

In 2.5 yrs, LNJP will be one of biggest hospitals in country: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said that a state of art building with cutting edge medical technology block is being added in Delhi's Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan hospital .

With an additional 1,500 beds, this building will increase the overall capacity of LNJP hospital to 3,800 beds

In Delhi's critical infra, LNJP plays pivotal role having modern medical infra meeting world standards.

Kejriwal said that the other Governments spend ₹1-1.5 crore per bed, but we believe in smart spending and effective utilisation of budget; in the past few years we have worked towards improving the living standards of the people of Delhi.

"Delhi Government has completed projects on time and that has saved cost as well

which is then further utilised for the betterment of the city," the CM said.

Kejriwal said, "Today is a remarkable day for Delhi. A state of the art building with cutting edge medical technology block is being added in Delhi's LNJP hospital. With an additional 1,500 beds, this building will increase the overall capacity of LNJP hospital to 3800 beds. In 2.5 years, LNJP will be one of the biggest hospitals in the country with a modular design and modern medical infrastructure."

The CM said, "Delhi, is the national capital and therefore a microcosm of the nation. It should have access to everything world-class. This new wing at LNJP is valued at Rs 462 crores, with per bed costing around Rs 30 lakh. Other governments spend Rs 1-1.5 crore per bed, but we believe in smart spending and effective utilisation of



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal with Health Minister Satyendra Jain offers prayers during the foundation stone laying function for a 1,500-bedded medical block at the LNJP Hospital in New Delhi on Friday

budget. In the last 5 years, it has been of utmost importance that we improve the living standards of the people of Delhi. AAP government has completed projects on time and saved cost as well which is then further utilised for the betterment of the city."

EV policy portal launched to curb pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to make Delhi pollution free, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on Friday launched the Electric Vehicle (EV) policy portal for seamless disbursement of all the demand incentives to the vehicle buyers. Addressing the media on the role played by electric vehicle policy in the anti-pollution campaign launched by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal titled "Yuddh Pradushan ke Virudh", Gahlot said EV dealers can log into ev.delhi.gov.in and apply for subsidy.

The whole process is simple and hassle-free, Gahlot said, adding that the transport department has already approved over 100 EV models which will be eligible for this subsidy which and till now 36 manufactures have registered and 98 dealers have joined with us in this mission.

Gahlot said, "One of the key actions the CM had announced was the implementation of Delhi's EV policy. Delhi EV policy has been welcomed by all stakeholders and is considered as a model policy globally. It is our attempt that everything under the policy is implemented in the best way possible. Earlier this month, on October 10, 2020, it was decided that we implement the policy regarding exemption of road tax and on October 15, 2020, we implemented the exemption of registration."

The minister further said, "The portal will be instrumental in disbursing both these incentives in a quick, efficient and transparent manner. Under the purchase incentive being offered as part of the Delhi EV policy, the transport department has already approved over 100 EV models which will be eligible for this subsidy."

Enthusiastic response to anti-pollution campaign, says Gopal Rai

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Friday said that people are enthusiastically supporting the Delhi Government's Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign which will be spread across all the assembly constituencies in the coming week.

Rai, who visited the Barakhamba Road-Tolstoy Road crossing along with councilors on the third day of the campaign, said, October 26 onwards the initiative will spread across all 70 constituencies by MLAs and on November 2, it will be implemented in 272 wards to reach as many people as possible.

"Today councillors spread awareness at Barakhamba Road signal. We can see the enthusiasm in people of Delhi. On October 26, MLAs will take the initiative to all 70 constituencies. On November 2, this campaign will be implemented in 272 wards to reach and include as many people as possible," he said.

Explaining about measures being taken to control pollution, he said that Delhi Pollution Control Board (DPCB) is closely monitoring 13 pollution hotspots in Delhi and biodecomposers have already been sprayed in 1000 acre of farm lands.

The minister launched the campaign on October 21 at ITO traffic signal where he was seen asking people to turn off their vehicles at the red light, had appealed to the public to actively participate in the fight against pollution.

