


OPINION 6
MUMBAI BELONGS
TO INDIA

WORLD 8
TRUMP WARNS NO TIKTOK DEAL IF
CHINA'S BYTEDANCE KEEPS ANY 'CONTROL'

SPORT 12
HALEP WINS
ITALIAN OPEN

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8 Opp MPs suspended for Session

Naidu rejects no-confidence motion against Harivansh; suspended MPs sit on dharna on Parliament premises

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu on Monday suspended eight Opposition members from the House for the rest of the Monsoon Session over the unprecedented chaos in the Upper House during the passing of the controversial farm Bills on Sunday. Naidu also rejected a no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition parties against Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narain Singh.

The suspended members refused to leave the House and sat on a protest dharna in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Parliament premises.

The suspended members were joined by almost all the Opposition leaders, including former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, Samajwadi Party leaders Ram Gopal Yadav, Jaya Bachchan, and leaders from the Shiv Sena.

Meanwhile, 18 Opposition parties have written to the President of India, requesting him not to give his approval to the farm sector Bills passed by both Houses.

The protest will continue overnight and the suspended members will again attempt to



TMC MPs Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference MP Farooq Abdullah and others stage a protest over the suspension of 8 Rajya Sabha members, in New Delhi on Monday

enter the Upper House. If they are stopped, the protest will continue on the Parliament lawns. A similar protest overnight had happened on the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill when members remained in the Lok Sabha till wee hours.

The suspended members — TMC's Derek O'Brien and Dola Banerjee, AAP's Sanjay Singh, Congress's Rajeev Satav, Sayid Nasir Hussain, Ripun Bora, CPI(M)'s KK Ragesh and Elamaram Kareem — were told by the Chairman that they had displayed "unruly behaviour especially with the Chair and gross disorderly conduct".

"I am pained at what happened yesterday. It defies logic.

It is a bad day for the Rajya Sabha", Naidu said.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V

Muralaeddharan moved the motion for the suspension of the eight MPs.

Naidu also rejected the no-confidence motion moved by 12 Opposition parties against his Deputy Harivansh, saying a notice period of 14 days is required. The suspended members were asked to leave the House, but when they refused to do so, the session was adjourned until 10 am and then for a hour again.

After the House reconvened at 10.30 am, Deputy Chairman Harivansh said he will ask the Leader of the Opposition to speak before any Bills are discussed, but said that those who have been named by the Chairman cannot participate.

PM: Farm reform Bills need of 21st century

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of continuing protest over the passage of the farm Bills passed by Parliament on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that the Bills were the need of 21st century India and reassured farmers that the Government "Mandis", the Government purchase of their produce, and the Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism will continue.

Opposition parties and some RSS-affiliated organisations have maintained that the Bills were tilted towards corporates vis-à-vis the small and marginal farmers, constituting over 85 per cent of the farmers in the country.

The PM, however, said that changes will help small farmers organise and get better price for their produce.

Attacking those opposing the Bills, the Prime Minister said a "clique" of people exploited farmers for long as they

remained in shackles of rules regulating the sale of their produce and stated that this needed to change, which his Government has done.

"After these historical changes in the agricultural sector, some people are losing their control of it. So now these people are trying to mislead farmers on MSP."

They are the same people who sat for years on the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee on MSP. Modi said striking at the Congress without naming it.

Describing the legislations as "very historic", the Prime Minister said if somebody says that Government-regulated agriculture markets will be finished after these reforms, then he is "blatantly lying".

Noting that his Government had brought the farm Ordinances, which these legislations will replace, in

isnow ordered an administrative inquiry into the fire mishap after visiting the hospital. The fire broke out on one of the ICU wards on the third floor of the four-storied hospital when

MSP for rabi crops hiked

Tomar announces Cabinet decision for 2021-22 in LS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to placate agitating farmers from Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra and other States, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Monday hiked minimum support prices for rabi crops, including wheat, chana, gram, lentil, mustard, safflower among others, for the season 2021-22.

The MSP for wheat has been hiked from ₹1,925 to ₹1,975 per quintal, an increase of ₹50 while MSP for chana (gram) has been hiked by 8.3 per cent from ₹4,875 to ₹5,100 a quintal, an increase of ₹225.

As per the CCEA decision, MSP for masoor (lentil) dal has been hiked from ₹4,800 to ₹5,100 per quintal, an increase of ₹300. MSP of rapeseed and mustard has been hiked by 7 per cent, from ₹4,425 to ₹4,650 per quintal, an increase of ₹225. MSP for barley has been increased by 5.7 per cent, from ₹1,525 to ₹1,600, a hike of ₹75. The MSP of safflower has been



increased to ₹112, from ₹5,215 to ₹5,327 per quintal.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar announced the Cabinet decision to hike MSP of rabi crops for the season 2021-22 in the Lok Sabha. Hundreds of farmer unions across Punjab and Haryana have called for multiple protests in the coming days, including a total shutdown on September 25, against the two agriculture Bills.

Meanwhile, buoyed over good monsoon and higher acreage during the ongoing kharif crops, the Ministry of Agriculture has revised foodgrains production target for 2020-21 to a record 301 million tonnes, an increase of 1.5 per cent from 298.3 million tonnes on ventilators, was filled with smoke and the hospital staffs rushed to the ward carrying fire extinguishers, said a doctor of the hospital.

Fire breaks out in Jagatpur Covid Hosp

Govt orders probe as hospital had no fire safety certificate

Patients safe, shifted to other facilities

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A fire broke out on Monday afternoon at the Sadguru Covid Hospital at Jagatpur on the outskirts of the city, where nearly 130 Covid-19 patients were undergoing treatment. "All the patients were rescued safely and they were immediately shifted to the nearby Covid facilities," informed Cuttack district Collector Bhabani Shankar Chayani.

Central Revenue Divisional Commissioner (RDC) Anil Biswal ordered an administrative inquiry into the fire mishap after visiting the hospital. The fire broke out on one of the ICU wards on the third floor of the four-storied hospital when

attendants first saw smoke billowing from one of the ACs fitted in the ward. Soon, the ward, where six critical patients were on ventilators, was filled with smoke and the hospital staffs rushed to the ward carrying fire extinguishers, said a doctor of the hospital.

Sources said the hospital on the day was having at least ten pregnant women undergoing treatment for corona and six new mothers, who had come under the scalpel for caesarian section in the last one week. All the pregnant women and the six mothers with their babies were rescued safely and shifted to other hospitals," said a gynaecologist of the hospital.

"All the critical patients in the ICU were first rescued safely by the hospital staffs and subsequently, the remaining wards located in other floors were vacated," Collector Chayani said, adding that a bus and at least 12 ambulances were pressed into operation to shift

In a first, Navy deploys women on warships



Sub Lt Rit Singh and Sub Lt Kumudini Tyagi, the first women airborne tacticians who will operate from deck of warships, pose for pictures after they passed out of Indian Navy's Observer Course, at Southern Naval Command, Kochi on Monday. PTI

IAF training woman pilot to fly Rafale

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a historic move to provide equal opportunity to women officers, for the first time the Indian Navy has allowed deployment of women officers on warships.

Till now, women were not given duties on sea-bound ships due to a variety of reasons, including lack of privacy and separate washrooms.

In another development, the IAF has started training a woman pilot for flying the newly-inducted five Rafale jets.

The force has already inducted ten women officers as fighter pilots to fly various planes like the Mig-21s.

As regards the Navy, Sub Lieutenant Kumudini Tyagi and Sub Lieutenant Rit Singh will be the first women officers deployed on Navy warships as part of the ship's crew.

These two officers are training to operate a host of sensors onboard multi-role helicopters, including sonar consoles and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) payloads.

Earlier, entry of women was restricted to the fixed wing aircraft that took off and landed ashore.

12 killed in Bhiwandi building collapse

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At least 12 people, including seven children, were killed and 10 others injured when a three-storey building collapsed while they were sleeping at their homes at Narpoli in the powerloom town of Bhiwandi in the adjoining Thane district in the early hours of Monday.

Six children were rescued from under the debris by the National Disaster Response



Force (NDRF) and local fire brigade teams during the rescue and relief operations carried out by them for the better part of the day.

Detailed report on P5

CAPSULE

4-SEATER AIRCRAFT CRASHES, PILOT DEAD

Azamgarh: A four-seater aircraft crashed in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh on Monday, leaving a 21-year-old trainee pilot dead, officials said, as they suspected that bad weather led to the incident.

CURBS NEEDED: SC ON ANTI-CAA BLOCKADE

New Delhi: There cannot be a "universal policy" on right to protest and possible curbs as also balancing it with acts like blocking of roads are needed because the situation "varies" from case-to-case, the Supreme Court said on Monday. The top court's observation came while reserving the verdict on a batch of pleas against the anti-CAA protests which had led to blocking of a road in Shaheen Bagh in the national capital last December.

1,000-ACRE FOR FILM CITY NEAR NOIDA IDENTIFIED

Noida: The Yamuna Expressway authority has sent a proposal to the Uttar Pradesh Government for setting up a film city in Gautam Buddha Nagar, officials said on Monday. Land has been identified for the proposed film city, which would be spread over an area of 1,000 acres, officials of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority said.

NIA: MORE PEOPLE IN WB WORKING FOR QAEDA

Kolkata: The NIA, which has arrested six al-Qaeda terrorists from Murshidabad district of West Bengal, has found that more people in the State are working for the terror outfit, an official of the investigating agency said.

India asks China to make first move for pullback

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The military-level talks between India and China resumed on Monday after six weeks to defuse the tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with both sides reaffirming the need for early disengagement and de-escalation. India made it clear that pullback has to be from all the friction points in Ladakh, while the Chinese wanted the Indian Army to first vacate the heights on the south bank of the Pangong Tso (lake). The last round of parleys was held on August 2.

The Indian delegation was directed to insist that China has to make the first move of disengagement and New Delhi will then respond positively reducing its troop strength, sources said.

Given the complex and sensitive nature of the issue against the backdrop of the volatile situation at the border for the last four months, the two delegations decided to continue the dialogue.

They also agreed to follow the five-point roadmap laid down by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. They had held a bilateral meeting on the LAC on September 10 on the sidelines of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) in Moscow.

With these guidelines etched at the political level, the dialogue at the Mako meeting point on the Chinese side in Chushul on Monday went a notch higher with diplomats also part of the Indian delegation. Joint Secretary in the

External Affairs Minister Navin Srivastava, who heads the Working Mechanism for Co-ordination and Co-operation (WMCC) for India-China border issue, along with an Inspector General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) participated in the parleys.

The Indian team was led by Lt General Harinder Singh and two Major Generals. Lt General PG Menon also attended the crucial meeting. He is likely to replace Harinder Singh after his tenure as Leh-based 14 Corps ends in another couple of weeks.

The Indian strategy for the latest round of military-diplomatic level talks was cleared by the China Study Group (CSG) last week. It was made clear China has to refrain from its aggressive actions to unilateral change the LAC.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 55,36,821

DEATHS: 88,514

RECOVERED: 44,54,787

ACTIVE: 9,92,727



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	12,08,642	32,671	8,84,341
Andhra Pradesh	6,31,749	5,410	5,51,821
Tamil Nadu	5,47,337	8,871	4,91,971
Karnataka	5,26,876	8,145	4,23,377
Uttar Pradesh	3,58,893	5,135	2,89,594
Delhi	2,49,259	5,014	2,13,304
West Bengal	2,28,302	4,421	1,98,983
Odisha	1,84,122	763	1,49,379
Telangana	1,72,808	1,042	1,41,930
Bihar	1,69,856	870	1,55,824
Assam	1,59,320	578	1,29,130
Kerala	1,38,633	554	98,720
Gujarat	1,24,767	3,337	1,05,191
Rajasthan	1,16,881	1,352	97,284
Haryana	1,13,075	1,177	90,884
Madhya Pradesh	1,05,644	1,970	81,374

CITY'S TOTAL REACHES 18,898

306 new +ves in Bhubaneswar

183 local contacts outnumber 123 quarantine cases

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A total of 306 persons tested Covid-19 positive on Monday in the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) area. With this, the city's total positive cases tally rose to 18,898. Out of the

new cases 183 were local contacts and 123 from quarantine centres. However, 506 patients recovered on the day, taking the city's total recoveries to 14,942. "Further contact tracing are still continuing. Primary contacts and nearby houses are being quarantined,

4,242 new infections; total 1,84,122

State has 9 more Covid-19 deaths; tally reaches 710

Day's highest 652 cases in Khordha again; 3,704 more patients recovered; total 1,49,379

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Covid-19 death toll surged to 710 with nine patients undergoing treatment at various hospitals succumbing to the virus on Monday in the State, the Health and Family Welfare Department said. The new deaths were reported from eight districts. While two

patients died in Keonjhar district, one casualty each was registered in Baleswar, Jagatsinghpur, Kandhamal, Khordha, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur and Nayagarh districts.

Deaths in Keonjhar were of a 39-year-old man and a 59-year-old man. The other deceased were a 48-year-old man of Baleswar, a 30-year-old woman of Jagatsinghpur, a 54-year-old man of Kandhamal, a 90-year-old man of Khordha, a 74-year-old man of Mayurbhanj, a 29-year-old man

of Nabarangpur and a 51-year-old man of Nayagarh. Meanwhile, as many as 4,242 persons tested positive for the virus on the day, taking the State's tally to 1,84,122, out of which 37,684 are active cases.

Of the new cases detected from all 30 districts, 2,503 were reported from quarantine centres while remaining 1,739 were local contacts, the Information and Public Relations Department said. Khordha district again recorded the day's highest 652 cases followed by Cuttack 595,

Jharsuguda 205, Puri 182, Jagatsinghpur 176, Mayurbhanj 171, Kendrapada and Baleswar 155 each, Kandhamal 153, Rayagada 134, Sundargarh 133, Jajpur 131, Angul 130, Bargarh and Bhadrak 144 each, Sambalpur 113, Koraput 90, Debagarh 87, Malkangiri 69, Balangir 68, Keonjhar 62, Nuapada 58, Ganjam 57, Nawarangpur 54, Nayagarh 53, Boudh 45, Kalahandi 40, Gajapati 27, Subarnapur 19 and Deogarh 10.

And 206 were positives from State pool.

MINOR GIRL GANG-RAPE

OTV MD to reappear before OSCW

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha State Commission for Women (OSCW) Chairperson Minati Behera on Monday informed that OTV managing director Jagu Mangat Panda would again appear before the commission in connection with the minor girl rape case in Bhubaneswar.

Behera said that Panda deposed before the OSCW on Monday responding to a notice served on her after an audio clip of the conversation between her and the rape victims' mother went viral. But Panda pushed back midway citing a prior engagement.

A fresh notice will be issued to her through the DCP again. She could not stay for the hearing and went back submitting a written statement



Chairperson Minati Behera of OSCW on Monday informed that OTV managing director Jagu Mangat Panda would again appear before the commission in connection with the minor girl rape case in Bhubaneswar.

ed by anyone for any kind of inquiry, I had no other option but to leave for my office due to other meetings," Panda stated.

After deposing before the commission, she said, "My utmost concern is for the minor girl. The allegations of heinous acts must be thoroughly investigated and if found to be true, the persons concerned no matter who they are, should be given exemplary punishment."

Notably, the case pertains to the rape victim's mother's allegation that her daughter was gang-raped by several persons, including an OTV staff, for days together during the recent lockdown period in Bhubaneswar when the victim's mother was a receptionist at the OTV.

Classical tag to Odishi music demanded in Parliament

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

BID member Dr Amar Patnaik on Monday raised the demand for classical status to the Odishi music in the Rajya Sabha.

He pointed out that Odisha Heritage Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has passed a resolution on September 2 requesting the Centre for classical status to the Odishi music, which would be a significant move towards promoting the rich cultural traditions of Odisha.

The State Government's request assumes enormous significance to deepen and expand the cultural heritage, which constitutes our soft power of persuasion and attraction on a global platform," the MP stated.

Justifying the demand, he said the movement for a separate State of Odisha was based on the nuances of Odia culture, including its language and



which are an authoritative body of knowledge regarding this genre.

It can be categorised as an independent genre of Indian classical music. With its distinctive aspects such as its own tradition, codified grammars, specific texts, ragas, talas, gita and classical style of recital, the Odishi music can be distinguished from Carnatic and Hindustani classical music.

Besides, the Odishi music also has a unique style of rendition. So, it has all the characteristic features for being recognised as a classical form in its own right.

"The Government of India recognised Odishi as a classical dance form in 1964 and Odia as a classical language in 2014. Integral to both, the Odishi music should also be treated the same way."

I put forth the Odisha Government's request and urge the Ministry to accord classical status to Odishi music," he said in his appeal.

LOVE AND DECEPTION

Girls thrash youth in public at Jaleswar

PNS ■ BALESWAR

A youth was roughed up by three girls in the public glare on the allegation of his love and then deception of one of the girls in Jaleswar town on Sunday. The video footage and pictures have become viral in the social media. Police are yet to take any action in the matter as no complaint has been lodged.

The youth, hailing from Oupada in Baleswar district and working in a lodge at Digha in West Bengal had developed a relationship with one of the three girls of Baleswar town through Facebook. They also gradually became physically intimate. But before a few days ago, the youth didn't respond to the girl either through phone or social media. Then, the girl developed friendship with youth.

Assembly Monsoon Session

Speaker calls all-party meet on Sept 25



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A head of the State Assembly's Monsoon Session, Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro has called an all-party meeting on September 25.

"The all-party meeting will be held to ensure smooth functioning of the House during the session. The decision regarding suspension of Zero or Question hour during the session will be taken at the meeting," informed Patro.

Besides, the Speaker on Monday inspected the Assembly Hall and took stock of the arrangements made for fourth session of the 16th Assembly commencing on September 29. Assembly Secretary Dasarathi Satapathy was present during the inspection.

Notably, the Monsoon Session will be held from September 29 to October 7 in strict adherence to all Covid-19 guidelines.

The business of the House will also run on Sunday. All MLAs, officials and staffs of House will undergo Covid-19 tests two days before session.

Unemployment acute in Covid time

As over 1 lakh posts lying vacant in various departments of the State

Job drive by State Govt can be solace

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

While there are large scale vacancies in the State Government departments, reluctance on part of the bureaucracy is creating desperation among the job aspirants. While more than one lakh jobs are lying vacant in various Government departments, organisations and PSUs, taking the alibi of austerity measures, officials are not taking up steps for filling up the

posts. During the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, absence of officials in the field offices is felt very much. If two-three employees are falling sick due to Covid-19, the whole office is closed down in the district, Sub Division and Block levels.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik used to take review regularly during 2016-19 on filling up vacancies for which over 76,000 posts were filled up with special drives by the State recruitment agencies like OPSC and others. In Covid-19 pandemic, job creation is needed as youths are losing hope and

there are more than 1 lakh posts lying vacant in Agriculture, School and Mass Education, Health and Family Welfare, Revenue and Disaster Management, Water Resources, Energy, Works, Urban Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, ST and SC Development, Police and other sectors.

In the meantime, the State Government has decided to waive the interview system in recruitment of Group C and D level. So online recruitment process can be adopted by the recruitment agencies like OPSC. The Government of

India is continuing the process of recruitment for filling up the posts and online recruitment is favoured now.

The UPSC will be conducting examination on October 4 for All India Service Examination to fill up the vacancies. A similar process can be organised by the OPSC and other State recruitment agencies with special drives.

Once applications will be invited by the State Government for filling up vacancies, hope will be generated among the youths, who are losing hopes. This is because due to Covid-19.

Cop's daughter-in-law's death: One arrested

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a significant development in the case of death of a hawildar's daughter-in-law in Bhubaneswar, the Tamando police on Monday arrested the husband of the deceased woman.

The accused was identified as Jamnikant Gochhayat, husband of deceased Bandana Jena and son of Bijay Gochhayat, a hawildar posted at the Tamando police station in the city. Jamnikant was apprehended on the basis of an FIR



lodged by Bandana's father. Bandana had been found hanging from a ceiling fan in the hawildar's house on September 19. Bandana and Jamnikant had tied the nuptial knot on

February 16 this year. As per the FIR lodged by Bandana's father with the Tamando police, a dispute was prevailing between Bandana and her husband after the marriage.

Bandana was also being tortured by her in-laws over dowry demand, her father has further alleged.

Notably, Bandana's parents had been scheduled to visit her in-laws' place on the fateful day for resolving domestic issue. However, they were informed over telephone about Bandana's death before their arrival.

11.25% for OBC students' admission sought

SP State chief writes to CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Samajwadi Party, Odisha State Committee on Monday urged the State Government to provide 11.25 per cent reservation to students in admissions into various courses starting from the higher secondary school level.

In a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, party State president Rabi Behera expressed unhappiness that, despite repeated demands, the State Government has not implemented the reservation in case of Plus TGtwo admission starting on Monday.

"We had on Social Justice Day on August 15, 2020 demanded 27 per cent reservation for the OBCs in admission into higher education courses and employment. In view of 50 per cent capping of reservation stipulated by the Supreme Court, we demand 11.25 per cent reservation to be made for OBC students in admission to courses from HSS to PhD level and in professional engineering and medical learning," wrote Behera.

IN KENDRAADA

Pregnant minor, mom found dead

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The Rajnagar police on Sunday retrieved a body of a 47-year-old mother from bank of the Hansu river while her pregnant minor daughter's body was fished out from a pond at Manapada village under Mahuli GP. The police detained a youth and have started an investigation, informed Rajnagar PS IIC Tapan Nayak. The deceased

was identified as Pramila, wife of Pattapabhan Nath. Pramila's daughter was in love with a cousin brother.

On Saturday, Pramila had left her house informing that she was going to the Jarimala bus stand to deposit money at the bank of Baroda branch to withdraw money and did not return. Late on Saturday night, a daughter of Pramila also went missing. On Sunday, her body was recovered from her uncle Ajambar Behera's pond.

10 Covid+ in JSpur court complex

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

After 10 persons were detected as Coronavirus positives in District Court Complex here on Monday, district administration has declared area from Charchika Bazar to Chandura road as a containment zone till September 27.

The Government and private offices, shops as well as business establishments would stay closed during containment period.

Interview of the week

It's a fight against public schools' exorbitant fees

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

branches in all 30 districts of Odisha. We have been demanding and pharmacy students' wings too. We are connected by 120 WhatsApp groups.

What is the reason of our education system still remaining moribund?

The Indira Gandhi Government had introduced a national education policy in 1968. The Kothari Commission had recommended a detailed report to streamline the educational system; and the report is so holistic in nature that no second commission was needed.

But no substantial improvement has been done so far due to non-implementation of the report. In 1986, the Rajiv Gandhi Government introduced the next education policy that had a vision like Black Board Operation, open university system and quality education for all.

In 2019, the Modi Government has introduced a new education policy under the chairmanship of K Kasturji Nandan, former JSRO chief. But what is revealing is that only 4% of the nation's GDP is utilised towards improvements of education.

