

**OPINION 6**  
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FRONTIER GANDHI**MONEY 9**  
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MODERATION IN INFLATION: RBI**SPORT 12**  
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## No more lantern in progressive Bihar: PM

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

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Extending his congratulations in advance to the people, he said the voters have taken a

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

Modi said all surveys predict that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would return to power in the State. "I want to congratulate the people of Bihar, as they have announced their decision well in advance. Some people try to spread rumours at times and suggest that some 'new power' is emerging, but people of Bihar are not going to be fooled by such acts," said the Prime Minister.

He said the NDA rule has ended lawlessness in Bihar, which is far developed now with electricity doing away the need for lanterns for lighting homes.

"People who are voting for the first time, they don't know how far Bihar has come. But, there was a time when people wouldn't go to their homes after deboarding trains in the night. There was a time when electricity was only available to rich people. Poor people in Bihar were dependent on diyas. But now, there is no need for lanterns in Bihar," Modi said in his second rally at Gandhi Maidan, Gaya, complimenting BJP-JDU Government in the State.

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



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at the crowd during an election rally, ahead of Bihar Assembly polls, in Gaya, on Friday. PTI

## Rahul raps Modi on migrant crisis, Chinese aggression

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Addressing his first rally during the Bihar Assembly elections, Rahul claimed the Chinese army had indeed intruded into Indian territory. He said, "They have seized



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

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

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

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

He also attacked the Centre over the migrant crisis trig-

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

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

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

## 10 cr Covid tests in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

He said in the last three

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## House panel warns penalty if Amazon disobeys summons

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



lege," she added.

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

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

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

## Govt sets stock limit for onion traders to check its prices

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



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

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

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

### Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 78,10,585

DEATHS: 1,17,910

RECOVERED:

70,09,800

ACTIVE: 6,81,575



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	16,32,544	43,015	14,45,103
Andhra Pradesh	8,00,684	6,544	7,62,419
Karnataka	7,93,907	10,821	6,93,584
Tamil Nadu	7,03,250	10,858	6,59,432
Uttar Pradesh	4,66,060	6,830	4,30,962
Kerala	3,77,835	1,282	2,80,793
Delhi	3,48,404	6,189	3,16,214
West Bengal	3,41,426	6,368	2,98,587
Odisha	2,77,887	1,267	2,59,418
Telangana	2,29,001	1,298	2,07,326
Bihar	2,10,389	1,034	1,98,437
Assam	2,03,709	900	1,79,843
Rajasthan	1,82,570	1,814	1,62,981
Chhattisgarh	1,70,130	1,680	1,43,212
Madhya Pradesh	1,62,178	2,855	1,50,678
Gujarat	1,65,233	3,676	1,47,672

## Kapil Dev suffers heart attack, on the mend after critical angioplasty

STAFF REPORTER/PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's first World Cup-winning cricket captain Kapil Dev underwent an angioplasty after suffering a heart attack here on Friday but is "well on the road to recovery" and likely to be discharged in the next couple of days.

The 61-year-old, who is based in Delhi's Sundar Nagar area, complained of chest pain on Thursday following which he was taken to Fortis Escorts Heart Institute emergency department in Okhla.

"Kapil Dev suffered a heart attack. He was evaluated and an



emergency coronary angioplasty was performed in the middle of night...Currently, he is admitted in ICU and under close supervision of Dr Atul Mathur. Kapil Dev is stable now and he is expected to get discharged in a couple of days," the hospital said after only mentioning chest pain in its initial statement.

## Covid takes shine off Delhi's famed Ramleela celebrations

No Ravana's effigies, light & sound effect for Ravana Dahan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Citing lack of time for preparations and pending permissions amid Covid-19 pandemic, major Ramleela committees in the city have shelved burning of Ravana effigies, while others plan to employ light and sound effects

to recreate "Ravana Dahan" this Dussehra.

Also the Ramleela Ground at Red Fort, the hub of Dussehra festivities attracting commoners as well as dignitaries, including the Prime Ministers and Presidents every year, will be deserted this Dussehra.

"We had applied for booking the venue at Ramleela Maidan about three months back, but the permission has not yet been granted by the Archaeological Survey of

## Pak remains in terror watchdog's grey list

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's hopes of satisfying the global watchdog on terror financing and money laundering, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), were dashed on Friday as it ruled against taking Pakistan off the "grey list" and gave February 2021 deadline to comply with its 27-point action plan.

The decision was taken on Friday during the virtual plenary meeting of the FATF.

"Since June 2018, Pakistan made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and the APG to strengthen its AML/CFT regime and to address its strategic counter-terrorist financing-related defi-

ciencies. Pakistan's continued political commitment had led to progress in a number of areas in its action plan.

"Taking action to identify and sanction illegal MVTs, implementing cross-border currency and BNI controls, improving international cooperation in terrorist financing cases, passing amendments to the ATA to increase the sanctioning authority, financial institutions implementing targeted financial sanctions and applying sanctions for AML/CFT violations, and controlling facilities and services owned or controlled by designated persons and entities," read the FATF decision.

## Maha announces ₹10k crore flood relief for 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.

Talking to media persons after reviewing the situation arising out of heavy unseasonal rain 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.

## Surajpur Covid-19 deaths blamed on delayed treatment

STAFF REPORTER ■ SURAJPUR

After the death of 18 people in Surajpur district of Chhattisgarh due to coronavirus infection, officials told the Collector on Friday that all the victims had delayed taking appropriate treatment.

While chairing a meeting at the Collectorate, Collector Ranbir Sharma demanded to know the reasons leading to so many deaths, an official press release said.

District Chief Health and Medical Officer (CMHO) Dr RS Singh informed the Collector that so far 18 people had died in Surajpur due to Covid-19.

Singh specified "delayed treatment" as the main reason for the fatalities.

While chairing a meeting at the Collectorate, Collector Ranbir Sharma demanded to know the reasons leading to so many deaths, an official press release said.

District Chief Health and Medical Officer (CMHO) Dr RS Singh informed the Collector that so far 18 people had died in Surajpur due to Covid-19

"Those who started early treatment have returned home safely. But people who preferred to stay in their homes without informing the Health Department and go for self-medication assuming it can cure them are at the most risk," he added.

Civil Surgeon Ashish Tirki said delayed treatment has increased the danger of Covid manifold. Deaths were reported only in those cases where patients had delayed the treatment and contacted

officials when the situation went out of hand.

Generally, people with cough and cold and in some cases patients with loss of smell and taste come to Covid hospitals.

They are successfully treated. Some people are in home quarantine, he said.

After the discussion, the Collector called for a complete Covid death audit and urged people to immediately contact doctors if they have Covid related symptoms.

the pioneer

wishes its readers  
**HAPPY DUSSEHRA**  
The offices of the Pioneer will remain closed on October 24 and 25. The next issue of the edition will appear on October 27.





# In 2.5 yrs LNJP will be one of biggest hospitals in country: Kejriwal

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.”