"People are enthusiastic and are becoming a part of this campaign. It is spreading in the city at a

good pace. The Aam Admi Party (AAP) government's campaign, which will go on till November 15, aims to spread awareness at 100 traffic signals

in the capital. A total of 2,500 civil defence volunteers will be standing with placards, asking commuters to switch off engines of their vehicles, at these signals," he added.

Rai had said that Delhi's vehicular pollution can be reduced by 15-20 per cent if commuters turn off their vehi-

cle engines while waiting at traffic signals. He had appealed to the people of Delhi to act responsibly and stop burning fuel at traffic signals.

"The campaign is an attempt to reduce vehicular pollution. Delhi has around one crore registered vehicles. Altogether, vehicles burn fuel at

traffic signals for around 15-20 minutes every day. This campaign aims to stop fuel-burning at signals.

Durga Puja - 2020 : Guidelines for Idol Immersion

THIS YEAR IMMERSE IDOL OF MAA DURGA ONLY AT HOME

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, immersion of Maa Durga's Idol in Yamuna River, water bodies or any artificial ponds is strictly prohibited

Delhi Pollution Control Committee's directions on idol immersion for Durga Puja 2020 are available at www.dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in



✓

Immerse Maa Durga's idols at home



✓

Idols should be made of traditional clay and painted with natural colours



✗

Do not immerse idol in River Yamuna, water bodies or artificial ponds etc.



✗

Do not throw worship material like flowers in River Yamuna, water bodies or artificial ponds etc.

DOs

- Use only eco-friendly pooja samagri/ natural flowers etc. in prayers
- Use only natural colours for painting idols

DON'Ts

- Do not use idols made of Plaster of Paris (PoP) / baked clay and toxic / chemical colours
- Do not use thermocol or plastic in decorations.

Note: Violations of directions issued under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 are punishable under section 15 of the said act, which include imprisonment upto 5 years and/or with fine which may be extended upto to ₹ 1 Lakh or with both

"Wish you a very happy Durga Puja ! Stay Healthy, Stay Safe"

-Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister of Delhi

सिटी सफाई
गंगा अंतर्गत

Department of Environment, Government of N.C.T. of Delhi

DIP/SHABDARTH/D/0058/20-21

Vector-borne diseases on rise in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With 97 fresh cases reported last week, the number of people infected with dengue has reached 520 this year. Fourteen new cases of malaria and three cases of chikungunya also reported in Delhi last week taking the total number to 288 and 88 respectively till October 17.

According to the latest report released by all three Municipal Corporation, mosquito-breeding has been reported in at least 94977 households and 72709 legal notices have been issued this year. The dengue breeding checkers have checked 17765208 houses and also issued challans to 8775 numbers of office and residential premises.

A senior SDMC official said that all the preventive steps have been taken to reduce the cases. "The key to prevention of Dengue is ensuring there is no clean stagnant water in homes and around, which does not allow the Aedes mosquitoes to breed, and therefore dengue cannot spread," he said.

Dengue mosquito larvae breed in clear, standing water while those of malaria mosquito to thrive even in dirty water. Doctors have advised people to take precautions and ensure that there is no breeding of mosquito larvae around them.

SDMC issues 618 challans last week for flouting pollution norms

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Intensifying its campaign against pollution, South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has issued 618 challan in last one week against burning of solid waste, garbage, dry leaves, and plastic, rubber and construction activities in all four zones.

A senior SDMC official said that all zones of the civic body issued challans for burning of solid waste, garbage, dry leaves, and plastic, rubber and construction activities. In last one week, 618 challans issued amounting to Rs. 97,88,235.

"In Central Zone, 150 challans were issued amounting Rs 62,98,000 during night patrolling for under Solid Waste Management by laws and construction and air pollution under National Green Tribunal Act (NGT) Act," he said.

The official said that to control dust pollution, eight water sprinklers covered around 90 kms to settle down dust in the area.

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, 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

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 undertakings 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.



राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल

आवास भवन, जनपथ, ज्योति नगर, जयपुर, दूरभाष : 0141-2744688

सरकारी कर्मचारियों तथा अधिकारियों के लिए जयपुर की प्रतिष्ठित आवासीय योजना ‘प्रताप नगर’ में अपना घर पाने का सुनहरा अवसर

मुख्यमंत्री राज्य कर्मचारी आवासीय योजना (बहुमंजिला)

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31 अक्टूबर, 2020

राज. संवाद/सी/6030/2020-21

आवासन आयुक्त

मास्क खुद पहनो, सभी को पहनाओ, कोरोना से जान बचाओ

जयपुर में मुख्यमंत्री जन आवास योजना सेक्टर 28 प्रताप नगर, एम.जी.डी. वीकेन्ड होम नाथला एवं महिला आवासीय योजना में भी आवास पाने का सुनहरा मौका ।

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 crop 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 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.

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.

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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 'lakshman 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 Tricolor, 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 prevailing 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 Fadnis whom he has accused of harassing him for four long years, Khadse targeted Fadnis 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 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 e 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 convenor 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

Valmiki: 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 Khaili, 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.

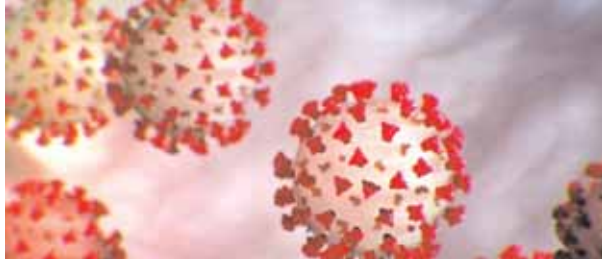
Morcha for reservation of SC/ST/OBC in AMU

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.

Covid-19 tally crosses eight lakh in Andhra



Amaravati: Andhra Pradeshes 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**

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.

Recall Frontier Gandhi

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)

SOUND BITE

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

The youth in the streets of Lagos may not realise that their rebellion could endanger a corrupt system, but those who benefit from it certainly do



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*.)

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



VEDANT KABRA

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.

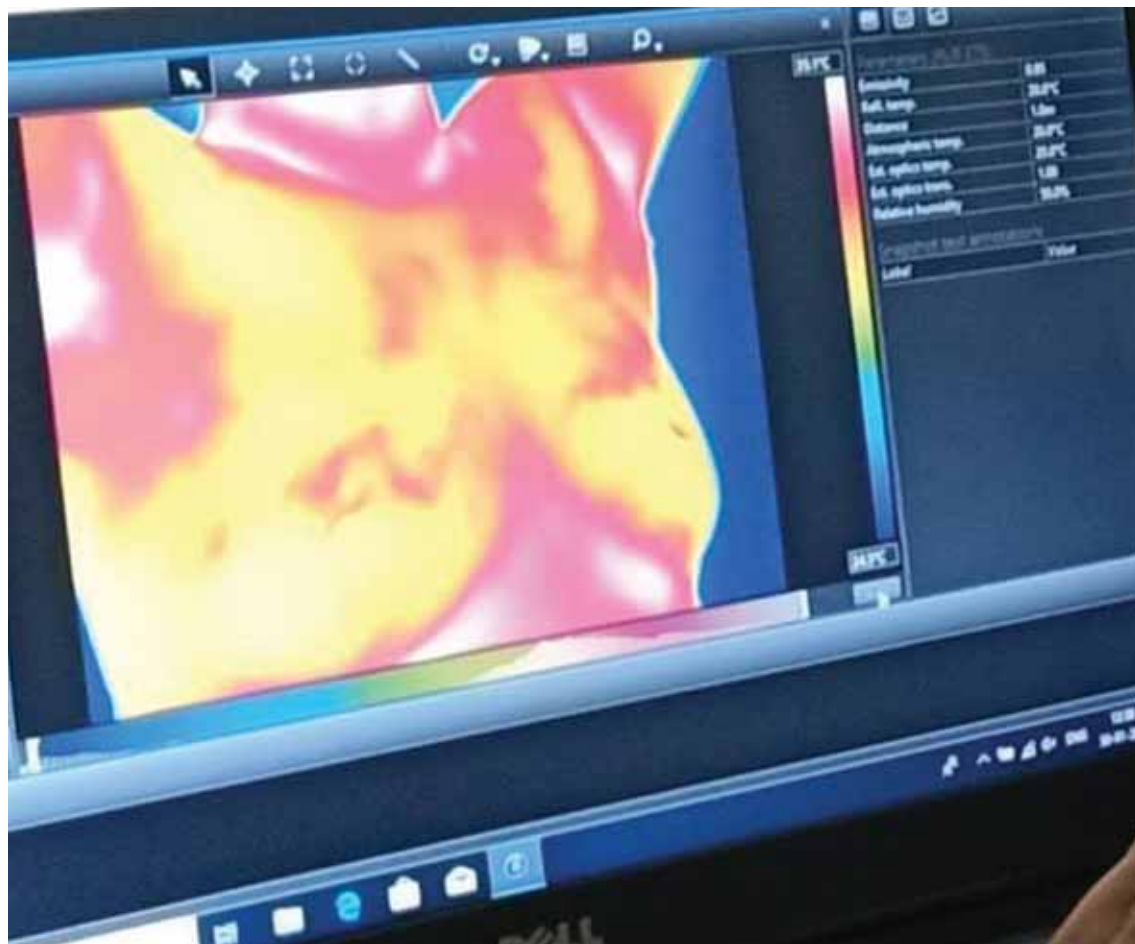
Unfortunately, Ayesha is not a lone case of a seriously-ill patient being deprived of timely treatment due to the ongoing contagion. While we will never be able to collate data of how many such patients suffered delayed diagnosis and treatment this year, it is evident that the number is significant. 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

