMER US VICE-PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Dangerous delay

In a country where a majority of patients are diagnosed in the later stages of the disease, the Coronavirus outbreak is further hampering diagnosis and treatment of cancer



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INDIA ALSO HAS A HIGH MORTALITY RATE BECAUSE A MAJORITY OF THE PATIENTS ARE STILL DIAGNOSED IN THE LATE STAGES OF THE DISEASE AND A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THEM ARE NOT ABLE TO GET APPROPRIATE TREATMENT. ANOTHER WORRYING TREND IS AN INCREASING INCIDENCE OF THE DISEASE IN YOUNGER WOMEN. SHOCKINGLY, NEARLY HALF OF THE PATIENTS IN URBAN INDIA ARE LESS THAN 50 YEARS OF AGE. POOR AWARENESS ABOUT SYMPTOMS, LACK OF A UNIVERSAL AND COMPREHENSIVE SCREENING PROGRAMME, SOCIAL TABOOS AND EMBARRASSMENT TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE ARE THE MAIN REASONS BEHIND DELAYED DIAGNOSIS

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Forty five-year-old Ayesha (name changed), a resident of a small town in west Uttar Pradesh (UP), first spotted a tiny painless lump in her breast in April this year. However, the Coronavirus-induced lockdown and the fear of catching the infection in a healthcare setting prevented her from seeing a doctor. Even when the lockdown was eased, her family was too scared to travel to Delhi to seek medical consultation. By the time she reached an oncologist four months later, her aggressive cancer had already hit Stage III, diminishing the chances of her survival.

Unfortunately, Ayesha is not a lone case of a seriously-ill patient being deprived of timely treatment due to the ongoing contagion. While we will never be able to collate data of how many such patients suffered delayed diagnosis and treatment this year, it is evident that the number is significant. Patient attendance in oncology clinics fell significantly in the initial months of the pandemic. The number of new cases diagnosed continued to remain relatively low even several months after the total lockdown had been eased. Breast Cancer Now, a British charity organisation, estimated that due to the contagion almost a million British women had missed a screening appointment. This might have led to thousands of cancers going undetected. For a country like India, where a majority of breast cancer detections still happen in the later stages of the disease, the Coronavirus outbreak has further hampered diagnosis and treatment, and is likely to negatively impact survival rates from the disease.

Rising disease burden in India: Breast cancer is the most common form of the disease among Indian women and accounts for an estimated 28 per cent of all cancers. In fact, a woman is diagnosed with it every four minutes while another dies of this disease every 13 minutes in the country. In 2018, it is estimated to have claimed as many as 87,000 lives in India. The incidence of the disease has increased dramatically over the last 25 years due to multiple factors, including increasing urbanisation, adoption of unhealthy lifestyles (smoking, drinking, junk food consumption and so on), increased use of plastic utensils and microwave ovens, rise in obesity, drop in physical activity levels, delayed age of child-bearing and reduced breast-feeding.

India also has a high mortality rate because a majority of the patients are still diagnosed in the late stages of the disease and a significant proportion of them are not able to get appropriate treatment. Another worrying trend is an increasing incidence of the disease in younger women. Shockingly, nearly half of the patients in urban India are less than 50 years of age. Poor awareness about symptoms, lack of a universal and comprehensive screening programme, social taboos and embarrassment to discuss the issue are the main reasons behind delayed diagnosis as well as the resultant high mortality. Unfortunately, the prevailing situation due to a worldwide pandemic has impeded diagnosis and treatment of a number of non-Coronavirus diseases, including all types of cancers. Already a neglected subject, women's health has further been relegated to the back-burner as families delay medical consultation and avoid visiting healthcare facilities or undergoing regular disease screening.

Pandemic or not, do not put health issues on the back-burner: The Coronavirus is a long-term problem, which is likely to stay with us in the near future. While containing the pandemic and ensuring treatment of all infected people must be a high

priority, adequate policy measures need to be taken to ensure that other serious diseases are not neglected in the process. Governments as well as healthcare providers, both have a role to play in achieving this. It is important to educate people about the importance of not neglecting their health conditions and prevent interruptions in treatment modalities, too. It is equally important to ensure continuation of unimpeded non-Coronavirus services in hospitals while also instilling confidence among people about the safety of hospitals and clinics, especially outpatient departments (OPDs).

However, the silver lining in the dark cloud is that thanks to advanced diagnostic and treatment modalities, survival rates of breast cancer patients have increased significantly globally. While survival depends on a number of factors such as the type of cancer, stage at the time of diagnosis, the quality of treatment, in the US it is estimated that up to 90 per cent of women survive five years after diagnosis and 84 per cent manage to survive 10 years.

However, in India, the survival rates remain abysmally low for reasons mentioned above. Increased awareness and health literacy, regular screening after 40 years of age, adoption of a healthy and active lifestyle sans smoking or excessive drinking, timely and appropriate treatment can help improve survival rates in India too.

New-age technologies can help navigate the Coronavirus pandemic: The adoption of new-age technologically-advanced methods further helps improve the quality of life of patients. Now, surgical treatment does not mean removal of the whole breast in all patients. It is possible to offer a breast conservation surgery

in nearly 60-70 per cent of the patients either upfront or after chemotherapy.

Similarly, complete removal of armpit nodes, a procedure done routinely in all patients until a couple of decades ago, has given way to sentinel lymph node biopsy in which only a few nodes need to be tested for the presence of the tumour.

If these sentinel nodes are not involved in the disease, one does not need to remove the remaining nodes, thus bringing down the rate of shoulder dysfunction as well as lymphedema (swelling of the arm) significantly. Similar to surgery, personalised systemic therapy (chemo, hormone, immune and targeted therapy) has enabled us to avoid more toxic treatment in patients with a good biology tumour. Two patients with the same size of tumour can have very different outcomes. New-age prognostic tests help predict the risk of cancer relapse in the early stage of breast cancer with a high degree of accuracy, stratifying patients into low and high-risk categories, based on their tumour biology. Those patients who fall in the low-risk category have very limited risk of relapse and may be able to avoid chemotherapy.

Cancer patients face a higher risk of catching the Coronavirus infection as well as suffering from its complications because of their immuno-suppressive state as a result of the disease itself and due to chemotherapy. These prognostic tests that can help them avoid chemotherapy, if used judiciously, can kill two birds with one stone — patients can avoid chemotherapy, which is immunosuppressive, and avoid visits to the hospital to undergo chemotherapy.

Radiation therapy has also undergone a complete metamorphosis over the decades and modern machines enable us

to deliver more precise radiation (thus sparing adjacent organs like the lungs and the heart from a high dose of radiation) and in a shorter interval of time (as less as two weeks as compared to the usual five weeks in a select group of patients).

In more good news, researchers in Canada have developed a new, inexpensive technology that could save lives and money by routinely screening women for breast cancer without exposure to radiation. The system, developed by researchers at the University of Waterloo, uses harmless microwaves and Artificial Intelligence software to detect even small, early-stage tumours within minutes.


By comparing the tissue composition of one breast with the other, the system is sensitive enough to detect anomalies less than one centimetre in diameter. A negative result could quickly rule out cancer, while a positive result would trigger referral for more expensive tests using mammography or magnetic resonance imaging. In addition to reducing patient wait times and enabling earlier diagnosis, the device would eliminate radiation exposure, improve patient comfort and work on particularly dense breasts, a problem with mammograms. However, this technology will take a while to come to India as it is still at the nascent stage.

In the end, people have to realise that while the Coronavirus is a serious pandemic, they must not neglect their overall health, compromise on regular check-ups and doctor consultations or delay cancer treatment. However, all hospital visits must be undertaken with complete precautionary measures that are the new normal now.

(The writer is head, Department of Surgical Oncology, Manipal Hospitals, Dwarka)

Closure of budget private schools looms large

With apathy, low Government allocation and high-handedness, school education is becoming nobody's baby



SHIVAJI SARKAR

India's unaided private school education is collapsing as thousands of institutions have closed down and many others are struggling to survive. This may cost the nation over ₹1.75 lakh crore a year, as the Coronavirus-induced lockdown has harmed the education sector immensely. Though the mention of private education conjures up images of swanky private schools with world-class facilities and sky-high fee structure, these are also in crisis today.

However, it is the online, low-budget schools that have been the worst-hit by the pandemic. These schools penetrate rural areas, small towns or low-income localities of metros, according to the State of the Sector Report on Private Schools by the Central Square Foundation (CSF). As

per the recently released Household Social Consumption on Education in India Report, the aggregate household expenditure on private schools is approximately ₹1.75 lakh crore, almost equal to the e-commerce sector. Also, about 50 per cent of the total school enrolments are in private schools.

Though almost all schools, Government or private, are under stress due to the lockdown, the worst sufferers are the virtual informal schools. With or without Government recognition, they serve the hinterland of the country. They have improved school enrolment, especially in rural areas, where the number of students attending private schools has increased from four per cent in 1993 to 26.6 per cent in 2017-18.

The CSF says that the struggle for the survival of private education in the country is intense. Even under normal circumstances, it is not easy for private schools to attract students and during the Coronavirus era, the situation has worsened further as parents refuse to pay fees. Plus, the digital footprint has made online education unaffordable.