How can quality education? Everywhere in Odisha and in India, there is violation of Article 21(A) of the Constitution. We are happy that the OAM as a potential organisation is all poised to fight a battle for realisation of our Constitutional rights in the education system.

When was the Odisha Avibhabak Mahasangha formed and how many are its members?

It was constituted in the year 2015-16 and as many as 35,000 parents and guardians are its members. It is constituted to protect and defend the rights of parents and their children. We achieved a great success while fighting against the arbitrary actions of the CBSE when it expelled 13,500 students from Odisha. We took the leadership at the national level. Union Ministers Prakash Javadekar and Dharmendra Pradhan and our Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik intervened in the issue and it was solved. The OAM has its

But only 50% of the implementation has been done with the other 50% of the RTE Act drawing a blank so far.

We have been fighting hard over the last two years for implementation of 25% reservation meant for Disadvantaged Group (DG 10%) and Economically Weaker Section (15%). Previous ministers and bureaucrats have failed.

This time, we are glad that a dynamic officer like Satyabrata Kumar, District Commissioner-cum-Secretary, has taken a very firm decision towards the RTE implementation from this year. Consequently, there will be an online system for admission to schools.

You have a choice of a number of schools before admission, as many as 60,000 students of Odisha belonging to DG group and weaker section shall get free education.

What are the RTE violations you have come across in public schools?

The glaring example of RTE violations of humongous magnitude have been perpetuated amounting to around Rs 300 crore over the last decade by the DAV Schools' management, which have sold the vacant seats meant for the Disadvantaged Group and weaker sections (total 25%) for each seat extracting to the tune of Rs 4 to 5 lakh on the management quota.

We have moved the Government in this regard and filed a case. The second corruption of DAV Schools is that they are taking Rs 2 lakh from each student for readmission to Std-XI after the Std-X examination, which is highly illegal.

If the student is of the same school then while taking admission in the Std-XI they can only make a hike of 8% over the last year fees. The OAM shall fight against it in all possible ways, including legal battle. We have started a movement against arbitrary enhancement of school fees by private managements. There are 57 DAV Public Schools in Odisha which have enhanced their fees exorbitantly.

We have moved court, which has appointed Justice KP

Mohapatra commission of inquiry which has already submitted its report to the State Government. There have been allegations against huge exploitation by the DAV Schools since they have byelaws of their own.

If a student pays a huge amount to take admission in LKG then in the subsequent years what is the need for readmission? Then they are charging development fees, reconstruction fees, day boarding fees, transportation fees and the like.

It is understood that the DAV Schools have enhanced their fees by 37%. Some schools like Narayan, Xavier and some DAV schools of Sundargarh, Rourkela, Sambalpur, Talcher, Kanhia have gone to enhance their fees by 37%.

We have raised the complaint to the District Magistrates and the Government and, accordingly, a committee under chairmanship of Director, Secondary Education was constituted for determining the fee structures of the private schools.

Finally, it was agreed upon by all parties, including the OAM, that 8% of hike in fees shall be made considering 2016-17 as the base year.

During the Covid pandemic, there are no school activities over the last seven months. The OAM have moved the High Court to waive all fees on the line "No school, no fees" and the court's judgement is expected on September 22.

Earlier, the court had directed the Government for an amicable settlement and, accordingly, all parties have signed an MoU with the Government under the chairmanship of Commissioner-cum-Secretary, School and Mass Education, and the matter was submitted to the High Court.

Fear or love: What guides our action during corona?



ACHYUTA SAMANTA

Every action of ours is driven either by fear or by love. We either fear the love of it or for the fear of survival. One can identify fear or love that guides action and response. This is not only true for our faith in God but for our life events as well. Some worship God

because they are devoted and some others worship God because they are just afraid of Him. They fear that if the God is enraged, losses for them are inevitable.

Some don't fall into any category. Even as this insidious coronavirus is taking a massive toll of humanity, our actions are determined by fear or devotion (Bhaya or Bhakti).

Interestingly, both factors here are governed by the fact that the origin of the virus is not ascertained, and there are various stories on its date and place of origin. It affects all irrespective of boundary, age, profession, class and so on. There is no cure discovered to treat this virus.

And there are a lot of theories on immunity, temperament and openness of democracy. Uncertainties related to the pandemic and its after-effects bring both the factors to play. Fear. Most of us abided by the advisories of the Government for lockdown because we were afraid that we are not immortal. We wanted to keep us and our families safe. Even the coercion by the Government to enforce lockdown for the common good is feared, making people stay back in their homes.

We are definitely more informed and educated to fight the virus; and this information or lack of correct information and the plethora of fake news keep the fear intact.

The lethal combination of an interconnected world and a deadly virus taking humanity to uncharted quarters keeps the pace going. Most developed nations and progressive regional organisations were clueless when the virus started and continued spreading like wildfire.

Devotion: Most of those staying back at home even now want to keep their region and country safe. Nobody wants to be the super-spreader. Some have had to make impulsive decisions to reach their native territories, but it can be blamed on poverty or homesickness. But these two factors, more than other, at play had kept 1.3 crore people or a majority of them indoors and now adopting the new normal.

More question springs from here: Is the State becoming the last refuge for the citizens with its power, legitimacy and surveillance technologies that have been losing control due to global economic forces. Only time can tell.

(Dr Samanta is MP, Kandhamal, and founder, KIP & KISS)

5 shops sealed; ₹1.58L fine collected

For violating Covid norms

KRISHNA CHANDRA PANDA ■ BRAHMAPUR

Since Ganjam district is not fully free from Covid-19 case yet, the district administration has imposed 5-T principles and made social distancing and wearing face mask mandatory.

The implementation of these principles and guidelines was vested with 'Enforcement Squad' with an objective to ensure that no one violates these guiding principles.

However, some shop owners and commercial firms in the district are flouting the Covid-19 guidelines/restrictions undermining their importance.

Sources said that, only when there is a surprise raid by the enforcement squad or police, people start wearing

face masks and maintain distance. To bring them to book those who flout norms, the district administration and the police have decided to take more stringent action against such violators.

To keep a strict vigil on such violators, three teams of BeMC and two teams of Brahmapur Sub-Collector's office have been deployed for strict enforcement of Covid-19 guidelines, said the BeMC Commissioner.

As a part of their routine inspection, Ganjam Collector Vijaya Amrut Kulkarni along with Brahmapur Sub-Collector Kirti V and BeMC Commissioner Siddheswar Baliram visited different strategic places of the market area and squares of the city to examine the enforcement of the guidelines.

During visit, the Enforcement Squad was surprised to notice an unprecedented rush in several hotels, restaurants, and foot-path hotels and issued strict warning to follow Covid-19 guidelines.



September 18 and 19 morning, the team raided several shops and establishments both in Ganjam and Brahmapur police districts and collected fine to a tune of Rs 1,58,000, sources said.

In this raid, Ganjam SP Brijesh Kumar Rai took an active part.

Panicky Jajpur villagers reside in tree houses

As herd of 20 jumbos wrecks havoc

PNS ■ JAIPUR

Around 20 wild jumbos strayed into villages under Bairi forest range in Jajpur district and damaged paddy and vegetable crops recently.

Elephants stayed put in the locality forcing villagers to stay indoors to avoid any conflicting situation. Some villagers built machas on the trees to save their crops. They beat drums and blast crackers to drive out the jumbos.

On receiving information, forest ranger of Bairi Abhiram Jena and other forest staff rushed to the villages and examined damages caused by the jumbos. The villagers who were camping at Samia, Bhalumara, Pubuli, Purnachandrapur, Siaria, Hariadapala, Solari, Siha, Safa and other villages. One among the elephants had been frequenting the villages during



night hours. It is said that the pachyderms had also damaged ten houses recently. The Forest Department for failing to take any concrete measures to prevent the elephants from intruding into their neighbourhood.

They threatened to resort to protest, if the Forest Department failed to find a permanent solution to the elephant menace. "Elephant movement has been reported in these areas as many elephants strayed from the nearby Kapilas forest. Announcements were made asking public not to step out of their houses after evening.

INBRIEF

EX-PRASAR BHARATI ADG SUCCEDES TO COVID

Barhargh: Former Prasara Bharati Additional Director General Abhay Kumar Padhi (71) died of coronavirus on Monday while undergoing treatment at a Covid Hospital in Bargarh town. Padhi had worked with All India Radio and Doordarshan. He had his graduation from the Gangadhar Meher College in 1970 and post-graduation from the Sambalpur University. Linguistics and Phonetics was his special paper in PG course in English. He was also a former guest faculty at the IIMC, Dhenkanal.



ODISHA-CADRE IPS OFFICER APPOINTED BSF IG

Bhubaneswar: The Centre has appointed Odisha-Cadre IPS officer Susant Kumar Nath as Inspector General of the Border Security Force (BSF). In a letter to the Odisha Chief Secretary, the Ministry of Home Affairs stated that the 1992-batch IPS officer has been appointed as IG of BSF on deputation against the existing vacancy for a period of five years. The Ministry has requested the State Government to relieve Nath to enable him to take up his new assignment.



SHRICHANDAN'S DEATH ANNIV HELD

Bhubaneswar: The sixth death anniversary of educationist Dr Prafulla Kumar Shrichandan was observed through videoconferencing at Ballanta Gandhi Peeth here on Monday. The Shradhotstava started with Tilatarpan conducted in the Kushabhaddra river by Pandit Shridhar Dash. Prayers were conducted at the Nikunja Bihari Temple. People from different walks of life, including students, remembered Shrichandan, who was Headmaster of the Maharatha Bidyapith, Naharkanta and founder Principal of the Jayadev College, Naharkanta. He had also worked as Principal of VS School, Sunabeda and Damajodi College. Laxmidhar Behera coordinated the programme.



BASANTI MISHRA'S DEMISE MOURNED

Bhubaneswar: The Navodaya Unnayan Parishad organised a condolence meeting for noted social worker Basanti Mishra at VSS Nagar here. President Madhusudan Acharya presided over the meeting. A two-minute silent prayer was observed for the departed soul. Among others, Sanatan Nayak, Sharmamandana Mishra, Giridhari Mishra, Rajendra Prasad Tripathy, Kishore Chandra Tripathy, Haribandhu Ghadei and Sanjay Behera remembered Acharya's contribution to development of the region.



DUSSEHRA PREPARATORY MEET HELD AT BHUPUR

Bhupur (Nayagarh): A preparatory meeting for upcoming Dussehra Puja at Bhupur bazaar in Nayagarh district was held by Maa Brahmani Devi Banika Sangha here on Sunday. The meeting presided over by president Kartika Chandra Nayak held a detailed discussion as to how to hold the Durga Puja amid implementation of all Covid-19 guidelines ordered by the State Government. Secretary Ramesh Chandra Barad, treasurer Prakash Kumar Singh and 150 members of the Sangha were present. All members agreed to implement all Covid-19 social distancing. The venue meeting venue had been sanitised.



JSRUP PLASMA DONORS FELICITATED

Jagatsinghpur: The cured coronavirus patients, who had donated plasma for Covid treatment, were felicitated by Jagatsinghpur district Collector SK Mohapatra on Saturday. As many as 12 persons had donated plasma in the district and their plasmas were utilised for treatment of serious corona patients. The plasma donors had been taken to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack, where they had given plasma. The administration incurred their transportation, accommodation and ancillary medical expenditures. A certificate and a flower bouquet were given to each plasma donor.



Ganjam BJP leaders hail fam Bills

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Former BJP Ganjam district president Kanhu Charan Pati, president Bibhuti Bhushan Jena and party leader lawyer Srikantha Padhi have hailed the three Agriculture Bills passed in the Parliament on Sunday.

The leaders described the bills as historic and farmer-friendly. "Farmers will get a wider and diverse market which will help them double their income," claimed Jena.

The bills aim to provide several benefits to small and marginal farmers with less than five hectares of land. Farmers and traders can sell and purchase products even outside 'mandis', they pointed out. The Bills also provide for removal of items such as cereals and pulses from the list of essential commodities.

HAPPY AT HOME

'Spur GP where jobless migrants get wage works

NIMAI CHARAN SAHU ■ SAMBALPUR

Amidst Covid pandemic, migrant labourers who returned home were mostly jobless and hence finding a job afresh was a great difficulty for them.

But Megahpal gram panchayat under Jujumura block in the district has started a project where jobless migrants are provided works under Government schemes, thanks to efforts of the district administration.

The local officials in consultation with Sambalpur Collector Subhan Saxena proposed for construction of a road from Tamparsingh village RD chowk to Chauda Acre and Bandhijhar villages under Mahatma Gandhi Jatiya

Gramina Karma Nijukti Yojana at a project cost of Rs 9 lakh. Since it is totally an earth work, the entire benefit was to go to the labourers. "A good number of people going to Surat, Mumbai, Hyderabad and other parts of the country have been provided jobs under this work and they are quite happy and self sufficient now," informed Collector Saxena.

There is no dearth of funds under different schemes to provide jobs to the labourers and similar works are also going on in all other parts of the district, he added.

The local GRS Samita Pradhan further informed that all those who were out of their homes had been provided job cards. Ration cards have been also made for them which were made not earlier.

Bhapur village tense over past rivalry

PNS ■ BHAPUR (NAYAGARH)

Tension gripped Manipur village under the Fategarh police limits in Nayagarh district as two groups of villagers indulged in a brawl and subsequently lodged complaints against each other.

According to information, Arjun Baliarsingh of Manipur village was allegedly killed last year. On Thursday, Arjunias widow Rashmita complained to police that co-villagers Akash Khatei, Pabitra Khatei and others thrashed them and threatened to kill them when she along with some other women had gone for cleaning their house. The complaint lodged by Pabitra Khatei stated that Guman Khatei and Sugriha Khatei came to him and abused him in filthy language over a past rivalry.

Bhadrak: Two minor boys drown in canal

PNS ■ BHADRAK

Two minor boys drowned while taking bath in Bhadrak district on Monday. The deceased were identified as Jagan Mahalik (9) and Manoj Mahalik (12) from Majhisahi village under the Banshada police limits.

At around 11 am, Jagan and Manoj had gone to a canal near the village to take bath. However, they slipped into deep water and drowned. Following their delay to return home, their family members launched a frantic search for them. One of the family members initially spotted two pale bodies in the canal. With the help of locals, the family members later fished out the two minor boys in an unconscious state.

Odisha youth updates IPL score

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The much-awaited Indian Premier League (IPL)-2020 has already commenced and so has the urge of the fans to stay updated with the latest score during matches.

Anil Meher, a youth from Bargarh, has been entrusted with the mammoth and responsible task of updating the digital scoreboard. Meher, a graphics operator, is a part of the digital scorer team for the sporting extravaganza.

Utka Alumina sets up 118 hand pumps in villages

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Utka Alumina has set up over 118 hand pump bore-wells in the villages, reaching more than 17,500 households in around 7 villages of Paikakupakhal, Maligaon, N u a p a d a , Kuchipal, Laxmikan, Kanachmura and D Koral under Rayagada district in FY 2019-20. Besides, three solar based drinking water supply systems have been connected with the existing bore wells at Dwitwadi and Jagatsinghpur.

The company is also constructing small wells with a capacity of 1,500 litres in the non-motorable villages of Kodipari, Maikanch and Chandrahari Gram Panchayats. Speaking on this, Unit Head and resident of Utka Alumina Nagesh said, "Our prime focus is on taking appropriate measures for providing better healthcare services to people living in the periphery of our plant. Towards this, we are ensuring adequate supply of safe drinking water in many places.

This prevents as well as protects people from diseases caused by contaminated water. Besides, the company is working closely with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Department in installing hand pump bore-wells in needy locations.



IN BALESWAR

Man hacks younger bro to death

PNS ■ BALESWAR

A younger allegedly hacked his brother to death over a family dispute at Nuapur village under the Khantapada police limits in Baleswar district on Monday. According to reports, Shashikant Mallick and his younger brother Ratikant Mallick were having the dispute over a domestic issue for the last few days.

The matter took a violent turn on Monday evening as Shashikant attacked Ratikant with a knife leaving the latter critically injured.

The victim was rescued by villagers and rushed to the Gopalpur hospital, where doctor declared him dead.

Police arrested the accused and further investigation was underway.

'Open defunct spinning mills to employ migrants'

SP writes letter to CM Naveen Patnaik

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Samajwadi Party State president Rabi Behera has urged CM Naveen Patnaik to initiate action for opening the OTM (Odisha Textile Mills) at Choudwar, Aska Spinning Mill, Khordha Spinning Mill, Sarala Spinning Mill, Tintal, Baliaipal Spinning Mill, Baleswar to provide employment opportunity to the workers.

This can also help in checking migration from the State. In a letter to the CM, Behera congratulated the CM for laying foundation stone of Cotton Mill in Digapahandi of

Ganjam on Saturday. Behera told that the opening of the closed mills would serve problems of thousands of migrant workers from outside the State who returned to Odisha in the month of March, April and May, during the Coronavirus pandemic.

"Since last 6 months, they have suffered a lot due to lack of effective employment. Hence, now they have started going back to their work place.

The three Shramik Special Trains that have started running from Bhubaneswar, Khordha Road and Brahmapur speak the story of the migrants. Even for the coming one month, the tickets are not available in those Shramik Special trains. This speaks pathetic story of migrant workers and the kind of life they are suffering without work in Odisha," stated Behera in his letter.

IN KENDRAPADA

Couple injured in looters' attack

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

A couple was seriously injured when they were looted by a group of men in a village under the Marshaghai police limits in Kendrapada district late on Sunday night.

A group of miscreants entered the house of Kanhu Charan Nayak (55) of the village with an intention to loot. Nayak opposed and resisted their act, they attacked him and his wife with a knife leaving the couple grievously injured.

Then, the looters soon departed with ornaments and cash. Neighbours rescued the couple and took them to the Marshaghai hospital.

The couple was later shifted to the SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack for better treatment. Police started investigation and the incident efforts were on to identify and nab the criminals.

Ram Rajya envisages spirit of fraternity, justice



RAMA CHANDRA PANDA

The Covid-19 epidemic will leave a lasting impression on the mankind about how lives of poor or rich, privileged or underprivileged, powerful or powerless become vulnerable, helpless and unsecured before it. Neither technology nor social status, not even wealth

could pose any threat to this virus. This is bound to lead the humans to bury divisiveness and hatred to secure a new world order of fraternity, generating fellow feeling and mutual care beyond national boundaries to overcome such global challenges.

India's ancient civilization wisdom conceives world as one family which in past sheltered people of different faiths. In the Ramayana, Jatayu, the divine bird, knew that it cannot fight with Ravana to release Sita from his clutch; still he fought and laid his life in a show of fraternity.

In return, Rama performed the funeral rituals of the bird as a mark of his gratefulness. Are humans now showing such fellow feeling and gratefulness? Lord Rama himself lived in simplicity and following path of poverty, justice and well being of all lives and created numerous such examples. It is said that he punished a saint for hitting a dog, on the

latter's complaint. Vendetta reigns today's political world. Everybody thinks he is right and others are wrong. Any dissent is treated inimical and the adversary looked down as enemy.

Great saint and freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak criticised highhandedness of the British Government in the name of containing plague in Pune in his paper Kesari and in return was threatened by the British authorities to which he wrote back in his paper "governance does not mean taking revenge" which led to his arrest in July 1897 in Mumbai under sedition law.

Post independence, the Governments still adopt the same section law to intimidate political rivals. Tilakji, Gandhiji, Netaji and countless men and women met unbearable suffering to free the country from the foreign rule.

The founding fathers of the constitution giving the country a republican polity, guaranteed fundamental rights. They were foresighted incorporating "fraternity" along with justice, liberty and equality in the preamble, to cultivate the spirit of brotherhood among the citizens. Leaders during freedom struggle were a synthesis of multiple ideas, tolerant of opposite opinions and it nourished relations above party and ideological differences.

Netaji Subash Chandra Bose during his second tenure as Congress president could not constitute the AICC due to non-cooperation by some supporters of Gandhiji and hence resigned from the presidency in April, 1939.

But this never diminished his respect to Gandhiji and during INA days in his broadcast to Indian people from abroad, he addressed Gandhiji as father of nation and named one of INA regiments as Gandhiji regiment.

Gandhiji never reduced his admiration to Netaji in spite of ideological differences with him about mode of freedom struggle. Netaji had a great feeling of fraternity also. It was once told by freedom fighter Jagannath Mishra that Netaji was very critical of Pandit Nehru from the country, Dibakar Patnaik and he had gone to meet him at his Kolkata residence when after brief discussion both went to take a round of the city and returned late. Netaji was waiting at his front veranda to take dinner with them.

Supporters of Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Gokhale virtually had come to blows in Surat session in 1907 on an ultimatum resolution to be served to British but both jointly worked to strengthen freedom struggle irrespective of differences.

According to some authors, Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was very critical of Gandhiji about the manner on uplift of Harijans but Gandhiji advised Pandit Nehru to take him in his cabinet.

Pandit Nehru and Dr Rajendra Prasad differed at many issues. As a true democrat, Pandit Nehru accepted Dr Rajendra Prasad for the office of president of India, when his suggestion for another leader to the high office was reportedly turned down in the Congress meeting.

Dr Ram Manohar Lohia, the veteran socialist leader, became furious on his staff on this and asked the person concerned to apologize to Dr Lohia. Gandhiji demonstrated humbleness and led a simple

life as he was very much sad about poverty in the society. On the contrary, many in positions prefer to adopt luxurious living to show a distinct.

I recall one incident probably in the year 1980 how former CM Naba Krushna Choudhary was carrying his own luggage alighting from a train at Bhubaneswar station while moving to catch a ricksha when I was waiting at Bhubaneswar railway station along with former Union Minister Samarandha Kundu to travel to Puri to attend a HMS meeting.

Kundu asked me to immediately lift the luggage from his shoulder which I did, when I found that he was none but the great Gandhian Naba Krushna Choudhary.

During his tenure as CM, Biju Patnaik decided to support a Congress leader for Rajya Sabha to facilitate his continuance as a Minister of State for railway as mark of fraternity and in the interest of the State.

On several occasions, Bijubabu used to tell to keep Panchayat elections above politics to safeguard the traditional fraternity in the society.

Gandhiji's dream of "Rama Rajya" conceived "Swarajya" underlining sovereignty with people to transform villages as self reliant units both politically and economically limiting the role of rulers as trustees in the governance mechanism. After independence some of the national parties have used the Rama Rajya concept as a vote catching slogan.

Loving every life including people of other faiths, respecting adversaries, becoming judicious and achieving equality among citizens is essential to fulfill the goals of Rama Rajya. In Ram Rajya, "deception" and "hypocrisy" had no place.

(The writer is a former Odisha Assembly Deputy Speaker. Phone: 943741287; E-mail: pandarcp@gmail.com. The views are personal)

Opp behaviour in Rajya Sabha 'very shameful': Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that it had a clear majority in the Rajya Sabha during the passage of the farm Bills, the Government on Monday described the behaviour of Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha as "very shameful and irresponsible" as also their refusal to leave the house despite the Chairman's order to suspend them on Monday. The Government also pointed out that there is enough visual evidence that the Deputy Chairman would have been nearly physically assaulted had the Marshalls not protected him.

Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the conduct of leaders of opposition parties was "illegal" and violative of all parliamentary norms and rules and accused the Congress of double standards on the issues including contract farming.

"The Government had a clear majority yesterday, 110 present members were supporting the Agriculture Bills and only 72 were opposing, their agenda was to stop the House (Rajya Sabha) from passing the Bills," Prasad maintained.

On the Opposition's claim that the bills were passed without voting on Sunday, Prasad

said the deputy chairman had asked the members of Parliament (MPs), who went to the well of the house, to return to their seats 13 times. He said discussion went on peacefully from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm and after that the deputy-speaker said "you want it to go to select committee, I have to put it to your seats". "How can voting take place when you won't go to your seats," he asked.

Pointing to the possibility of the chairman being physically attacked, the Union minister said, "Yesterday was a shameful day in parliament history. Mic was broken, a leader of a party tore a rule book" and the chair came "very close to being physically hurt". "But for Marshalls, some physical hurt was possible," he sought to say adding there is enough visual evidence if Marshalls would have not protected the Deputy Chairperson, "he would have been nearly physically assaulted."

He said following their suspension the opposition members had no right to stay back in the house which they did on Sunday. He said once suspension is ordered there is no discussion allowed and members have to exit the house.

LS clears changes in FCRA, Aadhaar must for NGOs now

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 that seek to make Aadhaar mandatory for NGOs to receive foreign funds. The amendments aim to streamline the provisions of the FCRA by strengthening the compliance mechanism and enhancing transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution worth thousands of crores of rupees every year, said MoS Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

The amendments will limit the use of foreign funds received under FCRA for administrative purposes from the current limit of 50% to 20%. Also, Aadhaar card will be mandatory for all office bearers of NGOs and other entities that are utilising the funds for the purpose for which they were registered or granted prior permission under the said Act. Many of them were also found wanting in ensuring basic statutory compliances such as submission of annual returns and maintenance of proper accounts," the proposed

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Bill passed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Monday passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Bill providing reliefs to companies facing insolvency due to the lockdown. Rajya Sabha had already passed the Bill. Finance Minister told Lok Sabha while replying to the debate on IBC (Second Amendment Bill) that the Government passed Ordinance to protect the companies facing insolvency cases due to the Lockdown. "Many countries changed rules due to the Lockdown to protect the companies who were facing insolvency cases and recovery cases."

"These amendments were mainly to stop the recoveries and extension of time limit due to Lockdown," she said, explaining why Government brought Ordinance and needed to accommodate the amendments.

"This has led to a situation where the Central Government had to cancel certificates of registration of more than 19,000 recipient organisations, including non-governmental organisations,

Bill to shield docs, healthcare workers from attack OK'd

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Monday passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill 2020 to include Covid-19 pandemic in the list of epidemic diseases and also include the stringent punishments to those attack doctors and healthcare workers. Rajya Sabha had passed the Bill earlier. During the pandemic, the Government had issued an Ordinance to protect doctors and healthcare workers after a series of reports of attacks against them. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan thanked the Lok Sabha MPs for supporting the Bill. "The Bill is punishable with an imprisonment for a term of three months to five years, and with a fine of ₹50,000 to ₹2,00,000,

during the period between 2011 and 2019," it added.

Dementia education, brain boosting games may reduce Alzheimer's risk

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

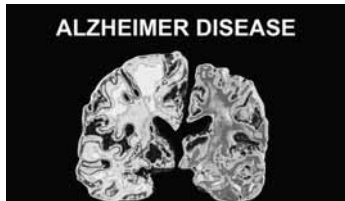
An eight-week programme combining dementia education with lifestyle changes to diet, physical activity and cognitive engagement through brain boosting games can significantly improve cognitive performance and reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease among seniors with pre-dementia conditions, researchers have found.

Alzheimer's disease is a neurological disorder which causes problems with memory, thinking skills, and behaviour and is the most common form of dementia.

The study used the BrainHQ app from Posit Sciences for brain exercise component. Published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, the randomised trial assigned 65 participants over the age of 65 to either an active control group or an intervention group.

The research team found that the intervention group had a significantly larger reduction in Alzheimer's risk — using the Australian National University Alzheimer's Disease Index — than the control group over the duration of the study. The size of the risk reduction was clinically significant, similar to the difference in Alzheimer's risk between a person who does not have memory loss and one who does.

Memory loss is one of the



earliest symptoms, along with a gradual decline of other intellectual and cognitive functions leading to change of behaviour. RK Dhamija (Director Professor and HOD), Department of Neurology at Delhi-based Lady Hardinge Medical College said. He added that as there is no cure, it is important that one should take up reading, play brain challenging games like crosswords and Sudoku, connecting with people to keep the mind active. "Lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure should be strictly controlled."

"Since it is a neuro-degenerative disease, it is therefore important to recognise the symptoms early. Timely and regular follow-up with a neurologist along with good supportive care can minimise the suffering of these patients," Dr Dhamija said.

Initial symptoms are memory impairment, word-

finding difficulties during conversation, patients may forget their recent conversation, where they had kept their wallets, they may even forget whether they had food or not or forget bank/ATM passwords or their way to home.

Around 5 crore people are suffering with dementia and it is estimated that every year one crore people with dementia are added, said Dr Dhamija. In India, 40 lakh people are afflicted with the neurodegenerative disease.

"The Government isn't currently prioritising their needs, since the medical system is already burdened with the responsibility of providing India's fastest growing and increasing cardiac ailments, oncology problems etc. But the Government needs to look into this gap in geriatric care on an urgent basis," said Joy Desai, Director of the Neurology Department at CMC Hospital & Research Centre, Mumbai.

SC agrees to hear plea seeking re-opening of anganwadi centres



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea which has sought directions to the Centre, all States and Union Territories to forthwith re-open all Anganwadi centres in the country which were closed amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The apex court issued notices to the Centre, states and UTs and sought their responses on the plea which has claimed that functioning of all Anganwadi centres in the country came to a "sudden halt" and poor pregnant and lactating women and children were "left in the lurch".

"Issue notice, returnable in four weeks. Counsel for the petitioner is permitted to serve a copy of this petition to the office of Solicitor General of India," a bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, R S Reddy and MR Shah said.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by Maharashtra-based Dipika Jagtap. Sahani who has sought a direction to the Centre, all states and UTs to "conduct growth monitoring of children to document malnutrition in the wake of the after effects of the pandemic more particularly malnourishment among children and anaemia in girl children and initiate corrective steps forthwith".

The petition has said that the Centre, states and UTs should re-open all Anganwadi centres and provide Anganwadi services in accordance with the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

"This public interest petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, relates to the closure of the integrated child development services all across the country, which provided supplementary nutrition to pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children up to the age of 6 years," it said.

"The Anganwadi centres which were running under this scheme for decades have been closed using COVID-19 as an excuse," it claimed, adding,

"As a result, the most vulnerable sections of the Indian population suffered malnutrition nation-wide. This petition seeks the re-starting of the Anganwadi centres immediately."

It has also sought a direction to the Centre, states and UTs to provide hot cooked meals, take home rations in consonance with the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 as well as The Supplementary Nutrition (under the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme) Rules, 2020.

Pakistan trying to target Indians working in Afghanistan, Parl told

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday informed the Parliament that Pakistan is trying to target Indians working in Afghanistan.

The Government in a written reply in Lok Sabha said that several Indians are working in development projects in Afghanistan have been attacked or kidnapped in the last 12 years.

Pakistan under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267 had the same to designate four Indians working in Afghanistan as terrorists, the Government

reportedly said adding that the request was not approved. Pakistan has been targeting Indian professionals working in Afghanistan through a variety of ways. Several Indians working in Afghanistan on various development projects have been targeted, killed and kidnapped over the past 12 years, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muralaedharan said.

"With the assistance of [the] Government of Afghanistan, India is unable to secure [the] release of many Indians from captivity. In addition, [the] Indian embassy and its consulates have also been attacked," he said.

The Government also informed Monday that it has adopted a multi-pronged approach to strengthen protection along the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan.

In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, the Government informed that improved technological surveillance, weapons and equipment for security forces, improved intelligence gathering and operational coordination are also being carried out, reported a news agency.

CCMB scientists analyse 2,000 SARS-CoV-2 genomes from India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad have analysed more than 2,000 SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19 genomes from India available in the public domain and understand the various strains in circulation.

The clade or genetic group circulating in India has 70 per cent similarity with the major strain around the world, hence one vaccine or drug is sufficient to fight it, they said.

Earlier in June, the team had revealed the presence of a distinct virus population among Indians. This was named the clade I/A3i, and is recognised by the presence of 4 specific variations in their genetic makeup (genomes).

At that time, 41 per cent of all Indian SARS-CoV-2

genomes belonged to this clade.

However, the current analysis showed that the proportion of the A3i clade dropped to 18 per cent, it said. The findings of the study done with scientists from CSIR-Institute of Integrative Biology as collaborators, are now posted and published in the journal Open Forum Infectious Diseases published by the Oxford University Press.

The decrease in the proportion of A3i clade is accompanied by an increase of the A2a clade, also referred to as the G clade or the 20A/B/C clades in other nomenclatures. Viruses of the A2a or the G clade carry the D614G mutation in their spike protein which is shown to be associated with an increased infectivity.

At present, approximately 70 per cent of all Indian as well

as global SARS-CoV-2 genomes fall into this clade. As expected for a strain which is more infectious, A2a clade quickly became the dominant clade in India just like everywhere else. There is no evidence to state that this mutation is clinically a more dangerous one," Dr Rakesh K Mishra, Director, CCMB and a co-author of the study said.

"The similarity in viral genome globally should be considered a positive news, because a vaccine or a drug targeted to this mutation will work with the same effectiveness all over the world," he added.

It is, however, important to note that no clade at present has been conclusively shown to be associated with a more severe form of COVID-9, or an increased risk of death, said the scientists.

MoHUA gets metro rail proposals from 6 States

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA) has received proposals of 392 km metro rail from six States with an estimated cost of ₹1,27,825 crore so far. The proposals have been received from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Punjab.

In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, the Government informed that improved technological surveillance, weapons and equipment for security forces, improved intelligence gathering and operational coordination are also being carried out, reported a news agency.

As per the ministry data, the remaining three corridors of Delhi Metro Phase IV (Thane-Banara, Rithala-Banara-Narela, and Lajpat Nagar-Saket G Block corridors) would be 44 kms long

and it would cost Rs 12,635 crore. The deadline of the project is December 2024.

Bangalore Metro Rail Project (Phase 2A and 2B) will be 58 kms long and it would cost ₹14,844 crore. The project is expected to be completed within 45 months from the date of sanction.

Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase-II is 119 kms long and it would cost ₹63,246 crore. The deadline of this project is June 2026.

Maharashtra's metro rail projects include Nagpur, Thane-Banara, and Navi Mumbai. The total length of these four cities' metro will be 119 kms and it would cost ₹22,961 crore.

Only 4% patients got Covid-19 ICU beds via proper channel: Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the number of coronavirus cases in India continues to rise and demand for medical facilities increases, a survey by LocalCircles said that only four per cent patients were able to get a Covid-19 ICU bed through the routine process, while 78 per cent had to use connections and clout. Another four per cent said they did not get an ICU bed at all.

After receiving many complaints from citizens from across the country about their family friend or associates not being able to find an ICU bed at a government or private hospital, LocalCircles conducted a survey to get citizen's pulse on the issue and received over 17,000 responses from



citizens located in over 211 districts of the country.

On experiences of people in their social network with regard to getting a COVID-19 ICU bed, 55 per cent citizens said that they did not have any person in their network who needed it.

Thirty eight per cent respondents said they had to use clout to secure an ICU bed while seven per cent said they had to follow up extensively to secure the ICU bed.

UAE-based defence firm renews commitment to supply over 93K carbines to Indian Army

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The UAE-based arms manufacturer, Caracal on Monday renewed its commitment to supply 93,895 carbines to the Indian Army under a deal which has been pending since 2018.

The Caracal in a statement stressed that it is committed to the 'Make in India' initiative and referred to its selection for the deal to supply the carbines.

"Caracal has already identified the required land, facility and local partners to be able to commence production immediately."

Over 20 per cent of the components fitted on the CAR 816 are already made in India, with Caracal now making commitment to fully manufacture the rifles in (the) country, in alignment with the 'Make in India' initiative," the company said in a statement.

CBI files case against Delhi-based firm for causing loss to banks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against Delhi-based private firm Kwaliti Ltd and its directors for causing an alleged loss of over ₹1,400 crore to a consortium of banks led by Bank of India.

The following registration of the case on September 10, the agency on Monday conducted searches at the premises of the accused firm and its directors.

The CBI registered the case on a complaint from Bank of India against Kwaliti Ltd and others including its Directors, and other unknown persons for causing an alleged loss of ₹1,400.62 crore to Bank of India and other consortium banks, the agency said.

"It was alleged in the complaint that the said accused had cheated the Bank of India-led consortium comprising BOI (lead bank), Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, IDBI, Industrial Bank of India, Dhanu Bank and Syndicate Bank to the tune of ₹1,400.62 crore by way of diversion of bank funds, sham transactions with related parties, fabricated documents/receipts, falsified books of accounts and false assets and liabilities among others," it said.

The searches were conducted at eight locations including Delhi, Saharanpur, Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh), Ajmer (Rajasthan) and Palwal (Haryana) at the premises of the private company and other accused persons in the case. Further investigation is continuing, it further said.

Those named as accused in the case include Kwaliti Ltd, Sanjay Dhillara, Siddhant Gupta, Arun Srivastava and other unknown persons.

According to the FIR, diversion/misappropriation of public money by the accused firm and individuals was done during the period 2010-2017.

Computerised over 16K lower courts; more than 51L cases pending in HCs: Law Minister

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has completed computerisation of 16,845 district and subordinate courts, out of which ₹790.64 crore has been utilized till August 31, he said.

In the 2020-21 fiscal, funds have been released for eSewa Kendras in high courts and district court complexes.

In a written reply to a query in Lok Sabha, the minister said the Government has released ₹1,459.52 crore to

various organisations involved in implementation of the project.

This includes ₹1,077.76 crore released to all high courts, out of which ₹790.64 crore has been utilized till August 31, he said.

In the 2020-21 fiscal, funds have been released for eSewa Kendras in high courts and district court complexes, equipment for VC cabins and connectivity in court complexes and creating help desk counters.

There can't be universal policy on right to protest: SC in anti-CAA blockade case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There cannot be a "universal policy" on right to protest and possible curbs as also balancing it with acts like blocking of roads are needed because the situation may "vary" from case-to-case, the Supreme Court said on Monday.

The top court's observation came while reserving the verdict on a batch of pleas against the anti-CAA protests which had led to blocking of a road in Shaheen Bagh in the national capital last December.

The situation normalized later due to COVID-19

pandemic fear and subsequent observance of protocol.

"There were some supervening circumstances which came into play and it was no one's hand. God almighty itself intervened," said a bench comprising Justices S K Kaul, Aniruddha Bose and Krishna Murari.

Taking note of the submissions of lawyers including Shashank Deo Sudhi, the bench said: "We have to balance right to protest and the blocking of roads. We have to deal with the issue. Their cannot be universal policy as the situation may vary on case to case basis."

"In parliamentary

democracy protest can happen in Parliament and on roads but on road it has to be peaceful".

Amit Sahni, one of the lawyers who had filed the plea in the case, said that this kind of protests should not have been allowed in the larger public interest.

This was allowed to have continued for more than 100 days and people faced difficulty. This kind of incident should not have happened. Yesterday in Haryana there was 'Chakka Jam' in Haryana. They have also called Bharat Bandh on September 24-25," he said.

AGRICULTURE BILLS

Didi calls Opp to unite against 'Hitler Raj'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has reacted to the alleged "forced passing" of the farmers' Bills by comparing the BJP Government with "Hitler Raj" and said that her party Trinamool Congress will start an indefinite agitation demanding a rollback of the "draconian law".

Saying that "yesterday will be remembered as a Black Sunday" in the history of parliamentary democracy in India Banerjee on Monday said, "the forced passage of the Bills in the Rajya Sabha only reminds one of the Hitler Raj... it is dictatorship at its peak," adding her party would however not take

things lying down and begin a prolonged movement against the "draconian law". Even as two TMC MPs Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen were suspended from attending this session of the Rajya Sabha Banerjee said "no amount of coercion will deter us. We will not bow our head before this dictatorial Government," adding "the way the Bills were passed in the Upper House by sheer physical force has made our heads hang in shame. We feel disturbed and ashamed."

"I condemn the yesterday's incident in the Rajya Sabha... the way the Bills were forcibly passed without following the norms. Now it is clear that this Government is not only attacking the opponents but also the farmers and daily wagers... the farmers' independence is being hijacked they are being made powerless... The day is not far when we will face a food crisis, India is now staring at a famine."

Apprehending that the proposed labour reforms could bring untold hardship for the country's work force, Banerjee said the Government's proposals for labour reforms would come as a bolt on the work force. Calling for a broad-based opposition unity, Banerjee said, "a time has come when all the parties should unite against this dictatorial government which systematically destroying all the democratic institutions of the country... if need be the

Trinamool Congress will remain at the rear of the movement and the parties should come forward to join hands against this Government."

Attacking the Centre for

RJD to kick off agitation from Sept 25

Patna: After the contentious agriculture Bills were passed in Parliament, the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in Bihar has decided to start its agitation from September 25. Jagadendra Singh, the State president of RJD in Bihar, said that members of RJD will protest against the Bills in each of the 38 district headquarters in Bihar. The Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) was dissolved

in 2006 by the NDA Government in Bihar and its consequences were such that the state government was unable to stock any foodgrains, he said.

"How could they claim that after removing APMC it would help farmers? We have not seen any of the farmers being benefited by it. It has adversely affected farmers," Singh said, adding that a large number of farmers migrated from different parts of Bihar.

12 killed, 10 others hurt as Thane building collapses

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At least 12 persons, including seven children and teenagers, were killed and 10 others injured when a three-storey building collapsed when they were sleeping at their homes at Narpoli in the powerloom town of Bhiwandi in the adjoining Thane district in the early hours of Monday.

As many as persons, including six children, were rescued from under the debris by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and local fire brigade teams during the rescue and relief operations carried out by them for the better part of the day.

Of those killed in the mishap were a four-year-old girl and a 75-year-old man.

A portion of the 43-year-old Jilani building, situated in the Patel Compound at Narpoli near Dhamankar Naka at Bhiwandi, crashed at 3.45 am. The building had 110 flats. There were 150 residents in the building when it collapsed.

The rescue teams deployed a Dog Squad, high-tech sensors cameras, gas cutters to locate and rescue the victims trapped under the debris.

The injured were rushed to the hospitals at Bhiwandi and nearby Thane.



National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Fire Brigade carry an injured person from the site after a three-storey building collapsed at Thane district on Monday

Those injured have been admitted to the local hospitals at Bhiwandi and some shifted to Thane hospitals the officials said.

Thane's Guardian Minister Ek Nath Shinde today visited the crash site and inspected the rescue and relief operations. He also visited the hospital and enquired about the health of the injured.

Shinde announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of those killed in the mishap. The minister also ordered an inquiry as to why no repairs had been carried out in the building despite the fact that the Bhiwandi, Nizampur Municipal Corporation

(BNMC) had served to that effect in February this year.

Meanwhile, BNMC's Municipal Commissioner Pankaj Ashya has suspended the then Assistant Municipal Commissioner Sudham Jadhav and Engineer and Verification officer Duddhath Yadav, pending the inquiry.

The BNMC chief said that the collapsed building figured on the list of dilapidated and dangerous structures and a vacate notice had been issued to the residents in February this year. President R.N. Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also expressed their grief over the death of the people in the Bhiwandi, Nizampur Municipal Corporation crash.

Aligarh: 86 new corona cases including 17 from district jail

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The corona is now active in district jail as well. 86 new cases have been found including 17 from the district jail. After several days, the number of infected people today is less than 100. 165 people recovered and returned home. The number of corona infected patients has now reached 7430 in the district.

86 people have been found infected in JN Medical College, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Joint Hospital, Private Lab, and Antigen Test. 17 people

were found from the district jail. The district Magistrate Chandra Bhushan Singh said that based on symptoms, the infected patients are being admitted either to the covid-19 hospital or home isolation. Samples have been taken for family members and they are kept in home quarantine. People in contact are also being sampled.

Meanwhile, a corona patient has run away from the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay joint hospital today. Police have been informed by the hospital administration.

AMU anti-CAA protester Sharjeel under lens

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Former AMU student Sharjeel Usmani, who was among the main caused in connection with the ruckus in AMU regarding the CAA-NRC, is once again on the radar of the district police and agencies. After objection to the post made on social media recently, Sharjeel in AMU is being conducted from the SP city level. At the same time, legal opinion has been sought from

SPO on whether this comes under the crime or not? The decision will be taken only after getting a legal opinion for filing the case. Meanwhile, other agencies including ATIS are monitoring his activities.

Shamul Usmani, an alumnus of AMU, who was the main accused of inciting the ruckus on 15 December night in AMU campus, was arrested from Azamgarh. He was sent to jail in two main cases of AMU ruckus.

10 Kerala districts under security scanner post al-Qaeda arrests

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Ten out of 14 districts in Kerala have come under the scanner of various intelligence agencies of the Centre, according to sources in National Investigation Agency (NIA). The caution by the Centre has come as a follow-up to Saturday morning's arrest in Ernakulam district of three persons with alleged link to Al Qaeda. The three were taken to Delhi where they are being questioned about their activities in Kerala.

"Ten districts in the State have sleeper cells of various terrorist organisations and they are under observation. We are also in the process of finding out their associates in the State Police," said an official who did not want his name to be quoted. The presence of thousands of migrant workers across the State have become a serious issue in Kerala.

Jamaat-e Islami questions legality of arrests by NIA

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Welfare Party of India, the Jamaat-e Islami, came out on Monday questioning the legality of the arrests of three migrant workers from Ernakulam district by the NIA on Saturday.

"I do not believe the version of the NIA that the three were arrested because of their links with Al Qaeda. These arrests smack of a conspiracy," said Hameed Vaniyambalam, WPI, president, in a statement released to the media.

According to Hameed, the news being spread by the investigation agency is with the objective to create Islamophobia and also to help the Sangh Parivar elements.

"Their intention is to create ethnic hatred for the migrant laborers among the local population. These innocent workers are being portrayed as terrorists," said Hameed.

No shortage of corona preventive drugs in Aligarh, says dist admin

PNS ■ ALIGARH

Corona preventive medicine Civermetin has no shortage in the district. The drug inspector denied the rumors of a shortage of medicine in the market, saying that the availability of market is trying to make profits by spreading such rumors.

Drug dealers have been alerted regarding this. Along with this, an inspection was also carried out on the availability of zinc along with Cefzixim, Doxycycline, Azithromycin, Vitamin C, and Multi-Vitamins, and no shortage was reported.