**यूको बैंक** **UCO BANK**

(CHHATTISGARH) Opp Irrigation office Power House Road, Kailash Nagar, Rajnandgaon (C.G.) - 491441 Phone 07744-229174, E mail: rajana@ucobank.co.in

**[Rule-8(6)]**  
**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is" and "Whatever there is" on 07/12/2020 between 12.30 PM to 2.00 PM for recovery of amount dues and Reserve Price & EMDT along with other details are given below:- The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website <https://www.mstccommerce.com/auactionhome/!api/index.jsp>

A) Names of the Borrowers : Mrs Bhavna Pansari w/o Mr Gulab Chand Pansari & Guarantors with the address Mr Gulab Chand Pansari Hno-161 Berahman Para Rajnandgaon Chhattisgarh - 491441	Reserve Price & Earnest Money	Date of inspection of property & Contact Person
B) Description of Property : Rajnandgaon District and Registration District, Joint I & II Sub Registry Rajnandgaon District, saankra village, In khassra no. 888/2, and in khassra no. 492/5 in total extent of acre 0.39, Boundary of property:- 1. North by land of Government, 2. South by land of Ashok3.East by land of Surendra, 4. West by land of Makhan,	Reserve Price Rs. 5.70 Lakh Earnest Money Rs. 0.57 Lakh	From 26/11/2020 Between 3 PM to 5 PM

**Date of Demand Notice** - 26.05.2017, Outstanding Government dues/ Encumbrances in-/- Not Known, Date of possession Notice - 24.09.2019 & amount dues - Rs. 361 INCLUSIVE OF INTEREST up to 06.02.2016 plus further interest & other incidental expenses, cost, charges extra.

Contact details & website address of service provider any other property related query may contact - Nehrunagar Bhilai Branch, Tel: 8327799501 E-mail: bhineh@ucobank.co.in, during the working hours (10.00 AM to 5 PM) from Monday to Saturday except Bank Holidays

**Terms and condition of E-auction:-**

- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
- Detailed terms and conditions of the sale is available/published in the following websites/web portal: I) <https://www.mstccommerce.com/> 2. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". 3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 4. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstccommerce.com/> on 07/12/2020 from 12.30 A.M. to 2 P.M. 5. It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and to make self-bid and participate in the auction.

**OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE**

The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions.

- The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal <https://www.mstccommerce.com/>. 2. The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are requested to register on portal (<https://www.mstcauction.com/>) using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders/ Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet by 04/12/2020 before the e-Auction date and time in the portal. The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction. 3. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above shall be paid online through 3 mode i.e. NEFT/ Cash/ Transfer (After generation of Challan from (<https://www.mstccommerce.com/>)) in bidders Global EMD Wallet. NEFT transfer can be done from any Scheduled Commercial Bank, however for Cash/ Transfer the bidder has to visit UCO Bank Branch. Payment of EMD by any other mode such as Cheques will not be accepted. Bidders, not depositing the required EMD online, will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earnest Money Deposited shall not bear any interest. 4. Platform (<https://www.mstccommerce.com/>) for e-Auction will be provided by e-Auction service provider M/S MSTC Limited having its Registered office at 225-C, A.J.C. Bose Road, Kolkata- 700020 (contact Phone & Toll free Numbers 079-41072412/ 411/ 413 or 1800-103-5342). The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are requested to participate in the e-Auction process at e-auction service provider's website <https://www.mstccommerce.com/>. This Service Provider will also provide online demonstration/ training on e-auction on the portal. 5. The Sale Notice containing the General Terms and Conditions of sale is available/ published in the following websites/web page portal: (1) <https://www.bapi.in/> (2) <http://www.mstccommerce.com/> 6. The intending participants of e-auction may download free of cost, copies of the Sale Notice, Terms & Conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction related to this e-Auction from e-BIIL -IBAPI portal (<https://www.bapi.in/>). 7. Bidders Global EMD Wallet should have sufficient balance (>EMD amount) at the time of bidding. 8. During the e-auction bidders will be allowed to offer higher bid in inter-se bidding over and above the last bid quoted and the minimum increase in the bid amount must be as mention above to the last higher bid of the bidders. Ten(10) minutes time will be allowed to bidders to quote successive higher bid and if no higher bid is offered by any bidder after the expiry of ten minutes to the last highest bid, the e-auction shall be closed. 9. It is the responsibility of intending Bidders(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms & conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction and follow them strictly. In case of any difficulty or need of assistance before or during e-Auction process may contact authorized representative of our e-Auction Service Provider (<https://www.mstccommerce.com/>). Details of which are available on the e-Auction portal. 10. After finalization of e-Auction by the Authorised Officer, only successful bidder will be informed by our above referred service provider through SMS/ email. (On mobile/ email address given by them/ registered with the service provider). 11. The secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price. 12. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% (twenty five percent) of the bid amount, less EMD amount deposited, on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of auction in the form of Banker's Cheque/ Demand Draft issued by a Scheduled Commercial Bank drawn in favor of "The Authorized Officer, UCO Bank, Payable at, Bilai. In case of failure to deposit the amounts as above within the stipulated time, the amount deposited by successful purchaser can inspect the property on between 10AM and 5pm. Please contact Chief Manager, Mob.- 8327799501. 17. All statutory dues/attendant charges/other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser. 18. The Authorized Officer of the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-Auctioned) not known to the bank. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. 19. The bidder should ensure proper internet connectivity, power back-up etc. The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure or technical reasons or reasons/contingencies affecting the e-auctions. 20. This is also a 30 days sale notice to borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) of the above said loan about holding of auction sale on the above mentioned date. If there outstanding dues are not repaid in full before auction date.

**Date: 23/10/2020**  
**Place : Rajnandgaon**  
**Chief Manager and Authorized Officer**  
**UCO Bank(Secured Creditor)**

**Office of the Engineer in Chief,**  
**PWD, Nirman Bhavan Sector - 19, North Block,**  
**Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar, District - Raipur (C.G.), Pin - 492002**  
Email Id - [eincpwe-rclpwe@cg.gov.in](mailto:eincpwe-rclpwe@cg.gov.in), Phone No. 0771 - 2512703  
Notice :- 75068/P/RCLPWE/SQC/20 Date:21/10/2020

**Notice for**  
**Empanelment of State Quality Monitors (SQM)**  
**Under RCP LWE for CGPWD**

Application are invited for Empanelment of State Quality Monitors (SQM) Under RCP LWE (Road Connectivity Programme - Left Wing Extremism Affected Area) Scheme for Chhattisgarh PWD. The following may apply.

- Retired Engineers/Officers from Central Govt/State Govt. of Public Sectors, not below the rank of Executive Engineer (Civil).
- Retired Associate Professor/Professor of Civil Engineering Branch of Govt. Engineering Colleges & Govt. Polytechnic Colleges.
- Age of applicant should not more than 70 years.
- Applicant should be resident of Chhattisgarh State.