So most such schools have either closed down or are facing closure as they are neither able to pay their teachers nor can they afford infrastructure costs. Some had planned expansion in early March and taken loans. Many have gone into severe debt and even after closure, are in distress. Most of these are entrepreneurial ventures by innovative individuals. In Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh, a shopkeeper's son started a school that followed the concept of "pay ₹1 a day." However, since the students are not coming to school, entrepreneurs like him have little option but to close down operations.

The impact on society is severe as these virtual schools employ mostly jobless youth at low salaries. The payment is on a daily or hourly basis. But each school sustains at least 100 people on an average. The youth prefer to opt for such jobs for sustenance as well as for the prestige they enjoy in their neighbourhood due to it. In villages or semi-urban areas, such schools have become the first choice for parents, as they are perceived to be better than Government schools due to the overall care that a child is

given as the teachers (trained or not) are from the neighbourhood. This is making education more mass-based as the official system has many limitations and despite some recent efforts, suffers from delivery problems. Recruitment of teachers itself is flawed as the disclosures from VYA-PAM in Madhya Pradesh and by the UP Adityanath Government also found that the district officials interfered in "Basic Shiksha" schools and issued orders for severing these from the district administration. Plus, online education has largely come a

cropper in all such institutions.

The pandemic gave rise to the need for having a digital infrastructure and due to their low budgets, the unaided private schools claim that they are neither able to match up with elite schools nor with the State-run schools, for which the content is aired through television and radio channels and other Government-run platforms. To make matters worse, parents do not consider online teaching to be proper education. They do not pay the schools because their wards are not going there. Apart from that, they find online teaching expensive due to the high internet costs. Another problem they face is that each child needs a smart phone or computer, which they cannot afford.


Apart from this, many children do not find online teaching interesting as there are many glitches and teachers, too, find themselves struggling due to the lack of eye contact. Plus, students mostly switch off the video mode because of the poor network across the country and to reduce unaffordable data use.

The students and their parents find brick and mortar schools more


affordable and fruitful because apart from learning from books and the teachers, the children learn language skills, etiquette, discipline, interaction with peer groups, use of a library and social behaviour. So parents, despite their low incomes, do not mind paying for education at brick and mortar schools.

As per a Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation report, Indians pay 12 times the money for pre-primary education at a private school. The number decreases to about three times at the higher secondary level. A majority, 70.8 per cent students, pay less than ₹1,000 monthly fee, while 45.5 per cent pay less than ₹500. The monthly median fee in an elementary unaided school is ₹958 in urban areas and ₹500 in rural India. Schools complain that at least one-third of the parents default in paying this minimal amount also. The closure of budget private schools can adversely impact "education for all" and multiply unemployment. With apathy, low Government allocation and high-handedness, school education is becoming nobody's baby.

(The writer is a senior journalist)



FOREIGN EYE



CONCERNS OVER AN AGEING WORLD

Globally, the life of the elderly has changed from a simple, mainly localised concern to a systemic, comprehensive and long-term factor related to the sustainable development of the economy and society. With a rapidly ageing society, the challenges that need to be overcome range from the rising shortage of labour to increasingly unsustainable pension funds and inadequate medical and nursing resources. *(China Daily editorial)*

US PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE Mute button brings civility as Trump, Biden show restraint

Washington: The mute button, or at least the threat of it, worked well this time as US President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden showed restraint and civility during the last presidential debate, unlike their first encounter when they frequently spoke over each other, creating chaos at times.

Far from their raucous first meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, that led organisers to introduce the mute button, the second and final 90-minute debate between Trump and Biden at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee on Thursday night was less fury and more urgency.

In the first presidential debate last month, Trump, 74, and Biden, 77, fiercely clashed over a number of issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic, racism, economy and climate, marked by angry interruptions and bitter accusations.

A media report termed the mute button a godsend, saying it also amplified the candidates' differences.

On Monday, the non-partisan Commission on Presidential Debates announced new rules under which it will mute microphones for two minutes of the rival speakers so as to give them uninterrupted opening remarks during the final debate.

Biden warns any country that interferes in US elections ‘will pay a price’ if he is elected

Washington: Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has warned that any country that interferes in American elections “will pay a price” if he is elected in the November 3 polls, specifically referring to alleged interference by China, Russia and Iran.

Biden made the remarks while responding to a question on how he would deter foreign interference in American elections during the final presidential debate with President Donald Trump at Belmont University in Nashville on Thursday night.

“They will pay a price if I’m elected,” Biden said.

“They’re interfering with American sovereignty. That’s what’s going on,” he said when asked about US intelligence reports that Russia and

Trump, Biden spar over Covid-19, race, climate

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump and his challenger Joe Biden clashed over Covid-19, immigration, race relations and climate change during their final debate, just ahead of the November 3 presidential election, presenting Americans with sharply divergent views of where they would lead them over the next four years.

The two leaders traded barbs during the debate that lasted just over 90 minutes, attacking each other’s positions on controlling the raging coronavirus pandemic and curbing the country’s world-leading death toll of over 223,000.

Trump accuses Biden of corruption

Washington: US President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden accused each other of serious corruption charges that too from overseas as they took part in the final presidential debate and defended their track record on strongly handling foreign adversaries.

Trump and Biden shared the stage for the second and final presidential debate that was moderated by NBC’s Kristen Welker on Thursday night in Nashville, Tennessee.

Trump, a Republican, attacked Biden, saying, “I don’t make money from China. You do. I don’t make money from Ukraine. You do. I don’t make money from Russia. You made USD 3.5 million”.

“And your son gave you - they even have a statement that we have to give 10 per cent to the big man. You’re the big

man, I think. I don’t know. Maybe or not, but you are the big man, I think. You, since then, we have to give 10 per cent to the big man. Joe, what’s that all about? It’s terrible,” Trump said, in a reference to claims by Tony Bobulinski, an ex-business partner of Hunter Biden, son of the former US vice president.

In a statement to press in Nashville, Bobulinski said the Democratic presidential candidate was to get 10 per cent in the Chinese business deal.

“I’ve heard Joe Biden say he never discussed business with Hunter. That is false. Tomorrow I will be meeting with the Senate committee members concerning this matter. And I will be providing the FBI the devices which contain the evidence corroborating what I have said, so I will not be taking any questions at this time,” he said.

PTI

Covid-19 vaccine coming in weeks: Trump

Washington: A Covid-19 vaccine is “ready” and coming “within weeks” and would be distributed by the military, US President Donald Trump said on Thursday while his Democratic challenger Joe Biden alleged that America is about to enter into a “dark winter” as they clashed over their policies on the pandemic during the final presidential debate.

The 90-minute debate, just less than two weeks ahead of the crucial presidential election on November 3, started in Nashville, Tennessee, with opening remarks by both the candidates, when the mike of the other was muted to avoid interruptions. The coronavirus dominated the opening minutes of the Trump-Biden face-off with President Trump terming the contagion a “worldwide problem”.

“We have a vaccine that’s coming. It’s ready, it’s going to be announced within weeks and it’s going to be delivered,” Trump, 74, said adding that companies like Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer are doing very well on that front.

“We also have others that we’re working on very closely with other countries, in particular, Europe,” he said.

Asserting that his timeline is going to be more accurate, Trump

said he has his generals lined up for the fast distribution of the vaccine, as he expects to have 100 million vials.

“As soon as we have the vaccine, he (general) is ready to go,” said the president, who is seeking re-election.

Former vice president Biden, 77, challenged Trump and alleged that his policies have resulted in a large number of deaths in the country.

PTI

China warns UK not to offer citizenship to Hong Kong residents

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Friday threatened to stop recognising the UK-issued passports for Hong Kong residents after the country reaffirmed its plan to offer a route to its citizenship to thousands of people living in the former British colony.

The British government announced in July that it will open a new special pathway to obtaining British citizenship for eligible Hong Kongers from January 2021 after China imposed a new, sweeping national security law on Hong Kong.

The British offer is not for all residents of Hong Kong, but only those holding a British National Overseas (BNO) passport.

China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that the Chinese government has repeatedly made clear its “strong stance on this issue, but the British side has insisted on interfering with Hong Kong affairs and China’s domestic issues.”

“As the British side broke its own promises, the Chinese government will consider not recognising the BNO passport as a valid travel document, and reserve the right to impose further measures,” he said.

The new “Hong Kong BN(O) Visa” will allow the holder to enter and remain in Britain for an initial period of 30 months, extendable by a further 30 months, or a single period of five years, according to information on the British government’s website.

“You’ll be able to work and study, but you won’t be able to access public funds such as social welfare benefits,” Hong Kong-based South China Morning quoted the statement as saying. Holders can apply to settle in Britain once they have lived there for five years.

“After 12 months with this status, you can apply for British citizenship,” the statement said.

US Embassy in Turkey issues alert on potential attacks

Istanbul: The US Embassy in Turkey issued a security alert Friday, saying it received reports of a possible attack on Americans and other foreigners, and temporarily suspended consular services.

“The US Mission in Turkey has received credible reports of potential terrorist attacks and kidnappings against US citizens and foreign nationals in Istanbul, including against the US Consulate General, as well as potentially other locations in Turkey,” the embassy said in a statement.