“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



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)

PUBLIC NOTICE

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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.

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

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- 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_ CC425 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**

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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.

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 traded 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

₹ drops by 7 paise to 73.61 on \$ buying by banks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 7 paise to close at 73.61 against the US dollar on Friday due to dollar buying by banks possibly on the behalf of the Reserve Bank.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened weak at 73.62 against the US dollar and remained under pressure for the most part of the session.

It moved in a range of 73.46 to 73.67 against the US dollar in day trade.

The local had settled at 73.54 against the greenback in the previous session on Thursday.

was trading 0.38 per cent higher at USD 42.62 per barrel. In the forex market, the rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at 73.61 against the US dollar.

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 Kuyia 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 ireps.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 ireps.gov.in
6	Earnest Money Deposit As per NIT on ireps.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	



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.

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

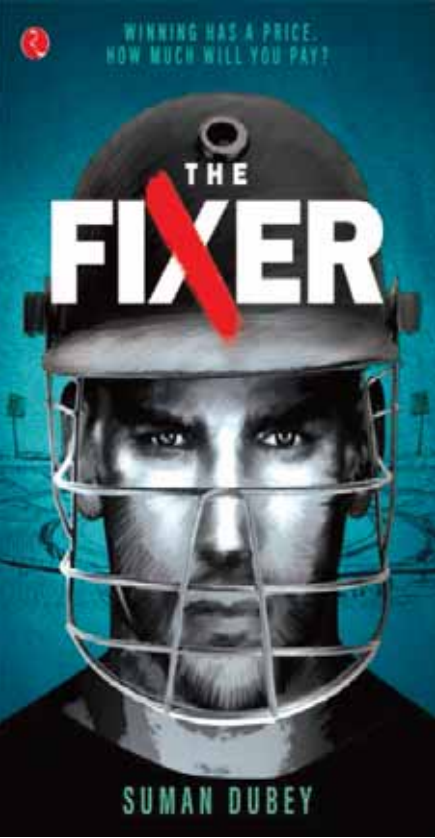
Actor Arjun Kapoor had recently invested in an emerging food delivery start-up, FoodCloud, with the aim to improve gender parity. He seems to have pivoted towards empowering as many people as possible to be self-reliant during the Coronavirus pandemic with his business platform.

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."



