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WORRISOME
OPTICS

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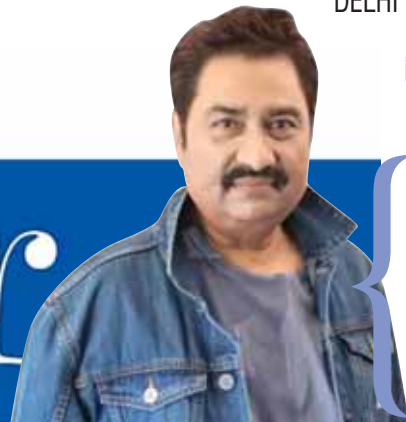
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Rafale offset pact flouted: CAG

Accuses Dassault, MBDA of violating obligations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The much-awaited report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India into the ₹60,000 crore Rafale fighter jet deal has said the French manufacturer Dassault and MBDA are yet to honour their commitment about offset clause to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The offset clause stipulates the foreign vendor has to plough back 30 per cent of the contract price into the Indian defence and aerospace industry. In the Rafale deal, the limit was raised to 50 per cent to enable the Indian industry to tie up with world class foreign companies and gain first world technology.

The Government watchdog said on Wednesday it studied 17 deals inked in the last one decade to analyse the efficacy of the offsets clause introduced in 2005. It said the Defence Ministry has to overhaul the policy as the offset policy has not yielded the desired results.

Congress leader Rahul



■ The offset clause stipulates the foreign vendor has to plough back 30 per cent of the contract price into the Indian defence and aerospace industry. In the Rafale deal, the limit was raised to 50 per cent to enable the Indian industry to tie up with world class foreign companies and gain first world technology.

Gandhi has repeatedly alleged that the Government favoured a private Indian company for granting the offsets in the Rafale deal. The main Opposition party also claimed that company was given the offsets contract worth over ₹30,000 crore.

The CAG report said in many cases it was found that the foreign vendors made various offset commitments to

not yielded the desired results.

■ Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh will be the first woman fighter pilot to fly the sophisticated Rafale fighter jets recently inducted into the IAF at its Ambala airbase. Varanasi-born Singh was commissioned into the IAF in 2017 as part of the second batch of women fighter pilots. At present, she is flying Mig-21 jets and her conversion training to fly the Rafales has commenced, sources said here on Wednesday

₹300 crore. The foreign vendor was required to invest at least 30 per cent of the value of the purchase, in India. This investment could be made avenues like foreign direct investment, offering of free transfer of technology to Indian firms, purchase of eligible products manufactured by Indian firms (exports). For the discharge of these offsets the foreign vendor had to select an Indian firm as a partner (Indian Offsets Partner or IOPs).

From 2005 till March 2018, 46 offset contracts had been signed with foreign vendors, valuing ₹66,427 crore. Under these contracts, by December 2018, ₹19,223 crore worth of offsets should have been discharged by the vendors.

However, the offsets claimed to have been discharged by them was only ₹11,396 crore, which was only 59 per cent of the commitment. Further, only 48 per cent (₹5,457 crore) of these offset claims submitted by the vendors were accepted by the ministry.

MoS Railways Suresh Angadi dies of Covid

New Delhi: Minister of State for Railways and Karnataka BJP MP Suresh Angadi passed away on Wednesday, days after he tested positive for Covid-19.

The 65-year-old passed away around 8 pm at the AIIMS trauma centre which has been converted into a dedicated Covid-19 facility, sources at the hospital said.

A fourth-term MP from Belagavi, Angadi is the first Union Minister to have died of coronavirus. At least six MLAs and three MPs have earlier succumbed to it.

Angadi had on September 11 himself announced on microblogging site Twitter that he had contracted the disease.

The MP from Belagavi had requested all those who came in close contact with him over the last few days to monitor their health and get tested in case of any symptoms.

CAPSULE

BSF MAN BOOKED FOR CATTLE SMUGGLING

New Delhi: The CBI has booked a former Commandant of the 36 BSF Battalion and three others, including an alleged illegal cattle-trade kingpin, over rampant cattle-smuggling on the India-Bangladesh border, officials said on Wednesday.

VISVA BHARATI EX-VC BOOKED FOR GRAFT

New Delhi: The CBI has registered an FIR against former Visva Bharati University vice-chancellor Sushanta Duttagupta for alleged corrupt activities during his tenure at the historic university, officials said on Wednesday. The action comes after a two-year-long PE into the allegations levelled against him during 2012 and 2013.

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Opp keeps farm heat on Govt

Urges Prez not to give his assent to Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As part of their strategy to keep the heat on the Government over the farm sector Bills, Opposition parties on Wednesday requested President Ram Nath Kovind not to give his assent to the contentious legislations and conveyed to him that their passage in the Rajya Sabha was "unconstitutional".

The Opposition leaders represented by Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad met the President to submit a memorandum on behalf of MPs who boycotted the last three days of the Monsoon Session.

The Government should have consulted all parties, farmer leaders before bringing the farm Bills, Azad said after meeting the President. The Bills are now pending for the President's approval.

It was earlier decided that leaders of five Opposition parties — Congress, TMC, Samajwadi Party, TRS and DMK — will meet the President to raise the issue but due to Covid-19 safety protocols the parties decided to submit the memorandum through Azad.

"The Constitution was undermined... We have given a representation to the President that the farm Bills have been passed unconstitutionally and he should return these Bills," Azad said briefing the media.



Congress MP Ghulam Nabi Azad and other Opposition leaders address the media after a meeting with President Ram Nath Kovind over the passage of recent farm Bills, in New Delhi on Wednesday

PTI

RS passes 3 key labour Bills sans Opp MPs' participation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Without the participation of Opposition members, the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed three crucial labour sector Bills which will influence lives and livelihood of millions of "blue collar" workers.

The new legislations will, among other things, allow a corporate to hire and fire "blue collared" workers at will.

The protesting MPs had written to Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu that the contentious Bills should not be passed "unilaterally. It will be a

blot on democracy." The labour Bills form part of the labour reforms move.

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, the Industrial Relations Code 2020 and the Code on Social Security, 2020 were earlier passed by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. These Bills will now be sent for President Ram Nath Kovind's assent and then they will become law.

Introducing the Bills in the Upper House, Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said they will provide a "safe envi-

ronment" for workers. "Social security benefits have also been added. This will be in sync with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve for a universal social security," he added.

"The Congress and like-minded parties held a march from the Gandhi statue to the Ambedkar statue on the Parliament premises protesting the "anti-farmers, anti-workers Bills that have been rubber-stamped in Parliament in the most undemocratic manner by the Modi Government," tweeted Jairam Ramesh.

No action against Facebook VP till Oct 15, orders SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed a Delhi Legislative Assembly panel not to take coercive action against Facebook India VP and MD Ajit Mohan till October 15 in connection with a summons asking him to depose before it with regard to North-East Delhi riots.

Delhi Assembly's peace and harmony committee had issued a notice to Facebook India vice president and managing director in connection with complaints accusing the social media giant of deliberately not taking action to curb hateful content on its platform.

Sudarshan TV issued notice for violating code, Centre tells SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre informed the Supreme Court on Wednesday that it has prima facie found violation of the programme code by Sudarshan TV's Bindas Bol show and has issued a notice to the channel.

The SC said the steps taken by the Government in pursuance to the show cause notice against the channel will be subject to the orders of the court. Since the notice has been issued on Wednesday, the hearing is deferred to October 5, the court said.

said.

Speaking to mediapersons on Wednesday, Pandey said, "I have not joined any political party as of now. If I do, I will tell you about it. As far as social work is concerned, I can do it without entering politics as well."

He added, "I have worked for 34 years with honesty and without bias, and now people are questioning me. I want to tell them that I was devoted to my duty."

The Shiv Sena has slammed Pandey for "running a political agenda" over the Sushant Singh Rajput case.

NCB to quiz Deepika, Shraddha, Sara, Rakul

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Widening the scope of its ongoing investigations into the Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case, the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) on Wednesday summoned Bollywood actresses Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh and fashion designer Simone Khambatta.

On a day when its officials questioned the late actor's talent manager Jaya Saha for the third consecutive day and also *Uddu Punjab* and *Ghajini* producer Madhu Mantena Varma, the NCB issued summons to five Bollywood personalities in connection with the probe in the Sushant death-related drug probe and the larger Bollywood-drug mafia nexus.

NCBs Deputy Director (Operations) KPS Malhotra confirmed that his organisation had sent out summons to Deepika, Sara, Shraddha and Rakul. Official sources said that the NCB had also called Simone, Deepika's manager Karishma Prakash and Sushant's former Manager and Shruti Modi for questioning.

In what is being seen as an apparent deviation from the very objective behind the Sushant's death-related drug case, the NCB appeared to be going whole hog against the Bollywood-drug mafia nexus.

As per the information that trickled out of its office, the NCB has summoned Simone,



Rakul, Shruti Modi on September 24, while Deepika and her manager Karishma had been called for questioning on September 25. Sara and Shraddha have been summoned for questioning on September 26.

Deepika's questioning by the NCB, which has aroused considerable interest among the people across the country, should be seen in the context of the information that surfaced during the questioning of actress-accused Rhea Chakraborty in the drug case.

Karishma works with Jaya Saha, with whom Rhea Chakraborty had chatted about CBD oil, as a manager in Kwan talent management agency. During the questioning, the NCB had reportedly quizzed Jaya if she had any knowledge about Karishma procuring drugs for Deepika Padukone.

The NCB had retrieved Deepika's WhatsApp chats with

Karishma in which the two were seen discussing drugs. Earlier, Jaya's chats with Rhea Chakraborty about CBD oil were also retrieved by NCB.

After being summoned for questioning, Karishma did not turn up at the NCB office on Tuesday for questioning, saying that she needed some more time, while her talent management agency's CEO Dhruv Chitgopekar offered to cooperate with the agency in the investigations.

According to sources, the NCB investigations have thrown up a WhatsApp chat of 2017 between D (Deepika Padukone) and K (Karishma). In the chat, Deepika reportedly asks Karishma: "You have Maal?, Karishma responds saying: "Yes, but at home. I am at Bandra. Later Krishma tells Deepika that one Amit is bringing it to a high-end restaurant "koko" at Lower Parel. Deepika seeks to confirm if it is hash not weed.

Saudi Arabia bans flights to/from India as Covid cases rise

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Saudi Arabia on Wednesday suspended all flights travel to and from India in the wake of the increasing number of Covid-19 cases.

In a circular issued, Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) said it was "suspending travel to and from the following countries (India, Brazil and Argentina) including any person who has been in any of the mentioned countries above in the last 14 days prior to their arrival to the Kingdom".

India and Brazil are among the worst affected countries due to coronavirus pandemic. India stood at second place, followed by Brazil in the case of coronavirus cases.

However, passengers who have official Government invitations have been excluded from this suspension. The GACA circular — titled "Suspension of travel to coun-

tries where the Covid-19 virus has outbreak" was marked to all the airlines and chartered flight companies operating at the Saudi Arabia's airports. In March this year, Saudi Arabia had suspended all flights from and to India due to spread in coronavirus cases.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE host a significant Indian migrant population. Five days back, Air India Express had said the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) suspended its flights for 24 hours for bringing two passengers with Covid-positive certificates on August 28 and September 4.

Hong Kong also banned Air India flights from Sunday till October 3 after a few passengers on its flight on Friday tested positive for Covid-19 post arrival.

According to rules of the UAE Government, every passenger travelling from India is required to bring an original Covid-negative certificate.

Didn't direct CBDT to issue I-T notice to Pawar: EC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday clarified that it has not given any direction to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to issue a notice to the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar over his poll affidavits.

The EC's statement came a day after Pawar said the Income Tax department has served him a notice in connection with his poll affidavits submitted to the poll panel.

"... It is stated that Election Commission of India has not issued any such direction to CBDT to issue notice to Pawar," the EC said in its statement.

While expressing solidarity with eight Rajya Sabha members suspended over chaos during a vote on controversial farm Bills, Pawar, 79, accused the Centre of pursuing an agenda against political opponents as he referred to tax notices.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 57,03,917

DEATHS: 90,639

RECOVERED:

46,45,257

ACTIVE: 9,67,210



Sisodia hospitalised

New Delhi: Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia was hospitalised on Wednesday due to coronavirus infection, sources said. The 48-year-old Aam Aadmi Party leader was admitted to the state-run LNJP Hospital here at around 4 PM following complaints of low oxygen levels and fever. He has been kept under observation, they said.

Air pollution in Delhi in winter to aggravate Covid situation

New Delhi: Doctors and environment experts believe that extreme levels of air pollution in the national capital during winter is likely to aggravate the COVID-19 situation in the city and pose a serious challenge to the government. Every winter, Delhi's air quality dips to a dangerous low due to many reasons, including the city's geographic location, unfavourable weather, stubble burning and local sources of pollution.

Informed Police when officer went untraceable: Arya

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Defending her decision to inform the police about secretary V Shanmugam, the state minister of women and child development Rekha Arya said that her concern was genuine since the officer was not picking up her phone for two days. Talking to the media persons outside the Vidhan Sabha she said that when someone from among the family is not traceable then one becomes concerned. The minister added that the process of tender for supply of manpower in the department was underway and in which many irregularities have surfaced. The minister asked the police to find the officer. Shanmugam was later defended by secretary Saujanya. She clarified that since the officer had come into contact with some person who was found positive for Covid-19, he had quarantined himself after informing her.

sentatives.

Covid-19 tally surges to 43,720 in U'khand

17 deaths 1,069 new patients reported on Wednesday

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The contagion of the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) is becoming fatal with each passing day. On Wednesday 17 patients of the disease were reported dead in different hospitals of the state. The death toll due to Covid-19 in Uttarakhand has now climbed to 529. Meanwhile the tally of the Covid-19 patients in the state climbed to 43720 on Wednesday with the state health department reporting 1069 fresh cases of the disease. A total of 1016 patients were

discharged from different hospitals of the state on Wednesday after their recovery. The recovery percentage of Covid-19 patients in the state is 71.19 percent while the infection rate (IR) remains above 7 percent. The doubling rate of the disease in Uttarakhand is 28.60 days.

Eight patients of Covid-19 lost their lives at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh on Wednesday. At Sushila Tiwari government hospital, three patients of the disease were reported dead on the day. Similarly three patients succumbed to the disease at HNB base hospital Srinagar. Two patients expired at Mahant Indresh hospital Dehradun while one died at Medicity hospital Rudrapur.

The authorities reported 318 fresh cases of Covid-19 from Dehradun district on Wednesday. Similarly 237 patients were reported in Udhampur Singh Nagar, 127 in

Haridwar, 119 in Nainital, 58 in Champawat, 53 in Uttarkashi, 48 in Pauri, 31 in Tehri, 22 in Rudraprayag, 21 each in Bageshwar and Pithoragarh and seven in Champawat were reported.

Out of 1016 patients discharged on the day, 379 are from Dehradun, 186 from Haridwar, 185 in Nainital, 56 in Pauri, 39 each in Uttarkashi and Rudraprayag and 21 in Pithoragarh district were discharged on Wednesday.

Uttarakhand now has 11867 active patients of the disease with Dehradun maintaining its big lead at top of table with 4082 active cases of the disease. Haridwar is on second spot with 2090 active patients and Udhampur Singh Nagar on third position with 1554 active cases. Nainital has 1373, Pauri 630, Uttarkashi 438, Champawat 319, Pithoragarh 318, Tehri 290, Almora 242, Champawat 207, Bageshwar 194 and Rudraprayag 130 active patients of the disease.

MCD to reopen for public today after two days

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) will be reopened for the public on Thursday after remaining closed for two days since an employee was tested positive for Covid-19. According to the officials, a sanitation supervisor was found Covid-19 positive on Tuesday after which the municipal commissioner, Vinay Shankar Pandey restricted the entry of public for two days to sanitise the MCD campus.

"A supervisor was found Covid-19 positive on Tuesday after which the whole MCD campus was closed to the public on Tuesday and Wednesday but the employees and officials were allowed in the corporation. The entry of the public

will be resumed on Thursday," stated senior municipal health officer Dr RK Singh.

It is pertinent to mention here that the first positive case in MCD was found on August 5 and since then seven patients have been tested positive for this disease. The Dehradun mayor, Sunil Uniyal 'Gama' has appealed to people to avoid unnecessary visits to the corporation and advised them to contact officials through phone in emergencies if the MCD restricts public entry due to Covid-19 contagion.



Man held for stealing vegetables from Okhla mandi, selling them at lower price

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 35 year-old man who allegedly used to steal vegetables from Delhi's Okhla sabzi mandi and sold them outside the market at a cheaper price has been arrested by the Delhi Police. Police said that the man identified as Sarfaraz is a drug addict and unemployed.

According to R P Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, Sarfaraz who lives with his family in Delhi's Srinivaspuri, would steal vegetables from the mandi to fulfil his daily needs.

"If someone saw him stealing, he would threaten them on knife-point. The accused was arrested on Tuesday when police were patrolling near Okhla Sabzi Mandi. He was intercepted by the patrolling team when he was standing alone at a deserted place," said the DCP.

CM hails scientists for developing tech to deal with straw fire

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists from Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), Pusa Road, presented an innovative decomposer technique to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. They will make a detailed presentation before the Chief Minister who has sought their cooperation in mitigating impact of pollution borne out of stubble burning in states such as Punjab, Haryana

& Western Uttar Pradesh.

Interacting with the team of scientists, Kejriwal said crop stubble is the major source of winter pollution in Delhi. "I congratulate IARI scientists for developing a low-cost, effective technology to deal with crop stubble burning. Governments need to listen and work hand in hand with scientists to address the issue of stubble burning."

Kejriwal will visit the campus to see the live demonstra-



tion of the technology on Thursday.

He also directed officials from Development Department to carry out detailed cost-benefit analysis and explore implementation of this technology across all farms in outer Delhi.

Scientifically, Pusa decomposer is a capsule that can be mixed with readily available inputs, fermented and then sprayed over fields to ensure speedy decomposition of crop stubble and prevent the need

for burning.

Dr A K Singh, Director of ARAI, Pusa, New Delhi and several senior scientists from ARAI presented this innovative technology developed in-house by the institute to CM Arvind Kejriwal to deal with the issue of crop stubble burning, which is a major source of air pollution in winter months across North India.

Illustrating further on the technology, a senior scientist said, "The technology involves

making a liquid formulation using Pusa decomposer capsules and readily available inputs, fermenting it over 8-10 days, and then spraying the mixture on fields with crop stubble to ensure speedy biodecomposition of the stubble." "The cost of the capsules is only Rs 20 per acre, and can effectively deal with 4-5 tonnes of raw straw per acre. Research by ARAI over the last 4 years in farm fields in Punjab and Haryana have shown very

encouraging results as to benefit of using this approach for reducing the need for crop stubble burning and at the same time reducing fertilizer consumption and increasing farm productivity."

Kejriwal instructed the officials from Development Department to carry out detailed cost-benefit analysis and explore implementation of this technology across all farms in outer Delhi that face the issue of crop stubble.