The embassy in Ankara, Turkey’s capital, urged American citizens to exercise caution, including while at large office buildings, shopping malls and other locations where foreigners gather. It said citizen and visa services would be temporarily suspended at all US consulates in Turkey.

The Islamic State group and an outlawed Kurdish militant group conducted deadly attacks on Turkish soil between 2015 and 2017. A far-left group has also previously targeted the U.S. Embassy in Ankara.

A US Embassy spokesperson said: “The US mission to Turkey issued this notice as a result of our ongoing assessment of security conditions. The statement speaks for itself. We are grateful for the support of the Turkish government in ensuring the safety of Americans living in Turkey as well as Turkish citizens who visit our Embassy and Consulates.”

AP

Israel strikes Gaza after Palestinian militants fire rockets

AP ■ JERUSALEM

The Israeli military said on Friday it launched overnight airstrikes in the Gaza Strip after Palestinian militants fired two rockets, with no reports of casualties or major damage on either side.

The military said fighter jets and other aircraft struck a weapons manufacturing site and “underground infrastructure” belonging to the Islamic militant group Hamas, which rules Gaza.

Late Thursday, Palestinian militants fired two rockets into Israel. One was intercepted by Israeli missile defenses while the other fell in an open area.

Israel and Hamas have fought three wars and several skirmishes since the militant group seized power from rival Palestinian forces in 2007. Israel holds Hamas responsible for all attacks emanating from Gaza, including those claimed by other militant groups.

Israel and Egypt have maintained a crippling blockade on the coastal territory, which is home to 2 million Palestinians, since Hamas seized power.

Earlier this week, Israel announced the discovery of an unfinished tunnel dug by militants that had crossed into Israel before it was detected by underground sensors. It said the tunnel ran dozens of meters (yards) underground and was intended to facilitate attacks.

Israel has uncovered around 20 such tunnels since the last war with Hamas, in 2014.

Pak’s anti-corruption body slaps fresh graft case on Nawaz Sharif

Islamabad: Pakistan’s anti-corruption body has slapped a fresh corruption case on deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif, compounding the legal woes of the embattled Opposition leader who has frequently attacked the powerful military as well as the Government.

Sharif, the 70-year-old supremo of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) who was ousted from power in 2017 by the Supreme Court on corruption charges, is currently in London for medical treatment.

The National Accountability Bureau also approved cases against Sharif’s ex-personal secretary Fawad Hasan Fawad, former federal minister Ahsan Iqbal, former foreign secretary Aizaz Chaudhry and former Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Aftab Sultan, Dawn newspaper reported. On Thursday, a total of 11 cases were approved at NAB’s Executive Board Meeting (EBM) presided over by its chairman, retired Justice Javed Iqbal.

According to the NAB, a fresh case was approved against Sharif along with Chaudhry, Sultan and Fawad for “illegally” purchasing 73 high-security vehicles for the security of foreign dignitaries. They are accused of favouritism and illegal use of vehicles, causing a loss of over Rs 1,952 million to the national exchequer.

The EBM also approved a case against Ahsan Iqbal and Mohammad Ahmed, contractor/owner of private firm Ahmed and Sons, for increasing the scope of the Sports City project in Narowal from Rs 30 million to Rs 3 billion by “abusing the authority”.

PTI

R&AW chief’s meeting with Nepal PM sparks criticism

Kathmandu: Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has come under fire, including from the ruling Communist Party leaders, for breaching diplomatic norms over his meeting with Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Samant Kumar Goel.

Goel called on Prime Minister Oli at his official residence at Baluwatar on Wednesday evening.

However, the Indian intelligence chief’s visit did not go down well with some political leaders of the country, including members of the ruling party Nepal Communist Party (NCP).

The meeting that took place between RAW chief Goel and Prime Minister Oli was against diplomatic norms and it doesn’t serve Nepal’s national interest, said senior ruling party leader Bhim Rawal.

“As the meeting took place in a non-transparent manner without consulting with the concerned section of the Foreign Ministry, this may also contribute to weakening our state mechanism,” he pointed out.

Bishnu Rijal, deputy chief of the foreign affairs department of the NCP, said politicians should not overstep in matters related to diplomacy.

“Diplomacy should be handled by diplomats—not politicians,” he said.

“The present confusion over the visit of the R&AW chief is the result of the handling of diplomacy by politicians,” he said.

Nepali Congress central leader Gagan Thapa in a tweet said the meeting posed a threat to national security. “The meeting was not only the breach of our diplomatic norms but it also poses threat to our national security, which needs to be investigated into,” Thapa tweeted.

PTI

SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED													
Registered Office													
38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat													
New Delhi-110049													
Email:- info@sunilhealthcare.com; website:- www.sunilhealthcare.com													
CIN No. L24302DL1973PLC189662													
Extract of Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year Ended 30th September 2020													
(₹ in Lakhs)													
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated					
		Quarter Ended			Half Year Ended			Quarter Ended			Half Year Ended		
		30th September 2020	30th June 2020	30th September 2019	30th September 2020	30th September 2019	31st March 2020	30th September 2020	30th June 2020	30th September 2019	30th September 2020	30th September 2019	31st March 2020
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	2,320.08	2,114.62	2,903.22	4,434.70	4,757.92	8,510.70	2,351.14	2,176.42	2,864.71	4,527.56	4,694.17	8,469.98
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)-from Continuing Operation	7.16	1.64	(70.78)	8.80	(120.35)	(221.82)	15.74	(17.90)	(108.47)	(2.16)	(181.13)	(299.96)
	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)- from Discontinued Operation	-	-	7.63	-	6.54	(359.94)	-	-	7.63	-	6.54	(359.94)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	7.16	1.64	(70.78)	8.80	(120.35)	(221.82)	15.74	(17.90)	(108.47)	(2.16)	(181.13)	(299.96)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)-from Continuing Operation	6.25	0.06	(70.78)	6.31	(120.35)	(156.82)	14.00	(19.97)	(109.40)	(5.97)	(182.06)	(236.56)
	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)- from Discontinued Operation	-	-	7.63	-	6.54	(259.80)	-	-	7.63	-	6.54	(259.80)
5	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	6.25	0.06	(63.15)	6.31	(113.81)	(416.62)	14.00	(19.97)	(101.77)	(5.97)	(175.52)	(496.36)
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	6.25	0.06	(63.15)	6.31	(113.81)	(136.20)	15.20	(21.68)	(90.89)	(6.48)	(174.43)	(219.30)
7	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value ₹10/- each)	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48
8	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	3,752.27	-	-	-	-	-	3,434.35	-	3,434.35
9	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of ₹10/- each)-from Continuing Operation	0.06	0.00	(0.69)	0.06	(1.17)	(1.53)	0.14	(0.19)	(1.07)	(0.06)	(1.78)	(2.31)
	(a) Basic (‘)	0.06	0.00	(0.69)	0.06	(1.17)	(1.53)	0.14	(0.19)	(1.07)	(0.06)	(1.78)	(2.31)
	(b) Diluted (‘)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of ₹ 10/- each)-from Discontinued Operation	-	-	0.07	-	0.06	(2.53)	-	-	0.07	-	0.06	(2.53)
	(a) Basic (‘)	-	-	0.07	-	0.06	(2.53)	-	-	0.07	-	0.06	(2.53)
	(b) Diluted (‘)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of ₹ 10/- each)	0.06	0.00	(0.62)	0.06	(1.11)	(4.06)	0.14	(0.19)	(0.99)	(0.06)	(1.71)	(4.84)
	(a) Basic (‘)	0.06	0.00	(0.62)	0.06	(1.11)	(4.06)	0.14	(0.19)	(0.99)	(0.06)	(1.71)	(4.84)
	(b) Diluted (‘)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Notes:-													
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Half Year ended 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/Half year ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.sunilhealthcare.com)													
2 COVID - 19 pandemic has caused serious disruption on the global economic and business environment. There is a huge uncertainty with regard to its impact which cannot be reasonably determined at this stage. However, the Company has evaluated and considered to the extent possible the likely impact that may arise from COVID-19 pandemic as well as all event and circumstances upto the date of approval of these Financial results on the carrying value of its assets and liabilities as on 30.09.2020. Based on the current indicators of future economic conditions, the Company estimates to recover the carrying amount of these assets and to discharge its obligation as adequate liquidity is available. These estimates are subject to uncertainty and may be affected by the severity and duration of the pandemic. The Company is continuously monitoring any material changes in future economic conditions.													
3 Consequent to decision taken by Board of Directors to phase out " marketing of Food product" in previous year. Accordingly, the Company has existed from marketing of food products and losses of the discontinued business has been disclosed under "Profit/(Loss) from discontinued operations" separately. At the quarter end, the Company has no liability to be paid and no assets to realise related to this business.													
4 The figures for the previous periods have been regrouped/ rearranged, wherever considered necessary, to conform current period classifications.													
5 The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on October 23, 2020 .													
Place : New Delhi													
Date : 10/23/2020													
												Anil Khaitan	
												Chairman Cum Managing Director	
												DIN 00759951	

