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ENGLAND
WIN T20 SERIES

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DOLLY KITTY IS RAW AND REAL: BHUMI 10 VIVACITY

Rhea confesses to drug deal

She claims she used to procure drugs through her brother for Sushant, NCB to confront her with Showik today; her lawyer says Rhea is ready for arrest

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After her father Indrajit Chakraborty claimed that his family had been "effectively demolished" and lawyer Satish Maneshinde said that his client was being subjected to "witch-hunt" and she was "ready" for arrest, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Sunday grilled actress Rhea Chakraborty for six hours in connection with a drug case registered in connection with actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

A day after it told the city court that it would have to confront Showik Chakraborty with her elder sister (Rhea) and the late actor's domestic help Dipesh Sawant — who is in now in the agency's custody, the NCB began to look into the "specific roles/ingredients of conspiracy theory, abetments and various attempts to commit offences" by questioning Rhea for six hours. She has been called by the NCB for questioning once again on Monday.

At Monday's questioning, Rhea is likely to be confronted with her younger brother Showik, the late actor's house manager Samuel Miranda and Sawant.

Showik, Samuel and Sawant, who was arrested on Saturday night, have been booked under 20 (b) and other sections of the Narcotics Drugs



Rhea Chakraborty outside NCB office after being summoned for questioning in connection with a drug case related to the death of Sushant Singh Rajput, at Ballard Estate in Mumbai, on Sunday

and Psychotropic Substances (NPDS) Act.

Rhea — whose brother Showik was arrested along with late actor's house manager Samuel Miranda by the NCB on Friday night — reportedly admitted that she was procuring drugs for Sushant through her arrested brother (Showik). She is understood to have acknowledged that she knew about Samuel purchasing drugs for the actor from drug peddler Zaid.

Informed agency sources said that the investigators questioned her about the WhatsApp exchanges between Rhea and others that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had shared with the CBI and NCB alleging "procuring and usage" of drugs. It was on the basis of this WhatsApp message trail that the ED had joined the investigations on August 26 into the allegations that Sushant's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty used to procure banned drugs ille-

gally from dealers and administer them to the late actor. It may be recalled that the messages accessed by a few television channels on August 25-26, Rhea talks about drugs and in a chat between her and Gaurav Arya who is allegedly a drug dealer, Rhea writes: "In case we speak about hard drugs, I haven't been doing too much. Tried MDMA once". In another message sent to Gaurav Arya, she asks: "You have MD?". In the first chat message,

Miranda writes to Rhea "Hi Rhea, the stuff is almost over". In the next message, Jaya Saha tells Rhea: "Use 4 drops in tea, let him sip it... Give it 30-40 mins to kick in". Then, there emerges a message in a chat between Rhea & Jaya Saha: "I have asked him to coordinate with Shruti (Modi) & reach it up". In yet another message, Rhea writes to Jaya Saha "Thank you so much" Reply from Jaya: "No problem bro, hope it helps".

In the seventh and last accessed chat message, Miranda writes to Rhea: "Should we take it from Showik's friend? But he has just hash & bud".

The WA chat messages hint at the fact that Rhea was allegedly procuring drugs for use by the actor.

On her part, Rhea had earlier denied consuming drugs and said that she was prepared for a drug test anytime. She, however, admitted that Sushant used to take marijuana and despite her efforts, she could not control him.

Rhea, who was mentally prepared for her possible arrest by the NCB, walked into the NCB's Zonal Office on the third floor of the Exchange Building at Ballard Estate in south Mumbai, around 12 noon. The actress was at the investigating agency's office till 6 pm.

Continued on Page 2

India replaces Brazil for 2nd Covid spot

India is now around 22L cases behind USA, which has a total of around 64 lakh cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After a relentless month-long surge, India on Sunday pipped Brazil to the second spot in the list of nations worst-affected by Covid-19.

The reports that India occupied the second spot on Saturday was misleading because Brazil's tally was updated well after midnight, hours after last of the Indian States reported their daily surge.

Exactly one month ago — on August 6 — India had 20.25 lakh cases and Brazil 29.17 lakh cases. In thirty days, India overcame this 9 lakh difference by recording an average of nearly 30,000 cases more on a daily basis to end on Sunday with a caseload of over 42 lakh.

India is now around 22 lakh cases behind the USA, which had a total of around 6.4 million cases. The USA is recording around 45,000 cases daily, which around 35,000 to 45,000 less than India. With this sort of acceleration, India should be able to now occupy the top spot in the world in the next two months, if not earlier. India added the maximum number of cases in the world during the last one month. While the country added nearly 22 lakh cases between August 6 and September 6, during the same period the USA added around 15 lakh cases and the Brazil recoded a total of 13 lakh cases.

Continued on Page 2

Arjun Kapoor tests positive for Covid-19

Mumbai: Actor Arjun Kapoor on Sunday said he has tested positive for Covid-19 and is asymptomatic. The 35-year-old actor said he is "feeling ok" and will be under home quarantine. "It is my duty to inform all of you that I have tested positive for coronavirus. I'm feeling ok and I'm asymptomatic."

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 42,02,562
DEATHS: 71,687
RECOVERED: 32,47,297
ACTIVE: 8,82,955

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	9,07,212	26,604	6,44,400
Andhra Pradesh	4,98,125	4,417	3,94,019
Tamil Nadu	4,63,480	7,839	4,04,186
Karnataka	3,98,551	6,393	2,92,873
Uttar Pradesh	2,66,283	3,920	2,00,738
Delhi	1,91,449	4,567	1,65,973
West Bengal	1,80,788	3,562	1,54,008
Bihar	1,47,658	754	1,30,300
Telangana	1,40,969	886	1,07,530
Assam	1,25,460	360	96,824
Odisha	1,24,031	599	96,364
Gujarat	1,04,341	3,106	84,858
Rajasthan	90,956	1,137	74,861
Kerala	87,842	348	64,751
Haryana	76,549	806	60,051
Madhya Pradesh	73,574	1,572	55,887

CRPF's social media guidelines against cyber foes

Cops banned from posting Govt emblems, op location, weapons, personal information

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The CRPF has issued a detailed set of guidelines with do's and don'ts to its personnel to avoid being targeted on social media platforms by counterintelligence operations or cyber attackers from hostile foreign Governments or radical outfits inimical to India.

Apart from other things, the personnel have been asked not to post Government emblems, weapons or back-

ground photographs of operational locations on social media platforms.

The Paramilitary personnel have been asked not to share personal information that scam artists or identity thieves could use and manipulate. The personnel are not supposed to use photographs with identity cards or clothing accessories that can reveal information about the organisation.

The personnel have also been advised against sharing classified information obtained through official channels or otherwise on such social media tools.

"Do not use

ethnic slurs, personal insults, obscenity, or engage in any conduct that would not be acceptable as a Government servant, including gossips about work and colleagues," says the guidelines issued by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) along with a separate set on guidelines on use of smartphones in the Paramilitary offices across the country.

The personnel have been barred from sharing on social media applications even unclassified reports especially about

manpower issues, promotions, local orders and the like as the same can give an opportunity to the adversaries in gathering intelligence.

The men and officials have further been cautioned against uploading photos in uniform or profile picture on WhatsApp/Facebook and any other social sites. They are also not supposed to upload pictures with weapons on such sites even in civil dress.

The paramilitary personnel have also been advised against accepting friend requests from unknown or use official details and official email addresses for opening accounts on social media.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

DELHI METRO TO RESUME OP TODAY AFTER 169-DAYS

New Delhi: After being closed for over five months due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Delhi Metro is all set to resume services in three stages from Monday, even as it appealed to people to use the rapid transport only if urgently needed.

'DAWOOD'S MAN' CALLS UP MAHA CM'S HOUSE

Mumbai: An unidentified man allegedly called up Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's personal residence 'Matoshree' in Bandra here, saying that he was calling from Dubai on behalf of fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, a police official said on Sunday.

ISKCON cancels order for Chinese marble statues amid national mood

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) has decided not to procure four marble statues of horses from Chinese firm for its under construction temple in Kurukshetra in view of anti-China sentiments. The management is negotiating with Indonesia for the same.

The negotiation with a Chinese company was almost done before the ISKCON decided to shelve the plan. The ISKCON is the first religious organisation which cancels its order in view of the

Chinese attempt to change the status of the LAC.

According to Gobind Gopal Das, who is looking after the construction of Kurukshetra's ISKCON temple, the quality of Indonesian marble is better. "The decision was taken not to import marble horses from Chinese firms keeping in view of the ongoing anti-China sentiments in the country," he said.

The statue of each horses will be 34 feet tall and 41 metres long and it will cost ₹1 crore each. The ISKCON, which is constructing a massive Krishna temple in Kurukshetra at a cost of ₹100 crore, has not

completed nearly 60-65 per cent of the project.

The construction of the temple complex began in 2018 and it will be completed in 2022. It is being built on six acres and the temple itself will be spread over 23,000 square feet with three storeys and height of 165 feet. It will have the world's biggest Bhagawad Gita, a multimedia centre in which the Mahabharata will be played for devotees, a library which will have all scriptures, Govinda's restaurant (a chain of ISKCON), 75-room guest house, art gallery, spiritual gift shop, supermarket and cafe.

Edneer Swami Kesavananda behind SC 'basic structure of Constitution' ruling no more

PNS ■ KOCHI

Swami Kesavananda Bharati, pontiff of the Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district of Kerala, breathed his last in the wee hours of Sunday. He was 79. The cremation was held on the Mutt premises on the banks of River Madhu Vahini in Kasaragod.

The Swami's name became synonymous with the Constitution of India as he had waged one of the longest legal wars against the Centre in

1971 when he was hardly 21.

The Supreme Court ruled on April 24, 1973 that the "basic structure" of the Constitution is inviolable, and cannot be amended by Parliament.

He questioned the Constitutionality of certain amendments brought in by the Government of Kerala under the Land Reforms Act which robbed the Mutt of large tracts of land.

Continued on Page 2

EX-SP MLA beaten to death in land dispute

FIANS ■ LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Former Independent MLA Nirvendra Kumar Munna was beaten to death in a land dispute in Lakhimpur on Sunday.

Nirvendra Kumar Munna had been elected from the Nighasan Assembly seat as an independent legislator in 1989 and 1991 and in 1993 on the Samajwadi Party ticket.

The land in question is located near the bus station and the matter is in court.

According to reports, the other group came to forcibly occupy the land and the former legislator resisted the attempt after which the opposite party, led by one Kishan Kumar Gupta, beat him and his son Sanjeev Kumar Munna with 'lathis'.

The former legislator was seriously injured and succumbed to injuries on way to hospital while his son has been admitted to the hospital in a critical condition.

Continued on Page 2

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Zindagi ke saath bhi, Zindagi ke baad bhi.

India, China Brigade Commander-level talks held sans outcome

LADAKH STANDOFF

New Delhi: Indian and Chinese militaries on Sunday held another round of talks in eastern Ladakh in an attempt to calm tensions even as the situation remained "delicate" with both sides further rushing in additional troops and weapons following last week's confrontations, government sources said.

The nearly four-hour brigade commander-level interaction near Chushul could not produce any tangible outcome, they said.

The sources said the Indian Army has been on a very high level of alert and is ready to deal with any eventuality in the area.

The overall situation in the region continued to be delicate, they said.

Tension escalated in the region after Indian troops foiled attempts by Chinese military to occupy Indian territories in the southern bank of Pangong lake area on the intervening night of August 29 and 30.

Following the confrontation, India occupied a number of strategic heights in the Chushul sector overlooking crucial bases of the Chinese military. Since then, China has deployed additional troops, tanks and anti-tank guided missiles in the area.

India too has strengthened its combat capabilities following reinforcements by the Chinese People's Liberation

behaviour and attempts to alter the status quo in Ladakh were in violation of bilateral pacts.

He also told Wei that China must strictly respect the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and not make attempts to unilaterally change its status quo.

Sources said that Singh told Wei firmly that India will not "cede an inch of land" and is determined to protect the integrity and sovereignty of the country at "all cost". On Monday, the Indian Army said the Chinese military carried out "provocative military movements" to "unilaterally" change the status quo on the southern bank of Pangong lake on the intervening night of August 29 and 30 but the attempt was thwarted by the Indian troops.

The two sides were earlier engaged in a confrontation on the northern bank of Pangong lake but it was for the first time such an incident occurred on its southern bank.

There have been reports that China has deployed J-20

long-range fighter jets and several other key assets in strategically located Hotan airbase which is around 310 kms from eastern Ladakh.

In the last three months, the IAF deployed almost all its frontline fighter jets like Sukhoi 30 MKI, Jaguar and Mirage 2000 aircraft in the key frontier air bases in eastern Ladakh and elsewhere along the LAC. The fresh attempt by China to change the status quo in the Pangong lake area is the first major incident in the area after the Galwan Valley

clashes on June 15 in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed.

China also suffered casualties but is yet to make the details public. According to an American intelligence report, it was 35.

India and China have held several rounds of military and diplomatic talks in the last two-and-a-half months but no significant headway has been made for a resolution to the border row in eastern Ladakh.

RECORD 23,350 TEST +VE IN MAHA, 328 DIE

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



Anxiety gripped the state health circles on Sunday, as Maharashtra logged an all-time high of 23,350 infections, while 328 more people succumbed to the pandemic in various parts of the state.

There was a spike in the number of infections in the state for the fifth consecutive day. Through Sunday's tally of 23,350, the state surpassed Saturday's high of 20,489. With the fresh infections, the total number of positive cases crossed 9 lakh mark to touch 907,212.

With 328 deaths reported on Sunday, the Covid-19 toll mounted from 26,276 to 26,604.

Of the total 328 deaths, Pune topped the list with 52

deaths, while there were 42 deaths in Sangli, 37 in Mumbai, 29 in Thane, 22 in Nagpur, 15 in Solapur, 13 in Jalgaon, 12 in Satara and 11 in Osmanabad.

Similarly, there were 10 deaths in Raigad, 9 each in Palghar, Nashik and Nanded, 8

each in Ahmednagar and Kolhapur, 7 in Beed, 6 each in Latur and Amravati, 4 each in Aurangabad and Parbhani, 3 in Washim, 2 each in Jalna, Buldhana and Chandrapur and one death each in Dhule, Nandurbar, Wardha and

Gondia. In addition, two persons from other states/counties died in Maharashtra.

There was a sharp spurt in deaths in Sangli, Nagpur, Solapur, and Jalgaon, while seven districts in the state reported zero deaths.

With 37 deaths, Mumbai's Covid-19 toll went up from 7,832 to 7,869, while the number of infections shot up by a staggering 1,910 - which incidentally is the highest till date - to touch 155,622.

Pune district with 1,99,303 infected cases continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra. The number of deaths in Pune increased from 4377 to 4429.

Thane district remained on the third spot - after Pune and Mumbai - with 1,43,178 total cases, while the pandem-

ic toll rose from 3935 to 3964.

In a related development, as many as 7826 patients were discharged from hospitals in the state after full recovery. As a result, the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year, touched 6,44,400. The recovery rate stood at 72.03 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 2.93 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 2,35,857.

Out of 46,47,742 samples sent to laboratories, 9,07,212 have tested positive (19.52 per cent) for COVID-19 until Sunday. Currently, 14,96,072 people are in home quarantine while 38,509 people are in institutional quarantine.

Caller threatens to blow up Maha CM's house, security stepped up

Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's personal residence 'Matoshree' in Bandra here has received calls in which the caller allegedly threatened to blow it up, the CMO said in a statement on Sunday.

According to police, 'Matoshree' received two calls on Saturday night from a man, who said he was calling from Dubai on behalf of fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim. Following this, the police have beefed up security at the bungalow located in Kalanagar Colony, a police official said.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said the state cabinet, which met here on Sunday on the eve of the two-day monsoon session of state legislature, expressed concern over the threat call and sought Centre's intervention in the matter.

State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh told the cabinet

that the crime branch was investigating the matter.

"State CM Uddhav Thackeray's residence 'Matoshree' received anonymous threat call that it would be blown up. The state cabinet which met today, expressed concern over it and condemned it," the CMO statement said.

"The cabinet sought the Centre's intervention in the case. The ministers said the guilty should be brought to book and strict action should be taken," it added.

A police official said, "Someone called up on 'Matoshree' phone number two times on Saturday night and said Dawood Ibrahim wanted to talk to CM Uddhav Thackeray. However, the telephone operator did not transfer the call to the CM."

"The caller did not reveal his identity, but only said that he was calling from Dubai on behalf of Dawood Ibrahim.

Both the calls were received around 10.30 pm," he said.

The local police were later informed about the calls, following which extra security force was deployed outside the bungalow, the official added.

According to him, no case was registered in this connection.

Talking to PTI, a top police official said, "We are trying to verify whether the calls received were from Dubai or some other place. Investigation is on." State Transport Minister Anil Parab, however, dismissed reports that the caller gave a threat to blow up the chief minister's residence.

"There was no threat to blow up 'Matoshree'," he said.

"As per the preliminary information, the caller said he was Dawood Ibrahim's aide and wanted to speak to the chief minister. Police have been informed about the calls and a probe is on," the Shiv Sena leader said.

Chirag Paswan slams Nitish ahead of LJP meet to decide ties with JD(U)

New Delhi: The Lok Janshakti Party will hold a crucial meeting of its Bihar leaders on Monday to decide whether to fight against the JD(U) in the upcoming State Assembly polls amid worsening ties between the two members of the ruling NDA.

On the eve of the meeting, LJP president Chirag Paswan fired yet another salvo at JD(U) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, saying his decision to provide government jobs to kin of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community members who were killed is "nothing but an election-related announcement".

In a letter to the Bihar chief minister, he accused Kumar of not fulfilling earlier promises made to SCs and STs, including giving them three dismil of land.

The LJP president said that "if the Nitish Kumar government was sincere", it should give jobs to a family member of all those from the communities who were killed during its 15-year rule.

The LJP, whose main face is Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan, and the JD(U) have been sniping at each other for months.

Kumar's decision to join hands with former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, a Dalit leader like the Paswans with a history of targeting the LJP, has

BIHAR ASSEMBLY POLLS

with their maiden majority.

While BJP leaders, including its national president J P Nadda, have been insisting that all three NDA parties will fight the upcoming polls together, sources said a sense of unease has crept in, with Kumar working to strengthen his position by actively wooing leaders from the RJD and tying up with Manjhi.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that construction of an international airport at Kushinagar would speed up tourism in this region which in turn would usher in development in the eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The chief minister along with Union Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri reviewed the ongoing construction of the international airport in Kushinagar. This will be the

'Kushinagar airport will boost tourism'

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

fourth international airport in Uttar Pradesh. Lucknow and Varanasi already have international airports while work is in progress at Jewar.

"Kushinagar is the gateway of Buddhist circuit and we can expect tourists from far-flung areas like Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia to come and visit the places of Buddhism like Sarnath, Shravasti, Lumbini, Gaya and Kushinagar. This will give an impetus to tourism," Yogi said.

Further soured their ties.

While aiming at Kumar, Chirag Paswan has refrained from attacking the BJP and has even been lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

One of the options that Union minister Ram Vilas Paswan's party, now headed by his son Chirag Paswan, may consider is to remain a part of the BJP-led NDA at the Centre but to fight outside its fold in the state, while not contesting against the saffron party, sources said.

It may be noted that the LJP had in February 2005

LJP meet today to decide whether to contest against JD(U) in Bihar polls

New Delhi: The Lok Janshakti Party is holding a crucial meeting of its Bihar leaders on Monday to decide whether to fight against the JD(U) in the upcoming state assembly polls amid worsening ties between the two members of the ruling NDA.

The LJP put up candidates against the RJD while maintaining its ties with the Congress. This had led to the formation of a hung assembly in the state, ending Lalu Prasad Yadav's RJD's 15-year rule, and another assembly poll held a few months later saw the Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) and BJP alliance storming to power

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Rhea confesses to drug deal

From Page 1

"We have recorded Rhea Chakraborty's statement. But, because of her late arrival today, the investigation could not be completed. So, she has been summoned tomorrow as well," NCB's Zonal Director, Sameer Wankhede said.

Earlier in the morning, an NCB team - comprising among others Wankhede and a lady official had gone to fetch Rhea from her home at PrimRose Apartments at Juhu-Santacruz. However the actress opted to go in her own car along with a Mumbai Police escort.

That Rhea's family was reconciled to the possibility of the actress being arrested during the course of her questioning could be evidenced from the statements made by her father Indrajit Chakraborty and lawyer Satish Maneshinde ahead of her joining the investigations at the NCB.

Accusing the investigating agencies of "effectively demolishing" his family ("a middle-class family"), Lt Col (retd)

Indrajit said: "Congratulations India, you have arrested my son, I'm sure next on the line is my daughter and I don't know who is next thereafter. You have effectively demolished a middle-class family. But of course, for the sake of justice, everything is justified. Jai Hind."

Simultaneously, Maneshinde caused a flutter in the media by saying that his client Rhea "is ready for arrest as this is a witch hunt and if loving someone is a crime, she will face the consequences of her love."

"Being innocent, she has not approached any court for anticipatory bail in all the cases foisted by Bihar Police now with CBI, ED and NCB," Maneshinde said.

The statements by Rhea's father Indrajit and lawyer Maneshinde appeared like an effort on their part to mount pressure on the NCB to go slow on the arrest of the actress.

In an application filed before a city court on Saturday seeking the remand of Showik and Samuel, the NCB had said, "He (Showik) has to be confronted with Dipesh Sawant and Rhea Chakraborty also, as

there are specific roles/ingredients of conspiracy theory, abetments and various attempts to commit offences".

The remand application had also given indications about the NCB's line of investigations, when the agency stated that "the financial trail of all their previous transactions of drug purchase has to be verified.... Further some characters are to be verified, who as per CDR analysis, WhatsApp chat and preliminary interrogation are deeply entrenched in the drug trafficking, which is a serious threat to public safety and public health".

While seeking the custody of Showik and Samuel, the NCB had also made a startling claim in its remand application filed before a metropolitan court here on Saturday that the "drug angle" in the Sushant death case "is highly substantive" and "needs to be investigated thoroughly so as to uproot the drug citadel in Mumbai especially in Bollywood".

Showik's involvement emerged after the NCB Mumbai and New Delhi teams on August 28 arrested Abbas R Lakhani and Karn V Arora

India... relatively fewer fatalities in comparison to Brazil and the USA.

From Page 1

India is now adding nearly 33 per cent of total daily cases, which means out of every three cases recorded in the world one is from India. On Saturday, the world recorded around 27 lakh new cases with India's bringing in the lion's share of 90,000 plus cases.

However, India can have the satisfaction of recording

from old Kurla and Chandivali, Powai, each with possession of 46 gms of marijuana/ganja and 13 gms, respectively.

The two alleged drug peddlers disclosed the involvement of Zaid Vilatra whose home was raided to unearth Rs 9.50 lakh, USD-2,081, 180 British Pounds and UAE 15 Dirhams which they confessed were the proceeds of sale of drugs like marijuana/ganja/bud to many people in the city.

Vilatra was arrested on September 2 and remanded to custody for 7 days by the same court, and during interrogation, he revealed the names of a buyer Abdel Basit Parihar, who was arrested on September 3.

The roles of Rhea's brother Showik Chakraborty and his purported links with people nabbed by NCB are under the

scanner of the NCB.

Rhea, her parents Indrajit and Sandhya Chakraborty, her brother Showik, Sushaan's ex-manager Shruti Manager Shruti Modi and others have been named in an FIR lodged by the actor's father KK Singh with Rajiv Nagar police station in Patna. It was on the basis of this FIR that the Supreme Court ordered the transfer of the Sushant Singh Rajput death case to the CBI on August 19.

Rhea, her parents, her brother and others have been booked as part of this FIR under sections 341 (wrongful restraint) 342 (wrongful confinement), 380 (theft), 406 (breach of trust), 420 (cheating), 306 (abetting suicide) and 120-B (conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code. The CBI, ED and NCB are investigating the case from different angles.

and the USA, there is no sign that India is going to peak out any sooner.