Karnataka's Congress MLA Sangamesh tests Covid +ve

Bengaluru: Karnataka's Congress legislator BK Sangamesh from Bhadravathi has been admitted in a private city hospital after testing coronavirus positive, a party official said on Monday.

"As 55-year-old Sangamesh tested positive on Sunday, he was brought to Bengaluru from Shivamogga and admitted in the private hospital here for treatment," party spokesman Rajeev Gowda told IANS. Bhadravathi is about 280km northwest of Bengaluru in the southern state.

J&K LG launches home delivery of prasad for Vaishno Devi pilgrims

PNS ■ JAMMU

The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, who is the Chairman of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board on Monday formally launched home delivery of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Pooja Prasad for devotees who may not be able to visit the famed Hindu pilgrimage, located between three peaked mountains popularly known as 'Trikuta', during the Board meeting at the Raj Bhavan on Monday.

To get Prasad delivered home packed in sanitized boxes, a devotee can book the Pooja Prasad through Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's website.

Once the booking is done, the Board ensures that Pooja is performed within 72 hours and Prasad is dispatched through Speed Post.

So far, around 1500 packets of Pooja Prasad have been dispatched by the Shrine Board to the devotees across the country through speed post for which the Board has entered into an agreement with the Postal Department.

The Lieutenant Governor, while chairing the first meeting of the Shrine Board since taking office in August this year, welcomed the Board Members, at the outset.

1,036 new Covid cases, 23 die in J&K

PNS ■ JAMMU

Twenty three Covid-19 patients died in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Monday while the total number of recoveries reported a slight jump in comparison to total number of fresh positive cases.

According to the media bulletin, 1,158 patients recovered and discharged from different hospitals while 1036 new cases were detected taking the tally of active positive cases of Coronavirus to 21887 while the death toll reached 1024.

Out of these 1036 fresh cases, Jammu division reported 536 and Kashmir division

reported 473 cases. On the other hand, out of 23 deaths, 14 deaths were reported from Jammu region and nine patients died across Kashmir valley on Monday.

Out of a total number of 65026 positive cases, 42115 patients have recovered so far while 21887 are active positive. Out of these 12643 cases are active in Jammu and 9244 in Kashmir region.

On the other hand, the team of doctors headed by Principal Government Medical College, Jammu Dr NC Diga Monday claimed the premier Health Institution is catering well to all sick patients amid the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Chief Executive Officer, Melaghar Municipal Council Melaghar Sepahijala Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No 01/SBM/MMC/DEV/2020-21, Dated- 14-09-2020

For Construction of Tertiary Waste Treatment Centre with composting Pits at Melaghar Municipal Council under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban during the year 2020-2021.

Estimated Cost: Rs. 149, 35,855.00
Earnest Money: Rs. 298717.00

Time Of Completion - 180 (One hundred Eighty) days
Last Date of bidding for bids - upto 3.00 PM ON 14-10-2020
For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

Note:-
"NO NEGOTIATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER"

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Melaghar Municipal Council
Melaghar Sepahijala Tripura
ICA/C-1658/2020-21

महाराष्ट्र शासन
सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग
ई-कार्यपाली अर्थात ई-निविद सुचना क्र.०३ (ई-निविद) सन २०२०-२१
(भरत सहकारी संस्था मर्यादित)

सार्वजनिक बांधकाम (सा.बा.) विभाग, विष्णुव्द है (दुख्खनी क्र ०२३५५-२२२०६) महाराष्ट्र शासनाच्या सार्वजनिक बांधकाम खात्याकडून याचा लघु सहकारी संस्था मर्यादित खातीला कार्यान्वयन करून घ्यावयाची आहे. या निविदवरील संपूर्ण माहिती खातीला संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध करून देणारे आहेत या. www.mahapwd.com and www.mahatenders.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध आहेत.

दि. २५ - या निविदमधे एकूण २२ व २८ काम सार्वजनिक असून जोनलाईन निविदा निविदा व सोड विप्रेषण दिनांक २२-०९-२०२० सकाळी १०-०० ते दि. ०९-१०-२०२० तेजी सांख्यिकी २८-१०-२०२० पर्यंत संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध आहे. या निविदवरील संपूर्ण माहिती खातीला संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध करून देणारे आहेत या. www.mahapwd.com and www.mahatenders.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध आहेत.

जा.क्र. सोपवकी/२०२०/६००० / ८०००
कार्यकारी अधिकारी, यांचे कार्यालय,
विष्णुव्द सा.बा., विभाग, विष्णुव्द
संकेतस्थळ २२२०५५ (२२२२०६) २२२००६
दिनांक :- २२-०९-२०२० विभाग सा.बा. विभाग विष्णुव्द
DGPR/2020-2021/758

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for the information of general public that my clients Sh. Bachittar Singh S/o Tilak Singh and Son Parvinder Kaur Sh. Bachittar Singh both R/o G-30, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018 have disclosed and debared their Son Iqbal Singh, his wife Gurpreet Kaur and his family from all their movable & immovable properties with immediate effect and severed all rights. Anybody dealing with them in any manner whatsoever will be doing so at his/her own cost, risk & responsibilities.
Mohinder Dhawan (Advocate)
Bar Room 3, Civil Suite Tri Nagar, Delhi-22

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is brought to the notice of general public that the opening of 10 catering trolleys at Delhi State Road Railway station was held by Late Sri Hardev Singh Gupta who had expired on 08 Aug 2020. The contract was being considered to transfer in the name of Mr. Adil Khundwalvi S/o Late Sri Hardev Singh Gupta R/o H.NO. 52/16, Gali No.16, Nae basti Anand Patal New Delhi-110005. If any person has any objection to this, it may be reported in writing to the office of Sr. Divisional Commissioner of Municipal Corporation, State Entry Card New Delhi-110055 with in 27 days from the publication of this notice.
Ratan Lal Gupta (Advocate)
J-125, Ashyapark Nagar Nangloji, Delhi-41

SUSPECTED PERSON
General public is hereby informed that one male person (depicted in the photo) Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age: about 35-40 years, Height: about 5'7" Feet, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Hairs: Black, Small Beard & Mustaches, Wearing: Unknown, is wanted in a Case vide FIR No. 43/20 u/s 379 IPC, Dated 24.07.2020, lodged at P.S. Tilak Marg, New Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about that person, but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information/clue about these persons, may inform SHO, Tilak Marg, New Delhi through the following telephone numbers.
S.H.O
P.S. Tilak Marg, New Delhi
Ph: 011-23342100
DP117/ND/2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice is hereby given that the Partnership between Ramesh Chandra S/o Subir Singh Yadav and Ramesh Chandra S/o Subir Singh Yadav, carrying on business of racing medicines, etc. under the name and style of 'M/s Moksh Meditech' at CW-252, Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar, Delhi-110042 is dissolved as Mr. Ramesh Chandra S/o Subir Singh Yadav is unable/responsible for any act/conduct done by any of the partners.
SARIL MUNJAL (Advocate)
Ch. No. 127, Delhi High Court, New Delhi

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida 201301 (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com and <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.
Fresh Tender work
(A) The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 05.10.2020 upto 5.00 pm. shall be opened/downloaded on dated 06.10.2020 at 11.00 am.

Sr. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1.	18/E-Tender/GM(R)/SM (WC-3)/2020-21	M/O Building (Repairing and renovation of Block C-1, C-2 and C-12, Sector-40, Staff Quarter), Noida	58.80
2.	27/GM(R)/SM (WC-2)/2020-21	M/O Road (Repair of Footpath, Central Verge M. S. Grills, Kerb Stone Painting work etc. on DSC Road from Sector-37 Underpass to New Ashok Nagar), Noida	54.54

General Manager
Noida
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL
General public is hereby informed that one girl Name: Antim @ Yogenadi, D/o Pappu R/o Ho. No. 211, Gali No. 3, C Block Saboli Extn., Delhi Age: 16 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Firozi Colour Suit, Childar Salwar and Cream & Blue Colour Chappal in Feet has been kidnapped since 23.04.2017 from her house.
In this regard a P.O. No.116/17 dated 24.04.2017 has been lodged at P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.
E-Mail: cic@cbl.gov.in SHO
Website: <http://cbl.nic.in> P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-22800215, 22800216
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/85/NE/2020

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
Office of the Executive Engineer Jai Shakti PHE (QC&PD) Division, HMT, Srinagar
Phone: 0194-2496307, E-Mail: enmndp@gmail.com
Addendum-01
Subject: Supply of Alumina Ferric Grade-V conforming to IS 299: 2012 with upto date Amendments.
Ref: This office e-NIT No: PHE/M&P/11 of 2020-21 e-Tender Dated: 19-09-2020 issued under endorsement vide No: PHE/M&P/2018-67 dated: 19-09-2020.
It is for the inform of all the bidders who had participated in the previous e-NIT No: PHE/M&P/07 of 2020-21 e-Tender Dated: 28-08-2020, their EMD shall remain valid for their participation in this e-NIT, as the e-NIT No: PHE/M&P/07 of 2020-21 e-Tender Dated: 28-08-2020 stands cancelled.
Rest all the terms and conditions, dates etc shall remain unchanged. Sd/- Executive Engineer, QC&PD Jai Shakti HMT Srinagar
No. DIFPK-6058/20 Dated: 21.09.2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON
General public is hereby informed that one person Name: Gagan Deep Bhatia, S/o Jitender Pal Singh Bhatia, R/o H. No. 200, Gujranwala, Part-I, Model Town, Delhi. Age: 36 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Blue Parka, Blue Jeans and White Blue Shirt, has been missing since 14.03.2018.
In this regard a FIR No. 95/18 U/s 365 IPC, dated 14.03.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Model Town, Delhi.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.
E-Mail: cic@cbl.gov.in SHO
Website: <http://cbl.nic.in> P.S. Model Town, Delhi
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-27459202, 8750870232
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/364/NU/2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tendering)

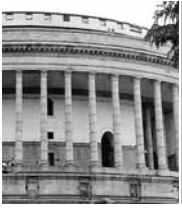
Name of work with location	Provision of (4 Nos LED Screens (Kiosk) and 01 LED TV to display of meeting schedule at Conference Hall, Committee Room, Disaster Management Room, Entry Gate no 2 & 4 in Rail Station)
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 7,57,297.10/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 15,200/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, Office, New Delhi-110026.
Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender	Tender upload/closing date & time - 14.10.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.nwrps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.
Tender No: 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-971 Date: 21.09.2020	2048/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY
General public is hereby informed that one lady namely Seema with her daughter Sangeeta, age 6 year W/o Amar Singh R/o House-1213, Baba Haridas Colony, Tikri Kalan, Delhi Age: 30 yrs, Height: 5'1", complexion shallow, face round. Wearing yellow saree and blouse has been missing/ kidnapped since 20.11.2014 from the area of PS Mundka, Delhi.
In this regard a case FIR No. 569/14 dated: 21.11.2014 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS Mundka, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady & her daughter, but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing lady & her daughter may kindly inform to the following.
E-Mail: cic@cbl.gov.in ACP
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph: 011-24368638
Ph: 011-24368641 DP/355/OD/20

Mockery of House

The Govt's steamrolling of farm Bills in Rajya Sabha erodes parliamentary procedure. Worse, it sets a precedent



It would not like to show that it has been taken back on the farm Bills but it certainly is trying to undo the damage. Clearly the Government has become over-confident about subverting parliamentary fairplay and justifying its authoritative weight. That it has been forced to consider a hike in the minimum support price (MSP) of Rabi crops and repeatedly assure that *kisaan haats* would continue are an admission of its somewhat dodgy understanding of Indian farmers and their concerns. The latter are not only a volatile political constituency; they are aware stakeholders and not a silent majority. So while the Government is in a rush to push big bang farm reforms, steamrolling three Bills that began as ordinances and would have lapsed otherwise, it has ignored their questions and dishonoured the democratic convention of dialogue, consultation and careful consideration. Worse, it has even made Parliament a tool in its exercise of ticking off the boxes in its manifesto, trampling any opposing view as redundant, even if well-argued. Controversial Bills in this country have always been open for discussion in the House, often moved to relevant parliamentary committees for in-depth appraisal and closing deficiencies. By skipping the rulebook, the Government has stretched its political adventurism a bit much. While it insists that the new laws will remove trade barriers so that the smallest farmers can sell their produce outside monopolised markets and get a higher price, the reality is that such farmers are still unprotected against the corporatisation implicit in these Bills. Architecture-wise, the Bills look reformist, dismantling the heavily cartelised Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandis* and middlemen, but growers need gestational and transitional time to come out of a regulatory framework and take charge of their individual fortunes. For one, the smaller and marginal farmers are not literate or educated enough and entering into one-on-one contracts with corporations would give the latter negotiating rights and greater control over price fixing. In that sense, they could still end up being exploited as before. The middleman would simply get replaced by a food major or a retail giant, which, as a "sponsor," can control inputs in the "farm to fork" chain. Besides, farmers, knowing their limitations, have never been into direct dealing but operated through commission agents, some of whom are a trusted link in their eco-system. The farmers fear that in an open, competitive market, they would not get the MSP that the Government promises to continue and given the diversity and multiplicity of markets, the guaranteed official procurement would be hit over time. They would, therefore, still be in a crisis. The bigger market players would also affect their cropping patterns. Besides, the proposed laws are still vague on definition of mechanisms that would replace the regulated economy. Considering that farmers form 60 per cent of the country's population, any sweeping change concerning them merits some thought and actionable plans than a blanket and summary imposition.

Politically, this was the Government's worst move in the House. As the Opposition protested, demanding that there be a discussion and possibly a referral to a committee, the live telecast was muted so that the nation did not hear the counter-arguments. Frustrated and agitated, the Opposition stormed the Well of the House. Procedure says that no Bill can be passed amid such din. But the Deputy Chairman, Harivansh Narayan Singh, precisely used this noise, knowing full well that the Government did not have the numbers in the Upper House to afford a division of votes, to his advantage. He called a voice vote, a highly subjective assessment method based on decibel power of members, and saw through the Bills. A voice vote is allowed only in Bills that have majority support. For a Bill that is split down the middle in terms of support, a division of votes is the only way out to decide the outcome. Especially when even the BJP's House collaborators from the Opposition — regional parties like the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), the YSR Congress and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) — opposed the farm Bills. How did Singh assess through all that commotion that ruling party MPs were louder? Will serious business in the House be henceforth transacted on the basis of a shouting match or subjected to the discretion of the Chair than the rulebook? Also, if any Opposition member challenges a voice vote, the rulebook provides for a division of votes. Opposition MPs claim they asked for a division but were ignored. Clearly, the Government's brief to the Deputy Chairman was clear, the Bills had to be passed at any cost. The Government may claim a pyrrhic victory but what of the farmers' protests that are spreading like wildfire? The Opposition parties may be inconsequential to it but they represent the voice of the people, too. More importantly, after small farmers, what would happen to the small workers, as another Bill that allows firms with up to 300 workers to fire them without Government nod, is pending? Can the Government then shed the capitalist tag? Time and again Prime Minister Narendra Modi wishes there was a responsible and aggressive Opposition to push him harder but conversation is a two-way traffic that depends on his Government's willingness to listen in the first place. By taking away the mikes, podiums and cameras, parliamentary proceedings look like a silent era film. Only a drone-like narration can be heard. Accepted for its stupor-inducing repetition and rant than as a matter of faith.

Going rural

Forcing post-graduate medical students to spend three months in rural areas will be beneficial for the doctors too



In an answer to Parliament in 2019, Ashwini Choubey, Minister of State for Health, had stated that assuming an availability of 80 per cent, there was only one doctor per 1,445 people in India. Of course, if one added up alternative systems of medication, the number would be closer to the World Health Organisation's mandated one doctor per thousand population but over the past few months, we have seen many alternative medical practices wither away in the face of the pandemic. What these statistics do not reveal is just how skewed India's medical system is towards large metropolitan areas. It is only when you see thousands of patients from across India crowding the entrances at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi that you realise just how bad things must be for families to transport critically ill patients hundreds of kilometers for proper care. The fact is that cities like Delhi and Mumbai, while suffering immensely from the pandemic, have enough beds and facilities. There was a joke, not one of any laughing matter though, that there were more intensive care beds and ventilators in Delhi's Saket area alone than in some other Indian states.

Part of the reason for the deficiency of healthcare in upcountry India is that young specialist doctors want to work, for rather obvious reasons, in big city hospitals. And it is unfair, given the poor facilities in even smaller towns, let alone rural areas, to expect young doctors to work there for extended periods of time. However, if young medical specialists did spend time in rural areas, they would possibly understand the gravity of the medical scenario a lot better than they currently do and suggest innovations in existing infrastructure. Operating in cities, they are often insulated from the realities of India just as much as "expert commentators" on news television channels. The Government's mandate that post-graduate medical students spend three months in rural areas is understandable and while some of them might be disappointed, this is a practice that should ideally be spread across disciplines. If we talk about "two Indias," then the only way to redress that is to ensure that young people from urban India see the problems of rural India and understand why they behave — with their votes and their money — the way that they do. Being a warrior on social media isn't quite the same thing.

Mumbai belongs to India

The Constitution gives its citizens the right 'to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India' and no political power should try to redefine it



A SURYA PRAKASH

The crass attempt by Shiv Sena to intimidate the national award-winning actor, Kangana Ranaut, and to demolish her property without adequate notice, must be condemned by all those who cherish democracy and rule of law in the country. It is also time to tell the Shiv Sena that it does not own Mumbai and India will grant it the power to issue entry visas for the city. Mumbai belongs to India.

The demolition of the actor's property in Pali Hill area on September 9 for alleged violations was preceded by repeated threats by party leaders and some goons, who warned her not to return to her home in Mumbai from Himachal Pradesh. Among those who adopted such a threatening tone was the State's Home Minister. In addition, party leaders have hurled filthy abuses at her. Somebody should tell these worthies to read Article 19(1)(d) and (e) of the Constitution of India which says all citizens shall have the right "to move freely throughout the territory of India" and "to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India". The Shiv Sena must also be told that "we the people" are not going to give up these rights ever and give in to goonda raj.

The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jai Ram Thakur, has rightly-looked up the examples on behalf of Ranaut and said that the attitude of the Maharashtra Government is "condemnable" and smacks of vendetta politics. This disrespect to "Himachal's daughter" is intolerable, he said while endorsing "J Plus" security for her. This should alert the Maharashtra Chief Minister to what lies ahead because nobody will tolerate this kind of behaviour by Shiv Sainiks towards citizens hailing from other States.

The Bombay High Court has rightly expressed its disapproval on the demolition "smacks of malafide" and is "deplorable". The court noted that what the corporation terms as "unauthorised" construction did not come up overnight. However, the corporation had suddenly woken up from its slumber, issued a notice to Ranaut when she was out of the city and proceeded with the demolition 24 hours later. Further, the court wondered whether the municipal corporation would act with "similar swiftness" in respect of



other numerous unauthorised constructions. In its order of September 9, the court has recorded in detail the attempts made by the municipal corporation to stall the hearing and to prevent it from taking cognisance of the petition until it had completed the demolition. This is indicative of the arrogance of the executive and disrespect for the judiciary.

The Shiv Sena has to be told that it does not own Mumbai. Sainiks have lived in this delusion for too long. In fact, seven decades ago, there was a strong argument in favour of making Bombay a Union Territory in view of its cosmopolitan outlook and strategic location.

A memorandum submitted on behalf of the Gujarat Research Society in 1948 to the Linguistic Provinces Commission argued for Bombay's independence. It said "Bombay has been an all Indian city with an international outlook and a distinctive non-provincial culture in which people from all provinces of India and even foreigners play their part." It would, therefore, be unfair to transfer an international port like Bombay to the province of Maharashtra... created on the narrow ground of a provincial language.

The Commission saw merit in this argument and said: "Nationalism and sub-nationalism are two emotional experiences which grow at the expense of each other." It said Bombay "should receive special treatment and be disposed of in the best interests of India as a whole" and in its own interest.

“THE SHIV SENA HAS TO BE TOLD THAT IT DOES NOT OWN MUMBAI. SAINIKS HAVE LIVED IN THIS DELUSION FOR TOO LONG. IN FACT, SEVEN DECADES AGO THERE WAS A STRONG ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR OF MAKING BOMBAY A UNION TERRITORY IN VIEW OF ITS COSMOPOLITAN OUTLOOK AND STRATEGIC LOCATION”

The States Reorganisation Commission, which submitted its report in September, 1955, also warned of the pitfalls of regional chauvinism. "The Constitution of India guarantees common citizenship to all Indian people. There can, therefore, be only one nationality in India," it said.

All this eventually convinced the Centre that Bombay should be a Union Territory and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made the announcement on January 16, 1956. SK Patil, the president of the Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee, said "the city would be an oasis in the desert of regionalism in India" and "a shining example of cosmopolitanism and liberal nationalism". It is, therefore, strange that India's grand old party — Nehru's Congress — which professed such liberal values, now shares power with the Sena but has no influence over it.

The Shiv Sena is trying to portray Ranaut as a person who is ill-disposed towards Mumbai, Maharashtra and Marathi people. This does not appear to be true although there can be issues in regard to her choice of words. Ranaut has not attacked any of these entities. Her attack is on the Shiv Sena for converting liberal Mumbai into a garrison of hate. Nor is the Sena the sole repository of Chhatrapati Shivaji's legacy. Indians across the world adore him for his valour, his nationalism and for his invaluable contribution towards preserving India's civilisational values. The attempts by the Shiv Sena to appropriate him and reduce him to an icon of Marathi pride

must, therefore, be resisted.

Shiv Sena leaders are also talking about what Mumbai has given to different professionals, including actors, directors and others in the cine and television world. They seem to forget what these individuals have given to Mumbai. The city became what it is because the best of entrepreneurs and talented persons in business, trade, manufacturing, entertainment and hospitality gravitated towards this city, invested billions of rupees and generated employment for millions. People from different States — Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir and Kerala to name a few — arrived in this city chasing their dreams and made Mumbai what it is today. For example, what would Mumbai business and industry be if the Gujaratis and Marwaris had not made it their home? Or, what would Bollywood be without the Punjabis? Or what would eateries be without the Irani and Udupi restaurants?

It is indeed tragic that the Shiv Sena, which stood so firmly for Indian nationalist causes during the life of its firebrand founder, Balasaheb Thackeray, should now become a caricature of itself and metamorphose into a "Sonia Sena". If it fails to appreciate and respect our constitutional *dharma*, many more States and Chief Ministers will call it out. Bharat Mata will never allow Mumbai, a jewel in her crown, to fall into unworthy hands.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

Without swift and immediate action, at an unprecedented pace and scale, we will miss the window of opportunity to 'reset' for... a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Prime of Wales
—Charles Philip Arthur George

I appeal to those Senate Republicans — please follow your conscience, let the people speak, cool the flames that have been engulfing our country.

Democratic leader
—Joe Biden

Suspension of the eight MPs who fought to protect farmers' interests is unfortunate and reflective of this autocratic Government's mindset.