PUBLIC NOTICE

Know all men by those present that out of 1380 Sq.Mtrs three side open Property no. 1696 Lothian Road, Kashmere Gate Delhi-110006, 690 Sq. Mtrs each were sold by Two Registered Sale Deeds Both Dated 7-06-2001 by Shri Virender Singh S/o Shri Preet Singh Registered Genral Attorney Holder of Shri Mahaveer Singh and Ashok Kumar both sons of Late Sita Ram @ Shri Bhag Mal to Dharamvir S/o Sh Charan Dass Registered as Document no. 2273, Addl Book no. 1, Vol. No. 338, Pages 123 to 128 and to Shri Dalel Singh S/o Shri Jawahar Singh which is registered as Document No. 2274, Addl book No. 1, Vol. No. 338, Pages 129 to 134. If any one has any objection then the same be stated in writing to undersigned in thirty days from the date of the publication of This General Public Notice . This Notice is on behalf my client Shri Sanjay Jaggi: F-128, Mansarovar Garden, Delhi-110015 # 9868900547 Arun Kumar (Advocate) B2/140, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 # 9891284940

REGENT ENTERPRISES LTD

Registered Office : E-205 (LGF), Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110 048 Phone:011-29213191 Email:info@regententerprises.in CIN:L15500DL1994PLC153183 Website: www.regententerprises.in

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held at 14/17, Naya Ganj, Ghaziabad-201 001 on Thursday, the 5th day of November, 2020 at 4.00 pm inter alia, to consider, approve Un-audited Financial Results of the Company for the Second quarter and Half Year ended on September 30th, 2020. Pursuant to this, the trading window for the insiders shall remain closed upto 48 hours of declaration of the results for all designated persons, their immediate relatives and all connected persons as amended. The same Financial Results of the Company will be available at www.regententerprises.in.

FOR REGENT ENTERPRISES LTD

Date:-23/10/2020 Sd/- Place:New Delhi Vikas Kumar Whole Time Director DIN:05308192

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles. VEHICLE FOR SALE

1) **TRACTOR - MAHINDRA_275_YUVO DSL REG. NO. MH03DA1139-YOM -2018**

2) **AL_2518 T2C CAB CHASSIS TIPPER REG. NO.MH03CP5860 YOM 2018**

3) **AL_2518 T2C CAB CHASSIS TIPPERREG. NO.MH03CP5861 YOM 2018**

4) **AL_2518 T2C CAB CHASSIS TIPPER REG. NO. MH03CP6545-YOM -2018**

5) **AL_2518 T2C CAB CHASSIS TIPPER REG. NO. MH03CP6544-YOM -2018**

6) **AL_2518 T2C CAB CHASSIS TIPPER REG. NO. MH03CP6542-YOM -2018**

7) **AL_2518 T2C CAB CHASSIS TIPPER REG. NO. MH03CP6547-YOM =2018**

8) **AL_2518 T2C CAB CHASSIS TIPPER REG. NO. MH03CP6546-YOM -2018**

9) **ATLAS COPCO (INDIA) LTD - CB_C0425 DYNAPAC COMPACTOR REG. NO. MH03DA0426-YOM -2018**

10) **AL_2518 T2C CAB CHASSIS TIPPER REG. NO. MH03CP5856-YOM -2018**

11) **TATA LPT 2518 GOODS REG. NO. HR55N1794 YOM 2011**

12) **TATA LPT 2518 GOODS REG. NO. HR55S9975 YOM 2013**

13) **EICHR_VECV 10.59 GOODS REG. NO. UP16DT4644 YOM 2016**

14) **Ai3118 REG. NO. HR55U5098-YOM -2014**

UNDER HYPOTHECACTION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 15 DAYS AT

BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT : NITESH MATHUR/DEEPAK KUMAR KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. Cont.No.7838225565 /9839215099

GST COMPENSATION Centre borrows, transfers ₹6K cr to 16 States

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government on Friday said that it borrowed and transferred ₹6,000 crore as first tranche to 16 states on account of GST compensation under the special borrowing window.

The Centre has evolved a special borrowing window to address the shortfall in the GST collection during the year 2020-2021. In all, 21 states and 2 Union Territories have opted for this special window involving back-to-back borrowing coordinated by the Ministry of Finance.

Out of these, five states did not have any shortfall on account of GST compensation.

The Rs 6,000 crore has been transferred to Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra,

Meghalaya, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the Union Territories of Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir. The borrowing is at an interest rate of 5.19 per cent. Tenor of borrowing is expected to be broadly in the range of 3 to 5 years. The Centre plans to make weekly releases of Rs 6,000 crore to the states.

As part of GST compensation settlement formula evolved by the Centre, it is to borrow close to Rs 1,10,000 crore this year for back to back transfers to states towards meeting their GST compensation.

The borrowing and its interest is to be settled from realisations on account of GST compensation cess.

The GST Council has allowed levy of cess beyond the five year transition period ending June 2022 to clear all unmet compensation dues of states.

Rate cut will depend upon moderation in inflation: RBI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das has said that there is room for rate cut but monetary policy action would depend upon the evolving situation on the inflation front which is currently above the tolerance level of the central bank.

"I recognise that there exists space for future rate cuts if the inflation evolves in line with our expectations. This space needs to be used judiciously to support recovery in growth," opined the governor as per the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The reconstituted MPC, which met from October 7 to 9, had decided to keep the benchmark lending rates unchanged in view of the hardening of retail inflation.

Das said after the sharpest contraction in economic activity in the first quarter of 2020-21, a number of high frequency indicators of economic activity for the second quarter suggest a sequential improvement.

"There are, however,



downside uncertainties that could put sand in the wheels of this nascent recovery. Primary among them is the risk of a second wave of COVID-19. Private investment activity is likely to be subdued, even as domestic financial conditions have eased significantly," he said.External demand is also expected to remain anaemic with sharp contraction in global economic activity and trade.

As per RBI, the full year gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to contract by 9.5 per cent with a strong rebound next year.

"On the outlook for inflation, food inflation should moderate going forward on a combination of good kharif harvest and a favourable rabi season," the Governor said.

As per the RBI's assessment, headline inflation would moderate in H2 of the current year and further in Q1 of next fiscal year.

Inflation remained above the upper tolerance threshold of 6 per cent since June, with signs of aggravation of price pressures. The government has asked RBI to keep inflation at 4 per cent (+, - 2 per cent). Deputy Governor and MPC member Michael Debabrata Patra noted that India has entered a technical recession in the first half of the year for the first time in its history. "GDP is an aggregative indicator of economic activity and hides the extent of human misery and the loss of social and human capital caused by the health crisis.

"Nonetheless, if the projections hold, the level of GDP would have fallen approximately 6 per cent below its pre-COVID level by the end of 2020-21 and it may take years to regain this lost output," he said. While voting for keeping the interest rate unchanged, RBI Executive Director Mrudul K Sagar expressed concern that if current real negative interest rates fall further, it may generate significant distortions that could adversely affect aggregate savings, current account and medium-term growth in the economy.

GST officials bust racket for availing ₹50 cr illegal ITC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Busting an illegal input tax credit (ITC) racket, GST officials have arrested a wannabe chartered accountant for alleged involvement in passing on ITC of about ₹50 crore through a web of 115 fake companies, a source said on Friday.

Prince Manish Kumar Khatri, a third-year student and a partner of a CA firm in Ahmedabad, allegedly registered fake firms that were used to avoid paying Goods and Services Tax (GST) by showing bills generated by them as ITC.

In all, ITC of ₹50.24 crore was wrongfully passed on, the source said.

The source said Khatri is allegedly the key person involved in registration of 115 non-existent firms and filing of GST returns of such fake firms, thus passing on ineligible ITC for wrong availment and utilization for GST payment.

INBRIEF

YES BANK POSTS ₹130 CRORE NET PROFIT IN Q2

New Delhi:Yes Bank on Friday reported a standalone net profit of ₹129.37 crore for the second quarter ended September despite a spurt in bad loans. The private sector lender had posted a net loss of ₹600 crore in the corresponding quarter of previous fiscal. Total income slipped to ₹5,952.1 crore during July-September quarter from ₹8,347.50 crore in the same quarter last year, the bank said in a regulatory filing. Gross bad loans more than doubled to 16.9 per cent of gross advances as on September 30, 2020 from 7.39 per cent a year ago. Net non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans also rose to 4.70 per cent from 4.35 per cent a year ago.

GOVT TO SELL UP TO 15 PC STAKE IN RVNL VIA OFS

New Delhi:The Government is planning to sell up to 15 per cent stake in Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) and has invited bids from merchant bankers for managing the share sale process. "The Govt intends to disinvest up to 15 per cent paid up equity capital of RVNL out of its shareholding of 87.84 per cent through Offer for Sale (OFS) method of shares by promoters through the stock exchanges," the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said while inviting bids from merchant bankers.

IDBI BANK REPORTS ₹324 CR PROFIT FOR Q2

New Delhi: IDBI Bank on Friday reported a net profit of ₹324 crore for the second quarter of the current fiscal year against a loss of Rs 3,459 crore for the same period of the previous fiscal. Compared sequentially, the bank registered a 125 per cent jump against the first quarter net profit of Rs 144 crore, IDBI Bank said in release. Total income of the bank fell by 7.5 per cent to Rs 5,761.06 crore during July-September 2020-21 compared to Rs 6,231.02 crore in the same period of 2019-20, the private sector lender said.