Individuals interested to supervise the work as SQMs may send their application in the prescribed format to the address given below by Speed Post/Registered Post only. Last date of submission of application is 07-11-2020

Prescribed format (Appendix-I), Duties of State Quality Monitors, Honorarium and Travelling Allowances and other details, applicable as per PMGSY - SQM (Appendix-II) are available in the office of E-in-C PWD, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar can be obtained in the office hours. This can also be downloaded from website <https://pwd.cg.nic.in>

**Address :-** The Engineer in Chief, Public works Department, Nirman Bhavan Sector 19, North Block, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar, District - Raipur (C.G.), Pin - 492002

**Engineer in Chief**  
**Public Works Department**  
**Nava Raipur (C.G.)**

G- 84494/3 Ryp/Dtd 23.10.20

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES DIVISION NO.1 AMBIKAPUR**

**e-Procurement Tender Notice**  
**Main Portal : <http://cgprocurement.gov.in>**  
**WRD Portal : <http://wrdr.cgprocurement.gov.in>**  
**[FIRST - CALL]**  
**Corrigendum**

No. 01 /SAC/2020-21 Date 21.10.2020

The following partial modifications are made. In the tender invited vide N.I.T. No. 06/SAC /2020-21 Dated, 12-10-2020 System Tender No. 68360 for NAME of work :- **Construction of Gaduwa Jhariya Diversion Scheme Head work & Earthwork of main canal, 13 Nos. canal structure & 300m Cement concrete channel, with 10 year maintenance work** Where "G" No.84258 Date. 13-10-2020

(1) Date of Bid due of tender may be read as 09-11-2020 (17:30 hours) in stead of dated 02-11-2020 (17:30 hours)

(2) Date of Bid Open start may be read as 10-11-2019 (11:30 hours) in stead of dated 03-11-2020(11:30 hours)

**Note :-** According Key Dats has been changed Detailed key dates can be viewed from the Government of Chhattisgarh e-Procurement Portal : <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> On sub portal of Water Resources Department: <https://wrdr.cgprocurement.gov.in> and all other terms and conditions will be remain and unchanged.

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**Water Resource Division No. 1**  
**Ambikapur**  
**For- Chief Engineer**  
**Hasdeo Ganga Basin, W.R. Deptt.**  
**Ambikapur (C.G.)**

G- 84518/6 Ryp/Dtd 23.10.20

**छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग, रायपुर**  
राज्य नगर मार्ग, रायपुर- 492001  
फोन नं. -0771-2439562, 2446556 (फैक्स), वेबसाइट-[www.psc.cg.gov.in](http://www.psc.cg.gov.in)

क्रमांक 96/18/चयन/2020 दिनांक 22/10/2020

**साक्षात्कार हेतु "सूचना पत्र"**

**व्यवहार न्यायाधीश ( विधि एवं विधायी कार्य विभाग )**

छत्तीसगढ़ लोक सेवा आयोग के विज्ञापन क्र. 03/2019/परीक्षा/दिनांक 01.02.2019 रोजगार और नियोजन में प्रकाशन दिनांक 06.02.2019 के अंतर्गत व्यवहार न्यायाधीश (विधि एवं विधायी कार्य विभाग) के 39 विज्ञापित पद हेतु मुख्य परीक्षा का आयोजन दिनांक 21 सितम्बर 2020 को किया गया तथा परीक्षा परिणाम दिनांक 13.10.2020 को जारी किया गया है। उक्त लिखित परीक्षा के प्राप्तकों व अर्ह अभ्यर्थियों के उपलब्धता के आधार पर कुल 127 अभ्यर्थियों को साक्षात्कार हेतु चिन्हांकित किया गया है। आयोग द्वारा चिन्हांकित अभ्यर्थियों को साक्षात्कार दिनांक 02.11.2020 से आयोजित किया जाएगा।

उपरोक्त पदों के साक्षात्कार हेतु चिन्हांकित अभ्यर्थियों के साक्षात्कार तिथि के विस्तृत समय सारिणी की सूचना आयोग के वेबसाइट पर पृथक से जारी की जावेगी।

( मान. अध्यक्ष महोदय द्वारा अनुमोदित )

**परीक्षा नियंत्रक**  
छ.ग. लोक सेवा आयोग  
रायपुर

G- 84509/3 Ryp/Dtd 23.10.20

effectively succeeded, it is during the months ahead of winter that Delhi sees pollution from neighbouring states in the form of stubble burning. While we can't control what happens outside the city, we can definitely try and lower the pollution levels within Delhi. Our newest campaign, "Red light on, gaadi off" is a step towards lowering the pollution caused by fuel burning. I urge you all to participate and also act as an influencer for your fellow city men."

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain who also attended the ceremony said that keeping in mind the requirements of the citizens, the building will have 3 main departments, a new medical block, new maternity and an advanced paediatric department.

Talking about the new health facility, Jain said, "Today marks the beginning of the

healthcare revolution in the city. LNJP Hospital will get a state of the art building with 1500 beds. This will be the tallest building in the country. With 25 floors and best health care available under one roof, this will be an inspiration to all."

"It is the vision of the Chief Minister to make world-class health facilities accessible to all Delhi citizens, and it is truly marvellous to see that converting into reality. This fully air-conditioned, state of the art building will house 1500 beds. Keeping in mind the requirements of the citizens, the building will have 3 main departments, a new medical block, new maternity and an advanced paediatric department."

Besides Kejriwal, the ceremony witnessed the presence of areaMLA Shoaib Iqbal, senior doctors and officials of the hospital.

## Karnataka Govt decides to reopen degree, diploma & engineering colleges from Nov 17

**Bengaluru:** The Karnataka government on Friday decided to reopen engineering, diploma and degree colleges that were shut since March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, from November 17, with students free to opt for online or offline classes or a mix of both.

"In a meeting that took place under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, it was decided to start degree colleges from November 17. Engineering, diploma and degree colleges will all start," Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwath Narayan said.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, he said students would have the option to either attend classes physically or online or go for blended learning by using both options.

Those who wished to attend classes by coming to colleges should have their parents' consent, he said.

Depending on the strength, it would be decided how the classes have to be held and in how many batches, along with all necessary safety Standard

Operating Procedures, he added. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa chaired the meeting of officials from health, social welfare, backward class, finance, transport and education departments, along with Narayan on reopening of the degree colleges.

Narayan, who is also in the charge of the Higher Education Department, said all necessary arrangements will be made for students who will stay at SC/ST, social welfare and OBC hostels. Necessary transport arrangements will also be made to facilitate smooth conduct of classes, he said.

Priority would be given for practical classes, he said, pointing out that UGC guidelines also provided an opportunity to conduct offline classes from November. Students had also been demanding that classes be restarted, he said.

Narayan said the decision to reopen colleges was arrived at after several rounds of consultative meetings with all the stakeholders.

Each college would have a

task force, the Deputy Chief Minister said, adding that Deputy Commissioners of districts have been authorised to coordinate and monitor things at their district level.

To a question on cutting short the syllabus, "we have not discussed it for now. That flexibility will be looked into, keeping exams in view. For now, we are trying to give impetus on learning. As per UGC guidelines we will be conducting classes. Online classes have already started in October," he said.

Further on November 17, the Chief Minister would launch the Learning Management System (LMS) portal, which, Narayan claimed, would be a first in the country, for the benefit of about five lakh students studying in government colleges.

Necessary approvals and budgetary allocations have been made for the LMS, he said, adding it would be of help for students and teachers and improve the quality of education. **PTI**

## UP sees 40 more Covid-19 deaths, 2,202 new cases

**Lucknow:** The COVID-19 death toll in Uttar Pradesh rose to 6,830 on Friday with 40 more fatalities, while 2,202 fresh cases pushed the infection tally to 4,66,060, a health bulletin issued here said. At present, there are 28,268 active cases in the state, while 4,30,962 people have recovered from the infection and have been discharged, Additional Chief Secretary, Medical and Health, Amit Mohan Prasad told reporters.