West Bengal CM
—Mamata Banerjee

It pained me a lot because what happened yesterday in the House is unfortunate, unacceptable and condemnable.

Rajya Sabha Chairman
—M Venkaiah Naidu

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public indifference

Sir — It is due to the complete disregard for COVID-19 protocols that Mumbai has become the worst-hit State in the country. It was recently observed that walkers on Marine Drive had been openly flouting the guidelines under which both wearing a face mask and following social distance is mandatory. They not only risked their lives but also put others in danger. Despite BMC's attempt to keep law and order, the officials have been facing resistance from the people who are unwilling to pay fines for non-compliance. CSMT, Crawford Market and Bora Bazaar are other areas where such irresponsible attitude is on public display. It's high time that people realise their responsibility in helping the State Government stop the spread of the virus.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Time to adapt

Sir — The mega sporting extravaganza, Indian Premier League, that started last week, was eager-

The politics of religious hate-mongering

The Supreme Court made some pertinent and instructive observations while hearing a plea alleging that *Sudarshan News' Bindaas Bol* show makes communal remarks about the entry of members of the Muslim community into the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The court made it very clear that the media cannot target or malign a religious community in the name of journalistic freedom. It is a sad reality that sections of the media sometimes use national security for justifying violations of constitutionally guaranteed rights.

The programme tried to link civil service aspirants from the Muslim community to "illegal funding" and "overseas terror organisations" and showed green T-shirts, skull caps and flames with the intent of portraying Indian Muslims as the fifth column.

The very phrases like "love jihad" and "enticement of wives and daughters" were coined to show the community in a bad light. It is a bare-faced calumny to say that the Muslim youth join the civil services as part of



a "deep-seated conspiracy."

The TV programme is not an aberration but a part of a wider project of spreading religious hatred for political gains. A secular democracy like ours cannot tolerate masses being pigeonholed as "us-and-them" on the basis of religion.

G David Milton
Maruthanode

Suicidal behaviour

Sir — The spike in self-harm, suicidal ideation and behaviour amid COVID-19 pandemic is a major concern. Anxiety, job loss, stress, loneliness and financial insecurity top the list of concerns during this time. Help-seeking was highest among individuals aged 25 to 40 years, followed by those between 18 and 25 years of age and between 40 and 60 years, as reported. Given the gravity of the issue, the Government needs to increase socio-economic safety nets and devise ways to support those in need.

Khushbu Ved
Ujjain

MLALADF released

Sir — The Himachal Pradesh Government has announced the release of the MLAs Local Area Development Fund (MLALADF), stating that the first instalment would be available in October. Other States, too, should release funds for development.

Yash Pal Ralhan
Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

New weapons in doctors' tool box

The healthcare sector is improving efficiencies due to the surge in usage of robotics and AI in medical processes and other operations



AMIT KUMAR

Mobile robots are becoming increasingly popular across different business sectors as they are used to assist work processes and even accomplish tasks that are impossible or dangerous for humans. Due to their advanced technological systems, mobile robots can be used for surveillance, planetary exploration, patrolling, emergency and rescue operations, reconnaissance, petrochemical applications, industrial automation, construction, entertainment, as museum guides, for personal services and intervention in extreme environment, transportation, medical care as well as many other industrial and non-industrial applications.

Hence, mobile robotics is one of the fastest-expanding fields of scientific research. And now, more than ever, the Coronavirus crisis has highlighted the way we can optimise the use of mobile robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to successfully fight any pandemic. Given the highly infectious nature of the Coronavirus and the consequential need for social distancing, companies, both large and small, have realised that robots can provide contact-free alternatives to healthcare workers. Hospitals are devising ways to use robots to minimise the presence of healthcare staff in the Covid-care facilities. Hence, a large number of hospitals across the globe are currently using robots for rendering services such as automated testing, supporting public safety and public works, decontaminating hospitals and public spaces, ensuring delivery services, maintaining patient database and diagnosing diseases.

Multi-purpose robots are also used for temperature checking, as dispensers, for patient registration entry, delivering medication, food and so on. The aim is to quickly deploy telehealth technology during the current outbreak to allow for curbside screening of patients as enabling remote screening will reduce the contact time between patients and frontline healthcare workers, who are critical in the fight against the pandemic.

Applications of robotics are playing a major role in laboratory diagnostics services, too. However, apart from automation of laboratory and testing services, robots can also automate manual operations that are labour-intensive, time-consuming and repetitive in order to reduce the burden on frontline healthcare workers. They can play an important role in high-tech applications, too, such as performing complex surgeries like the latest Elon Musk's Neuralink chip implantation surgery, other neuro surgeries, cutting bones and so on.

AI is transforming our lifestyles by mimicking human intelligence for solving various issues. With technological advancement, AI is getting increasingly sophisticated at doing what humans do, but more efficiently, rapidly and at a lower cost. AI in healthcare provides an upper hand undoubtedly over traditional analysing and clinical decision-making techniques.

A few of the roles played by AI during the pandemic relate to early warnings and alerts, prediction and detection of outbreak of diseases, real-time disease monitoring worldwide, analysis and visualisation of spreading trends, prediction of infection rate and infection trend, rapid decision-making to identify effective treatments, study and analysis of the pathogens and drug discovery. During this time, AI diagnostic tools are used to distinguish COVID-19 from other types of pneumonia within seconds by analysing the patients' chest CT scan images.

Newer models told great potential to relieve the pressure of frontline radiologists, improve early diagnosis, isolation and treatment, and thus contribute to the control of the epidemic. Medical robotics can be considered as the application of robotics technology to healthcare to diagnose and treat diseases, or to correct, restore or modify a body function or a body part. With the help of medical robotics, surgeons can carry out operations more precisely and in a less invasive way. Surgical robotics segment dominated the medical robotics market in terms of revenue in 2019 and rehabilitation robots are gaining popularity due to the rising ageing population subject to increasing physical disabilities. It is predicted that hospital and pharmacy robots will contribute around 12 per cent to the global medical robotics market by 2025.

Due to the major use of automation processes, the robotics industry is reaching major heights by contributing to every sector of the economy and working as a lever to reduce human efforts. The healthcare sector has improved efficiencies because of it.

(The writer is Co-Founder, Addverb Technologies)

THESE BILLS REFLECT MODI JI'S UNWAVERING RESOLVE TOWARDS THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR FARMERS AND STRENGTHENING OF THE FARM SECTOR.

—UNION HOME MINISTER

AMIT SHAH

POINT COUNTERPOINT



DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN SHAMED BY THE MANNER IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT PASSED DEATH WARRANTS AGAINST FARMERS IN THE FORM OF THE FARM BILLS.

—CONGRESS LEADER

RAHUL GANDHI

Don't bank on banks

There's no pressing need for a firm hit by the crisis to rush to banks for relief. To enjoy the fruits when the going is good and come to the bank or Govt for help when in crisis is unacceptable



UTTAM GUPTA

On March 27 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Shaktikanta Das, announced a comprehensive action plan to resuscitate the economy devastated by the Coronavirus. Apart from measures to increase availability of credit and reduction in the cost of capital, the plan sought to ease the stress of loan repayments on businesses and individuals. Among others, this included a three-month moratorium on payment of instalments in respect of all term loans outstanding on March 31. On May 22, Das announced extension of the moratorium for three months till August 31. To ease the burden of payment on those who availed of working capital facilities, the Governor allowed them to convert accumulated interest for the deferment period into a funded interest term loan (FITL) which can be paid by March 31, 2021.

The RBI eased asset classification norms for all accounts coming under moratorium, too. These accounts will be treated as non-performing assets (NPA) from 270 days overdue instead of 90 days overdue as per extant rule. It also extended the 210-day resolution period for all large stressed accounts under its June 7, 2019 circular (on its expiry, it will be not ready with a resolution plan, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) comes into play) by a further 180 days. To address the situation after the moratorium ends, on August 6, the RBI announced a scheme for one-time restructuring of the debt for large companies, besides extending the moratorium. It also set up an expert committee under KV Kamath to recommend the required financial parameters, along with the sector-specific benchmarks for this special window.

Meanwhile, one Gajendra Sharma had filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court (SC) demanding waiver on interest charged by a private bank, citing relief given by the RBI on payment of Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) during March and August 31, due to the pandemic. During the last three months or so, the SC has heard the matter, but has not issued the following observations. On June 4 it said, "On one hand, you are granting moratorium (on loans) but continuing with interest. It is more detrimental." On June 17 it observed, "There is no merit in burdening customers, who have opted for the RBI-approved loan moratorium, with additional interest. Once you fix a moratorium it should serve the purpose desired. We see no merit in charging interest on interest."

On September 10, 2020, it said, "We are keen to waive interest on interest" for borrowers who availed the moratorium and asked the Government and the RBI to come up with a "concrete plan" with regard to the vexed issue. It posted the matter for hearing on September 28, when it is likely to give its final order.

From the above, it is abundantly clear that the SC does not want banks to charge interest on interest for the moratorium period. Whether or not this will get reflected in its order, one can only wait and watch. Meanwhile, it may be worthwhile to look at the desirability of such a move in particular, its impact on the viability and financial stability of the banking system.

At the outset, by granting moratorium to all and sundry, the RBI gave a signal that almost everyone

“IMAGINE A SITUATION WHERE A BANK DEFERS PAYMENT OF THE INTEREST PORTION SAY BY SIX MONTHS (BECAUSE IT IS UNDER STRESS FOR THAT LONG). THEN, IT MUST PAY INTEREST ON THE UNPAID INTEREST AMOUNT. THE DEPOSITOR WON'T FOREGO THIS JUST BECAUSE THE BANK WAS UNDER STRESS. THIS LOGIC HOLDS WHEN IT COMES TO THE BORROWER DISCHARGING HIS/HER LIABILITIES TO THE BANK. IF THE FORMER DELAYS PAYMENT OF INTEREST (COURTESY, MORATORIUM MANDATED BY RBI) THEN, IT MUST PAY INTEREST ON UNPAID INTEREST AMOUNT TO THE LATTER

would be devastated by the pandemic. The SC has gone a step further by aligning itself with a plea that the banks should also not be charging "interest on unpaid interest amount during the moratorium period." Such a sweeping and broad-based generalisation is totally divorced from the reality. No doubt, the Coronavirus has caused unprecedented damage but this can't be pushed to a point of arguing that almost everyone has been incapacitated and hence unable to service the loans. After all, even during the lockdown, a number of activities, especially health related, in essential goods and services besides firms in several other sectors permitting work from home (WFH) continued their business. Look at the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). During April-June 2020 it was about 25 per cent less than April-June 2019 but it was not reduced to zero.

Businesses which contributed to this GDP (about ₹2,550,000 crore during April-June 2020) can't be termed as not being in a position to service their loans. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. A large number of borrowers have not availed of the moratorium. For instance, in case of the State Bank of India (SBI), over 80 per cent of its retail borrowers did not avail of the moratorium for two out of the first three months (March-May) initially followed by the RBI. Further, 90 per cent of such borrowers did not avail of the moratorium for one month. In other words, they continued to pay their EMI.

Yet, if in retrospect, the SC allows waiver of "interest on unpaid interest amount" for all and sundry, this will be unfair to and discriminate against such borrowers who decided not to avail of the moratorium and continued to service their loans. A business by nature has ups and downs. Every enterprise has a phase of buoyancy when it gets to reap extraordi-



nary profit (for instance, in the automobile sector during 2017-18/2018-19). Why can't the surplus or savings from those years be used as a buffer against the current setback? Alternatively, in future, say during 2022-23, when the pandemic impact will subside and the sectors start generating good profits, the surplus to be retained therefrom will provide adequate cushion to pay for current liabilities (including interest on interest).

The point in short is that there is no compelling need for a firm hit by the crisis to rush to banks for relief. To enjoy the fruits when the going is good and come to the bank or Government for bail-out when in crisis is totally unacceptable. A bank does not run a charity. Its business model involves taking money from depositors in lieu of promising a fixed return (call it interest rate) which is added to the investment amount and returned to the depositor on maturity. The bank lends the funds thus collected to borrowers, viz. industries, businesses or individuals and so on and uses the interest earnings to service its depositors (besides paying for its own "intermediate" expenses).

The bank is legally bound to honour its contractual obligation to the depositor i.e. it must return to him/her the principal amount plus accrued interest on the maturity/due date. Imagine a situation wherein a bank defers payment of the interest portion say by six months (because it is under stress for that long). Then it will necessarily have to pay "interest on the unpaid interest amount."

The depositor must forego this just because the bank was under stress. This logic holds with equal force when it comes to the borrower's decision to avail of the moratorium and continue to service their loans. A business by nature has ups and downs. Every enterprise has a phase of buoyancy when it gets to reap extraordi-

nary profit (for instance, in the automobile sector during 2017-18/2018-19). Why can't the surplus or savings from those years be used as a buffer against the current setback? Alternatively, in future, say during 2022-23, when the pandemic impact will subside and the sectors start generating good profits, the surplus to be retained therefrom will provide adequate cushion to pay for current liabilities (including interest on interest).

The point in short is that there is no compelling need for a firm hit by the crisis to rush to banks for relief. To enjoy the fruits when the going is good and come to the bank or Government for bail-out when in crisis is totally unacceptable. A bank does not run a charity. Its business model involves taking money from depositors in lieu of promising a fixed return (call it interest rate) which is added to the investment amount and returned to the depositor on maturity. The bank lends the funds thus collected to borrowers, viz. industries, businesses or individuals and so on and uses the interest earnings to service its depositors (besides paying for its own "intermediate" expenses).

The bank is legally bound to honour its contractual obligation to the depositor i.e. it must return to him/her the principal amount plus accrued interest on the maturity/due date. Imagine a situation wherein a bank defers payment of the interest portion say by six months (because it is under stress for that long). Then it will necessarily have to pay "interest on the unpaid interest amount."

The depositor must forego this just because the bank was under stress. This logic holds with equal force when it comes to the borrower's decision to avail of the moratorium and continue to service their loans. A business by nature has ups and downs. Every enterprise has a phase of buoyancy when it gets to reap extraordi-

latter. Yet, if the top court forces banks to forego it, this will dent their ability to service the depositors. It will strike at the root of architecture of the financial system and pose a serious threat to the viability of banks.

Businesses can always approach banks for support by way of additional funding and negotiate for changes in the terms of payment. This is precisely what the RBI is facilitating by way of one-time restructuring scheme (as 26 sectors have been identified by the Kamath Committee for a customised package). But to expect banks to bear a portion of the cost in a broadside and high-handed manner is an abhorrent idea.

On the other hand, to expect the Government to pick up the cost tag would also be illogical and unfair. Apart from COVID-related expenses on medical facilities and health infrastructure (besides increasing expenditure on defence in the current security environment), the Union's scarce resources need to be preserved only for addressing basic needs of the poor whose survival depends on daily wages and who, unlike firms, had neither any savings from the past nor any hope of having any windfall gain in the future.

To conclude, if SC orders what it has alluded to, this will affect the viability of banks or further blat fiscal deficit (in case, the Government foots the bill), thereby jeopardising the country's macro-economic fundamentals. This should be avoided and businesses need to remain focused on making best use of the RBI's package. Even so, the most crucial requirement at this juncture is to "flatten" the COVID curve at the fastest pace so that economic activities get back to normal. Sans this, any relief, however generous, won't be of much help.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

Get a healthy mix of online, classroom learning

Just 25 per cent students have access to smartphones, laptops and the net. HEIs must develop mechanisms with in-built functionalities to overcome this



MONIKA S GARG

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offers accreditation to institutions for running open distance learning and online programmes. This is a unique opportunity for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to enhance the courses being offered, improve access, increase enrolment and provide opportunities for lifelong learning. Even before the lockdown, online learning platforms like NPTEL and MOOCs were being utilised in Uttar Pradesh (UP) for technical education. However, these were considered largely experimental and the reliance on e-learning in higher education was minimal. The pandemic, however, decreed tech-from-home and learn-from-home. The PM e-Vidya scheme was launched and HEIs in UP embraced online education. Around 15,000 teachers adopted online pedagogy and over nine lakh students

benefitted from it during the first two phases of the lockdown.

However, like any technological revolution, online education brings with it both opportunities for unparalleled growth and threats in the form of newly vulnerable populations. To get maximum dividends, we need to construct a structured environment for online education with the twin targets of inclusion and personalisation.

Content preparation, delivery and assessment will need to be optimised differentially to match the needs of varied target groups. High calibre e-content, the foundation of any online programme. A wealth of course content is available in English on various open source platforms. This may be integrated into the curriculum to maximise delivery at the earliest. Meanwhile, efforts have to be made to prepare content in regional languages. The course material needs to be engaging and interactive, with liberal use of audio, video, visuals and other features tailored to the course.

For instance, a course in zoology would be more visual while a course in language will require an interface equipped with grammar and spellcheck. Online learning is self-paced and self-motivated. Students can learn at their own speed, going back and re-

reading, skipping or accelerating through concepts as they choose. However, it relies heavily on the learner's inclinations. Laid-back students may fall behind the rest of the class. Thus, a time-bound schedule with frequent evaluation is necessary. Special attention must be paid to students not doing well, as to why their grades are slipping.

This scenario again points to the need of a robust system of content delivery and assessment. Discussion forums and Breakout rooms (Google Classroom, Moodle, Zoom and so on) allow small sized groups to be formed, with the instructor being able to visit each of these and share his notes. With whiteboard integration, science teachers find mini gadgets like tabs with pens convenient for performing mathematical derivations and solving numerical problems. Cross-institutional collaborative learning is also possible on platforms such as MS Teams, WebEx, Skype and Google Hangouts which allow learners to discuss problems in real time. Simulation software and virtual labs help in imparting practical knowledge to the students. This needs to be supplemented by tutorials and remedial classes, which should be personalised and customised further.

Classroom interactions are also

essential for learning from peer groups and acquiring networking skills and civic sense. The challenge is to arrive at an optimal blend of online and classroom teaching. Topics that require introspection and debate should be taken up in traditional settings. For example, philosophy requires the ability to analyse a given set of hypotheses and synthesise new postulates. It may be difficult to acquire this proficiency virtually. Assessment of the students both during and at the end of a course has always been a challenge for distance learning programmes. Using e-platforms, a combination of online and offline evaluations may be used. Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled verification, face movement recognition, screen locking and remote invigilation are some techniques that can minimise chances of use of unfair means during online tests.

Simultaneously, stringent quality control measures need to be put in place to evaluate teachers. Of course, the end-term performance of the students is an absolute parameter for making such assessments. But concurrent evaluations are essential to check time lags and protect the students' interests. The Learning Management System (LMS) is a good solution that can be indigenised and adapted by institutes. It can review per-

formance and learn about the impact of teaching with dashboards and reports. Institutions can modify the existing features of LMS to identify a user's learning abilities, articulate accordingly and extract meta-data to make suitable recommendations for helping them.

One of the biggest challenges in UP is equity and inclusion. The NITI Aayog, in its *Strategy for New India @75* report, highlighted the quality and reliability of the internet as a major bottleneck. Only about 25 per cent of students have access to smartphones, laptops and the internet. Universities will have to develop mechanisms with in-built functionalities to overcome these deficiencies.

They can develop tabs preloaded with e-content and devise a system for issuing such tabs for a fixed time, like books issued from a library. Students can use them at home, even without internet connectivity. The local industry can be motivated to use their Corporate Social Responsibility funds (CSR) to provide hardware and software to colleges. The National Broadband Mission, aiming to provide internet access in all villages by 2022, will be a great help. The Government can establish e-Learning Parks in schools in remote areas with computers and internet connectivity.

Internet of Things and Machine Learning, creative and liberal arts or yoga and meditation, online. Students can attend these even during their vacations, thus freeing up time for regular courses. The increased flexibility in timings may be used to maximise the payoff from physical college hours.

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Students enrolled in higher education programmes can use these to access digital platforms after school hours.

The benefits of online learning extend to beyond just students. Online education opens up avenues for lifelong learning. Once people get habituated to learning and absorbing content through e-platforms, they can continue to read and learn beyond the years of formal training. The NEP has called for a complete revamping of the higher education sector. Colleges will have to reimagine their mission and work together towards reforming education. Coordination and collaboration will be key to future growth. To jump start the process, the UP Department of Higher Education has developed a portal for uploading of e-content by HEIs. This is available to students across the country free of cost. Called the UP Higher Education Digital Library, this bilingual portal was started on Teacher's Day. UP has declared September and October as *Vidyadash Mah* and urged teachers to contribute to this library, in keeping with our culture of charity. More than 3,000 people have been uploaded by HEI faculty voluntarily on the library till date.

(The author is Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education Department, UP)

SOUTH CHINA SEA WATCH

Timeline of recent developments

Beijing: A look at recent developments in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbours in multiple territorial disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons. The waters are a major shipping route for global commerce and are rich in fish and possible oil and gas reserves.

CHINA SEND WARPLANES OVER TAIWAN

China flooded the Taiwan Strait at the northern end of the South China Sea with warplanes over two days last week in an apparent attempt to intimidate the self-governing island democracy it claims as its own territory.

The drills were timed to coincide with the visit to Taiwan by a high-ranking US envoy for talks and to attend a memorial service for former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui, who led the island's transition to full democracy in the face of Chinese threats.

China's defence ministry said the planes, including 32 fighters of various types, four bombers and one anti-subma-

rine warfare aircraft, crossed into Taiwan's air defense identification zone on Friday and Saturday.

Taiwan responded by activating its ground-based air defence systems and scrambling fighters, who ordered the Chinese planes to leave, saying they would "bear all the consequences" if they did not.

The Taiwan Strait is a busy transit route to and from the South China Sea which is roughly divided between China to the west and Taiwan to the east.

CHINA COAST GUARD LEAVES INDONESIA WATERS

An Indonesian patrol ship confronted a Chinese coast guard vessel that spent almost three days in waters where Indonesia claims economic rights and are near the southernmost part of China's disputed South China Sea claims.

"We asked them to move out as it was Indonesia's EEZ. But they insisted that it is China's nine-dash-line territory. Our officers at the vessel argued with them until they moved out," said Aan Kurnia, chief of the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency.

"The Chinese coast guard vessel finally left the North Natuna Sea on Monday at 11:20 am," he said.

China's "nine-dash line" delineates its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea. A 2016 international arbitration ruling involving the Philippines invalidated most of China's sweeping claims in the sea, but China has ignored the ruling.

US OFFICIAL: CHINA INSINCERE TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA

A US official accused China last week of bullying and insincerity in its dealings with Southeast Asian nations.

US Assistant Secretary of State David Stilwell said Tuesday that Chinese insincerity is best illustrated in its aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea, where it has turned disputed reefs into weaponised artificial island outposts despite a commitment not to militarise the region.

In later testimony before the Senate, Stilwell said it was now clear to the US and others that China "seeks to disrupt and reshape the international environment around the narrow self-centered interests and authoritarian values of a single beneficiary, the Chinese Communist Party."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi lashed back at the US in last week's ASEAN meetings, saying Washington was the "biggest driver of militarisation" and the "most dangerous factor damaging peace" in the region.

