

**OPINION 6**  
HIGH STAKES  
FOR JAISHANKAR

**WORLD 8**  
IF BIDEN WINS, CHINA  
WILL OWN AMERICA: TRUMP

**AVENUES 10**  
MAKE A CAREER  
IN REAL ESTATE

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2020, PAGES 12 ₹3

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BARTY OPTS OUT  
OF FRENCH OPEN  
TITLE DEFENCE  
**12 SPORT**

## PLA's bid to dislodge India from peaks foiled

Chinese troops marched to Indian post with rods, spears, clubs; fired shots, a first in 45 years

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The tense situation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has further aggravated with India thwarting yet another aggressive move by the Chinese in Eastern Ladakh.

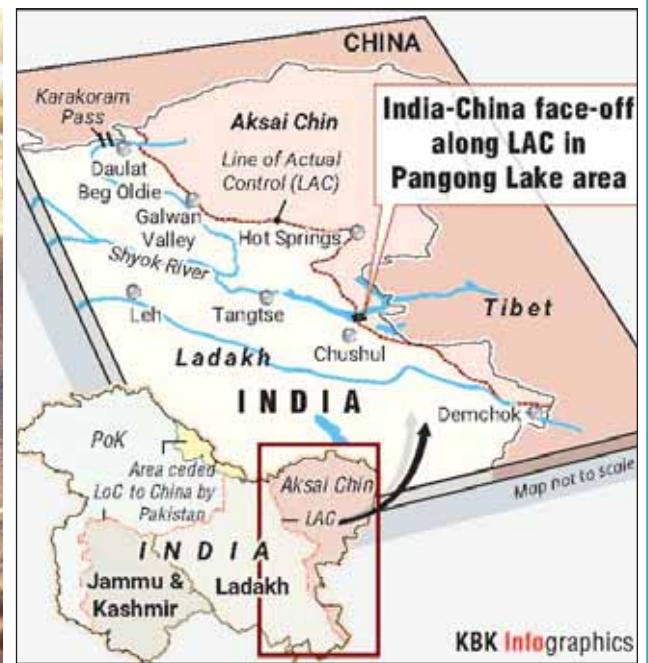
The Chinese troops also fired warning shots in the air but the Indian Army maintained calm. China, however, claimed it was the Indians who used firearms after breaching the border. This is the first time in more than 45 years that shots were fired on the LAC.

This provocative act by the Chinese on Monday took place in the southern region of the Pangong Tso (lake) in Eastern Ladakh. The PLA soldiers tried to dislodge the Indian Army troops now positioned on the strategically important hill tops in the area. When they were warned, the Chinese fired a few shots in the air. However, there were no physical clashes or skirmishes, sources said here on Tuesday.

Given the gravity of the issue, Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reviewed the ground situation. The meeting came as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar left for Moscow to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the LAC stand-off. The two leaders will meet on the sidelines of the Foreign Ministers' conclave of the



China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers approaching an Indian post near Mukhpari peak in Pangong Tso in Eastern Ladakh about 6 pm on Monday



KBK Infographics

spears, long knives and automatic weapons tried to come close to the Indian position at a height of more than 15,000 feet about 6.30 pm in a provocative action, they were warned. In turn, they fired, sources said. Nearly 5,000 Indian troopers are now positioned there along with tanks and heavy guns to foil any counter-move by the Chinese.

An official statement on Tuesday, the Army said, "In the instant case September 7, 2020, it was the PLA troops who were attempting to close-in with

one of our forward positions along the LAC and when dissuaded by own troops, PLA troops fired a few rounds in the air in an attempt to intimidate own troops. However, despite the grave provocation, own troops exercised great restraint and behaved in a mature and responsible manner."

The Indian Army is committed to maintaining peace and tranquility, however, is also determined to protect national integrity and sovereignty at all costs.

*Continued on Page 2*

**5 abducted men from Arunachal located in China, confirms PLA**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Five youths who had reportedly been abducted by China's PLA from Arunachal Pradesh last week have been located on the Chinese side.

The PLA has confirmed the presence of the missing youths and modalities are being worked out between the two sides for their handing over to the Indian Army.

"China's PLA has responded to the hotline message sent by Indian Army. They have confirmed that the missing youths from Arunachal Pradesh have been found by their side. Further modalities to hand over the persons to our authority are being worked out," Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju tweeted.

The Arunachal Pradesh Police had on Monday said the whereabouts of the missing youth could not be known after a search team returned from the LAC. The five villagers from Upper Subansiri district were said to be engaged as porters and guides by the Indian Army.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Rhea held for drug deal

Mumbai cops turn  
plaint against SSR  
sis, doc into FIR,  
transfer it to CBI

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At the end of 19-long hours of grilling carried out during a span of three days, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Tuesday arrested actress Rhea Chakraborty in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput death case, even as the Mumbai Police converted a complaint filed by her against the late actor's sisters Priyanka, Meetu Singh and New Delhi-based Dr Tarun Kumar into an FIR and transferred the case to the CBI.

Rhea was produced via video-conferencing before a city court, which rejected her bail application and



Bollywood actor Rhea Chakraborty leaves for a medical test after being arrested by the NCB in Mumbai on Tuesday

remanded in judicial custody for 14 days, till September 22. She would be lodged in the Byaculla Women jail.

Rhea's arrest appeared to be a fait accompli, coming as it did in the wake of what appeared to be orchestrated leaks from the investigating agency that

she had reportedly admitted that she had procured drugs for Sushant through her currently arrested brother Showik Chakraborty, that she had acknowledged that she knew about Samuel purchasing drugs for the actor from drug peddler Zaid Vilatra and that she had accepted that she had accepted drug-related WhatsApp chats between her and others.

Rhea, who had been questioned for six hours on Sunday and grilled for eight hours on

Monday, arrived at the NCB's office at Ballard Pier in south Mumbai at 10.30 am for the third day of questioning in a T-shirt that read "Roses are red, violets are blue, let's smash the patriarchy, me and you". The 28-year-old actress was placed by the NCB under arrest at 3.30 pm, exactly five hours later.

Confirming the arrest, NCB deputy director KPS Malhotra said, "Rhea Chakraborty has been arrested and due process of informing the family has been completed".

Rhea is the tenth accused to have been arrested in connection with a drug case linked to the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who was found dead in his closed room of his sixth floor duplex flat at Mont Blanc building at Bandra's Carter Road in north-west Mumbai, on June 14.

Besides Rhea's brother Showik, eight other arrested accused in the case are: Abbas Lakhani, Karan Arora, Zaid Vilatra, Abdel Basit Parihar, Anuj Keswani, Kaizan Ibrahim, Samuel Miranda and Dipesh Sawant.

*Continued on Page 2*

## IX to XII students may attend schools from Sept 21

**MHA allows it on voluntary basis if parents permit, issues safety SoPs**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As part of its ongoing "unlock-4" process, "partial resumption" of academic activities has been allowed in schools only on voluntary basis from September 21 for students of Classes 9-12.

A detailed guideline the Government issued on Tuesday said it encourages online classes, but older students "will be permitted to visit schools on voluntary basis".

The final decision has been left to the parents, who will have to provide a written permission for wards going to school.

Similar go-ahead has also been given to skill or entre-

preneurship training institutions, higher educational institutions conducting doctoral courses and postgraduate studies in technical and professional

programs requiring laboratory /experimental work.

The Union Health Ministry has issued separate guidelines for operations of

these institutions amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The SoPs dwell on detail about the safety measures.

*Continued on Page 2*

### Covid-19 IN INDIA

**TOTAL**  
CASES: 43,64,874  
DEATHS: 73,906  
RECOVERED:  
33,94,087  
ACTIVE: 8,96,279

### RUSSIA SEEKS INDIA'S HELP FOR VACCINE PHASE-3 TRIAL

New Delhi: The Russian Government has sought India's help in manufacturing the Sputnik V vaccine and also to conduct Phase-3 trials or bridging studies in the country, a top official said on Tuesday.

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	9,43,772	27,407	6,72,556
Andhra Pradesh	5,17,094	4,560	4,15,765
Tamil Nadu	4,74,940	8,015	4,16,715
Karnataka	4,12,190	6,680	3,08,573
Uttar Pradesh	2,78,473	4,047	2,11,170
Delhi	1,97,135	4,618	1,70,140
West Bengal	1,86,956	3,677	1,60,025
Bihar	1,50,694	765	1,34,089
Telangana	1,45,163	906	1,12,587
Odisha	1,31,382	622	1,02,185
Assam	1,28,245	370	96,824
Gujarat	1,06,966	3,134	87,579
Rajasthan	94,126	1,164	77,872
Kerala	92,516	373	68,859
Haryana	81,059	854	63,315
Madhya Pradesh	77,323	1,609	58,509

## CAPSULE

**LJP LAUGHS AT JD(U)  
OVER ALLIANCE REMARK**

New Delhi: The Lok Janshakti Party said on Tuesday that the JD(U) has done it a "favour" by making it clear that the two parties have never had any alliance, in a sarcastic reaction as the ties between the two National Democratic Alliance (NDA) members from Bihar continue to unravel. "We welcome this statement from the JD(U) that his party has never had any alliance with the LJP. JD(U) leader KC Tyagi has done us a favour," the LJP said in a statement.

**UP: FIVE DIE DUE TO  
TOXIC GAS IN WELL**

Gonda: Five people died here on Tuesday after being exposed to toxic gas in a well where locals used to dump garbage, police said. The incident took place at Raja Mohalla in the Kotwali police station area while they were rescuing a calf that had fell into it.

# Five die of toxic gas in well in Gonda

**Gonda:** Five people died here on Tuesday after being exposed to toxic gas in a well where locals used to dump garbage, police said.

The incident took place at Raja Mohalla in the Kotwali police station area while they were rescuing a calf that had fell into it.

According to Additional Superintendent of Police Mahendra Kumar said it was an old and unused well in which people used to dump

garbage.

"On Tuesday afternoon, a calf fell into the well. A man went into it using a ladder to pull out the calf," he said, adding that when the calf was rescued, the man fainted after inhaling toxic gas.

Four other people went down to bring him back but they too fainted, Kumar said. The ASP said police, fire brigade and local civic body personnel pulled them out after much effort.

PTI

"They were taken to the district hospital where doctors declared them dead. The deceased have been identified as Vaibhav (18), Dinesh (30), Ravi Shankar (36), Vishnu Dayal (35) and Mannu Saini (36)," the ASP said.

Police have sent bodies for a post-mortem examination. District Magistrate Nitin Bansal said assistance will be given to family members of the deceased as per rules.

PTI

of Rhea Chakraborty, a case has been registered at Bandra Police Station, Mumbai Cr. No. 576/2020 under sections 420, 464, 465, 466, 468, 474, 306, 120B, 34 IPC and read with sections 8(c), 21, 22(A), 29 of NDPS Act. In line with orders of the Supreme Court of India, the case is duly transferred to CBI for further investigation," a senior officer attached to the Bandra police said.

Dubbing client Rhea's arrest as a "travesty of justice," her lawyer Satish Maneshinde expressed his outrage saying that the Central investigating agencies were "hounding a single woman just because she was in love with a drug addict who was suffering from mental health issues".

"Travesty of Justice! Three Central agencies are hounding a single woman, just because she was in love with a drug addict and was suffering from mental health issues for several years under the care of five leading psychiatrists in Mumbai, who ended up committing suicide due to consumption of illegally administered medicines and used drugs," Maneshinde said.

"In line with the complaint

The NCB's case is based on 59 grams of curated marijuana seized from alleged drug peddlers Abbas Lakhani and Karan Arora who were arrested earlier, and have now been granted bail.

More seizures were made from Anuj Keshwani based on the disclosure from Kaizan Ibrahim, who according to the NCB is another drug peddler who supplied marijuana to Showik Chakraborty and Samuel Miranda through Abdel Basit Parihar.

Keshwani, whose role has made the investigations more complicated, is under examination for questioning. In a statement detailing the drugs seized from Keshwani, the NCB has said: "continuation of operations against the drug syndicate, a raid was conducted in Mumbai by Mumbai Zonal Unit, NCB. The following drugs were seized: 590 grams of hashish, 0.64 gm of LSD sheets, 304 gm of marijuana, including imported marijuana joints and capsules, Rs 1,85,200 in cash and 5,000 Indonesian Rupiah."

notes that no person shall be qualified to be an elector at an election of the President, or of the Members of Parliament or to vote at any Referendum if he is under sentence of death and he will lose his right to vote under such a sentence.

Jayasekera and two others were sentenced to death by the Ratnapura High Court for the 2015 murder of a political activist in the run up to the January 2015 presidential election. Jayasekera was not able to attend the parliament's inaugural session on August 20 after the SLPP's landslide win.

## 5 abducted...

They were part of a seven-member group which went hunting in a jungle and were reported missing by their families through social media last Friday. On Monday, China had brushed off concerns over the whereabouts of the five missing youths and claimed it has never recognised the Northeastern State which it claims to be part of south

Tibet, a claim consistently denied by India.

"China's position on the east sector of the China-India boundary, or Zangnan (the southern part of China's Xizang (Tibet)), is consistent and clear," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told a media briefing in Beijing on Monday. "I'm not aware of the situation you mentioned," the spokesperson said when asked about any updates about the missing Indian nationals.

ing states.

The transit system project aims to help decongest the city and improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options through the densely populated sections of the NCR connecting Delhi to Meerut in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

The RRTS will have multi-modal hubs to ensure smooth interchange with other transport modes. The first tranche financing will be used for constructing electrified tracks, signalling systems, multimodal hubs and stations with design features that are friendly to elderly, women, children and the disabled.

It will also support the

transformational impact on the development trajectory of the national capital region by introducing high-level technologies for RRTS, signalling, and station designs.

With a design speed of 180 km per hour and high-frequency operations of every five to ten minutes, the corridor connecting Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi to Modipuram at Meerut in Uttar Pradesh is expected to reduce the journey time to about one hour from the present three to four hours.

The first tranche of the loan will support construction of the first of three priority rail corridors planned under the NCR Regional Plan 2021 to connect Delhi to other cities in adjoining

states.

The project, being implemented by the NCR Transport Corporation under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, will finance the construction of railway tracks, station buildings, maintenance facilities, and traction and power supply.

"The project will provide better connectivity to allow other towns in the NCR to develop as urban economic centers surrounded by residential areas while easing the concentration pressure on Delhi," said Khare after signing the loan agreement.

While Yokoyama said the project is expected to have a

# MAHA RECORDS 20,131 FRESH INFECTION

IN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

A day after it recorded an all-time high of 423 deaths, Maharashtra on Tuesday witnessed the Covid-19 deaths fall to 380, while it recorded a relatively high 20,131 infections.

With the 380 new fatalities, the total Covid-19 tally climbed up from 27,027 to 27,407.

With 20,131 fresh infections, the total number of infections jumped from 923,641 to 943,772.

Of the total 380 deaths reported on Tuesday, Pune topped the list in the State with 68 deaths, while there were 56 deaths in Nagpur, 42 in

Mumbai, 28 in Sangli, 25 in Kolhapur, 23 in Nashik, 22 in Thane, 16 each in Jalgaon and Satara, 12 in Solapur.

Similarly, in the lower range, there were 9 deaths each in Ahmednagar and Nanded, 7 each in Aurangabad, Beed, Amravati and Chandrapur, 5 in Latur, 3 each in Palghar, Raigad and Ratnagiri and one death each in Dhule, Nandurbar, Sindhudurg, Jalna, Hingoli, Parbhani, Osmanabad, Yavatmal, Buldhana and Washim. In addition, two persons from other states or countries died in Maharashtra.

There was a sharp spurt in deaths from the districts of



Nagpur, Sangli, Kolhapur, Nasik, Jalgaon and Satara, while as many as five districts in the state reported zero deaths.