The number of active cases in UP has come down by 58.6 per cent since September 17 during which the state witnessed a peak of over 68,000 cases, Prasad said. During the past 24 hours, 40 more people have died due to COVID-19, taking the toll in the state to 6,830, while the total number of cases has risen to 4,66,060 from 4,63,858 on Thursday. **PTI**

## Create separate room at every police station for woman complainants: UP CM to officials

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday directed officials to create a separate room in every police station of the state where women complainants can convey their problems to women personnel without any hesitation.

"The separate room equipped with all basic facilities should be made in all police stations so that an aggrieved woman is able to speak without any hesitation to the female police personnel."

"Not only this, all the helpline numbers (1090, 181, 112, 1076, 1098 and 102) on which a woman can call for help when needed should be written there. A warning will also be written there for those who misuse the numbers," a statement quoting the chief minister said.

The chief minister was speaking after inaugurating a women's help desk from his

official residence here on Friday.

The woman's help desk will be set up at all the 1,535 police stations of the state under the 'Mission Shakti', a women's empowerment campaign launched by the state government.

The campaign was launched last week with an aim to provide help to women and instill a sense of security in them.

In his address, the chief minister said the honour of women will have to be maintained. "For this, take this program of 'mission Shakti' to schools, colleges and other institutions as well. Make people aware about this (campaign) during morning prayers and any cultural event," the CM said. Stating that a lot has changed during the week-long Mission Shakti program, Adityanath said in the past, those who made "a mountain out of mole hill are themselves in the dock."

## Telangana employees donate one day's salary for flood relief

**Hyderabad:** Telangana government employees have decided to donate their one day's salary to support the relief measures launched by the state government for the victims of recent heavy rains and floods.

Leaders of employees' unions on Friday submitted a consent letter to Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao in this regard on Friday. The employees, through their one day salary, will be donating Rs 33 crore.

Telangana's gazetted officers, non-gazetted officers, class IV employees and drivers will be donating one day salary.

The Asian Institute of Gastroenterology has also donated Rs 50 lakh for flood relief measures. Hospital MD, Dr Nageshwar Reddy said that the financial assistance is extended to support measures taken by the government for the relief and rehabilitation of the people in affected areas.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister directed the officials concerned to complete the relief and rehabilitation measures in flood-hit areas of Hyderabad on a war footing. He reviewed the relief and rehabilitation measures taking place in the city.

KCR, as Rao is popularly known, said that due to the heavy rains and floods, water entered into the houses and damaged everything including the essential commodities.

"People were not in a position to even cook their meal.

Hence we have decided to extend Rs 10,000 each family as an immediate financial assistance to them. This programme should be done actively. If the poor get this assistance before the festival it will be good for them. Ensure that every day one lakh people get this assistance," he told the officials

Southern Power Distribution Company Ltd (SPDCL) CMD Raghuma Reddy informed the Chief Minister that due to heavy rains and floods, 33/11 KV Sub Stations were damaged at 15 places but all of them have been repaired and restored.

"At 1,080 places, 11 KV feeders were damaged and we have also restored them. 1,215 transformers were damaged in Greater Hyderabad. We have repaired and restored 1,207. The remaining eight transformers could not be repaired as they were submerged in water," he said.

The officials said due to floods in Musi River, 1,145 transformers of the farm sector in the rural areas were damaged and 386 of them were repaired. Of this, 586 transformers were submerged in Musi water in Nalgonda, Bhongir, and Suryapet. The heavy rains and floods also damaged 1,299 electric poles in Greater Hyderabad and all of them were repaired. Due to Musi floods, 5,335 poles were damaged in the rural areas and of this, 3,249 poles were repaired. **IANS**

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER KELO PROJECT SURVEY DIVISION, RAIGARH DIST. RAIGARH (C.G.)**

**CORRIGENDUM NO. 1**

The following corrigendum has been issued to Notice Inviting Tender No. 04/SACI 2020-21, Dated 13.10.2020 (System Tender No. 68237) CAD & WM WORK IN KELO PROJECT.

**PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENT PART I (ENVELOPE-B)**

Clause 3.0 CAPABILITY OF TENDERER ELIGIBILITY Sub Clause 3.1 (ii) Financial Turnover of Civil Engineering Works (Annual) at Price-List of 2018 - 2019

Previous issue - Seen Online Tender System No. 68236 at Integrated e-Procurement portal ( <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>)

Amendment - Seen Online Tender System No. 68236 at Integrated e-Procurement portal ( <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>)

All other terms and conditions of NIT are remain unchanged.

**Advert. No. 84286 dt. 14.10.2020**

**EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**KELO PROJECT SURVEY DIVISION,**  
**RAIGARH (C.G.)**

G- 84499/6 Ryp/Dtd 23.10.20

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)**

**Tender Notice**  
**(1<sup>st</sup> Call)**

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in **Unified Registration System [e-Registration]** invited Online tenders for the following works :-

NIT.No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	2	3
104/68286	S/R, M.O.W. & DEPOSIT WORK FOR "COVID-19" IN MEKAHARA HOSPITAL SECTION UNDER PWD CONSTRUCTION SUB DIVISION NO.2 RAIPUR (C.G.)	Rs. 60.00 Lakh

**Last date of tender Download Date up to 09.11.2020 Time 17:30 PM**

● Note :- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

**Superintending Engineer**  
**P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1**  
**Raipur (C.G.)**

G- 84519/3 Ryp/Dtd 23.10.20



# C'garh notifies amendments in new Industrial Policy

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

For overall inclusive development and to further boost the economy, Chhattisgarh has incorporated 21 amendments in the new State Industrial Policy 2019-24 which have been notified now.

The prominent change is that small scale industries will have an option to meet cash or Goods and Services Tax (GST) in capital subsidy, states an official communication on Friday.

A special industrial investment promotion package has been incorporated for entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe category. The rebate is on a higher scale when compared to earlier industrial policy.

The government will promote the expansion of existing industries.

The government will also provide a grant for transportation costs incurred by industries for export to other countries. The government will provide Rs 20 lakh per year. Additionally, now it is no longer necessary to be a cent percent exporter unit for transport grants.

The new industrial policy has defined the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector including the definition of largescale enterprises for better classification.

Based on the demand raised



by investors, provision of permanent capital investment grants for the micro industries, the limitation has now been lifted and extended to the small and medium scale industries also.

For the expansion of existing industries, the count period of permanent capital investment has been extended.

To promote the core industry of the state which is steel, a special incentive package has been

announced for mega and ultra-mega industries signing MoU with the government.

The policy seeks to promote incorporation of new ideology, innovation and creating new jobs. These start-ups will be extended more facilities compared to other industries.

Full exemption in Electricity Duty will be extended to core sector industries mainly large, mega, ultra-mega industries

established in the state.

Land premium will be provided to the general category entrepreneurs by the Industries Department/Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation (CSIDC) to land allocated in the industrial areas for setting up of eligible micro, small and medium scale industries.

Similarly, the land transfer fee free has also been slashed.

# C'garh's hydropower stations see maximum power generation

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh State Power Generation Co Ltd's hydropower stations have set a record for maximum power generation as compared to previous year, the government said on Friday.