Woman suspected of sending package containing poison to Trump arrested

Washington: Authorities have arrested a person suspected of sending the deadly poison ricin in an envelope addressed to the White House but intercepted before it could be delivered there, a law enforcement source said on Sunday.

In response to a Reuters query seeking confirmation of media reports that a woman accused of mailing the ricin-tainted letter had been taken into custody at the US-Canadian border, the FBI field office in Washington issued a statement saying: "An arrest was made of an individual allegedly responsible for sending a suspicious letter."

The statement added: "The investigation is ongoing." The law enforcement source, familiar with the case but speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters the "suspicious letter" referred to in the FBI statement was the same as the envelope found to have contained ricin.

The source also said the person arrested was a woman

of Canadian citizenship. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said on Saturday that it had received a request for assistance from the FBI in the investigation and that the suspicious letter in question appeared to have been sent from Canada.

The RCMP further stated that an FBI analysis of a substance inside the envelope detected "the presence of ricin," a highly toxic agent derived from castor beans. While naturally occurring, the toxin requires a deliberate act to convert it into a biological weapon, with exposure to an amount as small as a pinhead capable of causing death within 36 to 72 hours. No known antidote exists.

Initially asked about the incident on Saturday, the FBI said it had joined the US Secret Service and the US Postal Service in an investigation of "a suspicious letter" received at a US government mail facility.

Trump warns no TikTok deal if China's ByteDance keeps any 'control'

Washington: President Donald Trump on Monday threw into doubt a deal to restructure ownership of the popular video app TikTok, vowing to block any deal that allows its Chinese parent firm to retain any control.

The comments raised fresh concerns over a weekend deal that appeared to avert a US-ordered ban of TikTok, which the Trump administration has called a national security risk.

The deal would make Silicon Valley giant Oracle a data partner for TikTok with retail giant Walmart also taking a stake in a new entity to be called TikTok Global.

He added Oracle and Walmart "are going to have total control over it. They're going to own the controlling interest... If we find they don't have total control, then we're not going to approve the deal."

ByteDance, under pressure in China not to give in to US demands, said it would hold an 80 per cent stake in TikTok Global after a public share offering. The Chinese firm said the current plan "does not involve the transfer of any algorithms and technologies" and that reports to the contrary were "rumors."

A separate statement from Oracle offered a different view of the transaction. "Upon creation of TikTok Global, Oracle/Walmart will make their investment and the TikTok Global shares will be distributed to their owners, Americans will be the majority."

ByteDance will have no ownership in TikTok Global. Oracle vice president Ken Gluck said.

Greece says talks with Turkey on East Med could restart soon

Athens: Greece and Turkey are close to reviving talks on a tense dispute over rights to exploit potential offshore natural gas deposits in the eastern Mediterranean, a Greek official said on Monday.

"We are close to restarting the exploratory talks. ... There will be an announcement when this is finalised but the atmosphere is good," Greek government spokesman Stelios Petsas told reporters.

Petsas also confirmed local media reports that US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is expected to visit Greece in a meeting with Greek Prime Minister

Kyriakos Mitsotakis to discuss the crisis, but added that the schedule is still being worked out.

The two neighbouring NATO members have been at odds for decades over maritime boundaries for commercial exploitation in an area between Turkey's southern coast, several Greek islands and the war-divided island of Cyprus.

Under international pressure, Turkey pulled back a research vessel in the area while both countries have also eased their naval presence and halted military exercises.

Greek-Turkish talks on the issue were last held in 2016. In recent years, the dispute that has been fuelled by souring relations between the EU and Turkey and well as the discoveries of large natural gas fields in other parts of the eastern Mediterranean.

Turkey argues that Greek islands near its coastline should be excluded from the calculation of commercial maritime boundaries that far exceed the limits of territorial waters.

Athens calls the Turkish position a violation of international law but says it is willing to settle the dispute at an international court.

Opp in Pakistan launches alliance to oust PM Imran

Islamabad: Demanding Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's immediate resignation, the country's major opposition parties have launched an alliance to hold a nationwide protest movement to oust his government.

A 26-point joint resolution was adopted on Sunday by the All Parties Conference (APC), which was hosted by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and attended by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) and several other parties.

At a joint press conference after the end of the multi-party meeting, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazl ur Rehman read out the resolution and said that the

Opposition parties have agreed to launch an alliance named Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to organise nationwide protests against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government from October.

The resolution alleged that the Khan government has been granted "fake stability by the same establishment" that interfered with the elections to bring the incumbent rulers to power.

In an obvious reference to the powerful Pakistan Army, the resolution expressed "extreme concern" over the increasing interference of the establishment in the internal affairs of the country and regarded it as a "danger to the nation's stability and institutions".

Around the Globe

Sydney: Marine biologists were planning the rescue of around 270 whales stranded on a sandbar off the remote west coast of the Australian island of Tasmania on Monday.

Washington: Barbara Lagoa, the Cuban-American federal appellate judge under consideration by President Donald Trump for the US Supreme Court, is a conservative jurist whose resume includes a role in a heated international custody battle and the distinction of being the first Hispanic woman to serve on Florida's top court.

Jerusalem: An Israeli court on Monday approved the extradition of a former teacher wanted in Australia on charges of child sex abuse, paving the way for her to stand trial after a six-year legal battle.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD BAR, HANSE	RESTORATION OF ROAD CUT ON BARWALA DUAUTPUR UPLANA ROAD IN KM 16.20 TO 17.05 AET 428 TO 17.60 IN HESAR DISTT (ROAD ID: 0130 + 1 OTHER WORKS)	17.09.2020 12.10.2020	34.40 LACS	pwd-egpd-hansa@hry.nic.in	01663-259688
2	PWD BAR, BHIVANI	SPECIAL REPAIR BY WDG & STG. OF HBB ROAD TO DHANAWA VIA LOHARATPUR ROAD FROM KM. 0.00 TO 0.51 IN BHIVANI DISTRICT (ROAD ID: H0130, 2011 & 2013) UNDER MAINTENANCE SCHEME (ADGE-0005) REPT. + 1 OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 08.10.2020	914.43 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664-242438 pwd-egpd-han@hry.nic.in
3	PWD BAR, SONPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF 1/4" WARE HOUSE (4000 UNIT) AT DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE AND JUDICIAL COMPLEX IN SONPAT DISTT. (RE-30VITE)	17.09.2020 07.10.2020	332.22 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2200575 pwd-egpd-sonpat@hry.nic.in
4	PWD BAR, SONPAT	IMPROVEMENT BY PROVIDING STRENGTHENING & RE-CONSTRUCTION OF SILANA TO CHOKA ROAD ID-6246 & 9665 (HSMB ROADS) IN SONPAT DISTT. UNDER NABARD SCHEME R20F-0011 + 1 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 07.10.2020	629.59 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2244900 pwd-egpd-sonpat@hry.nic.in
5	PWD BAR, YAMUNA NAGAR	UP-GRADATION OF KHARWARI TO CHOKHI UPTO BLOCK BOUNDARY VIA CHACHRAHALLI (T-05) IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTT. (PMSY-02) + 1 OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 09.10.2020	1210.34 LACS	www.pmsyandehshry.nic.in	01663-259688 etenders@hry.nic.in
6	PWD BAR, NUH	UP-GRADATION OF BHADAS GHAGAS ROAD (GHAGAS) TO RANVALA PAKPUR UPTO USB ROAD VIA NOTKI MADINA SANTHANWAR MANDEHARA BASGAR KHANNA KHANPUR CHATTI UNDER PMSY-02 BATCH-1 (T-05) + 10 OTHER WORKS	22.09.2020 12.10.2020	3755.53 LACS	http://pmsyandehshry.nic.in	01667-271237
7	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICES, CHARHAI DADRI	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK & DISTT-CHARHAI DADRI	CLOSING DATE 12.10.2020	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9992221460
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICES, JHOKU KALAN	SUPPLY OF INTERLOCK PAVES BLOCK VARIOUS SIZE + 10 OTHER WORKS	28.09.2020 11.10.2020	937.58 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9991342050 nk.grewal@gmail.com
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICES, PIRLI	RE-TENDER CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY SANITARY COMPLEX	18.09.2020 25.09.2020	5.80 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	89300-02020 bdpo.pirli@hry.nic.in
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONPAT	1. CONSTRUCTION OF SWM PROJECT VILLAGE BEHMAN & 9 NO.'S OTHER WORKS DISTT. SONPAT (RE-TENDER)	18.09.2020 28.09.2020	384.06 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
11	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONPAT	1. CONSTRUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE CENTER AT VILLAGE MOHANA & 4 NO.'S OTHER WORKS DISTT. SONPAT (RE-TENDER)	18.09.2020 28.09.2020	98.20 LAKHS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
12	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICES, JHOKU KALAN	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK JHOKU KALAN & DISTT-CHARHAI DADRI	CLOSING DATE 12.10.2020	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9992221460
13	PANCHAYATI RAJ, B.D.P.O. KANINA DISTT. MAHENDERGARH	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK KANINA IN DISTT. MAHENDERGARH	25.09.2020 09.10.2020	489.00 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416697956 Sd. kanna@gmail.com
14	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICES, REWARI	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK CHARHAI DADRI IN DISTT. REWARI	25.09.2020 11.10.2020	731.45 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416451687 bdpocharhaidadri@gmail.com
15	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICES, REWARI	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK NAHAR IN DISTT. REWARI	24.09.2020 12.10.2020	488.34 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466222262 bdpo@hry.nic.in
16	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICES, REWARI	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK FINAGAR IN DISTT. GURUGRAM (GROUP A TO GROUP H)	28.09.2020 11.10.2020	728.14 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7206390240 yadav@gmail.com
17	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICES, REWARI	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK DAVANA IN DISTT. REWARI (GROUP A TO GROUP H)	24.09.2020 09.10.2020	461.80 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416029293 bdpo@hry.nic.in
18	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICES, REWARI	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK KANINA IN DISTT. REWARI (GROUP A TO GROUP H)	24.09.2020 09.10.2020	418.68 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416045336 bdpo@hry.nic.in
19	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICES, REWARI	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK REWARI IN DISTT. REWARI (GROUP A TO GROUP H)	28.09.2020 11.10.2020	564.96 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416047466 bdpo@hry.nic.in
20	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA GOHANA	CONSTRUCTION OF 1-1 BARODA SUB MINOR FROM RD TO 14650 (PIPE CHANNEL) OFF-TAKING AT RD 103000, BARODA MINOR. SUPPLY, TESTING, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 01 NO. NEW ELECTRICAL PANEL AT HARCHANPUR PUMP HOUSE IN W.S. MECH. SUB DIVISION FAIRDAABAD + 1 OTHER WORKS	19.09.2020 28.09.2020	262 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
21	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA FAIRDAABAD	UPGRADATION AND COMMISSIONING OF EXISTING 5 MLD CAPACITY SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT BASED ON MOVING BED BIOFILM TECHNOLOGY (ATTACHED GROWTH PROCESS) TO COMBINED ACTIVATED SLUDGE PROCESS IN CONSTRUCTION WITH HBBR BED FILM PROCESS AT CHORITA ROAD, CHORHAI DADRI TOWN, DISTT. CHARHAI DADRI	CLOSING DATE 28.09.2020	5 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
22	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHARHAI DADRI	FOR CONTRACT FOR OBTAINING OF SERVICE/ACTIVE FOR DRIVING OF CAR/ JEEPS IN OFFICE OF ENGINEER-IN-CHARGE, HARYANA PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, SEC-4, PANCHKULA. (FROM 01-10-2020 TO 31-09-2021 FOR 4 MONTHS) EMD AMT. RS. 6410/-	18.09.2020 28.09.2020	32.08 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-3631402 etenders@phedharyana.gov.in
23	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AMBALA	(TENDERING: 2020_HRY_140452-1) BAWAL MODIFICATION OF EXISTING STP WITH TERTIARY TREATMENT EFFLUENT DISPOSAL FROM STP BAWAL TO BAWAL LINK DRAIN UP GRADATION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) OF 3.00 MLD CAPACITY BASED ON MOVING BED BIO FILM (HBBR) TECHNOLOGY LOCATED AT MANGU PARAPUR, ROAD BAWAL TOWN.	20.09.2020 09.10.2020	3 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01280-260602 etenders@phedharyana.gov.in
24	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICES, REWARI	SUPPLY OF VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS IN ALL VILLAGES OF BLOCK ADAMPUR DISTT HESAR (GROUP A TO GROUP-12)	18.09.2020 09.10.2020	11.69 CRORE	etenders.hry.nic.in	9991993789 bdpo.adampur@hry.nic.in
25	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA CHARHAI DADRI	AUCTION ON LEASE OF ESCAPE RESERVOIR AT RD 86000 LOHARU FEEDER, VILLAGE RAHAWALDI, DISTT. CHARHAI DADRI	CLOSING DATE 30.09.2020	10 LACS PER ANNUM	etenders.hry.nic.in	20100-297003 sen-woruld@hry.nic.in
26	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION REWARI	SPECIAL REPAIRING OF GATES AND GRADING OF INLET AT KM. 61.640 AND 70.700	CLOSING DATE 12.10.2020	6.62 LAKHS	hnd.gov.in	sen-gengrj@hry.nic.in
27	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION, SEWAGE	"UP GRADATION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) OF 0.30 MLD CAPACITY BASED ON MOVING BED BIO REACTOR (HBBR) TECHNOLOGY LOCATED AT TOSMAN ROAD - SEWAGE TOWN. " + 2 OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 08.10.2020	EMD 7.62 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01255-277066 etenders@haryana.gov.in
28	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING GOHANA	NEZAPUR FOR WATER SUPPLY AND SOME NEZAPUR. - PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION WITH BALANCE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERE TO. + 9 OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 29.09.2020	471.43 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01263-258417 etenders@haryana.gov.in
29	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, HARYANA BAWAL	(TENDER NO. 2020_HRY_140452-1) DETAIL ESTIMATE FOR ESTATE WATER SUPPLY (PWA) ARRANGEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SDO COMPLEX AT BAWAL TOWN, DISTRICT REWARI. CONSTRUCTION OF ROOSTING STATION, BOUNDARY WALL, PUMP CHAMBER, LAYING OF DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND RESINO AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERE TO. + 1 OTHER WORKS	21.09.2020 29.09.2020	39.92 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01280-260602 etenders@haryana.gov.in
30	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION TEHANA	DNIT FOR LAYING 4" & 6" 1/4" DI WATER SUPPLY PIPE LINES AND PROVIDING & FENDING 1/4" DI G.I PIPE FUNCTIONAL HOUSE HOLD TAP CONNECTION (HYDRO) INCLUDING G.I SPECIALS, DISMANTLING OF STREETS, EXCAVATION OF EARTH AND MAKING GOOD STREET AFTER GRADING OF HYD. AT VILLAGE MUNDHAWALI TEHNA, TADA & DISTRICT FAIRDAABAD (UNDER JAL SEWA HESSEON) AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERE TO APP AMOUNT RS. 9.49 LACS + 2 OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 25.09.2020	23.84 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01690-230023 etenders@haryana.gov.in
31	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	WORK FOR CONSTRUCTION 30 MDS. RECHARGE BORE (DR. NO. 1-30) IN SIWAN BLOCK (RE-CL) + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 28.09.2020	157.72 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-222384 etenders@haryana.gov.in
32	ROAD ARIER SINGH GOVT. ITI SAHARANWAL	CLEANING OF PREMISES AND HORTICULTURE WORK	18.09.2020 28.09.2020	45000.00 per month	www.raghsaharanwal.org	01274221566 saharanwal@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

RO NO. 82914

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS				
Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx Cost of work ₹	EMD ₹
1	BCT/20-21/192 dtd 21-09-2020	Udhna - Jalgaon section: ZONE 14-A General repairs in the junction of SE(W) Nandurbar between km 154.622 to km 212.482 between Nandurbar (nci) to Sindkheda(nci).	1,00,00,000.00	2,00,000.00
2	BCT/20-21/193 dtd 21-09-2020	Udhna - Jalgaon section: ZONE 15-A General repairs in the jurisdiction of SE(W) Amalner between km 212.482 to km 301.470 between Sindkheda(exci) to Jalgaon(exci).	60,00,000.00	1,20,000.00
3	BCT/20-21/194 dtd 21-09-2020	Udhna - Jalgaon section: Maintenance to P-way for UPRN line under SSE (P-way) Dharrangao for One Year (Total 40.867/Kms)	2,29,59,228.41	2,64,800.00
4	BCT/20-21/195 dtd 21-09-2020	Udhna - Jalgaon section: Reconditioning of CMS crossing in situ by RW-20 Transmatic Robotic Welding in connection with the reconditioning of rail crossing longue rate, CMS crossing under ADEN-Varna section	48,57,834.00	97,200.00

Date & Time of submission of above mentioned tenders will be **20.10.2020 at 15:00 hrs.** and Date & Time of opening of above mentioned tenders will be **20.10.2020 at 15:30 hrs.** Regarding detailed nature of content of tender document (Non Refundable), EMD, Eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender condition please visit website www.reps.gov.in. Manual offer will not be considered.

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY CONSULTANCY SERVICES	
Name of Work & Tender No.: Consultancy service for providing device at the interface of superstructures or infrastructures and substructure to compensate the increased longitudinal force on the bridges resulting due to higher tractive efforts exerted by New Generation Locomotives. Date and time for submission & opening of e-tender/submit: Date of receiving of Advertisement 12.10.2020 at 15:00 hrs. Date of opening of Advertisement 12.10.2020 at 15:30 hrs. Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen: Website @ www.reps.gov.in	
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly	

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
30-Elect-25-1-2020-21-43 Electrical work in connection with (a) construction of box (pedestrian cum two wheeler) over railway line at Panna road and Panna Nagar colony near Patni Nagar railway station. (b) Extension of platform no. 1 & 2 at end of Bhadwaj Majra Railway station on DUK section. (c) Provision of 6.0 Mtr wide FCB kar Bhadwaj Majra Railway Station on DUK section.	
Approx. Cost of the works in	Rs. 25.70 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer-General, New Delhi
Earnest Money	Rs. 51,400/-
Date & time of submission of tender	19.10.2020, 12.00 hrs.
Opening of tender	19.10.2020, 12.00 hrs.
Website & notice board	www.reps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Engineer-General, New Delhi

Serving Customers with a Smile

2044/2020

Sensex falls 800 points as Covid cases surge globally

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

The Indian stock market plunged on Monday, tracking a global selloff due to a fresh spurt of coronavirus cases across Europe.

The BSE Sensex plunged over 800 points and the Nifty50 closed below the 11,300 mark as the resurgence in Covid cases has also given fuel to anticipation of renewed lockdown restrictions across countries in Europe, including the UK and France.

The BSE Sensex closed at 38,034.14, lower by 811.68 points, or 2.09 per cent, from the previous close of 38,845.82. The Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) settled at 11,222.20, lower by 282.75 point, or 2.46 per cent, from its previous close.

The cross-the-board sell-off was led by auto, telecom, metal and FMCG stocks, said Manish Hathiramani, tech-

anical analyst with Deen Dayal Investments, said: "The markets have broken the support of 11,300 on a closing basis and this is definitely an alarming situation. We could drop to 10,950-11,000 as the fall today has been fierce and on the back of good volumes."

"The resistance on the upside is at 11,550-11,600. Until then the markets look weak," he added. Siddhartha Khemka, head of Retail Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said that the global cues were negative at the start of the day with lofty valuations, fading US stimulus and fresh wave of coronavirus infections in Europe being major risks. "In the US, attention is turning back to negotiations on fresh stimulus and the forthcoming election. Further, European markets fell after a report on bank allegations and a second lockdown," he added.

₹ rises by 7 paise to 73.38 in line with Asian peers

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee strengthened by 7 paise to close at 73.38 against the US dollar on Monday, extending its gains for the second day on the back of firm Asian currencies and weak crude oil prices.

Forex dealers said inflows into Indian equities and capital into Asian currencies against the dollar lent support to the local currency.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.43 and later rose to a high of 73.26 in the day trade.

2-year wait for States not opting for GST compensation formula

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

States which failed to submit their options before the GST Council meeting in October will have to wait for at least two years to get compensation on Goods and Services Tax collection shortfall expected during the transition period, Finance Ministry sources said on Monday.

The sources said that such states will have to wait till June 2022 to get compensation dues, subject to the condition that the GST Council extends the cess collection period beyond 2022.

This is so because the Council is expected to adopt one of the two options given by the Centre to meet the GST compensation needs of the states this year.

The states which decide against operationalisation of the new GST compensation formula will get their dues only after the year-end compensation cess collected in FY21

and distributed in proportion among all states and union territories.

The balance shortfall will only be met from the collection of GST compensation cess beyond the five-year transition period that ends in June 2022. This will be subject to GST Council approval to the extension of compensation cess.

The GST Council, in its 41st meeting on August 27, 2020, had decided to give its member-states two borrowing options to meet their compensation shortfall and a response time of 7 working days from the formal receipt of the detailed proposal on the options by email. Almost 15 states had submitted their options by September 1 and more have joined since.

Option-1 on GST compensation brought before the Council last month allows states to borrow, under a special dispensation from the Reserve Bank of India, of about Rs 97,000 crore short-

fall calculated by the Centre that is directly on account of GST implementation.

Option-2 allows states to borrow the entire projected GST compensation shortfall of Rs 2,35,000 crore (total shortfall of Rs 3 lakh crore minus Rs 65,000 crore collected as GST compensation cess) for FY21.

So far, 21 states/UTs have expressed preference for Borrowing Option-1 proposed by the Centre.

With GST Act requiring voting for any resolution regarding an option by at least 20 states, the move is expected to be adopted by the GST Council at its meeting next month.

If this option is indeed adopted, all states would be able to move ahead and borrow under the scheme suggested by the Centre to meet their shortfall arising due to GST switchover. If states still opt out, they will have to wait for full compensation.

Privatise select PSU banks, dilute role of DFS: Rajan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan on Monday suggested the government to privatise select public sector banks, set up a bad bank to deal with NPAs and dilute the role of Department of Financial Services.

The reforms are necessary to ensure growth of the banking system without the periodic boom-bust cycles, said a paper titled 'Indian Banks: A Time to Reform?', co-authored by Rajan and former Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Viral Acharya.

"If privatization of select PSBs can be undertaken as part of a carefully calibrated strategy, bringing in private investors who have both financial expertise as well as technological expertise; corporate progress must be kept from acquiring significant stakes,

given their natural conflicts of interest," the paper said.

Noting that the government obtains enormous power from directing bank lending, it said sometimes this power is exercised to advance public goals such as financial inclusion or infrastructure finance, sometimes it is used to offer patronage, to exercise control over industrialists. "Winding down Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance is essential, both as an affirmative signal of the intent to grant bank boards and management independence and as a commitment not to engage in 'mission creep' when compelling government to use banks for serving costly social or political objectives," the paper noted.