₹32.1 cr inadequate to meet salary of 6 Delhi colleges: Cong

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said despite repeatedly raising the issue of non-payment of salaries to the employees of 12 Colleges fully funded by the Delhi Government, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has reluctantly released only Rs 32.1 crore to six colleges of Delhi University to pay the salaries of the staffers.

Kumar said that the amount is inadequate to meet the entire salary bills of even

these six colleges including arrears as the 12 colleges have not disbursed salaries to the staff since May, 2020.

"The Kejriwal Government was deliberately harassing the teaching and non-teaching staff of these 12 colleges by withholding the grant-in-aid and asking these colleges to hike the fees and dip into the reserve funds of the colleges to pay the salaries, which was no solution to the problem," he said.

The Congress president also condemned the Delhi Municipal Corporations' move

to resume sealing of industrial units in residential areas, which will affect over 13,000 industrial units across the Capital. He said that this sealing drive will only accentuate the plight of the people, already ruined by the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown and lakhs of people and labourers will be unemployed.

"The 13000 industrial units surveyed, 9000 have been issued notices for sealing, which should be stopped forthwith considering the existing difficult situation," he said.

Kid, man killed in separate road accidents in Gurugram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

A 3-year-old boy was killed in a road accident and his father sustained minor injuries when a speeding car hit a rickshaw puller at Sector-37D in Gurugram Tuesday morning.

The victim has been identified as Vikram, from Rajasthan, who was living with his family at Basai Enclave in Gurugram.

Harish the father of the victim stated in his police complaint that he along with his son Vikram was fetching water in a rickshaw from Basai Enclave on Tuesday when the accident took place.

"When we were crossing Sector-37D, a speeding Creta car hit their rickshaw from behind. After the collision, the rickshaw crushed under the wheel of the car and his son flung in the air and his head hit the ground hard," the victim told the police.

Soon after the accident the car driver took the father-son duo to a nearby private hospital where the doctor declared the child dead.

The investigating officer said that a case has been registered against the errant driver at the Sector-10A police station. The car driver has also been identified. He will be arrested soon. In another incident, a 25-year-old man lost his life and his friend served minor injuries when their motorcycle was hit by a speeding car on Tuesday morning near Belvedere Tower, located at DLF Phase-2.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

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Delhi Police suffering from shortage of manpower: CAG

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG)'s performance audit report on manpower and logistics management in the Delhi Police has found shortage of man power and many police stations lacked facilities like barracks, canteen/mess, kitchen, parade/play grounds etc., which are necessary for comfortable working. The performance audit revealed that the Delhi Police has installed 3,870 CCTV cameras in entire Delhi at strategic locations and the percentage of cameras functioning satisfactorily is abysmally low, ranging from entirely defunct camera (pilot phase) to 31 % to 44 % defunct cameras in various other phases.

"Only one out of the 72 police stations, test-checked by the audit had staff as per the norms prescribed by Bureau of Police Research and Development. In these 72 police stations, we found, there was 35 per cent shortage of manpower. Acute shortage of staff has put the police personnel under tremendous strain as their average daily duty hours in the six test-checked police districts declined from 9638 in June 2009 to 6172 in June 2019 as the sets condemned during the period were not regularly replaced. On the special cell of Delhi, the CAG pointed out that despite being the National Capital's specialized Counter Terror Unit, the Special Cell's



also below the required standards.

It further said that shortage of manpower has also impacts investigation of crimes and bringing criminals to justice. Police stations in the selected districts also suffered from shortage of vehicles, which severely limited quick response to law and order situations.

Delhi Police is using a 20 years old trunking system (APCO), which is 10 years beyond its normal life span. Proposals for up-gradation of these sets were initiated 10 years ago but even tenders have not been finalized yet. The number of wireless sets under the conventional system declined from 9638 in June 2009 to 6172 in June 2019 as the sets condemned during the period were not regularly replaced.

On the special cell of Delhi, the CAG pointed out that despite being the National Capital's specialized Counter Terror Unit, the Special Cell's

Married man opens fire outside ex-girlfriend's home for ignoring him, says Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has nabbed a 27-year-old man for allegedly opening fire outside the residence of his former girlfriend in southeast Delhi as she had been ignoring him after his marriage.

The accused has been identified as Sumit Tomar. According to R P Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, late on Sunday night Tomar opened

fire in Dharampal Colony in Aali Vihar when the 24-year-old woman was at home with her family.

"After hearing the gunshot, she opened the door and found Tomar with a country-made gun in his hand. On seeing her, he shouted, 'come outside, I will kill you and your family.' Then he ran away," said the DCP.

"She found the main gate damaged and an empty cartridge and bullet lead. The

woman told police that she was in a relationship with Tomar for 10 years but after his marriage in 2018, she had started ignoring him," said the DCP.

"Tomar did not like it and had threatened her with dire consequences. During investigation, police received information on Tuesday that Tomar was hiding in Aali Vihar jungle. A raid was conducted and Tomar was arrested," said the DCP.

Day-long Monsoon Session of Assembly adjourned sine die

All Bills passed after debate by treasury benches as opposition walks out

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A total of 19 Bills were passed in the one day monsoon session of the Vidhan Sabha on Wednesday. The session during which the proceedings lasted a little more than three hours was attended by 42 MLAs in the House while 14 MLAs attended it virtually. Chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, cabinet ministers Madan Kaushik, Satpal Maharaj, Subodh Uniyal, Arvind Pandey, State minister Rekha Arya, MLAs Munna Singh Chauhan, Mukesh Koli and other mem-

bers were present in the House. Among the opposition members, Pritam Singh, Qazi Nizamuddin, Manoj Rawat, Mamta Rakesh and independent member Pritam Singh Panwar were present in the House. Addressing the media later, cabinet minister and State government spokesman Madan Kaushik said that earlier during the meeting of the business advisory committee, Karan Mahra and Govind Singh Kunjwal of the Congress had stated that they would bring a work adjournment motion to discuss four issues- the Covid-19 pandemic as a disaster, law and order situation, unemployment and price rise. "However, as soon as the proceedings began, the Congress MLAs from the other group raised ruckus. They even questioned how Mahra and Kunjwal decided the issues to be discussed. The government wanted to reply on the four important issues in the House so that the public would also get to know what had been done by the

government to address these issues. Sadly, the Congress MLAs present in the House went to the extent of disrespecting their own members and prevented the House from functioning smoothly. All the Bills tabled by the government were passed after discussion by the Treasury benches members as the opposition members had left the House," said Kaushik. Total 18 bills passed. Vidhan Sabha members, The Uttarakhand {The Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Officers Salaries and Allowances)} (Amendment) Bill 2020, The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020, The Uttarakhand (Jaunsar-Bawar Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1956) (Amendment) Bill, 2020, Uttarakhand



Congress MLAs create pandemonium in the House

Demand discussions on Covid-19 and unemployment under rule 310

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Demanding work adjournment under rule 310 for Covid-19 and unemployment, the Congress members created ruckus in the house during one day monsoon session. The Congress MLAs were not satisfied by the decision to hold discussion on the subject under rule 58. Due to the pandemonium the deputy speaker Raghunath Singh Chauhan adjourned the house twice before lunch. The protest of the Congress legislatures continued

in the post lunch session. In the ruckus a plastic chair and glass shield was broken and the work schedule was torn apart. Later the Congress members staged a walkout from the house. Talking to the media persons outside the house, the Congress MLA Qazi Nizamuddin said that the Congress wanted a healthy discussion on Covid-19 but the government which came unprepared on the subject was not interested in discussion. He said that the situation of Covid-19 pandemic is very bad in the state as more than 500 persons have lost their lives due to the disease in the state. The patients are not getting beds in the hospitals and prices of life saving oxygen have increased. Qazi said that it is unfortunate that the government doesn't have data of the people who

became unemployed during the Covid-19 period. Kedarnath MLA the government on the basis of majority enjoyed in the house stifled the democracy. He said that the state government has failed miserably in controlling the menace of Covid-19 in the state. Rawat said that fearing exposure the government blocked discussion over Covid-19 and unemployment in the house. He added that the senior Congress MLA Govind Singh Kunjwal was not even consulted by the government for supplementary work schedule even though he is a member of the committee. A delegation of Congress would meet the Governor Baby Rani Maurya on Thursday and complain that the state government is not prepared to listen to the voice of opposition.

Farm Bill protest

Congress members drive tractor to the Assembly

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

To express solidarity with the farmers and register protest against the three farm Bills in parliament, the Congress legislatures boarded a tractor to come to the Vidhan Sabha to attend the monsoon session. The tractor was driven by Manglaur MLA Qazi Nizamuddin while Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) President Pritam Singh, Jaspur MLA Adesh Singh Chauhan and Kedarnath MLA Manoj Rawat sat on it. The Congress tractor however was stopped by the police at Rispana Bridge. A heated exchange took place between the Congress leaders and administration. The Congress MLAs demanded that they be allowed to take a tractor which

is associated with the farmers near Vidhan Sabha. They squatted on the road and raised slogans against the farm bill which they referred to as anti farmer. Later at the intervention of deputy speaker Raghunath Singh Chauhan they were allowed by the administration to proceed ahead with the tractor. The entire episode resulted in delay in entry of the Congress members into the house.



'Traffic diversion was absurd, Govt needs to be more sensitive towards public'

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

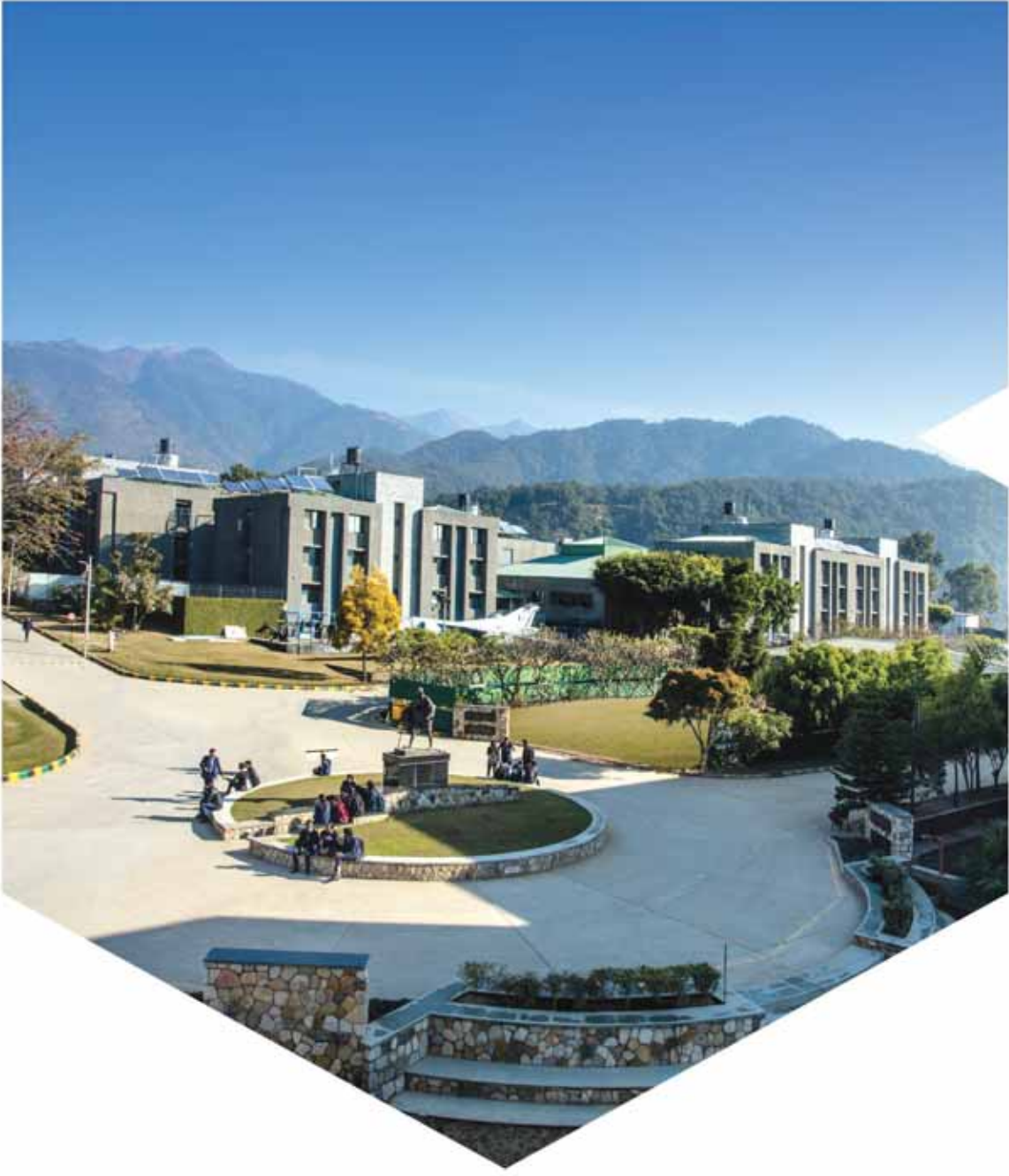
Even as a few protest demonstrations led to road blocks, locals expressed their disappointment and anger towards the chaos caused due to the traffic diversions on various roads of Dehradun on Wednesday due to Vidhan Sabha session. According to some locals, diverting traffic during Vidhan Sabha session was the State Government's attempt to stop people from protesting against the questionable policies and poor administration of the government during Covid-19 pandemic. Many also opined that the management of the traffic diversions was poor and ill-managed by the police which wasted time and fuel of the

people. "I was stuck for at least 20 minutes near Fountain Chowk in Nehru Colony and when I tried to go across the road, police told me to return to the same route. I noticed that some people were passing right through the small lanes that go to the same path where I wanted to go so I went through it and reached my destination but it took me 45 minutes to reach where it generally reach in 15 minutes. I understand if the administration wanted to stop any group of people which could start a protest or cause chaos but shutting down the main roads completely without any proper planning is absurd," stated Manilal Vishwakarma, a resident of Curzon Road. Some people also accused the government of being insensitive



towards the major inconvenience caused to the public. According to Rajeev Partiyal from Inder Road, the government was insensitive in causing such inconvenience in the lives of the locals in the arrangements it had made for the assembly session. "The traffic diversions planned by police

were also absurd because they barricaded even those routes which did not even lead to Vidhan Sabha causing major inconvenience to the locals. At least, the administration should plan their moves after considering how it might affect the citizens the whole day," added Partiyal.



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Flight Lt Singh first woman fighter pilot to fly Rafale



PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh will be the first

woman fighter pilot to fly the sophisticated Rafale fighter jets recently inducted into the IAF at its Ambala airbase.

Varanasi-born Singh was commissioned into the IAF in 2017 as part of the second batch of women fighter pilots. At present, she is flying Mig-21 jets and her conversion training to fly the Rafales has commenced, sources said here on Wednesday.

After rigorous training, she will join the 'Golden Arrows' squadron of the Rafales at Ambala some months later.

Prior to this assignment, she was flying MIG-21s somewhere in the Rajasthan sector. Her course-mate Flight Lieutenant Pratibha is all set to fly another frontline jet SU-30 shortly, sources added. It will be another first one for women fighter pilots. At present, there are ten women fighter pilots in the IAF.



People wade through a water-logged street after heavy rain in Mumbai on Wednesday

AP

Ganga's water didn't improve during lockdown: Expert

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Contrary to the expectations, while coronavirus-induced lockdown did not help improve Ganga's water quality, experts have asserted saying that, in fact, it deteriorated. Release of sewage and no fresh water discharge from the upstream is said to be the reason for the deterioration.

In fact, Ganga is not alone. The water quality of Beas, Chambal, Sutlej and Swarnarekha also did not comply with the primary water quality criteria for outdoor bathing during the lockdown period since March, this year, as per a new report by the Central Pollution Control Board.

In contrast, seven out of 19 major rivers in India recorded an improvement in water quality in April during the nationwide lockdown period, said the report released on Wednesday.

The report titled, "Assessment of Impact of Lockdown on Water Quality of Major Rivers", attributed the worsening report card of the Ganges to the discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage, negligible or dry seasonal flow that increases concentration of pollution and no fresh water discharges from the upstream.

The river's water quality had worsened in many stretches, the analysis suggested not-



The report attributed the worsening report card of the Ganges to the discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage

ing that the Ganges' compliance with primary water quality reduced from 64.6 per cent to 46.2 per cent during the lockdown period.

The report said that seven out of 19 major rivers in India recorded an improvement in water quality in April during the nationwide lockdown period, which was enforced for 68 days from March 25 in a bid to contain the viral outbreak.

The seven rivers that showed an improvement in water quality include Brahmani. The primary water quality criteria such as taking outdoor

baths in Brahmani improved from 85 % during the pre-lockdown period to 100% when the restrictions were in place.

The corresponding improvement for the other six rivers are: Brahmaputra (87.5 per cent to 100 per cent); Cauvery (90.5 per cent to 96.97 per cent); Godavari (65.8 per cent to 78.4 per cent); Krishna (84.6 per cent to 94.4 per cent); Tapi (77.8 per cent to 87.5 per cent) and Yamuna (42.8 per cent to 66.67 per cent).

The report attributed the worsening report card of the Ganges to the discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage; negligible or dry seasonal flow that increases concentration of pollution and no fresh water discharges from the upstream.

Baitarani, Mahanadi, Narmada and Pennar rivers were 100 per cent compliant as far as taking outdoor baths

Duty bound to take disciplinary action against rowdy MPs: Naidu



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as the Opposition continued to boycott Parliament, Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday said he was duty bound to take disciplinary action against the eight MPs although their suspension was an "unpleasant" thing to do. Justifying his action, he also said the opposition has the right to protest but the question is how it should be done.

Addressing the house before adjourning the house sine die, Naidu also appreciated the role of Parliament staff and said holding a session during this pandemic required some innovative thinking and elaborate planning, well in advance.

Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha and his team in the Secretariat as also the Parliament Security Service and other agencies including the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) who worked behind the scenes, "did not fail me in this regard. I would like to put on record my appreciation for the efforts made by them." The Members present in the House lauded the contribution by thumping the desk.

As regards the events in the last three days, Naidu said he was duty bound to uphold the dignity of the rules, standards and values of the Upper House. He also said the Rules do provide for such suspension when it becomes inevitable.

In his concluding remarks before the Rajya Sabha was adjourned eight days ahead of the schedule, the Chairman said the floor of the august House was the most effective platform for contestation of ideas.

However, if boycott is done for a longer period, it amounts to leaving the very platform that enables members to effectively convey their ideas, besides contesting those of others.

Referring to the letter he had received from Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad and others urging the House not to pass the three labour codes, the Chairman

LS adjourned sine die amid Covid scare

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Cutting short its scheduled 18 sittings amidst rising Covid-19 scare, the Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die on Wednesday after passing the Major Ports Bill, 2020, and 24 others previously, including the contentious farmers bills. Speaker Om Birla described the session as "historic" and congratulated members for attending the Parliament in "difficult situation" and fully observing the "health protocol".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi walked into the house as the house was in the process of passing the Major Ports bill, 2020. The opposition had boycotted the session.