In the first fortnight of October, a total of 345.42 million units of electricity have been generated by the four hydropower projects of the company compared to 180.04 million units of electricity generated in October last year, a press release said.

Managing Director N.K. Bijora said that Hasdeo Bango is the largest hydro power station in Korba district. It has generated outstanding power due to the availability of sufficient water in each hydropower station.

These hydro power stations have generated 318.2 million units of electricity, which is an example of



maximum power generation in the last 12 years, he added.

As a result of sufficient rainfall in the state this year, the hydel power

plants of the power company could operate continuously along with generating maximum power, Bijora said.

# Covid recovery rate significantly improves in C'garh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The recovery rate of Covid infected has significantly improved in Chhattisgarh.

In the past week between October 16 and 22, in all 16,649 Covid positive people successfully recovered, the Health Department said in a press release on Friday.

Also, so far 143,212 Covid patients have defeated coronavirus, it said.



Currently, on an average, 22,000 samples are being tested every day in the state. So far, around 16 lakh samples have been

tested. Last week, 151,392 people were examined for Covid infection.

Of 143,212 Covid positive patients who recov-

ered, 71,021 had received treatment in Covid care hospitals. Another 72,191 were in home isolation.

Last week, out of 16,649 people who recovered, 13,721 were treated in hospitals and the rest were in home isolation, the press release said.

The present recovery rate of Covid cases in Chhattisgarh is 84.18 percent. The death rate is 0.99 percent. The national level recovery and death rates are 89.53 and 1.51 percent respectively.

# Man arrested with 62.50 kg cannabis in Gariaband

STAFF REPORTER ■ GARAIABAND

Chhattisgarh Police on Friday seized 62.50 kg of cannabis valued at ₹36.25 lakh and arrested a 28-year-old man in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district who was transporting it from Odisha to Raipur.

Gariaband Additional Superintendent of Police Sukhmandan Rathore told The Pioneer over telephone that the accused, Vijay Puruswani, is a resident of Raipur.

The action was taken based on a tip that the contraband was being taken to Raipur from Odisha via Gariaband National Highway NH-130C, the officer said.

The police intercepted a



car (CG-04, LY-9922) near a village in the Chhura police station limits.

The police found the

cannabis in it. A mobile phone, some cash and the car were also seized, Rathore said.

On Wednesday, police

arrested a 21-year-old man for ferrying 32.46 kg of cannabis valued at ₹3.24 lakh from Odisha.

# BJP pulls up govt over law and order

RAIPUR: With rising number of crimes reported across Chhattisgarh, BJP state President Vishnudeo Sai on Thursday blamed the Congress government for what he said was the deteriorating law and order situation.

Sai said in a statement that if the government does not consider all kinds of crime incidents in the state as a law and order problem, then the Home Minister lacks a deep understanding of administrative functioning. Citing incidents in Raipur, he pointed to abduction, attack on vehicle showroom, thefts, drug supply and rapes, also in different parts of state.

Sai said it seemed there was political protection for those involved in crime ever since the Congress government came to power in the state.

# Officials want all pet shops registered



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh Animal Welfare Board has made it mandatory for pet shops and dog breeding centers in the state to register with it.

The Board officials on Thursday inspected pet shops in Raipur city and found that

two aquarium shops (Aquarium House and Yash Fish Aquarium) had not been registered till date, a press release said on Friday.

The officials ordered the shop owners to register their shops with the Board.

They called for adequate firefighting measures in three shops: All Happy Paws,

Whiscotch Pet Store and The Amazing Pet and Aquarium.

The officials warned of action if the owners did not register their pet shops and dog breeding centers with the Board.

Chhattisgarh Animal Welfare Board Joint Director Dr M.P. Pasi was among present during the inspection.

## PIONEER SPIRITUAL READING

# Reading Can Open a Window to God

■ M.R. Narayan Swamy

Does God exist? Can He be seen? Will He heed our prayers? How can all these be achieved? Why do I suffer when I am so devoted to God? Is this country still home to genuine sages? Are intense austerities or prayers a must to see God? Or can a yogic way of life also provide a path to experience divinity? Most people turn to doctors only when they are in extreme trouble. In the case of God too, it is the same story.

True, there are those who pray regularly, at home or in shrines, often without expecting anything in return. But most people decide to beseech Divinity only in troubled times. And these are troubled times -- when a mystery virus kills over a million in the world including in India and hits hard people's earnings due to failing economies.

Ordinary men and women neither have the time for nor are, in many cases, even well versed in prayers. But they do have a genuine longing to know God, more so when they are in deep trouble. Spiritual literature in

particular can help the distressed -- if one has an inclination to read. Believe it or not, a regular perusal of spiritual books will not just make you a stronger person physically as well as emotionally but will greatly help in bringing about an invaluable balance in your troubled life.

Anyone who wants answers to most of the questions raised in the opening paragraph must read Paramhansa Yogananda's iconic "Autobiography of a Yogi", which was first published in 1946 and immediately came to be regarded as one of the greatest spiritual classics of the 20th century. Translated into some 30 languages, it continues to propel tens of thousands on the spiritual path. It is an extremely well written story of how Yogananda took to Kriya Yoga and his slow and steady growth in the spiritual world. Unlike many well known spiritual works, this is not dense. It reads like a collection of short stories -- though it is a real saga of one of India's earliest yoga masters. Don't miss this book.

If you need to know the



unlimited power of God -- in this case Goddess Mookambika -- go through the gripping story of the Devi's temple in Bengaluru and its engineer-turned-founder V.S. Nayak, who became known as 'Swamiji'. Author Ruzbeh N. Bharucha speaks to innumerable people to weave a hair-raising story of a Goddess who often spoke through her medium Swamiji to resolve people's numerous problems. Swamiji was a simple man who had no air of

spiritual superiority and could, at the Devi's bidding, penetrate into anyone's past and future without even knowing their name. "Swamiji is one of the most spiritually powerful men on the globe... It amazes one and all that there is a man who has the same powers that one only reads about in ancient religious texts," the author wrote in "Devi's Emerald" when Swamiji was alive. Read the book -- and you are sure to head to the Ma Mookambika

temple.

Are you interested in mantras? But you are not sure which one is best for you? Then turn to Om Swami, a young mystic living in the Himalayas who gave up all his riches one day to embrace spirituality. His "The Ancient Science of Mantras" is an easy-to-read (and gripping) account of 'mantra sadhana'.

The book has been written based on years of practical knowledge and insight, painstakingly gained by Om

Swami through continuous and tiring practice and play with the sonic science of mantras. But mantra yoga, he cautions, will not succeed without reverence and devotion.

Swami Vishnudevana's "Meditation and Mantras" is another equally well-written book. In simple language, the disciple of Swami Sivananda (and an ex-soldier!) encourages you to take to meditation and mantra chanting to erase your negative karmas. Once you start reading the book, you may ask yourself why you did not learn about it earlier. He warns you against the so-called new age gurus who promise instant nirvana. Not only are a large number of mantras (some very familiar) explained but you can pick which one is likely to help you best in life.

A medical doctor by education, Devdutt Pattanaik's spiritual talks and books are popular. My pick, however, remains "The Book of Ram", one of his earliest writings. If you have a religious inclination, read it to know why is Ram 'Maryada Purushottam'

and his relevance in modern times. Pattanaik makes a clear distinction between the Ram traditionally worshipped by millions and the Hindutva Ram.