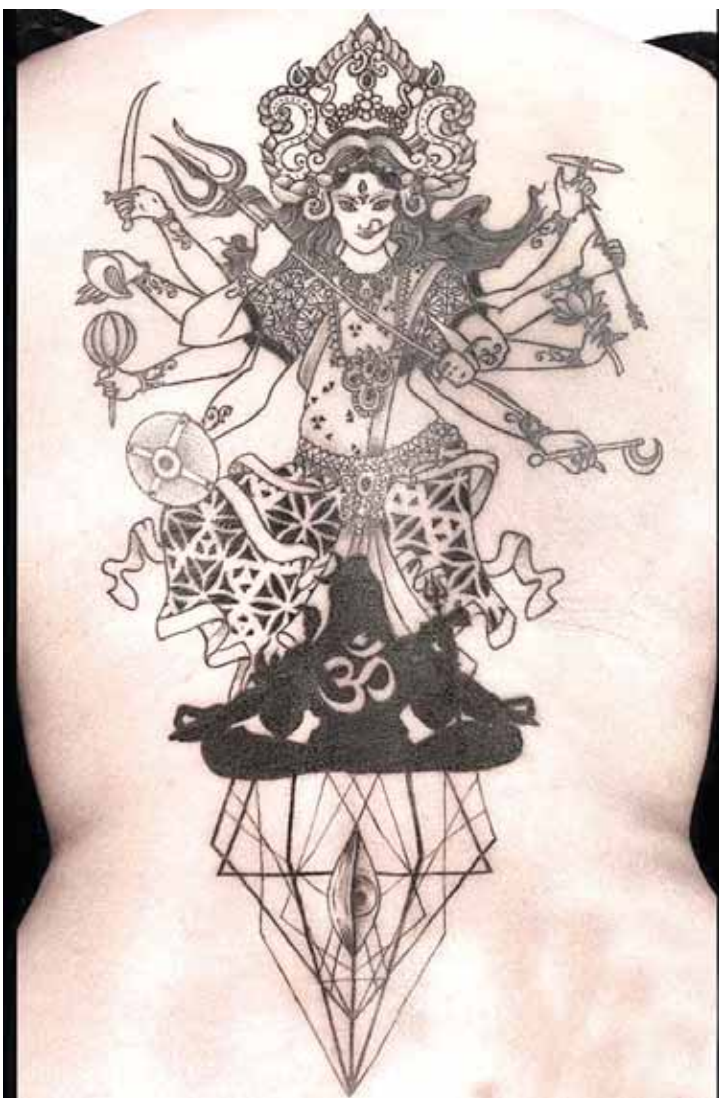
IMMERSIVE 45 MINUTES

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

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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) Ajay 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)		

Dev (Padikkal) on top has been incredible. He has got a similar imposing way of batting as Hayden...The way he conducts himself, you can say 'he is the future of Indian cricket'

You can't always think the result will go your way. Even when you're hurting, you try to smile and take it on the chin. I feel the boys have done that, they've tried to perform

Two-three wickets early puts you in the game and to get 4-5 is fantastic. Then the openers going out and finishing off and not leaving any uncertainty was good

I am the one who's lucky to get the wickets, but everyone has been contributing to the side. All the bowlers, batsmen and even fielders have contributed in our good performances

KKR aim to stay in hunt

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Table-toppers Delhi Capitals would expect more from their batsmen after an underwhelming performance in the loss to Kings XI Punjab when they take on a low-on-confidence Kolkata Knight Riders here on Saturday.

For Delhi, opener Shikhar Dhawan has been in brilliant form but even his record-setting hundred was not enough to save the side from a defeat against Kings XI Punjab for lack of contribution from other batters.

Young Prithvi Shaw needs to bat with more responsibility at the top since Dhawan may not be able to rescue the side all the time. Shaw's last four innings have included two ducks.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer too has not been hitting the ball as fluently as he was before suffering a side strain. Rishabh Pant, who made a comeback from injury against Punjab, too has not yet set the stage on fire.

Iyer and Pant, along with Marcus Stoinis, form the backbone of Capitals' middle order. They are vital cogs in DC's wheels and need to do more than just making good starts.