With several States, especially Delhi showing signs of a second wave, and Maharashtra registering new single day spike on a daily basis, India could soon start recording more than one lakh cases in every 24 hours. That could be a scary situation at a time when metro trains, bars and restaurants are going to be opened across the country.

GDL Leasing & Finance Limited R.O. :- 8391 Asha Tower, Phase-II New Delhi-110052

CIN: L74900DL1994PLC057197

Notice of 27th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that 27th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of the Co. will be held on **Wednesday, the 30th Sept 2020 at 9.00 A.M.** at **Kaara No. 104 Palla Ganga Delhi-110028** to transact the business mentioned in the Notice of AGM and for such other business as may come before the AGM. The AGM shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company.

Further, pursuant to section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 the register of members & transfer book will remain closed from **Thursday, 24th Sept, 2020 to Wednesday, 30th Sept, 2020** (both days inclusive) for the purpose of 27th AGM.

In pursuance of section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rule 20 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended & Regulation 17 of the SEBI (LODR) Regulation 2015, the Co. is providing e-voting facility to its Members as provided by CDSL, or its resolution as set out in the Notice of 27th AGM. Members of the Co. may transact business through e-voting by electronic means.

1. The e-voting facility commences from 09.00 a.m. on Sunday, 27th Sept 2020 & will end at 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 29th Sept 2020 for all shareholders.

2. The cut-off date to determine eligibility to cast votes by electronic voting is Wednesday, 23rd Sept 2020.

3. A person, who acquires shares & become shareholders of the Co. after the date of notice & holding shares as of cut-off date, is not eligible to exercise e-voting by obtaining login - id & password by sending an email to helpdesk.evoting@indiaonline.com by mentioning their folio no./DP ID & Client ID No. However if such shareholder is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting then e-voting user id & password can be used for remote e-voting.

4. Facility for voting through ballot paper shall also be made available at the AGM. Members attending the meeting who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting, shall be able to exercise their right at the meeting.

5. Notice of 27th AGM is available on company website www.gdlfinance.com and on the website of CDSL - www.evotingindia.com.

6. A person, whose name recorded in the register of members of the Co. is the registered beneficial owners maintained by the depository, is not eligible to exercise e-voting by obtaining login - id & password by sending an email to helpdesk.evoting@indiaonline.com by mentioning their folio no./DP ID & Client ID No. However if such shareholder is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting then e-voting user id & password can be used for remote e-voting.

7. In case you have any queries or issues regarding e-voting, kindly email your queries asked question to evoting@gdlfinance.com or evoting@indiaonline.com, under help section or Email helpdesk@indiaonline.com or call 1800-209-5533 or Deepak Kumar Gangwani, Whole Time Director of the Company at deepak.gangwani@yafino.com or 011-27435354

For GDL Leasing & Finance Limited

Date: 05.09.2020

Place: New Delhi

Sd/- Deepak Kumar Gangwani
Whole Time Director / Chairman

Metro set to resume ops today with all Covid protocols in place

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is all set to resume its services on Monday, almost six months after it was suspended due to a coronavirus pandemic.

On Monday and Tuesday, only the yellow line, covering 49 kilometre with 37 stations consisting of 20 underground and 17 elevated stations, will remain operational for a period of four hours each in the morning from 7 am to 11 am and evening from 4 pm to 8 pm. The same will be further extended in a graded manner from 9th to 12th September along with other Lines.

People have been advised to avoid unnecessary travel as far as possible and advised to stagger travel timings for office, home, other works to the extent possible so that the carrying capacity offered with new norms can be reasonably utilized by creating a travel pattern in which people are not rushing to the station in morning or peak hours only.

"DMRC appeals to commuters to 'Talk Less' during travel in the Metro to prevent the possibility of short-range aerosol transmission," DMRC said in a statement.

It further said that the resumption of services with a new normal to prevent the spread of Covid-19 desires public to understand and co-operate with personnel for a comfortable and safe commuting experience.



"To maintain orderliness and regulate flow of passengers with social distancing norms, only one or two gates will be kept open for entry/exit of passengers at a station. Therefore, passengers are advised to check the earmarked gate number well in advance from DMRC website www.delhimetrorail.com," it said.

Apart from regular front-line staff at the stations, DMRC has made additional deployment of around 1000 officials across the lines to assist and guide passengers in the wake of

new norms of metro travel which may take some time to settle in, it said, adding that all staff have been advised to manage the passengers with a positive and caring attitude in these testing times with initial focus on sensitising rather than punitive, on new norms to be followed continuously during the journey for their own and everyone's safety.

"Tokens will not be available at the stations for the time being as they need frequent human interface for travel transactions and pose a risk of Coronavirus infection so a smart card is must for travel, it

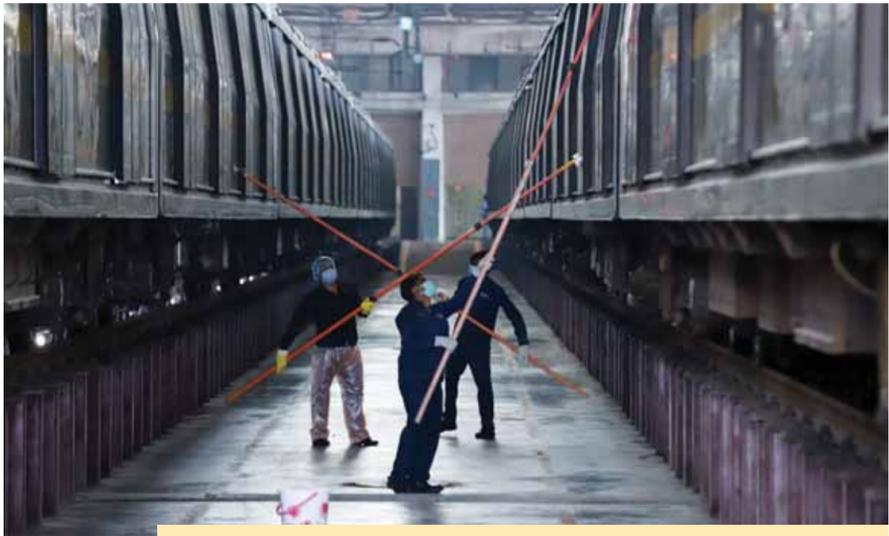
said, adding that for ensuring better management of crowd at/outside stations, DMRC is also in touch with the authorities to provide around 1000 civil defence volunteers..

"Delhi Metro will not be providing services to such stations which fall under the containment zones for any given day in any of the states governments of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh notify such zones on a regular basis on their websites," it said.

"Public is advised to travel with minimum luggage and avoid carrying metallic items for a faster frisking at entry

points. Keep only pocket size hand sanitizers, if any, during the travel. Hand sanitizers will not be permitted beyond 30 ml quantity from the safety point of view," it said.

Delhi Metro operates 389 KM of Metro network with 285 stations in Delhi-NCR including Rapid Metro in Gurugram and Aqua Line of Noida-Greater Noida Metro. About 70 per cent of its passengers used to travel by using the smart cards. Overall passenger journeys performed in a day before the Coronavirus stuck our country was around 60 lakhs.



Kailash Gahlot inspects Rajiv Chowk station

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot visited Rajiv Chowk metro station on Sunday to take stock of the preparations made by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and transport department for the resumption of metro services in Delhi from September 7.

"I inspected the Rajiv Chowk metro station with metro officials and took stock of the preparations. I am happy that after a long time, the people of Delhi will be able to travel safely in the metro from tomorrow. I appeal to passengers to follow all protocols while travelling. But I would also advise people to not take the metro unless very neces-

sary," he tweeted in Hindi. The minister was accompanied by senior officials of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) and Delhi Transport Department during the inspection.

Following the inspection, he said, "I am glad that metro services are finally resuming in the city tomorrow. I personally inspected the station and am satisfied with the arrangements in place. I am happy to note that Rajiv Chowk, despite being one of the busiest stations, has ensured that all precautions are in place as per the Standard Operating Procedure."

"We are also deploying civil defence volunteers for crowd management, inside and outside the stations. I appeal to all Delhi metro users

to follow social distancing at metro stations," he said.

The Metro operations in Delhi will resume in a phased manner, with staggered timings from 7th September, but will be fully operational by 12 September.

Given the situation due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Delhi Transport department is leaving no stone unturned to ensure the safe journey of commuters in the Delhi Metro.

The Delhi Transport Department has provided civil volunteers and enforcement teams to be deployed at metro stations to manage crowds, ensure social distancing, and guide the travelers. Suitable markings at stations and inside the trains have also been done to ensure social distancing.

CM kickstarts 10-week anti-dengue campaign

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to create greater awareness on prevention of vector-borne diseases in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal kickstarted anti-dengue campaign on Sunday.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, cabinet ministers Rajendra Pal Gautam and Kailash Gahlot shared pictures and videos on Twitter after inspecting their homes for signs of stagnant clean water.

Kejriwal started the campaign by checking his house for stagnant water in which mosquito breeds. He also took to social media to urge people to participate in the campaign.

"Last year, two crore people of Delhi had defeated dengue. Let's start the next 10-week battle against dengue from today. At 10 am, I will check my house whether there is any stagnant water. You must also. We have to defeat dengue again this time," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

Sisodia tweeted in Hindi, "Often we feel that there is not a single place in our house where there is stagnant water but if you take 10 minutes to check properly, you will find stagnant water somewhere. That's why it is important to join the #10Hafta10Baje10Minute campaign -- to protect your family from dengue @ArvindKejriwal."

The campaign last year had garnered the support of many celebrities as well as officials of the government and other autonomous bodies. Due to the success of the drive last year, there were only 2036 dengue cases in Delhi and only two deaths as compared to 15867 dengue cases and 60 deaths in 2015.

Kejriwal said, "The rainy season is here again, and it is the first week of September. We all know that at this point, the breeding of mosquitoes that spread dengue is at a peak. We have to save ourselves and our family from dengue. Last year,

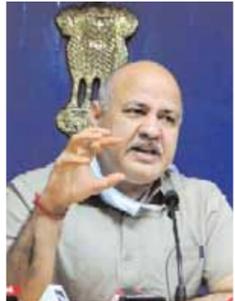


we participated in a massive campaign and this year we will do that again this year."

The campaign, which began on September 6, will continue every Sunday.

Kejriwal has appealed to the ministers, MLAs, and the citizens to begin the mega-campaign from their own homes and spend 10 minutes every Sunday to make sure there is no stagnant water in their homes and surroundings.

After the first week of the



launch of the flagship campaign, a doctor will share advice on the do's and don'ts to prevent dengue in the second week. The campaign also seeks to engage the residents to pick up the phone and call 10 of their friends/relatives and advise them on the good practices of preventing dengue.

"The Resident Welfare Association will be asked to come together and help in the fight against dengue and promote the campaign. Many celebrities and social media



influencers will also take part in the campaign by recording themselves following the good practices advised during the campaign and subsequently share through their various social media channels," the government said in a statement.

At various stages, children will be encouraged to take part in the campaign by assigning them homework on behalf of the schools and asking them to call their friends to encourage them to take part in the campaign as well, it said.

FIR against Alt News co-founder for 'threatening, torturing' girl on Twitter

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair for allegedly threatening and torturing a girl child through Twitter.

The FIR was registered against Zubair on a complaint received from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) under provisions of the Information Technology Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) at Cyber Cell.

Zubair, however, refuted the allegations and said that this is an absolutely frivolous complaint. "I will be responding to it legally," he said.

The NCPCR, in the complaint, said the commission took cognizance of complaint received

under section 13 (1) and (k) of CPC Act, 2005, as in the complaint the picture of a minor girl is seen to be circulated and posted by various Twitter handles with indecent and disgraceful remarks/comments, which seems to be a cognizable offence and requires immediate registration of an FIR.

"You look into the matter and take prompt action in respect to the Twitter handle and posts harassing, threatening and stalking the minor girl. Further, you were also requested to ensure safety of girl child and initiate appropriate action against the alleged perpetrators," said Priyanka Kanoongo, NCPCR chief in his letter. Kanoongo said he is seeking action under POCSO/relevant acts against online threats and repeated incident of stalking of a minor girl on Twitter by Zubair.

Speed up 'Bharat Darshan Park' project: SDMC Commissioner

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti has directed the officials to speed up 'Bharat Darshan Park' project that is being developed by the corporation on a six-acre plot in Punjabi bagh.

The park will host replicas of famous monuments from all over the India such as Charminar, Gateway of India, Konark Temple, Nalanda ruins, Mysore Palace, Golden Temple, Meenakshi Temple, Hawa Mahal, Hampi ruins, Victoria Memorial, Sanchi Stupa, Gol Gumbaz, Ajanta Ellora Caves and Junagarh Fort, among other sites.

The theme of the park is 'Unity in Diversity'. Through this project, the SDMC seeks to widen its ambit of 'waste-to-wealth' concept as epitomised in its 'Waste to Wonder Park' in Sarai Kale Khan

A senior SDMC official said that the entire project is estimated to cost around Rs 18-20 crore. He said that the replicas in 'Bharat Darshan Park' will be built using scrap waste such as vehicles, fans, rods, iron sheets, and nuts and bolts, gathering dust in municipal stores. The park will be eco-friendly, self-sustainable with its own solar and wind power generation," a senior SDMC official said.

The theme of the park is 'Unity in Diversity'. Through this project, the SDMC seeks to widen its ambit of 'waste-to-wealth' concept as epitomised in its 'Waste to Wonder Park' in Sarai Kale Khan

walking track of 1.5 km in the park, besides a children's play area, he said.

Among other features, it will have landscape designs like waterfalls, fountains, ponds, amphitheatres for cultural events; a food court offering major cuisines of India; audio tours; and cultural showcase and photography stalls, the official said.

In order to ensure timely delivery of ongoing projects in the West Zone, the Commissioner along with Leader of the House (LOH) Narendra Chawla, Zone Chairman Balram Kumar Oberoi and Deputy Commissioner Sanjay Sahay reviewed progress of various projects on Saturday.

The Commissioner also visited the site of the new initiative "save our planet" started by SDMC where plastic items and wet waste were exchanged with usable items such as soap, rice, small bucket, khad etc. While inspecting this project LOH Chawla praised this project and informed that this initiative will promote segregation at source to reduce burden on landfill sites.

Cong to protest outside MCDs' office demanding release of salary

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress will stage a protest outside Municipal Corporation's office demanding disbursement of salary of employee that is pending for months.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ruled Delhi government and BJP-ruled corporations are busy in passing the buck on each other over the issue of grants and ignoring the interest of not only the employees but public as well, Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar and vice president Jai kishan said in a joint statement.

"MCDs have failed in delivering in all the aspects. Similarly the AAP government has also been apathetic towards problems faced by the people. The government has failed on all the front including education, hospital and developing infrastructure in Delhi," they added.

The peak power demand in the National Capital has increased by over 50 per cent with resumption of normal activities due to easing of COVID-19 related lockdown restrictions.

Peak power demand in the city has been muted this year as compared to the last year due

Man who shot dead 26-yr-old law student in Shiv Vihar held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the February riots in Delhi has nabbed a man, who carried a reward of ₹one lakh on his arrest for allegedly killing a 26-year-old law student near a school in Northeast Delhi.

The accused identified as Mustaqeem, 25, alias Sameer Saifi, a resident old Mustafabad, had allegedly shot dead Rahul Solanki near Rajdhani Public School in Shiv Vihar on February 24. Police said that he has been sent to judicial custody.

Solanki was pursuing LLB from a private college in Ghaziabad and had stepped out of his home to buy milk when he was killed.

Police said that Mustaqeem joined the protest against CAA and NRC near Farukia Masjid. The SIT has arrested seven other accused -- Arif, Anis,

from his clothes and appearance after they were shown a video of the incident," he said.

"Police team had deployed our sources in Mustafabad to identify the alleged shooter on the basis of his description. Police team questioned hundreds from the area and verified their presence at the spot through physical and technical means. But we did not find any information. After six months, on September 3, one of our sources informed us and he was apprehended from Bhajanpura Major," said the senior police official.

"Mustaqeem denied his involvement initially but accepted after detailed questioning. The country-made pistol used in the crime was recovered along with five live cartridges at his instance. A mobile phone and the clothes, including the jeans, pants, shoes and helmet, which he was wearing at the time of committing the crime have also been found," he said.

"During investigation, eyewitnesses described the person who opened fire on Solanki. They identified the accused

easing of restrictions, Delhi's peak power has started increasing and the gap narrowed, he said.

The power demand that the peak power demand in July and August surpassed last year's peak power demand on corresponding days on many occasions in July and six times in August - by up to 19 percent.

Cooling load is the main factor behind the increase in

Gurugram reports 137 cases in a day, 140 recovered

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The district health department has detected 137 more Covid-19 positive cases on Sunday. The situation is alarming as now the tally has zoomed up to 13,321. Of this, 11,498 people have recovered. The Covid-19 toll has reached 137 in the district.

The figures of COVID active patients are 1,686. A total 140 patients have been cured and discharged on Sunday.

As per the data of the health department the Covid-19 infection increased again in the last one week.

Around 125 infected persons were detected on August 30, 113 on August 31, 196 on September 1, 184 on September 2, 224 on September 4, 265 on September 5.

On August 21, the district recorded over 100 fresh cases for the first time in 21 days. Since then, in the last one week between August 30 to September 6, over 1,244 people have tested positive.

The health official said the reason behind for cases is that people are not following Covid-19 protocol. The people step out of their home without any reason. They are not using face masks or sanitizers.

"A number of cases are being increased across the country and, in such a situation, people need to follow Covid-10 guidelines and maintain social distancing. The peo-



ple must be under the seriousness of the Covid-19 disease," said Dr Virender Yadav, CMO Gurugram.

Meanwhile, Coronavirus test rates in Haryana have been fixed at Rs 1,600, down from the earlier Rs 2,400.

According to health officials in the district administration, all arrangements, be it isolation facilities or sample testing and admission of severely infected patients have been ensured. No corona infected patient will have difficulty in getting treatment, they added.

Claiming medical preparedness to tackle the present Covid-19 situation in the district Gurugram, Yadav said that a provision of about 4500 beds and 350 ventilators in both private and government hospitals have been made.

Apart from these, another 1000 beds are being arranged, so there will be no shortage of treatment facilities for the Covid-19 patients in the district, he said.

City's peak power demand rises by 50%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The peak power demand in the National Capital has increased by over 50 per cent with resumption of normal activities due to easing of COVID-19 related lockdown restrictions.

Peak power demand in the city has been muted this year as compared to the last year due

to lockdown and weather conditions.

"Delhi's peak power demand has increased by over 50 per cent since easing of restrictions on May 18, 2020. If we compare the peak power demand since April 2020, it has already increased by over 87 percent," said a senior discom official.

After the end of the lockdown 3.0 on May 17 and the



Sirajuddin, Salman, Sonu, Saifi and Irshad -- in the Solanki case and they have been chargesheeted for actively participating in the riots with a common objective to cause death, burn properties on February 24, police said.

According to a senior police official, Solanki was shot dead near Rajdhani Public School and a case was registered at Dayalpur police station and later, the investigation was handed over to the SIT.

"During investigation, eyewitnesses described the person who opened fire on Solanki. They identified the accused

from his clothes and appearance after they were shown a video of the incident," he said.

"Police team had deployed our sources in Mustafabad to identify the alleged shooter on the basis of his description. Police team questioned hundreds from the area and verified their presence at the spot through physical and technical means. But we did not find any information. After six months, on September 3, one of our sources informed us and he was apprehended from Bhajanpura Major," said the senior police official.

"Mustaqeem denied his involvement initially but accepted after detailed questioning. The country-made pistol used in the crime was recovered along with five live cartridges at his instance. A mobile phone and the clothes, including the jeans, pants, shoes and helmet, which he was wearing at the time of committing the crime have also been found," he said.

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Cooling load is the main factor behind the increase in

Ex-Congmen urge Sonia to rise above family



PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

Even as the controversy around the letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi is yet to die down, another dispatch from former party members, hailing from Uttar Pradesh, has come to shake the grand old organisation. In fact, the ex-Congressmen have minced no words in urging Sonia to "rise above family politics" and making a veiled attack on Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is the party general secretary in charge of UP.

Stating that the Congress is passing through its "worst ever" phase in Uttar Pradesh, the four-page letter, signed by expelled party leaders from the State, calls upon Sonia to rise above family (parivaar ke moh se upar uthe) and restore the democratic traditions of the party.

The letter, signed by former MP Santosh Singh, former minister Satyadev Tripathi, for-

mer MLAs Vinod Chaudhary, Bhoodar Narain Mishra, Nekchand Pandey, Swayam Prakash Goswami and Sanjeev Singh,

"There is an apprehension that you are not being apprised of the prevailing situation by those in charge of state affairs. We have been seeking an appointment with you for almost a year but have been denied the same. We had appealed against our expulsion which was illegal but even the central disciplinary committee has not found time to consider our appeal," the letter says.

The signatories to the letter have alleged that there is a total lack of communication between the leaders and the party cadres. They further pointed out that frontal organisations like NSUI and Youth Congress have become defunct in UP.

The former party members further claimed that the party posts are being occupied by those who are working on a salary basis and are not even primary members of the party.

"These 'leaders' are not familiar with the party's ideology but are tasked to give direction to the party in UP," the letter states.

"These people are the one who are assessing the performances of those leaders who stood like a rock in the Congress during the 1977-80 crisis. Democratic norms are being thrown to the winds and senior leaders are being targeted, insulted and expelled. In fact, we were informed of

our expulsion from the media which speaks of the new work culture in the state unit," said the letter.

The leaders urged the Congress high command to open channels of communication with senior leaders. They have warned that if it continues to turn a blind eye to the prevailing state of affairs, the Congress would hit rock bottom in UP which was once the party's stronghold.

The letter comes at a time when the party is already facing its worst factional divide in Uttar Pradesh. While the senior leaders have withdrawn from party activities, the younger leaders have accused the UPCC leadership of promoting caste interests.

The leaders also accused Priyanka of believing all that is "fed to her" by the state leadership and that she does not bother to meet leaders outside her coterie.

Last month, Sonia had convened a Congress Working Committee meeting after 23 senior leaders of the party including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Kapil Sibal including five former Chief Ministers, CWC members, sitting MPs, and several former Union Ministers had written to Sonia Gandhi calling for sweeping changes, from top to bottom.

Sonia had offered to quit as chief of the party and after the resolution that a new chief will be elected at an AICC session at earliest she decided to continue as interim chief of the grand old party.

Ramp up Covid testing, States, UTs told



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has half-a-dozen States and UTs reporting high Covid-19 caseload and fatality rate to strengthen containment measures and scale up testing to bring down positivity rate below five per cent. This even as it has dispatched two-member special teams to Punjab and Chandigarh to provide extended guidance in managing the Covid-19 pandemic.

As many as 35 districts in five states and one UT reporting high Covid-19 caseload and fatality rate. The list comprises all 11 districts in Delhi, Kolkata, Howrah, North 24 Parganas and 24 South Parganas in West Bengal; Pune, Nagpur, Thane, Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban, Kolhapur, Sangli, Nashik, Ahmednagar, Raigad, Jalgaon, Solapur, Satara, Palghar, Aurangabad, Dhule and Nanded in Maharashtra; Surat in Gujarat; Pondicherry in Puducherry and East Singhbhum in Jharkhand.

In a review meeting held on Saturday, they were asked to ensure strict perimeter control, strengthen the active case search focusing on comorbid and elderly population, early identification by ramping up testing and optional utilization of RT-PCR testing capacity to break the chain of transmission of the disease, the Health ministry said on Sunday.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan held the review meeting through video conference with health secretaries of five States and one UT on the containment and management of Covid-19 in 35 districts under their jurisdiction.