On the concluding day during the zero hour majority of the issues were raised by the BJP members though a few TDP and YSR Congress Party members and AIADMK also spoke on the subjects relating to their States and Constituencies.

BJP MP Uday Pratap Singh(BJP) said the Modi Government which brought milestone legislations on Triple-talaq, article 370, farmers bills and 'resolved' Ram temple issue, should bring a law for the control of population which, he said is the one of the main causes of unemployment, exploitation and corruption. He said law to control population was the need of the time.

Many of the issues raised were relating to Bihar as MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy said the development work undertak-



en by the State Government would ensure its victory in the October-November poll. One of the members from Mizoram sought speeding up of the shifting of Assam Rifles headquarters outside Aizawl which he said would solve the problem conflict between Assam Rifles and civilians.

Expressing happiness over the high 167 per cent productivity in the monsoon session, the Speaker said during zero hour 370 issues were raised and in particular mentioned September 20 when, he said, the house sat for late night with 88 MPs raising their issues. He said 855 papers were also laid by the ministers during the session.

Birla also mentioned the long and comprehensive discussion undertaken by the house on the Covid19 situation.

Before passing the Major Port bill, 2020, Union Minister

for Shipping (Ind) Mansukh Mandaviya said the last port act was 1963,when the ports used to run in service model. " Now in 2020 we need to bring technology to the ports. The PPE model can bring technology", he said.

He stated that in the last five years things in ports has improved and Calcutta port which was running losses is now earning profit and workers receiving regular salaries and pension.

BJD MP Anubhav Mohanty while supporting the bill requested the government to rename Paradip port after former Odisha Chief Minister Biju Patnaik.

YSRCP MP sought the government that States should also be taken into consideration in the development of ports as he said "port board cannot decide alone on the development of the port", he said.

Govt empowers NIA to probe offences under narcotics Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has empowered the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to probe offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in order to make it independent in terms of investigation of drug trade and linkages with terror funding.

The Revenue Department of Union Finance Ministry has issued a Gazette notification in this regard.

Section 53 of NDPS Act allows the Centre to entrust any officer with "the powers of a police station for the investigation of the offences under this Act."

The NIA was established as a federal anti-terror probe agency a year after the 26/11 Mumbai serial terror attacks to investigate terror crimes with inter-State or international ramifications. Through an amendment in the NIA Act last year, the agency was also empowered with the jurisdiction to probe cases related to human trafficking, counterfeit currency notes and cyber terrorism but narcotics cases were still out of its purview.

However, the latest Gazette notification signed by the Under

Secretary in the Revenue Department of the Finance Ministry Biswajit Sarkar enlarges the authority of the NIA to probe drugs-related crimes.

Officials did not rule out the possibility of the NIA stepping into investigating the larger issues of drug-related crimes in Bollywood with suspected links to syndicates in foreign shores. The linkages of Bollywood personalities with drug consumption and involvement with drug syndicates has come to the fore following the probe by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) into the drug peddling network in connection with the mysterious death of film star Sushant Singh Rajput.

The Enforcement Directorate that is probing the money laundering aspect in a case related to Rajput's death first flagged the drug connection in Bollywood. The CBI is separately probing the criminal aspect of the death of Rajput.

The empowerment of the NIA with probes into NDPS cases will also help the agency in systematically busting the linkages between terror modules and narco-terrorism especially those related to syndicates in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab as also the Northeast and in Naxal-hit areas, officials added.

Bharat Biotech inks deal with Washington University School of Medicine



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as its Covid-19 COV-AXIN enters Phase II human clinical trials in India, Hyderabad-based vaccine manufacturer Bharat Biotech on Wednesday announced inking a pact with Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis for a novel chimp-adenovirus, single dose intranasal vaccine for the coronavirus.

Bharat Biotech owns the rights to distribute the vaccine in all markets except USA, Japan and Europe.

While the Phase I trials will take place in Saint Louis University's Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit, Bharat Biotech, upon obtaining the required regulatory approval, will pursue further stages of clinical trials in India and undertake large scale manufacture of the vaccine at its GMP facility located in Genome Valley,

BHARAT BIOTECH OWNS THE RIGHTS TO DISTRIBUTE THE VACCINE IN ALL MARKETS EXCEPT USA, JAPAN AND EUROPE

Hyderabad.

"We are proud to collaborate on this innovative vaccine. We envision that we will scale this vaccine to 1 billion doses, translating to 1 billion individuals vaccinated receiving a single-dose regimen. An intranasal vaccine will not only be simple to administer but reduce the use of medical consumables such as needles, syringes, etc., significantly impacting the overall cost of a vaccination drive," said Dr. Krishna Ella, Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Biotech.

No coercive action against Facebook VP till Oct 15 over Assembly panel summons: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Wednesday directed a Delhi Legislative Assembly panel not to take coercive action against Facebook India VP and MD Ajit Mohan till October 15 in connection with a summon asking him to depose before it with regard to north east Delhi riots.

Delhi Assembly's peace and harmony committee had issued a notice to Facebook India vice president and managing director in connection with complaints accusing the social media giant of deliberately not taking action to curb hateful content on its platform.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Aniruddha Bose and Krishna Murari issued notices to the secretary of the Legislative Assembly, the ministries of Law and Justice, Home Affairs, Electronics and IT, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, represented by the Secretary General, and Delhi Police, asking them to respond to the plea.

The apex court's order came on the plea filed by Mohan, Facebook India Online Services Pvt. Ltd and Facebook, Inc, which contended that the committee lacks the power to summon or hold petitioners in breach of its privileges for failing to appear and it was exceeding its constitutional limits.

They challenged the September 10 and 18 notices issued by the committee that sought Mohan's presence before the panel which is probing the Delhi riots in February and FB's role in spread of alleged hate speeches.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Mohan, submitted that committee cannot decide the breach of privilege of the house and administrative control over social media is with the Central Government.

"Privilege is something to be decided by the Assembly. A committee cannot decide whether action on privilege can be taken or not," Salve said adding that the Delhi Government could not put Mohan "in the pain of punishment" by asking him to appear before the Committee.

AIR TICKETS

SC asks Centre to clarify on modalities of refund to passengers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to clarify by Friday the modalities of refund of air tickets to be made to the passengers and travel agents in view of cancellation of flights during the COVID-19 induced lockdown period.

The top court asked the Centre to file a fresh affidavit by September 25, with regard to issues relating to modalities of ticket refunds on which Solicitor General Tushar Mehta conceded that the instant affidavit is poorly drafted.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah said that it is only concerned with refund and non-refund of money for tickets booked during the lockdown period.

It was hearing a plea which has raised the issue of air tickets refund owing to cancellation of flights due to COVID-19 induced lockdown which had commenced from March 25.

Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for NGO 'Pravasi Legal Cell', said that if one books tickets in airlines like Air India, Indigo etc and fly out of India then the affidavit filed by Director General Civil Aviation (DGCA) is applicable.

He said that the DGCA should also cover people for refund, who have booked flights on these carriers to come back to India like in the Gulf Countries and therefore the issue needs to be sorted.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Ministry of Civil Aviation and DGCA, said that the Government has taken a decision of refund keeping in mind the welfare of all and an appropriate solution has been worked out.

Heavy rainfall likely over WB, Sikkim, Assam in next few days: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Wednesday predicted very heavy rainfall over West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar over the next few days. According to the IMD, a low-

pressure area lies over central parts of west Madhya Pradesh and neighbourhood with associated cyclonic circulation extending up to mid-tropospheric levels. It is likely to become less marked by September 24. However, it's associated cyclonic circulation likely to recurve northeast-

wards during the next 3-4 days. India received 918.3 mm rainfall as against the normal of 849.2 mm, an increase of 8 per cent so far. Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram are among those states which received less rainfall this monsoon.

"High convergence over the northeast and adjoining east India very likely due to strong moist southerly/south-westerly winds from Bay of Bengal at lower tropospheric levels till September 26. A trough runs from northeast Uttar Pradesh to north Maharashtra at lower & middle

tropospheric levels. It is very likely to persist until September 24," IMD said.

Under the influence of the above systems, fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy to very heavy falls are very likely over Assam and Meghalaya on September 24; Sub-

Himalayan West Bengal & Sikkim; East Uttar Pradesh till September 25 and Bihar on September 26.

Thunderstorm with lightning at isolated places very likely over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Gangetic West Bengal, Gujarat state,

Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Telangana and Tamilnadu, Puducherry & Karaikal. Strong Wind (speed reaching 45-55 kmph) very likely over Southwest Arabian Sea. Fishermen are advised not to venture into these areas.

CBI busts terror link with cattle smuggling

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday busted a cattle smuggling network with terror links in a State-wide raid at 15 places including Kolkata, sources said. Surprisingly the CBI investigations reached the doors of some Border Security Forces officers who along with their counterparts in the Customs department facilitated the cattle smuggling the proceeds from which found its way to trans-border terror funding and arms market.

The CBI action comes about week after the National Investigation Agency busted an Al Qaeda network operating from Murshidabad district bordering Bangladesh.

The CBI conducted raids at senior BSF official S Kumar's residence and sealed it after six-

hour search operations, sources said adding he was in touch with one Enamul Haq who has been identified as the mastermind of the whole operations, Md Ghulam Mustafa, Enamul Sheikh and others. It is the second time that Haq's name appears in an FIR. A big fish in illegal cattle trade he paid bribes to BSF and customs officials," said sources.

The proceeds from the cow smuggling were used to purchase arms, gold and other items for the Jamatul Mujahideen Bangladesh or JMB the terror outfit whose network was busted in 2014 following the Khagragarh blasts in Burdwan district. JMB has been involved in conducting subversive activities in the neighbouring country. A team of 110 CBI sleuths conducted raids at various places including Salt Lake, Topsia and

other places in Kolkata for about eight hours sources said adding the accused had discovered a unique way of functioning without raising eyebrows. The CBI sources said some senior customs officials were also in their radar.

"Suppose they would capture 50 cows ... they would then hand over the seized cattle to the Customs Department which then would call tenders to dispose the animals off.... However while doing so they would sell away 500 in place of 50 cattle and those like Enamul would purchase them with legal documents before ... the proceeds from the sale would then go to purchase arms, gold and currency of various countries for the JMB," sources said adding investigation was on to find out whether the network had links with other organisations or not.

Situation in Kerala grave as 5,376 more test +ve

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala, which had declared itself as Covid-free in May 2020, faces the prospects of equalling or even overtaking neighbouring Tamil Nadu in the number of Covid-19 patients in the coming weeks. The State on Wednesday diagnosed 5,376 new patients, the highest number of positive cases to be registered on a single day.

The State also registered 20 fatalities in a single day, highest number to be registered in a 24 hour period till date. Disclosing the official figures to the media on Wednesday evening, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the situation in the State is serious. "There are 42, 286 Covid-19 patients across the State on Wednesday who are under treatment. Out of the 5,376 patients diagnosed with the pandemic on Wednesday, 4,424 contracted the disease through social contacts. There are 852 patients

Thiruvananthapuram and the situation in the capital city is grievous," said Vijayan.

The day also saw V S Sunil Kumar, minister for agriculture, testing positive for coronavirus. Vijayan blamed the agitations led by the BJP and the Congress throughout the State for the hike in the number of patients. "It is because of the violation of the norms by the opposition parties that the disease has spread all over the State and the number of patients went up," said Vijayan who also said that many of the participants in the agitations had tested positive.

The Chief Minister also disclosed that the day saw 99 health workers and policemen testing positive.

The number of new persons tested positive on Wednesday was higher than 5,337 patients in Tamil Nadu as on Tuesday. On Tuesday, Tamil Nadu had 46,350 Covid-19 patients while the tally in Kerala reached 42, 286 on Wednesday evening.

Palaniswami writes PM to include experts from TN in panel studying Indian culture

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has taking strong exception to the Union Ministry of Culture's move to keep scholars from the State away from the expert committee constituted for 'conducting a holistic study of the origin and evolution of Indian culture during the past 12 millennia and its interface with other cultures of the world'.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, excerpts of which were released to the media, Palaniswami expressed his shock and surprise over the non-inclusion of any scholars from Tamil Nadu in the committee. "Tamil Nadu has a glorious past and is home to one of the oldest civilizations, viz. Dravidian civilization-a living and thriving culture in the South of India," said the Chief Minister in the letter.

He also drew the attention of the Prime Minister about the latter's visit to Mahabalipuram, the sea shore heritage site of Mahabalipuram for the India-China summit in October 2019. "You visited Mahabalipuram where you had observed the awe-inspiring timeless monuments and glorious legacy of Tamil heritage in full splendour. You will therefore agree with me that any chronicle of Indian history and culture would be grossly incomplete without giving its rightful place to Tamil culture and language," wrote the Chief Minister.

Fundamental, civic rights denied to people in Kerala: Former Mizoram Gov

KOCHI: 67-year old Kummanam Rajasekharan, former Governor of Mizoram, has alleged that people are denied fundamental and civic rights in Kerala by the Marxist Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

"Under the Marxist rule, the police is using violence to suppress agitations for justice and democracy. What we see in Kerala is the worst kind of Stalinism as the chief minister has turned himself into a dictator. There is all round corruption and nepotism in everything associated with the Kerala Government," said Rajasekharan while inaugurating the day-night agitation by BJYM, the BJP's youth wing at Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday.

Rajasekharan said that Kerala has not seen the kind of police brutality being unleashed by the Government on activists agitating for restoration of fundamental rights. "Pinarayi Vijayan is exploiting religious sentiments of the people by alleging that the agitations were for banning Quran. We are not against Quran or any holy books. But we are against misusing religious sentiments to divert the attention from real issues like gold smuggling," he said. **PNS**

Vacant posts of sarpanch/panch to be filled soon in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Amid sudden spike in Covid-19 cases, the Administrative Council (AC) which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday approved the proposal of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj to issue a notification for conducting elections to vacant Sarpanch/Panch constituencies.

The detailed schedule will be finalised by the election authority.

According to a statement issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations, "Filling of the vacant constitutional posts will ensure devolution of powers and proper grass-root planning in the 3rd-tier of the Local Self Government".

"It will ensure that the non-functional Panchayats become functional," the statement read.

Earlier, general elections to 39,521 Sarpanch/Panch constituencies in 4,483 Halqa Panchayats were conducted in 2018 of which 13,257 positions are vacant due to resignation, removal, election of Sarpanch as BDC Chairpersons, death, and non-availability of candidates at the time of election. Among them, 1,089 vacancies pertain to the office of Sarpanch, whereas 12,168 are Panch

vacancies.

Pertinently, the elections to the vacancies notified earlier were postponed due to security concerns and the onset of COVID-19.

Meanwhile, in another landmark decision the Administrative council approved the re-allocation of 1997 number of unfilled supernumerary posts for recruitment of registered Kashmiri migrants and non migrant Kashmiri Pandits, who are willing to serve and settle down in Kashmir under the Prime Minister's Package.

According to the government spokesman, "the decision of re-allocation of the unfilled posts is aimed at accelerating the recruitment under the PM's package and the benefits of employment to Kashmiri migrants and non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits".

The Administrative Council also approved conducting the recruitment only on the basis of written test/skill test, without viva-voce, for the selection of suitable candidates through the J&K Services Selection Board within six months of the referral of posts by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, and Rehabilitation& Reconstruction.

The re-allocated posts include posts of Sub Inspector Commercial Taxes and Assistant Compiler in Finance Department (997), Field Assistant,

Thane building collapse toll mounts to 40

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The death roll in Monday's collapse of a three-storey building at Narpoli in the powerloom town of Bhiwandi in the adjoining Thane district mounted to 40 on Wednesday, as more number bodies from under the debris on the third consecutive day.

A 43-year-old three-storey Jilani building -- situated in the Patel Compound at Narpoli near Dhankar Naka at Bhiwandi -- had crashed like a proverbial pack of cards at 3.45 am, when the residents were sleeping at their homes in the early hours of Monday.

The collapsed building had in all 40 flats. There were 150 residents in the building when it collapsed.

The rescue and relief operations, which have been going on for the past three days, have been hampered by heavy intermittent rains.

A few persons are still feared trapped under the debris of the collapsed structure.

Aligarh: Oxygen on sale without proper inspection

Aligarh: Oxygen gas was being sold by Kasimpur road located Radha Industrial Gas Plant without any proper testing, license, and registration. On Monday night, the plant was sealed after a night-long investigation by the team led by the City Magistrate. They also cease the company's bill book and receipts. Supply records are being scrutinized for the last two-month deliveries. District Magistrate was directed to register a case against plant owner Arun Agarwal and has sought a response from the drug inspector.

The administrative team already confiscated all the documents along with 300 cylinders and 4 vehicles last night. The team has questioned plant owner Arun Agarwal in which it was revealed that this plant has been supplying gas in Aligarh, Hathras, Kasgunj and Etah since 24th August. On 7 September, the plant owner applied for a license in the Control of Explosives office, Agra.

After this raid, there is chaos within the departments for persecution. District Magistrate Chandra Bhushan Singh gave a strict warning to the drug inspector for the action. City Magistrate and ACM II team has been instructed to do this activity continuously. **PNS**

UP: Ahead of panchayat polls, demand for illegal guns surges

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

With Uttar Pradesh Panchayat elections including Aligarh in the upcoming months , the demand for illegal weapons has also soared to influence voters and intimidate rivals and to score a victory at any cost.

In the elections for Pradhan, violence, power and money are the backbone of most of the candidates which often turns the election into the battlefields. This resulted in rivalry affects generations of family's candidate. On the other hand, these elections are an ever-green market of illegal firearms and liquor which has received fresh input during this election in Aligarh. These weapons are being sold at elevated prices to the criminals in Aligarh division.

Aligarh, Etah, Mainpuri and Bulandshaher are the biggest market of illegal arms in western U.P with Aligarh as the main manufacturing hub of these illegal firearms because it is an industrial epicenter of lock and hardware industries due to which cheap labor, technique and materials are readily and easily available. Most of the country made arms also manufactured by blacksmith here in Aligarh. These weapons are being used by villagers and farmers to protect them from criminals and wild animals but during elections, these arms are used to intimidate voters and maintain their supremacy.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway, DEMU-Shed Shakurbasti; for and on behalf of President of India. Invites E-Tender for the under noted work.	
Tender No.	258661DSLSSB
Name of work	Provision for Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of SLI (Safe Load Indicator) system of 140T BD Crane No. 142271 at DEMU-Shed, Shakurbasti; working over DLI division for a period of three years.
Approximate cost	₹ 9,55,800/- including GST @18%
Earnest money	₹ 19,200/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR-4/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
Completion period of the work	02 years
Cost of tender document	₹ 2360/- with GST @ 18% (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR-4/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs. on 14.10.2020 Opening of Tender at 15:00 hrs.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen	Above tender is available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. - 25.8.661.DSL.SSB Dt. - 22.09.2020	2061/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Aarti, D/o:** Chedhi Lal, **R/o** H.No. 1854/39, Judh Bagh, Tri Nagar, Delhi, **Age:** 16 years, **Height:** 4'10'', **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, wearing Black Top and Black Pink Stripes Leggi, has been kidnapped from her house since 17.09.2020. In this regard a **FIR. No. 550/20 u/s 363 IPC, dated 17.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Keshav Puram, 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 one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/397/NW/2020

P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27181325, 27195810

Tigress that killed woman captured in Maha forest

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what came as a huge relief to the local population, a tigress on prowl in the forests of Pandharkawada in Yavatmal district of eastern Maharashtra was captured by the state forest department officials on Wednesday.