With 42 fatalities Mumbai's

Covid-19 toll rose from 7,900 to 7,942, while number of infections went up by 1,346 to jump from 157,410 to 158,756.

Pune district with 2,07,435 infected cases continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra. The number of deaths in Pune increased from 4470 to 4538.

Thane district remained on the third spot -after Pune and Mumbai - with 1,46,220 total cases, while the pandemic toll rose from 3986 to 4008.

In a related development, as many as 13,234 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 6,72,556. The recovery rate stood at 71.26 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 2.9 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 2,43,446.

Out of 47,89,682 samples sent to laboratories, 9,43,772 have tested positive (19.7 per cent) for COVID-19 until Tuesday.

Currently, 15,58,305 people are in home quarantine while 38,141 people are in institutional quarantine.

# Sunday lockdown over: Govt restores old system of market closure in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Sundays, rescinding its previous order of two-day weekend restrictions.

In that order, the government had said that all markets and business establishments would open for 12 hours (9 am to 9 pm) and Sunday would be the weekly closure.

With the new order restoring the old system of weekly closure of different markets instead of Sunday closure. All hotels and restaurants, except those in containment zones, should restart normal activities but by following coronavirus protection protocol," the chief minister said. Last week, the state government had announced that shops would remain closed across the state only on

The chief minister directed officials to expedite economic activities besides making people aware of preventive measures against the Coronavirus pandemic.

# PLA'S BID TO DENT INDIA'S...

From Page 1

The statement by the Western Theatre Command is an attempt to mislead their domestic and international audience, the statement said.

The Army issued the statement after the Chinese Government late on Monday night claimed that India violated the LAC and fired shots.

The Army statement also said while India is committed to disengagement and de-escalating the situation on the LAC, China continues to undertake provocative activities to escalate. At no stage has the Indian Army transgressed across the LAC or resorted to use of any aggressive means, including firing. It is the PLA that has been blatantly violating the LAC and fired shots.

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some comments to NSA Ajit Doval. These reports are completely false and are not based on facts. We urge the media to refrain from such speculative reporting," it said in a release.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known that My Client, Shri Anil Saxena, and Smt Radha Saxena, both R/o H.No.D-304, New Jyoti Apartment, Sector-4, Plot No.-27, Dwarka, Delhi-110075, have sold all their co-operative and residential flats in Shri Anjan Saxena & Smt. Shivan Saxena (Sudha) i.e. Son & daughter-in-law of my client for their conduct, malicious activities, abuse and disobedience. My client shall not be liable for any acts, deeds, or things done by Shri Anjan Saxena & Smt. Shivan Saxena (Sudha) and they shall not inherit any right in the movable and/or immovable properties of my client.

Lokesh Kumar (Advocate) Chambers, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi-110032

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Gurdev Kaur widow of Late Mr. Bikram Singh is owner of Property Bearing No. 157, area measuring 378 Sq. mtrs., Block-B, Situated at Sector - 36, Noida, "The Sudip Property", vide a mutation Letter / Transfer Letter dated 18.03.2020, in the record of Noida Authority after demise of her husband Late Mr. Bikram Singh. All the rights, title and interest in the above mentioned property want to sell the said property by taking Home Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd. If anybody has any objection's for Sale / Mortgage of the said property, and its Ownership / Title of Mrs. Gurdev Kaur, kindly inform the undersigned at the address below mentioned address within 14 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants), 200, Second Floor, 33, Shivali Marg, Noida-201315, Ph: 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates.advocates@gmail.com

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, Harpreet Kaur, D/o Shri Dukhshan Singh, R/o 7/7A, Arjun Nagar, (Shanti Niwas), New Delhi – 110029, affirms that my father is known by two names i.e. D.B. Singh and Dukhshan Singh and that both Dukhshan Singh and D.B. Singh are the names of same person i.e. my father. In my records i.e. Service Book etc. my father's name is maintained as Dukhshan Singh.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Shahnaz Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd., H.No. 22/2, Narela Road, Near Trishul Soap Factory, Vijay Nagar, Bawana, Delhi-110039

In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS

rules, 2007, it is to inform publicly that following member of Shahnaz CGHS Ltd. (Regd. No. 746) has

resigned from the membership of the society i.e. 1) Sh. Mohit Kant

(M.N.165). Further he has been issued account payee cheque for his deposited amount. if anyone

have any objections he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the RCS, Parliament Street,

New Delhi or at society office i.e. H.No.22/2, Narela Road, Near

Trishul Soap Factory, Vijay Nagar, Delhi 110039 within 7 day from the date of publication of the public notice. Sd/- President

Shahnaz CGHS Ltd.

# Maha orders probe into alleged drug use by Kangana

From Page 1

Ahead of the actress' arrival in the city, Maharashtra's State capital and neighbouring Thane witnessed several Kangana-specific developments.

## TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

# Now consumers in Capital can file complaints online

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday inaugurated country's first online portal for e-filing of consumer complaints amidst coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic.

With this online platform, people of Delhi need not go out to register their grievances and can file their complaint sitting at home with virtual system network.

Terming it as world's best platform, Kejriwal said "The Delhi State Consumer Disputes

Redressal Commission (DSC-DRC) has decided to launch the e-Filing portal for the convenience of the consumers, especially in these challenging times of Corona encouraging people to stay indoors. "This will prove to be an essential step towards supporting its efforts. "Delhi is the first state to have launched the e-filing system and this will show a direction to the other states as well as the entire country, who will also learn from Delhi and move towards a similar direction," Kejriwal said.

With this virtual system, now filing of the complaint from their home is feasible with the newly launched application. "A user may be a complainant or an advocate can file a com-



plaint online at his/her ease at any time. No more visits to the consumer forum are required," officer said.

Adding further, he explained that through this system, the consumer can file their cases not only in Delhi State Consumer Commission but also in the District Consumer Commissions. "All the consumer forum will stand connected through e-filing system. Proper infrastructure and experienced staff is the prime requirement for the system. It will expedite the hearing of the

cases and will help to reduce dependency."

This e-filing system is transparent and hassle free, accessible 24X7, Environment friendly and cost effective. It facilitates digital payment, digitization of documents and easy tracking of applications, the official said.

Meanwhile Food and Civil Supplies Minister Imran Hussain said, "I want to congratulate the State Commission, NIC and the officials of the food and supplies department. CM Kejriwal

has always stressed on the importance of creating a system that is efficient for the early resolution of the consumer disputes in Delhi. To fulfill this objective I would like to request the presidents of the State Disputes Commission to keep working on resolving the consumer complaints at the earliest. On behalf of the DSCDRC, I want to assure you that we will do everything to provide convenience to the public and resolve consumer complaints at the earliest."

## Blue, Pink Metro lines to resume services today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is all set to resume services on the Blue Line and Pink Line on Wednesday after a hiatus of 171 days.

The Blue Line number connecting Dwarka to Electronic City/Vaishali (65.35 km/58 stations) and Pink Line number which connect from Majlis Park to Shiv Vihar (57.58 km and 38 stations) will be re-open as part of the Stage-I of graded resumption of Metro services.

A senior DMRC official said that services on these two corridors will be available from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the morning and from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the evening along with Yellow/Rapid Lines which are already operational since Monday as per the given timings.

The two corridors will ensure availability of nine of the existing 28 interchange metro stations such as Rajouri Garden (Blue Line and Pink Line), INA Delhi Haat (Yellow and Pink Line), Mayur Vihar Phase - I (Blue Line and Pink Line), Azadpur (Pink Line & Yellow



Drivers gesture during trial-run of metro trains on the Blue Line, ahead of its resumption after being closed for over five months due to coronavirus pandemic, at Yamuna Bank station in New Delhi, on Tuesday

Karkarduma (Blue Line & Pink Line), Rajiv Chowk (Blue Line and Yellow Line), Yamuna Bank (Blue Line 3 and 4), Anand Vihar ISBT (Blue Line & Pink Line), Azadpur (Pink Line & Yellow

Line) and Sikanderpur (Yellow Line and Rapid Metro).

"DMRC will be running 66 trains on Blue Line performing around 478 train trips during morning and evening hours on

9th and 10th September.

Similarly, 27 trains with about 228 trips from Majlis Park to Mayur Vihar Pocket-1 and 13 trains with around 291 trips from Trilok Puri-Sanjay Lake to Shiv

Vihar sections of Pink line will be put into service on these two days. The trips will be subsequently increased as the operational timing of services get extended on 11th and 12th

## Auto driver held for opening fire

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 26-year-old man for allegedly firing in the air outside a grocery shop in Central Delhi's Chandni Mahal area.

The accused, Aarif, an auto rickshaw driver, was arrested from Bhajanpura in Northeast Delhi, while he was preparing to flee from the city, police said, adding a pistol with seven live round was also recovered from him.

According to Sanjay Bhatia, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central district, the incident took place on Monday night outside a grocery shop near a cinema hall in Central Delhi's Chandni Mahal area.

"The accused, also a resident of Central Delhi was under the influence of alcohol during the incident and had bought the illegal pistol to show off people, he told police during interrogation," said the DCP.

"Police were informed around 9.15 pm on Monday that two rounds were fired in the air outside a shop. Police team from Chandni Mahal police station went to the spot where they met Aslam who

told police that some unknown person fired two rounds in the air near his shop and during search, our team found one fired round from the spot," said the DCP.

"Since none of the CCTV cameras installed in and around the nearby areas were operational, several police teams were deployed to collect intelligence and trace the accused," said the DCP.

"Another police team was sent to Usmanpur area to get in touch with the owner of a medical shop, where the suspect was seen earlier but later a team was sent to Bhajanpura in Northeast Delhi from where the accused was apprehended," said the DCP.

"Initially, the man refused about his involvement in the case but during sustained interrogation, he confessed to his crime and disclosed that he hid the pistol and some live round in Jafraab area. The team was sent to Jafraab from where pistol and seven live round has been recovered," the DCP said.

A case has been registered against him under section 336 (an act endangering life and personal safety) of Indian Penal Code and provisions of arms act, police said.

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A 94-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the balcony of her 15th floor of her condominium in Gurugram's Sector-48 on Monday morning. The woman was facing multiple health problems and depression, no case has been registered, the police said.

According to the police, Urmila Advani, the deceased, was a retired teacher. She was residing with her son Anil, daughter-in-law and granddaughter in Central Park Society part-2, Sector-48 for the past several years.

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The woman was bleeding and in extreme trauma. The locals called her son and the police later took her for medical examination, the DCW said.

Her medical examination report reveals several injuries and bruises on her body, it said.

DCW chief Swati Maliwal and panel member Vandana Singh met the survivor at her house in Chhawla on Tuesday.

"From a six-month-old girl to a 90-year-old woman, no one is safe in Delhi. The kind of trauma this woman had to face clearly indicates that the perpetrators of these crimes are not humans. I met the woman today, she is an extremely courageous woman. We will ensure she gets justice. This case needs to be fast tracked and justice should be served within six months," Maliwal said.

"The woman kept crying and pleading that she was of his grandmother's age. The perpetrator assaulted her brutally when she tried to resist him and raped her," the women rights panel said.

Local villagers rushed to the spot after hearing the woman's cries. They caught hold of the perpetrator and called the police, it said.

The woman was bleeding and in extreme trauma. The locals called her son and the police later took her for medical examination, the DCW said.

According to the woman,

she was waiting for milkman at around 5 pm on Monday when the perpetrator came and told her that the milkman would not come that day and that he will take her to the place where she could get milk, the DCW said.

He took the woman to a farm instead and then brutally raped her, it said.

"The woman kept crying and pleading that she was of his grandmother's age. The perpetrator assaulted her brutally when she tried to resist him and raped her," the women rights panel said.

## 94-year-old depressed woman jumps to death from 15th floor

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The police suspect that the woman took the extreme step as she was suffering from depression and multiple health issues since her husband died two years ago.

The incident came to fore at around 6 am on Monday morning when the body was spotted by a security guard present inside the condominium who informed the security supervisor and the woman's son who was out for a morning walk.

"At around 6 am, we received a call that a resident had committed suicide and a team from Sadar police station was rushed to the spot. The woman was lying in a pool of

blood. The woman was taken to a nearby hospital where doctors declared her dead," said Dinesh Kumar, station house officer (SHO) of Sadar police station.

According to the preliminary probe, the woman had jumped from her balcony.

A suicide note was found in the woman's room in which she had written about her bad health condition, police said.

"We are investigating the matter. Things will be clearer after the deceased's family records their statement with the police," Kumar added.

The body was handed over to the family members after an autopsy on Monday evening.

According to the police, Urmila Advani, the deceased, was a retired teacher. She was residing with her son Anil, daughter-in-law and granddaughter in Central Park Society part-2, Sector-48 for the past several years.

"Initially, the man refused about his involvement in the case but during sustained interrogation, he confessed to his crime and disclosed that he hid the pistol and some live round in Jafraab area. The team was sent to Jafraab from where pistol and seven live round has been recovered," the DCP said.

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Local court slaps ₹3K fine on producers

of Oscar-nominated film 'Newton'

CPRF, which is highly objec-

tional," reads the petition.

The court had on Septem-

On August 21, the district

recorded over 100 fresh cases

for the first time in 21 days.

Since then, in the last ten days

between August 30 and Sep-

tember 8, over 1,900 people

have tested positive.

The officials said the rea-

son behind the rise in cases is

the floating of Covid-19 norms.

"Number of cases are

increasing across the country

and, in such a situation, people

# Russia seeks India's help on Covid vaccine, study



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday said that Russia has sought India's help in the manufacturing of its Covid vaccine by Indian companies and conduct of Phase-III studies here.

"Also, India attaches high importance to the request from a special friend and on both fronts, there has been considerable progress."

"We are working with this vaccine candidate for manufacture as well as trial and regulatory facilitation, in the spirit of partnership and science for humanity. The outreach has been extended to the vaccine manufacturers in India," said V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog at a press briefing here.

"About four of them have already come forward, the others are in talks with the Russian counterparts and the

Government is facilitating that process of creating a connect. There may be specific outcomes very soon in that regard.

India can manufacture that vaccine in large and significant quantities. On the regulatory front, Indian scientists have looked at the data. There would be a need for Phase III trials in normal course of things," he said.

Sputnik V, an adenovirus vector-based vaccine, was developed by the Gamaleya Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, along with the Russian Direct Investment Fund and was registered on August 11.

On its part, in India, three vaccines are in advanced stages. There are two indigenous vaccines being developed by Zydus Cadila and Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research.

## Govt urges citizens to come forward for Covid-testing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



**A**larmed at the spike in Covid-19 cases each passing day, the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday exhorted the citizens to come forward to get themselves tested for the infection and warned that their irresponsible behaviour like failure to follow distancing norms and not using masks could lead to a damaging situation as far as the pandemic is concerned in India.

Addressing a press briefing, NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul, who also heads Covid-19 national task force, stressed on the importance of testing in containing the pandemic.

Highlighting repeated complaints from states that people are becoming lax in taking precautions against Covid-19, he said following public health measures like social distancing and wearing masks remains key to slowing the pandemic.

"People should not be afraid of getting tested. They should come forward to get themselves tested for COVID-19 if they have symptoms," he added.

AstraZeneca for manufacturing the COVID-19 vaccine candi-

said. At a time when coronavirus cases are on the rise, Paul said there have been repeated complaints from states about people becoming lax in taking safety precautions.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan took note of the States failing to conduct the RTPCR tests. "There are many states where people testing negative for rapid-antigen test (RAT) are not subjected to RT-PCR. You need to catch that missing person. The people who are not caught are spreading the infection."