The district collectors and other functionaries were advised to prepare and update

Bharat Biotech gets DCGI clearance for phase II trials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech has received the top drug regulator's clearance to move its vaccine candidate against Covid-19, Covaxin, to the second phase of human testing. The trials for the indigenous vaccine are expected to begin from Monday, following ethics committee approvals, said sources in the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

A subject expert committee (SEC) studying its request to begin the phase II trial recommended that the trial be conducted on 380 participants, stated Joint Drugs Controller Dr S Eswara Reddy in a letter to the Hyderabad-based firm dated September 3. All participants will now have to be screened for four days after they are administered the vaccine shots.

The letter further mentions that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under the Directorate General of Health Services, Union Health Ministry, "has no objection for conducting the trial titled 'An adaptive, seamless Phase I, followed by Phase II randomized, double-blind, multicenter study to evaluate the safe-

ty, reactogenicity, tolerability and immunogenicity of the whole-virion inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine (BBV152) in healthy volunteers."

The Directorate General of Health Service said in a statement: "This is to inform you that the subject proposal was examined in consultation with SEC (COVID-19) experts held through virtual meeting on September 3, wherein the committee recommended for the conduct of Phase II part of clinical trials with 380 participants subject to the condition that time for screening the participants should be revised in 4 days."

Each stage of a vaccine's clinical trial tests its safety and ability to develop an effective immune response. While the first phase focuses on safety in healthy participants, the second phase looks at the effectiveness. The third phase looks into these aspects in a much larger population that would represent a wider demographic, said a senior official from the DCGI.

In the first phase of the Covaxin trial, around 375 participants were studied across 12 sites. Covaxin is one of the frontrunners in the race for a Covid-19 vaccine in India.

Centre asks States, UTs to ensure necessary follow up of updated advisory on testing strategy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked all States and Union Territories to ensure necessary follow up of its updated advisory on Covid-19 testing strategy, allowing 'testing on-demand', to achieve a higher number of examinations with greater flexibility and simplicity.

The revised advisory lists the scope for testing in containment zones, non-containment areas, in hospitals, and also for the first time provides for testing on-demand with simplified modalities to be decided by the States and Union Territories.

It also indicates the choice of testing in order of priority for each of the settings.

A letter jointly written by Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan and ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava to chief secretaries and administrators highlighted that having adequate testing capacities and simplified testing protocol are important components in the management of Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

The country has so far conducted more than 4.66 crore tests in more than 1,600 laboratories in the country, they said in the letter, adding there has been tremendous progress in upscaling testing infrastructure both in terms of the number of laboratories and daily testing capacity.

"It is a matter of great pride that for the last two days (Wednesday and Thursday), the country has been testing in excess of 11.5 lakh samples every day which is the highest

daily testing average anywhere in the world," the letter stated.

With this significant increase in the testing facilities and infrastructure, the need for further refinement in the existing Covid-19 testing strategy to make it more comprehensive has been felt.

After due deliberations by national experts, the National Task Force on Covid-19 has formulated a reviewed and simplified advisory 'Strategy for Covid-19 testing in India'.

"We are sure that with the increased levels of testing and enhanced testing infrastructure, this advisory would further encourage the states to have even higher levels of testing, covering a wide range of persons with greater flexibility and simplification."

"It is requested that this advisory may kindly be disseminated to all concerned for necessary follow up at the earliest," the letter stated.

The updated advisory on Covid-19 testing strategy has also allowed testing on demand for "all individuals undertaking travel to countries or Indian states mandating a negative Covid-19 test at the point of entry."

It also suggested that all the people living in containment zones should be tested by rapid antigen tests, particularly in cities where there has been a widespread transmission of the infection.

The ICMR also stressed that no emergency procedure (including deliveries) should be delayed for lack of tests, and pregnant women should not be referred to another hospital for lack of testing facility.

Teachers' Day celebrations organised

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Resonating with the thoughts shared by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the backdrop of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 that "When a Teacher learns, a nation leads", Teacher's Day Celebrations were organised across Amity University and Amity Schools.

K'taka Labour Minister Shivaram tests positive for Covid-19

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Karnataka Labour Minister KA Shivaram Hebbur on Sunday said he and his wife have tested positive for the coronavirus and would be under treatment in their home itself being asymptomatic.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa wished the 63-year old leader a speedy recovery and prayed that he continued with his good works.

"Me and my wife underwent COVID-19 test and have been found positive for the virus. Since there are no symp-

ptoms of coronavirus, we decided to remain in home quarantine on doctors' advice and are getting treatment at home," Hebbur tweeted.

He expressed confidence that he and his wife would soon recover.

Prior to him, Yediyurappa, forest minister Anand Singh, Tourism Minister C T Ravi, Health Minister Sriramulu, Leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Congress state chief D K Shivakumar had tested positive for COVID-19 and completely recovered.

Teachers' Day celebrations organised

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APPENDIX IV [See rule 8 (1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)					
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (CIN:L65922DL2005PLC136029) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices dated 18.06.2020 calling upon the following Borrower(s) to repay the amounts alongwith interest thereon and other charges as mentioned in the respective Notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the respective Notices:					
S. No.	Loan Account No	Name of Borrower(s)	Amount Due against Loan Account (Rs)	Pending TDS Amount (Rs)	Date on which amount Due
1	HL00240229	1. BLISS ABODE PRIVATE LIMITED 2. BINDU KAPOOR 3. RANA KAPOOR	89,60,47,394/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Crore Sixty Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Three Hundred And Ninety Four Only)	97,22,528/- (Rupees Ninety Seven Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Eight Only)	18.06.2020
2	HL00240226	1. BLISS ABODE PRIVATE LIMITED 2. BINDU KAPOOR 3. RANA KAPOOR	80,95,17,182/- (Rupees Eighty Crore Ninety Five Lakh Seventeen Thousand One Hundred And Eighty Two Only)	87,42,708/- (Rupees Eighty Seven Lakh Forty Two Thousand Seven Hundred And Eight Only)	18.06.2020
3	HL00240227	1. BLISS ABODE PRIVATE LIMITED 2. BINDU KAPOOR 3. RANA KAPOOR	72,33,15,191/- (Rupees Seventy Two Crore Thirty Three Lakh Fifteen Thousand One Hundred And Ninety One Only)	78,10,152/- (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakhs Ten Thousand One Hundred Fifty Two Only)	18.06.2020
4	HL00240228	1. BLISS ABODE PRIVATE LIMITED 2. BINDU KAPOOR 3. RANA KAPOOR	64,77,45,217/- (Rupees Sixty Four Crore Seventy Seven Lakh Forty Five Thousand Two Hundred And Seventeen Only)	69,94,404/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Four Hundred And Four Only)	18.06.2020
5	HL00240161	1. BLISS ABODE PRIVATE LIMITED, 2. RAB ENTERPRISES (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED, 3. BINDU KAPOOR 4. RANA KAPOOR	146,08,99,082/- (Rupees One Hundred Forty Six Crore Eight Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Eighty Two Only)	1,03,76,256/- (Rupees One Crore Three Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Six Only)	18.06.2020
6	LAP0240518	1. IMAGINE ESTATE PRIVATE LIMITED, 2. BLISS ABODE PRIVATE LIMITED, 3. BINDU KAPOOR 4. RANA KAPOOR	218,29,86,539/- (Rupees Two Hundred Eighteen Crore Twenty Nine Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Nine Only)	1,87,12,846/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Seven Lakh Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Six Only)	18.06.2020
7	LAP0240521	1. IMAGINE ESTATE PRIVATE LIMITED, 2. BLISS ABODE PRIVATE LIMITED, 3. BINDU KAPOOR 4. RANA KAPOOR	122,83,96,693/- (Rupees One Hundred Twenty Two Crore Eighty Three Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Three Only)	1,05,25,976/- (Rupees One Crore Five Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Six Only)	18.06.2020
8	LAP0240523	1. IMAGINE HOME PRIVATE LIMITED, 2. BLISS AGRI AND ECO TOURISM PRIVATE LIMITED, 3. BLISS ABODE PRIVATE LIMITED, 4. BINDU KAPOOR 5. RANA KAPOOR	69,40,48,816/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Crore Forty Lakh Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Sixteen Only)	63,89,584/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four Only)	18.06.2020

The Borrower(s) mentioned hereinabove having failed to repay the amounts as mentioned hereinabove, Notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 04.09.2020.

The Borrower(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED for the following amounts alongwith interest thereon and other charges:

S. No.	Loan Account No	Amount Due against Loan Account (Rs)	Pending TDS Amount (Rs)	Date on which amount Due
1	HL00240229	89,60,47,394/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Crore Sixty Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Three Hundred And Ninety Four Only)	97,22,528/- (Rupees Ninety Seven Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Eight Only)	18.06.2020
2	HL00240226	80,95,17,182/- (Rupees Eighty Crore Ninety Five Lakh Seventeen Thousand One Hundred And Eighty Two Only)	87,42,708/- (Rupees Eighty Seven Lakh Forty Two Thousand Seven Hundred And Eight Only)	18.06.2020
3	HL00240227	72,33,15,191/- (Rupees Seventy Two Crore Thirty Three Lakh Fifteen Thousand One Hundred And Ninety One Only)	78,10,152/- (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakhs Ten Thousand One Hundred Fifty Two Only)	18.06.2020
4	HL00240228	64,77,45,217/- (Rupees Sixty Four Crore Seventy Seven Lakh Forty Five Thousand Two Hundred And Seventeen Only)	69,94,404/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakh Ninety Four Thousand Four Hundred And Four Only)	18.06.2020
5	HL00240161	146,08,99,082/- (Rupees One Hundred Forty Six Crore Eight Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Eighty Two Only)	1,03,76,256/- (Rupees One Crore Three Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Six Only)	18.06.2020
6	LAP0240518	218,29,86,539/- (Rupees Two Hundred Eighteen Crore Twenty Nine Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Nine Only)	1,87,12,846/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Seven Lakh Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Six Only)	18.06.2020
7	LAP0240521	122,83,96,693/- (Rupees One Hundred Twenty Two Crore Eighty Three Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Three Only)	1,05,25,976/- (Rupees One Crore Five Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Six Only)	18.06.2020
8	LAP0240523	69,40,48,816/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Crore Forty Lakh Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Sixteen Only)	63,89,584/- (Rupees Sixty Three Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Four Only)	18.06.2020

The Borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECES OR PARCELS OF LAND/PROPERTIES AS UNDER TOGETHER WITH ALL THE PRESENT AND/OR FUTURE STRUCTURES, BUILDINGS, FURNITURE, FIXTURES, FITTINGS, STANDING AND/OR PLANT AND MACHINERY INSTALLED/ TO BE INSTALLED AND/OR CONSTRUCTED/ TO BE CONSTRUCTED THEREON AND ALL THE PRESENT AND/OR FUTURE RIGHTS, TITLE AND/OR INTEREST OF M/S. BLISS ABODE PVT. LTD. THEREIN- PLOT BEARING NO. 17-A MEASURING 1.237 ACRES (LESS 58.64 SQ. MTRS.), BLOCK NO. 1, RATENDON ROAD (NOW KNOWN AS 40, AMRITA SHERGILL MARG), NEW DELHI- 110003 OWNED BY M/S. BLISS ABODE PVT. LTD. AND IS BOUNDED ON THE:-

ON THE NORTH EAST BY - PLOT NO. 18
ON THE NORTH WEST BY - PLOT NO. 17, SERVICE ROAD AND PLOT NO. 16
ON THE SOUTH EAST BY - ROAD
ON THE SOUTH WEST BY - PLOT NO. 16-A

* Note: Above property is under attachment of Enforcement Directorate, Mumbai

Date : 04.09.2020
Place : NEW DELHI

Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Covid impact: Prices of veggies increase

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Amid job losses and salary cuts due to the coronavirus pandemic and nationwide lockdown, there is a sharp spike in commonly consumed vegetables across India. The retail prices of vegetables have risen sharply across the country, with major wholesale markets running low on supplies due to disruptions caused by heavy rains and short supply of some items.

From potato and tomato to brinjal, bitter gourd and cabbage, all vegetables have seen wholesale prices go up by 40 percent to 90 percent compared with the last month.

Vegetable sellers say onion prices are likely to be increased in the coming days as prices have started increasing in the wholesale market of Maharashtra. Potato, for instance, is selling for Rs 15 to Rs 25-30 per kg in wholesale markets in north and central India. In West Bengal, the state government warned of action if retail traders are found selling the tuber above ₹27 a kg.

Potato traders in West Bengal have blamed the recent amendment to the Essential Commodities Act by the Centre for a rise in prices of the tuber in retail markets as it allows barrier-free trade of agricultural product.

Potato prices in West Bengal are currently ruling high at ₹32-33 a kg as 15-20 percent of daily supply of the commodity is being exported to neighbouring states.

Traders at Mandis attributed to disruption in supply chain due to heavy rainfall and damage of horticulture crops due to floods in several states during monsoon for increasing vegetable prices. The retail prices are expected



to remain high till September end or first week of October, depending on the arrival of new crops.

Some wholesale traders said that the farmers in many states dumped perishables during the lockdown, unable to find buyers. So, tomatoes are in short supply. Besides, transportation costs have risen 5-10% because of fuel price hikes by the government which led to sharp increase in the retail prices.

The retail prices of tomato ranged from ₹60-80 per kg in most parts of the country while most of green vegetables were sold at ₹50-70 per kg depending on the quality and locations at various markets. According to traders, tomatoes were sold at ₹30-40 per kg last month.

The retail prices of potato ranged from ₹30-40 per kg while the same was sold at ₹20 a kg till last month. Onion is being sold at Rs 25-30 a kg but traders warned that prices are expected to increase in the coming days as wholesale prices are increasing in Maharashtra's wholesale onion markets.

The retail prices of brinjal, sponge gourd (nenua) and bottle gourd (lauki) ranged from ₹40 to 60 per kg while the same vegetables were being sold at ₹20-30 per kg till the third week of August.

Cucumber's retail price is at ₹40 a kg. Ladyfinger's retail price ranged from ₹40 to 60 a kg. The retail prices of Cauliflower (Gobi) and pointed gourd (parwal) ranged from ₹90 to ₹100 a kg. Coriander's retail price has touched ₹250 a kg.

Kerala: Covid patient raped in ambulance

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

3,082 more test positive in State

A day after Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan claimed that Kerala was in the forefront in controlling Covid-19 pandemic and was ahead of other South Indian States like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, a double mishap struck the God's Own Country.

Kerala woke up on Sunday morning to the news that a Covid-19 patient in Aranmula in Pathanamthitta district was raped by the ambulance driver. The predator Nowfal was an accused in a murder case but managed to get the job because of his political god fathers in the ruling CPI(M).

While political Kerala went on a turmoil with activists of

BJYM and Youth Congress undertaking marches to Government offices, Health Minister KK Shylaja expressed shock over the incident and ordered the sacking of the ambulance driver.

The day ended with the Health Minister's release that the State diagnosed 3,082 new persons with Covid-19, the highest figure to be registered in Kerala till date. Out of this, 2,844 cases were through local transmission, a clear signal that Kerala is not a safe destination for any kind of journeys. With 11 patients succumbing to the pandemic, the total number of deaths till date in the State stood at 347.

B Gopalakrishnan, a senior BJP leader said Kerala has become the most unsafe place in the country for women. "A fortnight back, a 75 year old woman was brutally raped at Ernakulam which brought back the memories of Norbhaya incident in New Delhi. I am frightened what is in store for my mothers, sisters and daughters," said a visibly upset Gopalakrishnan.

BJP president K Surendran demanded the immediate resignation of health minister Shylaja owning up moral responsibility for the incident. "How come a murderer was employed as ambulance driver? How come a woman patient was sent to hospital without any lady helpers," asked Surendran.

BJP fires salvo at TMC in Bengal

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In what triggered a spontaneous criticism from political circles, Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Sunday prescribed the "shoeing medicine" for the Trinamool Congress saying that the "sin they are doing only deserved a wholesale shoeing of its people."

The State ruling outfit reacted immediately blaming the BJP for bringing down the State's political culture to an unprecedented level and daring Ghosh to go ahead with his plans and face the consequence.

Ghosh who was addressing a small crowd was the first to fire the salvo saying the TMC had unleashed a goonda-syndicate-police raj in the State where nothing was possible without cut money and no crime was impossible when it came to the ability of the Trinamool workers.

"The TMC is ruling Bengal by goons, guns and police ...

wherever you go you find people victimized by the TMC goons in some way or the other ... time has come when they should be shooed up. Now the people will shoe them up for their misdeeds ... otherwise they cannot be handled," Ghosh said reminding the police administration of an inevitable political change next year.

"While we are keeping a note of the TMC goons who are perpetrating crime and torture on the people and the BJP workers we are also keeping a record of the police brass that is acting as an agent and stooge of the Trinamool," he said adding "while the TMC men will be dealt with adequately after we come to power next year we warn the police officers to mind their actions because after we come to power we will not allow them to rest peacefully."

He said in the past few years the BJP had "lost more than a hundred workers to the

TMC's goonda raaj." Still the "BJP is fighting and making the sacrifice because the party wants to bring about a change in Bengal so that the State can be saved from the TMC's misrule."

Warning the "partisan police officers" he said, "we will make this police men run so much that they will not be able to see the face of their family ... today they are acting as the agents of the TMC leaders earning cut money and sending their children to study engineering in Bengaluru ... but when we come to power we will make the situation such for them that their children will not be able to complete their courses ... hence the police officers better mind their actions and act in a non-partisan manner."

Reacting rather sharply to Ghosh's "uncultured remarks" party MP and senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee said "what to talk about this uncultured man

who is running the State unit of a party... he doesn't have the sense of language. Still if he wants to shoe the TMC men up he has to start from me. I dare him to hit me first if he is really a man."

Another leader and Minister Jyotipriya Mullick said "he is an illiterate person who has no sense of language. It is better not to talk about him... He is day-dreaming of winning in the next year's Assembly elections. I can assure you he will not even get 30 seats. Let his party first get thirty seats and then we will see."

Meanwhile, a booth-level BJP leader was on Sunday shot dead by alleged TMC goons at Kalna in East Burdwan district sources said adding a local TMC leader was arrested for the incident. Another BJP workers was shot at near Ichapore town in North 24 Parganas some 45 km north of Kolkata. He was admitted to a local hospital.

5,783 new cases in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu has encouraging and inspiring reports from the Covid-19 front on Sunday as the State is getting ready to Unlock 4 on Monday. The State diagnosed 5,783 new patients while 88 persons succumbed to the pandemic on Sunday.

While Chennai accounted for 955 new patients, its neighbouring districts of Chengalpet (361), Kancheepuram (196) and Thiruvallur (246) showed a reduction in the number of daily cases.

The districts of Coimbatore (538) and Cuddalore (388) remained problematic while there is an overall reduction in the number of new patients diagnosed in other districts. "Lets wait for three to four days before reaching a conclusion," said veteran medical professional Dr CV Krishnaswami who is monitoring the Covid situation in the State on a daily basis.

Bihar Min says Opp experts in telling lies, RJD hits back

IAN S ■ PATNA

Bihar Health Minister Mangal Pandey on Sunday alleged that Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress are experts in telling lies and creating confusion and stressed that countering their lies was very important in the coming Assembly elections.

The RJD hit back by saying that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was on record for dubbing the BJP as 'Badaka Jhutha Party' in the past.

"The RJD and Congress leaders are used to lying to create confusion in society. They will frequently use this policy in the next two months in the run-up to the Assembly elections. They are past masters in this game."

Hence, we have to counter their lies by telling voters about genuine work we have done over the years," Pandey said while addressing members of the state BJP's SC/ST committee.

Pandey has been appointed election management committee chief by the BJP central leadership.

"We have executed so many public welfare works during the last 13 years in Bihar and if we put all these policies and works in the right manner before the voters, it would answer the lies and confusion of the opposition," Pandey said.

"We will succeed only if the BJP increases its support among all sections of society, including the Scheduled Castes and Tribes," the minister said.

Reacting to Pandey's remarks, RJD state spokesperson Mritunjay Tiwari said: "Whether we are liars or the BJP can be established from the statement of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar who has in the past dubbed BJP as 'Badaka Jhutha Party' on record."

Aligarh records 160 new cases, 1 death

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Today, Ashok Kumar Jindal (73), a garments trader, died from Corona. With 160 new cases, the total cases in the district mounted to 5180 including 1560 active cases while 3591 were cured. 100 patients recuperated and discharged. Today, 2606 suspects were screened adding to a total of 107494 tests so far.

Ashok Kumar Jindal (73), a resident of company Bagh, GT Road, owner of the garment showroom, was admitted to the private hospital for corona treatment. On Saturday, his condition starts deteriorating at which doctors referred him to Delhi but sadly, he died on the way to Delhi near khurja taking the death toll in the district to 30.

According to the list released by the district administration, 6 more people from the Basic Education Department office, 5 employees of the SBI branch, Baswan and 131 people including 9 in Gandhi Park area & 9 in Bannadevi area were found positive. DM Chandra Bhushan Singh said that infected people are either admitted to covid-19 hospitals or recommended home isolation based on their symptoms.

Poor road conditions cause misery, diseases

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The dream of pit-free roads is broken. Poor roads do not only cause traffic barriers but also making people sick. Potholes on the highway and other normal roads not only leads to bike and car accidents but also giving birth to many medical problems in people like slip disk, lumbar disk, neck and back pain, spinal pain, cervical spondylitis.

According to experts, 60 percent of the patients are suffering from these problems. 20 to 25 percent suffering from slip disk (back pain), and the same number of patients from cervical.

It is a matter of great concern that in case of injury or problem due to the accident, the patients never even get legal help or a claim or penalty from the responsible working department.

This is the reason of the increased carelessness of work-

ing departments and the problems of people.

According to Dr. Deepak Shah, senior orthopedic surgeon, Shah Hospital, the Government is not bothered about the bad roads.

From past years, the number of waist and neck patients have increased manifolds due to bad roads. Potholes have shaken the whole-body results in jerking the neck and waist.

Sometimes because of serious slip disk problems patients undergo an operation.

The disk is a liquid in the middle of the spinal cord which leaks out during travel on a bumpy road and crushes the spinal cord. Paralysis can also occur in the legs if fractured due to a pothole.

According to R.K Misra, Superintending Engineer, PWD, rainwater is the main source of potholes on the roads which cannot be filled immediately because the wet road does not hold tar-coal.

Stepmother held for molesting sisters

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Today 17-year-old girl registered an FIR against her stepmother for molesting and unnatural relationship in female police station Aligarh (U P).

After the death of the first wife, a 46-years-old man fell in love through Facebook and re-married, but the second wife turned out to be lesbian. She started molesting the daughters of the first wife (one adult and two minors) by giving them stimulant drugs.

On the complaint of the adult daughter, a case was registered against the stepmother in the women's police station. The woman has been arrested and sent to jail. This is the first case in the history of a woman police station against a woman for molesting another woman.

According to a case filed by a 17-year-old B.Sc. student from the Sasni Gate police station area, she has two minor sisters and a brother. Her father works in a private company. After the mother's death on 13th February 2019, the father befriended a 45-year-old

woman from the Gandhi Park police station area on Facebook on 1st February 2020 and both got married on 14th February 2020. She started giving sleeping pills on the name of health pills to the family members after dinner. She also gave shots to the minor sisters after father and grandparents fell asleep.

Taking advantage of this, the woman molested them by obscene acts. She would also show pornographic movies and pictures, on opposing and informing this to her family members, she started threatening them and make a demand for money. When the father refused, she started intimidating to implicate him in a false case.

On this, the girl first made a complaint to the Sasni Gate police station and last week to the SSP office. The investiga-

tion was handed over to the Women's Police Station. According to Women's Police Inspector Vipin Chaudhary, the accused have been arrested under section 354 and sections 7 & 8 of the POCSO Act and sent to jail.