Ram's killing of Ravana cannot be a license to use violence against the 'other'. Ram killed Ravana not because he is evil or is a political opponent but because he stubbornly refused to tame the animal within him, an animal that craves power and seeks to dominate, says the author.

The worship of Lord Saturn, once a way of life only in parts of India, has now become widespread across the country. If you worship Sani, then Robert E. Svoboda's "The Greatness of Saturn" should be read. Basically, it is a translation into English of the "Shani Mahatmaya" but with a clear imprint of the author. The book's aim is to help you understand the power of Saturn because it will then place you in a meaningful relationship with the Lord.

But Lord Sani Himself asserts that He punishes no one; he only gives out appropriate rewards to men and women, during Sade Sathi in

particular, depending on one's karmas. (Svoboda is a friend of India who knows Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi and Sanskrit too.) One of the finest books I have come across is "The Power of Karma" by Mary T. Browne, a psychic and spiritual healer who lives in New York.

One wonders if the book was written for just Indians! With simple tips, exercises and affirmations, she says that tapping into the power of karma can help you discover the secrets of your past lives, spot the difference between bad karma and bad judgment as well as how to avoid 'karmic boomerang' and how to make positive 'deposits' in your karmic bank account for your spiritual growth.

These are only a handful of books I have picked for those who want to start reading. For lack of space, I have omitted many books which I love and respect. Once you take up these books, you will decide what you want to read further. One thing I can say for certain: spiritual strength is a solid insurance -- against negativity, illness and painful death.



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

Representatives of the member countries attended the event.

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

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

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

## CBI books persons under POCSO for posting obscene materials online

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

It was further alleged that out of these, two accounts were for advertising posts / messages for sale of obscene videos / photos including the CSAM, the CBI said in a statement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

vaccines in India, Zydus Cadila, like Bharat Biotech, is in phase 2 and is expected to soon move into late-stage trials.

While Serum's Covishield is in phase 3 and is considered the frontrunner among 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.

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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.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

The new Building will have

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

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

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

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

## Ivermectin lacks efficacy in Covid-19 treatment: ICMR study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The abstract of the article states that "A group of senior doctors with vast clinical experience met on July 19, 2020, under the aegis of the Academy of Advanced Medical Education. The panel looked at Ivermectin, one of the old molecules and evaluated its use in Covid-19 management."

"After critical panel discussion, all the attending doctors came to a conclusion that Ivermectin can be a potential molecule for prophylaxis and treatment of people infected with novel coronavirus owing to its "anti-viral properties coupled with effective cost, availability and good tolerability and safety."

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

## HC ends its blanket order extending bails

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

courts in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

# Maha announces ₹10 cr aid for flood-hit farmers

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Striking a "discordant" note in her 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 Fadnavis whom he has accused of harassing him for four long years, Khadse targeted Fadnavis once again for "foisting" a molestation charge against him and ordering several inquiries against him.

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

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

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

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

rules".

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

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

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

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

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

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

Khadse was a minister in

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

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

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

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

KOCHI: Kodyiyeri 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.

Shoraj 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. Durga deity are worshipped for nine days and on the last day, girls are fed with the end of puja. But shortage of girls had hit hard and it is not easy for arranging girls for mass feeding in the localities. Also because of corona, the families are scared to call the children at the end of puja.

### JNMC faculty gets award

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

## Morcha for reservation of SC/ST/OBC in AMU

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

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

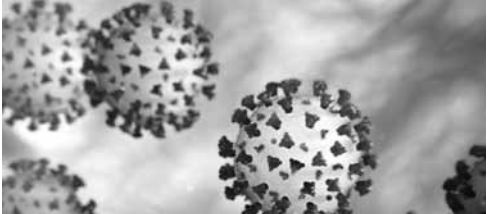
Saurabh Chaudhary will be the Morcha president and Amit Goswami will be the general secretary.

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

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

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

## 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**

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

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

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

once the vaccine is available.

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

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

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

of cost, as announced by some other states.

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

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

On Thursday, the BJP in

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

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

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

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

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

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

Health Minister K Sudhakar has said a meeting

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

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



## Vaccine politics

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



Political adventurism shouldn't trespass reason. And governance is about contextual maturity. Besides, certain issues are just not meant to be politicised, especially something as serious as the Coronavirus vaccine, a hope that's sustaining the entire nation which could still end up being the worst-hit in the world. That, too, at a time when an effective vaccine is like the proverbial El Dorado, as trials are still going on and there is no proof yet that it would work on a mass scale. Even assuming it does, every citizen, graded according to priority and co-morbidities, has a right to be administered a shot. And any smart Government would try to sound altruistic enough about protecting all citizens, if not mean it, only to reap political gains. Agreed politics is all about making tall claims that are rarely achieved. Still, for all the eloquence, there ought to be some sense of prudence and judgment. Most importantly, no party can advocate anything that is morally questionable. In this sense, the ruling BJP has overreached itself a bit much, promising the voters in Bihar free vaccines, without realising that it is implicitly saying that official benefits will now flow selectively among those who vote for it as a quid pro quo. That sounds as bad as a public threat. Worse, its promise is not just another instance of poll populism — it's an attempt to manipulate the anxieties caused by the most lethal pandemic to have ravaged the world in more than a century. And when somebody like Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman makes the announcement, it shows that the Government is desperate about the poll arithmetic of the party it represents than pursuing holistic policies, that it is cavalier about the demands of science and health protocols and is unconcerned about lives, leave alone being compassionate. However, this isn't the first time the party has made such questionable promises. There was talk that Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted to launch a home-grown COVID vaccine by August 15 to mark the nation's 72 years of Independence. Apparently, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was under pressure to fast-track clinical trials but widespread criticism about compromising efficacy for the sake of political expediency and pressure from scientists ensured that a life and death question was not made a mockery of. Yet the BJP's claim of free vaccine doses has already trivialised a grave issue into a point-scoring exercise. A similar announcement followed in Tamil Nadu, where the elections are due next year. AIADMK leader and Chief Minister E Palaniswami promised the shots on the basis of his proximity to the BJP. In other words, tradeoffs of this nature would 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