"You can chase the virus only if you catch the missing person. This is both Ministry and ICMR guidelines that a person who is symptomatic negative in a rapid-antigen test should be compelled to RT-PCR. If 100 such people are left, they can spread it to a lot of people, and this is worrisome," he added.

date developed by the University of Oxford.

## 14 States/UTs log less than 5K active Covid-19 cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

### NITI member tries to allay fears that cases are spiraling at a faster pace

more or less, accounting for most of the deaths", he said.

Hence, from the perspective of public health, it is important to take targeted actions in these States, both by the State and Central Governments. This apart, 28 States & UTs have a Case Fatality Rate which is lower than the national average, Bhushan said.

"Maharashtra's share is around 27 per cent of the total active cases, which in terms of absolute numbers is 2.37 lakhs. This apart, nearly 70 per cent of the COVID-19 related deaths are also being reported from five States—Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The States where active cases are mostly concentrated are also,

Karnataka and Maharashtra followed with 9,575 and 7,826 recoveries respectively while Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh registered 5,820 and 4,779 recoveries, a release from the Union Health Ministry said. These 5 States together contributed 57 per cent of the recoveries in the last 24 hours.

The officer also said that more than 5 crore tests have been conducted so far, which take India to the second highest position in terms of testing with more than 10 lakh tests conducted daily in this week.

At the same time, the number of recovered patients is more than 33 lakhs now, and, the highest single day recovery of 73,642 patients has also been recorded in the last 24 hours.

Although the cases are on the rise in terms of absolute numbers, India still has 3,102 cases per million, which is one of the lowest in the world. Also, India's death per million is 53, which falls amongst the lowest in the world, the official pointed out.

## PPP policy required for intelligent traffic to reduce road accidents: Gadkari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday announced a public private partnership (PPP) model for an intelligent traffic system to reduce road accidents. Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said there is a need for a policy and a reputed private consultant will be appointed to come out with the model.

Gadkari asserted that post implementation of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, road accidents and related deaths have come down.

On an average, India witnesses about 5 lakh road accidents per annum in which about 1.5 lakh people die and about 3 lakh are crippled.

"This is the time we should go for PPP (public private partnership) model in transportation... We will appoint a private consultant, a good reputed company to study how we can make PPP model in transport system particularly in Intelligent Transport System (ITS) at state level, municipal corporation level and the National Highways level," the minister said while addressing a webinar on road safety. He announced a tender will be released soon in this regard.

An ITS comprises centralised control centres, closed tolling systems which also include components like CCTV, weather monitoring, variable message signs,

advanced communication system, traffic management, simulation, digital services driven by AI among others to streamline traffic.

The minister also expressed confidence that road accidents and related 1.5 lakh deaths per annum would be reduced by 50% by 2025 against the target of 2030.

"We are working on fast track mode to achieve the goal with the cooperation of all stakeholders especially the state governments," he said.

The minister said he has taken lot of initiatives to reduce road accidents including correcting black spots or spots witnessing a high number of accidents due to bad road design or other road engineering or related flaws.

He said the World Bank and the ADB are providing ₹7,000 crore each for removing black spots from national highways. "We have already identified black spots on national highways. India has already spent ₹20,000 crore on removing the black spots," Gadkari further said.

He lauded the Tamil Nadu government's efforts to bring down road fatalities by 25 percent by implementing a project with the World Bank's assistance.

Gadkari also called upon Members of Parliament who are chairing District Road Committees to identify black spots and pursue their redressal.

## Centre orders attachment of properties of SFJ handlers

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday ordered attachment of immovable properties in Punjab of designated terrorists Gurpatwant Singh Pannu and Hardeep Singh Nijjar under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The duo is being probed by the NIA in connection with a case relating to a concerted campaign launched by secessionist organisation 'Sikhs for Justice' under the banner of 'Sikh Referendum 2020' for creation of so called 'Khaliyah'.

"Government of India in exercise of powers conferred under Section 51A of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, has ordered for attachment of the immovable properties of designated terrorists - Gurpatwant Singh Pannu in District Amritsar, Punjab and Hardeep Singh Nijjar in District Jalandhar, Punjab, the NIA said in a statement.

During the course of investigation, the NIA had identified immovable properties belonging to Pannu in Amritsar, and those of Nijjar in Jalandhar, and moved the Government for attachment of these assets properties under the provisions of the UAPA, 1967.

The attached properties Pannu include 46 Kanal at village Khankot, Amritsar, Punjab and 11 Kanal 13.5 Marlas Sultanwind Suburban Bhainiwal, Amritsar, Punjab.

Nijjar's attached asset is 11 Kanal 13 Marlas in area at village Bhar, Singhpura, Pillaur, Jalandhar (Punjab).

Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), headed by USA-based terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, is presently making efforts to propagate 'Sikh Referendum 2020' on social media.

## 'Hunar Haat' from today to boost desi toy industry's prospects



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a cue from the Modi Government's recent policy to replace imported toys, including those largely from China, with the ones locally produced, Union Minority Affairs Ministry will resume 'Hunar Haat' from Wednesday to encourage indigenous toy industry.

After a gap of about 6 months due to the outbreak of the Corona pandemic, "Hunar Haat" will restart from October 9 at Prayagraj (Allahabad) with the theme of "Local to Global" and focus on indigenous exquisite Indian toys.

Announcing this, Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Tuesday said here that every corner of the country has a traditional and ancestral legacy of indigenous toys.

"This legacy, which was on the verge of extinction, has got a boon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi pitched for Swadeshi Toys," he said.

Naqvi said that every corner of the country is endowed with diversity of indigenous toys made with wood, brass, bamboo, glass, cloth, paper, clay etc. "Hunar Haat" will be an enormous platform pro-

### 'Hunar Haat' will be an enormous platform providing market and opportunities to master artisans

viding market and opportunities to master artisans who prepare these indigenous exquisite toys.

More than 30 per cent stalls will be for artisans who prepare indigenous toys, they will also be extended help through various institutions for attractive packaging of "Swadeshi Toys".

In the coming days, "Hunar Haat" will be organized at Jaipur (23 Oct-1 November), Chandigarh (7-15 November), Indore (21 to 29 November), Mumbai (22 to 31 December), Hyderabad (8 to 17 January 2021), Lucknow (23 to 31 January 2021), India Gate, New Delhi (13 to 21 February 2021), Ranchi (20 to 28 February 2021), Kota (5 to 14 March 2021), Surat/Ahmedabad (20 to 27 March 2021) etc.

Naqvi said that this time, people will also be able to buy "Hunar Haat" products digital and online also. Union Minority Affairs Ministry is registering these artisans and their indigenous products on "GeM" (Government e Marketplace).

The online sale that was launched with just Khadi face masks on July 7 this year has evolved into a full-fledged E-market platform with 180 products as on today and many more in the pipeline.

## 22 bamboo clusters in nine States launched to raise farmers' income

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



tual event, Tomar also released the logo for National Bamboo Mission (NBM), the ministry of agriculture added.

"Bamboo cultivation can enhance farm income to a good extent and achieve the desired objective of the Union Government of transforming the rural economy by doubling farmers' income of farmers and at the same reduce dependency on imports of some raw material. With the wealth of bamboo in India and growing industry, India should aim to establish herself in global markets for both engineered and handicrafts products," Tomar added.

India is the world's second largest cultivator of bamboo after China, with 136 species and 23 genera spread over 13.96 million hectares. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, India's annual bamboo production is estimated at 3.23 million tonnes. However, despite all this, the country's share in the global bamboo trade and commerce is only 4 per cent.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday launched these bamboo clusters. In a vir-

keeping in consideration the importance of bamboo, the Indian Forest Act 1927 was amended in the year 2017 to remove bamboo for the category of trees, as a result now anyone can undertake cultivation and business in bamboo and its products," Tomar added. According to the ministry, the bamboo ecosystem has been energized with 23 states being assisted, including all eight North Eastern states.

In October 2006, the Government had launched the National Bamboo Mission (NBM) on the basis of the National Mission on Bamboo Technology and Trade Development Report, 2003. The NBM's key objective was to address issues relating to the development of the bamboo industry in the country, provide a new impetus and direction and enable the realization of India's considerable potential in bamboo production.

## Khadi's e-market portal gains traction

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

**K**hadi and Village Industry Commissions (KVIC) venture into the online marketing segment has quickly established a pan-India reach enabling the artisans sell their products to the remotest parts of India through the KVIC E-Portal - www.kviconline.gov.in/khadi-mask/.

The online sale that was launched with just Khadi face masks on July 7 this year has evolved into a full-fledged E-market platform with 180 products as on today and many more in the pipeline.

The product range includes

hand-spun and hand-woven fine fabric like Muslin, Silk, Denim and Cotton, Unisex Vichar Vastra by Ritu Beri, Khadi's Signature Wrist Watch, a variety of honey, Herbal and Green Tea, Herbal Medicines and Soaps, Papad, Kacchi Ghani Mustard Oil and a range of herbal cosmetics among many others. KVIC is adding at least 10 new products to its online inventory on a daily basis and it has set a target of adding at least 1,000 products by October 22 this year. In less than two months' time, KVIC has served nearly 4000 customers.

KVIC Chairman, VK Saxena said the online sale of

Khadi products is a big push to "Swadeshi" and aims at empowering the local artisans. "Khadi's E-market portal is providing our artisans an additional platform to sell their goods. This is a concrete step towards building of Aatmanirbhar Bharat," Saxena said, adding the product range is priced from Rs 50 to Rs 5000, keeping in view the choice and affordability of all sections of buyers," he said.

KVIC has fixed the minimum order value at ₹599 for free delivery of goods. It has entered into an agreement with the Postal Department for delivery of consignments via Speed Post.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one person **Named: Ajay Prasad, S/o: Chandra Mohan Rai, R/o: H.No. B-2/132, Street No. 8, Agar Nagar, Prem Nagar III, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped since **19.08.2020** at 1:00 pm. from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 123-A, dated 23.08.2020** has been registered at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. The

description of the missing/kidnapped person is as under:- **Age:** 24 years, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Blue colour T-shirt and lower. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639

D/363/RD/2020

SHO  
P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi  
Mob.: 8750870322

## UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that one person **Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown, was found dead at near Swarg Ashram Road Mandir, DTC Bus Stop, Hari Nagar, Delhi** on **01.09.2020** in the area of P.S. Hari

Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 24A dated 01.09.2020** at P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi.

The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age:** 60 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** About 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Wrinkled, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White colour shirt, grey colour pant and bare footed. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO  
PS. Hari Nagar, Delhi

DP/194/WD/2020

Ph.: 011-28125719, 8750871128

Description of the Covers	Last date for submission of bids
</tbl

## SHARADA AND ROSE VALLEY CASES

# CBI readies chargesheet, TMC leaders on top list

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

With the Bengal Assembly elections little less than a year away the Central Bureau of Investigation has once dusted up its chit fund files in the multi-crore Sharada and Rose Valley cases.

Acting on expected lines the Central investigating agency is planning to submit the final chargesheet in the ponzi fund cases, sources said adding the charge-sheet would contain the names of a number of Trinamool Congress leaders and police officers.

The list would contain the name of at least one senior IPS officer for trying to hush up the case, insiders said. Besides the name of some lesser officers would also be there in the list. The names of a senior BJP leader and a retired IPS officer have been included as witnesses, sources said.

When asked to comment an official said that the charge sheet was likely to be submitted sometime in November though "no final decision has been taken about this." Incidentally investigating officers involved in the probe were changed in last month with an equal number of Additional SP rank officers from the neighbouring State Bihar joining the investigation.

When asked to comment on the preparations to file the final charge sheet the TMC leaders said they were prepared for the "BJP Government's pre-election onslaught which will gradually diminish after the elections and after Mamata Banerjee roars back to power for the third time in the State."

The 2,000 crore Sharada

chit fund case was busted in 2013 leading to the arrests of its CEO Sudipto Sen and other senior functionaries. Subsequently following allegations of senior Trinamool Congress leaders' involvement

in the case a petition was filed by Congress leader Abdul Mannan in the Supreme Court seeking CBI investigation which was granted in 2014 amid allegations that in the intervening time the State police had tampered with the allegations.

As the investigation peaked senior TMC MPs and Ministers like Sudip Bandopadhyay, late Tapas Paul, Kunal Ghosh and Madan Mitra were jailed.

While a retired ADG Police was taken into custody, former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajiv Kumar was grilled for several hours and on repeated occasions for his alleged complicity in hushing up the case.

This even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee cried victimisation by the BJP. In the meantime TMC's number two man Mukul Roy left his party and joined the BJP months after he too was grilled in the Sharada case.

## Andhra to persuade Covid survivors to donate plasma

**Amaravati:** The Andhra Pradesh health department will personally contact and persuade people who recovered from Covid-19 to donate plasma to save lives.

"The health department call centre will call the recovered patients and tell them about the plasma donation programme and convince them to donate plasma to save other people's lives," said Health Commissioner Kattamneni Bhaskar.

The department has readied a list of 37,000 people who beat the disease, making them eligible to donate plasma for critical Covid patients.

"The database of eligible donors has been prepared and is currently being shared with the blood banks which have the facility to collect and store plasma," said Bhaskar.

The move is aimed at treating Covid patients more effectively and the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government will launch a plasma donation campaign soon.

As part of the campaign, the state government will reward each donor with a token amount of Rs 5,000.

According to the Health Commissioner, the southern state is spending an amount of Rs 15 crore per day in overall coronavirus arrangements, including treatment, patients' food, accommodation, tests and medicines, among others.

On an average, Andhra Pradesh is testing 65,000 to 70,000 samples per day.

The state on Monday reported 8,368 new coronavirus cases, taking the Andhra Pradesh's tally to 5.06 lakh.

## Tamil Nadu people prefer to learn Hindi language

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

If the data provided by Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha is any indication, the AIADMK, the DMK and other Dravidian outfits in Tamil Nadu may have to re-work their policy towards Hindi.

The Dravidian parties are known for their strong Opposition to Hindi and Sanskrit. Schools and Colleges in Tamil Nadu which follow State syllabus do not allow Hindi in the curriculum as both AIADMK and DMK are united in their Opposition towards Hindi.

Both the political parties have made it public that Hindi was not welcome in -Tamil Nadu and the State would follow only the two-language policy. But people belonging to economically forward segments send their children to private schools that follow CBSE and ICSE curriculum where Hindi is compulsory.

Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha was launched in 1918 by none other than Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, with the aim of propagating Hindi in South India. The importance given by Mahatma to the mission could be understood from the fact that he himself was the President of the organisation till he breathed his last.

"The passion among the students and youth in Tamil Nadu could be understood from the fact that 4,58,000 students appeared for the various Hindi examinations held by the Sabha in 2019. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, it is certain to see more students taking up the examinations of the Sabha in 2020," S R Jayaraj, secretary, DBHPS told The Pioneer. There are no unenrolled Hindi scholars in the State.

He said in 2018, the State saw 4,35,000 students appearing for the examinations held by the Sabha. "Of all the South Indian States, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Hindi learners registered with the Sabha," said Jayaraj. He said despite Hindi being denied its rightful place in government-run schools and colleges in the State, students are firm in their decision to learn the language.

## Kerala records 3,026 fresh cases, 13 deaths

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala diagnosed 3,026 new persons with Covid-19 on Tuesday while 13 persons died during the last 24 hours, according to a release issued by the State Health Department. With Tuesday's 13 death, the fatalities in the State reached 372.

By Tuesday evening, the number of Covid-19 patients undergoing treatment in the State rose to 23,217. Nearly two lakh persons across the State are under observation across Kerala. Out of the 3,026 persons diagnosed with the pandemic on Tuesday, 2,723 developed the infection through local contact.