Had four marriages, jailed for killing first husband She had first married to a man from Delhi. In 2005, he died in the Qwarsi police station area of Aligarh. A murder case was registered against two people, including this woman under section 302 and this woman was sent to jail. After getting bail from the High Court, the woman got married to a person, a resident of Chherat. Later get separated. After this, he married a third person from Jalalpur. Left him as well and finally married a fourth time to this man from Sasni Gate. The woman is so vicious that she trapped this person and got married within 14 days. Despite having four marriages, she has no child. She claimed that the house in Dwarika Puri, Gandhi Park, from which she was arrested, belongs to her brother.

J&K logs 1,316 cases, 14 deaths on Sunday

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The total number of active positive cases of coronavirus on Sunday crossed 10,000 in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir as it recorded more than 1,000 cases for the fourth day in succession.

On Sunday, a total number of 1316 cases were detected while 14 deaths were reported, seven each in Jammu & Kashmir division.

According to the media bulletin, "a total number of 4693 cases have been recorded in the last four days while 52 patients of Covid 19 died in J&K".

The district administra-

tion in Jammu is currently conducting Rapid antigen testing across different work places. So far 34214 samples were tested out of which 1996 i.e 5.8 percent tested positive.

The tests were conducted across urban and rural pockets of the Jammu district and several service providers including bank employees, car showrooms, malls, common market places, and local clusters were covered during the sampling to assess the spread of the virus in the region.

According to the media bulletin, "a total number of 668 cases were detected from Jammu division and 648 from Kashmir division thus taking

the total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 43557.

Moreover, 403 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals, 87 from Jammu Division and 316 from Kashmir Division.

According to the media bulletin, out of 43557 positive cases, 10446 are Active Positive, 32327 have recovered and 784 have died; 98 in Jammu division and 686 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 1074998 test results available, 1031441 samples have been tested as negative till September 06, 2020.

Andhra records 10,794 fresh corona cases, total nears 5 lakh

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh's coronavirus cases neared the 5-lakh mark as it reported 10,794 more patients on Sunday even as 70 more fatalities pushed the state's death toll to 4,417.

The State's mortality rate stands at 0.89 per cent as against the national average of 1.72 per cent, officials said.

For the 12th consecutive day, the state recorded over 10,000 new cases, taking the tally to 4,98,125, the second highest in the country after Maharashtra.

During the last 24 hours ending 9 am on Sunday, nine deaths were reported from Chittoor district, eight each from Anantapur, Guntur and Prakasam. Seven people died in Kadapa, five each in East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, and

West Godavari districts, four each in Krishna, Kurnool, and Nellore, two in Srikakulam, and one in Vizianagaram.

Chittoor continues to top the districts with 473 deaths, followed by East Godavari (427), and Guntur (419).

The media bulletin released by the State Command Control Room shows COVID spread continued across the state.

Nellore saw the biggest jump of 1,299 cases. East Godavari saw 1,244 new infections. This pushed the total cases in the district to 66,948, highest in the state.

Officials said 1,101 new cases were recorded in West Godavari district, and 1,042 in Prakasam.

More patients recovered than the new cases during the 24-hour period. Officials said 11,915 patients recovered, taking cumulative recoveries to 3,94,019 and improving the recovery rate to 79.10 per cent.

The average recovery rate for the country is 77.32 per cent

The active cases came down to 99,689 in Andhra Pradesh, with East Godavari having the maximum 14,454 cases, followed by 14,109 in Prakasam, 8,979 in Chittoor, 8,876 in Vizianagaram, and 7,597 in Guntur.

During the last 24 hours, the authorities conducted a record 72,573 tests -- 35,358 VRDL/Truenat/NACO tests and 37,215 rapid antigen tests. The state has so far tested 41,07,890 samples, fourth highest in the country.

87 afflicted in Agra

IAN S ■ AGRA

With 87 fresh Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours, the total number has now gone up to 3,291 in the Taj city. While 2,584 have recovered and there have been 109 deaths so far. The number of active cases in the district is 598.

District Magistrate P.N. Singh said the total number of samples collected for testing is now 1,30,530. The recovery rate is 78.52 per cent, while the sample positivity rate is 2.52 per cent.

Health department officials said 320 samples from 10 spots were collected on Saturday as part of the three-day Sero-survey in the district.

Meanwhile, there are no plans to reopen schools and the historical monuments immediately.

Only the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort are presently closed.

The DRM office has indicated that scores of trains would resume operations from September 12, particularly south-bound.

Health activists in the city, however, expressed concern over the increasing complacency displayed by the locals who have been flocking the markets without masks and violating social distancing norms.

UP man beaten for 'fun', dies in hospital

Bareilly (UP): A 32-year-old man was tied to a tree and allegedly lynched by a mob on suspicion of theft in Uttar Pradesh's Aonla town.

According to reports, some of the attackers joined the crowd for the sheer 'fun' of it and posed for mobile cameras while the victim, Basid Khan, was being thrashed in the background on Friday. Basid, it later turned out, was an alcoholic but not a thief. Basid was handed over to police who set him free as no one came forward to file a complaint against him. His family, on seeing his condition, took him to hospital where he died of internal bleeding the next day. A heavy police force was deployed in the area.

Senior superintendent of police (SSP) Shailesh Pandey told reporters, "I have shared a video in which Basid is seen tied to a tree and locals were thrashing him. We are trying to identify the accused using the videos of the incident. There were no visible injuries on the body. The post-mortem will be conducted by a panel of doctors to ascertain the reason of death." IANS

UP school WhatsApp group filled with porn; probe ordered

Baghpat (UP): A Biology class WhatsApp group for class 10 students of a private school in Baghpat has been found filled with pornographic material.

The police said that the person who created the chat group used an international number to evade detection. "But it appears to be the work of some insider as he had the photograph of the school's Biology teacher, which he used in its DP, as well as all the phone numbers," a police officer said. The probe has been handed over to UP Police's cyber cell, he said.

Alok Singh, circle officer of Badaut area, said, "Some vulgar pictures and videos were posted on WhatsApp group named 'Biology group Class 10'. The group had the display picture of the Biology teacher, who did not know about it. A probe has been ordered and it is being handled by the cyber-crime team."

The principal of the school said, "We had received a complaint. The WhatsApp account was fake, and was created with a foreign number. We have informed the police." The chat screenshots shared by a few parents purportedly showed that the person using the number even asked for some pictures from the children. However, it was not clear what kind of pictures he was asking for. IANS

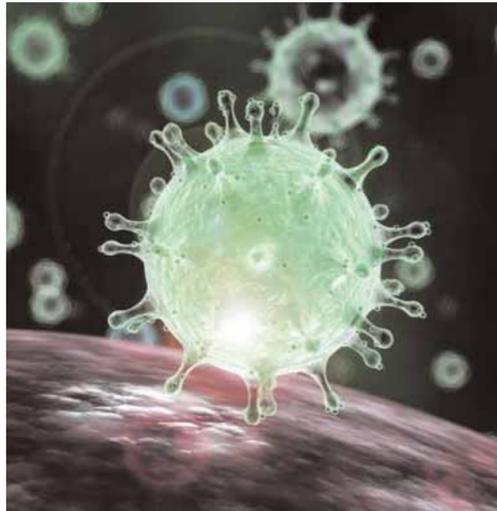
Lifting lockdown, more tests led to spike in Karnataka Covid cases

Bengaluru: Health officials in Karnataka strongly feel that opening up of the economy while simultaneously increasing the number of tests in recent weeks has resulted in a substantial rise in COVID-19 cases in the State.

Speaking to IANS, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Commissioner Manjunath Prasad concurred that the opening up of lockdown in June-July onwards has resulted in cases increasing in Bengaluru.

"We did planning for lockdown, but it is also true that many people who came from outside towns, states, and countries did not follow the quarantine procedures, thus it spread to a large extent. Besides this, post-lockdown, many did not show up for tests at the early stage, which is now resulting in rise in COVID-related deaths as well."

He asserted that the infrastructure in government-owned hospitals is adequate enough at the present rate of cases. He also regretted that people in Bengaluru were not following precautionary measures such as wearing masks.



"Though many wear masks, they do not wear it properly like covering their nose as well as mouth. Although the BBMP is keeping strict vigil on those who flout mask rules, it is equally true that the authorities cannot keep an eye on each and every individual in a city like Bengaluru," the Commissioner added.

Lucknow reports highest 1,006 virus cases in 1 day

Lucknow: Lucknow witnessed its highest one-day surge of Covid-19 cases with 1,006 cases reported from the Uttar Pradesh capital.

Lucknow also saw 18 deaths on Saturday.

Uttar Pradesh also recorded the highest single-day surge in the number of fresh cases with 6,692 people testing positive for Covid-19.

The previous single-day highest spike in Covid cases was registered on August 30 with 6,233 persons testing positive.

Seven deaths were reported from Kanpur while Gorakhpur and Hardoi reported 5 deaths each. Varanasi reported 4 deaths and Ghaziabad three.

Deaths in single figures were reported from each of the 75 districts of the state, barring a few.

Allahabad ranked second and reported 413 fresh Covid cases, followed by 362 from Kanpur.

Cases were also reported from Gautam Buddha Nagar (213), Gorakhpur (206), Saharanpur (188), Varanasi (190), Shahjahanpur (194), Ghaziabad (167), Meerut (156), Pratapgarh (148), Bareilly (133), Rampur (132), Moradabad (128), Ayodhya (124), Barabanki (120), Aligarh (116) and Jhansi (104).

According to the state medical



health bulletin, so far, as many as 1,95,959 Covid patients have recovered from the viral disease.

The count of active Covid cases in the state stands at 59,963, the bulletin said, adding that the count of total Covid-19 cases in the state is 2,59,765.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed to step up testing and strictly enforce the curbs on Sunday. He has also urged people to take full safety precautions and not to venture out of their houses without a valid reason. IANS

Epicentre India

With cases spiralling in rural districts, the pandemic could just about be felt like never before. We have a long haul



There is no denying that we are racing to be the next epicentre of the pandemic. What the series of early lockdowns did was to slow the virus down and give us enough time to ramp up our medical infrastructure and get a grip on disease management protocols. But it could not contain the pathogen's infectivity or trajectory as it has ultimately trickled down the trellis of megacities, their hinterland and has found its way in the countryside. And now that lockdowns have been eased to grease the economy and restore its operability, it is coursing through with an all-consuming rage. If the super-spreader *dhabas* at Haryana's Murthal are any indication, which reportedly infected around 10,000 people, then it isn't difficult to understand why we are taking lesser and lesser days of doubling time and why we may overtake Brazil soon and the US in a month in terms of caseload. And these nations are nowhere as populous as us. Unlike the US and Brazil, India's caseload is still accelerating seven months after our first Coronavirus case was reported on January 30. New infections are plateauing out in these two severely-hit countries even without restrictive protocols while they are spiralling here. Given the poor public health infrastructure in rural India, and the fatigue and strain that the existing one has been put through over the last few months, we could be standing at a tipping point of either reining the virus in or keeling over. The next month is our real test and would show if we can really flatten the curve. Testing, though increased much, continues to be a challenge, given our huge population and we are far behind Brazil in terms of the sample ratio covered. This is evidenced by the latest antibody studies in New Delhi and other cities, which show that the number of people who have signs of being infected is multiple times bigger than the official caseload. If this is true, then the extent of community spread is far bigger than what the official case tracker shows us. Worse, it would be difficult to assess how much testing is enough to map the trajectory of the disease. In fact, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued a new advisory on testing strategy, allowing "testing on demand" for individuals rather than waiting for the doctor's prescription. It also advised "testing on demand" for "all individuals undertaking travel to countries or Indian States mandating a negative COVID-19 test at the point of entry." Worryingly, the current scenario could also put pressure on keeping mortality figures down as early detection and treatment may not be as efficacious in rural India and many fatalities could go unaccounted. We still have to rely on conventional testing, considering rapid antigen tests are throwing up too many false negatives and, therefore, cannot be relied upon at this critical juncture. But RT-PCR labs are currently located in big cities or district headquarters, so what does one do in smaller towns and villages?

Infrastructure and response protocols pose a big challenge in rural India and can no way be seen through the prism of urban preparedness. Even though the swamp has not happened yet, there are reports of dismal conditions at district hospitals. Compounding problems is the lack of trained medical personnel, response teams who can sense the signs and emergency equipment like pulse oximeters and chest X-Ray facilities. Then there is the issue of more at-risk patients, the indices not too encouraging among a population that doesn't meet basic parameters of nutrition and physical well-being, particularly women and children. Of course, some of the rural areas are not as densely clotted as cities and business hubs are, which should make surveillance and tracking a key component in chasing the virus. In fact, the Dharavi model could well work here. Mumbai's slum cluster showed how resource-deprived and under-served zones can fight the virus, too, provided there is community engagement and it is here that panchayats and self-help groups can be made aware and skilled to arrest the spread. In Dharavi, community volunteers fanned out among seven lakh people, tracking signs and symptoms and tracing contacts of the infected. They got in mobile testing vans, thus supplementing the work of overworked health centres and ran fever clinics to let people get themselves checked without fear. Volunteers checked people's oxygen saturation levels and if they were below 95 per cent, rushed them to quarantine centres. Local clubs and schools were converted into quarantine facilities, leaving hospitals for the critically-ill. In short, they had a ground-up connected chain of warning and response system that saved lives. The bigger problem with the spread in rural India is that it could be a slow-burner and continue longer. And with people moving inter-State in the new normal, cities could look at a second wave from returnees. With the vaccine trials reporting a 50 per cent success rate till now, India could have to battle a winter of discontent.

Going electric

Bengaluru-based Ather Energy is proving that Indian cos can create world-class electric mobility solutions



Tarun Mehta and Swapnil Jain were ahead of the curve when they founded Ather Energy in 2013. The Bengaluru-based company has created a unique product and service model for electric two-wheelers and will have almost 100 new charging points across the country by the end of the year. With reports emerging that Hero Motocorp, India's largest conventional two-wheeler company, is looking to up its stake to a majority in the start-up, it has made the news again. While the company has refuted the news, Hero already holds a large stake in Ather. With electric mobility being the flavour of the season, it

may not be surprising if the Delhi-based group does eventually contemplate a larger stake as the entire business of mobility shifts to ever-lower emissions, which will create an existential crisis for conventional manufacturers going forward.

Ather's unique model as well as the fact that it has been creating much of its technology and services in India and not blindly importing products from China is also a showcase that India can create innovation in this space. On this front, even manufacturers like Mahindra and Tata have been making several new products, although large battery-manufacturing facilities are yet to come up in India. The Government, through the public-sector owned Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), has also been leasing ever larger fleets of electric-powered vehicles to replace and supplement the large fleet of official vehicles in the nation's capital. The company also recently announced that it would lease over 100 Kona electric vehicles from Korean manufacturer Hyundai. All said and done though, this is but a drop in the ocean, with the automotive industry facing a critical challenge as the economy is tanking, taking down demand as well. Will customers look at buying electric vehicles? While there is no doubt the running costs of such vehicles, even for the luxury-brand electric vehicles such as the Mercedes-Benz EQC, are very low (as little as a rupee a kilometre, a tenth of a conventional internal combustion engine) the high initial capital expenditure can put buyers off. Despite the Delhi Government's initiative to lower such capital expenditure costs, the Central Government will have to encourage the manufacture of such vehicles and batteries in India for zero-emission vehicles to really make a mark. India's initiatives in altering its energy mix to a greater percentage of renewables will also help in the reduction of emissions, but it would not be a bad idea for the powers that be to consider the promotion of strong hybrid technology which would bring in the benefits of lower emissions while keeping capital costs down.

Federalism and legality

The Centre can still regain trust by increasing the States' borrowing limits to cover the entire ₹2.35 lakh crore. States fear they are mortgaging their future



GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

By denying the payment of GST compensation to States and instead asking them to borrow, the Centre may have been legally correct but it must not be forgotten that the States had made a huge sacrifice in surrendering their taxing powers while agreeing to implement the GST regime. They had bought into the idea of a unified market based on what was promised to be a "Good and Simple Tax." That promise remains to be fulfilled yet. Multiple rates, technical glitches in the GSTN and difficulties faced by the taxpayers in getting timely refunds, that have bedevilled it since launch, still remain unaddressed. The latest decision of the GST Council may have driven a wedge between the Centre and the States, which have so far wonderfully cooperated in the panel that has, barring a single occasion, voted unanimously on all contentious issues.

This is not to undermine the positive benefits the GST has already brought. It was supposed to be a transformational tax, and in many ways it has been so. It not only eliminated multiplicity of taxes and cesses but also brought down the rate of effective tax and its incidence on most items. The ominous Inspector Raj and long queues of trucks at the state entry barriers are things of the past. Even in a country with a highly fractious political culture, the GST Council has set a shining example of cooperative federalism. However, the future may not be as smooth.

Even before the pandemic had struck, GST revenues were falling. Now the pandemic has wrought havoc and collections are nowhere near last year's levels. As per the GST Compensation Act, the Centre is supposed to compensate the States at bimonthly intervals for five years till FY-22, in case the revenue losses of the States exceeded 14 per cent growth calculated on the base-year 2015-16 collections. It was supposed to draw from the GST Compensation Fund financed by the Compensation Cess levied on luxury and sin goods like cars, tobacco products and soft drinks. GST payments to States for the current fiscal have been pending since April 2020. For 2019-20, the total compensation paid was ₹1.65 lakh crore against the compensation fund collections of just ₹95,444 crore, and the Centre had to tap the balance of cess from the previous years as well as



₹33,412 crore from the Consolidated Fund of India on account of IGST to meet the States' dues. Thus the inability to pay States' GST dues was not just due to the economic morass triggered by the pandemic. The actual collections under the fund now cover only half the monthly requirement of ₹14,000 crore.

The reduction in GST rates for many items had resulted in an inverted duty structure where the duty on the final product was less than the duty on the inputs, requiring higher refunds. The options before the GST Council were either to (1) rework the slabs or increase rates to correct the inverted duty structure; (2) increase the rates of compensation cess and expand the item base, or (3) allow the States to borrow more and repay the borrowing using future collections, that is, by extending the compensation cess beyond 2021-22. Given the mayhem caused by the pandemic and the severe contraction of the GDP driving the economy into a comatose state, the Centre was rightly wary of raising or expanding the scope of the cess that might cause further job losses. The Centre thus had only two options: either allow the States to borrow or meet the shortfall from its own resources, which must come from its own borrowings, with corresponding fiscal and monetary implications. Yields of government securities (G-Secs) will harden, putting pressure on interest rates across the economy; credit rating agencies also may view this negatively. Besides, with the fiscal deficit already having exceeded the full year target of ₹7.96 lakh crore, it was really a Hobson's

choice for the Centre.

The Act does not deal with this unprecedented shortfall of compensation cess, the reason for which is partly the inefficiency of the GSTN to fix the technical glitches, especially its inability to match the buyers' and suppliers' invoices. The Centre had earlier approached the Solicitor-General, who argued that it was not legally obliged to pay full compensation to the States. Armed with this, in the GST Council meeting of August 27, the Centre offered the States two options, the logic of which is questionable. It has cited the unprecedented economic contraction and consequent revenue shortfall due to the pandemic as an "Act of God", which is not covered by the GST statute that has no *force majeure* clause, to renege on its promise to pay the States compensation out of its own funds. There is also no denying that the Chinese action on the LAC has necessitated higher security expenditure.

The estimated compensation shortfall of ₹2.35 lakh crore in the current fiscal was divided into two segments though some accounting jugglery: ₹97,000 crore on account of GST implementation and the rest due to revenue loss attributable to COVID-19. Accordingly, the Centre offered two options to the states: Option-I for additional borrowing of ₹97,000 crore under a special borrowing window of the RBI at G-Sec-linked interest rates, to be repaid in full, including interest from the compensation cess fund, without being counted as States' debt. The rest ₹1.38 lakh crore will be reckoned as States' debt. Option-II was allowing them to borrow the entire

amount of ₹2.35 lakh crore from the market, of which only the principal will be paid from the compensation cess while the interest burden will lie on the States' shoulders. However, it appears that the Centre might allow the interest also to be paid from the cess without creating any burden on the exchequer. The compensation cess will continue to be levied beyond FY22 till the States' debts get liquidated.

Earlier, under the Centre's stimulus package, States were given additional borrowing space by raising their borrowing limits from 3 to 5 per cent of GSDP, but save 0.5 per cent, the rest was available only on their implementation of various reform measures, like the One Nation, One Ration Card, Ease of Doing Business, power distribution and augmentation of municipality revenues. Even the 0.5 per cent was conditional upon achievement of the milestones prescribed in respect of the reforms. Now Option-I allowed the States to carry forward any unutilised borrowing space up to 1 per cent of GSDP unconditionally to the next fiscal. The Centre would coordinate the borrowing and also bear the extra interest cost above the G-Sec yield through a subsidy. However, no such extra borrowing space would be available for Option-II; the entire borrowing exceeding ₹97,000 crore will count as the States' liability. The interest would be decided by the market and not linked to G-Sec yields.

States are understandably furious at what they see as "betrayal" of the Centre, especially the non-BJP ruled ones like Punjab, Delhi, Puducherry,

Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. They feel the distinction in the shortfall on account of GST implementation and the pandemic is "unconstitutional." In any case, they want the entire borrowing to be accommodated by increasing the borrowing limit. They are apprehensive that the borrowing would translate into "mortgaging of the future." States have a legitimate grouse not only because the delay in compensation payment has pushed their already precarious finances to the brink, but also because they get no share from the various cesses and surcharges levied by the Centre on items like petrol, diesel, education, health or social welfare.

Understandably it was not an easy decision for the Centre, and it militates against the spirit of cooperative federalism so far demonstrated convincingly by the GST Council. As regards borrowing by the States, there may not be much difficulty. The market is awash with liquidity with little demand for credit as evidenced by the FCI being able to raise loans of ₹75,000 crore at only 4.6 per cent. Banks are flush with funds from the stimulus package, which are being parked at the RBI at the reverse repo rate. But the Centre still can regain the States' trust by increasing their borrowing limits further to accommodate the entire ₹2.35 lakh crore. In federal relations, trust is as important as legality.

(The author is a former Director General, Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India and an academic.)

SOUNDBITE

India will continue to support the efforts of the people and Government of Afghanistan for an Afghan-led and Afghan-controlled inclusive peace process.

Defence Minister —Rajnath Singh



Nature has been my biggest teacher and has given me life lessons. I have learnt to value nature and understood that we humans are very small in front of her wrath.

Actress —Bhumi Pednekar



We stand ready to help with respect to China and India. If we can do anything, we will have to get involved and help. And we are talking to both countries about that.

US President —Donald Trump



The global lockdown led to cleaner air than we have had in decades. Nature can and will recover leading to better health for all people. But the lockdown isn't the solution.

Actress —Dia Mirza



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Economic collapse

Sir — The collapse of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to minus 23.9 per cent has pushed the country's growth behind by 50 years. Now, in order to achieve the goal of a \$5 trillion economy and nine per cent GDP growth, it will take a minimum of 10 to 12 years, which in the current situation looks impossible. With no money or purchasing power among the people due to the Coronavirus-induced lockdown, closure of industries and joblessness, there will be chaos in the days to come. There will be bankruptcy, price rise and poor performance in every sector as far as production is concerned. We are looking at stagnation.

The whole country is suffering due to the economic inefficiency and incompetence of the present regime which wants to blame the pandemic for its missteps. Does the Government want us to forget that the economy was in a shambles even before the outbreak of the Coronavirus? While its votaries have been focussing on *mandir-masjid*

India and China must resolve the LAC issue

It is disquieting that tension along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is still persistent and unabated. Though all agree that it should be defused, the face-off between the Indian and Chinese troops has not ended. It is true that New Delhi and Beijing are making little headway in the talks but still the parleys should continue in that they are the only option to resolve the conflict that has arisen from contrary territorial claims. The "difference in perception" between the two neighbours on the boundary or the LAC is at the root of the intractable problem. It is of vital importance that the channels of communication are kept open to prevent the conflict sliding into an outbreak of hostilities with calamitous consequences. The meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe in the neutral territory of Moscow on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation session was a welcome initiative for averting further escalation of the conflict. Some sections of the media went overboard in the war of nerves and their choice of words could have been better than "rattled China was on the backfoot and begging for talks." Bravado should be distinct from patriotism.