Pacer Anrich Nortje, who has been instrumental in Capitals' superb run thus far along with his South African compatriot

Kagiso Rabada, had a niggles and missed the last match against Punjab.

If he comes back, it will add sting to DC's attack and in that case Australian pacer Daniel Sams will have to make way for him.

KKR are heading into the contest after an embarrassing batting performance against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Blown away by Mohammed Siraj's furious spell, KKR managed just 84 runs on the board.

It certainly was a confidence-crushing defeat and KKR need to regroup quickly. Sitting at fourth place in the table with 10 points, they would be desperate to increase their tally to stay alive in the play-offs race.

Even the change in captaincy has not instilled much confidence in the side.

The performance of pacer Lockie Ferguson has been the only bright spot for them amid the disappointment of Andre Russell's poor run.

Russell missed out on the last match due to an injury and it will be interesting to see if the team management repores faith in him, if he is fit.

KKR needs a collective effort from now on with skipper Morgan, Dinesh Karthik, Shubham Gill, Nitish Rana all required to contribute.

DOMINATION

Mumbai hunt Super Kings by 10 wickets to reach on top

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah's devastating pace-bowling spell in tandem before Ishan Kishan's batting heroics helped Mumbai Indians post a comprehensive 10-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings in a completely lop-sided IPL match here on Friday.

With the embarrassing loss, CSK are all but out of reckoning for the play-offs with just six points from 11 games, while MI jumped to the top spot with 14 points from 10 matches.

Bowling in tandem, Boult (4/18) and Bumrah (2/25) reduced CSK to 21 for 5 inside powerplay with three and two wickets respectively and CSK never recovered from there, limping to 114 for 9, largely thanks to Sam Curran's 52.

Chasing 115 for a win, Kishan (68 not out), opening in place of regular skipper Rohit Sharma who missed out due to a hamstring injury, and Quinton de Kock (46 not out) knocked off the required runs in just 12.2 overs.

The duo toyed with the CSK bowling attack on a dreadful day for the MS Dhoni-led side to carry their bats through the innings.

The left-handed Kishan, who has not had a substantial score



Trent Boult celebrates with his Mumbai Indians teammates after taking wicket. IPLT20.com

after his knock of 99 against RCB, was at his attacking best as he smashed six fours and five sixes during his 37-ball innings.

The South African de Kock played second fiddle during his 37-ball innings which had five fours and two sixes.

Earlier, put in to bat, CSK were five wickets down inside powerplay overs with Boult and Bumrah taking three and two wickets respectively.

CSK could reach to 114 for 9 thanks largely to Sam Curran's enterprising half-century. The young Englishman mixed caution with aggression to top-score with 52 (47 balls, 4 fours, 2 sixes) in an otherwise pathetic display by CSK batsmen.

Boult eventually picked up four wickets for 18

runs, 13 of those coming in the final over. Bumrah (2/25) and leg-spinner Rahul Chahar (2/22) picked up two wickets each while Nathan Coulter-Nile ended with 1 for 25.

Incidentally, Curran's 43-run partnership for the ninth wicket with Imran Tahir (13 not out) was the highest partnership of the CSK innings which showed the rest of the batsmen in poor light.

CSK had a horror start and slipped to 3 for 3 after two overs and lost two more wickets before the powerplay ended.

It all started with Ruturaj Gaikwad, back into the side, being trapped LBW in the opening over bowled by Boult for a duck.

Ambati Rayudu fell to a short ball from Bumrah, gloving an easy catch to de Kock. N Jagadeesan followed him to the pavilion off the next ball, poking at one to be caught by Suryakumar Yadav.

Faf du Plessis, the only CSK to batsman to shine this season so far, edged one to give de Kock his second catch of the night.

PTI ■ DUBAI

Their campaign back on track with a hat-trick of wins, Kings XI Punjab will take on another resurgent team — Sunrisers Hyderabad — here on Saturday in a must-win IPL game for the two well-matched sides.

Both KXIP and SRH are on the same pedestal, having garnered eight points apiece after 10 games, but the Hyderabad outfit is a rung ahead in the eight-team standings, on the fifth spot by virtue of a better net run rate.