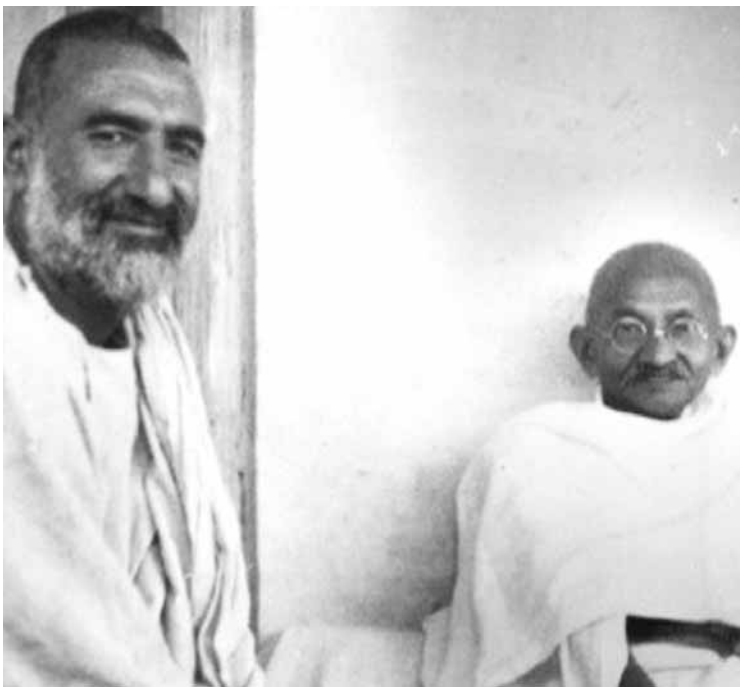


JS RAJPUT

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 due to the lack of education and consequent ignorance. He started schools and the British did not like it. He was 19 when he was first imprisoned and then it was a life in and out of jails of the Britishers, and then the Government of Pakistan. His historic movement, Khudai Khidmatgar, was launched to overcome poverty and banish the British from India. He was, till the end of the freedom struggle, for a united India.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer works in education and social cohesion)

## SOUNDBITE

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



Prime Minister —Narendra Modi

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



Cueist —Pankaj Advani

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



UK Prime Minister —Boris Johnson

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



US HHS Secretary —Alex Azar

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BJP's new low

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

Noor Ahmad  
Hyderabad

### Death penalty is not a deterrent

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

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



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

KV Seetharamaiah  
Hassan

### Noxious haze

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

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

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

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

Bhagwan Thadani  
Mumbai

### Low-key festivities

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

Rishav Vatsh  
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 hock 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 Government have shown. The Yogi 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

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

**REGENT ENTERPRISES LTD**  
Registered Office: E-205 (LGP), Greater Kailash-II, New Delhi-110048  
Phone: 011-29213191  
Email: info@regententerprises.in  
CIN: L15500DL1994PLC153183  
Website: www.regententerprises.in

## NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held at 14/17, Naya Ganj, Ghaziabad-201 001 on Thursday, the 5th day of November, 2020 at 4.00 pm inter alia, to consider, approve Un-audited Financial Results of the Company for the Second quarter and Half Year ended on September 30th, 2020.

Pursuant to this, the trading window for the insiders shall remain closed upto 48 hours of declaration of the results for all designated persons, their immediate relatives and all connected persons as amended. The same Financial Results of the Company will be available at [www.regententerprises.in](http://www.regententerprises.in).

**FOR REGENT ENTERPRISES LTD**  
Date: 23/10/2020 Sd/  
Place: New Delhi Vikas Kumar  
Whole Time Director  
DIN: 05308192

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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

- VEHICLE FOR SALE**
- 1) TRACTOR - MAHINDRA\_275\_YUVQ\_DSL REG. NO. MH03DA1139-YOM -2018
  - 2) AL\_2518 T2C CAB CHASSIS TIPPER REG. NO. MH03CP5860 YOM 2018
  - 3) AL\_2518 T2C CAB CHASSIS TIPPER REG. 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) A13118 REG. NO. HR55U5098-YOM -2014

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

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

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

IAN S ■ 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 ended June 2022 to clear all unmet compensation dues of states.

# Rate cut will depend upon moderation in inflation: RBI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank Governor R. 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 Mridul 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 bankex 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 ounce, while silver was quoting flat at USD 24.72 per ounce.

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 GoI 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 report 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, Build: 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	<b>Name of work with its location</b> 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. G/MU 01 to 09-2020)
2	<b>Name of tender on IREPS</b> 23/AC/Ctg/GMU/A-1/2018
3	<b>Approximate cost of work</b> As per NIT on ireps.gov.in
4	<b>Date of opening of Tender</b> 19/11/2020 at 1500 hrs
5	<b>Cost of Tender document &amp; 18% GST</b> As per NIT on ireps.gov.in
6	<b>Earnest Money Deposit</b> As per NIT on ireps.gov.in
7	<b>Website particulars where complete details of tender document can be seen</b> 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)	
<b>1. TENDER NOTIFICATION</b>	
<b>Name of work:</b> 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.	
<b>Tender Notice No.-11/2020-21</b>	
<b>1.1. General :-</b> 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".	
<b>1.2 The key details are as follows:</b>	
<b>Open Tender No.</b>	30-EL-MEMU-T-11-20-21
<b>Names of works</b>	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
<b>Approximate Cost</b>	₹ 14,04,775/-
<b>Earnest Money</b>	₹ 28,100/-
<b>Completion Period</b>	90 (Ninety) days from the date of issue of the letter of acceptance.
<b>Validity of offer</b>	45 days.
<b>Tender papers issued by</b>	Sr.DEE/MEMU/SRE.
<b>Dt. of closing/opening</b>	06.11.2020 at 10:30 Hrs./thereafter
<b>Cost of tender document</b>	Free of cost.
<b>Minimum Eligibility criteria</b>	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.
<b>NOTE:-</b>	
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 Rty. board vide L. No. 2015/RS/G/779/5 Dt. 16.03.2018 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	

# India business returns to the growth path, says Unilever

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

# Chief Minister for creation of 52 new / upgraded courts

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

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



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

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



SHORT CIRCUITS



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



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."

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

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

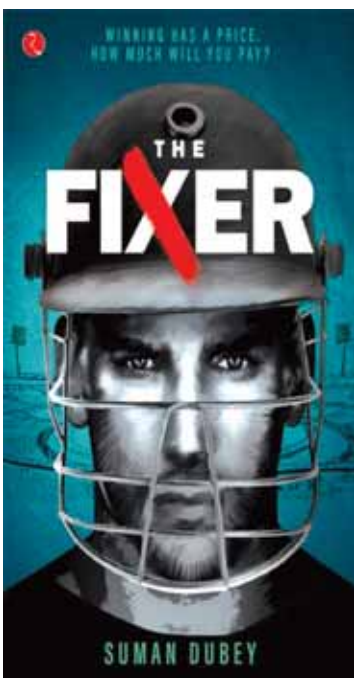
Actor Arjun Kapoor had recently invested in an emerging food delivery start-up, FoodCloud, with the aim to improve gender parity. He seems to have pivoted towards empowering as many people as possible to be self-reliant during the Coronavirus pandemic with his business platform.

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."





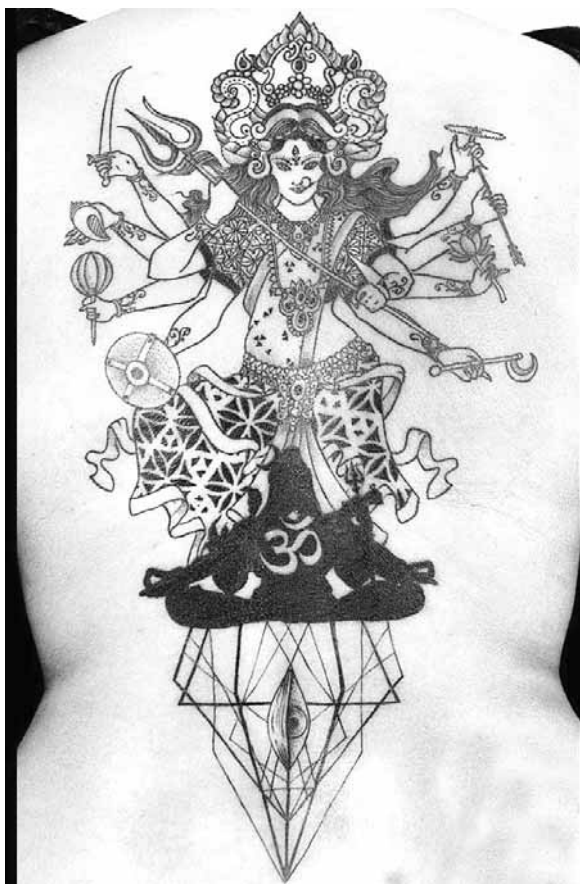
IMMERSIVE 45 MINUTES

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



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 believe



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,

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.