CRUDE OIL FUTURES DECLINE ON LOW DEMAND

New Delhi:Crude oil futures on Friday fell by 0.07 per cent to ₹2,996 per barrel as participants reduced their positions on low demand. On the Multi Commodity Exchange, crude oil for November delivery eased by ₹2, or 0.07 per cent, to ₹2,996 per barrel with a business volume of 3,020 lots. Crude oil for December delivery was quoting lower by 13, or 0.43 per cent, at ₹3,039 per barrel with an open interest of 54 lots

Commerce Ministry recommends hike in import duty on Korean synthetic rubber for 2 yrs

New Delhi: The commerce ministry has recommended an increase in import duty on a Korean synthetic rubber, used in tyre making, for two years in order to guard domestic industry from significant jump in inbound shipments of the product, according to a notification. The ministry's investigative arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies has recommended the increase in customs duty after concluding in its probe that increased imports of "Polybutadiene Rubber" have caused "serious injury" to the domestic industry.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male **Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age:** about 40 years, **Height:** 5'8", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Strong, **Hair** Long: Black & White, **Beard:** Clean Shaved, **Wearing:** Sky blue T-shirt, blue jeans and barefoot, was found unconscious on 21.10.2020 at 03:47 PM from Footpath at Punch Kuia Road, Sulabh Sauchalaya, Near Gate No.06, LHMC Hospital, New Delhi & admitted in LHMC Hospital vide MLC No.3255/20, during the treatment Doctors declared him dead. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours at the Mortuary of LHMC Hospital. In this regard a **DD No.55A dated 21.10.2020** has been lodged at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO
P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi
DP/143/NDD/2020 Ph.No.: 011-23364100, 23366730

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/ PS, Northern Railway, Delhi division, New Delhi invites e-tender for the following work:	
1	Name of work with its location Allotment of 9 Unreserved Catering Stalls (General Minor Units) (including 3 Catering Stalls reserved for Women) at New Delhi & Delhi Jn. Railway Stations over Delhi Division for a period of five (5) years. (Ctg. GMU 01 to 09-2020)
2	Name of tender on IREPS 23/AC/Ctg/GMU A-1/2018
3	Approximate cost of work As per NIT on reps.gov.in
4	Date of opening of Tender 19/11/2020 at 1500 hrs
5	Cost of Tender document & 18 % GST As per NIT on reps.gov.in
6	Earnest Money Deposit As per NIT on reps.gov.in
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen https://ireps.gov.in/
No: 23/AC/Ctg/GMU A-1/2018 Dated : 23.10.2020 2342/2020	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)	
1. TENDER NOTIFICATION Name of work: Dismantling, Shifting & Re-commissioning of 02 Nos. EOT Crane Make SAICO & Capacity 30/05 Ton from MEMU Car Shed, SRE to MEMU Car shed, KJGY Saharanpur.	
Tender Notice No:-11/2020-21 1.1. General :- UMB division of northern railway invites Open tender through E-tendering system from eligible agencies who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in tender document for "Dismantling, Shifting & Re-commissioning of 02 Nos. EOT Crane Make SAICO & Capacity 30/05 Ton from MEMU Car Shed, SRE to MEMU Car shed, KJGY Saharanpur"	
1.2 The Key details are as follows:- Open Tender No. :- 30-EL-MEMU-T-11-20-21	
Name of works	:- Dismantling, Shifting & Re-commissioning of 02 Nos. EOT Crane Make SAICO & Capacity 30/05 Ton from MEMU Car Shed, SRE to MEMU Car shed, KJGY Saharanpur
Approximate Cost	:- ₹ 14,04,175/-
Earnest Money	:- ₹ 28,100/-
Completion Period	:- 90 (Ninety) days from the date of issue of the letter of acceptance.
Validity of offer	:- 45 days.
Tender papers issued by	:- Sr.DEE/MEMU/SRE.
Dt. of closing/opening	:- 06.11.2020 at 10:30 Hrs./thereafter
Cost of tender document	:- Free of cost.
Minimum Eligibility criteria	:- Participating Firm should have completed at least one single work of shifting/commissioning of EOT crane of same or higher capacity in Railway premises over zonal Railways/Metro Rail in last seven years OR OEM or its authorized dealers. Related document must be uploaded on web portal with their offer, failing which offer shall be summarily rejected.
NOTE:- 1) The required earnest money will only be accepted through on line payment mode available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. up to tender closing date and time. Exemption from submission of Earnest Money for tenderer shall be as per Railway Board Guidelines. 2) Manual payments through demand draft, banker cheque, deposit receipt, FDR etc are not allowed. Offers which are not complying above will be considered invalid. 3) Tender must provide validity of the offer for 45 (forty five) days from the date of opening of tender. 4) Public procure order 2017 issued by Rly. board vide L. No. 2015/RS/G/779/5 Dt. 16.03.2017 shall be followed. 5) The tender can be seen or upload on web portal as under : Website Portal: https://www.ireps.gov.in 2343/2020	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

Markets back to winning ways

AUTO, POWER STOCKS RALLY

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic equity markets on Friday resumed their northward journey after a day's hiatus, with gains mainly in auto, power and consumer durable shares offsetting losses in IT and realty stocks.

The BSE benchmark Sensex settled 127.01 points or 0.31 per cent higher at 40,685.50; and the broader NSE Nifty rose 33.90 points or 0.28 per cent to end 11,930.35.

On a weekly basis, the Sensex rallied 702.52 points or 1.75 per cent, while the Nifty advanced 167.90 points or 1.42 per cent.

On the Sensex chart on Friday, Maruti Suzuki was the top gainer, rallying around 4 per cent, followed by M&M, Tata Steel, PowerGrid, Bajaj Auto and NTPC.

On the other hand, UltraTech Cement, HCL Tech, HUL and Bajaj Finserv were

among the laggards.

On the sectoral front, BSE auto, consumer durables, power, utilities, industrials and capital goods indices rose up to 2.76 per cent; while realty, basic materials, IT, healthcare, tech and bankx ended in the red. Broader midcap and smallcap indices rose up to 0.71 per cent.

"Markets consolidated further for yet another day and ended marginally higher. A mixed trend was witnessed on the sectoral front wherein noticeable buying was observed in auto, consumer durables and capital goods space, while realty, IT and healthcare trad-

ed subdued," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

All eyes are on US markets for updates on the stimulus package

and upcoming presidential elections, he said adding that the news on COVID-19 cases in Europe will also remain on the participants' radar. Bourses in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul closed up to 0.54 per cent

higher, while Shanghai finished in the red. Stock

Gold falls ₹75, silver rises by ₹121

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices declined by ₹ 75 to ₹51,069 per 10 gram in the national capital on Friday, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at ₹51,144 per 10 gram in the previous trade.

Silver prices, however, rose by ₹121 to ₹62,933 per kilogram from ₹62,812 per kilogram in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was trading higher at USD 1,908 per pounce, while silver was quoting flat at USD 24.72 per pounce.

exchanges in Europe were also trading in the green in early deals.

Meanwhile, international oil benchmark Brent crude

India business returns to the growth path, says Unilever

New Delhi:After a strict lockdown impacting sales, India has returned to the growth path again, Anglo-Dutch FMCG major Unilever has said.

The return of growth of India business, along with Brazil and continued recovery in China helped the company's emerging markets clock a growth of 5.3 per cent in the September 2020 quarter.

"India (business) grew low-single digit, driven by growth in hygiene and refreshment and hygiene. China grew double-digit led by beauty and personal care categories and a return to growth in food service, as the out-of-home eating channel returned to full capacity," Unilever said in its post-earnings statement.

After a strict lockdown earlier in the year, India saw a pick-up in economic activity, even though cases of COVID-19 continued to increase during the quarter, said Unilever.

India comes under the Asia, AMET (Africa, Middle East, Turkey) and RUB (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus) market region of Unilever, which has reported a turnover of 6 billion euros."Underlying sales grew 4.5 per cent with 3.7 per cent from volume and 0.7 per cent from price, as lockdown restrictions eased across much of the region compared to the first half of the year," it said.

While overall, Unilever has reported a turnover of 12.9 billion euros for the July-September quarter, which was 2.4 per cent lower than the corresponding period of 2019 on with a "negative impact from currency of 7.7 per cent".

PTI

India gets Chairmanship of ILO Governing body after a gap of 35 years

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After a gap of 35 years, India assumed the Chairmanship of Governing Body of International Labour Organisation (ILO), with Labour Secretary Apurva Chandra being elected to the post."After 35 years, India assumed the Chairmanship of the Governing Body of ILO. Labour Secretary Apurva Chandra has been elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the ILO for the period October 2020-June 2021," a labour ministry statement said on Friday.

According to the statement, India assumed the Chairmanship of GB after 35 years, marking a new chapter in the 100 years of productive

relationship between India and ILO.The Chairperson of the Governing Body of ILO is a position of international repute.