Within days after it mauled a 60-year-old woman to death in an agricultural field near Andharwadi and Pattanbori villages, the two-year-old sub-adult tigress named T2C1 was captured near the Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary. Ahead of its capture, the tigress was being routinely spotted through camera trap images along Andharwadi, Koparmandvi, Vasari and Kobai villages in Pandharkawada Forest Reserve.

Apart from killing an elderly woman, the man eater had also attacked another person, but he escaped with injuries. The tigress had also attacked cattle.

In a well-planned operation, the tigress was darted and captured successfully by the state forest officials on Wednesday, following the protocols of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

2 security guards die in flooded lift in Mumbai

NORMAL LIFE CRIPPLED, AS TRAINS, BUSES GRIND TO A HALT

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Two security guards of a building were killed on Wednesday after having been trapped in a flooded lift at a housing society at Agripada in south Mumbai, even as overnight rains continued to batter the metropolis and its suburbs inundating the low-lying areas and paralysing the road and rail traffic in the country's commercial capital.

On a day when Mumbaiairs woke up to heavy rains that had been lashing the metropolis and its suburbs for the entire night, a shocking tragedy befell Nathani Residency building in Agripada, where two security guards met a watery grave when they went to waterlogged basement at around 8 am to start the water supply for the society.

However, water levels started increasing when they entered the lift and closed the doors and tried to go to the upper floors. "The flooded lift did not start nor did the doors open... They pressed the alarm buttons and some residents rushed down to save them, but could not go there due flooding," Agripada Police Station Senior Police

Inspector Savlaram Agavane said.

The two deceased security guards were identified as Jamir Ahmed Sohanan and Shehzad Memon. Later in the day, the bodies of the two security were taken out from the flooded lift by the fire brigade personnel who arrived on the scene little later.

With no let up in the rains, the railway tracks of the Central and Western Railway's suburban network – considered Mumbai's life line—lay under thick sheets of water at several places. While the services of the Central Railway (CR) and Western Railway (WR) were badly affected, the CR services from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus to Thane and Vashi had to be suspended.

Heavy water-logging was reported from parts of Mumbai like Dadar, Wadala, Parel, Sion, Matunga, Worli, Mumbai Central, Kurla, Chunabhatti, Mazagaon, Masjid Bunder, Byculla Goregaon, Malad, Dahisar, Kurla, Ghatkopar and Mulund. Similarly, the subways at Dahisar, Malad, Santacruz and Mankhurd were flooded, prompting the authorities to suspend the traffic.

BDC Chairman shot dead

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A Block Development Council (BDC) Chairman of Khag Budgam was shot dead in cold blood by 'unidentified' terrorists near his ancestral home at Dalwash village in the Central Kashmir's Budgam district late Wednesday evening.

The public representative was identified as Bhupinder Singh by the local police authorities. He was not accompanied by his personal security officers at the time of the deadly attack, official sources claimed.

A senior police officer in Srinagar said, the BDC chairman Bhupinder Singh left two PSOs in police station Khag and left for ancestral home alone without informing Station House Officer Khag.

Local reports said, "Singh used to stay at Alooichibagh Srinagar and had gone to Khag for some work". Local political workers said Singh had contested election independently but was supported by PDP.

Mainstream politicians in Kashmir valley condemned the targeted killing of BDC chairman. Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tweeted, "Mainstream grass root political workers are easy targets for militants and unfortunately in recent years the threat to them has only increased".

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o :** Unknown **Age:** about 30 years, **Height :** about 5', **Complexion :** Shallow, **Face :** Round, **Wearing:** Black colour shirt & pant & along with Red colour Belt, Bare footed has been found dead at Ekta Vihar phase 3,

PS Khanjhawala, Delhi on 20.09.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 58A dated 20.09.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Khanjhawala, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO :
P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
Rohini Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-25952485, 25957486

DP/420/RD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Naveen Mittal, S/o: Jawahar Lal, R/o: PKT G-22/251-252, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi has been reported missing since 16.09.2020 at about 10:00 PM from her house. In this regard DD No. 47-A, dated 16.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. North Rohini, Delhi.** The description of missing male is as under:

missing male is as under:

Name: Naveen Mittal, Age: 47 Years, Height: 6'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Fat, ID Mark: A black mole on the left side of Face, Wearing: Slaty colour T-shirt, black Jeans and Chappal in feet.

If anyone having any information about this missing male please inform P.S. North Rohini, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
Police Station, North Rohini, Delhi
Ph: 011-27048210, 8750870330
DP/413/RD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE



General public is here by informed that the one female **Namely: Neha Kaushik, D/o: Kailash Chand, R/o: H. No. 28, 3rd Floor, Singhal Pur Village, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. Age: 22 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black Colour Suit and Salwar, Plastic Sleeper in feet, has been missing since 17.09.2020 at about 12.00 hrs.**

from her house in the area of P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 111A, dated 17.09.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far.

Any Person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.
Ph. 011-27495198
DP/399/NW/2020

UJVN LIMITED	
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Tel.: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135- 2763508, CIN No. U40101UR20015SGC025866, website: www.ujvn.com	
Tender Notice	दिनांक 23.09.2020
Office of the (Executive Engineer (E&M), Joshiyara Barrage Joshiyara (Uttarkashi)), invites sealed tenders from information parties. Brief summary of tender is given below : Tender No: 07/EE (E&M)/BARRAGE/2020-21 Name of work: Epoxy Painting of intake, forebay gates and Deluxe multi surface painting of siren towers at Matli and Dunda of Joshiyara Barrage, Uttarkashi Estimated cost : Rs 12,80,917.00 + GST Extra Date of availability of bid document on website : 24.09.2020 Last date for submission of tender: 16.10.2020 For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website " www.ujvn.com "	
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"	
Executive Engineer	

The **Executive Engineer, Kanchanpur Division, PWD (R&B), Kanchanpur, North Tripura** invites e-tender against press NIT No. **06/EE/KCP/2020-2021**, Dated, **09-09-2020**

For "Replacement of Bailey Bridge by RCC Bridge on the road from Kanchanpur to Dasda at Ch. 3.00 KM sanctioned for implementation under NABARD (RIDF-XXIII), Job No. TP/COM/10/2018-19(4th call)"

DRAFT Nle-T NO: 15/CE/PWD(R&B)/ACE(P&DU/2019- 2020

With

- Estimated cost: Rs. 3,00,34,900/-
- Earnest Money: Rs. 3,00,349/-
- Time of Completion: 24 (twenty-four) months.
- Last Date of bidding for bids: 09-10-2020 upto 15.00Hrs.

For more details kindly visit: **<https://tripuratenders.gov.in>**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Kanchanpur Division, PWD (R&B)
ICA/C-1663/2020-21 Kanchanpur, North Tripura.

Opp conundrum

The unity in the House, for once, was admirable but without a sustained campaign on the ground, visuals are futile



In the end, a moral victory is inconsequential, simply because it doesn't change the facts on the ground. As noted American satirist HL Mencken said, "In human history, a moral victory is always a disaster, for it debauches and degrades both the victor and the vanquished." So though, for once, the Opposition seemed to have got its way in meeting the President over the farm Bills and was united against the Government's gross subversion of parliamentary procedures in rushing through them in the Rajya Sabha by a voice vote despite lacking the numbers, what stops the new laws? The President is not likely to withhold assent or send the Bills back except granting an audience. Even if he were to do so hypothetically, they would be passed again, with or without any amendments, as the ruling BJP has an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha and has already set a precedent of passing debatable Bills by voice vote without discussion, deliberation or consensus. Besides, the President is not bound to act within a time-frame. And the way more Bills were passed even as the entire Opposition stayed away from the House in protest, it looks like the ruling party has no compunction in reducing an august institution to a stamping authority. So Opposition members can speak and cry hoarse all they want but cannot seek solace in parliamentary procedure or vetting by committees to stop motivated laws from being enacted. And when it comes to street fights, last year's general elections showed us how the members of the grand anti-BJP alliance frittered away their best intentions to their selfish, regional interests. Till that cohesiveness congeals as a single movement, there cannot be any hope for the Opposition.

Worryingly, the Upper House passed three key labour reform bills that ought to have been discussed and debated given their sensitive nature. The Government has enough numbers in the Lok Sabha to override dialogue and even if outnumbered in the Rajya Sabha, it knows it can hijack debate by provoking the Opposition enough and use a voice vote in the resultant din. Or simply take advantage of a boycott. The three Bills relate to new labour codes on industrial relations, social security and occupational safety, all in the name of easing business while diluting workers' rights. Nobody expects the Government to be unreasonably welfarist but in a post-pandemic economy that has witnessed record joblessness, it allows companies with up to 300 workers to fire staff without government permission. The Government, however, feels that this would actually encourage employers to hire more than the previous limit of 100 and, in fact, create jobs. But employers in stressed times are hardly expected to be altruistic and given that our unorganised labourers comprise a big chunk of the country's workforce, they continue to be exposed to vagaries of market forces. The Rajya Sabha also passed the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020, which ostensibly provides a framework under which organisations in India can receive and utilise grants from foreign sources. This is an umbrella watch on what is unsuitable to this Government the most, namely NGOs, research organisations, think tanks and civil society activists. And the carefully enunciated regulatory mechanism envisaged by the Bill, of course, remains vague about the conditions under which it can be used, lumping them as anything that is detrimental to "national interest." Nobody denies the need for greater transparency when it comes to activities sponsored by foreign sources but would that also be used to vet the PM CARES Fund, which is currently exempted under FCRA, or selectively be applied to "anti-national" NGOs? Or does the Government believe that NGOs shouldn't exist to point out gaps in its policies and implementation? Besides, most of these organisations have a high record of tax compliances over the years but by making Aadhar and SBI bank accounts mandatory for receipts, the Bill implies tighter controls and increased transaction costs, which are meant to create more impediments. This is just a way to stifle and discourage independent voices than a clean-up as is being proposed. It is the same kind of doublespeak that is latent in the farm Bills. On the face of it, they look reformist, dismantling the heavily cartelised Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) and middlemen, and allowing farmers freedom of movement and trade. Question is some of them do not have the investable resources or the expertise for an outreach beyond their geographic limits and would have to depend on "traders" or the corporations. The smaller and marginal farmers are not literate or educated enough and would not be able to counter the heft of corporations in negotiations and price fixing. In that sense, they could still end up being exploited as before. The farmers fear that in an open, competitive market, they would not get the minimum support price (MSP) that the Government promises to continue and given the diversity and multiplicity of markets, the guaranteed official procurement would be hit over time. Besides, nowhere do the Bills insist on the MSP as a criterion of farm pick-ups by "traders" and "sponsors." They would, therefore, still be in crisis and at the mercy of the dictates of marketers. Besides, the proposed laws are still vague on defining the mechanisms that would replace the regulated economy. This kind of obfuscation has become so familiar that it is in danger of becoming the norm than the exception. And without Question Hour in Parliament, it's time the questions are asked on the streets. The farmers' ire may just be the beginning of the next electoral plank.

Facebook vs Delhi

The technology major is like a media company and should be subjected to similar laws



Facebook should be answerable to Governments as the technology giant can fundamentally alter the course of public discourse not just through its own network but through other assets like messaging application WhatsApp and photo-sharing application Instagram. These are all powerful tools to build organisation and opposition but can also be used to silence dissent or manufacture violence. The safe harbour provisions under which such technology companies have escaped sanction for many years cannot be allowed to continue unchallenged. The likes of Facebook and Google are not just technology companies, they are media companies, too, and should be subjected to similar laws. Technologies like deepfake videos, where even a few photographs can be used to manufacture a video showing a personality spouting opinions far from his/her real stand, can potentially alter the course of a democracy. Think of this as the new terrorist attack before an election. By the time any rectification takes place, often due to delays, the damage has been done.

We agree that it is impossible to keep a check on every single user at every single point of time. However, it is also true that technologies are being developed to be able to quickly find potential hateful content. That said, it is important to haul these companies under the Central Government and on that front, Facebook India does have a point in refusing to appear before the Delhi Government's Peace and Harmony Committee. The company is currently being hauled over the coals in a parliamentary committee, not just in India but in several countries across the world as Governments realise that its power needs to be kept in check for the growth of democracy. This includes the United Kingdom and the United States. Indeed, we wish the parliamentary committee hearings in India were streamed live for the public to observe and decide for themselves. Tech majors can do more themselves. For example, they should work a lot closer with traditional media companies as well as develop technologies that can easily detect videos that promote hate as well as those where users threaten self-harm. Facebook should not be allowed to escape with impunity but making it answerable to multiple agencies will serve little purpose either. Indeed that could actually delay meaningful reform.

opinion

Worrisome optics

The virtual clean chit to one side of the protesters raises extremely dangerous and political portents for the policing institution and the nation



BHOPINDER SINGH

The police ought to be the natural, visible and trusted representative of the Government to immediately address any concern or perceived danger by the citizenry. Personnel are expected to be accessible, unbiased and positively interventionist to address any crisis. Maintenance of "law and order" is their foremost function. In a wounded and increasingly polarised society like India, where the societal faultlines and suspicions run deep, it is only the supposedly apolitical and "independent" institutions like the police that can theoretically rein in violent tempers, passion and hatred unleashed by those who have vested interest in keeping the societal pot boiling. From controlling secessionist movements, insurgencies, civic/communal riots, vandalism, traffic, mob control, theft, crime etc — the laundry list of policing duties is unforgivingly long. Many individuals from the policing forces across the country have distinguished themselves with supreme courage, conduct and dignity to uphold the lofty motto of *Satyameva Jayate* (Truth alone Triumphs). However, collectively the institutional image of the police in the public consciousness is far from the desired levels of probity, independence and empathic moorings.

Over the last few decades, the spectre of communal riots in 1984, 2002 or even the latest communal riots in February in Delhi, have raised serious questions about the institution's conduct. Almost always, the standard concerns of partisan preferences, apathetic behaviour, dilly-dallying and capitulation have dominated the post-mortem of each of these strife with all ruling national and State parties guilty of complicity in the same, whenever in power. The convenience, lure and utility of a beholden police force make for incalculable comfort for those in power, who ensure that the plethora of police reform committee reports over the years continues gathering dust. Various reform committees, led by Prakash Singh, Soli Sorabjee, VA Malimath, K Padmanabhaiah and JF Ribeiro, have attempted to professionalise and rescue the institution from the clutches of vested interests, but barring minor changes triggered by the Supreme Court's intervention, the essential narrative and outcome remain the same.



The recent 17,000-page chargesheet by the Delhi Police, that has named 15 people under the sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, of the Indian Penal Code and Arms Act, has re-ignited the debate of institutional credibility. The father of the "All-India Administrative Services" (of which the Indian Police Service is an integral part), Sardar Patel, famously said, "...these people are the instrument. Remove them and I see nothing, but a picture of chaos all over the country." While the policing institution was certainly not removed, it did not live up to the expectations as the larger picture of civic chaos, corruption and deteriorating law and order is attributable, to an extent, on its conduct.

Already the harsher insurgencies have been essentially outsourced by the State Police to the Indian Army or to the Central Armed Police Forces. The frequency at which the Army is requisitioned to conduct flag-marches, control civic disorder or handle natural disasters does not show the State Police forces in a glowing light.

The significance of Delhi in the national imagination, owing to its status as the capital of the nation, makes Delhi Police the cynosure of administrative efficacy. From the offices of the Central Government, Supreme Court, foreign embassies, multilateral organisations to the sprawling metropolis of 17 million residents — the responsibility

“ALMOST ALWAYS, THE STANDARD CONCERNS OF PARTISAN PREFERENCES, APATHETIC BEHAVIOUR, DILLY-DALLYING AND CAPITULATION HAVE DOMINATED THE POST-MORTEM OF EACH OF THESE STRIFES WITH ALL RULING NATIONAL AND STATE PARTIES GUILTY OF COMPLICITY IN THE SAME, WHENEVER IN POWER”

ity and privilege of maintaining *Shanti Sewa Nyaya* (Peace, Service, Justice) is on the largest metropolitan police service in the world. Despite over 80,000 personnel, Delhi Police is clearly overstretched with over 25 per cent of its staff committed to VIP duties and securing large-scale events that are typical to any capital city — leaving too few, to handle the restive city effectively. It has the unwanted distinction of having the maximum number of complaints registered against its own personnel. Frequent accusations of inaction, corruption and even collusion further mar the perception. The institutional rifts within were apparent from a very public and embarrassing siege of its headquarters by thousands of police personnel revolting and complaining against their own senior officers last year. The oddity of Delhi Police coming under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs, as opposed to the elected Delhi Government, has been a constant bone of contention for successive regimes. The implied concern is the plausible political influence exerted on the Delhi Police by the Central Government. While there are good functional reasons for this, as is done in major metropolitan police forces of global capitals, the concerns of undue political influence are increasingly hard to ignore. Irrespective of the Governments in power, the narrative has been disconcerting.

The Delhi High Court had noted about the 1984 riots, "Though we boast of being the world's largest democracy and Delhi being its national Capital, the sheer mention of the incidents of 1984 anti-Sikh riots in general and the role played by Delhi Police and state machinery in particular makes our heads hang in shame in the eyes of the world polity." It is that lingering sentiment of kowtowing to the powers-that-be that has again sullied the optics accompanying the chargesheet pertaining to the Delhi riots. Indeed, the perpetrators and instigators of such violence are rarely one-sided, but the posited optics of a virtual clean chit to one side of the protesters raises extremely dangerous and political portents for the policing institution, as also for the nation. Importantly, the Commissioner of Delhi Police has clarified that they, "had questioned persons without regard to their religion and party affiliation." Yet some hard data continues fanning concerns. Delhi Police's recent campaign of *Dil Ki Police* (Police with Heart) — with a heart replacing the 'o' in Police — has to go beyond slick slogans and denials as the chargesheet could have reflected a more nuanced diversity of purported arsonists. Now, eyes are on Delhi Police to uphold *Shanti Sewa Nyaya*, "without regard to religion and party affiliation" as was confirmed by its Commissioner. (The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

SOUNDBITE

We know Hockey India and the coaching staff have put together a plan for us to resume competitive hockey. Our intensity in the national camp will increase October onwards and we are moving in the right direction.