A peaceful resolution to the stand-off is in the interests of both India and China. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar holds that diplomacy is the only way out and his is indeed a voice of reason and sanity. It must dawn on China that it is folly to make incursions into Indian ter-



ritory and attempt to change the status quo unilaterally. For the relations between the two countries to thaw, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) must disengage and retreat to the positions it was at before the face-off. Any act that is not mutually acceptable will only result in an aggravation of conflicts and friction.

It is futile to think in terms of military strength or superiority. Both India and China must be actuated by neighbourliness so that they are better placed to use their resources to unlock their full potential. It is axiomatic that cooperation is better than confrontation. It should not be difficult for New Delhi and Beijing to make the right choice between peace and war. Two countries making up one-third of humanity cannot live in perpetual hostility.

G David Milton
Kanyakumari

Shame on Kangana

Sir — Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut's controversial tweet, in which she compared Mumbai to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir,

politics and people have been lynched by cow vigilantes, the economy of the nation has dipped to a level never seen before. Yet, the BJP continues to

blame the Congress for all its woes. At least it didn't drive us down to this extent.
Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

should not be tolerated by Mumbaikars. It is good that the leaders of the ruling alliance in Maharashtra lashed out at her for insulting the people of the State. Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh made a statement that "those who feel unsafe in the city have no right to live here."

Why should anyone insult a State that has welcomed people from all over the country with open arms? Other people, who have made Mumbai their home, don't agree with Ranaut's statement and she should not give lessons to Mumbaikars on how to behave as she herself is very abusive and offensive.

She, too, is playing by the same book that she accuses her contemporaries of. She is going to any length for publicity and has taken a Right-wing political position to be heard, knowing full well that she will find support online and on news media. Ranaut is hand in glove with some power-hungry politicians to malign the Sena-NCP-Congress Government and the Mumbai Police. Shame on her!

Ashmit Aaron
Noida

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Slump bad for the environment

As the Govt becomes busy resuscitating the economy and fighting the pandemic, all environmental initiatives will take a back seat



KOTA SRIRAJ

Fears of the pandemic worsening the already ailing economy of the country are starting to come true as India reported its first fiscal contraction since 1980 and a maiden quarterly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fall as well. As a spate of lockdowns ravaged the economy even further, the figures said it all. The National Statistical Office (NSO) data showed that India's GDP contracted by 23.9 per cent in the April-June quarter in comparison to the same period last year. The combined impact of demonetisation, implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime had already decelerated the economy in the last two years, but the current pandemic threatens to bring it to a grinding halt. Some of the biggest sectors are in a dismal state. The construction sector, for instance, is seeing a 50 per cent fall in business activity whereas manufacturing is witnessing a drop of 39 per cent. The hospitality sector, on the other hand, is undergoing a 47 per cent slump. These conditions are not only stoking unemployment and exacerbating poverty but are making it difficult for the common man to get access to quality health-care. This steep GDP plunge of the last four decades highlights the economic predicament that the nation finds itself in and worrying these conditions do not bode well for the environment as well.

What makes it worse for India is the fact that there has been no major progress in its Human Development Index (HDI) which can cushion this economic decline. According to the United Nations (UN) 2019 HDI report, India ranks 129th out of 189 nations. This, basically translates to grim social sector development in terms of life expectancy, per capita income and education levels. Past trends show that a better social sector development in India automatically caused increased awareness among people in environmental conservation and conversely when the economy deteriorated, people become more interested in their self-preservation and less concerned with the state of the environment. This is evident by the fact that major environmental movements such as the Narmada Bachao Andolan or protests against the Tehri Dam projects happened while the economy was in the midst of changing gears and not going through a slump.

To many observers, it may appear as though the slowdown may have eased the voracious demands of a burgeoning economy on natural resources, thereby giving the environment a much-deserved break. But this is a short-term gain because in the long-term the very initiatives that are taken to fight climate change, cope with greenhouse gas emissions and tackle pollution problems are all based on the functioning of a healthy economy which can fund these activities. In the absence of a sustainable source of finances, much of the environmental conservation initiatives in India would just drift and make no progress. As the Government becomes increasingly busy in resuscitating the economy on the one hand and fighting the pandemic on the other, environmental concerns and related initiatives will get jundered.

Another aspect that will hit the environment is the fact that there will be an inevitable drop in corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities of India Inc. Thanks to a dwindling economy, most of the cash-starved businesses are struggling to meet their monthly wage bills, let alone divert funds for CSR initiatives. This translates into a double whammy for the environment as Government-funded projects are poised to slow down and CSR projects, too, are unlikely to be accorded budgets and priority. This sudden paucity of finances, coupled with the stringent social distancing norms and lockdown conditions, can stop many environmental projects in their tracks. This is unfortunate as the considerable progress made so far would be rendered futile.

Given the direct relationship between the economic slump and environmental deterioration, it is essential for the Government to decouple both aspects in the best interests of the environment. In its effort to decouple the economic downturn and its impact on the environment, the Government must build on the initial advantages the slowdown provided the environment. The relief to the environment on account of lesser exploitation of natural resources and pollution generated must be coupled with specific economic initiatives that are directed towards generating employment in the environment conservation sector. This will address two problems in one go: That of addressing unemployment as well as conserving the environment.

Similarly, for those marginal and micro, small and medium enterprises that have gone bankrupt due to COVID-19, the Government can offer a fresh lease of life by announcing special financial, technical and infrastructural support packages if they choose to restart business activities in the renewable energy sector or any environment conservation-related one. Every dark cloud has a silver lining, and so does the current economic crisis, provided the latent opportunity for environment conservation is spotted and leveraged. If this is not done, the environment will suffer the same way the economy already is.

(The writer is an environmental journalist)

MOST INNER CIRCLES OF HUGELY SUCCESSFUL STARS AND 99 PER CENT SUPERSTARS HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO HARD DRUGS AND I GUARANTEE THIS.

—ACTOR

KANGANA RANAUT

POINT COUNTERPOINT



ANYONE WHO FEELS THAT 90 PER CENT OF THE FILM INDUSTRY IS ON DRUGS SHOULD JOIN PIOUS AND HOLIER THAN THE GANGA INDUSTRIES LIKE POLITICS.

—ACTOR

ANNUP SONII

Build access denial skills

Like China, India must develop Anti-Access Area Denial capabilities to prevent any future build-up of Chinese forces in Tibet and neutralise any threat from Pakistan



ANIL GUPTA

With the dragon becoming increasingly aggressive and the two-front threat becoming a certainty, India needs to shed its historic "continentalist" mindset and transform from a military force to a military power. In order to do that, India, apart from strengthening its maritime power, has also to develop non-kinetic warfare capabilities in the space, cyber and electronic warfare (EW) domains. India has the technology but is keen on using it for civilian rather than military purposes. A minor policy change will enable us to develop systems purely for military use. There is an urgent need to develop threat-specific responses to ward off any danger to our national security from belligerent China and Pakistan.

Our strategy so far relies on the offensive capabilities of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to counter the menace posed by our adversaries. But China has deployed an array of Surface to Air Missiles (SAMs) in both Xinjiang and Tibet regions and is also providing military assistance, including proliferation of banned technology to Pakistan, to upgrade its Integrated Air Defence System (IADS). At the same time China and Pakistan have colluded to ensure that we remain fixated towards our land borders and have to spend so heavily to keep them secure that the much-wanted expansion of the Indian Navy gets scuttled.

This will be a big drawback in our attempts to ward off any maritime threat and counter China's growing interest in the Indian Ocean. The two-front intimidation is certainly a measure taken by the Chinese to keep India focussed to the threat from its land borders and remain distracted from its maritime ambitions, which were exhibited in the recently-enhanced budget of the Navy and its impressive acquisition list, including aircraft carriers, destroyers, frigates, amphibious transport ships, submarines and surveillance aircraft.

China is very sensitive to the vulnerabilities of its Sea Lanes of Communications (SLOCs) which cater to 80 per cent of its trade and movement of oil and goods from the Middle East to the Chinese ports. To keep the Chinese supply chain going, safe SLOCs are critical. Nevertheless, it is taking steps to mitigate its "Malacca dilemma" by building up its surface naval forces and undersea fleet, financing deep-water commercial ports in littoral and island nations and making diplomatic inroads with key actors across the Indian Ocean basin.

As part of its string of pearls policy to encircle India, it is negotiating with our neighbours, namely Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. In the future, these efforts could give China the ability to sustain forward-deployed forces in greater numbers and might tilt in its favour the maritime military balance in the region. The development of Gwadar port, the Karakoram highway and the use of Iranian ports after signing the strategic treaty with Iran will, to a great extent, mitigate Chinese problems at sea. Yet, in the quest for becoming a global power, the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) will still continue to struggle for dominance of the Indian Ocean and pose a threat to India's claim of the most powerful resident power in the region.

While Russia pioneered the Anti-Access Area Denial (A2/AD) capability to check the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) forces and primarily the US during the Cold War, China in the modern days has made considerable progress in mastering the technology and development of systems to keep the US Navy away from the South China Sea (SCS) and the disputed maritime claims of the nine-dash line. It did not hesitate to fire its deadly hypersonic "Fleet Killer" missile in the disputed Spratly Islands when the US was busy conducting the ten-nation RIMPAC naval exercise off the Hawaiian Coast in the Pacific Ocean. Incidentally,

“ WITH THE HIMALAYAN DEFENCES BECOMING IMPREGNABLE, ONLY A FOOLHARDY ENEMY WILL ATTEMPT A MAJOR/DECISIVE BATTLE THERE. WHILE MIND GAMES AND PROVOCATIONS WILL CONTINUE ALONG THE LAC, A DECISIVE BLOW TO THE CHINESE CAN ONLY BE DELIVERED AT SEA. IN ORDER TO COUNTER CHINA'S GROWING EXPANSIONISM AND BELLIGERENCE, INDIA SHOULD SERIOUSLY EXPLORE THE OPTION OF CONVERTING THE QUAD FROM A MERE SECURITY DIALOGUE TO A SECURITY ALLIANCE FOLLOWED BY QUAD +



An Indian naval ship was also deployed in the SCS at that time. The DF 21 Killer Missile has the capability of destroying a moving carrier at sea. With this China displayed its A2/AD capabilities and sent a stern warning to both the US and India.

India, too, needs to develop A2/AD capabilities to prevent any future build-up of Chinese forces in the Tibet region and neutralise any threat from Islamabad by grounding the Pakistan Air Force before it becomes airborne as far as our land frontiers are concerned. Along the maritime borders, the A2/AD capability will enable us to prevent access to the PLAN and restrict the freedom of movement of the Pakistan Navy. Inherent in it would be the development of countermeasures needed to ensure freedom of movement and operation of our air and naval forces across the land and maritime frontiers.

To develop the A2/AD capability, it is necessary to understand its philosophy. Action intended to slow deployment of friendly forces into a theatre or cause such forces to operate from distances farther from the locus of conflict than they would otherwise prefer is called as Anti-Access (A2). It affects the movement of adversary forces into a theatre. Action intended to impede friendly operations within areas where it is difficult to prevent access of inimical forces is termed Area Denial (AD). AD affects manoeuvre within a theatre. The two are not mutually exclusive. A2/AD capabilities are overlapping and spread across multi-domains to include both kinetic and non-kinetic systems with the sole purpose of degrading the adversaries' war-fighting capabilities at land, sea, air, cyber, space and EW. Emerging technologies representing military revolution in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Technology, Swarm Technology and hypersonic weapons form the backbone of these capabilities.

A potent A2/AD capability will pose a serious threat to the ability of both our adversaries to deploy and employ forces across our land and maritime boundaries. India needs to develop A2/AD capabilities not only as countermeasures to the

combined threat posed by both China and Pakistan but also to pose a similar threat to them, both at land and sea.

A2/AD capabilities have to be an integration of terrestrial, air and space-based sensors which can defeat stealth technology, an array of long range deep penetrating cruise, surface-to-air and air-to-surface missiles, space weapons, satellites, hypersonic weapons and aerial platforms, both manned and unmanned. India has an arsenal of formidable missile systems and aerial platforms; it has invested in the Russian S-400 Air Defence System, Phalcon AWACS, armed drones and other air defence systems.

But it still needs more to develop a formidable A2/AD capability, particularly to dominate the Indian Ocean and keep PLAN at bay. For the purposes of command and control, the existing Strategic Forces Command (SFC) should be nominated. India needs to invest more in boosting aerospace capabilities and cyber warfare capabilities. The need for an aerospace and a cyber command has become more pressing now.

As countermeasures to the adversaries' A2/AD capability in Tibet region and against our western neighbour, we need to invest heavily in the development of stealth, stand-off precision strike, Manned Unmanned Teaming (MUT), Swarming technologies and development of a robust Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) and EW potential. Meanwhile, the IAF will have to be boosted with the next-generation stand-off strike capability in the form of missiles and unmanned platforms.

As far as the Indian Ocean is concerned, India will always be constrained by resources to invest heavily in power projection naval platforms. Due to the nature of the threat to India's security, the Indian Army and the IAF will remain the main focus centres as far as defence expenditure is concerned. But at the same time in order to score over China, India will need to cash upon the Chinese "Malacca

dilemma." The best option for India in such an eventuality is to spend on A2/AD capability rather than investing in maritime power-projecting forces with more concentration on anti-access capabilities because India enjoys the advantage of home turf viz a viz PLAN.

For this, India's island territories, namely the Lakshadweep Islands and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, will play a crucial role. These territories, which overlook critical Indian Ocean lanes, give India a toehold in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. India has already taken steps to bolster its military presence on these strategically-positioned islands during the ongoing stand-off with China. These could be developed as epicentres of our A2/AD capabilities to guard our maritime frontiers.

India's joint warfare doctrine will need to focus on countering the adversaries' A2/AD capabilities to ensure operational freedom of friendly forces with minimum downgradation of our fighting capability and also to include the potential of our A2/AD capabilities to cause maximum attrition to the adversaries' war fighting potential and their exploitation.

With the Himalayan defences becoming impregnable, only a foolhardy enemy will attempt a major/decisive battle there. While mind games and provocations will continue along the LAC, a decisive blow to the Chinese can only be delivered at sea.

In order to counter China's growing expansionism and belligerence, India should seriously explore the option of converting the QUAD from a mere security dialogue to a security alliance followed by QUAD+. The combined GDP of QUAD is double that of China thus neutralising the growing economic muscle of the dragon. The move will benefit India as far as the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Mission is concerned. The availability of high-end technology will become easier, giving a boost to domestic production and also ensure safety of supply chain lines.

(The author is a veteran political commentator, security and strategic analyst)

The exploitation of 'religious' parties

Religio-political parties struggle to command a major chunk of the Pakistani votebank. Why then do they play an oversized role in the country's politics?



NADEEM PARACHA

The combined vote share of religio-political parties in the 2018 elections in Pakistan was 9.58 per cent, slightly lower than what it was in the 2013 polls and much lower than the 11 per cent they bagged in 2002. The 2002 tally was the highest the Islamist parties have ever received in polls. In 2018, the performance of religio-political parties was weak because there were a lot more Islamist parties competing. Apart from the established ones, two new religio-political outfits emerged: The Milli Muslim League

(MML) and Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP). Their entry into electoral politics was encouraged by the establishment to usurp the "religious vote" of the Centre-Right PML-N so that Imran Khan's Centre-Right PTI could benefit. None of the new religio-political parties could win many seats, but that was never the "plan."

Whereas the MML could not perform in the manner in which some expected it to, the radical Bareilvi TLP not only succeeded in usurping PML-N's Bareilvi vote, but also gobbled up the secular MQM's lower-middle-class Bareilvi votes in Karachi. This certainly aided PTI in challenging the PML-N in Punjab and the MQM in Karachi. Historically, Islamist outfits in South Asia are not built as electoral parties. They emerge as evangelical groups or residues of movements. And even when they do convert into electoral outfits, they struggle to do well

in polls because the non-religion-based mainstream parties pragmatically co-opt their causes and rhetoric.

Plus, the religio-political parties are closely associated with one Islamic sect/sub-sect or the other. This limits their appeal to voters from other denominations. Some are even understood to have developed a sect of their own, as the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) was once accused of doing. Islamist groups in South Asia developing political interests is a 20th century phenomenon rooted in the Khilafat Movement of 1919-1924. When the European theory of the State began to attract Centrist and Leftist groups in South Asia in the early 20th century, Islamist groups, too, began to be attracted by it and started to theorise the possibility of creating an "Islamic state." But most of them could not find the means or the need to devise any electoral tools to achieve such a State. They often saw

electoral politics as contrary to their Islamist dispositions. That's why the demand for a Muslim-majority State Pakistan arose from a Centrist and quasi-secular All India Muslim League (AIML). What's more, almost all major Islamist parties opposed this demand on one pretext or the other. But they could not neutralise AIML's plans because, by the 1940s, it had not only become an experienced electoral entity, but it was able to juxtapose its "modernist" Muslim nationalism with rhetoric from their Islamist opponents. These opponents had no plan to stall the League through electoral means.

The Islamist parties remained in an electoral limbo during the first 20 years of Pakistan but they did retain their evangelical and agitational disposition, in an attempt to influence the ideological character of the new country. But even during the years of indirect elections (1957-58) and hybrid

democracy (1962-69), they could not devise any effective electoral tools and send members to the first two constituent Assemblies, and the two Assemblies that came into being during the Ayub Khan dictatorship.

Yet, just before the country's first direct elections in 1970, parties such as JI were claiming that they would sweep the polls. But the opposite happened. From 1947 till 1972, Islamist parties operated from outside the Assemblies and had no significant influence on policymaking, other than through the threat of agitations. Though 18 members from three religio-political parties managed to enter the 1972 Parliament, they were no match for the mainstream electoral parties. That's why, in 1974 and then again in 1977, Islamist parties once again banked on their penchant for agitational politics to undermine a regime. With the sidelining of some

major parties during 1977, the religio-political parties were given space to develop their electoral skills and expand constituencies. Separate electorates were introduced to favour them. But the idea, on the part of the military regime, was to manoeuvre them in a manner that would help the Zia dictatorship ward off challenges posed by the Opposition parties.

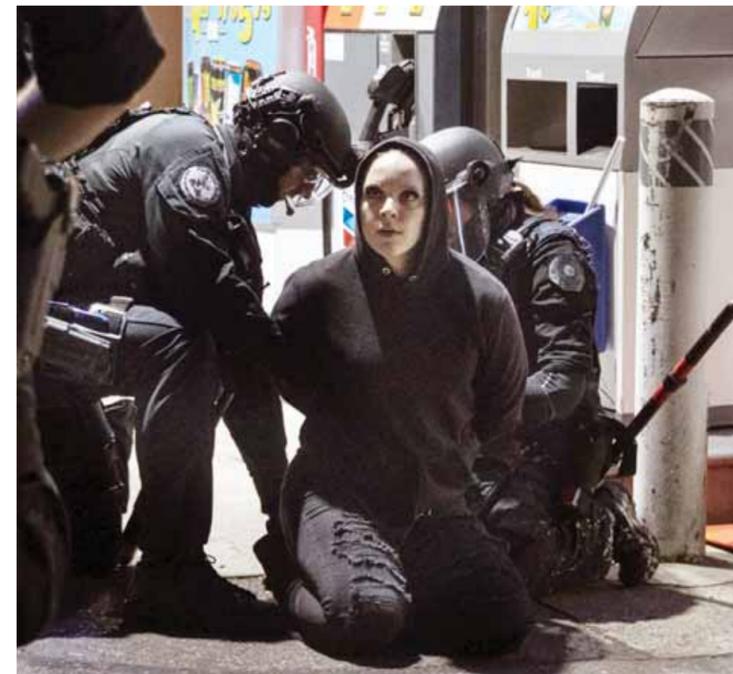
Most of them became tools of the establishment, without whose backing they believed they could not become effective electoral entities. In the 1990s, the PML-N continued to co-opt religious rhetoric of the Islamist parties. However, the self-proclaimed "enlightened moderate" Musharraf decided to aggressively sideline the PML-N and the PPP during the 2002 polls, by creating the conditions required for the religio-political parties to win in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This was when these parties bagged 11

per cent of the vote but this could not halt the return of the PPP and the PML-N after the 2008 elections.

In the eyes of the establishment, the mutable utility of the old religio-political parties has been exhausted. With growing mistrust between the PML-N/PPP and the establishment, the latter "allowed" the growth of new religion-based groups like the TLP and the MML. In an environment where the State was at war with religious militancy and with the sword of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) still hanging over the country's head, the idea was to quietly nurture new religious groups, not to help them win, but to aid the pro-establishment PTI by way of scattering PML-N's religious votebank. The fate of the religio-political parties in politics is thus likely to continue being dependent on their utility to the establishment.

(Courtesy: Dawn)

A Riot: Cops on Black Lives Matter rally in US city, dozens arrested



A protester is arrested during clashes with police

AFP ■ PORTLAND

Police arrested dozens of people and used tear gas against hundreds of demonstrators in Portland late Saturday as the western US city marked 100 days since Black Lives Matter protests erupted against racism and police brutality.

Police quickly declared the rally a "riot" after protesters hurled Molotov cocktails at them, and they responded with a barrage of tear gas to disperse the crowd. At least one person was injured by the fire bombs, police said.

Officers arrested dozens of protesters in an ensuing game of cat-and-mouse through a residential district of east Portland.

"It was Day 100 for Black Lives Matter protests in Portland since George Floyd's murder and they wanted to prevent us from marching," said 20-year-old protester Jay, her eyes red from the tear gas.

"It's our constitutional right to be here and to express ourselves," Police said people were "engaging in tumultuous and violent conduct thereby intentionally or recklessly

creating a grave risk of causing public alarm."

"This is a riot. Police are giving announcements to disperse. People are throwing Molotov cocktails," Portland Police said on Twitter.

The nightly protests were sparked by the death of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis in May.

Floyd's death triggered similar protests nationwide, but it is in Portland — a city of 6,50,000 that is more than 70 percent white — that activists have remained on the streets practically every night, demanding racial justice and police accountability.

President Donald Trump has cast the city as being under siege by "thugs" engaged in "domestic terrorism," though the demonstrations have been peaceful for the most part.

Tensions escalated again last weekend after a man identified as a supporter of a right-wing group was shot and killed.

Earlier on Saturday, hundreds of people gathered in a park near Portland in a memorial for Aaron "Jay" Danielson, a supporter of the far-right group Patriot Prayer.

The 39-year-old was fatally shot after he joined pro-Trump supporters who descended on Portland, sparking confrontations with Black Lives Matter counter-protesters.

The suspect in the shooting, Michael Reinoehl, 48, was killed in neighboring Washington state as police tried to arrest him.

The circumstances of Danielson's death are still under investigation but Reinoehl appeared to acknowledge shooting him in an interview

with Vice News.

"We are in the midst of a civil war between good and evil, the good, the good is all the folks you see here," said Dann, 50, who knew Danielson through Patriot Prayer, pointing to the families lined up near an imposing barbecue among camping chairs and numerous American flags displayed for the occasion.

"The evil is the liberals who are letting these cities be destroyed by Antifa, BLM, whoever you want to call

them," he said.

Apart from the homage to the victim and the groups of men with assault rifles or pistols, the atmosphere at the park in Vancouver, just north of Portland, was almost partylike.

But Dann was gloomy about the run-up to the presidential election.

"The next two months are going to be terrible. There's going to be more violence. There's going to be more atrocities. There's going to be more name calling," he predicted.

Jacob Blake speaks out for first time since police shooting

AP ■ MILWAUKEE

Jacob Blake has spoken publicly for the first time since a Kenosha, Wisconsin, police officer shot him seven times in the back, saying he's in constant pain from the shooting, which doctors fear will leave him paralyzed from the waist down.