While 237 persons who were tested positive could not furnish how, why and when they were infected, the State saw 89 health workers contracting the pandemic across the State. On Tuesday, a total of 2,076 persons were hospitalised.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had said on Friday that the testing to diagnose the pandemic was way ahead of others. On Tuesday 37,264 samples were sent for testing.

Barring the High Range districts of Idukki (63) and Wayanad (21) the remaining 12 districts tested high numbers on Tuesday. Vijayan had told on last Friday that the two weeks would be critical and crucial for the State and there was every possibility of the number of cases shooting to 10,000 and more per day.

## Kerala: Rajasekharan fasts to protest against scam, falling law & order

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The law maker.

The case is that Fashion Jewellery of which Kamarudin is the chairman cheated investors to the tune of Rs 136 crore. The managing director of the showroom is absconding.

Adding to the woes of the State administration, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has found that gold smuggling syndicate operating from Kozhikode Airport has succeeded in getting their own henchmen employed as contract workers inside the airport.

This is being done to make it easy for them to bring out the smuggled gold reaching the airport via international flights, said the DRI report.

On Sunday, two staff members of the DRI had come under attack from gold couriers when the former tried to take into custody a group of people engaged in smuggling.

Meanwhile investigation agencies including the Narcotics Control Bureau are on their way to Kerala to nab politically influential people into custody in connection with the recent drug seizure at Bangalore.

## 5,684 afflicted in Tamil Nadu

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Covid-19 pandemic is subsiding in Tamil Nadu, though not in a big way. According to a bulletin issued on Tuesday evening by the Department of Health, barring the districts of Chengalpet, Chennai, Coimbatore and Cuddalore (the 4C districts), the coronavirus induced pandemic is showing signs of stabilizing and subsiding.

While the entire State diagnosed 5,684 new patients on Tuesday after testing 81,066 persons, 6,599 patients were discharged on a single day after it was confirmed that they were cured of the disease.

The day also saw 87 persons succumbing to the pandemic taking the death toll to 8,012.

Chennai registered 988 new patients while Chengalpet (364), Coimbatore (446) and Cuddalore (407) had considerably low number of new cases. Thiruvallur (277) and Thiruvannamalai (242) were the other districts with high number of cases.

The bulletin said on Tuesday, there were 50,213 active patients in the State. Tamil Nadu is returning to normalcy with intra district buses and metro resuming services, though with reduced numbers.

Migrant laborers who had left for their hometowns following the lockdown are returning to Chennai and other commercial hubs in small batches.

## 1,355 test Covid +ve, 14 die in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Fourteen patients of Covid-19 died in Jammu & Kashmir while 1,355 fresh cases of coronavirus were detected taking the total tally of cases close to 46,000 on Tuesday.

Out of these the active positive cases stood at 11,859 while a total number of 815 patients have died so far.

Out of all the districts, Jammu district continues to report more than 450 cases on a daily basis. Several employees working in different government offices, bank employees, traffic cops, Jammu university employees and other service providers were found infected during Rapid Antigen Testing going on across the district since August 26.

Out of 11859 active positive cases, Jammu district alone accounted for 3844 cases while active positive cases in Srinagar stood at 1435. According to the media bulletin, out of 1355 new positive cases, 785 were reported from Jammu division and 570 from Kashmir division.

In addition, 14 COVID-19 deaths have been reported; 08 from Jammu division and 06 from Kashmir Division.

On a recovery front, 491 more COVID-19 patients were fully recovered and discharged from various hospitals, 74 from Jammu Division and 417 from Kashmir Division.

According to the media bulletin, out of 45925 positive cases, 11859 are Active Positive, 33251 have recovered and 815 have died; 113 in Jammu division and 702 in Kashmir division.

## NIA arrests 3 more in Bhima Koregaon Elgar Parishad Case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA has arrested three more accused persons in the Bhima Koregaon Elgar Parishad Case.

The arrested accused are Sagar Gorkha, Ramesh Gaichor and Jyoti Jagtap, all from Pune. Gorkha and Gaichor were arrested on Monday while Jagtap was nabbed on Tuesday.

These three arrested persons are FIR-named accused persons.

The accused persons are members of Kabir Kala Manch a frontal organization of banned terrorist organization CPI (Maoist), the NIA said.

The case arose out of Vishram Baug police station, Pune regarding inciting people and giving provocative speeches during Elgar Parishad organized at Shaniwarwada, Pune by the activists of Kabir Kala Manch on December 31, 2017, which promoted enmity between various

caste groups and led to violence resulting in loss of life and property and state-wide agitation in Maharashtra, the NIA said.

During investigation, it was revealed that senior leaders of CPI (Maoist), an organization banned under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, were in contact with the organizers of Elgar Parishad as well as the accused arrested in the case so as to spread the ideology of Maoism/Naxalism and encourage unlawful activities, it said.

The Pune Police filed charge sheet and a supplementary charge sheet in this case on November 15, 2018 and February 21, 2019 respectively.

NIA took up the investigation of the case on January 24 this year and arrested accused Anand Teltumbde and Gautam Navlakha on April 14. Further, accused Hanyabu Musaliavirtil Tarayil was arrested on July 28.

## Poor Int'l Gold medalist forced to work as courier

PNS ■ ALIGARH

Livelihood crisis increased due to corona, although it is now unlocked but life is not returning on track. People are struggling hard to earn and feed their families.

Corona effects sports activities as well. International gold medalist runner Sandeep Pathak is forced to work as a courier delivery boy because from the last six months, the stadium has been closed and sports activities have come to standstill.

Sandeep said that sports activities are standstill because of corona and no sports events are held, even recruitment from the sports quota also on hold.

Therefore, due to the financial crisis, I am forced to do the job of courier boy because it is generating some income and getting some physical exercise also.

## UP Govt will provide free milch cows to malnourished families

PNS ■ ALIGARH

DM has issued an order to the animal husbandry department of the district to start searching for milch cows in 150 gaushalas for malnourished families. There are about 30,000 malnourished infants and 6,000 undernourished. The government will provide these cows free of cost to these underprivileged families.

In the district, a total of 4.12 lakh infants are registered in the age group of 0 to 6 years.

Among them, 1.5 lakh are between 0 to 3 years and 78,000 from 3 to 6 years of age. More than 30,000 are malnourished including 24,000 malnourished and 6,000 undernourished.

Now the UP Government has started a scheme to improve their health by providing a free cow to the underprivileged families of these children along with ₹900 per month for cow rearing. DM Chandra Bhushan Singh sought a survey report from the Animal Husbandry Department about the number of milch cows among 15,000 cows sheltered in 150 gaushalas.

## Agra medical stores cheat people in name of Corona cards

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

People are being cheated by the medical stores in the name of corona virus protection by selling corona shut/get out cards from ₹100 to 180. Sellers claim that wearing this card for 30 days around a neck will prevent corona. However, this card is neither recognized nor certified by the Health Department and the drug department.

This card is filled with smell emitting sugar size stones. Surprisingly, sellers did not know the name of its company as everything is written in the Chinese language on it and is being sold all over except Delhi. Even the drug department is unaware of this scam hence not taken any action against a single medical store till date.

Dr. Natasha Chaudhary, CMO, Central Government Health Scheme, Aligarh said that the corona virus will not eradicate by this card. A vaccine is the only solution. This virus is spreading by touching and through the air. People should wash their hands frequently, use a face mask, and maintain social distancing to avoid spreading this virus. Do not fall into any kind of superstition.

According to Shalendra Singh Tillu, District President of Aligarh Chemist and Drug Association, Corona does not eradicate from anything like Corona Get out card. It is not recognized by the Department of Health. Medical stores are requested not to sell these things, which creates confusion among people.

## 3 cases, 1 death but no solution in land dispute yet

PNS ■ ALIGARH

For many years, the disputed land in Ahaldadpur village did not get any solution. Three people have been prosecuted in this case and one person died of shock.

Pramod told that in 2009, a person resident of ITI Road had purchased 1400 square yards of land in Gata number 986 but did not get possession till 2018. 2 years ago, he started intruding Gata number 815 adjacent to Gata number 986.

Most of the land in this gata belongs to the village society including his one and a half bigha land.

## UP artists hit hard by pandemic

PNS ■ ALIGARH

Due to corona and lockdown, 5000 artists of UP are struggling hard to earn and feed their families. Thousand of artists in Mathura are confused and worried due to lack of clear policy of Government about the Ramleela event permission.

Mathura is an hub for the folk artists. There are more than 5000 artists take part in Ramleela, Krishna leela, Rasleela etc. They travel to different states including Delhi, Karnataka, Rajasthan to play such character roles.

## Burmese nationals held for ATM theft in Jammu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Two Burmese nationals, involved in the looting of the ICICI ATM installed near vegetable market in Trikuta Nagar area of Jammu have been apprehended by the Jammu & Kashmir police along with their accomplice from Bihar.

It is for the first time, Burmese nationals have been caught red handed attempting to break open an ATM.

According to a statement issued by the district police, Jammu, "a written complaint was lodged at police station Bahu Fort by Rattan Lal manager CMS Info System Ltd. Trikuta Nagar in which he had stated that during the intervening night of 02/03/09-2020 some unknown burglar/burglars attempted to break open the ICICI ATM installed near vegetable market, Trikuta Nagar".

After registering a case FIR No. 218/2020 U/S 457/380/511 IPC at Police station BahuFort, investigations were launched in the case.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Agent provocateur

Within days of its Defence Minister meeting Rajnath Singh, China violates talks spirit by pushing troops in Ladakh, again



**T**hat the current talks diplomacy on Ladakh is just a meaningless charade was more than evident from the Chinese mouthpiece, *Global Times*, which warned India against doing "a handstand on the edge of a cliff" or underestimate Beijing's hitback capabilities. This came soon after its troops fired in the air unprovoked at Pangong Tso, claiming the push came from India. It looks alarming because this comes days within Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's meeting with his counterpart Wei Fenghe in Moscow on the sidelines of this year's edition of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Alarming because China had initiated that meeting. But used to tradeoffs on the talks table following intimidation and salami-slicing on the ground, it had not bargained for India's toughness on status quo ante. Or that it would resolutely hold ground. And though India has emphasised that it would like to settle the border issue within the framework of diplomacy and dialogue, the fact that Chinese troops are still stationed within our artillery range in the south of Pangong Tso should remind us that it will never back down on that count. And till we address the historicity of a fluidic Line of Actual Control (LAC) and insist that perceptual differences over it be replaced by marking it on the ground, we will be back to square one. Till we establish the centrality of the boundary issue in negotiations, the eyeball-to-eyeball conflicts will only escalate. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was right when he indicated that talks would be needed at a deeper level of political engagement but it is unlikely that China would bend in those discussions, too. Unless it gets something in return. As the Doklam standoff near the trijunction with Bhutan has showed us, the summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping ensured just a temporary withdrawal of troops and within a year, the Chinese ramped up their positions, encircling claim lines so tightly that they could heave down militarily. And while Beijing realises that it needs to keep a transactional engagement with India to protect its strategic interests, it will never reconcile to losing the strategic advantage in Ladakh because of the DSDBO road that allows India troop parity in this sector. Besides, China wouldn't want the Indian shadow over the Karakoram, particularly between Gilgit-Baltistan in the west (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir), where China is heavily invested in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and Aksai Chin in the east. It certainly doesn't want Indian troops in the higher ridges and won't let go of the spurs it has wrested post-Galwan. Besides, it sees India as the proxy of the US and will continue to be offensive on that count. The combined US-India strategy to counter it along maritime routes and halt its digital monopoly by denying technological access in both markets has already aggravated its anxieties. And while President Donald Trump may not be overtly confrontational with China given trade dependencies and instead try to claim credit as a mediator between the two Asian powers, India has to be prepared to bear the brunt of Xi's belligerence and hegemonic ambitions.

In fact, China intends to stretch India along the Himalayan border as just a day before, it announced how it never recognised the "so-called Arunachal Pradesh", and reiterated its claim it was actually "south Tibet" and part of its territory. The statement came in response to the Indian Army's question asking if five civilians who went missing from Arunachal Pradesh days ago were in the custody of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). This "abduction" could lead to a potential flashpoint and over time there could be more of maximalist rhetoric and territorial imperialism. China has been consistent in its expansionist designs in the northeastern State, issuing stapled visas to its residents in 2009, implying they were not Indian citizens. Incursions have been consistent over the decade with some even claiming it had built temporary bridges. And these, too, it has justified with the old argument of "a differing perception of the alignment of the LAC, as in many other areas." In March 2019, China destroyed 30,000 world maps printed for export for not mentioning Arunachal Pradesh and Taiwan as part of Chinese territory. And in April 2020, Beijing's Sky Map showed parts of Arunachal Pradesh within its international borders. India has got to be more than just vigilant, it now needs to be proactive. It is watching the Malacca Straits, a key strategic and economic transit corridor for China, it has upgraded the Quad initiative with US and Japan, and begun talking to Central Asian and southeast Asian nations debt-trapped by China's Belt and Road Initiative. But apart from these, it should now drive a hard bargain with China over an Asian split costing the latter its greater ambitions vis-à-vis the US. And yes, we should get vocal about joining the chorus on Tibet.

## Of security & demons

Kangana has become Bollywood's *bete noire* but the Y-plus security makes her a pawn in a larger political game



**S**everal years ago, the fiery Kangana Ranaut appeared on the cult Bollywood talk show called *Koffee with Karan* hosted by producer Karan Johar. To paraphrase from that outing of hers, she said that if a film was ever to be made about her life, Johar would be the antagonist. Over the past few years, we have seen how that has played out. First, there was the story about nepotism and how Bollywood promotes its own, and while the Indian film industry epitomises nepotism, it really is not very unique in that regard. Anywhere in the world or in India, nepotism is a byword in politics and industry.

So when popular Bihar actor Sushant Singh Rajput allegedly committed suicide, Kangana was one of the first to climb onto the bandwagon to accuse the nepotism of Bollywood of pushing a young actor over the edge before quickly jumping on to the murder conspiracy theory. And then from a crusader, she appeared more and more like a headline-grabber. She has written utterly shameful tweets against mental health, questioning the very concepts of psychology, and taken on the Shiv Sena, a partner in the Maharashtra alliance government, with several party spokespersons attacking her. There is no doubt that with little to no formal media training and reverting to type, Shiv Sena leaders come across as uncouth, sexist goons while attacking Kangana, who is playing her pro-BJP card well and using it to give ammunition to the Central party's relentless attack on its one-time ally. So she has been given Y plus category security by the Central Government to make a point, never mind the costs this will involve or the purpose it will serve. That possibly will not save her office from being demolished by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) which is controlled by the Shiv Sena, an act that, if the Sena goes ahead with, will allow the once-plucky Kangana to play the victim yet again.

While the actor is entitled to her opinions, it would be prudent for her to remember that the past can come back to haunt you. Her actions today, that make her look like a pawn, will be judged by many in the future and while she has in the past raised some very valid points against the extreme nepotism in the film industry, where a talentless child of a superstar gets breaks that others would not, that model itself is being broken by new streaming platforms and more choices. Bollywood itself will not survive the Coronavirus pandemic in any recognisable shape or form. The actions of the television media in amplifying some of the wilder allegations raised by Kangana and others of her ilk have also been shameful and must be questioned. This entire affair will leave India, the Indian media and Bollywood scarred for years to come.

# High stakes for Jaishankar

The Minister's understanding is sharp and realistic. He is convinced that since diplomacy worked to get China to withdraw from Doklam, it can work again



ASHOK K MEHTA

**E**ven as China accused Indian troops of intimidatory firing on Monday, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar will meet his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi face to face in Moscow for the first time after the standoff. The meeting will take place on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers' conclave, hot on the heels of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's conversation with his counterpart, Gen Wei Fenghe, at the same platform. Pessimism surrounds the outcome of the Wang-Jaishankar meeting though Jaishankar has been signalling to Chinese leaders the big picture of India-China relations and India's terms for a reset. His emphasis on the need for India to be more proactive and take risks are reflected in some recent Indian military, diplomatic and economic activities that connote capabilities and confidence. Diplomacy is the path India has chosen to secure its objective of restoration of status quo ante. Jaishankar who says he knows Wang for a long time, acknowledges the situation on the LAC is very serious and requires "deep conversations" at the political level.