Artists 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://cbl.nic.in>  
e-mail : [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.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 Mob.: 8750871124

## 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://cbl.nic.in>  
E-Mail ID: [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639  
DP/451/OD/2020

SHO

P.S. Nangloi, Delhi

Ph.: 011-25947225, 25949470

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



Lakmé Salon and designer duo **Monica & Karishma** of **JADE** came together to launch a collection titled *The New School of Brides*, a showcase of distinctive hair and make-up looks and designs at Lakmé Fashion Week 2020 Digital First Season Fluid Edition.

The two brands presented a collection that is set to become a guidebook for the brides of 2020 — from opulent makeup and hair created to the intricately handcrafted couture collection the designers. The show was a presentation of oomph, style, craftsmanship and skill, but above all, an ode to the many moods and emotions of the bride.

Designers **Monica & Karishma** showed that they deeply understand the dreams and hopes of brides on their wedding day and immortalised these feelings through couture.

The designers drew inspiration from their own experiences — as brides full of hope and dreams — combined with their love for fabricating designs that encapsulated the excitement and thrill of the new beginnings. The collection is a subtle invitation to look beyond the grey clouds and revel in the silver linings, just like the bride does. And, for the same reason, the colours used in this range are lush and enchanting — berries, reds, pinks — vibrant tones that symbolises joy, excitement and hopefulness.

They used **Kasab** and lace to curate intricately handcrafted designs for *EK Taar lehengas* (where each piece is intricately handcrafted with just one thread), textured skirts, antique silver thread-work jackets and elegant blouses that gave a twist to the



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."

OMKARA ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED				
Corporate Office:- C/515, Kanakia Zillon, Junction of LBS Road and CST Road, BKC Annex, Near Equinox, Kalina, Kurla (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 (54 of 2002) ("The SARFAESI 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, Varusena Enclave, Kharsa No. 135, Shahdara, 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, Shahdara, 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 (Gurantor)	21-07-2020 Rs. 19,18,909/-	All that piece and parcel of Flat No. SF-202, 2 nd Floor, Plot No. 36, Kharsa 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 Khurda, Jilaga, 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. R2-126-A, Kharsa No. 12/14, without Roof/Terrace Rights, Village Khayala, West Block EXT N 2, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018 ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH.	19-10-2020
Place :- Delhi		Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For OMKARA ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED (Acting in its capacity as a Trustee of PS24/2019-20 Trust)		
Date :- 24.10.2020				



Dev 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'

We just slipped in the last minutes. A win like this will give confidence to each and every member of the team. We can win the remaining games and keep ourselves alive

The challenge is pretty clear win three in a row and see where we are in the run rate. We have no option. It's about continue to prepare and believe that we are good enough

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 reposes faith in him, if he is fit.

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

# DOMINATION

Mumbai hunt Super Kings by 10 wickets to reach on top



Mumbai Indians pacer Trent Boult celebrates with teammates after taking wicket of CSK batsman

IPLT20.com

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 after his knock of 99 against Royal Challengers Bangalore, 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, Boult and Bumrah produced a devastating pace-bowling spell in tandem to restrict CSK to 114 for 9.

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

Skipper Dhoni's (16) poor run continued as he fell to leggie Rahul Chahar while going for a big one off a tossed-up delivery after having smacked a six of the previous ball.

Ravindra Jadeja (7) hit a boundary before pulling one straight to Krunal Pandya at mid-wicket to give Boult his third wicket and leave CSK in tatters at 21 for 5.

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.

## Clarity about role key to Morris' success

DUBAI: For all-rounder Chris Morris, cricket without pressure is boring and he feels the clarity over his role in the Royal Challengers Bangalore set-up has helped him perform consistently so far in the IPL.

Morris has always been a sought-after cricketer in the IPL and after four seasons with the Delhi Capitals, he is currently with the RCB providing the balance that Virat Kohli's team was seeking desperately.

After missing the first four games of the season due to a side strain, the South African made an instant impact and he has already picked up nine wickets in five matches at a very impressive economy rate of five runs per over.

Along with Navdeep Saini, he has plugged the hole that RCB had in the death bowling department. To add to it, he has also been mak-

ing the new ball talk.

So, what has worked for him this season?

"The break (due to Covid-19) was really nice both for the body and mental freshness. Good to be playing again and it is just lot of clarity and how the execution needs to be," said the 33-year-old in an online media interaction on Friday.

"We do a lot homework. By the time we get to the game, we know what is required. Our plans have been clear and if something falls we have a plan B ready; if that doesn't work we go to plan C and if that also fails, hopefully my over is done (laughs)."

Asked about bowling in the beginning as well as at the death, Morris said: "To be honest, I feel I am in a blessed position. Cricket without pressure is boring. You always want to get tested as a cricketer."

PTI

## 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

Lanka and Bangladesh. Then they travelled to England where the team lost the three-match Test series 0-1.

Wicketkeeper-batsman, Mohammad Rizwan who is right now riding on a wave of popularity and

with all teams completing their scheduled matches," Misbah said in an interview on the Cricket 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.

PTI

## English cricketers take 15% pay cut

AFP ■ 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.

"We need to recognize that our players, led by captains Joe Root and Eoin Morgan, have conducted themselves with great maturity and responsibility throughout this challenging time," team director Ashley Giles said.

## Europa biggies start with win

AFP ■ 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 Brahim 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 Roof 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.

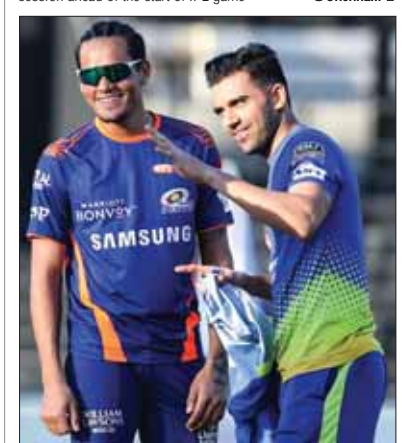
## DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



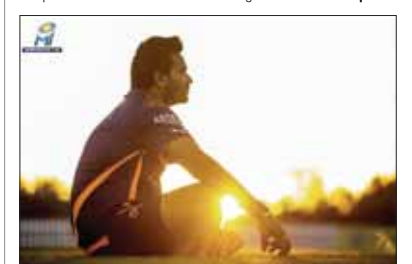
Chennai Super Kings skipper MS Dhoni chats with Mumbai Indian's all-rounder Hardik Pandya during team's warm-up session ahead of the start of IPL game

©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



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