Field hockey player —Lalit Upadhyay

We need to ensure that the developing world does not fall into financial ruin, escalating poverty and debt crises.



UN Secretary-General —Antonio Guterres

We will distribute a vaccine, we will defeat the virus, we will end the pandemic, and we will enter a new era of unprecedented prosperity, cooperation and peace.



US President —Donald Trump

As to healthcare, just like in economy, we now need to remove, as many as possible, obstacles to partner relations.



Russian President —Vladimir Putin

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Change in guard

Sir — Japan welcomed its newly elected Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, replacing Shinzo Abe, who stepped down due to ill health after nearly eight years in office. India and Japan have had strong relations with the latter funding 80 per cent of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project through a soft loan of ₹ 79,000 crore at an interest rate of 0.1 per cent, with a tenure stretching over 50 years and a moratorium period of 15 years. Now the onus of continuing the relation lies on Suga. Only time will tell if he will be successful in continuing Abe's legacy.

Rahul Chouhan
Ujjain

Return farm Bills

Sir — Eighteen Opposition parties wrote to the President urging him not to sign the farm Bills passed in the Parliament. In the letter, the parties brought to his attention how the process was an "absolute and total murder of democracy, ironically in the most hallowed temple of democracy, Parliament." After the disappointing show of arrogance by

the Government, the President should return the Bills and uphold the sanctity of the constitution.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Defuse LAC tension

Sir — India and China have agreed to stop sending more troops to their respective sides of

Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The major decision taken during the sixth round of talks between the two countries came as a whiff of fresh air. However, various media houses have reported that China has doubled its total number of air bases near LAC, upgrading its military infrastructure. It is time for China to realise that escalating tension at the LAC would be

counter-productive. Can it let the US get more support from the region?

KV Seetharamaiah
Hassan

Ensure compensation

Sir — As per the data compiled by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, more than one crore migrant labourers returned



Islamabad has decided in principle to give constitutional rights to Gilgit-Baltistan but the move has been firmly rejected by India. Pakistan's resolve to upgrade Gilgit-Baltistan comes at a crucial time when India is facing multiple border challenges with both China and Nepal while reviving a flagging economy.

Venu GS
Kollam

to their home States on foot during March and June. This also includes those who travelled during the lockdown. As per provisional available information, 81,385 accidents occurred on the roads (including national highways) during the said period with 29,415 fatalities. Now that the Government has the data on the number of deaths, it should ensure compensation for the families of the deceased. It cannot say there is no data.

Najibullah
Mumbai

Boost handloom sales

Sir — As Indian garment exports face stiff competition from neighbouring countries, encouraging the handloom sector can help revive the industry. Showcasing products with unique designs and skills can attract considerable attention of the international buyers. The Government should make it compulsory for every licensed textile mill to set up a handloom unit in its compound.

Madhu Agrawal
Chandni Chowk

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A win-win situation for all

In these exceptional global conditions, coopetition — cooperation between competitors — will be vital as survival takes prominence over rivalry



HIMA BINDU KOTA

The contagion has changed how business is conducted the world over. Firms which are unable to adapt are perishing as remote-working has become a norm. The post-pandemic world could throw up a lot of challenges and businesses need to revise their strategies in numerous ways to acclimatise themselves to the disruptions. An open organisational culture towards innovation, structured horizon planning and most importantly exceptional value proposition for customers and stakeholders will help businesses survive in these difficult times. Flexibility has also become crucial during these testing times. For example, a number of companies like Ford, Coca-Cola, 3M, Honeywell have augmented their traditional business models and their usual products to produce PPE (personal protective equipment) to fight the outbreak. In these exceptional global conditions, coopetition — cooperation between competitors — will be vital in times to come as survival takes prominence over rivalry. According to Bengtsson and Kock, coopetition can be defined as a complex association between two business players, irrespective of their involvement, be it horizontal or vertical. A horizontal relationship would mean being business competitors or complementers in the same sector, producing similar products, whereas vertical business involves suppliers and customers. Research in this domain is unravelling tremendous benefits for competitors, who are forging mutually beneficial collaborations that are based on coopetition strategies where companies share resources such as equipment, funds and capabilities, like technical know-how, expertise and experience. These initiatives ensure mutually-beneficial outcomes by pursuing goals collaboratively that otherwise would be difficult to chase, which in turn improves their financial performance.

However, there is a catch here. Coopetition is not as easy as it seems, as rivals cannot suddenly collaborate, as this has to happen at all levels, top, middle and bottom. According to researchers, the degree of collaboration is inversely proportionate to the magnitude of rivalry or competition. In fact, it is a delicate balance between collaboration and rivalry. If businesses that complement each other work together, there is a potential for huge benefits. But if rivalry or competition is high, it could lead to adverse performance outcomes.

Several rival companies have taken advantage of collaboration and there are several motives to take this strategic route. First and foremost, the main motive is to effectively utilise scarce resources. Coopetition can effectively utilise scarce resources by integrating them to efficient production with lower risks. For example, in the electronics industry, Samsung Electronics and Sony worked together to develop the flat screen LED televisions by sharing R&D costs. This strategy is also used to increase the current market size or create a new market by introducing new products or services. Costs and risks are shared and companies can dominate their competitors. In the automobile industry, rivals Ford and Toyota teamed up to develop Atlas Ford F-150 hybrid pick-up truck, which went on to become the best-selling hybrid in this segment. The third motive is to augment the competitive position by increasing the market share. Protecting the current market share and increasing the same is one of the important strategies of firms. Giants like Google and Mozilla are working together with Google supporting and funding Firefox, Mozilla’s web browser, to beat the web browsers of its rivals Apple and Microsoft.

There are several other examples to show how companies benefit through coopetition. EDX is a non-profit organisation, which was founded by rivals Harvard University and MIT to provide free online education worldwide. Similar coopetition can also be seen between Amazon (Kindle) and Apple (iPad). They entered into an agreement in 2007 to deliver Amazon e-books through an iPad Kindle App which enabled Amazon to access a wider market and made iPad a complete content provider. This type of cooperation is also seen in the airline industry where competitor airlines use each other’s networks and ground staff for efficient services. One example is the Star Alliance network of competing airlines Thai Airways, Singapore Airlines, Lufthansa, Air India and many more. Its aim was to provide a seamless experience to travellers and also save on logistics, marketing and other costs. Fierce competitors in the beverage industry, Coca-Cola and Pepsi, along with Red Bull and Unilever have come together to set up a non-profit organisation to develop sustainable supply chain technologies, particularly in refrigeration, to fight global warming and ozone depletion. The phenomenon of coopetition gained popularity as a counter-intuitive strategy for a networked economy, leading to mutual benefits for both firms, like increasing their knowledge and expertise, sharing costs of new developments and R&D, improving market share and expanding into new markets. With the advent of technology, it is now easier for firms to reach out to competitors and other stakeholders. This strategy of cooperation among competitors and suppliers will be all the more useful in these exceptional times. (The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida)

STEPS TAKEN FOLLOWING THE ABOLITION OF THE SPECIAL STATUS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR FURTHER COMPLICATED THE PROBLEM.
—TURKISH PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THE REMARKS BY PRESIDENT OF TURKEY ON J&K ARE GROSS INTERFERENCE IN INDIA’S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ARE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE.
—INDIA’S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN TS TIRUMURTI

Can Jinping afford to relent?

The Chinese President has failed to meet economic targets and is facing a challenge to his authority. Any pullback by the PLA will be viewed as a defeat, negating his second goal of a stronger military



ANIL GUPTA

The 12-hour military commander-level meeting, the first after the five-point consensus at Moscow, has once again ended with all indicators pointing towards a stalemate. India, on its part, is buoyed with the brilliant pre-emptive tactical actions on August 29-30, leading to gaining control of dominating tactical features on our side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the southern bank of Pangong Tso. This was followed by readjustments of defences on the northern bank, gaining domination over the Fingers area where the Chinese have transgressed and are unwilling to restore *status quo antebellum*.

The manoeuvres of the Indian Army have empowered the Indian negotiators to hold parleys from a position of strength. However, China, through its mouthpiece, *Global Times*, and other State-owned and controlled media, remains in constant denial mode, blaming India instead for the current military stand-off. Despite the Chinese claims, Xi Jinping, the Chinese President and strongman, is acknowledged globally as the aggressor in pursuance of his cherished dream of becoming the strongest and the most powerful world leader.

The Indian stand so far has been determined, consistent and firm. India has outrightly rejected the Chinese suggestion of “meeting halfway.” India rightly insists on its demand of “first-in, first-out,” considering the fact that it was the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) troops who violated the established agreements and protocols and made multi-pronged transgressions into our territory in eastern Ladakh in early May. The PLA is also guilty of not adhering to the decisions arrived at during the first Corps Commanders meeting on June 5 for de-escalation and disengagement, leading to the ugly clashes at Galwan.

The Galwan clashes, resulting in fatalities on both sides, made India and the world realise that it was a well-planned cartographic aggression by the Chinese with the express consent of the Central Military Commission (CMC) led by Xi. The obstinate attitude displayed by the Chinese thereafter proves beyond doubt that the final decision will also be taken by none other than Xi whose “China dream” and personal ambition are stake.

Xi is a career politician, privileged to have been born with a “Red spoon” in his mouth. His father, Xi Zhongxun, was “Red royalty”, a hero of the Communist revolution who later fell out with Mao Zedong, according to Ananth Krishnan, an acknowledged China-watcher. After the purging of his father, Xi was shifted to rural China from the privileged living in Central Beijing, the area earmarked for the then Chinese elite. Xi struggled thereafter to enter the youth wing of the Communist Party and the final acceptance into the party is well-documented and an example of focussed determination, perseverance and hardship. Despite being born into the “Red royalty” he was not parachuted to the top and had to struggle his way through at every stage. His initial background and subsequent struggle to rise to power had made him ambitious and adamant.

Xi took over the reins of the party when it was in a disarray. He, therefore, began to con-

“ DESPITE THE PROPAGANDA UNLEASHED BY THE STATE-CONTROLLED MEDIA OF THE INVINCIBILITY OF THE PLA FORCES, XI IS UNCERTAIN OF AN ASSURED VICTORY. EVEN A STALEMATE WOULD BE VIEWED AS AN INDIAN VICTORY AND A CHINESE FAILURE. THERE IS NO DEARTH OF DISSENTERS AT HOME WAITING FOR HIS FAILURE AND ENSURE THAT HE DOESN'T GET A SECOND CHANCE. XI IS FACED WITH A DILEMMA OF RELENT OR RETREAT. KNOWING THE AMBITIOUS PERSONA OF XI, HE IS UNLIKELY TO YIELD GROUND TO HIS DISSENTERS SO EASILY ”



solidate his power and gradually became all-powerful through complete centralisation of authority. He brought to an end the “collective leadership” system in the Communist Party of China (CPC). He not only managed to gain hold of all the top three posts in China but also had a resolution passed for abolishing the President’s term limit, enabling him to rule indefinitely. This act of his has not gone down well with the young and aspiring leaders within the CPC who see a dark future for them with bleak chances of rising to the top. Like all authoritarian leaders, Xi, too, has a fair number of dissidents and domestic opponents.

During his consolidation of power among other things, he has relied a lot upon emphasis on ideology and nationalism. Xi believes that the communist ideology must prevail upon everything else among the Chinese populace. The “3 W” strategy enunciated for the PLA is aimed at promoting and ensuring compliance of the ideology.

The PLA, as is well-known, is not a national army but the army of the CPC. Moreover, Xi’s reliance on the indoctrinated cadre of the United Front Work Department over career diplomats, while appointing ambassadors to South Asian and other target countries, indicates his preference for ideology over diplomacy to carry forward his pet Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) project. Xi has also given a new image of aggressiveness and assertiveness to the Chinese diplomacy through “wolf warrior” diplomats. He wants to be recognised as the most powerful Chinese leader by challenging the supremacy of the American President.

To fulfil his ambition and imbibe nationalism, Xi has announced his

roadmap in what is referred to as the “China Dream”

“President Xi’s dream is of a stronger nation with a strong military,” according to Liu Mingfu, a retired Chinese colonel and author. The underlying idea behind the “China Dream” is to restore the ex-Middle Kingdom’s glory and regain the Chinese supremacy through expansionism. It is also aimed at minimising internal dissension through national unity. Xi’s ambition is to make China not only stronger but assertive as well. This is a very critical year for Xi in his roadmap for realising the “China Dream” by 2049, the centenary year of the People’s Republic of China. There are two intermediary goalposts in 2021 and 2025. This year is the launchpad for 2021, the 100th anniversary of the CPC. Xi had promised the nation that by 2020 he would ensure poverty relief by bringing all Chinese above the poverty line and strengthen national defence and the Chinese armed forces.

However, the Chinese economy had begun to show a downward trend in 2019 itself when China’s growth dropped to its slowest pace in nearly three decades. With the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Xi was certain that he would not be able to meet his promised economic targets in 2020. Despite the bold face being put up by China, it is certain that its economy is undergoing a crisis. The banking system is the worst-hit, with growing unemployment and disrupted global supply chains adding to the pressure.

The centralisation works well as long as the going is good. But in times of crisis, many dissenting voices are raised. Xi is now facing a similar situation at home. As is evident, nothing

moves in China without his approval or consent. Xi has obviously failed to meet his promised economic targets to remove poverty and is facing a huge challenge to his authority. Any pullback at this time by the PLA troops will be viewed as a defeat for China, thus negating his second goalpost as well of a stronger military.

Can Xi at this juncture afford to take this risk and relent? That is why the Chinese media is talking of a “long haul” through the winters. Xi’s calculation is based on the premise that a prolonged deployment would affect the Indian economy more than the Chinese one. He is mistaken. India stands unitedly to safeguard its territorial integrity and would not yield till China vacates from the transgressed areas. On the other hand, he is faced with growing dissension at home.

Despite the propaganda unleashed by the State-controlled media of the invincibility of the PLA forces, Xi is uncertain of an assured victory. Even a stalemate would be viewed as an Indian victory and a Chinese failure. There is no dearth of dissenters at home waiting for his failure and ensure that he doesn’t get a second chance. Xi is faced with a dilemma of relent or retreat. Knowing the ambitious persona of Xi, he is unlikely to yield ground to his dissenters so easily. Rather than being forced to resign, he would prefer to relent at an opportune time and order the PLA to vacate. How and when is a matter of negotiations and timing. Meanwhile, India should not dither under any circumstances.

(The author is a Jammu-based veteran, political commentator and security and strategic analyst. The views expressed are personal.)

Time to fight tobacco use with telemedicine

Unlike many other medical conditions, treating tobacco addiction and diagnosing its sequelae, like oral cancers, can often be done remotely



ROMITA SHAH



VIVAN SHARAN

The Coronavirus pandemic has prompted billions to seek shelter in their homes as countries across the world have gone into lockdowns at different times and in many phases. Although doing so has checked the spread of the virus to a certain extent, it has not slowed the progression of other diseases. Therefore, the need to find innovative ways to stem and treat such diseases grows daily and for many countries, telemedicine has provided a cheap and practical way to meet this need.

It is a quintessential example of the Fourth Industrial Revolution in action and is an area in which India has already demonstrated its ability to lead.

Few interventions are as conducive to piloting ambitious telemedicine in India than tobacco cessation and there are three reasons for this.

First, as the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World’s India Report shows, tobacco use is widely prevalent in the country and its results are devastating. There are nearly 270 million adult users of tobacco in India. Experts estimate that tobacco use is responsible for nearly 10 per cent of all deaths in the country and the resulting economic burden amounts to more than one per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This figure rises when we consider the economic toll of tobacco-related disability and other indirect costs. Ultimately, the burden of tobacco use constrains healthcare, particularly for the poor.

Second, many of those most affected by tobacco use live in places with few specialists to provide cessation services. The shortage of healthcare providers is acute in these regions where brick-and-mortar clinics are few and far in between. India already suffers from a shortage of healthcare providers, with only one doctor for

every 1,400 people and only one hospital bed for every 2,000 people (well below the World Health Organisation’s recommended norms).

Third, unlike many other medical conditions, treating tobacco addiction and diagnosing its sequelae, such as oral cancers, can often be done remotely. Tobacco cessation is predicated on counselling for behaviour, which can be effectively delivered via telemedicine platforms. India has more cases of oral cancer than anywhere else in the world due to the popularity of smokeless tobacco products in the country.

The scale of tobacco use and its resulting harms, its disproportionate toll on those in rural areas and the ability to effectively treat it and diagnose many of its sequelae make it a natural contender for telemedicine. However, some structural changes are required to successfully integrate telemedicine in the healthcare sector’s arsenal. Specifically, the three “Ds” — doctors, diagnostics and data — require redoubled focus in this context. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s recently-notified Telemedicine Practice



Guidelines provide a scope for registered medical professionals (RMPs) to familiarise themselves with telemedicine. The guidelines include instructions for RMPs to maintain digital records of patients, including evaluation and management reports.

Doctors may still require guidance to select appropriate software and technology that can help streamline these tasks. Though specialised digital applications to facilitate cessation are available, doctor awareness is the key to unfetter their use-case. Additionally, issues of medical ethics and liabilities need to be addressed, to build patient trust.

The second critical area is investments in diagnostics. Recent experiments with tele-diagnostic services in Maharashtra have enabled the use of photos to detect early cases of oral cancer and identify at-risk patients. This ensures that RMPs can make clinical evaluations to identify early onset of diseases to reduce the time between diagnosis and treatment.

The country requires similar interventions that leverage the combination of widespread smartphone access and state-of-the-art diagnostics. But scale requires private sector investments, based on a profitable business model.

Diagnostics capabilities can likely be bolstered through hub-and-spoke telemedicine models to ensure access to larger markets at reduced rates of service distribution. Moreover, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to augment diagnostic capabilities of physicians can also reduce healthcare costs. Studies estimated that the use of this model to treat stroke patients can reduce costs by 10 per cent.

India’s fragmented healthcare ecosystem has multiple public, private, and individual healthcare providers.

Therefore, it is often a challenge for healthcare professionals to maintain robust medical records. Even when they do, such records are not easily portable, and patients rarely get timely access. Digitisation of health records can help doctors administer appropriate treatment and create a knowledge bank that will help officials understand trends in public health, such as the burden of tobacco use.

It is important that such solutions are designed as open data ecosystems, subject to user audits and not as vulnerable single points of failure. Studies indicate that high, out-of-pocket expenditure on healthcare pushes around 32-39 million citizens below the poverty line every year.

Telemedicine services offer an opportunity to leapfrog traditional constraints to quality healthcare. The three “Ds” offer the means to unlock such potential and reduce the healthcare burden that is a consequence of widespread tobacco use.

(Shah is research manager at the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World and Sharan is, partner, Koan Advisory Group. The views expressed are personal.)