Acc to the paper, private asset management and national asset management 'bad banks' should be encouraged in parallel to the online platform for distressed loan sales.

Kolkata Metro GM reviews service under present circumstances

Kolkata: Manoj Joshi, General Manager, Metro Railway has reviewed the Metro services under the present circumstances in a high level meeting held on Monday at Metro Rail Bhawan.

He laid special emphasis on sanitization of station premises, coaches, escalator hand rails, smart gates and all other surfaces which the commuters

are likely to touch during their journey.

He also said that the station staff should always be vigilant and refill the sanitizer bottles as and when required.

Banks not risk averse, they are being prudent: SBI chairman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that there is muted demand for loans, SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar on Monday said banks are not risk averse but they are being prudent in these trying times to avoid a repeat of the post-2008 scenario when there was "dilation" in credit underwriting

standards.

Data clearly shows that investment in the economy has come down, the head of the country's biggest lender said. "The capex (capital expenditure) is not happening and investment in the economy is not happening at the same pace, then obviously this is a demand issue and the risk

aversion would be where there is a demand and banks are not lending," he said at a virtual event organised by AIMA.

Non-fund bank credit grew 6.7 per cent year-on-year in July as against a growth of 11.4 per cent in the same month of the last year, as per latest data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Govt sets foodgrain output target at record 301 mn tonnes for 2020-21

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has set foodgrain production target at a record 301 million tonnes for 2020-21 crop year, up nearly 1.5 per cent from the previous year's output, on the back of good monsoon rains and higher acreage in the kharif season.

The target for the 2020-21 crop year (July-June) was set at the National Conference for Rabi Campaign 2020, which was held on Monday to review the progress of the kharif (summer-sown) season and plan for the rabi crops. Addressing the event, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar congratulated farmers and state govts for

record foodgrain production of 296.65 million tonnes in the 2019-20 crop year. "The conference set a target of 301 million tonnes of foodgrains production for 2020-21," an official statement said. Rice production target has been fixed at 119.6 million tonnes in 2020-21 as against 118.43 MT output in the last year.

GM Northern Railway holds performance review meeting

New Delhi: Focus on Safety on tracks, Mobility Enhancement work, 160Kmph speed Enhancement, BDU and Freight Loading. Ravi Chaudhry, General Manager, Northern & North Central held a review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway through video conferencing. Deliberations were held on keeping focus on safety on tracks, enhancement of speed, Business Development Units and Freight loading. He said that, safety is the prime focus over Northern Railway. He reviewed the work done over the zone in improving the maintenance standard of track, welds and removal of scrap lying near the tracks. He instructed the divisions on conducting drives to enhance the safety and counsel the staff whenever necessary & required.

The pulse of the nation

If there is one lesson that this pandemic has taught us, it is the importance of being 'Atma Nirbhar' in food. Imagine the scramble for food when everything including import is shut down. Most countries which had food grains declared an export embargo during the epidemic. India is a rare country which not only fed its citizens and did it for free, but also gave food as humanitarian aid and exported it to countries in need.

During the lockdown, in May, the Government announced free supply of rice/wheat and also provided a kg of pulses each to about 20 crore family. From a situation of acute scarcity in 2015-16 when the country witnessed skyrocketing prices due to two successive years of drought, to providing free pulses to most citizens of the country in a never-seen-before time certainly needs a closer study.

The pulses' crisis during 2015-16 was not a wasted opportunity but it set the coun-

try on an ambitious and desirable path of self-sufficiency. The Government acted on supply, demand and regulatory fronts with equal emphasis. The twin factors critical to immediate increase in pulses production was determining the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procuring from farmers directly at this rate. Through the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) launched in 2016-17 additional area was brought under pulses cultivation. The Government aimed at increasing productivity and production of pulses in the country by distribution of seed mini-kits, subsidy on production of quality seeds, creation of 150 pulse seed hubs, involving ICRAR institutes and State Agriculture Universities for cluster frontline demonstrations.

The Government increased MSP of pulses by 8-16 per cent in 2016-17. Elaborate arrangements were made for procuring of pulses from farmers under the Price Support

Scheme. The Govt Guarantee for procurement operation was increased manifold. Foreseeing a need to have strategic buffer of pulses, 20 lakh MT buffer stock of pulses was created through the Price Stabilisation fund with a corpus of more than Rs 10,000 crore. The State Government, particularly those Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka which lead in pulses production - worked in close coordination for procurement of pulses.

All these measures resulted in a 42 per cent increase in pulses production which is unheard of in any category of food articles and, certainly, such a jump has not been achieved in a span of one year in any country. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) played a pivotal role in procurement under PSS and PSF by procuring 8.7 lakh MT in 2016-17. This amount was equivalent to the last 15 years combined.

SBI raises ₹7,000 cr via Basel III compliant bonds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's largest lender State Bank of India on Monday said it has raised ₹7,000 crore by issuing Basel III compliant bonds. The Committee of Directors for Capital Raising at its meeting held today on September 21, 2020 accorded its approval to allot 70,000 Basel III compliant non-convertible, taxable, redeemable...Debt instruments in the nature of debentures aggregating to ₹7,000 crore, to bond subscribers," SBI said in a regulatory filing.

The allotment of bonds to the subscribers took place on the same date i.e. September 21, 2020, it added. The bonds qualify as tier II capital of the bank, and has face value of ₹10 lakh each, bearing coupon rate

of 6.24 per cent per annum payable annually for a tenor of 10 years, it said. There is call option after 5 years and on anniversary thereafter, it added. Call option means the issuer of the bonds can call back the bonds before the maturity date by paying back the principal amount to investors. A month back, SBI had raised ₹8,931 crore by allotting 89,310 Basel III-compliant debt instruments to bond subscribers. Under the globally accepted Basel-III capital regulations, banks need to improve and strengthen their capital plan. Basel III norms are being implemented in phases since 2013 by Indian banks to mitigate concerns on potential stresses on asset quality and consequential impact on performance and profitability of banks.

INDIAN RAILWAYS			
NOTIFICATION FOR INVITATION OF TENDER (NIT)			
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)			
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)			
Rail Bhawan, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001, INDIA			
Email: dsr@rb.railnet.gov.in			
Electronic bid invitation for Design, Development, Manufacture, Supply, Integration, Testing and Commissioning of IGBT based 3-phase propulsion, control and other equipment for train sets suitable for operation on 25 KV AC OHE system conforming to RDSO specification no. RDSO/PSE/EC/EMU/0196-2019 (Rev.0) along with addendum/corrigendum including CAMC.			
E-open advertised tender with e-tendering system No. WTA-515 Electronic bids are invited for and on behalf of the President of India from established and reliable manufacturers or their subsidiaries/associates, for supply of the following items:-			
Description	Qty (16 car rate)	Ultimate Consignee	
Design, Development, Manufacture, Supply, Integration, Testing and Commissioning of IGBT based 3-phase propulsion, control and other equipment for train sets suitable for operation on 25 KV AC OHE system conforming to RDSO specification no. RDSO/PSE/EC/EMU/0196-2019 (Rev.0) along with addendum/corrigendum including CAMC	24 Nos. of 16 Car Rakes	Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Purchasing Depot, Modern Coach Factory (MCF), Chennai-38	
	10 Nos. of 16 car rakes	Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Purchasing Depot, Rail Coach Factory (RCF), Kharupoli.	
	10 Nos. of 16 car rakes	Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Purchasing Depot, Modern Coach Factory (MCF), Rae Bareilly.	
EMD Amount	Rs. 50 Lakhs (Rupees Fifty Lakhs)		
Last date for submission of Bids	As per IREPS (17.11.2020)		
1. Details of tender are available at www.reps.gov.in 2. In case the date of a bid is a gazetted holiday, the tender will be opened on the next working day after the specified time. The e-bids will be opened on the next working day after the specified time.			
Joint Director/Railway Stores(M) for and on behalf of the President of India			
2047/20			
"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"			

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unknown person name & address unknown. Age: 45 Yrs (approx), Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, medium Build, Face round, White Beard & Hair, Wearing red T-shirt was admitted in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi & died during treatment on 04.09.2020.

In this regard a FIR No. 365/20, dt. 04.09.2020 U/s 279/304-A IPC has been registered at PS Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the following.

S.H.O.,
P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-24106346, 24106345, 9582558059

DP/299/SW/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Shakhshi, D/o Vinay Chaturvedi, R/o B-730 4th floor, Nali Basti, Nangoli Delhi. Age 17 yrs, height 5', wheatish complexion, normal build, face round, wearing black suit salwar and red & black chappal in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 09.08.2020 from the area of PS Nangoli Delhi.

In this regard a FIR No. 902/20 U/s 363 IPC dt. 10.08.2020 has been registered at PS Nangoli Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046
011-23015218

S.H.O.,
PS Nangoli Delhi
Ph.: 011-25947225, 25949470

DP/383/OD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a man namely Rishi Lal Sharma S/o Late Manphool, R/o GH-14/210, Paschim Vihar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 04.09.2020 near fire station from the area of Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. In this regard a FIR No. 729/20 U/s 365 IPC dated 05.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped man are as under:

Name: Rishi Lal Sharma, Gender: Male, Age: 70 years, Height: 5'10", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: White shirt-pant and leather shoes in his feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped Man, kindly inform SHO/Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.

E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Ph: 011-24368639

S.H.O.
P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-25268394, 25268980

DP/378/OD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Pooja, D/o Vijender Singh, R/o H.No. 135, Dockland Pana, Village Tikari Kalan, Delhi. Age: 18 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, wearing Sky Blue Suit-Salwar and Golden Jutti in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from Madhu Buty Parlor, 40 Foota Road, Rajdhani Park, in the area of P.S. Nangoli since 01.09.2020. In this regard a FIR No. 952/20 U/s 365 IPC, dated 05.09.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Nangoli, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information about her please inform underigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641

S.H.O.
P.S. Nangoli, Delhi
Ph: 011-25947225, 25949470

DP/387/OD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Anuradha D/o Sh. Mukesh Kumar R/o H. No. 55/2, Rajpura Guramdi, Model Town, Delhi Aged-23 Years has been reported missing since 11.09.2020 at 2:00 PM from her house vide DD No. 58 A Dated 13.09.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Model Town, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Build: Strong, Wearing: Blue coloured kurta and pajama, slipper in feet and gold chain, earrings.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Model Town, Delhi at E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Sd/-
Tel. No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Model Town, Delhi
FAX No.: 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-27459202, 27120032, 27456072, 27461963, Mob.: 8750870230
DP/387/NW/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Pooja Kumari D/o Vakil Mehto R/o B-50, Jawala Puri Camp No. 4, Paschim Vihar, Delhi. Age 17 years 11 months 24 days, Height 5'3", Complexion wheatish, Face oval, 22 marks A mole under the right eye, wearing Pink colour Suit-salwar and V-shape chappal in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 09.09.2020 from the area of PS Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this girl, but no clue has come to light so far.

In this regard a case FIR No. 737/20 dated 10.09.2020 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218

S.H.O.
PS Paschim Vihar West, Delhi
Ph. 011-25268394, 25268980

DP/410/OD/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 35 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found unconscious near NDMC Parking, near Bharti Delhi Emporium, BKS Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi on 19.09.2020 at 21:46 hrs. The unidentified person was admitted to the Dr. RML hospital. During the treatment, he was declared dead by the doctors. In this regard, a vide has been registered with DD No. 47-A dated 19.09.2020 at PS Connaught Place, District New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UDB is as under:

Sex: Male, Age: about 35 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Wearing: Grey colour track pant.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Connaught Place, District New Delhi

E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Ph: 011-24368639

S.H.O.
P.S. Connaught Place, District New Delhi
Ph. No. 011-23747100, 23363898

DP/123/ND/2020

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one man (depicted in the photo), Namely: Ram Lal, S/o: Late Sh. Tara Lal, R/o: H.No. G-127, LIC Colony, Paschim Vihar, Delhi Aged: 71 years, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi since 06.09.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 91-A, Dated 07.09.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:

Height: 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Clothing: Sky Blue Colour Shirt, Black Colour Pant and Black Colour Shoes in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing man, may inform SHO, Paschim Vihar West, Delhi at E-mail: cbi@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O.
P.S. Paschim Vihar, West, Delhi
Ph. 011-25268394, 25268980

DP/404/OD/2020



It's Risky

A team of US researchers has found that certain treatments for cancer may increase the chances of death if they contract COVID-19. The study by the researchers at the University of Cincinnati, shed light on ways standard anti-cancer treatments may impact outcomes for patients with both cancer and the coronavirus



DOCYARD

DR BALBIR SINGH

Chairman — Cardiac Sciences

MAX HOSPITAL, SAKET, NEW DELHI



Stay young at heart

Cardiac ailments are considered to be one of the deadliest diseases and the leading cause of mortality in India. As per the reports of WHO, cardiac problems are estimated to kill at least one in every five men and one in every eight women. Progressive heart failure which is caused due to the plaque (fatty substance) build up in the arterial linings of the blood vessels are primarily attributed to lifestyle habits and conditions such as smoking, overweight, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and diabetes.

Heart attacks were once only associated with old age. Recently, more people in their 20s, 30s and 40s have been suffering from heart ailments. Apart from a person's genetic disposition and family history which are the most common and uncontrollable risk factors, the Indian youth is now being succumbed to heart ailments due to poor lifestyle, stress, erratic sleep patterns. This in turn causes inflammation and raises the risk of cardiac ailments. Sedentary lifestyle clubbed with smoking are further risk factors that trigger the risk symptoms among the younger generation.

Cardiac Hospitals in India perform more than 2 lakh open heart surgeries and are increasing annually by 25 per cent but they are not able to control the numbers of heart attacks. The surgeries done are only palliative. Educating the essentials about Heart disease and its symptoms is important to eradicate the casualties from the root.

What are the symptoms?
Not every CHD patient has the same symptoms and angina chest pain as its most common feature. Symptoms may vary from mild to severe, some may have an uncomfortable feeling like indigestion and some cases may be experiencing severe pain, heaviness or tightness.

The discomfort or pain of a heart attack is usually similar to that of angina, but is often more severe and may be associated with sweating, lightheadedness, nausea and breathlessness. This is more common in people with Diabetes

attack if not treated straight away can be fatal.

Assessment of a suspected CHD patient involves the medical and family history, assessing the lifestyle and taking blood tests. Further tests to confirm a diagnosis of CHD include non-invasive tests like an electrocardiogram (ECG) to identify the structure, thickness and movement of each heart valve, X-ray to look at the heart, lungs and chest wall to rule out any other conditions that may be causing symptoms, Treadmill test (TMT) during exercise to know the effect of exercise on the heart, Cardiovascular catheterisation heart flow mapping, CT angiography and the invasive coronary angiography to identify whether the coronary arteries are narrowed and how severe the blockages are.

Although coronary heart disease cannot be cured, treatment can help manage the symptoms, improve the functioning of the heart and reduce the chances of problems such as heart attacks. Effective management includes a combination of lifestyle changes, medicines and non-invasive treatments. Invasive and surgical treatments are required in more severe cases and the outcomes are favourable in most of the cases, where the person is able to resume their normal life. Some simple lifestyle changes include eating a healthy balanced diet, doing regular exercise, no smoking and controlling blood cholesterol and sugar levels. These can reduce the risk of CHD, stroke and dementia.

SUMMER COOLERS

CINNAMON: If one is to tell something during the current time, all that is needed is to call it immunity booster and it will run out of the shelves at the speed of light. And rightly so, when immunity is your preliminary shield to keep the COVID-19 infection at bay.

But one does not need to look for such an ingredient in the markets, it is right in the kitchen. Cinnamon, widely used as a flavouring agent, is loaded with powerful antioxidants, such as polyphenols. It has anti-inflammatory properties.

Not only this, cinnamon as a spice is also known for its immunity boosting properties. Just add it in your *kadha* and you are good to go. It is also linked to a reduced risk of heart disease, the world's most common cause of premature death. It keeps cholesterol, triglycerides and blood pressure under check. Apart from the beneficial effects on insulin resistance, cinnamon can lower blood sugar by several other mechanisms. So now you have more than one reason to add it in your daily routine.



Create memories

It is estimated that at least 50 lakh people live with Alzheimer's in India and the number is expected to increase in the coming years.

DR AZAD IRANI tells you the early symptoms one should look out for

SEP 21 WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY

Alzheimer's disease first described in 1906 by Alois Alzheimer (in Latin 'de', which means a deprivation or loss; 'ment', which means mind; and 'ia', is a state). Alzheimer's disease is presently the commonest cause of dementia having its onset most often after the age of 65 years. Presently, it is estimated that at least 50 lakh people live with Alzheimer's disease in India (that is 0.003 per cent of our entire population). However, as life span increases, it is estimated that this figure may double in the ensuing decades.

The term dementia includes symptoms not only of memory loss but may also include abnormalities of various other cognitive domains such as language functions, social and behavioural aspects, inability to navigate and directional confusion occurring in a person with previously intact such abilities.

Alzheimer's disease is characterised by gradually progressive memory loss as its core feature which also is the earliest feature. The memory loss is mainly for recent events and episodes (called episodic memory in medical terminology). The patients' memory for past events of life remains unaffected in

the early years. Early features of episodic memory loss include repeating the same questions again, misplacing personal items, forgetting to pay bills, keep appointments, difficulty retrieving names and also multitasking which was previously easily possible. A change in personality or development of late-life depression or anxiety also warrants an evaluation for onset of dementia.

Current studies believe that the brain abnormality leading to Alzheimer's disease starts at a much earlier age and may be strongly related to poor life-style habits namely bad sleeping habits, like late nights or lesser sleep hours, excessive stress, obesity, Diabetes, high cholesterol levels, physical inactivity, excessive tobacco or alcohol intake. Genetic factors certainly would be incriminated if there are multiple members from the same family developing memory loss or for the younger onset cases.

A common parlance among the young these days is that they suffer from poor memory. Encouraging for them would be to note that this generally is the result of lack of concentration arising out of poor sleeping habits, excessive stress and physical inactivity. However, if these poor life-style factors are not addressed in time they may sow the seeds for future dementia. Therapy for Alzheimer's unfortunately is not curative. As is known the dementia

AN ADEQUATE SLEEP SCHEDULE, A GOOD FITNESS REGIME, A HEALTHY DIET, REGULAR MEDITATION AND AVOIDANCE OF STRESS IN TODAY'S FAST LIFE WOULD HENCE BE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO PREVENT THIS UNFORGIVING ILLNESS

slowly progresses to a point where in the later stages the patient loses most of the memory, mobility and sense of bladder-bowel control. Therapy mainly remains symptomatic with medications that help replace some chemicals in the brain to partially boost up the memory. Stimulating the mind with brain games, social interaction with family/friends, music therapy or any hobby that interests the patient helps slow down the symptom progress. Massive funds have been spent and even presently being invested all over the world on experimental studies for drugs still in the pipe-line.

So would knowing the early symptoms help us? Yes, changing one's life style habits for the better with strict control of contributory illnesses like Diabetes mellitus, hypertension, obesity, sleep apnea are the best ways thence, to fight this fiercely progressive condition which affects not only the patient but the entire family who has to cope with this illness which may run into years resulting in what is often known as caregiver burnout for family members. An adequate sleep schedule, a good fitness regime, a healthy diet, regular meditation and avoidance of stress in today's fast life would hence be of utmost importance to prevent this unforgiving illness.

The writer is Consultant Neurologist, Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre

DadiKa Kehna

Most women love long and silky hair but end up with dull and lifeless ones and hence prefer to keep them short.

ROSHANI DEVI shares household tips that one can follow to keep long tresses



One of the most basic things that one must do for long hair is to oil them regularly. One can use coconut, almond or even olive oil. Massage it into the scalp and leave it overnight. Wash with mild shampoo in the morning. However, if you have an oily skin, oil your hair and leave it for an hour and then wash off. One can wrap a hot towel around the head for 10 minutes to help in the better absorption of the oil.

If one reason why you don't want to sport long hair is because they fall, use also vera. It soothes the scalp and conditions hair. It reduces dandruff and unblock hair

follicles that may be blocked by excess oil. You can apply pure aloe vera gel to your scalp and hair a few times a week. Apply a m mask made of egg: it is an excellent source of protein, which helps your hair grow longer. Just crack open two eggs, strain the yolks and use the egg white on your hair. Let it stay for 20 minutes and wash off. Another reason why hair don't grow long could be split ends. Boil two-three cloves of garlic with an essential oil and massage this on your hair roots. Garlic is known to reduce breakage and improve blood circulation, which leads to long hair.

TIPTOP

In a first-ever recorded medical procedure of its kind, doctors at BLK Hospital removed a ruptured Hydatid cyst from the right lung of Ruhi-Un-Nisa, a 45-year-old woman from Srinagar, without conducting an open chest surgery. The cyst, formed by the larvae of tapeworms, was excised piecemeal by freezing it using a cryoprobe.

The patient showed initial symptoms and discomfort in July this year when she spit blood while coughing. She underwent a CT scan of the chest which revealed a 43 X 35mm cyst (equivalent to a size of tennis ball) in superior segment of lower lobe of right lung. The patient followed the CT scan with a bronchoscopy procedure thereafter in Srinagar. However, her condition deteriorated, and she went into respiratory distress. Ruhi-Un-Nisa was unable to lie down and had not slept for close to two months. She had severe difficulty in breathing; she went to hospital in Kashmir where

she was advised to rush to Delhi for emergency treatment.

The patient came with severe breathlessness and constantly felt a salty-bitter taste in her mouth. Doctors suspected the symptoms to be caused by a ruptured Hydatid cyst.

The team led by Dr Sandeep Nayak HOD, Chest & Respiratory Diseases, at BLK Hospital flushed out the spilled fluids/contents from both lungs. He then excised the ruptured membrane with the help of a Cryoprobe (a surgical probe to apply extreme cold to body tissues and freeze them). The membrane was frozen and extracted through the mouth and it gave immediate relief to the patient from her symptoms. Dr Nayak performed this procedure through bronchoscope under local anaesthesia. CT chest and bronchoscopy repeated after four days ensured that the lung was completely cleared of the cyst.

SLIMLINE

Long hours of digital exposure dehydrate the skin, damages our skin cells and the delicate skin around the eyes. Le Ritual has therefore launched the range to detoxify and repair the skin damage. The current range includes a face serum and eye serum apt for use in both morning and evening skincare regime.

Le Ritual Antioxidant Rich Face Serum builds a defense system for your skin and repairs the skin against digital exposure. It also hydrates, brightens, reduces wrinkles, dark spots and hyperpigmentation. It also

detoxifies, protects the skin collagen against UV, pollutants, smog, glowing screens. Le Ritual Omega Rich Under Eye is proven to work best for under-eye dark circles, fine lines, wrinkles and puffiness. Regular use of serum helps boost collagen around the eyes and increases elasticity, firmness and stimulates micro-circulation around the eyes.

The digital detox duo set is available at ₹2090. The duo is exclusively available at Amazon, Nykaa, Flipkart and Big Basket.