India launched a blitzkrieg of events along the LAC prior to Singh meeting his counterpart. CDS Gen Rawat was exceptionally vocal over the military option, including a two-front war if diplomacy failed and the utility of Quad. COAS Gen Naravane, on his third visit to Ladakh, was in Chushul at the scene of recent action. Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Bhaduria inspected air bases in the east and Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla, in his first public address, highlighted the Galwan clash resulting in casualties for the first time in 42 years of peace and tranquility on the border. Indian forces carried out their first proactive military operation on their own side of LAC on the south bank of Pangong Lake by occupying heights that gave them domination in the Chushul area. A battalion of Vikas regiment, comprising exiled Tibetans, was employed in the pre-emptive operation, messaging to China the dormant Tibet issue. A company commander of this special force was killed due to an old mine and his funeral was attended by Ram Madhav, general secretary of the BJP. About the proactive operation, there is confusion over location and control of contested heights at Helmet



and Black Top. The Army just said it occupied ground to improve its defences.

After the meeting of Defence Ministers on expected lines, China accused India of crossing LAC at Chushul and demanded Indian troops be withdrawn. India blamed China for multiple intrusions and urged the restoration of status quo ante. But both sides stressed the determination to continue talks. Central to China's complaint is Indian violation of Chinese LAC at Galwan and Chushul without admitting it is the original sinner of multiple intrusions by violating border protocols and unilaterally altering status quo. Stung by the banning of 117 more apps (now aggregate of 224 banned apps), for the first time China accused India of colluding with the US against Chinese companies. It formally charged US with meddling in the border dispute.

While US officials have been accusing China of bullying India, President Donald Trump himself has been non-committal by calling the standoff "very nasty" and wanting to do something to help both countries. He did not think that China was bullying India though he noted that China was certainly "going for it". After the partisanship Prime Minister Narendra Modi displayed in endorsing Trump at Houston (and Ahmedabad) for the next President, a video of which is the Trump vote-catcher among Indian Americans, Trump's clean chit to China is problematic.

The use of Tibetan troops in operations, when high altitude Ladakh Scouts regiments are available, is by design India's belated psy war. It has the poten-

tial to reignite India's Tibet policy, which in 1950 ignored China's illegal occupation of Tibet. India's much-touted abandonment of the One China policy has nothing to do with Tibet but more with Taiwan and Hong Kong. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said: "We firmly oppose any country providing convenience for the Tibetan secessionist forces' separatist activities." The *Global Times* accused India of playing the Tibet card and noted that China's national strength, including its military strength, is much stronger than India's and that when it comes to ultimate combat capability, the Indian side will lose.

Eighteen weeks after the initial intrusions, the Indian Army carried out its maiden proactive operation at Chushul heights and unnerved the PLA.

**EIGHTEEN WEEKS AFTER THE INITIAL INTRUSIONS, THE INDIAN ARMY CARRIED OUT ITS MAIDEN PROACTIVE OPERATION AT CHUSHUL HEIGHTS AND UNNERVED THE PLA. DOMINATING GROUND IN OTHER SECTORS SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN UP MUCH EARLIER**

“

“Eighteen weeks after the initial intrusions, the Indian Army carried out its maiden proactive operation at Chushul heights and unnerved the PLA. Dominating ground in other sectors should have been taken up much earlier. Many officers are demanding that the military option be utilised to impose costs on China now that the force build-up is being completed. Three additional divisions, tanks and artillery are amassed along LAC with reserves in depth. China has made marching deployment, including locating its J20 frontline fighter, at Hotan. IAF is ideally suited for deterrence by punishment in case military force is used to evict intrusions.

The one intrusion that PLA covets most is Dapsang which was not covered by the failed "disengagement" dialogue. In September 2013, it had occupied the same area and withdrew after talks and India's counter-intrusion at Chumar. The PLA at

Dapsang poses a direct challenge to the strategic Daulat Beg Oldie military garrison and air base, which it views as a threat to G 219, the Aksai Chin highway to Lhasa. While a counter-intrusion along the 1,590 km LAC in Ladakh will be feasible and not be escalatory like military action to push back at Dapsang or any other intrusion, neither is advisable as long as the door to diplomacy is open. The military option must remain the last resort notwithstanding the last public pronouncement of the former acting US Undersecretary of State for South Asia and Central Asia, Alice Wells: "India's broadening strategic horizons over the past two decades have resulted in a shift away from a passive foreign policy to one that advances its interests more vigorously."

Jaishankar had a long stint at Beijing and then as Foreign Secretary. He enjoys the full confidence of his Prime Minister. His understanding of China under President Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party is sharp and realistic. He is convinced that since diplomacy worked to get China to withdraw from Doklam, it can work again. Given the escalatory firing by PLA and occupation of positions close to India's — creating a new friction point — coupled with rash statements by *Global Times*, the Chinese have raised the stakes for Jaishankar.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander IPKF South, Sri Lanka and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff.)

## SOUND BITE

It (Jacob Blakes') is an incredible family. And what they've endured, and they just do it with such dignity and grace.

California Senator —Kamala Harris



India has a strong presence on every international platform. In such a situation, the Indian media also needs to go global.

Prime Minister —Narendra Modi



The environment is filled with a quiet acceptance of the prevailing circumstances and conditioning but there is sincerity of moving ahead despite the spirit, to strive for a beginning.

Actor Amitabh Bachchan



There is no Star Trek like control room in the film industry where everybody is sitting, doping and and conspiring against people.

Author —Chetan Bhagat



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Fulfil GST promise

Sir — This is with reference to the article, "The GST quagmire," published on September 8. In a rare covenant of faith, the Centre and States ardently evolved a consensus over the Goods and Services Tax (GST) spread over a decade and more. The then chairperson of the GST Council and Union Finance Minister had assured the States that in case of a gap in the GST compensation fund, the Council shall decide the mode of raising additional resources, including borrowing from the market. The GST compensation to States was already rearing up as an issue because of an ailing economy and the pandemic ensured that revenues from the imposition of cess started dwindling from August 2019. The Centre had to dive into the excess cess collected during 2017-18 and 2018-19.

It is sad that at the very first sign of distress, the Centre has resorted to "babuspeak" and reneged on its guarantee. It would rather let the States fend for themselves. The GST, being more than mere maths, is a quintessence of federal architecture. Any negation thereof weakens the radial ties in

### Regulate crypto currencies soon

T he crypto currency was first launched in 2009 when the Bitcoin hit the markets as the first internet-based currency. It is issued by private firms and individuals and is neither backed by any security nor any Government guarantee. Crypto currency is traded through exchanges and the price depends only on demand as supply is constant. Consequently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has continuously warned crypto currency users and traders about the risks associated with this new system. In fact, the Central Bank issued a circular in April 2018 stating that it did not recognise the currency as a legal tender and it would not provide any services, financial or otherwise, to entities engaged in crypto trading.

However, on March 4, the Supreme Court struck down the RBI's circular and final directions are awaited from the Central Bank and the Government in the matter. Though there are about 20 exchanges in India which do business in crypto currency, the trading is still cloudy.

The issues that need examination are many. First, is crypto currency a legal tender? If so, how will the transactions using crypto currency be monitored and brought under the tax ambit? Second, can an internet currency be treated on par with sovereign currency?

Third, if crypto currencies are not recognised as legal tender and they are just commodities, then rules on com-



modity reading should apply. So, who will control and monitor the exchanges? Fourth, their value is demand driven and there is no mechanism to protect investors.

Fifth, as cross-border transactions using crypto currency as a medium of exchange are possible, how will India plug anti-national activities?

Sixth, there is scope for money laundering using crypto currency, considering the fact that developed nations like the US and UK have already recognised the currency. So it may not be possible for India to do away with it totally. However, if crypto currency is to be used in the mainstream economy, either as a currency or a commodity, then the Government/RBI should first bring in regulatory measures before these digital products make further inroads into the system and become a parallel black economy.

M Raghuraman

Mumbai

### Salute to DRDO

Sir — Let us salute the Ministry of Defence and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for successfully test-firing the first Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV), making India the fourth country in the world after the US, China and Russia to develop and test the technology that will pave the way for missiles that will have the capacity to travel at six times the speed of sound. The DRDO has demonstrated its capabilities for use of the highly-complex technology that will serve as the building block for the next-generation hypersonic vehicles in partnership with the industry. The HSTDV is an unmanned scramjet demonstration aircraft for hypersonic speed flight. The most significant part of this dream mission is that apart from being used as a vehicle for hypersonic and long-range cruise missiles, the HSTDV can also be used for civilian applications, including the launch of satellites at a low cost.

M Pradyumna Kannur

Assembly on October 12, 1949, reminded them that this was a small price to pay for the integration of India. When GST is being touted by the Government as a crowning achievement, the Centre ought to walk the extra mile to uphold the federal spirit.

R Narayanan

Navi Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## FIRST COLUMN

## An unusual election

The Bihar poll will be the first digital one held amid the pandemic and will be fought through virtual rallies and on social media



KALYANI SHANKAR

**T**he forthcoming Bihar elections are unique in many ways. This will be the first digital poll held amid the pandemic and this time, the elections will be fought through virtual rallies and door-to-door campaigns as well as on social media. The BJP is far ahead of the others because of its experience in the virtual mode. It will indeed be a big achievement if the digital experiment succeeds in a backward State like Bihar. There are many other firsts in the November polls. The absence of former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad is a big loss for the Opposition alliance, as they lack a charismatic leader. His rustic charm and jokes that kept the crowds at his rallies in splits will be missed. He made the poor and oppressed believe that they were the real rulers with him at the helm. It was he who created the Muslim-Yadav (MY) vote bank. Unfortunately for his allies, Lalu is in jail serving his sentence in the fodder scam. In 2015, Lalu played a big role by stitching up the grand alliance, which won big. Though his son and political heir, Tejashwi Prasad Yadav is quite mobile and articulate but he is yet to establish himself as a leader.

In the absence of any tall leaders in the alliance, he is the chief ministerial face. The RJD's social media accounts are now full of images of Tejashwi meeting people in flood-hit areas. The RJD has its own problems, as the ongoing sibling rivalry is a hindrance to unity in the party. Moreover, senior leaders like Raghuvaran Pratap Singh are unhappy and thinking of moving to other parties.

Another first is the migrant labour issue. They have become the new vote bank. The Opposition believes that the Nitish Kumar Government has not done enough for them. The whole country saw the plight of millions of migrant labourers walking back to their villages because of the mishandling of the lockdown and the issues associated with it by both the Central and State Governments. It is estimated that at least two million migrant labourers have returned to their homes in Bihar. The unemployment rate in Bihar is 46.6 per cent, the highest in the country.

The third is the impact of Covid. This will be the first Assembly poll in the midst of the pandemic. Bihar has recorded over 1.2 lakh Coronavirus cases so far. The Government claims that around one-lakh tests are being done daily after a slow start, and the number of positive cases has declined. The Opposition parties dispute this and have alleged that the State Government is tampering with data.

Fourth, it will be the first time that the CPI(ML) has made an electoral pact with the RJD. Both the CPI and CPI(M) have in the past contested elections either with the RJD or the Janata Dal and this time they will be part of the Opposition alliance. Given the demography of Bihar, backward caste voters hold the key to power. Other Backward Classes (OBC) constitute 45 per cent to 50 per cent of the population in Bihar, whereas the upper castes, Muslim and Scheduled Castes account for around 15 per cent each. Bihar votes on caste lines.

Fifth, the recent death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput (SSR) has become a poll issue. Politicians will not even hesitate to use the untimely death of a young actor for their benefit and the SSR case is a shining example.

Meanwhile, the election fervour is at a fever pitch with major parties beginning their virtual campaigns since Monday. The NDA and the Grand Alliance are the two major groupings. The BJP, JD(U) and the RJD are the major triangular forces of Bihar politics today but no political party is in a situation to form a Government on its own.

The Congress has decided to hold 100 virtual rallies. However, it has not developed a strong State-level leadership. Party workers and leaders in Bihar squarely blame the State leadership for the Congress' poor prospects.

The JD(U) is strengthening itself by inducting several party hoppers and so is the other camp. Jitan Ram Manjhi, former Bihar Chief Minister and the chief of Hindustani Awam Morcha Secular (HAM-S) had recently joined the NDA. Sharad Yadav, who was expelled by the party for anti-party activities, is likely to return to the JD(U). Even though, the BJP president JP Nadda had recently asserted that the NDA would contest the forthcoming poll in Bihar unitedly, the LJP president Chirag Paswan, the son of Ram Vilas Paswan has been attacking Nitish.

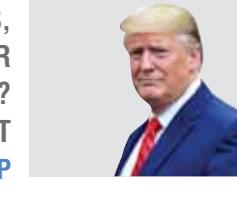
The voters, too, are going to follow new the guidelines of the Government. These include the use of masks, gloves, sanitisers, thermal scanners and adhering to social distancing norms. The Election Commission proposes to implement strictly all these regulations. Bihar is important for political parties as it has 40 Lok Sabha seats. It is too early to predict poll results, as there could always be election upsets but for now it is an advantage BJP-JD(U) alliance because of a weak and splintered Opposition and lack of charismatic leaders.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

## analysis

07

CONTRARY TO ALL OF THE LIES,  
JOE BIDEN WANTS TO SURRENDER  
OUR COUNTRY TO THE VIRUS?  
—US PRESIDENT  
DONALD TRUMP



IF I COULD GET A VACCINE TOMORROW, I'D DO IT.  
IF IT COST ME THE ELECTION, I'D DO IT.  
WE NEED A VACCINE AND WE NEED IT NOW.  
—FORMER US VICE-PRESIDENT  
JOE BIDEN

An *uttam* future for UP

It is just a matter of time before this State becomes one of the best in India not only on the issue of governance but also on imparting education and health services



VIJAY BAHADUR PATHAK

**F**rom being called an *Ulta Pradesh* (upside down State), Uttar Pradesh is making a quantum leap towards becoming an *Uttam Pradesh* (good State). And in this endeavour, it is being helped by the fact that UP ranked number two in the *State Business Reform Action Plan 2019: Ease of Doing Business (EODB)*. This is up from the 12th rank UP got in 2019, testifying that it has emerged as the second-best State in India where investors are happy to contribute.

This was made possible because the BJP Government was able to do away with red tapism. It also signifies the fact that the UP Government is making great strides towards fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of an *Atma Nirbhar Bharat* and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is implementing all schemes meant to achieve this goal efficiently.

This 10-place jump in one year in the *EODB* rankings released by the Union Government is a big achievement indeed as UP has left several leading States like Gujarat, Telangana, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra behind. UP has implemented 186 out of the 187 reforms in the *State Business Reform Action Plan* that were suggested by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). What makes this achievement even more special is the fact that this year's exercise was completely based on user feedback. The jump in ranking indicates that entrepreneurs have been receiving the true benefits of the reforms introduced by the UP Government. These reforms were spread across several areas such as labour regulation, online, single window, access to information and transparency, land administration, construction permit, commercial disputes, inspection enablers and so on.