The Governing Body (GB) is the apex executive body of the ILO, which decides policies, programmes, agenda, budget, and elects the Director-General.At present, the ILO has 187 members. Chandra will be presiding over the upcoming the Governing Body's meeting, to be held in Nov 2020.

At Geneva, Chandra will have the opportunity to interact with the senior officials and social partners of the member states. It will also provide a platform to apprise participants of the transformational initiative taken by the Govt in removing the rigidities of the labour market.

Chief Minister for creation of 52 new / upgraded courts

Jaipur:Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot has approved the proposal to open 52 new / upgraded court staff by delving into point 5 (i) of the austerity circular in state expenditure.

According to the state austerity circular issued by the state government on September 3, 2020, "No new office will be approved to be opened in the financial year 2020-21 funded by 100 percent state funds and the previously approved offices which have not started will be given.



Even this financial year will not be established. "In such a manner, the Chief Minister has given permission to open Maya staff to these courts.It is noteworthy that a lump sum expenditure of about

Rs 156 crore and annual expenditure of Rs 52 crore is expected on 52 new courts. The out-right expenditure is expected to be Rs 3 crore per new court building and furniture, Rs 156 crore on 52 courts.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is hereby given to general public that my client namely as Mr. Robin Kanoria & Mrs. Anjali Bhatti who claimed to be owner and in possession of Dwelling Unit No. 1102, on 11th Floor having super area 800 sq. feet is 82.68 sq. mtrs., in Tower-D, in the known as "ECO CITY", Built on Group Housing, built on Plot no. GH-03, Sector-137, Noida, Distt., Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., The Original Document i.e. Registration Particulars Page>Last Page of Original Sub-Lease Deed dated-18.10.2016, Doc. No.14604 has been lost/misplaced. An Complaint/CRT to the effect has been lodge vide dated-21.10.2020 LR No.676170/2020 with the Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original document may write/contact with above named person at below mention address within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, any, of such persons will be consider to have been waived and/or, abandoned

Juris NextGen Law Offices
E-56, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-I
New Delhi-110048

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the information of General Public at large that Sh Kishan Kumar Gupta S/o B K Gupta aged about 73 years approx., is the lawful owner and in actual physical possession of property bearing no. A-19, 3rd Floor with roof rights, Ashok Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi-110052 built-up-house/plot/property measuring 200 sq.yards vide relinquishment Deed executed by Sumit Gupta Vide Doc no. 17528, Book no.1 volume 3189,page no. 20-23 dated 24.11.2010 at SRO VI A, New Delhi and Ms Anu Gupta Vide Doc no.18167, Book no.1 volume 3211,page no. 162-166 dated 09.12.2010, at SRO VI A, New Delhi ("said property") had agreed to sell and transfer the same to my client Ms Meena Gupta w/o Anil Kumar Gupta aged about 53 years approx., If any person has any right, title or interest over the said property, he may approach to the undersigned within 14 days in writing along with the evidence of his such right, title or interest and if no such objection will be received within the said period it will be presumed that the property in question is free from all encumbrances and any claim in respect thereof against purchaser shall be void and ineffective.

(Deepanker Sinha) Advocate
Mob: 8130284903
Office: Ch.No. 52, TisHazari Court, Delhi-04



SUSHMITA SEN

Fashion has a special place in my heart. Over the years, I have learnt that fashion is like a book. It shouldn't be judged by its cover. However, the reason we put a lot of thought into how we present ourselves in the fashion industry is because it is the way we connect and inspire with people around the world.



VIJAY VARMA

Gully Boy became a splendid success and also became a part of pop culture, and it spoke to the audience very loud. So, I think that was the turning point in my life. Basically I was part of projects that didn't meet the thunderous success of *Gully Boy*, so that was the only difference.



ANURAG BASU

Ludo is unlike any film I've made before. It was fantastic working with such a talented ensemble, where each actor brought a unique vision and craft. (Composer) Pritam, one of my closest collaborators who I have worked with on so many projects, worked closely with me to bring this film to life. I am so grateful to him.



MIRA NAIR

Monsoon Wedding is a wonderful musical with music from Vishal Bhardwaj, 21 new songs. It is very close to the film in spirit, but it's a stage musical. And that's something that I have been working on very painstakingly for 10-11 years. So now we are ready. We're looking for COVID to leave us so that we can open on the big stages.

PULKIT SAMRAT

I loved *Taish's* script. The opportunity to play a character I've never tried was very exciting. I thought it would lead to an enriching experience. Bejoy (Nambiar, director) had a vision and when I came on board, we brought my character to life together. We discussed his back story, and his life journey.



SHORT CIRCUITS

NEW NORMAL 60 MINUTES

WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS

Filmmaker IDA ALI is absorptive in her approach. Stories and people inspire her. Perhaps, it's also why she chose her house help to be the protagonist and leading actor for her debut short film, *Bechari Chidiya*, shot and directed during the lockdown. She tells CHAHAK MITTAL how a story can be expressed through a film with very limited resources

Why are the best examples sought from our everyday lives? Perhaps, because they are very much in front of us; only we know what it's like to be in that situation; and they are our very realities.

For filmmaker Ida Ali, her debut directorial *Bechari Chidiya*, also turned out to be an example taken from her most immediate surroundings. Rather, her home. When her house help, whom she refers to as "didi", could not go back to her home in Odisha during the lockdown, it occurred to Ida to make a film about how even though, unlike thousands, "she was in a house, she was not in her home." The film revolves around a domestic worker, who

is stuck at her employer's house during the nationwide lockdown. Alone and unable to return to her village, she finds an unlikely companion.

The film, which is a part of the *Life: Summer of 2020* series of short films, shot in lockdown, by Lockdown Shorts Studio, is now set to release on Disney Hotstar. Excerpts:

How did you conceptualise the film? How long did it take for you to complete it given the lockdown?



When I heard about Lockdown Shorts and was asked to think of a story, I instinctively looked to my surroundings. Who were the people in my vicinity? How were they affected by the lockdown?

My house help, whom I call "didi", is one of the most important people in my life. She is someone whom I have lived with for years. And yet, my home was not her home because she had her family in her village in

Odisha. The lockdown kept her from taking that one-time-a-year holiday to go to her home and meet her kids and grandkids. So my idea was based on not only her but on every worker from villages who had come to the city to find work and got stuck in the lockdown, unable to go back home.

Luckily, my didi turned out to be a fantastic actor. I cast her as the only character in my film. I shot the film on my

iPhone and the production stage of the film went by very fast. The post-production was a little trickier because films have so many collaborators and I got in touch with some really talented people for the post.

Communication, sending footage and coordinating was a challenge, but we made it work.

What were the on-ground challenges while directing your debut film during the lockdown?

Obviously, I had never directed a film, and definitely never imagined doing it in a lockdown. I ended up doing all the production work, including sound, camera, costumes, set and direction. But as much as it was challenging to single-handedly do everything, it actually empowered me. It showed me what adaptive filmmaking means. It can be created anywhere and anyhow.

Why the title, *Bechari Chidiya*? Does it aim to metaphorically reflect the trapped reality that Summer of 2020 became for those who are always wandering?

Living on the 34th floor, I saw an immediate increase in the bird population in Mumbai after the lockdown. They took over the city, flocked the then empty streets and even enjoyed the sunrise on my balcony. In my fascination with them, I thought about how a bird could be someone's only companion if one was spending the lockdown alone. The idea was that how a bird and a woman became reflections of each other in that time. It is not a trap but simply an acceptance of nature.

During the migrant crisis in lockdown, while house helps and daily wage labourers were losing their jobs, to the contrary, in your film, the maid is instead stuck at the employer's home. It's a completely new angle to how crises in lockdown have been portrayed and looked at so far...

The migrant crisis really opened eyes and conversations about the sad reality of the workers in India — in a way it was needed. However, my perspective came from what I knew and what I saw firsthand. It is shocking to see that such few films have covered the lives of domestic helpers. It is almost like they have been overlooked. Well, I did not want my didi to be overlooked. I wanted to play with identity crisis even when one may be in a secure place — she was in a house but not in her home.

How do you think lockdown gave birth to new ventures for many?

I think the lockdown, for aspiring filmmakers like me, promoted the idea of making films when one is not comfortable — with a smaller crew, over the internet, planning way in advance. It was when people really pushed to find new and alternative methods to work. I think when someone steps out of their comfort zone is when they are truly free to be as creative and unique as they want to be. I think it was that for me.

Do you think post-COVID, the Indian cinema will have a changed face as it will need to showcase more realistic angles to how life has seen a drastic change?

Post-COVID, the entire world will be drastically changed. Well, it is already so different. Masks and distancing will not disappear overnight. People have learnt to segregate what is important for them from what is not, be it friendships, jobs or even leisurely activities and I think that will stay on. As cinema is a reflection of reality or, at most, a satire on the real world, it is bound to change.

After the WWI, the German cinema took off showcasing the surrealist style that resonated with many who had been through the war. After the WWII, the French cinema took off. The tough times always, always, contribute to art for the better and hopefully, so will 2020!

What does an Ida Ali character look like? What is your strategy to write and create a character?