In a video posted Saturday night on Twitter by his family's lawyer, Ben Crump, Blake said from his hospital bed that, "Twenty-four hours, every 24 hours it's pain, nothing but pain. It hurts to breathe, it hurts to sleep, it hurts to move from side-to-side, it hurts to eat."

Blake, a 29-year-old father of six, also said he has staples in his back and stomach.

"Your life, and not only just your life, your legs, something you need to move around and forward in life, can be taken from you like this," Blake said, snapping his fingers.

He added: "Stick together, make some money, make everything easier for our people out there, man, because there's so much time that's been wasted."

Blake, who is Black, was shot in the back by a white police officer on Aug. 23 after walking away from the officer and two others who were trying to arrest him. The officer, Rusten Sheskey, opened fire



after Blake opened his own SUV's driver-side door and leaned into the vehicle. The shooting was captured on video and posted online, sparking several nights of protests and unrest in Kenosha, a city of about 1,00,000 between Milwaukee and Chicago.

Sheskey and the other officers who were at the scene were placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice. None of them have been charged.

Blake, who had an outstanding arrest warrant when he was shot, pleaded not guilty Friday to charges accusing him of sexually assaulting a

woman in May and waived his right to a preliminary hearing. Blake appeared remotely via video conference from his Milwaukee hospital bed, wearing a dress shirt and tie. He spoke only to respond to the judge's questions.

The state Justice Department has said a knife was recovered from Blake's vehicle, but it has not said whether he was holding it when officers tried to arrest him. The man who made the widely seen cell-phone video of the shooting, 22-year-old Raysean White, said he saw Blake scuffling with three officers and heard them yell, "Drop the knife! Drop the knife!" before gunfire erupted. He said he didn't see a knife in Blake's hands.

3 desperate migrants jump into sea from stranded Med tanker

AP ■ ROME

Three migrants stranded aboard a tanker for over a month awaiting a port to disembark jumped into the Mediterranean Sea on Sunday in a sign of increasing despair on deck, the ship reported.

Maersk Tankers A/S said the captain and crew of its chemical tanker Etienne quickly rescued the three migrants and brought them back aboard. But the company repeated its demand for a port and urgent humanitarian assistance to ensure that the passengers "are immediately given the attention and care that they need."

The Etienne rescued a group of 27 would-be refugees on Aug. 4 at the request of Maltese authorities as the migrants' fishing boat sank. Malta, however, has refused to let the migrants disembark and the Etienne has been stuck in international waters 17 miles off the small European Union island nation as food and water

supplies are running low.

The Maersk has reported that tensions aboard the ship were growing, culminating in Sunday's desperate jumps.

Malta, like Italy, often balks at taking in rescued migrants, insisting that other EU nations should share the burden of caring for people rescued in the central Mediterranean. While such standoffs have become increasingly common, the Etienne's plight is the longest in recent times and suggests that other mercantile ships might be less willing to respond to distress calls from migrants in the future.

Not helping those in need on the sea, however, goes against maritime standards, placing ship captains in an untenable position. On Saturday, the GNV Rhapsody ferry moored off Lampedusa to take migrants off the small Italian island. Italian officials have been hastily chartering ferries and putting other measures into place to fight severe overcrowding at migrant centers on Lampedusa.

'Friends should have defied US sanctions during Covid pandemic'

Tehran: Iranian President Hassan Rouhani castigated Iran's friends on Saturday for not standing up to the United States and ignoring US sanctions during the coronavirus pandemic. Iran with over 3,80,000 registered Covid cases is one of the countries worst hit by the pandemic in the Middle East.

"Over the past months since the coronavirus arrived in our country... no one came to our help," President Rouhani said in remarks broadcast live on state television. If the US "had a bit of humanity and brain," he said, it would have offered to "lift the sanctions for a year because of the coronavirus."

But the US "is far more heartless and evil than those things," he added. Instead, it "imposed new sanctions and pressures on us over these past 7 months of coronavirus." At the same time, "Not a single friendly country told us that in this time of coronavirus and hardship and for the sake of humanity 'we will stand up to America' and do business with Iran despite threats of US retaliation, President Rouhani said.

HK police arrest 289 at protests over election delay



People, sitting on the ground, are arrested by police officers at a downtown street in Hong Kong on Sunday

AP ■ HONG KONG

About 290 people were arrested Sunday at protests against the government's decision to postpone elections for Hong Kong's legislature, police said. The elections were to have taken place Sunday but Chief Executive Carrie Lam on July 31 postponed them for one year. Lam blamed an upsurge in coronavirus cases, but critics said her government worried the opposition would gain seats if voting went ahead on schedule.

Police said that 289 people had been arrested, mostly for unlawful assembly. One woman was arrested in the Kowloon district of Yau Ma Tei on charges of assault and spreading pro-independence slogans, the police department

said on its Facebook page. It said such slogans are illegal under a newly enacted national security law.

Anti-government protests erupted last year over a proposed extradition law and spread to include demands for greater democracy and criticism of Beijing's efforts to tighten control over the former British colony. The coronavirus and the tough new security law have diminished the demonstrations this year, but smaller groups still take to the streets from time to time.

The ruling Communist Party's decision to impose the law in May prompted complaints it was violating the autonomy promised to the territory when it was returned to China in 1997.

Wouldn't trust Trump on pre-election coronavirus vaccine: Kamala Harris

Washington: Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris said in comments released Saturday that if a coronavirus vaccine is available before November's election, she would not take President Donald Trump's word on its safety and efficacy.

Trump faces intense pressure to curb the contagion that has clouded his re-election prospects, sparking worries his administration could rush vaccine research to fit a political timetable.

"I would not trust Donald Trump and it would have to be a credible source of information that talks about the efficacy and the reliability of (a vaccine)," Harris told CNN. "I will not take his word for it."

A shot against the virus that has killed over 188,000 in the US and hobbled the world's largest economy has become another flashpoint ahead of the November 3 vote.

This week news broke that the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention asked states to sweep away red tape that could prevent a network of vaccine distribution centers being "fully operational by November 1, 2020."

Man kills his journalist wife in Pakistan

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

A woman journalist and Asozial worker has been shot dead allegedly by her husband in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province, a media report said on Sunday.

The incident took place in Turbat, the headquarters of Kech district, on Saturday.

According to a police statement, husband Mehrab Gichki took Shaheena Shaheen Baloch's body to a hospital in a car, but fled soon afterwards. By that time, the woman had died from bullet wounds.

Police visited a house in the PTCL Colony, Turbat, where the shooting allegedly took place. Police found blood, an empty bullet shell and a bullet at the scene, the Dawn newspaper reported.

Police quoted some sources as saying that Baloch was the wife of Gichki.

However, a relative of the deceased disputed this.

A case has been registered and investigation is underway, a senior police official said, adding that Gichki is still absconding.

He said the incident seemed to be a case of domestic violence.

GLOBE TROTTER

TYPHOON UNLEASHES RAIN, STRONG WINDS IN JAPAN

Tokyo: The second powerful typhoon to slam Japan in a week unleashed fierce winds and rain on southern islands on Sunday, blowing off rooftops and leaving homes without power as it edged northward into an area vulnerable to flooding and mudslides. Weather officials warned that the rainfall from what could be a record storm would be fierce. Warnings were issued days in advance for people to be ready to take shelter and stock up on food and water.

1 KILLED IN MULTIPLE STABBINGS IN UK

London: UK police said a murder inquiry has been launched on Sunday after one man was killed and seven people injured in multiple stabbings overnight in the city of Birmingham.

According to reports, West Midlands Police believe the victims were picked at random and do not believe the incident was terror or gang related.

NAVALNY PROBE: GERMANY UPS PRESSURE ON RUSSIA

Berlin: Germany increased pressure on Russia over the poisoning of Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny, warning that a lack of support by Moscow in the investigation could "force" Germany to rethink the fate of a German-Russian gas pipeline project.

Iran airs televised confession of wrestler after Trump tweet

AP ■ DUBAI

Iran has broadcast the televised confession of a wrestler facing the death penalty after a tweet from President Donald Trump criticising the case, a segment that resembled hundreds of other suspected coerced confessions aired over the last decade in the Islamic Republic.

The case of 27-year-old Navid Afkari has drawn the attention of a social media campaign that portrays him and his brothers as victims targeted over participating in protests against Iran's Shiite theocracy in 2018.

The television segment and authorities accuse Afkari of stabbing a water supply company employee in the southern city of Shiraz amid the unrest.

Afkari's case has drawn international attention and revived a demand inside the country that Iran, one of the world's top executioners, stop carrying out the death penalty. Even imprisoned Iranian human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh, herself nearly a month into a hunger strike over conditions at Tehran's Evin prison amid the coronavirus pandemic, has passed word that she supports Afkari.

WikiLeaks' Assange to fight US extradition bid in UK court

AP ■ LONDON

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is set to fight for his freedom in a British court after a decade of legal drama, as he challenges American authorities' attempt to extradite him on spying charges over the site's publication of secret US military documents.

Lawyers for Assange and the US Government are scheduled to face off in London Monday at an extradition hearing that was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic.

American prosecutors have indicted the 49-year-old Australian on 18 espionage and computer misuse charges adding up to a maximum sentence of 175 years.

SUNLOC
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NOTICE OF THE 46TH AGM SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, THE 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2020 AT 12:30 P.M./IST THROUGH VIDEO CONFERRING ("VC") OR OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS ("OAVM"), E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the 46th Annual General Meeting of the members of the Company will be held on Monday, the 28th September, 2020 at 12:30 P.M./IST through Video Conferencing (VC)/ other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) for which Registered office of the Company at 38E/252A, Vijay Tower, 3rd floor, Panchsheel Commercial Complex, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049, shall be deemed as the venue for the meeting to transact the businesses as set out in the AGM Notice.

Pursuant to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) circular no. 20/2020 dated 05th May, 2020, Companies are permitted to hold Annual General Meeting (AGM) through Video Conferencing (VC) or other Audio Visual Means (OAVM), without physical presence of the Members at a common venue.

In compliance of the aforementioned circulars, Electronic Notice of AGM alongwith the explanatory statement as per section 102 of Companies Act, 2013, and procedure of Remote E- Voting/ Evoting, attending of the meeting through Video conferencing details, Annual Report for Financial year 2019-20 has been sent electronically on Sunday, September 06, 2020 to the members to their email address as registered with their Depository Participant (DP) on July 24, 2020. Further, the same are also available on Company's website <https://www.sunilhealthcare.com/annual-reports>, website of Stock Exchange i.e. www.bseindia.com, and website of Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd. i.e. <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>.

The members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on cut-off date i.e. Monday, the 21st September, 2020, may cast their vote electronically on the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM through electronic InstaVote platform of Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd. <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>.

The members may note that:-

- The remote e-voting period will commence at 9:00 A.M. on Friday, the 25th September, 2020 and will end at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, the 27th September, 2020 and thereafter, e-voting module shall be disabled by Evoting agency.
- Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the shareholder, the shareholder shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
- The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to their shares of the paid up equity share capital of the Company as on cut-off date of 21st September, 2020.
- Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after dispatch of the notice and holding shares as of the cut-off date i.e. 21st September, 2020 may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at enotices@linkintime.co.in or delhi@linkintime.co.in. However, if you are already registered with LIPL e-voting platform i.e. <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in> for remote e-voting then you can use your existing user ID and password for casting your vote. If you forgot your password, you can reset your password by using "Forgot User Details/Password" option available on <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in> or contact LIPL at enotices@linkintime.co.in or contact on - Tel: 022-4918 6000.
- A person, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting /voting at the Annual General Meeting through a voting.
- A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again at the AGM.
- Mr. Tara Chand Sharma, Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No.5749 and CP no is 4078) and Proprietor of M/s. Jain Sharma & Associates, Company Secretaries, Jaipur has been appointed as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting and remote E voting process in a fair and transparent manner, result would be declared not later than forty eight hours of the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.
- In case shareholders/ members have any queries regarding e-voting, they may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and InstaVote e-Voting manual available at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>, under Help section or send an email to enotices@linkintime.co.in or contact on - Tel: 022-4918 6000. The Member may also contact at delhi@linkintime.co.in, cs@sunilhealthcare.com or to our RTA at rta@alankit.com or lalit@alankit.com.
- For details instruction of e-voting and attending meeting through VC or OAVM, the members are requested go through the notice of the meeting.

Notice is further given that pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 10 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015, the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain close from Monday, 21.09.2020 to Monday 28.09.2020 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting of the Company.

On order of the Board For SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED

Sd/-
SANTOSH KUMAR SHARMA
 COMPANY SECRETARY & COMPLIANCE OFFICER
 FCS-6817
 Place - New Delhi
 Dated- September 06, 2020
 Email: cs@sunilhealthcare.com
 Contact No. 011-49435541

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 Web: www.rungtairrigation.in | Email ID: cs@rungtairrigation.in

In continuation to our earlier advertisement dated September 3, 2020, NOTICE is hereby given that the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 11:00 AM THROUGH VIDEO CONFERRING (VC) OR OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OAVM) to transact the business as set out in AGM Notice in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made there under, read with MCA/SEBI Circulars without physical presence of members at common venue.

In compliance with the circulars, the Notice of virtual AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year 2019-20 have been sent to all the members electronically to the e-mail ID registered by them with the Company/ DP on or before September 7, 2020. The requirement of sending physical copy of the notice of the AGM and Annual Report for the FY 2019-20 to the Members has been dispensed with vide relevant Circulars and the same will be available on the website of the Company at www.rungtairrigation.in and on the website of the BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the rules made there of and Regulation 44 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015, the Company is providing e-voting facility to its members holding shares as on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 being cut off date, to exercise their vote at the ensuing AGM through an electronic voting system from a place other than that of the venue of meeting (e-voting). The company has engaged CDSL to provide remote e-voting facility. The details pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules thereof are as under:

- E-voting period commences on Saturday, September 26, 2020 at 10:00 A.M and ends on Monday, September 28, 2020 at 5:00 P.M. The voting through electronic means shall not be allowed beyond 05:00 P.M. on September 28, 2020.
- The businesses set out in the notice of AGM, may be transacted or e-voting facility at the AGM.
- The share transfer book of the Company will remain closed from Wednesday, September 23, 2020 to Tuesday, September 29, 2020 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of the Annual General Meeting. The facility of joining the AGM through VCOAVM shall be 30 minutes before and after the scheduled time of the commencement of the Meeting and will be available for members on first come first served basis.
- The voting right of members shall be in proportion to their shares of the paid up equity share capital of the company as on the cutoff date i.e. September 22, 2020. Any person who becomes the member of the company after dispatch of notice of AGM and holding shares as of the cut off date i.e. September 22, 2020, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request to helpdesk@cdslindia.com or cs@rungtairrigation.in. Members are requested to login at <http://www.evotingindia.com/> by using the remote login credentials. The link for electronic participation through VCOAVM during the meeting will be available in shareholders login portal where the EVEN (E-Voting Event Number) of the company will be displayed. The facility for appointment of Proxies by Members will not be available since the AGM is being held through VCOAVM. A person who is not a member as on the cut-off date should treat the Notice of AGM for information purpose only.
- Any query or grievance pertaining to e-voting and attending the AGM through VCOAVM, Members may contact Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Manager, CDSL, A Wing, 25 th Floor, Marathon Futorex, Malafal Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel, East Mumbai 400013. Email: evoting@cdslindia.com, Tel: 1800-225-533. Further, Members may also contact Mr. Punit Mittal, Beetal Financial & Computer Services Private Limited, RTA at beetalrta@gmail.com or on Telephone No.: 011-29961281 & 011-29961282.
- The results shall be declared not later than forty-eight hours from conclusion of the meeting by posting the same on the website of the Company (www.rungtairrigation.in), and by filing with the BSE Ltd. It shall also be displayed on the Notice Board at the Registered Office of the Company.
- A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his/her right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the meeting. Members who have not registered their email-id are requested to refer our earlier advertisement dated September 3, 2020 to know about the procedure to register their email IDs for obtaining AGM Notice and Annual Report 2019-20.
- All shareholders/members attending AGM through VC or OAVM, who wish to speak or pose questions shall register themselves on or before September 21, 2020 with their Folio no. DP ID/Client ID, E-mail id and Mobile no. at the e-mail id of the Company i.e. cs@rungtairrigation.in.

For RUNGTA IRRIGATION LIMITED

Sd/-
 Prateek Sharma
 Compliance Officer and Company Secretary
 M.No:-49283

Date: 07th September, 2020
 Place : New Delhi

Govt draft guidelines on advertising out

TO TREAT NON-LEGIBLE DISCLAIMERS AS MISLEADING ADS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has come out with a comprehensive set of draft guidelines on advertising under which 'disclaimers' that are not easily noticeable by or legible or easily understandable to an ordinary consumer will be treated as misleading advertisements under the Consumer Protection Act.

The violation of these guidelines would face action by the recently established Central Consumer Protection Authority.

The draft guidelines, on which the Consumer Affairs Ministry has sought public comments by September 18, are applicable to companies whose products or services are advertised as well as to advertisement agencies and endorsers.

According to the draft guidelines, a disclaimer should be clear, prominent enough and legible.

"It should be clearly visible to a normally-sighted person reading the marketing communication once, from a reasonable distance and at a reasonable speed."

The disclaimers used in advertisements should be in "same language" as the claim of the advertisement, the font should be in the "same font" as the claim and place disclaimers on packaging in a "prominent and visible space".

If the claim is presented as voice over (VO), then the disclaimer should be displayed in sync with the VO, it said.

That apart, a disclaimer should not attempt to hide material information with respect to the claim, the omission/absence of which is likely to make the advertisement deceptive or conceal its commercial intent.

A disclaimer should not attempt to correct a misleading claim made in an advertisement, it added.

The draft guidelines also specify that an advertisement should not describe a product or service as "free", "without charge" or other similar terms,

if the consumer has to pay anything other than the cost while purchasing a product or service for delivery of the same.

On those who endorse advertisements, the guidelines propose that they should take due care to ensure that all descriptions, claims and comparisons that they endorse or that are made in advertisements they appear in are capable of being objectively ascertained and are capable of substantiation.

Endorsers should also take due care to ensure that an advert "does not convey... Express or implied representations that would be false, misleading or deceptive if made by the trader or manufacturer or advertiser of the relevant product or service."

If an endorsement of a product or service is made through a testimonial, the guidelines propose that such endorsement should reflect the genuine, reasonably current opinion of the endorser, and should be based on either adequate information about or experience with the product or service being endorsed.

PVR defers major capex plans amid Covid pandemic

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

As the coronavirus pandemic and the eventual lockdowns have brought the multiplex industry to a grinding halt, PVR has deferred a significant portion of its capital expenditure (capex) plans and it will reassess them once the shutdown is over and its operations resume.

Nitin Sood, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of PVR has said that owing to the company's cost control measures, its fixed costs for the future will be lower than it had before. Even after reopening, the company does not expect these to return to their previous levels soon.

His message to the shareholders in PVR's Annual Report said that the company is already in discussions with its developers for renegotiating the rental arrangements. Sood added that PVR's other costs too will undergo reductions until some normalcy is restored.

"We have also temporarily deferred a substantial portion of our planned capital expenditures that we were undertaking, prior to the shutdown. All major capital expenditures



will now be re-assessed once the shutdown is over," the CFO said.

Throughout this crisis, according to him, the company has focused on business continuity and has undertaken measures to mitigate the risk.

"Our strategy has been two pronged. First, we have brought down our fixed costs drastically during this period of lockdown, and second, we have raised debt to preserve liquidity on the balance sheet," he said.

Among the fixed costs, PVR has invoked the force majeure clause for rental payment and Common Area Maintenance (CAM) charges,

under its contractual arrangements and has suspended rental payments, while it continues to be in discussions with mall developers.

"In order to manage our liquidity during the period the cinemas are shut, the management has voluntarily taken a cut of 50 per cent in their compensation, while the rest of our employees have forsaken 20-50 per cent of their salaries. Owing to these actions, we have been successful in bringing a significant reduction in our monthly fixed costs," Sood said.

He was of the view in the post-covid era but the company will be in a stronger position.

SBI moots VRS scheme to optimise costs, about 30,000 employees eligible

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to optimise its costs, the State Bank of India (SBI) has planned a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) under which about 30,190 employees are eligible. The total employee strength of country's largest lender stood at 2.49 lakh at the end of March 2020 as compared to 2.57 lakh a year ago.

According to sources, a draft scheme for VRS has been prepared and board approval is awaited. The proposed scheme - "Second Innings Tap VRS-2020" - is aimed at optimising human resources and costs of the bank.

Besides, the draft scheme, seen by PTI, said it will provide an option and a respectable exit route to employees who have reached a level of saturation in their career, may not be at the peak of their performance, have some personal issue or want to pursue their professional or personal life outside the bank. The scheme will be opened to all permanent officers and staff who have put in 25 years of service or completed 55 years of age on the cut-off date.

The scheme will open on December 1 and will remain open till the end of February, it said, adding that applications for VRS will be accepted during this period only.

As per the proposed eligibility criteria, a total of 11,565 officers and 18,625 staff members will be eligible for the scheme. The total net savings for the bank would be ₹1,662.86 crore if 30 per cent of eligible employees opt for retirement under the scheme, as per estimates based on July 2020 salary, it said.

"The staff member whose request for retirement under VRS is accepted will be paid an ex-gratia amounting 50 per cent of salary for the residual period of service (up to the date of superannuation), subject to a maximum of 18 months' last drawn salary," it said.

Other benefits like gratuity, pension, provident and medical benefits will be given to employees seeking VRS.

A staff member retired under the scheme will be eligible for engagement or re-employment in the bank after a cooling-off period of two years from the date of retirement.

Amul to invest ₹1,500 crore in 2 yrs to set up dairy, edible oil, bakery, potato processing plants

New Delhi: GCMMF, which markets dairy products under the Amul brand, will invest around ₹1,000 crore over the next two years to set up milk processing plants, and another ₹500 crore on facilities for new products like edible oil, its MD R S Sodhi said. In an interview with PTI, Sodhi said the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (GCMMF) expects 12-15 per cent growth in revenue in current fiscal year from ₹38,550 crore during the last fiscal year despite COVID-19 pandemic, as demand for branded food products has increased.

"We will invest around ₹1,000 crore in the next two years on setting up dairy plants across various states," Sodhi told PTI. He said the processing capacity would increase to 420 lakh litres per day from the current 380 lakh litres per day.

On new businesses, Sodhi said the cooperative has started manufacturing sweets as

well as bakery items using dairy fats.

Besides, he said, GCMMF has forayed into edible oil and potato processing segments as part of its objective to boost income of farmers from Gujarat and other states.

The edible oils will be marketed under the new brand 'Janmay'. It will produce groundnut oil, cottonseed oil, sunflower oil, mustard oil and soybean oil. "We already have few plants for edible oil, bakery and potato processing. We will invest ₹400-500 crore on setting up more plants in these new business areas over the next two years," Sodhi said.

Asked about sales during the pandemic, he said sales of its dairy products like milk, butter, milk, paneer and ghee were 15 per cent higher during April-August as compared with the year-ago period, driven by rising household consumption of branded food products.

PTI

BPPI Q1 sales turnover up 94% to ₹146.59 cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The Bureau Of Pharma PSUs Of India reported a 94.21 per cent increase in its sales turnover at ₹146.59 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2020, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers said on Sunday. It had posted a sales turnover of ₹75.48 crore in the corresponding first quarter of previous fiscal year, a statement by the Ministry said. BPPI is the implementing agency for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana. The Janaushadhi Kendras remained functional during the lockdown as part of their commitment to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential medicines to the people, the statement said.

"Present basket of medicines sold by the Kendras consists of 1,250 medicines and 204 surgical instruments. The target is set to enhance it to up to 2,000 medicines and 300 surgical products by the end of March 31, 2024..." it added. PTI

BPCL PRIVATISATION

Govt to provide rules on employee protection, asset stripping later

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government will provide guidance on employee protection, asset stripping and business continuity in Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) to potential acquirers of the company only at a later stage of bidding, according to privatisation rules issued by the disinvestment department.