FOREIGN EYE



A CRISIS MADE IN DOWNING STREET

The UK is facing a Covid calamity made in Downing Street. Infections and hospital admissions are rising rapidly. The epidemic is outpacing the rate at which the testing regime is expanding, meaning that it is not possible to properly track the spread of the disease. If nothing changes, the UK’s chief scientific adviser, Patrick Vallance, warned there could be 200 deaths a day by mid-November. (The Guardian editorial)

Trump says Kamala is ‘Grossly incompetent’

Washington: US President Donald Trump has termed Senator Kamala Harris as “grossly incompetent,” saying he was surprised when his Democratic rival Joe Biden picked her as his running mate in the November 3 presidential election.

Ms Harris, 55, is the first-ever Black, African-American and Indian-American woman to be the vice-presidential candidate of a major political party.

“I was surprised to learn when Joe Biden selected (Kamala) Harris as his running mate. Believe it or not, it’s true she is rated the most liberal person in Congress. I think she’s grossly incompetent I’ll be honest with you,” Donald Trump said during a rally in Pennsylvania.

Donald Trump, a Republican, said during the Democratic primaries no one treated Joe Biden as badly as Ms Harris.

“Also, Harris was dropped out of the Democratic Party’s presidential race as her popularity ratings dipped low,” he said.

Former vice president Biden has defended Ms Harris, saying she is smart, tested and prepared. “She (Kamala Harris) is smart. She is tested. She is prepared,” Mr Biden said during a virtual fundraiser event with Ms Harris.

“The way she talks about

Democrats propose sweeping bill to curb presidential abuses

Washington: House Democrats are proposing a sweeping bill to curb presidential abuses, a pitch to voters weeks ahead of Election Day as they try to defeat President Donald Trump, capture the Senate from Republicans and keep their House majority.

The legislation, a wide-ranging package of new and revised bills, will be announced Wednesday morning by the heads of seven House committees.

It would, among other measures, limit the president’s pardon power, strengthen laws to ban presidents from receiving gifts or payments from foreign governments, better protect independent agency watchdogs and whistleblowers from firing or retribution and require better reporting by campaigns of

foreign election interference. Each of the bill’s provisions is a response to actions by Trump or his administration that Democrats saw as abuses of presidential power.

It builds on an elections and ethics reform package from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that the House passed soon after Democrats assumed the majority in 2019.

“Since taking office, President Trump has placed his own personal and political interests above the national interest by protecting and enriching himself, targeting his political opponents, seeking foreign interference in our elections, eroding transparency, seeking to end accountability, and otherwise abusing the power of his office,” the committee chairmen and chairwomen said in a joint statement. **AP**

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Sonia Kumari D/o Sita Ram R/o Jhuggi No.1/88, Kela Godam, AA Block, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi Aged-16 Years** has been reported kidnapped since 11.09.2020 at about 9:00 AM from her residence vide **FIR No.546/20 u/s 363, Dated 12.09.2020** registered at Police Station Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Shallow, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **ID:** cut mark on left eyebrow, **Clothing:** Brown coloured suit, salwar, chunni and slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi at E-mail : **cic@cbi.gov.in** or website : **http://cbi.nic.in**

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, Delhi
DP/395/NW/2020 Tel.: 011-27495198, 27495527



Sonia Kumari

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely **Deen Dayal S/o Nanhe Ram R/o F-794, JJ Colony Bawana, Delhi Aged-19 Years** has been reported missing since 06.09.20 at 6 PM from his residence vide **DD No.0057A Dated 10.09.20** registered at Police Station Narela Industrial Area, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Wheatish, **Height:** 5'6", **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Medium, **Hair:** Black, **ID:** Mentally fit, **Clothing:** Red coloured Vest, Blue coloured jeans pant and Cloth shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing boy, may inform SHO, Narela Industrial Area, Delhi at E-mail : **cic@cbi.gov.in** or website : **http://cbi.nic.in**

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Narela Industrial Area, Delhi
DP/481/ON/2020 Tel.: 011-27787592-93



Deen Dayal

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Arpan, D/o: Ram Swaroop, R/o: C/O Dilel, Near Best Furniture, Post Office Wali Gali, Bawana, Delhi, Age: 14 Years, Height: 4', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Chocolate Colour Suit & Yellow Colour Salwar and Sandal in Feet** has been missing since 09.09.2020 from the area of P.S. Bawana, Delhi. In this regard **FIR No. 557/2020, U/s 363 IPC, Dated 11.09.2020** has been lodged at **P.S. Bawana, Delhi**.

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

Web-site : **http://cbi.nic.in** **SHO**
E-Mail ID: **cic@cbi.gov.in**
Fax: **011-23011334** **P.S. Bawana, Delhi**
DP/479/ON/2020 **Ph.: 011-27751949, 27756090 & 7065036321**



ARPAN

her mom, her immigrant story that started Indian. It's one of the things that really stood out to me. We both talked about our moms. My mom was all about sacrifice and community and how much they sacrificed for both of us, my mom and hers. And I know the pride you feel in her nomination,” Mr Biden said.

Ms Harris, who is busy campaigning in various parts of America, on Tuesday distributed yard signs to supporters who drive by parade-style and spoke at a voter mobilisation event in Detroit.

She also launched Michigan’s “Shop Talk” programme at Headliners Barbershop in Detroit. “Everything’s at stake,” Ms Harris told a woman as she made a brief stop at a woman-owned cold pressed juice company in Michigan.

Paris: Eiffel Tower reopens after bomb scare

Paris: The Eiffel Tower was evacuated for several hours on Wednesday after police received a call suggesting a bomb had been placed there.

The Paris monument had been searched and no explosives found, a police spokeswoman said. It reopened at about 2.25 p.m (1225 GMT). Several hundred people, including tourists, restaurant staff and workmen were led away from the tower in the late morning. **AFP**



Russian tourists talk to police officers securing the bridge leading to the Eiffel Tower on Wednesday **AP**

US obstructing global fight against emissions, climate change: China

Beijing: The US is guilty of “obstructing” the global fight against emissions, China said Wednesday, as Beijing seized the climate agenda by vowing to go carbon neutral by 2060 — a target welcomed by environmentalists despite its patchy detail.

The goals, which include a pledge to reach peak emissions in 2030, are still the most concrete yet announced by China, which is the world’s biggest polluter and accounts for a quarter of the planet’s greenhouse gas blamed for rising temperatures.

They also open a new divergence in relations with the US, which are already pinched by squabbles over trade, tech, defence and human rights.

Speaking to the UN General Assembly, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday renewed his support for the Paris climate accord and called for a green focus as the world recovers from the Covid-19 crisis.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States — the world’s second-largest polluter

— pulled out of the agreement, blaming China for the stalled momentum on tackling global emissions.

“This clearly... seriously obstructs the progress of reducing global emissions and promoting green, low-carbon development,” China’s foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said in a statement on Wednesday.

“What qualifications does such a country have to criticise China,” he asked, citing America’s hunger for plastics and its export of waste. **AFP**



DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD (DHFL)
National Off: HDIL Tower, Ground Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra East, Mumbai-400 051.

DEMAND NOTICE

(THE NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (the SARFAESI ACT”) READ WITH RULES 3(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (“DHFL”) issued notice dated 31.08.2020, U/s 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act to below mentioned Borrowers, Guarantors, Pledgers and Mortgagors who have availed loans under loan account no. 00035650 from Mumbai Metro Branch of DHFL and have failed to pay Pre Equated Monthly Instalments/Equated Monthly instalments (Pre-EMIs/EMIs) of their loans to DHFL. Their loan account has been classified as Non-performing Assets (NPAs) as per the guidelines issued by the National Housing Bank. The Borrowers, Guarantors, Pledgers and Mortgagors have provided security of the immovable property/properties (secured assets) to DHFL the details of which are described herein below. The details of the amount outstanding and payable by these Borrowers, Guarantors, Pledgers and Mortgagors to DHFL are also indicated herein below. The Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors as well as the public in general are hereby informed that the undersigned has initiated action against the following Borrowers, Guarantors, Pledgers and Mortgagors under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act. If the following Borrowers, Guarantors, Pledgers and mortgagors fail to repay the outstanding dues indicated herein below within 60 days from the date of the notice, the undersigned will be constrained to exercise any of the powers conferred u/s 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act and initiate any or all of the measures stipulated under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act to recover the amount due and payable by them as mentioned hereunder, with further interest, cost till the date of full repayment. The public in general is advised not to deal with the property/properties described herein below.

Date and other details of Notice issued U/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act in loan Code No. 00035650			
1.Rani Promoter Private Limited B-9, Shekhar Jha Flat No.212, Janki apt, plot no 7, Dwarka sector 22, Delhi 110075 (Borrower/ Mortgagor)	2. Mr. Mithilesh Kumar House No.212, Janki apt, Jha Flat No.212, Janki apt, plot no 7, Dwarka sector 22, Delhi 110075 (Director/ Guarantor)	3. Mr. Nagendra Kumar Sinha House No 38, Vasudha apartment, sector 6, Vasudhra, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh- 201012. (Director/ Guarantor)	4. Mr. Manoj Kumar NO. 2C, Vasudha apartment, sector 6, vasudha, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201012. (Director/ Guarantor)
5. Mr. Ashwani Kumar Dhawan A/61, Vivek vihar phase II, Vivek vihar, East Delhi, Delhi, 110095. (Director/ Guarantor)	6. Akshat Dhawan A/61, Vivek vihar phase II, Shahdra Jhilmi, Delhi, 110095. (Director)	7. Shanti Niketan Buildtech Private Limited B-9, Shekhar Apartment Mayur Vihar Ph-I Delhi 110091 (Pledger)	8.Arti Constructions Private Limited A/61, Vivek vihar phase II, Vivek vihar, East Delhi, Delhi, 110095. (Pledger)

Details of secured assets:

Exclusive charge by way of Registered Mortgage of leasehold land allotted to the Borrower for construction of residential flats of Project Aakriti Shantiniketan situated at PLOT NO. GH-1/B, SECTOR – 143B, NOIDA (SUB DIVIDED PLOT NO. GH-01, SECTOR – 143 B), district. GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR, U.P. MEASURING 12820.14 SQ.MTRS. (LEASE HOLD PROPERTY) (Previously allotted area measuring 13330.49 later on reduced to 12820.14 sq.mtrs.) and 74 unsold units of Project Aakriti Shantiniketan, more particularly described in the Annexure II to the Mortgage Deed alongwith hypothecation of present and future unsold construction thereon on together with all receivables for the said project as per Annexure I & II to the Hypothecation Deed.

(Please Note that the units constructed in “Aakriti Shantiniketan” for which DHFL has issued NOCs for sale/lease, may be excluded from the list mentioned in 13/2 Notice, on production of copies of the NOCs of DHFL along with proofs in respect of payment made to DHFL and compliances of all other terms and conditions stipulated therein.)

The details of the abovementioned mortgaged properties and its receivables hypothecated with DHFL are more particularly described in Schedule of the 13(2) SARFAESI Notice dated 31/08/2020, which have already served you by post/courier and pasted at secured assets.

As per Rule 3 (5) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, we hereby draw your attention to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act, under which the Borrower has right to redeem the “Secured Assets” by tendering the amount of dues of the secured creditor at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets. The Borrower, Mortgagors and Guarantors are therefore, requested to pay the entire amount due together with accrued interest, costs, and charges, expenses thereon and redeem the secured assets before the date of publication of notice as stated herein. Please Note that under sub-section (13) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act the Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors are barred from transferring and/or dealing with any of the Secured Asset(s) described above by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without obtaining our prior written consent of DHFL and non-compliance of the said provisions of the SARFAESI Act is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the SARFAESI Act.

This notice is issued without prejudice to DHFL’s rights and remedies available to it under all other Acts and the same shall not be construed as waiver of any of them. DHFL also reserves its right to raise further demands for the sums found due and payable by the Borrowers, Guarantors, Pledgers and Mortgagors to DHFL.

All correspondence pertaining to this notice must be addressed to The Authorised Officer, Wholesale Lending Division, Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited, HDIL Towers, Ground Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400 051.

Date : 24-09-2020
Place: NOIDA

Sd/
(Authorised Officer)
Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

Some freed Taliban prisoners returned to battlefield, says Afghan official

Washington: A number of Taliban prisoners who were released by the Afghan government as a condition for peace talks have taken up arms again, top official Abdullah Abdullah said Tuesday.

Abdullah, who chairs Afghanistan’s High Council for National Reconciliation and is overseeing the government’s peace efforts, said discussions with the Taliban in Qatar so far have been positive.

However, he said some — though not the majority — of the 5,000 Taliban prisoners released by the government as a condition for talks had resumed the fight against Kabul.

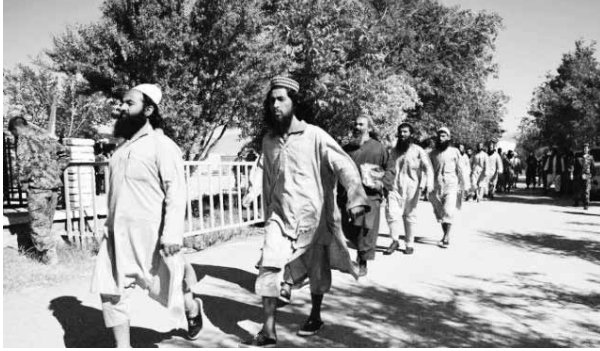
“I do know that some have returned to the battlefield, which is a violation of the agreement that they had made,” Abdullah said during an online conference with the US Council on Foreign Relations. Abdullah said talks between the two sides had begun in Doha on a positive note, as the delegations build some familiarity with each other.

Yet the level of violence inside Afghanistan has not fallen, and he called on the United States, which launched the peace process with its own deal with the Taliban, and Pakistan, which maintains ties to the insurgents, to pressure them to agree to a ceasefire.

“Unfortunately, so far, the level of violence is very high and to a level that is not acceptable for the people,” Abdullah said.

“I repeat my call to the Taliban themselves and also to all partners who have any leverage over the Taliban to press on that point.”

Abdullah said he planned to visit Pakistan in the coming days for the first time since 2008. **AFP**



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France’s Defence Chief misled nation on troops’ virus safety

Paris: France’s defence minister has admitted to misleading the nation about virus protections for air force personnel who evacuated French citizens from the hard-hit Chinese city of Wuhan and have been suspected of links to France’s first confirmed COVID-19 cluster.

The revelation on Tuesday by Defence Minister Florence Parly to a Senate investigating committee is a further blow to the credibility of French President Emmanuel Macron’s government as it battles rebounding infections.

Health Minister Olivier Veran is expected to announce new restrictions on gatherings Wednesday as the numbers of virus cases and hospitalisations mount.

As China locked down the city of Wuhan in January, the French government started repatriation flights for French citizens there. One such flight returned to France from Wuhan on January 31, operated by 18 military personnel based in Creil, in the Oise region north of Paris, the defense minister said.

In February, regional health authorities announced a virus cluster in the Oise region, and the first cases in France with no clear link to cases in China or Italy. Within weeks, France’s coronavirus case count had skyrocketed and the nation was in a lockdown.

With over 31,400 confirmed virus-related deaths, France has the third-highest death toll in Europe after Britain and Italy. France is now reporting about 10,000 new infections a day. **AP**

Saudi’s King slams Iran in UN speech

United Nations: Saudi Arabia’s King Salman used his speech before the UN General Assembly on Wednesday to stress his country’s Islamic roots and slam rival, Iran.

Reading from a piece of paper and seated at a desk under a large portrait of his father, King Abdulaziz, the monarch reiterated the sacred role of Islam in Saudi Arabia, which Muslims believe was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad more than 1,400 years ago in the mountainous caves of Mecca.

He touted the kingdom’s role as president of the G-20 this year, and the billions of dollars in humanitarian aid Saudi Arabia gave to countries around the world in past decades.

He refrained from criticizing the recent deals struck by the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to establish ties with Israel, but stressed the kingdom remains committed to the Arab Peace Initiative that offers Israel full ties with Arab states in exchange for concessions that lead to a Palestinian state. He also said Saudi Arabia welcomes US efforts at resolving the crisis.

He said the Middle East has been suffering from major political and security challenges, blaming Iran for much of the region’s instability. He accused the Iran-backed Hezbollah group in Lebanon of sowing the political disarray that has been ultimately blamed for the devastating explosion at Beirut’s port last month.

He said Saudi Arabia has tried to extend its hand over the years to Iran, “but to no avail.”

He blamed Iran for targeting Saudi oil facilities last year, saying: “It demonstrated that this regime has total disregard for the stability of the global economy or stability of oil supplies to international markets.”

The 84-year-old monarch’s prerecorded remarks make him only the second Saudi king to deliver a speech to the world assembly. The only other Saudi monarch to do so was his late brother, King Saud, in 1957 at the UN headquarters in New York. **AP**



Sikkim University

SU/REG/PRO/F-2/05/2018/Vol-I/564 **Date: 23.09.2020**

ADMISSION NOTICE

Sikkim University announces admission to M.Phil & Ph.D programmes for the Academic Year 2020-21 in the following departments.

1. Anthropology (MPhil/Ph.D)	16. Law (M.Phil/Ph.D)
2. Botany (Ph.D)	17. Management (Ph.D)
3. Chemistry (M.Phil/Ph.D)	18. Mathematics (M.Phil/ Ph.D)
4. Chinese (Ph.D)	19. Microbiology (Ph.D)
5. Commerce (Ph.D)	20. Music (M.Phil/ Ph.D)
6. Computer Applications (Ph.D)	21. Nepali (M.Phil/ Ph.D)
7. Economics (M.Phil / Ph.D)	22. Peace and Conflict Studies and Management (M.Phil / Ph.D)
8. Education (Ph.D)	23. Physics (M.Phil/ Ph.D)
9. English (M.Phil / Ph.D)	24. Political Science (M.Phil)
10. Geography (M.Phil / Ph.D)	25. Psychology (M.Phil/Ph.D)
11. Geology (Ph.D)	26. Sociology (Ph.D)
12. Hindi (M.Phil/ Ph.D)	27. Tourism (M.Phil / Ph.D)
13. History (M.Phil/ Ph.D)	28. Zoology (Ph.D)
14. Horticulture (Ph.D)	
15. International Relations (M.Phil/Ph.D)	

The details of courses and other admission procedure to be followed will be available on University website at **www.cus.ac.in** on **25th September 2020**. Last date for submission of online application form is **31st October 2020** (up to mid night).

Sd/-
(T.K. Kaul)
REGISTRAR

davp 21318/11/0004/2021

REGIONAL MANAGER

Trend Blazer

'I pledge to work for deaf community'

On the International Sign Language Day, actor **RANVEER SINGH** pledged to constantly work for the deaf community in India.

He said, "I want to elevate the experience of music for the deaf community. This is my pledge. Our biggest dream today is to help secure a better future for the deaf community in India and we can only ask for this through our art. But to make this a reality, we need your support. I urge my fellow Indians to support this cause and fight for a brighter future for our deaf brothers and sisters."

Ranveer also signed the petition to make ISL an official language and encouraged people to sign the same petition which has now gathered more than 70,000 signatures.