More than 20 departments such as Invest UP (Udyog Bandhu), the Labour Department, the Pollution Control Board, Commercial Tax, Power, Stamp and Registration, Excise, Food Safety and Drug and many others were part of this journey. Successful implementation of the "Nivesh Mitra" in UP, too, has been instrumental in UP achieving this *EODB*. In a period of two years, "Nivesh Mitra" received around 2,29,936 No-Objection Certificate (NoC) applications out of which it disposed of over 94 per cent of them. The Nivesh Mitra Portal received 18,120 grievances from entrepreneurs, of which 17,752 have been successfully resolved at an outstanding resolution rate of 98 per cent.

The success in the UP Government's working lies in its efforts to impart transparency and the use of technology for Business-to-Government (B2G) interactive procedures. The Yogi Government has been successful in improving the *EODB* by introducing various Information Technology-driven modules and Nivesh Mitra is one such. Its success lies in the fact that it has now become an integral and efficient part in bridging the gap between industrial demands and expectations and Government machinery.

Maximum approval of the *State Business Reform Action Plan* and higher user feedback satisfaction record on the Nivesh Mitra portal played a critical role in achieving the *EODB*. In order to make Government working more efficient and competitive, the *EODB* system has been implemented at the district level. Initiatives like the monthly ranking of all 75 districts on the *EODB* parameters shall further result in creating a conducive business environment.

Where UP stands today was not achieved in

THIS 10-PLACE JUMP IN ONE YEAR IN THE EODB RANKINGS RELEASED BY THE UNION GOVERNMENT IS A BIG ACHIEVEMENT INDEED AS UP HAS LEFT SEVERAL LEADING STATES LIKE GUJARAT, TELANGANA, RAJASTHAN, TAMIL NADU AND MAHARASHTRA BEHIND. UP HAS IMPLEMENTED 186 OUT OF THE 187 REFORMS IN THE STATE BUSINESS REFORM ACTION PLAN THAT WERE SUGGESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE. WHAT MAKES THIS ACHIEVEMENT EVEN MORE SPECIAL IS THE FACT THAT THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE WAS COMPLETELY BASED ON USER FEEDBACK



one day and efforts in this direction are on since Yogi Adityanath took charge as the Chief Minister of the State. The big push came in February 2018 when the UP Government organised an Investors' Summit in which memoranda of understanding (MoUs) worth ₹4.68 lakh crore were signed. The contours of the simplified norms of investment took shape then, which were reflected in two ground-breaking ceremonies through which 371 projects with an investment of about ₹2 lakh crore were made. These projects are likely to generate over five lakh jobs.

The foundation of the Defence Industrial Manufacturing Corridor in Bundelkhand is another aspect of increased industrial development in the State. This corridor will be built with an investment of ₹50,000 crore and will create employment for five lakh people. The project got a fillip when the UP Government, in collaboration with the Defence Ministry, organised the country's largest Defence Expo 2020 in Lucknow. More than 100 agreements were inked, which included 71 MoUs, 13 product launches, 18 technology transfer agreements and six important announcements. Besides, over 100 pacts were made.

UP's own Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) signed 23 MoUs with various enterprises, inviting investment for the UP Defence Industrial Corridor. In all, over 200 MoUs were signed during the Defence Expo 2020.

That the Government wants to give impetus to industrial development is reflected in the Government's One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, under which the Government disbursed loans of more than ₹8,875

crore. Apart from this, training and free tool kits were distributed to 6,000 artisans/handicrafts men. This indirectly has given employment to more than five lakh people.

The ODOP scheme was launched in 2018 by Adityanath to promote the local artisans and local products. The scheme has now been adopted by the Union Government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls it the "Vocal for Local" scheme. The primary objective of this is to focus on a particular product and raise its quality to compete in the international market.

Investment in any State depends on three parameters — power supply, communication and transport. UP has made a quantum jump in all three. The power supply across the State has improved considerably while a network of roads has been laid connecting the western part of the State with the eastern region. The construction of the Purvanchal Expressway is a testimony of the Government's resolve to improve connectivity. Construction of this six-lane, 341 km-long Purvanchal Expressway is in progress and will be opened for public use by early next year.

The expressway would have become functional by November but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the launch has been rescheduled. There would be 11 interchanges for entry/exit on the expressway and in order to connect it to Gorakhpur, the construction of the around 92 km-long Gorakhpur Link Expressway is in progress.

Even the rugged Bundelkhand is getting its share of highways. The construction of the 297 km-long Bundelkhand Expressway at a cost of ₹14,849 crore is under way, which will connect the Bundelkhand region with

Delhi via the Agra-Lucknow Expressway. This is not all. The Government has even started a project to construct a Ganga Expressway that will connect Meerut with Prayagraj.

If there is a network of roads across UP, can air connectivity be far behind? Till 2017, only two cities of UP were connected by air but now this number has gone up to 12. Besides, construction of Asia's largest Jewar International Green Field Airport in Noida is going at a fast pace in collaboration with Zurich Airport International AG.

Any industrial exercise always leads to job creation. This is evident in UP as with an investment of about ₹3 lakh crore through the first and second ground-breaking ceremonies and other means, more than 33 lakh people have got direct and indirect employment. Besides this, the BJP Government has given Government jobs to three lakh youths in three years. Of this 1.5 lakh personnel were recruited in the police force. After the registration of over 10 lakh youth for skill development training, more than 8.48 lakh youth have been trained and more than three lakh youth have been employed so far. In fact, UP was awarded a gold medal by ASSOCHAM for being the best State in skill development.

The efforts put in by Adityanath under the guidance of Modi have started showing results. It is just a matter of time before this State will become one of the best States of India not only on the issue of governance but also on imparting education, health services and providing jobs to the people.

(The writer is Member, Legislative Council, and vice-president, UP unit of the BJP).

## The challenges of online pedagogy and skills

India, as an industrialising nation, cannot afford to have an engineer with bookish knowledge of an engine without the skill to design it



SWAPNIL SONI

of India (RBI) and the World Bank. The economic consequences of the pandemic and local lockdowns have been well-discussed and are surfacing in the GDP and industrial production numbers.

However, there is another side of the issue which is quietly creeping up and that is the social consequences arising out of the lack of skill training. Certainly, this social and educational consequence will translate into economic adversity over a period. According to the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), India's gross enrolment ratio was 27.4 per cent for 2017-18. This is not a great figure as compared to the other developing countries. This is further battered by the possible decline in enrolment this year owing to constrained access to educational institutions and infrastructure for many unprivileged students, particularly in rural India. Given the contagion, the Indian education regime had to shift gear to the online mode. Thanks to the internet that, at least, served an option

for continuing education. But the question is: Is this viable on the ground? Will our students contribute to the human capital and participate in the Herculean task of reviving the Indian economy? The presence of internet and digital infrastructure along with their significant (about 50 per cent) penetration in the country have come today as a boon for education and for imparting training to aspirants. In this backdrop, the Pradhan Mantri e-Vidya Programme was launched, which unifies all efforts related to digital, online and on-air education. Furthermore, top 100 universities were permitted to start online courses from May 30 without any fresh approval from education regulators. States, such as Karnataka, too, announced policies for online education.

However, there exist certain unprecedented challenges for moving towards online education, which is the need of the hour. It has not only changed the way students from KG to post-graduation learn, but also has sig-

nificantly altered the methods and materials of teaching for educators and parents. The fundamental constituent to enable online education is digital infrastructure, including high-speed internet and supporting devices (desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile phone).

These prerequisites of online education have further expanded the gap between the upper and middle class and urban and rural populations of the country in terms of access to education even after promulgation of the Right to Education. Education and skill training have always been a two-way communication and feedback process that may not be done in the online mode as effectively as it can be done in classrooms and laboratories. It is difficult to imagine students learning biology, physics and chemistry without actually experimenting in laboratories. It is quite important to differentiate knowledge and skill in this context. Knowledge can be delivered and learned from literature. However, skill-imparting needs experiment and experience that may not be

feasible in the online mode of learning. India, as an industrialising nation, cannot afford to have an engineer with bookish knowledge of a combustion engine without having the skill to design it. Historically, the industry-academia gap has always existed in India. A McKinsey report had flagged the issue, a decade ago, that just a quarter of engineers in India were actually employable. Now, the online education model producing graduates with lack of skills may aggravate the employability issue further. This may lead to a deteriorated human capital and underemployment in the economy due to the fact that a large pool of the present unskilled human capital coming out of the online pedagogy will join the workforce in the future, face employability challenges and take a longer period to be skillful and join the productive workforce of the nation.

Given the necessity of the online education system, at present, we must acknowledge and address these issues, challenges and the consequences asso-

ciated with it. The lack of digital infrastructure in rural and unprivileged sections has posed implementation challenges on the ground, leading to social inequalities. However, the major worry lies in the outcome of this new regime of online education system in terms of skill and lack of employability of the human capital that will have the great responsibility of putting the Indian economy back on its growth trajectory with equitable development.

It is high time we think about bridging the gap between rural and urban digital infrastructure for online education and imparting employable skills. The National Education Policy (NEP) aims to reform the education system by 2030 in a push towards an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. One hopes that the NEP bridges the gap between the industry and the academia in terms of employable skills and gives an equal learning and growth opportunity to all.

(The writer is a Senior Research Scholar, Department of Management Studies, IIS, Bengaluru)



FOREIGN EYE



## A TOUGH CHANGE

COVID-19 gave us a glimpse of a less work-driven society, but it will take determination to avoid a return to the old normal. It will need an alternative politics of prosperity: One that gives priority to well-being over economic growth and is willing to challenge the consumerist vision of the good life.

(The *Guardian* editorial)

# If Biden wins, China will own America: Trump

**Washington:** US President Donald Trump on Monday said that his Democratic counterpart supported China's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) along with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), terming the two as the "most disastrous trade deals" in history.



"Biden supported NAFTA and he supported China's entry into the World Trade Organisation - the two most disastrous deals in history. We are looking at the World Trade Organisation, they have been very nice to us and they are talking to us differently than they do because if they don't shape up, we will ship out," Trump told reporters.

He further went on to slam China for "not playing by the rules" in the WTO.

"The reason why the World Trade Organisation is so bad is that China didn't play by the rules. We did but their rules were easier considering that

they were a developing nation. They had such a lower standard," he added.

He further slammed Biden saying, "If Biden wins, China will own this country." He also claimed that under his administration, the US would become a manufacturing superpower "ending the reliance" with China.

"If Biden wins, China will own this country. Under my administration, we will make America a manufacturing superpower of the world and will end our reliance on China," Trump said further. AGENCY

# US accuses China of threatening, harassing foreign journalists

**Beijing:** The United States on Tuesday accused China of "threatening" and "harassing" foreign journalists after it refused to renew press credentials for several employees of American media organisations.

The two superpower rivals have restricted reporter visas — with China expelling journalists — as brinkmanship over trade and tech, Hong Kong and the coronavirus, spills over into the media.

China's record of "threatening, harassing, and expelling US and other foreign journalists goes back decades," US State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement provided by the US Embassy in Beijing.

## SVP HOUSING LIMITED

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Registered Office: A-3, NDSE, Part-1, New Delhi-110049  
CIN: L70100DL2003PLC118413  
Website: [www.svhousing.com](http://www.svhousing.com)

Email Id: [info@svhousing.com](mailto:info@svhousing.com) Phone: 011-41070148

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND E-VOTING

Notice is hereby given that the 17th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of the Company will be held on Wednesday, 30th September, 2020 at 01.00 PM, at A-3 NDSE Part-1, New Delhi-110049, to transact the business as stated in the Notice there of.

In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended by Companies (Management & Administration) Rules 2015 the Company is pleased to provide Remote e-voting facility to the Members enabling them to cast their vote electronically for all the resolutions as set out in the AGM Notice dated 5th September, 2020, through the e-voting services provided by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL).

Copies of the Notice convening AGM along with attendance slip and proxy form have been sent to all the Members of the Company through electronic means to those Members whose Email IDs are registered with the Company / Depository Participants. In case of other Members i.e. Members not having Registered Email ID, as per the requirement of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended by Companies (Management & Administration) Rules 2015, physical copies of the above documents will be sent through the permitted mode at the registered address of the Members and same will be completed till 10.09.2020.

All the Members are hereby informed that:-

(i) The remote e-voting period commences on Friday, 25th September, 2020, 9.00 a.m. and ends on Tuesday, 29th September, 2020, 5.00 p.m. Remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond 5.00 PM. 29th September, 2020. The e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting there after. Once the vote on the resolution is casted by the Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.

(ii) In case of any person becoming the member of the Company after 4th September 2020 or before the cut-off date i.e. 23rd September, 2020 (to whom the AGM Notice has not been dispatch) become the member of the company may write an email to [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) or [helpdesk@nsdl.co.in](mailto:helpdesk@nsdl.co.in) by mentioning the Folio NO/ DP ID or Client ID for obtaining login ID and password for e-voting. Further, if the Member is already registered with NSDL remote e-voting platform, then he can use existing User ID and Password for casting the vote through remote e-voting.

(iii) Members may note that:-

(a) The facility for voting through polling paper shall be made available at the AGM.

(b) The Members who have casted their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM, but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

(iv) The Notice of AGM is available on the Company's website i.e. [www.svhousing.com](http://www.svhousing.com)

The Board of Directors have appointed Ms. Liza Sahni, Proprietor-Liza Sahni & Company, Company Secretaries, New Delhi as Scrutinizer for conducting the voting / poll and remote e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.

Members are requested to read the instructions pertaining to e-voting as printed in the AGM Notice carefully. In case of any queries, you may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and remote e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the Downloads sections of [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com) or contact NSDL through e-mail at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) or [amity@nsdl.co.in](mailto:amity@nsdl.co.in) or on Toll Free No.: 1800-222-990 / Telephone No.: 022-2499 4360.

To support green initiative, Members who have not registered their email addresses so far or who want to update their email address, are requested to approach their respective DP (for electronic holding) or Big Share Services Pvt. Ltd/ Company (for physical holding) for receiving all communications electronically.

For SVP Housing Limited  
Sd/-  
(Vijay Kumar)  
Managing Director

# Hongkongers arrested at sea will be dealt with by mainland China

**Hong Kong:** Twelve people from Hong Kong arrested as they reportedly sailed to Taiwan for political asylum will "have to be dealt with" by mainland China, but the city Government would try to provide assistance, Chief Executive Carrie Lam said on Tuesday.

Chinese authorities arrested the 12 people on Aug. 23 after intercepting a boat off the coast of the southern mainland province of Guangdong. Local media have reported they were headed to Taiwan to apply for political asylum.

"The question is not a question of simply getting (them) back," Lam told a regular weekly press conference.

If these Hong Kong residents were arrested for breaching mainland offences then they have to be dealt with according to the mainland laws and in accordance to the jurisdiction before any other things could happen."

Lam added that her government had "a duty to render assistance" to Hong Kong residents "caught in all sorts of situations" abroad and the government's representative office in Guangzhou, Guangdong's capital, will look into ways to



Representational image

provide that assistance and liaise with mainland authorities.

News agency AFP reported on Monday lawyers representing some of those captured have been denied access to their clients. Lam did not address that particular aspect when asked.

Neither mainland nor Hong Kong authorities have publicly confirmed who has been arrested, but local media have identified some of them as facing prosecution for involvement in pro-democracy protests last year.

One man, Andy Li, was recently arrested under a sweeping national security law imposed by Beijing on the semi-autonomous Asian finan-

cial hub on June 30. Another is a dual national with Hong Kong and Portuguese citizenship.

The Guangdong Coast Guard, which announced the arrests on its social media platform late on Aug. 26, said two of the detained were surnamed Li and Tang, without providing further details.

It is incumbent on the Russian authorities to fully investigate who was responsible for this crime, a very serious crime that was committed on Russian soil," she said in a statement.

The 44-year-old anti-corruption campaigner and one of President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critics, fell ill on a domestic flight last month and was treated in a Siberian hospital before being evacuated to Berlin. The attack marked the latest in a long line of assassination attempts against Putin's critics.