And both the teams need to win their remaining four games to guarantee their place in the play-offs.

It has been a terrific turnaround especially for KXIP after a slow start to the tournament.

After the initial hic-

Survival of the fittest

KXIP, Sunrisers meet in must win game to keep play-offs hopes alive

cups, KXIP got its campaign back on track with three consecutive wins — over mighty Delhi Capitals, Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bangalore and the KL Rahul-led side would be hoping to carry the winning momentum forward to break into top four.

While KXIP's batting is in the safe hands of skipper Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Chris Gayle and Nicholas Pooran, the shaky form of Glenn Maxwell remains a concern.

It has been an erratic season for KXIP so far despite hav-

ing the tournament's top two run-getters in openers Rahul (540) and Mayank Agarwal (398) in its ranks.

But the successful return of Gayle has been a welcome relief for KXIP as it reduced the burden on the shoulders of its star openers, especially allowing Rahul to play more freely.

Jimmy Neesham's inclusion has given some depth to KXIP's batting as well bowling unit led by the experienced Mohammed Shami.

SRH too find itself in similar position and needs to win its remaining four matches to seal a play-off berth.

The side managed to keep itself in the play-off hunt with a confidence-boosting eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals on

Thursday after three consecutive defeats.

And the David Warner-led side can't slip a bit from hereon if it wishes to stay alive in the tournament.

The positive for SRH is that despite Warner and Jonny Bairstow departing early in the 155-run chase against RR in their last match, young Manish Pandey (83) and Vijay Shankar (52) rose to the occasion and shared an unbeaten 140-run partnership to secure a comfortable win.

Jason Holder's inclusion has added firepower to SRH's bowling attack as the West Indian picked up three wickets for 33 runs against RR.

But it's high time that SRH's young guns — Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad and T Natarajan — own up some responsibility.

Azhar Ali may lose Pak Test captaincy

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan Test captain Azhar Ali may lose his job as leader of the side when the team tours New Zealand amidst speculations that either white-ball skipper Babar Azam or Mohammad Rizwan could replace him.

Azhar, who is the most Test capped player now in the national team with 81 appearances, is said to have lost favour with an influential member of the cricket committee while the PCB Chairman and CEO are also said to be having second thoughts about retaining him as captain.

He was named Test captain last year in October after sacking of Sarfaraz Ahmed as captain and player from all three formats.

With just 12 months in the job, Azhar saw the Pakistan team lose two-nil in Australia before securing home Test wins over Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Then they travelled to England where the team lost the three-match Test series 0-1.

WTC should be extended: Misbah

Karachi: Pakistan's head coach Misbah-ul-Haq wants the ICC to conduct the World Test Championship exactly the way it has been planned even if it means extending the duration of the event due to the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Misbah's statement came amid reports that the ICC is considering splitting points for unplayed games in the championship cycle which was originally scheduled to end in June-July 2021 with the final in England.

"The Covid-19 situation has hit the World Test Championship series but I would still prefer to see the ICC complete the championship

with all teams completing their scheduled matches," Misbah said in an interview on the *Cricknet Baaz* channel on YouTube.

"I think the matches can be rescheduled because every team should get a fair chance to take a shot at qualifying for the final," Misbah said.

The former Pakistan captain felt that the league can be extended to accommodate matches hit by the pandemic.

Pakistan's one Test against Bangladesh in April has not been played due to the pandemic. Other countries have also had several of their scheduled series disrupted due to the pandemic.

recently led the KPK team to the National T20 Championship title is said to be favourite to replace Azhar.

PCB CEO Wasim Khan told a television channel that a meeting could be held on November 11 to decide on Azhar's future and find a new chief selector as head coach, Misbah ul Haq has relinquished the post.

English cricketers take 15% pay cut

AFF ■ LONDON

England's centrally contracted men's cricketers have agreed to take a 15 percent pay cut as part of cost-cutting measures due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The England and Wales Cricket Board says the English game has already lost more than £100 million (\$130 million) — a figure that could rise to £200 million next year.