'I had certain work commitments to fulfill. As actors, our nature of work requires us to be in front of camera and usually we have a whole team of professionals to make us look our best. But due to the lockdown, it became difficult to have a team so I had to get creative and do my own hair, make up and even styling for shoots.'

—Alaya F

Singer **KUMAR SANU** is back with a new song that urges people to take a break from stress and listen to their hearts.



Titled *Suno Apne Dil Ki*, the single is composed by DJ Sheizwood.

"Music is what feelings sound like, and to sing a meaningfully melodious composition like this one is a rarity. We recorded this incredible composition by DJ Sheizwood, during the lockdown. It was done virtually using digital technology & video conferencing. It turned out to be unbelievably smooth sailing and more than a satisfying experience, thanks to Ajay Jaswal (producer)," said he.

Cusack on his interest in Kashmir

Actor **JOHN CUSACK** says he got closer to knowing and understanding India during his pursuit to understand the world in a better way.

The actor has been vocal about the events or turmoils, happening in India and addressed them through social media.

Cusack said, "I've been there a few times and I have a great friendship with (author) Arundhati Roy. (We have done) some activist things and we wrote some essays together about meeting Ed Snowden in Russia with Daniel Ellsberg and her. So I've gotten to know India by going there and through her eyes. So that's where my interest in India and Kashmir and all those issues came from."



A SAFER HOME AWAY FROM HOME

The webinar, *Changing Lifestyles In The New Normal*, hosted by Sotheby's International Realty, discussed ways of enhancing lifestyles through art and second homes in the UK and other key European destinations. By AYUSHI SHARMA

In the new normal, a second home will be an extension of our primary lifestyle for encompassing our personal and professional lives. Vacations will now be about a safer home away from home. And Indians are betting big on price real estates abroad, taking advantage of a depressed market. India Sotheby's International Realty hosted a panel discussion on *Changing Lifestyles In The New Normal* by established thought leaders and industry experts. The panelists were Edward Gibbs, Chairman, Head of Department, Middle East & India, Sotheby's Auction (London); Natalie Mik, Global Vice President Affiliate Services, EMEA Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC; Nicholas Spencer, Business Development Manager, MEA & India, Berkeley Group and Akash Puri, Director International, India Sotheby's International Realty. The webinar aimed at discussing ways of enhancing lifestyles through art and second homes in the UK and other key European destinations.

Akash explained some of the typical reasons why Indian clients are investing in a second home overseas. He said, "London has always been a preferred destination for Indians. It is the cultural and educational capital of the world so there's a lot of aspirational value. For London, there is a demand and supply shortfall of 40 per cent at this particular moment. This probably will grow with the delays in construction that may have been caused because of the pandemic. Nowadays, buying a property overseas is not a wishful thinking anymore but is prudent financial advice for anyone who wants to diversify and enhance their wealth portfolio. We look at diversification through real

estate. There's a great rental deal that one gets, which is higher than the inflation rates, very different from what happens here. The third level of income is the long-term currency play. So if you look at capital appreciation of your property, the rental deal and the currency play, you are looking at a double digit return on an annual basis. If you ask why the United Kingdom? The answer is because it is number one in the global real estate transparency index."

Natalie gave an overview of EMEA region i.e. 35 regions for Sotheby's Realty operations. She shared, "First of all, I would say that our offices all across EMEA have been incredibly fast in adjusting and innovating in times like these. Well, the first three months were quite challenging. However, now we are seeing phenomenal growth across different regions. This recovery is based on pent up demand. People were hesitant earlier but are now going ahead with their real estate purchases. The market in France, UK, Italy and Germany has seen good growth rates. We are also seeing strong demand from smaller countries, especially the ones offering Citizens By Investment Programmes such as Portugal, Malta and Andorra."

She explained the buying behaviour of international clients during COVID-19 in EMEA region. "We have definitely seen the change in the behaviour. Most of our clients don't own just one property. They own an entire portfolio of properties. The first change in the buyer behaviour that we have seen is a shift for countryside properties. Second big trend is a great deal of keeping out and sitting at home, working from home to upsize their primary residence based on their need to combine office and home space. The third trend, which wasn't expected but

'Now there is phenomenal growth across different regions. This recovery is based on pent up demand. People were hesitant earlier but are now going ahead with their real estate purchases. The market in France, UK, Italy and Germany has seen good growth rates'

we are seeing and is drastic — an unusual amount of significant sales. There are opportunistic buyers who are seeing this time as an opportunity to get a deal. There is a demand for country homes and bigger homes to upsize primary residences."

Nicholas agreed with Natalie and told us about the changes and buying preferences of Indians due to Coronavirus. He said, "People are focussing more on lifestyle and affordability. They are leaning towards open spaces. We have seen a slight regression in interest in central London stock and a much higher level of pickup in outer London stock. There has been almost 50 per cent increase in four-bedroom houses outside central London. People don't want to be confined to small spaces. They prefer functional spaces. A lot of people tag London with luxury but the important thing to understand is that we are a place-maker and not just a luxury home provider. So that's where the trends are leaning at the moment."

"The secondary homes are gradually becoming the primary ones," said Akash.

Edward believes that challenging and dangerous times provide

opportunities to all companies to grow and move ahead. So has the traditional style of auction adapted to the COVID era? He said, "This is a moment of great evolutionary change. When the meteor strikes, you either evolve or die. I think we have successfully evolved to the changing and challenging circumstances. Our traditional format is live sales but remote working and lockdown restrictions made it less of an option. Now we have successfully adapted to an online format and this has worked exceptionally well. It has been a seamless transition, beyond all expectations. Although live sales attract more bidders, the digital format is also creating huge opportunities. We are looking at up to 90 per cent of auctions going online. Some of the changes are new auction formats, jewellery and single-lot auctions. We now have a 'buy now' tab on our website, which was launched in early June. We have Sotheby's gallery network, which features 24 galleries. Private sales are much more transparent and accessible now. So there have been many new innovations and exciting developments."

Well, the future is the present.



History in the making

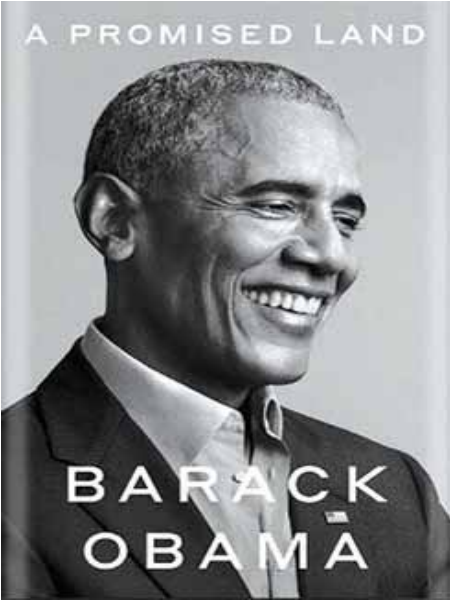
From a young man searching for his identity to a leader of the free world, **BARACK OBAMA**, in his presidential memoir, *A Promised Land*, describes details of both his political education and the landmark moments of the first term of his historic presidency — a time of dramatic transformation and turmoil

The presidential memoirs of the 44th president of the United States, Barack Obama, will be published in two volumes. The first volume, titled *A Promised Land*, published Penguin Random House, will be issued in 25 languages. A publication date for the second and concluding volume of the memoirs will be announced at a later date.

Obama tells the story of his improbable odyssey. From a young man searching for his identity to a leader of the free world, he describes details of both his political education and the landmark moments of the first term of his historic presidency — a time of dramatic transformation and turmoil.

Providing a stirring, deeply personal account of history in the making, Obama takes readers on a compelling journey from his earliest political aspirations to the pivotal Iowa caucus victory that demonstrated the power of grassroots activism to the watershed night of November 4, 2008. He was elected as the 44th president of the United States then, becoming the first African-American to hold the nation's highest office.

Reflecting on the presidency, he offers a unique and thoughtful exploration of both the awesome reach and the limits of presidential



power as well as singular insights into the dynamics of the US partisan politics and international diplomacy. Obama brings readers inside the Oval Office and the White House Situation Room, to Moscow, Cairo, Beijing and points beyond. We are privy to his thoughts as he assembles his cabinet, wrestles with a global financial crisis, takes the measure of Vladimir Putin, overcomes seemingly insurmountable odds to secure passage of the Affordable Care Act, clashes with generals about the US strategy in Afghanistan, tackles Wall Street reform, responds to the devastating Deepwater Horizon blowout and authorises Operation Neptune's Spear, which leads to the death of Osama bin Laden.

The memoir is intimate and introspective. It's the story of one man's bet with history, the faith of a community organiser tested on the world stage. Obama is candid about the balancing act of running for office as a Black American, bearing the expectations of a generation buoyed by messages of "hope and change" and meeting the moral challenges of high-stakes decision-making. He is frank about the forces that opposed him at home and abroad, open about how living in the White House affected his wife and daughters, and unafraid to reveal self-doubt and disappointment. Yet he never wavers from his belief that inside the great, ongoing American experiment, progress is always possible.

Said former President Obama, "There's no feeling like finishing a book and I am proud of this one. I've spent the last few years reflecting on my presidency and in *A Promised Land*, I've tried to provide an honest accounting of my presidential campaign and my time in office, the key events and people who shaped it, my take on what I got right and the mistakes I made, the political, economic and cultural forces that my team and I had to confront then. In the book, I've also tried to give readers a sense of the personal journey that Michelle and I went through during those years, with all the incredible highs and lows. And finally, at a time when America is going through such enormous upheaval, the book offers some of my broader thoughts on how we can heal the divisions in our country going forward and make our democracy work for everybody — a task that won't depend on any single president but on all of us as engaged citizens. Along with being a fun and informative read, I hope more than anything that the book inspires young people across the globe to take up the baton, lift up their voices and play their part in remaking the world for the better."

(*A Promised Land will be published on November 17.*)

Ayushmann in Time's list

Actor **Ayushmann Khurrana's** contribution as an actor to bring about social change through his films has been hailed by the Time magazine. He is among five Indians who have made the list of 100 Most Influential People in 2020, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Google CEO Sundar Pichai, London-based Indian origin doctor Ravindra Gupta who worked to find a cure for AIDS and Bilkis Dadi, who was at the forefront of Shaheen Bagh protests in Delhi against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

The National Award-winning actor has been listed in the Artists category, which also includes Oscar-winning Korean filmmaker Bong Joon-ho, *Fleabag* creator and star Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Hollywood star Michael B Jordan, besides pop music superstars Selena Gomez, J Balvin and Jennifer Hudson.

"I am truly humbled with the recognition that Time has bestowed on me. As an artiste, I have only looked to contribute towards bringing a positive change in society through cinema and this moment is a huge validation of my belief system and my journey,"



Ayushmann said.

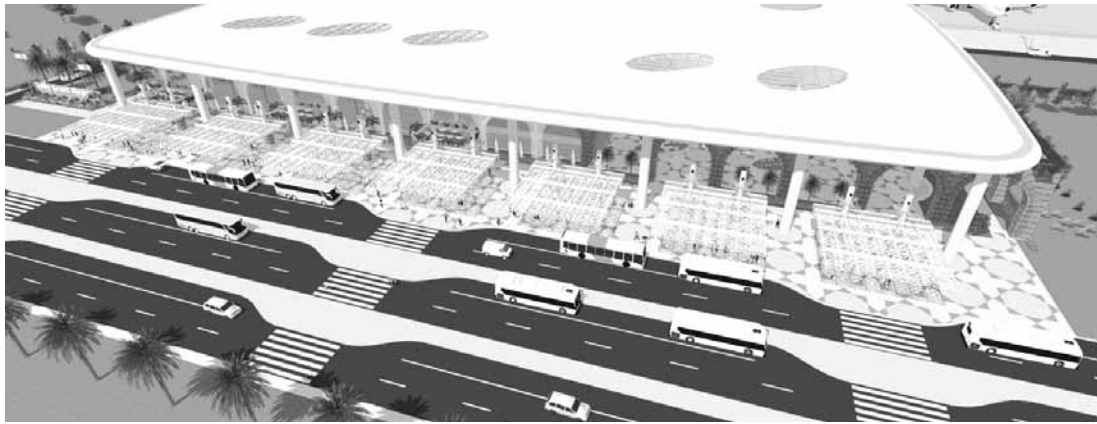
"I have always believed that cinema has the power to bring about change by triggering the right conversations among people and society. Hopefully, through my content choices, I have been able to contribute towards my country and countrymen," he added.

FLY MORE

AAI's Dehradun Airport gears up for a makeover and an enhanced passenger capacity eight times than before

To meet the expected growth of passenger footfall, AAI's Dehradun Airport is getting upgraded at the project cost of ₹353 crore. The first phase of development work includes construction of Domestic Terminal Building along with Utility Block, Car park, Sewage Treatment Plant, Rainwater Harvesting structures and other ancillary structures.

With an area of 42,776 sqm, the New Terminal Building will be able to welcome 1,800 passengers during the peak hours, thereby expanding the capacity of the airport eight times than before. The building will have a concourse, check-in area, security hold and arrival lounge at ground floor, security hold at first floor and other services and various offices at mezzanine floor. Equipped with 36 check-in counters and four aerobridges, the new terminal will have all the modern facilities like self check-in kiosks and inline baggage screening facility. Ample retail space spread in an area of 6,465 sqm is also planned, to help accelerate the gen-



eration of revenue and employment for local youth.

The design height of the building is optimally done to reduce the cost

of construction and operation. The building has been designed to provide passengers and visitors a sense of place highlighting the culture and her-

itage of Uttarakhand. Arched façade is inspired by the work featured at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun and the feature columns are inspired

by the form of Brahmakamal, the state flower of Uttarakhand.

The new building will also have eco-friendly sustainable features like double-curved roof to aid in rainwater harvesting, sewage treatment plant, solar power system, energy efficient fixtures and provision of maximum natural light through skylights.

The second phase of the development work will include shifting of operations from existing terminal building to the new one and construction of balance portion of terminal building along with integration of all the services and completion of balance works.

Almost 80 per cent of the development work has been completed and the project is likely to be completed by October 21.

GAIL's campaigns reach masses

GAIL (India) Limited undertook a number of digital initiatives to raise awareness about increasing air pollution and measures to fight the pandemic, which has now reached 20 million Indians in a short span.

It has been actively working towards educating the Indian masses about air pollution. Under these digital initiatives events, short films, contests, raahgiri, pledges, etc. were undertaken regarding problems caused due to air pollution to create awareness and change mindsets and that would lead to a greener and cleaner tomorrow.

They worked with hashtags like — #StayPositive, #SocialDistancing, #StayHome #StaySafe, #RukJanaNahin, #EnvironmentFriendlyLifestyleHabits, #GreenDriveWithNaturalGas, etc.

To contribute to the nationwide fight against COVID-19, GAIL employees working from home produced a song to create awareness on staying positive, social distancing, staying at home and staying safe. GAIL and its employees produced another music video titled, *Ruk Jana Nahin* for motivating themselves to kickstart their projects and also to acknowledge the efforts of the frontline warriors of COVID-19.

#WakeUpAndSmellTheChange online initiative aimed to spread the idea of appreciating and preserving the positive environmental changes occurred due to the lockdown. Through this initiative, the netizens were asked to take a pledge and sustain this change in future as well as with befitting lifestyle habits. Its #GreenDriveWithNaturalGas online initiative aimed to spread awareness about the use of natural gas as a fuel.

SHARP Business Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd announced the launch of PN-CD701, the world's first Windows collaboration display, which offers best-in-class environment for business meetings with better space utilisation and more productive collaboration with minimal setup.

The display has been specially designed keeping in mind the office and remote working requirement of corporates. The next-generation interactive display enables better space utilisation and more productive collaboration in meetings, board rooms and training rooms which would totally revolutionise the way official conferences are conducted whether working from home or office space. The display comes with certification from Microsoft and Skype for businesses.

Announcing the launch, Shinji Minatogawa, managing director, said, "SHARP has been known for its dedication to constantly developing innovative technologies to support the evolving needs of its customers. Our products not only offer improved technology and the latest features but also improve their quality of life. We have yet again delivered on this promise and offered our customers with the seamless all-in-one

A NOTCH HIGHER

SHARP, in association with Microsoft, has announced 4K Ultra-HD Windows Collaboration Display



solution that allows them to work comfortably and efficiently from anywhere in the world."

Besides the launch, SHARP has also rolled out a special, integrated package of workplace solutions keeping in mind the requirement of working professionals operating

remotely in the times of COVID-19. The package includes the Windows collaboration display along with a multi-functional printer — a Commercial Air Purifier and a Dynabook laptop. The package can benefit all work groups including startups but is in particular designed

Western Railway organises webinar

A first of its kind web-interaction was organised by Western Railway Sports Association (WRSA) to motivate the sportspersons of Western Railway. Tanuja Kansal, president of Western Railway Women Welfare Organisation (WRWWO) and Alok Kansal, general manager of Western Railway, attended as the chief guests. They interacted with sportspersons, coaches, captains and sports administrators of Western Railway Sports Association through the Webinar.

Five Arjuna awardees, 60 coaches, and 22 elite sportspersons took part in this interactive session. The web interaction was anchored by Raj Kumar Lal, president of WRSA and Sandeep Rajvanshy, general secretary of WRSA.

The webinar was organised as part of the 'Fit India Freedom Run'. Principal HODs, divisional railway

managers and other officers of Western Railway also joined. A short film about various infrastructure and allied facilities was showcased during the session, followed by a brief presentation on various activities of WRSA and profiles of 37 sports teams of Western Railway giving details of team members, captains and coaches.

Names like Gurbux Singh Grewal (Olympian bronze medalist, hockey), Balbir Singh Grewal (Asian Games hold medalist, hockey), Diana Edulji (Padamshree and Arjuna Award, cricket), Eliza Nelson (Padamshree Award, hockey), Selma D'silva (Padamshree Award, hockey) and Subhash Agarwal (runner-up in World Billiards



Championship) were talked about with great pride.

Kansal commended the sports personalities who have won laurels for the country, as well as for Railways. She further said that this was made possible only because of the talent developed by each individual, through their hard work and determination, which has made them champions today. She also gave credit to the parents of these sportspersons, who encouraged them to pursue their dreams and provided all the necessary support. She added that now it was the turn of railways to support them to reach

the pinnacle of their career in sports. She said that this could be fulfilled by achieving targets set by their coaches. She further encouraged women to pursue sports at a professional level. She emphasised on how a sportswoman plays dual role — that of a caring mother at home and an achiever in sports.

She said she is proud of the fact that many sportswomen of WR have won awards and medals. She was delighted that four of WR's women hockey players are presently undergoing training at Bengaluru for the Tokyo Olympic Games. She wished

them the very best for the Games.

As a gesture of appreciation, an award of ₹25,000 was announced for the welfare of WR's sportswomen, which will be used to set up locker sets for them. Many of WR's sportswomen from various sporting events have their practice sessions in WR's Mahalaxmi sportsground. The locker sets will be placed in the changing room at the pavilion at Mahalaxmi, which will benefit and be of great help to the sportswomen.