Lam also reiterated a remark made last week which stoked further worries that Hong Kong had taken a more authoritarian turn, saying the city had no separation of powers, and that its executive, legislative and judicial powers were derived from Beijing. AGENCY

# UN urges Russia for independent probe of Navalny poisoning

AFP ■ GENEVA

The UN rights chief called Tuesday on Moscow to conduct or cooperate with a "thorough, transparent, independent and impartial investigation" into the alleged nerve agent attack on Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Michelle Bachelet stressed the need to get to the bottom of the poisoning, after German specialists said they had "unequivocal proof" that the weapons-grade nerve agent Novichok was used in the attack.

It is incumbent on the Russian authorities to fully investigate who was responsible for this crime, a very serious crime that was committed on Russian soil," she said in a statement.

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# Julian Assange told to stop interrupting witnesses at hearing

**London:** A British judge told WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on Tuesday that his extradition hearing will proceed without him if he continues to speak from the dock and interrupt witnesses.

Vanessa Baraitser briefly adjourned the hearing at London's Central Criminal Court after Assange interrupted defense witness Clive Stafford Smith, who was giving evidence. Assange's outburst couldn't be heard by journalists following proceedings by video link.

Assange is fighting an attempt by American prosecutors to extradite him to the US to stand trial on spying charges. US prosecutors have indicted the 49-year-old Australian on 18 espionage and computer misuse charges over WikiLeaks' publication of secret US military

# Missing Belarus Opp leader detained at Ukraine border

AFP ■ MINSK

One of Belarus's leading opposition figures Maria Kolesnikova has been detained while trying to cross into Ukraine, border officials said Tuesday.

Kolesnikova was detained while attempting to cross overnight with two other members of the opposition's Coordination Council who were able to pass through to Ukraine, Anton Bychkovsky, a spokesman for the State Border Committee, told AFP.

She and the two other council members, press secretary Anton Rodnenkov and executive secretary Ivan Kravtsov, had disappeared on Monday.

Bychkovsky said Rodnenkov and Kravtsov were able to cross into Ukraine, and the Ukrainian embassy in Minsk confirmed to AFP they were in the country.

Kolesnikova was being held and "an investigation is underway to legally assess the situation," Bychkovsky said.

State news agency Belta quoted border officials as saying

the three had tried to cross the border in a BMW car around 4:00 am Tuesday.

The Coordination Council was set up to ensure a peaceful transfer of power after President Alexander Lukashenko's main rival Svetlana Tikhanovskaya rejected his claim to have won an August 9 presidential election with 80 per cent of the vote.

The disputed election has sparked widespread protests and a harsh police crackdown that has seen several thousand people arrested.

Germany and Britain had on Monday demanded answers after Kolesnikova went missing and allies said she had been snatched off the streets by unidentified men in black.

Kolesnikova, 38, is the only one of the trio of women who fronted Tikhanovskaya's campaign to remain in Belarus.

Tikhanovskaya left the country under pressure from the authorities and was granted refuge in EU member state Lithuania, while her other campaign partner, Veronika Tsepkalo, is now in Ukraine.

# China detains 23 in crackdown on Inner Mongolia protests

PTI ■ TAIPEI

Police in China's Inner Mongolia region have detained at least 23 people following protests last week against a new policy that replaces Mongolian-language textbooks with Chinese ones in classrooms.

The push to use the new textbooks, which started in other ethnic minority regions such as Xinjiang and Tibet in 2017, has prompted demonstrations and school boycotts by ethnic Mongolians in at least five cities and counties in Inner Mongolia. The 23 detentions were across eight banners, the regional word for counties, according to an Associated Press tally of nine local police reports over the past several days.

# Khashoggi trial fell short on transparency, accountability: UN Human Rights Office

**Geneva:** The Saudi trial into the killing of critic Jamal Khashoggi has lacked transparency and fallen short on assigning accountability for the crime, the UN human rights office said on Tuesday.

A Saudi Arabian court on Monday jailed eight people for between seven and 20 years for the 2018 murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, state media reported, four months after his family forgave his killers and enabled death sentences to be set aside.

UN spokesman Rupert Colville, noting that the United Nations opposes the death penalty, told a Geneva briefing: "This is case where there has



not been proper transparency in the justice process, those responsible should be prosecuted and given sentences commensurate with the crime."

"There is a whole issue of transparency and accountability in the case," he said. AGENCY

# Prophet cartoons unforgivable: Iran's Supreme Leader

**Tehran:** Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Tuesday that cartoons of the prophet Mohammed that were republished by a French satirical magazine last week were "unforgivable".

"The grave and unforgivable sin committed by a French weekly in insulting the luminous and holy personality of (the) Prophet revealed, once more, the hostility and malicious grudge harboured by political and cultural organisations in the West against Islam and the Muslim community," Khamenei said in an English-language statement.

"The excuse of freedom of expression" made by some French politicians in order not to condemn this grave crime of insulting the Holy Prophet is completely unacceptable, wrong and demagogic." AGENCY

# Rights group: Myanmar Army deserters confirmed atrocities

**Bangkok:** Two soldiers who deserted from Myanmar's army have testified on video that they were instructed by commanding officers to "shoot all that you see and that you hear" in villages where minority Rohingya lived, a human rights group said Tuesday.

The comments appear to be the first public confession by soldiers of involvement in army-directed massacres, rape and other crimes against Rohingya Muslims in the Buddhist-majority country.

More than 700,000 Rohingyas have fled Myanmar to neighboring Bangladesh since August 2017 to escape what Myanmar's military called a clearance campaign following an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group in Rakhine state.

Myanmar's government has denied accusations that security forces committed mass rapes and killings and burned thousands of homes. The group said the two army privates fled the country last month and are believed to be in the custody of the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands, which is examining the violence against the Rohingya.

Asked about the two soldiers, an ICC spokesman said Tuesday that "We have no new persons under arrest." The two men "separately claimed to be acting on orders from senior commanders to exterminate all (Rohingya)," to "shoot all that you see and that you hear," and to "kill all" Rohingya in specific areas," Fortify Rights said in a statement.

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Name of work and its location "Annual Maintenance Contract of Fog Safe Device (FSDs) for 04 months from 16 Nov' 20 to 15 March' 21 per scope of work."

Approx Cost of work Rs. 1258870/- (Twelve Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy only) with GST

Earnest Money Rs. 25200/-

Completion period of work Four Months i.e. 04 months from the date of execution of work

Cost of tender document on cash/by post Rs.2360/- with GST @18%

Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15.00 hrs on 05.10.2020, Opening of Tender at 15.00 hrs.

Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

221-S4/2/AMC/FSD/2020-21/ML-IV Dated : 07.09.2020 1966/2020

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SEARCH FOR MISSING



Anjali

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely Anjali D/o Sh. Dinesh R/o

# Entire GST dues will be paid: FinMin to States

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre has reached out to the states again clarifying that it would pay entire GST compensation dues to them amid the mounting opposition over the borrowing options proposed in lieu of the shortfall in indirect tax collections.

Sources in the Finance Ministry said that the entire shortfall of compensation to the states -- irrespective of whether it is on account of the GST implementation or Covid pandemic -- will be compensated and the same has been communicated to the states again.

A career in the real estate sector is not only about being real estate agents.

There are many opportunities for a person who is willing to challenge himself to have a career in the dynamic sector like this, says RAJAT GOEL



# Build a budding career

**Being a real estate investor is one of the opportunities in the Indian realty sector. Investor in real estate is the one who buys and modernises a property either for selling or renting purposes. Active and passive are the two ways to be a realty investor.**

Before selecting the real estate sector as a career option, it is a must to understand that a career in this sector would be exciting, demanding, and monetarily rewarding. On the other hand, it must be clear in the mind that the career in the real estate sector is not only about being real estate agents. There are many opportunities for a person who is willing to challenge himself to have a career in the dynamic sector like real estate. The main thing is the hard work which is required for the profession.

While being a residential realty consultant/associate is one of the known career options in this sector, it is by no means the only one. There is no denying that most of the high-profile career options in this sector comprise buying and selling residential projects, but the sector has depth, and there are various jobs available here.

Being a real estate investor is one of the opportunities in the Indian realty sector. Investor in real estate is one who buys and modernises a property either for selling or renting purposes.

Another opportunity in the real estate sector is leasing consultants whose responsibility is to present

residential property including flats, apartments, villas, etc to the potential clients in an effective manner. Another role is to assist residential landlords in finding out suitable and reliable tenants. Encouraging unoccupied properties through different tools including media and advertising is also a key role of a leasing consultant.

Commercial leasing managers are often assigned to office space or storefronts and are also considered as one of the career options in the real estate sector. He is responsible to keep an eye and study changes in the marketplace that can have an impact on the budgets that a particular business has for various property needs.

A foreclosure professional can be appointed either by a bank or private lender for handling the required documentation and processes. The foreclosure professional is responsible to review the client's financial statements and process foreclosure cases so the property can be resold as quickly as possible. Such consultants must be organised and capable to finish the work in a fixed time frame.

A Real estate attorney is also an opportunity in this sector. An experienced real estate attorney prepares and carefully checks the documents including purchase agreements, mortgage documents, and transfer documents.

Many organisations appoint corporate real estate managers for handling and executing daily operational activities of commercial properties. Their major role is to respond to customer service queries, process customer work orders, needs, and requirements.

Maximum companies hire corporate communication professionals to handle operational activities related to public relations, advertising, social media, content development, and crisis management.

The Indian real estate sector is so much more than residential real estate. It is surrounded with great career opportunities that require different strengths.

The writer is Joint Managing Director, MRG World

put microbes to good use in biotechnology, allowing us to better understand and tackle the global threat of antimicrobial-resistant infections.

**Eligibility:** Applicants with a minimum aggregate of 75 per cent and 75-80 per cent in key subjects (including two science subjects) at Standard XII will typically be considered for direct admission to this course. IELTS grade of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component; or an alternative acceptable English language qualification.

**How to apply:** Log on to <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/prospectus/courseDetails.do?id=CS212021>.

## Medical Microbiology course

The University of Sheffield, UK is inviting applications for Medical Microbiology BSc course starting in September 2021.

This course will give a broad understanding of microbiology with an emphasis on topics of medical relevance, allowing students to understand how microbes live, as well as ways to disrupt disease processes, before putting their skills and knowledge into practice in the lab. Students will study the importance of bacteria, viruses and other microbes in the environment and as pathogens. Students will also learn about how we can manipulate their genetic makeup to

put microbes to good use in biotechnology, allowing us to better understand and tackle the global threat of antimicrobial-resistant infections.

**Eligibility:** Applicants with a minimum aggregate of 75 per cent and 75-80 per cent in key subjects (including two science subjects) at Standard XII will typically be considered for direct admission to this course. IELTS grade of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component; or an alternative acceptable English language qualification.

**How to apply:** Log on to <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/prospectus/courseDetails.do?id=CS212021>.

## Live workshop

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's premier cultural institution, the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) in collaboration with HSBC will be hosting a workshop on 'The Convergence of Digitisation and the Arts' on September 12, 2020 from 3:30 pm as part of their initiative on ancillary skill development for the artiste community.

Considering the COVID-19 has impacted this community largely with no live performances, the workshop will introduce artistes to platforms, processes and means to be able to enhance their engagement online.

Supported by HSBC, renowned Kathak dancer Keerthi Kumar will be taking a

live audience through touchpoints that enable performers to conduct virtual classrooms, online performances, conferences & seminars using a mix of household equipment, handy tools and subscription-based software.

This live dialogue will cover variety of subjects that make it imperative for an artist to re-look at monetisation in the new normal. From home acoustics & lighting system settings to re-modelling teaching methodologies for the digital medium, the workshop will cover a number of significant aspects. All of these are aimed at elevating the digital medium to thereby helping content creators' brand & promote themselves to audiences across the globe.

any job scenario would not be the best solution or continue for long. Instead, the need of the hour demands parents to use scientific tools to understand the strengths, competencies and aptitude of children and guide them with the careers accordingly.

**Interact with senior experts in various industries**

In the past, people often used to take children to meet veterans from various walks of life and make them listen to the experiences of their elders. Today, it is important to get back to similar roots but with a fresher perspective and productive approach. It's not about taking the child to the seniors, but instead, the parents should connect with acclaimed mentors to understand the pulse of the changing scenarios worldwide so that they can guide their children aptly. This will help them become aware of the diversity of professions and thus enable them to mentor kids better.

The new world is no more about passive parenting, but active involvement in the education and career decisions of children. This is fundamentally different from parents imposing their dreams on children. Instead of being a parent that imposes their thoughts on the child, this approach helps them in becoming the most trusted advisors of their children. This will further make students look up to their guardians and seek their guidance.

It is time for parents to question themselves and ask if they're capable of providing the right kind of support to their children. This will further help them evolve into super parents and mentor their children rightly.

The writer is Chief Executive Officer, Lifology

## Make way for super parents

It is time for parents to upgrade themselves and transform into career gurus for their children, says PRAVEEN PARAMESWAR

The current outbreak has created a state of uncertainty across the globe and has been seen impacting various sectors as well as career paths. The future of careers is undetermined, as even the top-notch analysts fail to predict it right. Buzz words such as Genome Technology, Neurobiology, Drones, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Big data, Internet of Things, Astrophysics and similar areas of research are revolutionising the world of career.

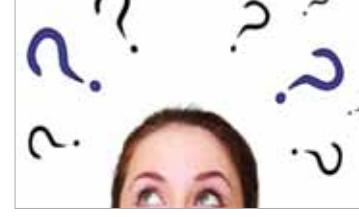
In this scenario, the children in their teenage would not be able to analyse the changes around the world or understand the trends in education, take right decisions related to career and navigate to the most appropriate future all by themselves. They need external help which should ideally be learned support from parents.

The popular notion of "their career, their life; let them decide, do not interfere" does not work well with a lot of students and might even be tagged as a redundant thought in the 21st century. Instead, the modern times demand every parent to incarnate as new-age career gurus, who get self-ready to make children ready for the future. This is the time to upgrade themselves and transform into career gurus from ordinary parents.

Here is how the guardians can upgrade themselves smoothly and guide their children to select the right future.

**Learn about various career options, courses and universities**

Parents should learn about the changes happening around the world of career. They should focus on being aware of the diverse opportunities that



lie ahead of students, including professions such as blockchain experts, digital marketing professionals and microbiologists.

The point is to achieve clarity about the different courses; right from being an oceanographer to finding the best universities to study public health management. This would help parents holding a meaningful conversation with children about their education and career. Once they start educating themselves about different streams and careers, their child will start listening to them mindfully.

**Use scientific tools to discover the true potential of children and map them to suitable careers**

Every career path is teeming with new opportunities and sectors are swarming with cut-throat competition, so it is imperative to understand the obstacles that lie for the students in the near future and address them. Although people are competing with human-colleagues at the moment, however, in the next 10 years, they might even have to organise rallies to ensure reservations for human beings in jobs.

The next-generation children may have to compete with robots and machines to get employed. Only if the right people reach the right place, children can perform well in this competitive world. Accidental success or 'any person doing

## Top honours for Amrita

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a boost to the quest for sustainable development in the country, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (Amrit) has been awarded a UNESCO Chair for "Experiential Learning for Sustainable Innovation & Development".

Through this Chair, the university will develop a comprehensive framework for academic engagement to build sustainable communities by designing a curriculum based on experiential learning. This curriculum will enable the academic community to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to implement sustainable solutions among vulnerable and rural communities.

The Chair will be held by the university for the next four years under the leadership of Dr Maneesha Sudheer.

## FIND YOUR NICHE

Organisations will now be looking to hire candidates who can bring distinct skills as well as fresh ideas and innovation onboard.