Bowlers Stuart Broad and Chris Woakes have said recently that players are willing to take a pay cut, which the ECB revealed on Friday would come from retainers, match fees and win bonuses.

The annual contracts, which started on October 1, were understood to have been worth £650,000 for Test stars and £275,000 for white-ball performers in 2019/20.

Europa biggies start with win

AFF ■ LONDON

Gareth Bale said it felt good to be "loved and appreciated" after helping Tottenham to a 3-0 win over Austrian club LASK in the Europa League on Thursday.

The Welsh international started his first match since his return from Real Madrid and played for an hour before Jose Mourinho gave him a break.

"It is amazing to be back," Bale told *BT Sport* on Thursday.

"It is a big reason why I play well and why I came back. You want to be loved and appreciated. I will give everything for this shirt."

However, he admitted it will take time to find his feet. "I am a bit stiff. It is like a mini pre-season for me and I am trying to get min-

utes into the legs," he said.

Despite Bale starting, it was on-loan Carlos Vinicius who made an impressive debut in the Group J opener.

Vinicius started in place of the resting Harry Kane and he made goals in either half for Lucas Moura and Son Heung-min, while he would have also netted himself had Andres Andrade not scored an own goal.

Bale made that goal where Andrade put through his own net.

Leicester made the perfect start in Group G with a comfortable 3-0 win over Zorya Luhansk of Ukraine.

James Maddison, Harvey Barnes and Kelechi Iheanacho were on the score-

sheet.

In Glasgow, Celtic struggled against Serie A leaders AC Milan who were 2-0 up at half-time thanks to goals from Rade Krunic and Ibrahim Diaz.

Mohamed Elyounoussi reduced the arrears after the break, but Jens Petter Hauge broke clear to secure Milan's Group H 3-1 win in stoppage time. Milan were so comfortable that they could afford to take off Zlatan Ibrahimovic just after the hour.

GUNNERS COMEBACK

Earlier, Arsenal came from behind to down Rapid Vienna 2-1 and Rangers beat Standard Liege 2-0.

After a goalless first half Arsenal went behind when keeper Bernd Leno fluffed a clearance on a night he will want to forget but the Gunners then turned the game around in four second half minutes.

David Luiz put them level with a deft glancing header off Nicolas Pepe's free-kick, with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang then tapping home to bag the

three Group B points.

The other Group B game was being played out in Dublin where Dundalk, only Ireland's third ever representative in the group stage, were beaten 2-1 by Norwegians Molde.

In Belgium, Steven Gerrard's Rangers took on Standard Liege fresh from their Old Firm derby win over Celtic.

James Tavernier scored from the spot after Noe Dussenne handled in the area to put them into a 19th minute lead.

Then three minutes into stoppage time Kemar Roofe produced a wonder goal from the halfway line, the ball flying over the head of bewildered keeper Arnaud Bodart.

Benfica had claimed the first goal of the night and they went on to beat Lech Poznan in Poland 4-2 in the other Group D game.

Elsewhere, Bayer Leverkusen ran riot 6-2 against French side Nice and Spanish side Granada, in their first ever European campaign, beat PSV Eindhoven 2-1.

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni chats with Mumbai Indian's all-rounder Hardik Pandya during team's warm-up session ahead of the start of IPL game. @ChennaiIPL



MI's Rahul Chahar chats with his cousin and CSK pacer Deepak Chahar before the start of IPL game. @mipaltan



Mumbai Indian's Director of Cricket Operations Zaheer Khan poses for photo. @mipaltan



virat.kohli This pic takes me back to school days. 4 guys from the same class, and AB is the kid who's finished homework and is prepared and the other 3 know they are in trouble. 🤔

POINTS TABLE						
		P	W	L	NRR	PTS
1	MI	10	7	3	+1.448	14
2	DC	10	7	3	+0.774	14
3	RCB	10	7	3	+0.182	14
4	KKR	10	5	5	-0.828	10
5	SRH	10	4	6	+0.092	8
6	KXIP	10	4	6	-0.177	8
7	RR	11	4	7	-0.620	8
8	CSK	11	3	8	-0.733	6