Kansal concluded, "Continuous effort is the key to unlocking one's potential, and success comes to those who refuse to give up. We have to believe in ourselves and follow the road to our dreams."

GREENER AND CLEANER

Municipal Commissioner MAHENDRA SINGH TANWAR, Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation, tells ASHOK NIRWAN about the major steps being adopted for the city's development

It has been more than a month that you took charge of the Municipal Corporation of Ghaziabad. What have been your observations about the city so far?

Well, I will not call them flaws, rather areas, which need improvement, where work needs to be done. Over the course of time, I have seen that scope of work in many fields.

Where did you see it the most?

The biggest problem in Ghaziabad is garbage disposal, for which we have prepared a complete action plan for permanent solution. A plan is being prepared to set up 10 garbage factories in five of the municipal corporation's zone cities — Kavi Nagar, Vijay Nagar, Mohan Nagar and Vasundhara areas. Here, five factories



garbage pickers will also get Ranj Gar in these factories. Here, these units will have a state-of-the-art machine for garbage disposal. This entire project will be operated at a corporate level. In January 2021, the first factory will be commissioned and handed over to the city.

Do you have any plans to make the city beautiful?

Of course, the target has been set to make the city clean and green in mission allocation. Vending zones will also be set up. Digital hoardings will not be installed in the city anymore. The variance of stray animals will be stopped as well as action is being taken to get rid of the problem of monkeys and stray dogs in resident areas.

What is the action plan to protect the property of the

Municipal Corporation from the land mafia?

After taking charge, I have inspected many places and made an action plan to save the assets of the corporation. With the removal of land from the possession of land mafia, the number of properties of the corporation which has been given on rent or lease is 1,200. Allottees who have sub-let these assets will be cancelled and all properties will be re-auctioned.

Also, the tax base will be increased so that the income of the municipal corporation can increase. The assets will be mailed to bring it into the tax net. As far as redeeming the land from land mafia is concerned, strict action will be taken against such people so that no one can muster the courage to commit such a crime again.

BITES to work on ₹475 crore railway electrification

RITES Ltd, Transport Infrastructure Consultancy and Engineering company, has been awarded a contract for Railway Electrification works on competition basis amounting to ₹475 crore.

An agreement will be signed between RITES and the concerned Railway in this regard in due course. This turn key contract majorly covers sections of Mavli-Bari Sadri for 82 RKM; Udaipur-Himmatnagar for 210 RKM; Bhatinda-Firozpur for 81 RKM; and Gulbarga-Bidar for 110 RKM of NWR, NR and SCR, respectively.

Rajeev Mehrotra, Chairman and Managing Director, RITES Limited, said, "These important additions to our order book will be executed on priority as these are a part of the key plan of railways for complete electrification."

KIIT honoured with Utkrisht Sansthan Vishwakarma Award

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) Deemed to be University has been honoured with the Utkrisht Sansthan Vishwakarma Award 2020 for its excellent performance in specific domains leading to significant contribution towards national growth and development.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has given this award to KIIT-DU for post COVID-19 redevelopment and rehabilitation plan. The award was presented in 13 different categories, while KIIT is the only institution in India to get the award in the category.

The AICTE had held a competition "AICTE-Vishwakarma Awards-2020" for the students and AICTE-approved institutes to encourage and motivate young students and institutions to raise their performance in their specific domains. AICTE



recognised and honoured the innovative work of the KIIT-DU for its social work during the COVID-19 pandemic. The awards were declared in the presence of Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union


Minister of Education; Professor Anil D Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE; Dr MP Poonia, Vice Chairman; Professor Rajive Kumar, Member Secretary and other eminent educationists and dignitaries.

IN SHORT



The *Swachhta Pakhwara* is being organised at various locations in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) premises till September 30. The Swachh Colony programme began at CLW on Sept 20 and ended yesterday. On the third day, the cleanliness drive was held in the various areas of CLW like Area 5, Area 6 and drains, wherein CEE/D&D, CMM/TM along with other officers, staff, vice wardens of Area 5 and Area 6 and cleanliness workers actively participated, maintaining all precautionary measures for COVID-19.

The third book, *Kashmir is Free Finally*, of the trilogy called *Kashmir is Free* has been published and releasing soon. The book carries forward the story from book one, which was out in August 2018. The book two, *Kashmir Thinks It's Free* (February 2019), looked at Kashmir's struggle to stand on its own feet amid challenges. In book three, the latest, the author examines India's dreams about Kashmir. As per the authors, Arun Kumar and Prasenjeet Kumar, the book three is a fictional peek into a not-too-distant future when many questions will get answered. The book is available in both print and e-book from online retailers like Amazon and Flipkart.





Chief Minister of Bihar Nitish Kumar inaugurated the beginning of the works of Patna Metro Rail Project on Tuesday. The Patna Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (PMRCL) has tied up with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for the execution of this project. The total network length comprises of 31 kilometres with 24 stations. Daljeet Singh, Director, Works/DMRC, was present on the occasion along with other officers.



The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), an autonomous body under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, M/o Social Justice and Empowerment organised a function today to celebrate the 'International Sign Language Day'. Chief Guest Shakuntala D Gamlin, Secretary, DEPwD and Dr Prabodh Seth, Joint Secretary, and Director, ISLRTC, were present. V Gopal Krishnan, General Secretary of All India federation of Deaf; A S Narayanan, President, National Association of the Deaf; and Dr Usha Punjabi, Vice President of All India Foundation of the Deaf, Women, were also present in this virtual event. The institute also declared the winners of the award of the Third Indian Sign Language Competition 2020, conducted at pan-Indian level through digital platform.

Josh Philippe is someone who has got so much talent. He can play a number of roles. We have seen how successful he can be at the top of the order (in Big Bash)

I've come in with some confidence through good performances this year, but also maybe putting less responsibility on myself than some other years

Malinga is like Pollard, has been a massive player for us. It was unfortunate that he couldn't make it due to personal reasons. That gives an opportunity to others

Samson takes the game head on and he hit some seriously good sixes. He has a positive intent and my role was to give him more strike. Fortunately it worked well



Sanju Samson in action against CSK | IPLT20.com

Sanju worked on fitness, power-hitting

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Convinced that possessing an array of shots is a must to go with power-hitting, wicket-keeper batsman Sanju Samson says he worked on these aspects during the coronavirus enforced break. The work done by Samson was there to be seen when he pulverised the Chennai Super Kings on Tuesday night, setting up a Rajasthan Royal's win with his blistering 32-ball 74-run knock, studded with nine sixes and a boundary. That he is an impact player is a known fact but his clean and elegant hitting earned praise from one and all. "I think range-hitting is what the game demands in this generation. I had time to work out in these 5 months, and I think I've increased that ability," Samson said at the post-match presentation. "I've been working hard on my fitness, diet and training, and on my strength, because my game relies a lot on power hitting," he added. Samson, who was adjudged Man-of-the-Match, said his plan is to go and hit all the deliveries in his arc. "My game plan is stand and deliver. It's in the arc I go for it, and it's very important to keep the intent to hit the ball if it's there to be hit.



PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Skipper Rohit Sharma pumelled the Kolkata Knight Riders bowling into submission and powered Mumbai Indians to an imposing 195 for five here on Wednesday. After Shivam Mavi (2/32) removed opener Quinton De Kock (1) cheaply, Rohit (80 off 54 balls; 3 fours, 6 sixes) and Suryakumar Yadav (47 off 28; 6 fours, 1 six) conjured 90 runs for the second wicket to pull the team out of trouble.

Pollard plays 150th game for Mumbai

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

At the 2010 IPL player auction, Mumbai Indians, Chennai Super Kings, Royal Challengers Bangalore and Kolkata Knight Riders were locked in a fierce bidding war for West Indies all rounder Kieron Adrian Pollard. Eventually, Mumbai Indians grabbed him for a whopping \$2.2 million. Since then, the Trinidadian has been a MI loyalist, and on Wednesday, he played his 150th IPL match for the four-time IPL champions.

Malinga's absence is opportunity for others

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

The absence of veteran pacer Lasith Malinga is an opportunity for others to step up, according to Mumbai Indians captain Rohit Sharma. The 37-year-old Malinga has been ruled out for the season and in his absence, MI relied upon James Pattinson and Jasprit Bumrah to deliver in the death overs. Rohit got going after smashing pacer Pat Cummins (0/49) for two maximums — both his trademark pull-short. With the two looking good and hitting sixes and fours at will, Mumbai raced to 94/1 after 10 overs. Kolkata, however, cut short Surya's stay when he was run out. Rohit continued his brutal onslaught against chinaman Kuldeep Yadav (0-39), smashing him for two maximums. Saurabh Tiwary (21), Hardik Pandya (18) played perfect second fiddle to Rohit, who literally bulldozed the opposition bowlers.

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



Mumbai Indians Windies all-rounder Kieron Pollard poses with his special shirt that was given to him prior to the start of the match as he steps on the field to play his 150th game for Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League | MI/Twitter

HOLDER REPLACES MITCHELL MARSH

Australian and Sunrisers Hyderabad all-rounder Mitchell Marsh was on Wednesday ruled out of the remainder of the IPL with an ankle injury he suffered in the team's opener against RCB. West Indies captain Jason Holder has been named as Marsh's replacement and is expected to join the Sunrisers squad soon in the UAE. "Mitchell Marsh has been ruled out due to injury. We wish him a speedy recovery. Jason Holder will replace him for #Dream11IPL2020," Sunrisers posted on its official Twitter handle.

Kings look to open account

PTI ■ DUBAI

Kings XI Punjab will look to put behind the controversial 'short run' decision in their IPL opener and start afresh when they take on Virat Kohli's buoyant Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Thursday. In their opening game against Delhi Capitals, the square-leg umpire erroneously called KXIP's Chris Jordan for a 'short run' in the third ball of the 19th over, effectively costing his team the closely fought game. KXIP went on to lodge an appeal to the match referee over the incident but on Thursday, KL Rahul and Co would like forget the unsavoury incident and focus on the task ahead. In contrast, RCB opened their campaign on a winning note defeating Sunrisers



Hyderabad by 10 runs, raising hopes that things might finally fall into place for them this season.

Devdutt Padikkal started his IPL career on a classy note hitting a sublime half-century and will once again be in focus, while AB de Villiers will also look to continue in the same vein following a crucial half-century. Both Kohli and Aaron Finch looked good on Monday night and would be itching to spend more time in the middle. Yuzvendra Chahal, as always, will be the key man in the RCB bowling attack. But Umesh Yadav continues to leak runs and going by his showing in the first game, he could be replaced by Mohammad Siraj. It remains to be seen if the team can fit in England all-rounder Moeen Ali in the middle-order. With Josh Philippe being chosen as the specialist wicketkeeper batsman to start with, Ali can

only replace Dale Steyn in the eleven. For KXIP, Mayank Agarwal looked in imperious touch but was gutted to not be able to get his team over the line with just one run required to win. Rahul, Glenn Maxwell and Nicholas Pooran will be expected to step up as they possess the ability to take away the game from any opposition. Big hitters Chris Gayle, who was left out of the opener for better balance in the eleven, could be back and batting all-rounder Jimmy Neesham could also be given a chance. KXIP's bowling is spearheaded by Mohammed Shami, who proved his high worth in the team's opener. Young leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi will go into the game more confident, having impressed against Delhi Capitals.

Batting at No 7 is not leading from front: Gambhir

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni did not lead from the front by dropping himself down the batting order during a mammoth chase, opined former India batsman Gautam Gambhir, tearing into CSK captain's decision to bat at number seven against Rajasthan Royals. The former India opener reckons that if any other captain had done this, he would have drawn a lot of flak but since it is Dhoni, people are not even talking about it. "I was a bit surprised to be honest. MS Dhoni batting at No 7? And sending (Ruturaj) Gaikwad, Sam Curran before him. Makes no sense to me. In fact you should be leading from the front," Gambhir told ESPNcricinfo's T20 Time Out. "This is not what you call leading from the front. Batting at No 7 when you're chasing 217. The game was over. Faf was probably the lone warrior," he said. "See, if someone else would have done this, some other (batsman) captain had batted at No 7, he would have got a lot of flak. It is MS Dhoni — probably that's why people don't talk

about it." The 38-year-old Gambhir, who played 58 Tests and 147 ODIs between 2003 and 2016, also questioned CSK's intent to win the game. "There is nothing wrong if you end up getting out early, at least start leading from the front, trying to inspire the team as well. What you did in the last over (hitting 3 sixes in last over), probably if you'd done that coming in at No 4 or 5, alongside Faf, you could have made a game out of it," said Gambhir. "Probably there was no such intent to make a game out of it. I thought after the (first) six overs, they had literally given up on the game. And probably MS was trying to get back into that match rhythm of batting till the end and get some runs under his belt so he can actually play these kind of innings in the coming games. "You've got to be in the present, try and win each game possible. I thought there was no intent to win the game and they were never there in the chase." On Dhoni hitting three sixes in the final over, Gambhir said, "Yes, you can talk about MS Dhoni's last over but it was of no use to be honest. It was

Dhoni will take some time to find form: Fleming

Sharjah: It will take some time to see MS Dhoni — the finisher, that everyone is waiting for, says Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming as his side fell short in its run chase against Rajasthan Royals despite having the former India captain at the crease. "We have this question every year. He was in the 14th over, which is pretty much optimal time, and sort of batted accordingly. He is coming back from not playing a huge amount of cricket," Fleming said at the post-match press conference. "So, the expectations to see him at his best is gonna take some time. But you see him towards the end, he was very good. Faf du Plessis carried the just all personal runs."

Gambhir said it was "absolute miscalculation" on the part of CSK to delay Dhoni's arrival at the crease. "When you don't have Suresh Raina, you're making people believe that Sam Curran is better than you. You're making people believe that Ruturaj Gaikwad, Curran, Kedar Jadhav, Faf du Plessis, M Vijay, all these guys, are better than you. "Probably not the right captaincy as well. This is not how you ask someone like MS to lead the side."



An opportunity to give medical service to India's lifeline

Selection of Nurses & Level I categories of Supporting staff, Multipurpose Hospital Assistants, House Keeping Assistants & HAs will be held through GeM



Northern Railway conducts a Walk-in-interview for engagement of CMPs for COVID Isolation wards of Northern Railway Central Hospital on contract basis

Ref:- This office notification of Even No. dated 19.06.2020, 02.07.2020, & 08.07.2020

In reference to the above subject & in continuation to the notifications referred above, it has been decided to proceed further with the recruitment with the revised modalities as under:

(i) The interviews for the post of CMPs shall be conducted on 29.09.2020. All the candidates who have applied for the posts of CMPs (Specialist) & CMPs(GDMOs) are directed to report to this Hospital on 29.09.2020 at 09:30 AM with all their original papers. List of candidates is annexed herewith indicating the time slots for their interview. They are advised to report only as per the time advised.

(ii) Regarding the category of Nurses & Level I categories of Supporting staff of Multipurpose Hospital Assistants, House Keeping Assistants & HAs (Dead body handlers) it is has been decided to cancel the recruitments to these categories through the process of Walk in interviews for engagement on contract basis and, in compliance of the Railway Board's policy directives issued under their letter No. 2019/RS(M)/GeM dated 22.07.2020 and 2020/RS(G)/779/3 dated 17.06.2020, **to proceed for procuring these services through Government e-Marketplace (GeM).**

(iii) All these revisions have been directed with a view to maintain the social distancing norms & to give effect to Railway Board policies on the subject.

(iv) All concerned candidates are advised to note these instructions carefully and comply accordingly.

(v) These instructions are issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

No. 752 E/Contract/COVID/NRCH/2020
Date: 21.09.2020


(Seema V Verma) Senior Personnel Officer
For Chief Medical Director

INTERVIEW TIME TABLE-Contract Medical Practitioner -COVID WARD-NRCH				
CATEGORY NO	CATEGORY	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	DATES OF INTERVIEW	TIME SLOTS & NO. OF INTERVIEWS
01	CMP (SPECIALISTS)	06	29.09.2020	10 HRS TO 13 HRS=S.No. 1 to 14 BREAK 13 HRS-14 HRS 14 HRS TO 17 HRS = S.No. 15 to 28
02	CMP (GDMO)	22		

S. No.	Name of doctor	F/H name	APPLIED FOR	Time Slots for interview
1.	Dr. Vishal Gupta	Sh. Shriniwas Gupta	CMP/Specialist MD Pediatrics	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
2.	Dr. Vikram Vinayek	Mr. Manjeet K. Vinayek	CMP/Specialist DTCD (Applied for GDMO also)	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
3.	Dr. Atul Kumar	Mr. Surendra Kumar Yadav	CMP/Specialist DNB ORTH	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
4.	Dr. Munmun Kumar	Mr. Ram Kumar Bhadeshwar	CMP/Specialist	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
5.	Dr. Charu	Mr. S.C. Khurana/Rajesh Kumar	GDMO/Specialist DGO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
6.	Dr. Harnish Vohra	Mr. Mangatram Vohra	CMP/Specialist/DTCD	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
7.	Dr. Priyanka K. Sharma	Sh. Amanpriya Khanna	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
8.	Dr. Rishabh Bhardwaj	Sh. Surendra Pathak	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
9.	Dr. Nirav J. Barasiya	Sh. Jasmatbhai N. Barasiya	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
10.	Dr. Somveer Singh Chaudhary	Sh. Mahender Singh	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
11.	Dr. Mahesh Manikrao Dahiphale	Sh. Manik	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
12.	Dr. Shubham Gupta	Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
13.	Dr. Chandan Kumar Mishra	Sh. Pramod Kumar Mishra	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
14.	Dr. Mozahir Anwar	Md. Monawwar Hassan	GDMO	10 HRS TO 13 HRS
BREAK 13:00 HRS TO 14:00 HRS				
15.	Dr. Prag Kalra	Late Sh. Ashok K. Kalra	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
16.	Dr. Gaurav Sharma	Mr. Upendra Kumar Sharma	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
17.	Dr. Nola Ram Legha	Mr. Gangu Ram	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
18.	Dr. Shankar Prasad Singh	Mr. Arjun Prasad	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
19.	Dr. Aas Mohamad	Mr. Rahim Khan	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
20.	Dr. Javed Khan	Mr. Navrangra Khan	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
21.	Dr. Sahil Tariq	Mr. Tariq Badar	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
22.	Dr. Komal Saini	Mr. Sanjay Saini	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
23.	Dr. Asif Ansari	Mr. Abdul Waheed Ansari	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
24.	Dr. Anuj Dixit	Mr. Arun Kumar Dixit	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
25.	Dr. Reena Gupta	Mr. Punnet Gupta	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
26.	Dr. Devika Khatri	Mr. R.K. Khatri	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
27.	Dr. Kajal Dande	Dr. H.K. Dande	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS
28.	Dr. Mohit Kumar Gera	Mr. Rajesh Gera	GDMO	14 HRS TO 17 HRS



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