The Government is selling its entire 52.98 per cent stake in India's second-largest fuel retailer and third-biggest oil refiner.

Preliminary expressions of interest or EoIs are due on September 30, which will be followed by qualified bidders being asked to submit financial or price bids.

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), erstwhile known as Department of Disinvestment, has issued clarifications on queries raised by potential bidders for the government stake in BPCL.

On a query on restrictions

relating to employee protection, asset stripping, business continuity and lock-in of shares, DIPAM said, "This information shall be provided to the Qualified Interested Parties (QIPs) in the RFP/ SPA (Request for Proposal/ Share Purchase Agreement)." Rules pertaining to labour laws are said to be one of the many considerations that will guide bids, particularly those from foreign firms. A potential acquirer of BPCL may want to shed excess workforce, which is a typical legacy issue with all public sector units, as well as strip some of the non-essential assets such as land and buildings.

BPCL will give the acquirer ready access to 15.33 per cent of India's oil refining limit and 22 per cent market share of the world's fastest-growing fuel market.

While the acquirer of government stake will have to make the mandatory open offer to buy 26 per cent stake from minority shareholders of



BPCL on the same terms, the government advised the bidders to consult their legal counsels on the issue of such offers becoming mandatory for listed entities where BPCL may hold a stake.

The department clarified this in response to the question that "whether a mandatory tender offer will be triggered by the transaction in relation to Indraprastha Gas Ltd and Petronet LNG Ltd".

BPCL is a promoter of India's largest gas import, Petronet with a 12.5 per cent stake. It is also co-founder and

promoter of IGL, which retails CNG the national capital region. BPCL holds 22.5 per cent stake in IGL.

The government stake sale in BPCL would happen after the company's Numaligarh refinery in Assam is hived off from the company and sold to a public sector unit.

"The divestment of BPCL's interest in Numaligarh Refineries Ltd (NRL) shall be completed before the closing of the BPCL divestment process," DIPAM said.

"The decision with regard to the utilization of proceeds

from the NRL sale shall be communicated to QIPs prior to submission of financial bid."

It also asked the bidders to seek the opinion of legal counsels on application of anti-monopoly regulations.

"The successful bidder may need to file with the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for its approval to the acquisition," it said. Also, bondholders/lenders consent, if required, will be taken at an appropriate stage, it said.

It was asked if holds of USD 1.65 billion bonds cannot block or pre-empt the sale of government stake. The government ruled out changing the requirement of bidder or the consortium of bidder together having a net worth of USD 10 billion.

"Request for reduction of net worth criteria cannot be accepted," it said. It also did not accept a proposal of shifting the venue of the arbitration, arising in case of dispute in the privatisation process, to a neutral forum such as Singapore.

B'luru Metro cards to be used once within 7 days to avoid lapse



IANS ■ BENGALURU

Bengaluru Metro rail has made it compulsory for passengers to use their recharged smart cards loaded with money at least one in the initial seven days or the amount will relapse, an official said on Sunday.

"At least once it has to be used in seven days, otherwise the money will lapse. That is because of the technical requirement," a Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) official told IANS. However, after meeting the requirement of using at least once in the first seven days, the recharged money will be saved for a period of 10 years to be used anytime. "We are coming with a new mobile app and this is the technical rule which has come out. After using, you can leave the money in the card and it stays there for 10 years," he said.

In the old system, passengers were allowed to use their smart cards within a span of 60 days after topping it up online.

"Consequent to introduction of mobile app, this is now revised to seven days," he said in the standard operating procedures on restarting the metro. Bengaluru Metro is geared up to resume its service in phases from Monday under the new guidelines to contain the pandemic.

More than ₹10 lakh crore loans may avail restructuring benefit: Bankers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bankers may restructure loans of more than ₹10 lakh crore largely attributed to 5-6 critical sectors, including aviation, commercial real estate and hospitality, that have been severely hit by the Covid-19 outbreak, according to bankers.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman last week asked banks and NBFs to roll out one-time loan restructuring scheme for Covid-19 related stress by September 15.

According to a top official of a public sector bank, it is win-win for both lenders and borrowers.

Explaining the rationale, the banker said, corporates

will try to save their business from turning non-performing asset (NPA) and buy crucial time for getting cash flow back for servicing the debt.

Secondly, banks have to make only 10 per cent provision against restructured account as compared to 15 per cent if the same account turns into NPA, the official said, adding that the lure of 5 per cent conservation of capital will also push banks for recast.

Given the benefit, the official said, it is estimated that 12-15 per cent of total loan book would avail one-time restructuring.

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are already covered under the

ongoing restructuring scheme which was tweaked recently to cover those impacted by COVID-19 crisis.

It is to be noted that a total Rs 100 lakh crore worth of loan is outstanding in the banking system.

Another banking official said that nearly half of the 30 per cent of the total loan book which sought moratorium, that ended on August 31, may avail restructuring.

Companies in about half-a-dozen vulnerable sectors -- hospitality, aviation, entertainment, commercial real estate and travel & tourism -- whose businesses have been impacted severely due to the COVID-19 crisis will make a beeline for

It is win-win for both lenders and borrowers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

KV Kamath committee report is expected to give financial parameters like hair cut, debt service coverage ratio, debt-equity ratio post-resolution and interest coverage ratio for recasting corporate loans for over half a dozen vulnerable sectors, the official added.

Last month, Punjab National Bank managing director S S Mallikarjuna Rao said about 5-6 per cent of loan book would go for restructuring as per RBI-approved guidelines.

"This 5-6 per cent comes to about ₹ 40,000 crore. Major composition of this, of about 50 per cent, would be corporate books," he had said.

HCL well-positioned to capture digital opportunities: CEO

New Delhi: With digital transformation gaining momentum across industries, HCL Technologies' CEO C Vijayakumar has said that the company is well positioned to capture the upcoming opportunities.

In his message to the shareholders in the company's Annual Report, he said that future prospects for the broad-based technology companies like HCL are stable and bright.

Noting that a number of opportunities are playing out in the market, Vijayakumar said that digital transformation is being significantly accelerated across industries and digital

programmes planned for completion in two to three years are now expected to close in a matter of months.

"While momentum sectors such as Life Sciences and Healthcare, Online Grocery Distribution, Telecom and Tech continue to create strong demand, we are also seeing impacted sectors like Retail, Auto, Travel, Hospitality etc starting work on redefining customer engagement to 'zero-touch' interactions by leveraging conversational AI, analytics, and digital innovations. We believe we are well-positioned to capture these opportunities," Vijayakumar said. IANS

Less than 20% respondents plan to travel during festive season: Survey

Mumbai: The much-awaited festive season is unlikely to bring any cheers to the travel industry, including the airline sector, as less than 20 per cent of people polled plan to travel during October-November amid the pandemic, a survey said. The festive season in India falls between October and November every year during which festivals such as Dussehra, Durga Puja and Diwali are celebrated. Moreover, the majority of those having travel plans said that they do not want to make their booking till they get closer to their travel date, according to the survey conducted by online platform LocalCircles.

Survey received over 25,000 responses from people

The survey was conducted to get citizen pulse on how people in India are planning to travel in the upcoming festive season, given the current situation with Covid-19. The survey received over 25,000 responses from people located in 239 districts of India, according to the online platform. According to the Health Ministry data, the total coronavirus cases mounted to 41,13,811, while the death toll climbed to 70,626. PTI

Himalaya Food International Ltd
(Formerly, Himalaya International Limited)

Regd. Office:- 118, 1st Floor, 12 Gagandeep Building, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008
Tel:- +91 11 45108609, Fax:- +91 1704 225178
E-mail id:- cs@himalyainternational.com | website:- www.himalayafoodcompany.com

PUBLIC NOTICE - 29th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is to inform that in view of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 29th Annual General Meeting (AGM Meeting) of the Members of Himalaya Food International Limited (formerly known as Himalaya International Limited) ('the Company') will be convened through two-way Video Conference ('VC') Other Audio-Visual Means ('OAVM'), in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made thereunder, read with General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (collectively referred to as 'MCA Circulars' and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD/1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ('SEBI Circular').

The 29th Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Company will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. (IST) through VC/ OAVM facility provided by Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice convening the AGM.

The e-copy of the Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report of 2019-20 (Annual Report) of the Company will be available on the website of the Company at www.himalayafoodcompany.com and on the website of CDSL at www.evotingindia.com. Additionally, the Notice of the AGM will also be available and may be accessed from the relevant section of the websites of the stock exchanges i.e. BSE Limited ('BSE') at www.bseindia.com. Members can attend and participate in the AGM ONLY through the VC/OAVM facility, the details of which will be provided by the Company in the Notice of the AGM. Accordingly, please note that no provision has been made to attend and participate in the 29th AGM of the Company in person, to ensure compliance with the directives issued by the government authorities with respect to COVID-19. Members attending the meeting through VCOAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

The Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report will be sent electronically to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company / Registrars & Transfer Agent ('RTA') / Depository Participants ('DPs'). As per the SEBI Circular, no physical copies of the Notice of the AGM and Annual Report will be sent to any Member. Members who have not yet registered their email addresses are requested to follow the process mentioned below, before 5:00 p.m. (IST) on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 for registering their email addresses to receive the Notice of the AGM and Annual Report electronically and to receive the login ID and password for e-Voting:

(i) For Physical Shareholders - please provide necessary details like Folio No. Name of Shareholder. Scanned copy of the share certificate (front and back), PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhaar Card) by email to cs@himalyainternational.com or beetalrta@gmail.com.

(ii) For Demat shareholders - please provide Demat account details (CDSL-16 digit beneficiary ID or NSDL-16 digit DPID + CLID), Name, client master or copy of Consolidated Account statement, PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), AADHAAR (self attested scanned copy of Aadhaar Card) to cs@himalyainternational.com or beetalrta@gmail.com.

(iii) The company/RTA shall co-ordinate with CDSL and provide the login credentials to the above mentioned Shareholders.

For Himalaya Food International Ltd
Sd/-
Surabhi Maheshwari
(Company Secretary)

Place: Delhi
Date: 05.09.2020

Trend Slazer

'Dolly Kitty is raw, real and rebellious'

Actor **BHUMI PEDNEKAR** claims the reason she agreed to take up her role in the forthcoming film, *Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitaare*, is because it needs guts to do a part like this.

Bhumi, who plays the role of Kitty in the film, said, "The reason I did this film is because it needs guts to do a part like this. It is a very unconventional part for a mainstream Hindi film heroine and that's what attracted me. It is raw, real, rebellious and honest."

The film is slated for a digital release on September 18.



'The landmark judgement on Section 377 has been pioneering for all of us and led to

significant changes in driving our acceptance. While it has been welcoming so far, the larger social battle is yet to be won and that will only happen if we, as a community strive together for a positive impact. MTV Beats' *Love Duet* is a good effort in that direction.'

—Sushant Divgikar

Bollywood star **TIGER SHROFF** shows off some dynamite moves on the dance floor in his new Instagram video, and fans and friends alike are awestruck as ever.



In Tiger's new video, the young actor along with a couple of backup dancers groove to the beats of the new global chart-buster pop hit, *Dynamite*, by the South Korean boy band BTS.

"Anyone else in love with bts' new single!" Tiger captioned the video, along with the hashtag, #dynamite.

The actor was last seen on screen in *Baaghi 3* directed by Ahmed Khan.

Hollywood projects lack diversity: Tate

Actor **TATE DONOVAN**, who is best known for his role of Jimmy Cooper in the drama series, *The OC*, says most Hollywood projects lack diversity.

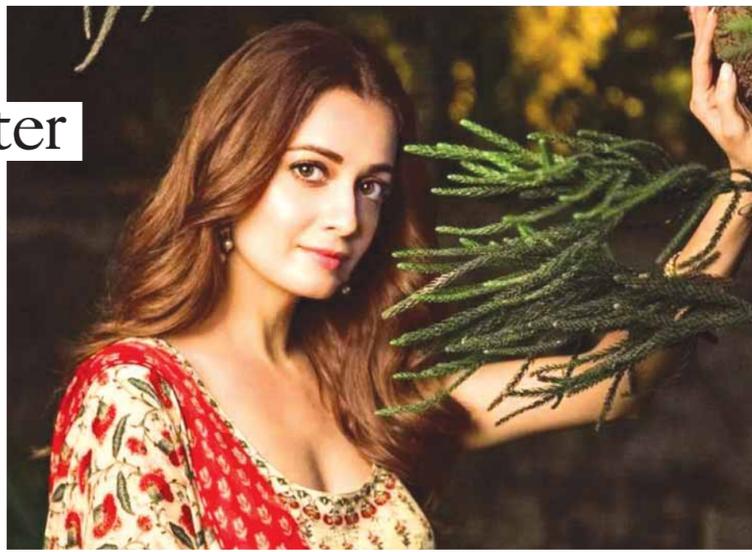
In an interview, Donovan opened up about his career as an actor, director and voice artist in the West, and shared his views on the lack of diversity in Hollywood. "Most of Hollywood lacks diversity. It's one of the big problems. We really need to change. It's ridiculous. It has been since the beginning of my career. It's embarrassing to see just white men on the set," he said, accepting the hit sitcom *Friends*, too, lacked diversity.



Build back better

On the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies, actor-producer **DIA MIRZA** leads a conversation with environmentally-conscious people to create awareness

A sparkling silver lining of the global Coronavirus pandemic has been a significant improvement in air quality across multiple countries. However, that doesn't present a long term solution to the 'Airpocalypse' India is on the verge of, according to experts. As the country resumes economic activity slowly but steadily in the



aftermath of COVID-19, the possible overshooting of greenhouse gas and emissions are a very real threat.

UNEP Goodwill Ambassador and UNSDG advocate actor **Dia Mirza** sites these very pertinent concerns as she engages in a clean air campaign for India, furthering the global dialogue of bluer skies and a healthier environment at home. "We need to make every effort to build back sustainably because clean air is the right to life," said the actor who has certainly become a climate changemaker and other causes related to the environment.

"The global lockdown has led to cleaner air than we have had in over a decade. Some of the most polluted cities in India have experienced AQI levels below 50 through the lockdown. Nature can and will recover leading to better health for all people. But the lockdown is not the solution.

We need to engage in fruitful partnerships and implement strategies and policies for the global goal of clean air," Dia added.

The actor-producer is currently working with the United Nations Environment Programme in their efforts to declare September 7 as the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies in order to find sustainable solutions to the air pollution on our planet. Dia, who has stressed the importance of learning from the experience of the pandemic and building back better, will engage in conversation with prominent 'Clean Air Champions' who are singular change-makers championing a cleaner earth. She feels that observing #WorldCleanAirDay will bring much-needed awareness to people and policymakers alike, fueling a change in human lifestyles to ensure a balance between man and nature.

GET RID OF ASSUMPTIONS

Health coach and nutritionist **NEHA RANGLANI** debunks myths on what makes us lose or gain weight in a new fitness show. By **TEAM VIVA**

Your skinny best friend seems to eat twice as much as you. But you're still overweight. Why? For decades, experts thought they had the answer — too many calories and not enough exercise. But the latest scientific research is turning those assumptions down. Differences in our individual biology — our genetics, hormones or psychology — all play a crucial role.

The show *Why Do I Put on Weight* follows five volunteers who go on diets tailored to their bodies and brains. They're just like us, normal people who experience weight gains and losses. Combining science with engaging personal stories, this experiment might change the way you think about diet. If you thought long term weight loss was impossible, you need to rethink.

Given the current situation, people are dealing with a lot of physical and mental health challenges. The show *Why Do I Put on Weight* talks about the different factors behind weight gain. What's your take on that?

We always think weight gain is a food related problem but in reality there are various other factors that play a role in fat gain and loss process, such as genetics, biology, stress, psychology and more. And given the situation, the health challenges have increased because the gyms were shut, there weren't any proper places to exercise, no proper routine and no sleep schedule. So, these are some of the reasons behind our weight gain.

As a nutritionist, what one advice would you give to someone who is on their weight loss journey?

My first advice would be to always keep a check on the stress levels as it's very important to be stress free. Even in this show we have discussed factors that affect your health. Your attitude, emotions, mental state, psychological well-being, everything matters in the weight loss journey. It is also important to have a proper routine and stop binge eating. During the lockdown most of us had a lot of time in our hands, so we consumed a lot of junk food in free time, which affects your health. So it is very important to have a mindful approach towards the diet. In turn, we should add more of fruits, raw veggies, salads, and nuts in our diet.

It is believed that in the process of weight loss, 30 per cent depends on exercise and the rest 70 per cent is diet. Is this a myth or a reality?

It is a reality; the fact is that activity and some kind of exercise is very important. But nowadays people have made exercising a mere trend. And now we all have a sedentary lifestyle, mostly working on gadgets. Hence there is less of body movement. Such a lifestyle demands frequent movement and regular exercises. There are different kinds of exercises one can opt for — Yoga, pilates, HIIT, cardio and others.

What is your take on packaged and processed food available in the market that claims to be healthy?

With the advent of advertising and marketing, the food industry always tries to manipulate and tempt people to try their products which are claimed to be healthy by them. However, I think homemade and natural foods are more sustainable, affordable and nourishing comparatively. All these processed foods with preservatives sold in the name of health are the reasons why we gain more fat in our body. Hence, homemade food is the best choice.

How important is exercise for your body?

Our generation is not very active as our ancestors were. Earlier we didn't have house helps, or lifts in building, people used to walk long distances, that's the reason our ancestors lived a very active life. However, our lifestyle is completely different, we get everything at the tap of a button. This results in less movement which means higher need to exercise. If we don't exercise, our muscles loosen up resulting in further complications. As we sit in one position, our back and abdomen muscles tend to weaken. I personally believe in yoga, its very strengthening. But one can also try variation of workouts between cardio, HIIT and yoga as workout in any form is important.

What are the five most important things one can keep in mind for a healthy lifestyle?

The utmost important thing is to consume right food and healthy drinks. Another important thing is get proper sleep as it determines your attitude, mood and mental health. Next is to maintain your stress levels and be aware of it. Lastly, its self-love. Don't compare yourself, your lifestyle with others and never give out negative statements for your body. Your body is your house and power store.

(Watch the show on September 7 at 8 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)



WEBBED



DOLLY KITTY AUR WOCH CHAMAKTE SITARE

A disillusioned Delhi wife and her new-in-town cousin navigate damning secrets, dreams and their thorny dynamic on their respective roads to freedom. Starring Bhumi Pednekar, Konkona Sen Sharma and Vikrant Massey, the film releases on September 18 on Netflix.



THE BABYSITTER: KILLER QUEEN

Two years after Cole survived a satanic blood cult, he's living another nightmare: high school. And the demons from his past? Still making his life hell. Starring Judah Lewis, Jenna Ortega and Emily Alyn Lind, the film releases on September 10 on Netflix.



RATCHED

In 1947, Mildred Ratched begins working as a nurse at a leading psychiatric hospital. But beneath her stylish exterior lurks a growing darkness. Starring Sarah Paulson, Finn Wittrock and Judy Davis, season 1 releases on September 18 on Netflix.

Rampuriya, a small hamlet in Rajasthan's southern hilly district Pratapgarh, has been able to largely escape the Coronavirus onslaught. Till last month, there were around 182 reported cases, out of which 160 had recovered while three lives were lost. Had there been cases like the rest of the country, the total lack of basic health care services in this remote region would have made it challenging for the administration to control the situation.

The Primary Health Centre (PHC), which is supposed to be the basic functional unit of government-funded healthcare, is practically a misnomer here, more so after the PHC started being operated on Public-Partner Partnership (PPP) mode from 2017, allege villagers. In 2015, the Rajasthan Government decided to hand over 213 of the total 2,088 PHCs to private agencies to run on PPP mode under the 'Run a PHC' scheme that aimed at improving the services and develop the defunct and poorly functioning PHCs.

The 'Run a PHC' scheme agreement stated that the state government would provide the private agency ₹22 to ₹35 lakh depending on the bids received for a five-year period. The private partner, on its part, is expected to employ at least 11 members in staff, including doctor, pharmacist, laboratory technicians and cleaners and an experienced Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM). Apart from the money, the government kept the responsibility of infrastructure, building, medicines, surgical supplies and laboratory reagents in its own hands.

This PPP model, however, has faced criticism from health activists of the State who argue that by doing so, the government side-stepped from its primary duty of providing quality healthcare to its citizens. Handing over these PHCs to private agencies, they believe, has not been a good move as the health facilities have deteriorated rather than improving, with no accountability fixed on either of the partners.

The arguments put forth by health activists are confirmed by the villagers. "The PHC in our region caters to the need of a population of about 10,000 people covering 22 villages. Ever since the government started running this PHC on PPP mode, we began facing problems. The PHC was handed over to Chitransh Education Welfare Society of Jaipur. There was no doctor. Only a male nurse and an ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife) were running the centre. In absence of a separate room, ante-natal check-ups and minor pregnancy-related problems could not be handled. We had to take the patients about 25 km away to Pratapgarh city or to Peepalkhunt — the block level town to avail decent health services," shared Motilal Meena, sarpanch of Rampuriya Panchayat.

According to him, the services prior to the partnership were not excellent but the doctor would visit the PHC

NO PROMISES

Rampuriya's struggle for basic healthcare facilities came long before the pandemic posed newer challenges to cope with, says RAKHEE ROYALUKDAR



The PHC in Rampuriya village, Peepalkhunt block in Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan

then. Earlier, there was power-backup, deliveries took place, toilets were not as dirty, and there was water available. But after the PHC was taken over, the services deteriorated, staff seemed untrained, the bedsheets were dirty and unhygienic. The centre had a single-phase electricity connection, which did not support the inverter in case of emergency operation. Most of the time, there was no power. One bed in the male ward was always occupied by the ambulance drivers. There was no monitoring of the PHC by the government staff even after several complaints.

Rampuriya is inhabited by a huge per cent of tribal population with low socio-economic status. Due to lapse in services at the PHC, they were forced to opt for treatment in city that left them in debt. "Going to a government hospital or healthcare centre would cost us around ₹6,000 to ₹7,000 but at a private facility, the expenses were no less than ₹25,000, leaving villagers in debts," said Motilal.

Disappointed with the PHCs and



One of the departments of the PHC

their abysmal services and on getting no response after making representations to the Department of Health and Family Welfare, the members of Rampuriya Panchayat decided to file

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Rajasthan High Court in 2018. The petition requested for implementation of better healthcare services, appointment of a medical officer, sufficient staff

and proper medical facilities at the Rampuriya PHC as per the Indian Public Health Standards. They put forth request for better monitoring, quality assurance and an audit by a third party to ensure that the transformation is long-term. It also mentioned withdrawal of this particular PHC from the PPP mode as it was unable to deliver better services as promised.

In August 2019, the Jodhpur bench of Rajasthan High Court in a joint hearing on a number of PILs filed on 'glaring inadequacies' in PHCs operational on PPP mode, had passed an extensive order asking the State Government to carry out assessments of the PHCs around necessary parameters for their functioning.

In compliance of the order, the state carried out assessments of 75 rural PHCs and 37 urban PHCs functioning on PPP mode across the State in 2019 and submitted its report to the court. The report revealed that out of the total PHCs assessed, services of at least 30 operating in the rural areas and five in urban areas were found to be unsatisfactory, including the Rampuriya PHC. The State Government had assured the court that these PHCs shall be discontinued with immediate effect.

The Rajasthan High Court acknowledged the State Government's assurance in its final judgement given on January 10, 2020. The court also directed the state to continue monitoring the performances of the remaining PHCs every three months through the monitoring teams formed in compliance of the August 2019 order.

However, a reality check by a Jaipur-based NGO Jan Swasthya Abhiyan (JSA) found that the State Government has still not complied with the High Court's order and all the PHCs, found "unsatisfactory" in the assessment by the government monitoring team, continue to run on PPP mode.