Hence, the demand for job candidates with niche specialisations will soar, says SHAILAJA PATIL

### Healthcare and Hospital Management

The pandemic has put a major burden on healthcare and hospital system. Even the countries with the best healthcare facilities are struggling to manage their capacity optimally, run their operations smoothly and maintain the quality of their services. As key learning from COVID-19, hospitals and healthcare institutes will now focus on addressing all these concerns and improving their processes.

The number of hospitals and medical facilities will also rise to meet the shortfall in capacity. Students who have niche specialisation in healthcare and hospital management can pursue rewarding careers in operations, administration, customer service, public relations, audits, invoicing and other managerial roles.

### Construction and Real Estate Management

Currently, the Indian construction and real estate industry

primarily operates as an unorganised sector. The construction and real estate companies/brokers by and large have an upper hand over customers. There is also a lack of professionalism, transparency and ethics. As a result, most projects get delayed, resulting in customer grievances. However, highly-skilled and suave professionals can bring much-needed reforms in this industry. A niche specialisation in construction and real estate industry can empower students to explore careers in project management, estimation and costs and contracts and vendor management. Sustainable construction, sales and marketing and customer services are other areas where niche specialisation in this industry can fast-track career growth.

### Digital Marketing

Digital marketing has established its firm foothold in the past five years, but it emerged as a lifeline during the pandemic. Organisations have realised that digital marketing can ensure business continuity even in the toughest times. While the number of online and offline digital marketing courses have witnessed a sharp rise in the past few years, the current supply is less than demand.

There is an urgent need to offer more digital marketing specialisations. At the same time, these courses should be customised to suit the business requirements so that students can apply their learning in the real-world scenario without hiccups.

Niche specialisations are gaining momentum and here to stay. It's high time that higher education institutes incorporate them into their curriculum to expand their offerings, benefit the students and meet industry expectations.

The writer is Executive Director ADITUS — Motion Institute of Management Studies

and Kolathur.

Out of 59 project proposals submitted by SRMIST for the upliftment of rural people in these adopted villages, three projects were funded by UBA during the academic year 2018-19. They are — End-To-End Integrated Rationing System for Distribution of Provisions have been completed at Anjur village, Reverse osmosis plant, and RO water plant installed at Government School of Orathur village.

Chettipunniyam, Kalivandappattu, Thenmelpakkam, Orathur, Nattara Samapattu, Chettipunniyam, and Kolavandappattu.

Apart from these, various development projects such as Swachh Bharat Summer Internship, Student Solar Ambassador Initiative, Ban on Single-use Plastic Awareness Programs, RO Water Plant Project, School Improvement by providing furniture and electrical appliances, Smart Classroom, Medical Camp and Distribution of Educational Learning Kits for Science Lab and Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign.

Apart from this SRMIST has also donated furniture worth ₹2 lakhs to a Govt. Middle School, Thenmelpakkam vil-

lage, Kattankulathur Panchayat union.

For all these commendable efforts, SRMIST was awarded Rank 1 for Swachh Campus Ranking 2019 by MHRD, Rank 1 for "One Student One Tree" project and Rank 3 for "Clean and Smart Campus" by AICTE.

The institution has undertaken umpteen projects in the form of its Corporate Social Responsibility schemes, Swachh Bharat Summer Internship, awareness campaigns to make the villages ODF, and to ban single-use plastics and tree plantation.

## New high for KIIT

COVID-19 has completely transformed the market dynamics. On the brighter side, it has given birth to new business opportunities and revenue models. Organisations will now be looking to hire candidates who can bring distinct skills as well as fresh ideas and innovation onboard.

Some of the niche specialisations that are touted to gain momentum in the new normal scenario are:

### Banking and Microfinance

The penetration of technology and awareness about digital transactions have increased in rural pockets. Tapping into this development, the government, NGOs and even corporates will tie-up with

## SRMIST adopts eight villages

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), the flagship programme of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur has adopted eight villages.

The aim of this programme is to transform rural India. Based on the guidelines layout by MHRD, SRMIST has adopted the villages of Anjur, Pattaravakkam, Thenmelpakkam, Orathur, Nattara Samapattu, Chettipunniyam, Kalivandappattu,



# Dominant win

No 3 Thiem cruises into last eight, Medvedev sets up all-Russian QF tie



Dominic Thiem pumps his fist after defeating Felix Auger Aliassime in 4th round

Nadal last year, losing in five sets. He hasn't dropped a set while advancing to the quarterfinals and he's dropped serve only three times.

"I'm playing better every match," Medvedev said. "I hope this can continue. I'm pleased, actually, with the fact I've won all the sets."

Thiem is the only remaining man who has contested multiple major finals. He is 0-3, losing twice to Nadal at the French Open and to Djokovic at the Australian Open this February.

"I am probably one of the oldest players left in the field," said the 27-year-old Thiem, "which is surreal to me."

Second oldest, actually: Carreño Busta is 29.

It's the first US Open since 2010 without at least one male quarterfinalist who is 30 or older.

Next up for Thiem is the 21-year-old de Minaur, who reached his first major quarterfinal by saving four set points in the opening tiebreaker and going on to a 7-6 (6), 6-3, 6-2 victory over Vasek Pospisil.

pings a game in the first set against Pablo Carreño Busta.

Nadal (pandemic concerns) and Federer (two knee operations) did not enter the tournament at all.

This ends a run of 13 consecutive major championships won by a member of the Big Three.

"It's been getting pretty boring," said Denis Shapovalov, the first Canadian man to reach the US Open quarterfinals, "with these three guys winning every tournament."

None of the men left has ever earned so much as one Slam trophy yet.

The quarterfinals on the bottom half of the draw will be Thiem against No 21 Alex de Minaur; and No 10 Andrey Rublev against No 3 Daniil Medvedev. On the top half, where Djokovic used to loom: No 12 Shapovalov vs No 20 Carreño Busta; No 5 Alexander Zverev vs No 27 Borna Coric.

Medvedev was runner-up

After skipping the US Open, Barty has also decided against traveling to Europe for an event in Rome starting Sept 14 and the Sept 27-Oct 10 French Open.

"Last year's French Open was the most special tournament of my career so this is not a decision I have made lightly," Barty, who won her first major title on the clay courts of

changed after that," de Minaur said. Pospisil, who is 30, praised his younger opponent's court coverage, saying he thinks de Minaur might be the second-fastest player on tour.

## Serena survives scare

AFP ■ NEW YORK

Serena Williams had to summon up every last ounce of strength to depose 15th seed Maria Sakkari in three hard-fought sets on Monday.

The 38-year-old American needed almost two and a half hours to dislodge her 25-year-old Greek opponent 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 inside an empty Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York.

"She's such a good competitor. It was a really intense match," said Williams, who had been dumped out of a US Open tuneup tournament by the same opponent last month.

"I felt like she almost played better today. I was a little fatigued last time and had some cramps. Just felt like I was able to compete longer," Williams added.

Williams rallied from two games down in the deciding set, pumping herself up with loud screams that echoed around the spectator-free arena as she broke Sakkari twice to clinch the last-eight spot.

"I'm super passionate. This is my job. This is what I wake up to do. This is what I train to do 365 days of the year," Williams said



afterwards.

The American will play Tsvetana Pironkova for a place in the semi-finals after the Bulgarian ousted Alize Cornet in another draining three-setter.

### PIRONKOVA ROLLS ON

Pironkova, who is playing her first tournament in three years after a lengthy break during which she gave birth to her son, prevailed 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 at the Louis Armstrong Stadium.

"It's absolutely unreal, I really can't believe it," said Pironkova, whose last tournament appearance before this year's US Open was the 2017 Wimbledon cham-

pionships when she exited in the second round.

Also, unseeded Victoria Azarenka came from a set down to oust 20th seed Karolina Muchova 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 in 2hr 30min.

However, second seed Sofia Kenin was sent crashing out of the tournament, beaten in straight sets by Elise Mertens.

Kenin, the highest seeded player left in the fray and winner of the 2020 Australian Open, was bundled out of the last 16 6-3, 6-3, in 1hr 14 mins by Mertens.

Mertens, the 16th seed, will now play Victoria Azarenka in the quarter-finals.

## SINGLES

PAY HIKE FOR PAK DOMESTIC CRICKETERS

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board on Tuesday unveiled a revamped pay structure for its domestic cricketers, under which the top performers stand a chance of earning 3.2 million through the season, a whopping '83 per cent more' than last year. The 3.2 million (Rs 14 lakh INR) over the course of the season will include a monthly retainer of 150,000. Ahead of the 2020-21 season, which begins on Sept 30, the PCB announced a new pay structure which will see even the lowest paid domestic players earn at least "seven per cent more" than what they received in the 2019-20 season.

MBAPPE TESTS CORONA POSITIVE

PARIS: France and Paris Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappé tested positive for Covid-19 and will miss Tuesday's Nations League match against Croatia. The Paris Saint-Germain forward was isolated once he found out about his positive test and left France's training camp to return home on Monday evening.

JEJE LEAVES CHENNAIYIN FC

CHENNAI: Indian international striker Jeje Lalpekhlua has left two-time ISL champions Chennaiyin FC after six years, the player and club confirmed on Tuesday. Jeje, called 'Mizo Sniper' by the club's fans for his lethal instinct in front of goal, leaves the club as its leading goal-scorer with 25 strikes to his name. He was pivotal to the club's ISL title triumphs in 2015 and 2017-18.

LYNN JOINS MI TEAMMATES IN ABU DHABI

ABU DHABI: Australian batsman Chris Lynn arrived here on Tuesday to join his Mumbai Indians teammates for the upcoming IPL. The four-time champions also informed that Lynn's compatriot James Pattinson and Kiwi's Trent Boult had joined the side last week.

BILLY STANLAKE JOINS MELBOURNE STARS

MELBOURNE: Melbourne Stars have further boosted their pace stocks for the upcoming Big Bash League with the signing of towering quick Billy Stanlake from the Adelaide Strikers. The agreement will see pace bowler Daniel Worrall move to the Strikers in return.

ANWAR ALI ASKED TO STOP TRAINING

NEW DELHI: Promising India defender Anwar Ali has been asked to stop training as his latest medical reports are being sent to the AFC, months after being diagnosed with a congenital heart condition, which has put a question mark on his career. An AIFF source said the reports of Anwar's latest tests are "probably not good enough" to allow him to play competitive football.

ACB BANS COACH NOOR MOHD FOR 5 YEARS

KABUL: The Afghanistan Cricket Board has banned domestic-level coach Noor Mohammad 'Lala' from all forms of the game for five years after he was found guilty of approaching a national team player to spot-fix matches. Noor is a domestic assistant coach with the Kapisa province side and a full-time coach with Hampalana private academy. His act was reported by the national team player, who was approached for corruption but has not been named by the ACB.

DU PREEZ IS SA WOMEN ASSISTANT COACH

JOHANNESBURG: Former all-rounder Dillon du Preez has been roped in as assistant coach of the South African women's team for three years. Du Preez, who retired from the game in 2017, will work under head coach Hilton Moreeng, who was re-appointed to the position in July this year. "I am really honoured. I have been relishing such an opportunity and can't wait to get going," du Preez, who has played 92 first-class, 134 List A and 86 T20 matches said in a statement. Agencies

Rohan Bopanna-Shapovalov lose

PTI ■ NEW YORK

The Indian challenge came to an end at the US Open with the quarterfinal loss of Rohan Bopanna and his Canadian partner Denis Shapovalov in the men's doubles event.

"I wish the players and the French Federation all the best for a successful tournament."

Barty announced her withdrawal hours after French Open organizers said spectators would be allowed at the tournament despite a growing number of coronavirus cases in the country.

The 24-year-old Australian cited the health risks associated with Covid-19 and her interrupted preparation as the main reasons for pulling out of the tournaments. She hasn't been able to work with her coach recently because of domestic state border closures in Australia.

It was Bopanna's best performance at a Slam since he made the quarterfinals at both the US Open and the French Open in 2018.

Divij Sharan and Sumit Nagal have already exited from the tournament following defeats in their respective events.

## Barty opts out of French Open title defence

AP ■ BRISBANE

Top-ranked Ash Barty will not defend her French Open title because of concerns over traveling during the Covid-19 pandemic.

After skipping the US Open, Barty has also decided against traveling to Europe for an event in Rome starting Sept 14 and the Sept 27-Oct 10 French Open.

"Last year's French Open was the most special tournament of my career so this is not a decision I have made lightly," Barty, who won her first major title on the clay courts of



Roland Garros, said in a statement on Tuesday.

"I wish the players and the French Federation all the best for a successful tournament."

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Yuvraj eyeing stint in BBL

Melbourne: Former Indian all-rounder Yuvraj Singh is eyeing a stint in the Big Bash League and Cricket Australia is trying to help him find a team.

No Indian player has ever featured in the BBL as BCCI doesn't allow active players to take part in overseas league.

The 38-year-old Yuvraj had retired from international and domestic cricket last year, clearing the decks to ply his trade in foreign leagues across the globe.

According to a report in Sydney Morning Herald, Yuvraj's manager Jason Warne of W Sports & Media has confirmed that Cricket Australia is trying to find a franchise that would be interested in the former Indian all-rounder.

"We're working with CA to try to find him a home," Warne said on Monday.

However, as per the report, "interest in Yuvraj from BBL clubs had been modest to date." PTI

Workload management will be key for pacers in hot UAE: Shami

Kolkata: Keeping in mind

temperature is much higher compared to India. There are chances of getting dehydrated. There will be chances of cramps. So we will have to keep those things in mind," Shami said.

"It will be difficult as the wickets here are also different. So workload management is important. But it is not that difficult that it can't be managed. It depends on us how we manage our workload," added the 30-year-old, rated as one of the best pacers in the world at the moment. IANS

the cricket calendar has helped him recharge his batteries.

"It's been a high volume of cricket in the past five years for me, but I really enjoyed the break he has got due to the Covid-enforced freeze on

quite strong. I think I just need to bowl more, and make sure I haven't forgotten how to bowl.

I need to keep up with the bowling practice, but otherwise I feel healthy."

on loan in 2017.

Everton said James joined on a two-year deal with an option for an additional season. The reported fee was 20 million pounds (\$26 million).

"James, as everyone knows, is a fantastic player with a lot of quality and a lot of ability to make assists for the strikers," said Ancelotti, who left Bayern later in 2017 and was hired by Everton last year.

"He's really excited about the project of the club and the fact we want to improve. He was really excited to sign and I didn't spend time to convince him — he was already convinced."

James won the league title twice at Madrid and

Bayern but Everton has

not won the English championship since 1987.

"I'm a winner, I'm a real winner," James said.

## James Rodríguez joins Everton

AP ■ LONDON

James Rodríguez joined English Premier League club Everton in an attempt to revive a career that faltered at Real Madrid.

Signed by the Spanish giant after rising to prominence with a stunning goal for Colombia at the 2014 World Cup, the attacking midfielder couldn't match those highs in Madrid.

"I've come here to try to improve, to get better," the 29-year-old James said.

"I've also come here to help the team to win, to play good football — entertaining football."

At Everton, he is being reunited with manager Carlo Ancelotti who not only signed him for Madrid but also

at Bayern Munich

## Italy continue unbeaten run



win over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

HAALAND ON SONG

In other matches, Romania

came out on top against Austria

in Klagenfurt, with Denis Alibec,

Dragos Grigore and Alexandru

Maxim on target in a 3-2 victo-

ry.

Norway shook off their open-

loss to Austria as

Borussia Dortmund striker

Haaaland helped tear apart

Northern Ireland in Belfast.

Paddy McNair cancelled

out Mohamed Elyounoussi's

fine finish but Haaland, who

struck his first international

goal in Friday's defeat thumped

in from the edge of the area to