SAY BYE TO STRAWBERRY LEGS

Strawberry legs can make you feel a little conscious of your appearance. However, this is not something that one should worry about.

RUKSHMANI THAKKAR shares tips that can help you get rid of it



Women have multiple hair removal options, if they choose to. From waxing to epilators to laser hair removal and shaving, are some of the easily available options for hair removal. Keratosis Pilaris is a non-contagious skin condition which can be caused due to shaving. Also known as a strawberry legs, this condition gives you small red bumps that have a seed like appearance.

Strawberry legs can make you feel a little conscious of your appearance if you're wearing shorts, skirts or dresses. However, this is not something that one should worry about. Its one of the most common skin conditions and has over 1 crore cases each year in India alone. It can be easily controlled and treated by selecting the right skin care routine and service.

Here are some insights into this problem and how one can deal with it. Characterised by the appearance dark spots, Strawberry legs can be caused due to unclogged pores, excessive keratin building up extra skin which blocks pores and hair follicles. These blocked pores and hair follicles can lead to ingrown hair, causing the skin to get patchy and dry. Shaving with razors can also cause a condition called Folliculitis, where hair follicles can become inflamed and infected.

You can prevent strawberry legs with the following:

- Opt for dry brushing or exfoliation a day before shaving
- Opt for waxing instead of shaving
- Moisturise your skin to prevent dryness, patchiness and uneven skin
- Use a loofah during shower
- Shave once hair growth is enough

Home treatments for strawberry legs

■ Dry brushing: Using this technique can help you in removing excessive skin build up. It also prevents ingrown hairs.

■ Scrubbing/exfoliation: Scrubbing and exfoliating on a daily basis can help in cleaning out clogged pores. It also makes skin soft and supple. One can use Human and Kind Body Scrub, it is vegan and gentle on the skin.

If you don't wish to buy one, you can also make a scrub at home with semolina, oil and honey. Baking soda and milk can also be used.

■ Loofah: Loofah also helps in exfoliating and removing dry skin. Ideally, a loofah should be used for every alternate shower.

■ Doctor prescribed creams and ointment can also help in curing the appearance of strawberry legs if the condition is aggravated.

■ Chemical exfoliation: Chemical peels are also a great option but should be used under the guidance of a professional aesthetician.

The writer is Technical Head — Skin, Enrich Salon

INBRIEF

In a rare case, 86 year old lady who herself was a doctor, became one of the oldest cadaveric donor in Delhi. A resident of South Delhi, the lady was declared brain dead on September 12 late at night at a Delhi hospital, after suffering from an acute stroke post which the family expressed her wish of donating her liver and kidney at the time of her death.

Many hospitals were apprehensive of retrieving the organs from an 86 year old, undermining the health of those organs, but Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, which has been instrumental in life saving for a patient in need. A 42 year old man who was a patient of Hepatitis C, consequently had suffered from liver failure and was in urgent need of a liver transplant. The liver transplant team headed by Dr Neeraj Goyal carried out the process of extracting the liver from the lady, harvesting it to ensure it can be used for transplant in a healthy condition and successfully conducting the procedure of liver transplant. While the kidney was accepted by the hospital where she died, the donor's liver was transplanted at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, into the 42 year old man at midnight on September 13, within hours of the donation.

Dr Neeraj Goyal, Senior Consultant, Liver Transplant, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, said: "The usual acceptable age for cadaver organ transplant is 65 years of age, people beyond that age are considered as marginal donors. When we got to know that there is a cadaver donor for liver, we decided to evaluate the organ as it would be whether it will be suitable for donation. The liver biopsy revealed that the lady had a perfectly healthy liver, like that of a young person, hence we decided to go ahead with the procedure."

Trend Slazer

Kareena turns 40, wishes pour in

Actor **KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN** turned 40 on Monday, and several Bollywood personalities took to social media to wish her.

Sister and actor Karisma Kapoor wrote, "Will continue to protect you always. Happy 40th birthday to my lifeline! Love you the most."

"Happy birthday and congratulations on the to be addition," wrote Kajol, referring to the fact that Kareena is expecting her second child with Saif.

Alia Bhatt wrote, "Happy birthday, dearest Bebo. May every wish you make come true." Katrina Kaif posted,

"Happiest birthday to the most wonderful, there's no one like you, may u get back all the kindness & love."



A hopeful rebound

SHANTANU & NIKHIL's collection, *The Resurgence*, is all about recreating the grandeur which brides dreamt of before the pandemic, simply because luxury is timeless and will continue to be prized by Indians.

By CHAHAK MITTAL

After days of uncertainty and nothingness due to the pandemic-induced lockdown, many are finding their own ways to rise to life again. For designers Shantanu and Nikhil, the spirit of this much-needed revival came with the FDCI India Couture Week 2020. What better than the duo's collection, *The Resurgence*, could explain this?

For them, it is an ode to hope, the spirit to resurface and recommence their duties for the universe. Said Shantanu, "With an almost spiritual connotation to the capabilities of cyclic existence, the collection celebrates a renewed strength and power to adapt and #RiseAgain."

So how does a Shantanu-Nikhil bride look like this time? Taking inspiration from the central emotion of the duo's collection - "hope" - their bride celebrates her way towards a new, optimistic world of happiness, leaving the sorrow and uncertainty behind. Added Shantanu, "With hope, we're moving ahead of the

sorrow that has gripped the world. While we take baby steps towards normalcy, the collection reconstructs romance through fluidic drapes and godly architecture symbolic of the hope within. With this, we also celebrate a new world and our 20 years. We are reinterpreting our classics and bringing back the opulence of our journey with new sustainable practices put into place for our brides. We take pride in our artisans and their craftsmanship. This season we did revisit a lot of metallic embroidery, Goth applique and the classic zarzoidi, all creat-

ing neo-luxe bridal looks."

For Nikhil, newer times call for newer actions and with the blurring lines between technology and fashion in the new normal, it felt "fitting" to have showcased the duo's Ceremonial Couture '20 Collection, virtually. He added, "It is an exciting and unusual experience and feels great to be a part of an ecosystem that is constantly innovating and connecting with a larger audience every now and then."

Shot at The Roseate Hotels and Resorts, Delhi Aerocity, its architectural design added to the collection's raw portrayal. The anti-trend aesthetics, the structure and the linearity as a signature were kept intact. For the duo, "this digital model of a showcase definitely democratised fashion and integrated with it a cutting-edge customer experience. We have tried to use this platform creatively to showcase a film-like presentation than just a blatant runway showing."

So has it been pivoted around the wedding perspective only? Nikhil said, "In this pandemic, one thing is very clear that design will become a lot more precious, sustainable, valuable and yet, luxurious. We have always been strong advocates of anti-trend couture, where the focus is on neo-shapes, silhouettes, minimalism and of course, the wearer. The brides of today are looking at timeless and classic vintage with hints of contemporary lightness."

To represent the strength we need to leave behind the melancholy and fight on, the collection was given a

metallic touch. The gold and sheen done in hand-woven silks and brocades represented a beacon of hope. The abundance of fluidic drapes created through light fabrics like georgette and chiffon worked in tandem to create a sense of positivity and ease, which is much needed at a time like this.

Talking about whether the festive market is outdoing the wedding market this year, Shantanu said, "India has always been a country of celebrations and there is nothing more celebratory than an Indian wedding. Hence, the demand for heavy and glorious couture will remain unchanged. With several weddings being postponed, the new wedding season has brought with it double excitement and the brides will not compromise on their wedding outfits now. The voluminous ball gowns, our signature drapes, anti-trend styles and cuts are still our brides' go-to apparel for their dream wedding."

He added that their brides are looking for the same grandeur as it was earlier but they are now far more emotional about things they do in their lives. Hence, buying behaviour is now hedonistic in nature and design is paramount.

While the designers tweak their approaches a little to showcase couture, they feel going digital has made every fashionista their front row client. Nikhil said, "We have opted for digital launch in the past as well and it has helped us connect to a larger and newer audience. In the wake of the ongoing pandemic, when the entire world is relying on the digital platforms to keep themselves busy and run their businesses, there is no other medium bigger than this to present fashion to people. Hence, the challenge now at hand would be to translate the grandeur of the physical runway into a virtual one, making it as alive and experiential as the former where everyone will have a front row access."

'I travelled enthusiastically during a pandemic, got quarantined and five COVID

tests with a smile but that one 'Short Run' hit me hard. What's technology for if it can't be used? It's time BCCI introduces new rules. I've always believed in being graceful in a win or loss but it's also important to ask for policy changes that improve the game in future.' —**Preity Zinta**

Director **ANDRIJ PAREKH**, the Indian connect in the Emmys 2020 winner roster, has dedicated his award to all people of colour.



Parekh, who is of Indian-Ukrainian descent, won an Emmy for directing his debut *Hunting* episode of drama series *Succession*, one of the big winners at the annual gala this year.

"I am deeply honoured and humbled by this award. This distinction has been bestowed upon me on my birthday. So, thank you for the gift," Parekh said.

He dedicated the award to "all the kids whose names like mine are difficult to pronounce."

A mini Friends reunion at Emmys



Actors **JENNIFER ANISTON**, **LISA KUDROW** and **COURTENEY COX** united for a mini reunion to celebrate their hugely popular sitcom, *Friends*, during a video call with host **Jimmy Kimmel** at the virtual Emmy award gala.

While Aniston was on video call with Kimmel, Cox joined in. "Of course I'm here. We live together," she said.

"Yeah, we've been roommates since 1994, Jimmy," Aniston added, referring to the year when the sitcom premiered.

Kudrow also entered the picture, following which Kimmel wondered if they don't live with their own families. "Where else would I live?" Kudrow said.

The first *Friends* episode had aired on September 22, 1994, and the show lasted till 2004.

THE MODERN MASTER

Three works by **VASUDEO S GAITONDE**, an artist who captured the essence of Indian modernism, go on sale at the Christie's and the Sotheby's. By **UMA NAIK**

Bringing alive the timeless French song, *La Mer* by Charles Trenet, a painting by artist VS Gaitonde, in a suffusion of green, shading the softness and gentility of the sand, is reminiscent of the sea. This is a masterpiece created in 1983 and was bought at the Pundole Gallery. It is also one of the three works by the artist to go up on sale. It will be a part of the Christie's South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art Sale on September 23 in New York.

The other two works belong to the Sotheby's sale that will be held in London on September 29. Part of The Gunnar and Inger Hansen Collection, these two works celebrate Gaitonde as the ultimate abstract master.

The first is a 1954 amorphous-looking work that belongs to George Butcher, a British art critic for *The Guardian* and a stalwart supporter of the burgeoning Indian and South Asian modern art scene. He spent more than two years in India and befriended many artists, gallerists and critics. Using his knowledge and contacts, he curated several shows on South Asian art featuring artists from both home and abroad. Butcher was one of the first writers to assert the unique and remarkable contribution of South Asian artists to a global form of modernism. He has left an



indelible mark on the history of modern Indian and South Asian art.

The second comes from the Inger Hansen collection, a Danish couple who collected Indian art. The work hails from 1969, a smoky crimson and tangerine sunset that heralds the sounds and flats and sharps of a *raga*.

Following a 1964 trip to New York on the Rockefeller Fund Fellowship, where Gaitonde encountered several abstract expressionist works and conceptual artists for the first time, his style began to evolve. His paintings began to explore the rela-

tionships between form, light and colour in a diligent and sophisticated manner. The work was all about how the "planes of paint spread over nothing other than self. An almost spiritual sublimation gets created from within paint rather than by reference to any school of thought."

What makes Gaitonde stand apart in the Indian modern art tradition was the way he immersed into its shared language and a universal vocabulary. For many of his contemporaries, the language was just a tool to express something. For



Gaitonde, the language became the subject. He did not attempt to use line and colour to create forms; his forte was the exploration of the relationship between line and colour. If he captured the essence of Indian modernism, it was by disengaging from its effusion, its gaiety and its materialism.

"The central characteristic of Gaitonde's artistic personality, it must be understood, is that he likes to stand alone. This independent-mindedness was accompanied by a firm belief in his identity as a painter," wrote critic Dnyaneshwar

Nadkarni. An uncompromising artist of integrity, Gaitonde distanced himself from anything he deemed superficial to the contemplative rigour he believed his art required. After he shifted Delhi in the early 1970s, he was "very much the artist in a garret." The few writers who visited him spoke about the dusty interiors and the immense reticence of the place.

Goan artist Theodore Mesquita, who met him in Delhi in 1991, described him as a "hermit," who is impassive to the mundane world around him.



KBC returns

Deviyon aur sajjano, brace yourself for the 12th season of *Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC)*. This season, the show makes a comeback with a two-fold messaging that conveys not just a better return amid a pandemic but also a motivational nudge for participants and viewers to consider setbacks as a stepping stone. It is produced by StudioNEXT and hosted by actor Amitabh Bachchan.

The first ever digital audition of this season raised hope, dreams and aspirations among people from across the country.

While the core of the show remains the same, it comes with a few changes relevant to the current times. It will not host in-studio audiences keeping in line with the government mandated safety guidelines and protocols in response to COVID-19. The in-studio audience played a huge role as a lifeline - Audience Poll, to help the contestants on the hotseat move ahead in the game. This year, this lifeline will be replaced by another lifeline Video-A-Friend. The other three lifelines remain the same - 50:50, Ask The Expert and Flip The Question. The number of fastest finger first contestants who will compete to be on the hot seat per week, has been reduced from the usual 10 to 8.

With *KBC Play Along* on Sony LIV, viewers can enjoy the gameshow by participating and matching their knowledge with the contestants on the hot seat. (The show premieres from September 28, Monday to Friday at 9 pm on Sony Entertainment Television.)

I was a bit nervous in the beginning, but it was more excitement than nervousness for me to make my debut. I just wanted to do well and help my team win

It was a weird game, sometimes the luck goes your way, but it's easy to become the villain from the hero. So it's important to enjoy the good days

Rohit is always open to take suggestions on the ground. I crunch situations he is very calm, cool and composed. He takes tough decisions during that time

If the team wants to go with six bowlers then you need an all-rounder and if Stokes can contribute with both bat and ball it's really good for the team



Devdutt Padikkal chats with RCB teammate Aaron Finch during IPL game

PTI ■ DUBAI
Devdutt Padikkal displayed his highly rated talent with a half-century on IPL debut before AB de Villiers provided the much needed final flourish to take Royal Challengers Bangalore to 163 for five in their tournament opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Monday.

The class and calmness Padikkal (56 off 42, 8 fours) showed in his first high-profile game was remarkable, so much so that Australian limited overs captain Aaron Finch (29 off 27) was happy to play second fiddle at the other end.

Sunrisers pulled things back in the middle overs following a 90-run opening stand between Padikkal and Finch. De Villiers (51 off 30) came up with crucial boundary hits towards the end to take the team score past 160.

The 20-year-old Padikkal, possessing a near perfect balance in the crease, played all around the ground, playing the pull and aerial cover drive with equal confidence.

Padikkal got going with three boundaries in an over off left-arm pacer T Natarajan.

PTI ■ DUBAI
The left-handed opener brought up his half-century with a slog sweep over the fielder at deep square leg.

With the openers looking good, RCB cruised to 86 for no loss in 10 overs. However, both Padikkal and Finch fell off successive balls and that put the brakes on the scoring rate with RCB collecting only 30 runs from the next five overs.

Skipper Virat Kohli departed after scoring 14 off 13, leaving de Villiers to provide the final flourish. The South African star delivered once again, smashing his 200th six for RCB in the process.

There was also an injury scare for Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, who limped off the field with an injury after bowling four balls in his debut game for the Sunrisers.

PTI ■ DUBAI
Mitch Marsh suffers injury while bowling

The 28-year-old Marsh twisted his ankle on the follow through during the fifth over of the RCB innings and he was seen hobbling out of the ground. Vijay Shankar completed the remaining two balls of the over and gave away nine runs.

Marsh, who bowled only four deliveries, has had a history of injuries in the past due to which he has missed number of editions of IPL. Marsh didn't come back to field during the rest of the RCB innings.

DUGOUT
MOTION PICTURE

Ruturaj Gaikwad attends his first CSK training session on Sunday night after getting recovered from Covid-19. CSK/Twitter

RUTURAJ BACK IN TRAINING
CSK batsman Ruturaj Gaikwad is back in training ahead of Tuesday's IPL game against Rajasthan Royals after clearing the two mandatory Covid-19 tests. "The first thing you wanna see on a Monday morning. Look who's back! Smiling face with heart-shaped eyes #Ruturaj #WhistlePodu #Yellow", CSK posted on its Twitter handle on Monday along with a picture of the batsman.

Royals start as underdogs against Super Kings

PTI ■ SHARJAH

A depleted Rajasthan Royals have an onerous task of stopping the mighty Chennai Super Kings on a Sharjah belter with no Ben Stokes in their line-up but skipper Steve Smith's availability after recovering from a concussion injury has lifted some gloom ahead of their IPL match on Tuesday.

The absence of Stokes would severely impact Royals' campaign at least in the first half of the tournament because of the balance he brings to the side but having Smith in the playing XI would mean that the contest will not be without a fight.

Smith, who missed the ODI series against England, has undergone various concussion test protocols and is ready to tee off.

need to undergo mandatory 36-hour quarantine in Dubai.

Jofra Archer's presence will be important along with seasoned T20 stars like South African batsman David Miller, Australian pacer Andrew Tye and England all-rounder Tom Curran.

The Royals' main problem lies in their Indian core, which hasn't exactly been consistent. The likes of Sanju Samson, Robin Uthappa, Jaydev Unadkat

and Varun Aaron have failed to live up to the expectations over the years.

Sharjah pitch will be a different challenge for the bowlers both in terms of surface as well as the size of the ground.

CSK have once again shown how to work around with resources and Sam Curran coming good with an all-round show means that Dwayne Bravo would not be missed even if he misses a few more games due to injury.

Rayudu and Faf du Plessis perfectly maintained the "run-chase template" of attacking in the back 10 by preserving wickets.

The addition of Prithvi Shaw, a very successful IPL bowler, is also a big plus.

However it needs to be seen how Deepak Chahar is shaping up after sustaining a niggles in the final of the MI innings.

In case, Chahar can't make it, they have ready replacement in Shardul Thakur.



Pirlo off to winning start



Turin: Andrea Pirlo got his coaching career off to a winning start as Juventus launched their bid for a 10th consecutive league title with a 3-0 win over Sampdoria on Sunday.

Swedish debutant Dejan Kulusevski opened the scoring after 13 minutes in Turin with Leonardo Bonucci adding a second in 78 minutes and Cristiano Ronaldo a late third.

The match was played in front of 1,000 spectators as Serie A stadiums reopened on Sunday to a limited number of fans after a seven-month coronavirus lockdown.

Pirlo could not have hoped for a better start to his coaching career having taken over

Real toil in goalless draw

AFP ■ MADRID

It wasn't the best of starts for defending champion Real Madrid, which needed a good performance by goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois to salvage a 0-0 draw at Real Sociedad in La Liga opener.

With a squad mostly unchanged from last season, Madrid looked out of rhythm on Sunday and couldn't get more than a point in a lackluster match at the Reale Arena in the Basque Country.

Zinedine Zidane's team struggled in attack as Sociedad created some of the most dangerous chances, including one by forward Alexander Isak just before halftime that forced Courtois to make a superb save with his legs as he charged out from the goal. "We were well organised," Courtois said.

"We didn't allow them many opportunities other than the save I made and another shot that went wide. The problem is that we couldn't score, but that will come with time."

David Silva made his La Liga return after a decade with Manchester City as he took the place of Alexander Isak for the final 25 minutes.

Halep finally wins Italian Open

AFP ■ ROME

Top seed Simona Halep Open title on Monday after defeating champion Karolina Pliskova retired injured while trailing 6-0, 2-1 in the final.

World No 2 Halep was competing in her third Rome WTA final, having finished runner-up in 2017 and 2018 on the clay at the Foro Italico.

"Finally after two finals I could win this title," the Romanian said.

"I love this tournament and I'm really happy to have this beautiful trophy in my hand."

"In 2013 here I started to go in the top in world tennis. I really enjoyed and I really was happy on court. I finished runner-up in the finals back then. Since then I have started to play really well."

Pliskova, the second seed, was playing with her left thigh heavily bandaged.

The Czech struggled with her serve from the outset, falling behind to a double break, handing Halep a 3-0 advantage with a double

fault. Halep, 28, saved three break points against her on her next service game before converting a first one-sided round in 20 minutes.

Pliskova had treatment on her lower back and upper leg before the second set, but pushed on with a break for 1-1 after half an hour.

But the 28-year-old called time in the third game, heading towards Halep to signify the end of the match after 32 minutes.

In total, Halep converted five of seven break point opportunities for her eighth win in 13 meetings with Pliskova, who converted one of four.

Wimbledon champion Halep's 22nd career title comes just a week before the start of the French Open which she won in 2018. Halep extended her winning streak this season to 14 consecutive victories.

Former world No 1 Pliskova, now ranked four, had been having a successful week on clay after her disappointing second round exit in the US Open where she was the top seed.

KXIP appeal against 'short run' call

PTI ■ DUBAI

Kings XI Punjab have appealed against on-field umpire Nitin Menon's controversial 'short run' call at crunch time of their IPL game against Delhi Capitals as former players seek more technological intervention for the sake of fair results.

Before the match went into Super Over, the TV footage showed that square leg was in. Hope the review board is so that there is no margin for human error."

However the appeal is unlikely to yield any result since rule 2.12 (Umpire's decision) in the IPL rule book on playing conditions says that "an umpire may alter any decision provided that such alteration is made promptly. This apart, an umpire's decision, once made, is final."

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1. The Superintending Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE mode for the construction of Building works as detailed in the DTN from the eligible class of contractors.
2. No of works= 03 (Three (Buildings-03 Nos).
3. Tender Cost: Rs. 10,00,00/-
4. Class of contractor: "B" Class, "A" Class & "Special" class
5. Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids From 30.09.2020 to 17.00 Hours of 14.10.2020.
6. Date of opening of Technical Bid 15.10.2020 at 11.00 Hours.
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
8. Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.

OIPR - 34035/11/0008/2021 Superintending Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur

(S.N. Acharya)

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE: SAMBALPUR

e - Procurement

BID IDENTIFICATION NO SEHC (R&B) /07/ 2020-21

No. 3018 Dtd. 18.09.2020

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION-MALKANGIRI

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Identification No. Online Tender 18/MKG/2020-21

1. Name of the work: Road & Building works (Detailed in Annexure)

2. Total Number of Works: 02 (Two) Number

3. Tender Cost: Rs. 17.68 Lakhs to Rs. 22.99 Lakhs

4. Class of Contractor: "D", "C" & "B" Class contractors

5. Period of Completion: (As Per Detailed in Annexure)

6. Other Details:-

Procurement Officer

Bid Identification No.

No of Works

Availability of Tender on-line for bidding

Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification

Date and time of opening of tender

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Malkangiri

Further details can be seen from the Website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

OIPR - 25058/11/0010/2021