I take great interest in people and they could be anyone — my mother, my friend's grandfather, or even some passerby on the street. I want to know more about them, always.

It's a process. First, I would, inevitably, start building a backstory for a person. Then, a future. Then, I'd think about or try to explore what they are thinking of. The characters I create are probably, mostly holistic. Other than that, I do not want them to be the same type. I want to explore all kinds of people.

Sir Imtiaz Ali has been a cherished filmmaker in the Indian cinema. And being the daughter of a famous director, has it ever felt burdened to match up to his level?

Well, I am asked this question a lot and very honestly, this is when I feel 'burdened' the most. Other than that, my aim in life is to create and present stories. I am already doing that, and some people seem to appreciate it. Currently, I choose to let go of that burden and be happy about even one smile that my film brings to a person's face.

What made you to pursue a career as a filmmaker? Was it because of your parents? How have your growing up years shaped you as a filmmaker?

My parents have been making films ever since I can remember. I would be naive to think that it did not influence me to become a filmmaker. However, what I really credit for my interest in making films is stories. I find them intriguing. I've listened to them for hours and not let my eyes shut even when I was being put to bed because I wanted to listen to them more.

Now, I have started to tell my own stories, create them, bring them alive through films, present them in the exact way I'd imagined in my mind. I wanted to be a filmmaker just to be able to do this.

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

A shot at stake

Author SUMAN DUBEY's debut novel, *The Fixer*, revolves around crime and power in the world of Indian cricket



launch, director Sujoy Ghosh and cricketer-turned-commentator Aakash Chopra shared their thoughts on the book. During the chat, *UnFixed Conversation*, with RJ Rishi Kapoor, Sujoy, Aakash and Suman spoke about the plot of the book, the trailer and all things films and cricket.

Sujoy said, "After seeing the trailer, my first thought was, this is a screenplay for a thriller film and not a book! I observed that

the book is more about the person and not the sport. Stories and films are based on emotional journeys, and this book is about the journey of redemption. This trailer gives the impression of *Rocky* (Hollywood film) on the cricket field. The plot of this book has great emotional value and has potential for a film or a web series."

Talking about match-fixing, he added, "There's something dark about any and every industry, including cricket. These things are part and parcel of life. We see it in the film industry as well. Both cricket and the film industry are very alike. I am as good or bad as the last film I made, just like how a cricketer is as good or bad as his last performance on the pitch."

Aakash said, "Match-fixing is about honesty and ethics, and not about the money. I have seen so many players from humble backgrounds reporting being approached for match-fixing. While I may not be able to suggest the actors who can play the leading man, I would love to play a pivotal role, maybe as a commentator, if a film is ever made on *The Fixer*."

Suman said, "I look at my book as a source of entertainment for my readers. I wanted to provide them with a sneak-peek of the story with a trailer. The most exciting thing about writing this book was that at one point, it felt like the main character took off on his own journey beyond my control. This journey of writing a fiction-thriller novel has been the most exciting experience for me as it combined my passion for observing human nature with my zest for storytelling."

(Published by Rupa Publications, the book is available for pre-order in paperback and ebook. It will also be available online and in other book stores from October 26.)

Heart-breaking to see loss of jobs: Arjun

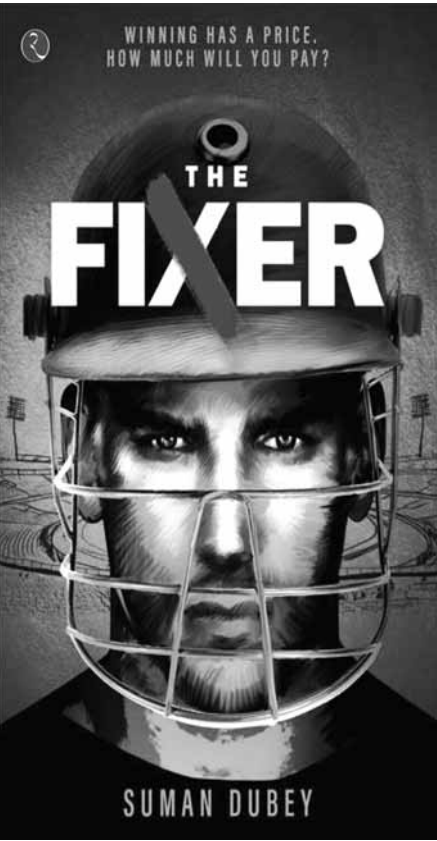
Actor Arjun Kapoor had recently invested in an emerging food delivery start-up, FoodCloud, with the aim to improve gender parity. He seems to have pivoted towards empowering as many people as possible to be self-reliant during the Coronavirus pandemic with his business platform.

Arjun says, "The Coronavirus pandemic has thrown extraordinary challenges at people. It is heart-breaking to see the loss of lives and employment. I have tried to empower as many people as possible through our venture."

The actor reveals that his platform has made around 1,000 home chefs turn into entrepreneurs during the lockdown. "We have managed to create about 1,000 new food

entrepreneurs from across the country on our fast-growing platform and that's a big achievement for us because these people have become self-reliant in this stifling lockdown situation. We have always wanted people to realise their dreams through self-reliance, and been a vocal for local company," he says.

Arjun is happy to contribute towards providing business opportunities to people during the pandemic. He adds, "These home chefs have found economic stability by turning entrepreneurs and it gives us great joy to see them happy. They have come on board our platform and found a new way to feed their families and take care of their needs. We are proud that they have chosen us to be their vehicle of dreams."



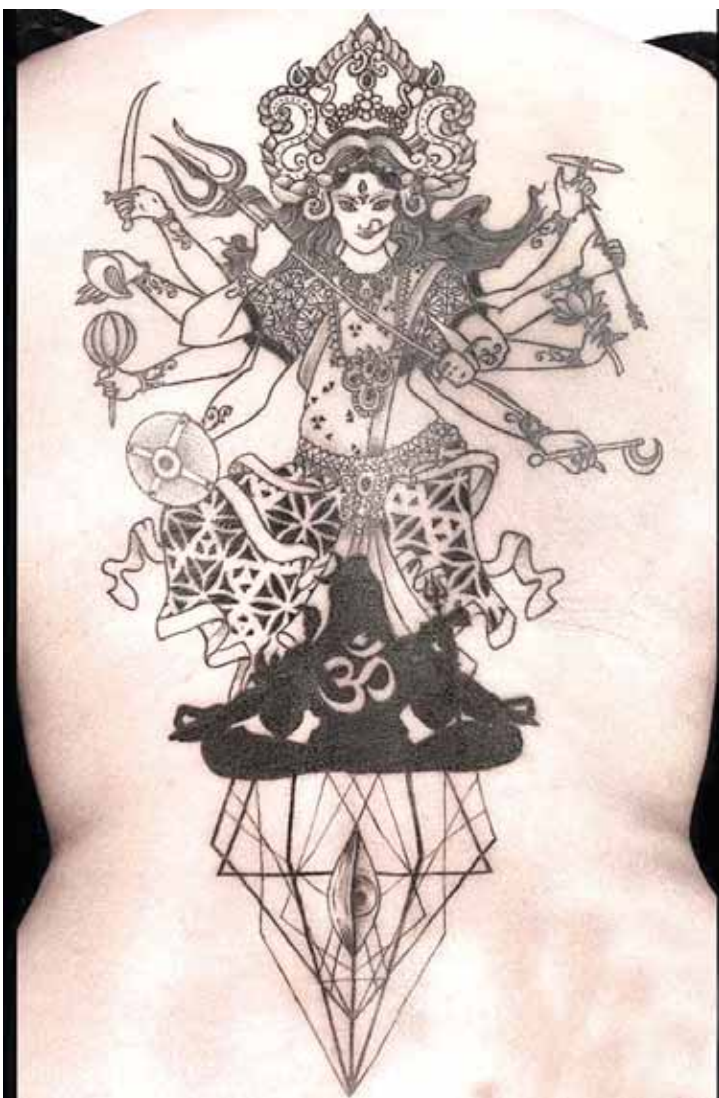
IMMERSIVE 45 MINUTES

Millennials are embracing religious and spiritual tattoos like that of Maa Durga and lord Ram. By TEAM VIVA

During these challenging and unprecedented times, we have seen a lot many drastic changes and have tried to adapt to a new normal. However, thankfully some things never change like the festive cheer. The raging COVID-19 pandemic has not deterred the tattoo enthusiasts from keeping up their excitement, especially during the festive season as it brings positivity and spirituality. Getting inked is truly a form of self-expression and tattoos during Indian festivities are gaining increased popularity these days. Men and women are keen on getting the ones that signify the importance of their tradition with a combination of ideas that are an extension of their personality. Believe it or not but religions and tattoos have a long history together. The carvings on prehistoric rocks were copied by tribal communities on their bodies. The process is known as *gudna* (burying the needle in Hindi). They flaunted the markings as jewellery — the kind which no one could take away from them even if they lose everything. Some people choose religious tattoos to represent their own beliefs and others choose symbols they like without paying attention to their meanings. This year, despite the pandemic, millennials are showing their love for artwork to display their idea of power and spreading the message of good over evil by getting religious tattoos.