Motilal, however, confirmed that following the initial court order and survey by the government monitoring team, a doctor now visits the Rampuriya PHC. As rest of the arrangement remains same, patients have to travel to towns and cities for better health services or any delivery. "This is not just a violation of the High Court's order but dereliction of its primary duty of providing basic healthcare services, especially in the tribal areas of the state. By not complying with the court's order, the government has left people's health on the mercy of the private bodies, who have not been able to provide efficient healthcare services. The pandemic cannot be an excuse as primary healthcare assumes more significance in such unprecedented times," says Chayya Pachauli of JSA.

Principal health secretary, Akhil Arora said, "A number of guidelines have been issued after the High Court order, which would be enforced soon."

—Charikha Features



You are your own competition

It is important to emerge victorious from within to be an example for others to follow, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

You just have to be better each day," remember when they told you that? It's one of the reasons why we see competition in all walks of life. In most cases, the competition may not also be what is called a cut-throat or a tough one but it may be what is known as a healthy competition. Nevertheless, one thing common to all of them — the underlying desire or motive to win or to defeat others.

From a psychological point of view, in a competitive situation, a person brings into play his skill, ability and talent to show that he is superior, stronger, better, more powerful, more skilful, more learned or "competent" than the others. They want to hear words of praise about themselves. Or maybe get a medalion, a citation, an epithet or a high position. Amid this, one does not mind if, on their way to finding success, someone else feels disappointed, depressed, defeated or even humiliated. In a sports match, too, we see how even if the competitors shake hands at the end of the game or later, hang out together, the deep feeling of having lost or having won is always there, however minimal it may be.

However, this feeling of victory or defeat is proportionately less if the contest is just a friendly game or it's a performance for fun and enjoyment and without any expectation of receiving any media attention. At that time, the players represent no one but themselves as members of interchangeable friendly groups and the whole thing is just for the sake of self-development or anything but a competition.

As a society, we need to understand that the core objective behind competition is not just to win for the self or the team, but it is intertwined with the motive of laying the softer and nobler sentiments of co-operation, kindness and gentleness. It is a distortion of intention or malignancy in the desire that may, sooner or later, add an iota of selfishness in behaviour and reduce the level of love, kindness, generosity and gentleness and may put a limit on one's spirit of giving, helping, co-operation and sacrificing. For anything that is small and insignificant in the beginning has the potential of growing and becoming big. We must not forget that even a spark is enough to burn down a huge apartment to ashes and grow into a massive fire. We should be careful and vigilant because selfishness is contagious and this habit of rivalry can spoil the charm of life and the atmosphere around us.

Some people link competition to motivation of performing better but they fail to understand that this evil trait to defeat others, which may look harmless initially, may eventually develop feelings of revenge, enmity, jealousy, hostility or an ugly attitude.

The seed of evil, as it grows, takes the form of a huge tree with many branches of selfishness and feelings of downgrading others to gain ascendancy for the self. It's time that one must try to curtail selfishness and, in this effort, give up the ambition of winning by vengeance for the applause and praise for the self. Remember, the only competition that should matter for us is the one that takes place within our self. Hence, it is better to defeat one's inner demons first and become victorious from within to be an example for others to follow.



Gardener's notebook

Some scents have the power to soothe us, while others leave us feeling uplifted and energised. Experts share how to plant for fragrant nights

Neither evening stocks nor jasmine tobacco are particularly worthy plants by day. But as darkness falls, the petals of each of these flowers unfurl to release a delicious, heavy scent. Jasmine tobacco's petals unfold colourful or pure white trumpets, the latter of which especially glow in the moonlight. The small white petals of evening stocks shine like little, bright stars. These two unrelated plants make congenial companions for you and each other on summer nights.

TWO PLANTS FOR NIGHT-TIME FRAGRANCE

Jasmine tobacco is one of a few species of nicotiana (pronounced nee-KO-shee-ay-na), botanically Nicotiana glauca. (Yes, the word "nicotiana" does look like "nicotine," and smoking tobacco is another nicotiana species.)

All species of nicotiana are in

the nightshade family and, like their relatives, tomatoes, eggplants and peppers, they demand a rich, warm soil in the sun. For earliest flowers, sow the seeds indoors a few weeks before the last spring frost.

Jasmine tobacco is an annual, each plant forming a rosette of leaves at ground level and a flowering spike a couple of feet high or more. New varieties have been bred which are more compact and which bloom in daylight, hopefully with no loss of scent.

Stocks represent two species, one grown mostly for its showy flowers and the other for its nocturnal aroma. The scented stock, known as evening or night-scented stock, is botanically Matthiola bicornis.

Evening stock is an annual that blooms from July through September. In contrast to jasmine tobacco, evening stock is a low-growing, straggly plant, a ball of



wiry stems with small leaves and flowers. The wilted remains of the previous night's flowers and the unopened buds of flowers for nights to follow are not much to look at by day.

Another plant called "stock" but more commonly called hoary

stock or ten weeks stock is, botanically, Matthiola incana. This one yields colourful, showy spikes of blossoms, also with fragrance.

AT THEIR BEST AT NIGHT

Because jasmine tobacco and evening stock are not at their best

sunny-yellow daisies. Keep gazania and stocks near the front of a sunny bed, where they will not be shaded or hidden by taller plants.

Tall, spiky jasmine tobacco needs to be placed near the back of a bed for visual balance. Fill the spaces jasmine tobacco will leave bare by day by combining it with other tall flowers such as large delphiniums or large zinnias and asters. In the evening, white jasmine tobacco flowers will come into view as the day-bloomers recede into the darkness.

Plant jasmine tobacco and evening stock where they can be enjoyed on summer nights. Outside my back door, I once had a small, semicircular flower bed that was home to both these night-scented plants. When atmospheric conditions were right, the fragrance could make you delirious. I am not sure what exactly those optimal atmospheric conditions were, but the typical calm summer night seemed to fill the bill. On such nights, the heavy aroma would gather beneath the window just above the flower bed, waiting to be wafted indoors by the slightest breeze.

That flower bed is gone, but a new one will be home to these plants next year, with delirious summer nights to follow. —AP

Excellence is not an act but a habit. —Aristotle

ARTHRITIS DRUG IMPROVES HEART DISEASE

Drugs used to treat initial signs of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) can also improve the early stages of heart disease, according to a new study.

Having rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is known to at least double the chances of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD) because of links to atherosclerosis (a build-up of plaque inside the arteries), heart failure and strokes.

The study, published in the journal *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*, linked treatment of RA with improvements in vascular stiffness — an indicator of CVD.

"Our research shows that even at the earliest stages of rheumatoid arthritis, there is increased vascular stiffness in people with no or minimal traditional CVD risk factors such as hypertension, high cholesterol or smoking," said study author Sven Plein from the University of Leeds, UK.

For the study, the research team explored connections between the earliest signs of RA and indicators of CVD.



LESSEN SCREEN USE FOR GOOD MENTAL HEALTH

Researchers have found that less screen time and more green time are associated with better psychological outcomes among children and adolescents.

According to the study, published in the journal *PLoS ONE*, the prevalence of mental illness among children and adolescents is increasing globally. Technological developments in recent decades have increased young people's engagement with screen-based technologies (screen time), and a reduction in young people's contact with nature (green time) has been observed concurrently.

This combination of high screen time and low green time may affect mental health and well-being.

But research investigating the psychological impacts of screen time or green time typically considers each factor in isolation and fails to delineate the reciprocal effects of high technology use and low contact with nature on mental health and cognitive outcomes.



COMMON COLD MAY HELP PREVENT INFLUENZA

Rhinovirus, the most frequent cause of common cold is capable of preventing the flu virus from infecting airways by jump-starting the body's immune defences, say researchers.

The findings, published in the journal *The Lancet Microbe*, help answer a mystery surrounding the 2009 H1N1 Swine Flu pandemic. For the study, the research team studied three years of clinical data from more than 13,000 patients at Yale-New Haven Hospital in the US with symptoms of respiratory infection.

The researchers found that even during months when both viruses were active if the common cold virus was present, the flu virus was not.

"When we looked at the data, it became clear that very few people had both viruses at the same time," said study senior author Ellen Foxman from the Yale University, US. Foxman stressed that scientists do not know whether the annual seasonal spread of the common cold virus will have a similar impact on infection rates of those exposed to the Coronavirus that causes COVID-19.



A NEW NANOBODY MAY PREVENT COVID-19

To fight against the virus that causes COVID-19, the scientists have identified a small neutralising antibody, a so-called nanobody, that has the capacity to block SARS-CoV-2 from entering human cells.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, suggests that the nanobody can be developed as an antiviral treatment against COVID. "We hope our findings can contribute to the amelioration of the COVID-19 pandemic by further examining this nanobody as a therapeutic candidate against this viral infection," said co-author Gerald McInerney, Karolinska Institute, Sweden.

The search for effective nanobodies — which are fragments of antibodies that occur naturally in camels and can be adapted for humans — began in February when an alpaca (animal) was injected with the new Coronavirus spike protein, which is used to enter our cells. After 60 days, blood samples from the alpaca showed a strong immune response against the spike protein.



OBESITY MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO FIGHT COVID-19

In a new study on obesity scientists, including one of Indian-origin, have found that obesity may cause a hyperactive immune system response to the COVID-19 infection, which makes it difficult to fight the virus.

According to the study published in the journal *Endocrinology*, obesity not only leads to problems like heart disease and diabetes but also influences the immune system in many ways.

Obesity causes chronic, low-grade activation of some parts of the immune system. When someone with this pre-existing condition is faced with an infection, it could lead to hyper-activation of the immune system but in a detrimental way that does not fight the infection.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has made us aware of the complex interactions of obesity with infectious diseases and the gaps in our understanding of how chronic health conditions affect our immune responses to acute infection," said study author Durga Singer from the University of Michigan, US.



PTI ■ DUBAI

Ending days of anxious wait, the BCCI on Sunday released the schedule for the upcoming IPL, and in keeping with tradition, defending champions Mumbai Indians will take on runners-up Chennai Super Kings in the opener in Abu Dhabi on September 19.

Moved out of India due to a surge in COVID-19 cases, the upcoming edition of the world's biggest T20 league will be held in the three venues of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in the UAE.

After the tournament-opener in the capital city, Dubai will host its first game the next day when Delhi Capitals take on Kings XI Punjab followed by the third match

MI face CSK in IPL opener

on Monday between Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The action will then shift to Sharjah on September 22 when Rajasthan Royals will host Chennai Super Kings.

There will be 10 double headers, with the first match starting at 3:30pm IST and the second 7:30pm, according to a BCCI release.

In all, 24 matches will be held in Dubai, 20 in Abu Dhabi and 12 in Sharjah.

Venues for the playoffs and the



IPL 2020 final will be announced later. The final is slated for November 10.

The upcoming 53-day edition is by far the longest in the history of the league.

The schedule was expected to be out in the last week of August but the announcement was delayed after 13 personnel of the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) camp tested positive for the dreaded virus.

Also, due to different quarantine rules in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, IPL's operations team took time to finalise the schedule.

As per IPL rules, the defending champions and the last year's runner-up face off in the tournament opener. The same is going to happen this year after concerns over Chennai Super Kings' readiness were erased with their first practice session in Dubai on Friday.

CSK were the last franchise to hit the nets after clearing final rounds of COVID-19 testing.

Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and all other CSK players, except for the COVID-19 afflicted duo of Deepak Chahar and Rituraj Gaikwad, started training on Friday.

With Deepak and Rituraj testing positive last week along with 11 members of the CSK contingent, the team was forced to delay its

training plan after completing the six-day quarantine, including three tests, upon arrival on August 21.

The virus free players had to undergo three additional tests before beginning their training on Friday. The infected players are in 14-day quarantine.

This year's IPL was originally scheduled to be held from March 29 to May 24 but was postponed barely two weeks before the start of the tournament due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Then, as the number of cases increased, the league was indefinitely postponed but the postponement of the T20 World Cup cleared the decks for the league to take place in the September-November window.



Serena wins all-US tie

AP ■ NEW YORK

In danger of her earliest exit at the U.S. Open since her debut 22 years ago, Serena Williams turned things around and took over against Sloane Stephens.

Williams emerged from the third-round matchup between two Americans who are past champions at Flushing Meadows - she's won six of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles at the place - with a 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over 2017 titlist Stephens on Saturday.

Afterward, Williams' 3-year-old daughter, Olympia, wore a mask and waved at Mom while sitting on her father's lap in a front-row seat. On her way to the locker room, Williams waved back.

"I hope," Williams said, "that she saw her mama fighting." Williams did it, as she so often does, with her best-in-the-game serve, hitting 12 aces at up to 122 mph as it got really dialed in midway through the second set, and an ability to re-calibrate her groundstrokes that were so awry early and so superb down the stretch.

"She served a lot better," said Stephens, now 1-6 against Williams, although they hadn't played each other since 2015.

"Obviously she has one of the greatest serves in the game. It's really difficult to read."

Williams collected 10 of the last 12 games by lifting her level, to be sure. But it helped that Stephens went from playing nearly perfectly to missing more and more.

Following mistakes, Stephens would look over at her coach, Kamau Murray, or smack her right thigh with

Bopanna-Shapovalov enter quarters

PTI ■ NEW YORK

India veteran Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov stunned sixth seeds Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies in a hard-fought three-setter to advance to the quarterfinals of the US Open men's doubles event here.

The unseeded Indo-Canadian pair on Saturday overcame a set deficit to beat the German duo 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in a second round encounter that lasted one hour and 47 minutes.

Bopanna and Shapovalov will take on Dutch-Romanian combination of Jeal-Julien Rojer and Horia Tecau in the quarterfinals. Bopanna is the lone surviving Indian in the tournament after the exit of Sumit Nagal and



Divij Sharan.

While Sumit Nagal bowed out in the second round after losing in straight sets to world no. 3 and second seed Dominic Thiem of Austria, Sharan and his Serbian partner Nikola Pantic were knocked out in the opening round of the men's doubles event by eighth seeds Nikola Pietrangeli and Wesley Koolhof.

her palm so loudly that it echoed through a nearly empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"In that first set, I don't think she made any errors, honestly. She was playing so clean. I said, 'I don't want to lose in straight sets,'" said Williams, whose only career U.S. Open loss before the fourth round came in the third against Irina Spirlea in 1998 at age 16.

Williams, who turns 39 in three weeks, said she told herself Saturday: "OK, Serena, just get a game. Get a game." There were, of course, no fans - banned because of the coronavirus pandemic - and so the whole thing was flush with the feel of a practice session, rather than a high-stakes contest on a Grand Slam stage.

There were some other players on hand to watch, including 15th-seeded Maria Sakkari, who sipped



orange juice and ate lunch while on her player suite's balcony. Sakkari had a vested interest: She faces Williams for a berth in the quarterfinals. Other women into the fourth round: No. 16 Elise Mertens, No. 20 Karolina Muchova and Tsvetana Pironkova, who defeated No. 18 Donna Vekic 6-4, 6-1.

In men's action, 2019 runner-up Daniil Medvedev and another semi-finalist from a year ago, No. 6 Matteo Berrettini moved on, as did No. 10 Andrey Rublev, No. 15 Felix Auger-Aliassime, No. 21 Alex de Minaur and Vasek Pospisil, who's been in the news lately because he teamed up with Novak Djokovic to set up a new association to represent players.

Pospisil eliminated No. 8 Roberto Bautista Agut 7-5, 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, and next faced another five-set winner, de Minaur, who defeat-



France, Portugal enjoy winning start

AP ■ STOCKHOLM

Kylian Mbappé scored the winning goal as France earned a scrappy 1-0 win at Sweden in the Nations League on Saturday.

The Paris Saint-Germain striker's 14th international goal came in the 41st minute but it could have been more comfortable for France, only for Antoine Griezmann to fluff a penalty right at the end. It was Griezmann's third straight penalty miss for France.

Mbappé cut in from the left and, after initially being tackled, he got the ball back off Kristoffer Olsson, feinted, and then curled the ball inside the post.

"It was a tough match and we fought hard. It wasn't easy... it could be better in the future," Mbappé said. "The most important thing is the result."

It was an accomplished finish from Mbappé, following his glaring missed chance in the 1-0 defeat to Bayern Munich in the Champions League final on Aug. 23.

France coach Didier Deschamps handed a debut to 21-year-old Leipzig center half Dayot Upamecano and recalled Adrien Rabiot to midfield, after a long spell out of the side following his refusal to be on the reserve list for the 2018 World Cup.

Chances were scarce in the first half but veteran Sweden striker Marcus Berg almost broke through late on, only for France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris to deny him by rushing off his line. Moments later, Sweden keeper Robin Olsen was picking the ball out of the net.

"It was difficult for us, but for them as well," Deschamps said. "We could have done a bit better going forward."

Still, France was in control of the second half, with Mbappé and Barcelona's Griezmann wasting good chances before Lloris punched away a late effort from the lively Emil Forsberg.

Griezmann then blazed a poor penalty over the bar after substitute Anthony Martial was fouled.

France hosts Croatia at Stade de France on Tuesday in a repeat of the World Cup final two years ago, which France won 4-2 with Mbappé among the scorers.

In the group's other game, Croatia lost 4-1 at defending Nations League champion Portugal.

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Russell is KKR's heartbeat: Hussey

Kolkata Knight Riders, who have a new think tank in place headed by coach Brendon McCullum, are exploring the options of promoting their explosive all-rounder Andre Russell at number three, team mentor David Hussey said on Sunday.

The star Jamaican, who was adjudged the Most Valuable Player last season, had blamed some "bad decisions" for the two-time for-

mer champions missing out on the playoffs.

Hussey said they are thinking of different combinations this season, which includes promoting Russell at three.

"If it benefits the team and helps us win games of cricket, why not? If that means Andre Russell comes in at three and bats 60 balls, he might actually make a double hundred. Anything

can happen with Dre Russ," Hussey said in a news conference here.

Russell scored 510 runs from 13 innings, averaging 56.66 and also picked up 11 wickets.

Terming Russell as the heartbeat of the team, the former Australia cricketer

said: "A fantastic player, he is probably almost the heartbeat of the team as well."

"We've actually got really a well-balanced team... Anyone can bat in any different position. But if it benefits the team, why not, why can't he bat up the list?"



Dhawan still hopeful about Test comeback

PTI ■ DUBAI

Out of reckoning for Test cricket for the past two years, opening batsman Shikhar Dhawan on Sunday said he has not given up on making a comeback to the Indian team and is looking at the upcoming opportunities to plot his return.

The 34-year-old Dhawan last played a Test against England at The Oval in September 2018.

"I am not a part of the Test team but that does not mean I have given up all hopes of a comeback," Dhawan told TV channels during an interaction.

"Whenever I got an opportunity... Like in the Ranji Trophy last year I scored a century, then I made a comeback into the one-day team, if I get an opportunity then why not, of course."

Dhawan stroked his way to the fastest Test century by a debutant, against Australia in 2013, but has often struggled for consistency in the five-day game.

In Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Mayank Agarwal and Prithvi Shaw, the Test team has a number of options at its disposal for opener's role, making Dhawan's case even more difficult.

The left-handed batsman, though, remains optimistic.

"I will keep trying my best. The T20 World Cup is there next year, so I need to keep performing, keep myself fit, make runs consistently.

"If I keep doing these, other things will automatically fall into place."

Dhawan has so far played 34 Tests and scored 2,315 runs with seven centuries under his belt at an average of 40.61.

He remains in the scheme of things in ODIs and T20Is and is gearing up for IPL 2020, to be held in UAE from September 19.

The experienced Dhawan will turn out for Delhi Capitals and spoke about the challenges being faced by the players while staying in a bio-bubble amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There are challenges of being in the bubble, you do not meet new people, can't go to restaurants, we can only go to the designated areas. But our franchise has looked after us, we are living like a family, it depends on the person how he sees the situation," Dhawan said in a press conference.

When asked about Delhi Capitals' chances this IPL, Dhawan sounded optimistic.

"It's important we bond together and create that energy. We have a very balanced side and confident we will take the cup."

He said Shreyas Iyer has been leading the team very well. He also said the inclusion of experienced India players Ajinkya Rahane and R Ashwin will strengthen the outfit.

"Shreyas led the team pretty well last year, this time Ajinkya has come in, Ashwin has come in, they are quite experienced players and I am sure they are going to share their insights."



Buttler wins T20 series for ENG

AP ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Opener Jos Buttler advanced down the wicket and smashed a huge six to give England an insurmountable 2-0 lead in the Twenty20 series with a six-wicket win over Australia on Sunday.

Buttler hit an undefeated 77 off 54 balls in the second T20 with eight fours and two sixes, including the winning runs off Adam Zampa.

England finished on 158-4 in 18.5 overs at an empty Rose Bowl.

Top-ranked Australia chose to bat first and lost opener David Warner for a duck before recovering from 3-2 in the second over to reach 157-7.

Captain Aaron Finch hit 40 runs off 33 balls, with four boundaries and two sixes, but the visitors' total always looked within the reach of second-ranked England.

Dawid Malan scored 42 runs off 32 balls for England which still needed 18 runs off the last two overs.

England beat Australia by two runs in a thrilling first T20 on Friday that went down to the final ball. Chasing 163 to win, Australia collapsed from 124-1 after 14 overs.

Australia is playing international cricket for the first time in six months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The third and final T20 is at Southampton on Tuesday



Break allowed Kohli to become even better athlete

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Basu Shanker, the man responsible for the fitness transformation of the national team, feels India and RCB skipper Virat Kohli has returned from the long break an fitter athlete after working on "specific physical pointers" that needed attention.

Kohli was stuck in Mumbai for five months due to the coronavirus-enforced lockdown and had his first proper hit in the nets only after his arrival in the UAE for the Indian Premier League, beginning



September 19.

However, he ensured during the break that his supreme fitness level was not impacted and, in fact, it helped him skill-wise on his return to action even though he was "scared" to hit the nets.

"He (Kohli) has come back in much better shape. He is at his best weight at the moment and his movement patterns are pretty much in sync with his best self in the past," former India trainer Basu, who is now the strength and conditioning coach of Royal Challengers Bangalore, told PTI from Dubai.

"He has taken this break as an opportunity to work on all the pointers which needed attention from a physical point. I guess his motto to life is 'Bear the cross and wear the crown,'" said the man who worked with the Indian team

between 2015 to 2019.

He has worked extensively with Kohli, both at RCB and during his time with the Indian team.

Basu said Kohli was able to work on things which an international cricketer finds it difficult to do in a packed calendar.

"He had the time to be very specific with his meal plans and running intervals at home. He did not have much of a choice during the lockdown and he invested on a treadmill and worked on his endurance which is otherwise not possible during a packed calendar.

GASLY WINS MONZA RACE

AP ■ ITALY

AlphaTauri driver Pierre Gasly claimed an unlikely victory at the Italian Grand Prix after a thrilling race which saw world champion Lewis Hamilton given a 10-second penalty and both Ferraris fail to finish at their home circuit on Sunday.

It was Gasly's first-ever win in Formula One. The 24-year-old Frenchman finished 0.415 seconds ahead of McLaren driver Carlos Sainz and 3.358 ahead of Racing Point's Lance Stroll on a surreal-looking podium. All three drivers had never won a race and each had only one top-three finish to their name.

Hamilton appeared on course for



a comfortable victory from pole position but he was given the stop-go penalty for entering the pit lane when closed.

The Mercedes driver finished seventh, 17.245 behind Gasly.

Ferrari's abysmal weekend continued as Sebastian Vettel had a brake failure on Lap 7 and he limped into the pits with his right-rear brake disc in flames. It was the four-time champion's first DNF at Monza in his 14th start.

His teammate Charles Leclerc had made it into fourth but lost the rear of the car under acceleration through Parabolica on Lap 25 and crashed into the barriers, causing the race to be red flagged.

By that time Hamilton's penalty had been announced. Hamilton had pitted immediately after the safety car had been deployed after Kevin Magnussen broke down but was unaware the pit lane was closed as the marshals recovered Magnussen's Haas.