Veteran tattoo artist, Lokesh Verma, founder of Devilz Tattooz, shares, “Despite the pandemic, the loyal art lovers are coming to get inked this Navratri. There is always a rise among women to get inked during Navratri. They do it as a form

FAITH ON YOUR SLEEVE



of flaunting the body art and spreading the message of equality and women empowerment to the society by getting tattoos of goddess Kali and

Durga which represent power, harmony and strength. Religious tattoos are a symbol of faith and good luck for many to stay positive and believ-



ing that the lord is close protecting them from the every kind of evil.”

People seem to have moved past butterflies and barbed wire designs.

They have started being experimental. Getting inked is now being recognised as an art form. The trends such as realistic portraiture,

VOGUE 30 MINUTES



A twist to traditional styles

Designers MONICA & KARISHMA of JADE and Lakmé Salon came together to launch a collection — *The New School of Brides* — an ode to the many moods and emotions of newly-weds



traditional splendour with a global perspective. Each ensemble was further underscored using masterfully crafted accessories like silver bibs, *Ek Taar* belts, embellished mules and cross-body sling bags.

Completing the dazzling JADE ensembles was the new hair and makeup collection by Lakmé Salon. The collection plays up the beauty of the eyes with glitter and colour in

combination with baroque hairstyles featuring textured braids and twisted buns, fixing the spotlight firmly on the bride.

The models sported a contemporary, subtle belle look with a focus on the eyes, enhanced using glitter with splashes of colour, colour on the waterline, bewitching eyelashes and fluffy feathered eyebrows, offset by glowing glass skin and nude lips.

Shades of mahogany and brown were extensively used with bronze glitter to add depth and dimension to the eyes.

The hair exhibited a playful rendition of structure through texture and layering — from dual textured braids for instant glam and extra oomph, entwined twin dutch braids that give the ensemble a royal look, flirtatious braided ponytails for playful



moments to a French twist for a modern rendition of the classic chic style and the timeless top knot that flatters all face shapes.

Pooja Singh, National Creative Director, Hair, Lakmé Salon said, “Hairstyles for the *New School of Brides* twist the boundaries of traditional styles for contemporary looks. We have replaced the plain traditional bun with a French twist and fun top knot to craft a fresh look. Each style in this new collection plays with structure through texturing and layered braiding.”

“A contemporary take on tradition, the makeup looks are specially created for the new age bride and her tribe. Replacing the OTT bridal makeup, we have kept a minimal base with nude, dewy fresh and glass glow skin, accentuated with a colour splash, glitter and shimmering eyes in hues of mahogany, browns and bronze. These timeless colours will suit every outfit and occasion in the bridal journey,” added Anupma Katyal, National Creative Director, Skin, of the salon brand.

Monica Shah of JADE said, “We, at JADE, have always stood for Indian craft and techniques, and given it a modern flair.”

nature-inspired designs are being explored. However, notably, millennials are increasingly wearing their faith on their sleeves. It's a modern way for them to reflect their religion or beliefs.

Artistes are getting plenty of requests for hyper masculine renditions of Shiva, fierce mother goddesses and other deities.

Celebrity tattoo artist, Vikas Malani, founder of BodyCanvas Tattoos, says, “While the women have been getting tattoos that are inspired by or directly related to Maa Durga and goddess Kali, the men are choosing bigger designs that depict the story of the *Ramayana* or the victory of good over evil. The most relatable tattoos are those of Maa Durga, lord Ram, the

symbolic representation of the trident or Trishul, the lotus flower as a symbol of purity and enlightenment amid ignorance, and the tiger/lion tattoos that signify power and strength.”

International artist, Micky Malani, co-owner of BodyCanvas Tattoos tells us that a lot of people get tattoos to represent things in their life that are significant. “Mythological tattoos have been elating the masses since forever, and this year is no different. Many women come to us and even ask for tattoos of yantras, mandalas and chakras. While some get coloured ones, others prefer black and grey ones as they don't require the same amount of shading and layers that coloured tattoos do,” says he.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Gulabsha D/o Rahmatullah Ansari R/o C-510, JJ Colony Wazirpur Delhi** has been missing since 18.10.2020 at 10.00 AM from her residence. In this regard a **DD No. 580/20 dated 19.10.2020** has been lodged at PS, Bharat Nagar, Delhi.

The description of missing girl is as under :

Name: Gulabsha, **Father's Name :** Rahmatullah Ansari, **Age :** 17 years, **Height :** 4'8", **Face :** Long, **Complexion :** Shallow, **Built :** Thin, **Wearing :** White suit and White salwar and Black Colour sandal in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641

Extn.-210

Fax: 011-24368639

DP/459/NW/2020

SHO

P.S., Bharat Nagar, Delhi

Ph. : 011-27301200, 27301400

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that a male Namely Unknown **S/o Unknown R/o Unknown Age:** About 65-70 years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** White & blue coloured checked shirt & half pant and bare feet, was found dead after meeting accident on 09.08.2019 at 6:00 PM at Punjabi Bagh Underpaas, Rohtak Road, Delhi. In this regard a **FIR No. 437/19 dated 09.08.2019 U/S 279/304A IPC** has been registered at P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO

P.S. Punjabi Bagh, Delhi

Ph.No.: 011-25225616, 0122-25225614

DP/248/WD/2020



SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely:** Renu, **D/o:** Jai Pal, **R/o:** H.No. D-1076, JJ Colony, Camp No. 2, Nangloi, Delhi, **Age:** 17 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Wearing:** Blue Colour Top-Jeans and Chappal in Feet has been missing/kidnapped since 24.09.2020 from the area of P.S. Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 988/20, U/s 363 IPC, Dated 25.09.2020**, has been lodged at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.

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

Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>

E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in

Fax: 011-24368639

DP/451/OD/2020

SHO

P.S. Nangloi, Delhi

Ph.: 011-25947225, 25949470

OMKARA ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED

Corporate Office:- C/515, Kanakia Zillion, Junction of LBS Road and CST Road, BKC Annex, Near Equinox, Kalina, Kuria (West), Mumbai-400070.

APPENDIX IV Rule 8 (1) POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas The undersigned being the authorized officer of Omkara Assets Reconstruction Private Limited (OARPL) a Company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, and duly registered with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as an Asset Reconstruction Company under Section 3 of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFESI Act, 2002), acting as Trustee of Omkara PS24/2019-20 Trust and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice. The Borrower(s)/Co-borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/Co-borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with rule 8 of the security interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. The Borrower(s)/Co-borrower (s) and the Guarantor (s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the OARPL acting as Trustee of Omkara PS24/2019-20 Trust. The borrower (s)/Co-borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S.N.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of secured asset (Immovable property)	Possession Notice Date
1.	Gaurav (Borrower) Sangeeta (Co-Borrower)	21-07-2020 Rs. 34,92,719/-	All that piece and parcel of House No. D-440, Colony Indraprastha Tehsil & Dist. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201010 ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH.	20-10-2020
2.	Rajesh Kumar (Borrower) Khushboo Devi (Co-Borrower)	21-07-2020 Rs. 15,36,350/-	All that piece and parcel of Flat No-401,4th Floor,ARSH Eco Homes, Plot No-154 & 155, Vayusena Enclave, Khasra No. 135, Shahberi, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh 201301 ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH.	19-10-2020
3.	Rajiv Kumar (Borrower) Orbit Group, Karan Sahani, Urmila Devi (Co-Borrower)	21-07-2020 Rs. 23,66,384/-	All that piece and parcel of Plot No-604, Block-K, Gali No. 3, Gautam Vihar, Vill Ghonda Gurjan Khadar, Shahdra, Mendu, Near Primary School, East Delhi, Delhi-110053 ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH.	19-10-2020
4.	Rajni Sharma (Borrower) Krishna Kumar Sharma (Co-Borrower) Krishan Kumar Nimavat (Guarantor)	21-07-2020 Rs. 19,18,909/-	All that piece and parcel of Flat No. SF-202, 2 nd Floor, Plot No. 36, Khasra No. 8M, Ward No 42, Green Avenue Village Harsau, Pargana Dasna, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201002 ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH.	19-10-2020
5.	Ramesh Kumar Jena (Borrower) Abjay Kumar Jena , Bijay Kumar Jena , Sasmita Jena (Co-Borrower)	21-07-2020 Rs. 36,83,552/-	All that piece and parcel of Property No-60 Upper Ground Floor Out Of Rect No 38, Kila No 20, Gali No- 12, Sarojini Park Known As Shastri Nagar, Village Khureji Zillaqa, Shahdara, East Delhi, Delhi 110031 ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH.	20-10-2020
6.	Yadav Munni Lal (Borrower) Sabitar Devi, Sabita Devi, Farender Yadav (Co-Borrower)	21-07-2020 Rs. 13,81,966/-	All that piece and parcel of Property No. 59A, New No. RZ-126-A, Khasra No. 12/14, without Roof/Terrace Rights, Village Khayala, West Block EXTN 2, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018 ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH.	19-10-2020
Place :- Delhi Date :- 24.10.2020		Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For OMKARA ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED (Acting in its capacity as a Trustee of PS24/2019-20 Trust)		

|place or name of constituency.