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USUALSUSPECTS SWAPAN DASGUPTA

World awaits wonder drug to treat Covid

According to an ANI report this Saturday (September 12) morning, the past 24 hours saw 97,570 new cases of people infected with Covid-19, with the national tally now crossing the 46 lakh mark. Although the gap between the percentage of recovered cases and percentage of active cases is getting wider, with nearly 36 lakh recovered and discharged, it is undeniable that the situation is grim.

Anecdotal evidence tells us that there is no pattern to how the pandemic has affected individuals infected by the fearful virus. Some have experienced nothing more debilitating than a serious bout of flu while others — who were otherwise healthy and had age on their side — have succumbed to the pandemic. There is just no telling how Covid-19 will treat an individual. To me, as a layman, it seems like a game of Russian roulette, a matter of pure chance.

There also seems absolutely no clear indication how long the pandemic will persist. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is very contrite that a fresh outbreak has meant that the Government has outlawed gatherings of more than six people. This effectively means that this year's Christmas celebrations will be subdued and depressing, especially for older people who wait a full year for this family reunion. Fines are being threatened on those who choose to violate official guidelines. There are also suggestions that the pandemic will persist until April-May of 2021, by which time the long-awaited vaccine may have been discovered and marketed for global use. President Donald Trump, of course, hopes that the vaccine will be ready before Americans choose their next President in November.

The grim truth, alas, is that there is no conclusive scientific advice. Like us laymen, the scientists too appear to be whistling in the dark. There are just too many conflicting scientific advice for Governments to know which one to pick. Consequently, what seems a political blunder is actually an inadequacy of science. The pandemic has exposed the shortcomings of scientific certitudes. In the end the world is praying that the wonder drug arrives before the world goes into a tailspin

marginally less grand but the street celebrations and the overcrowding of puja venues are likely to be the same. The West Bengal Government has been persisting with a series of lockdowns — the dates appear to be chosen quixotically and often with a political purpose — but the implementation of the lockdowns is uneven. In particular, the State Government appears to have failed in persuading people to go slow with their daily morning trips to the bazars.

This, however, isn't an Indian problem. In large parts of Europe, the obsession with the summer holidays has definitely led to a second outbreak. In the US, to cite another example, there are very divergent approaches to the presidential election in November. The Republicans — which also include people who see the mandatory use of masks as an assault of individual freedom — are going about political rallies, as if the pandemic really didn't exist, while the Democrats are a little more restrained and careful. However, supporters of the Democratic Party show remarkably less inhibition in staging violent street protests.

A larger question centres on the role of Governments in fighting the pandemic. When the pandemic first hit the ground, there were conflicting prescriptions offered by public health experts. There were some that preferred the "Swedish model" of minimum disruption and normal social life whereas others preferred the more drastic option of lockdowns — first witnessed in China's Wuhan and Northern Italy. While neither of these two approaches managed to secure their professed objectives, they were both based on advice by "experts". Governments have inevitably bowed to so-called scientific advice in taking measures to fight the pandemic.

The grim truth, alas, is that there is no conclusive scientific advice. Like us laymen, the scientists too appear to be whistling in the dark. There are just too many conflicting scientific advice for Governments to know which one to pick. Consequently, what seems a political blunder is actually an inadequacy of science. The pandemic has exposed the shortcomings of scientific certitudes.

Does this mean that recklessness is the best policy. There are, for instance, those who believe that strutting around without a mask, denying the reality of a pandemic and falling back on unorthodox remedies such as cow's urine are signs of wisdom. This is so reminiscent of people during the Black Death of the 13th century when some people reposed faith in a blend of prayer and acquired immunity from an hour or so of inhaling the vile air of stinking toilets. Presumably, some of these innovators survived the plague while others succumbed to it. It is probably going to be the same with Covid-19.

In the end the world is praying that the wonder drug arrives before the world goes into a tailspin.

Nadda, Nitish discuss seat-sharing, LJP

Jr Paswan major challenge for senior NDA allies; Chirag will meet Amit Shah on Sept 14 in Delhi after which clarity will emerge on Bihar seat-sharing formula

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP and the Janata Dal(U) started preliminary talks on the sharing of seats for the forthcoming Assembly polls during a two-hour meeting between BJP president JP Nadda and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Patna on Saturday. But more than the number of seats, the issue of dealing with LJP chief Chirag Paswan has emerged a major challenge for the alliance.

Chirag Paswan will meet Home Minister Amit Shah on September 14 in Delhi after which more clarity will emerge on the seat-sharing talks. Chirag has held several rounds of talks with Nadda in Delhi.

Nadda is reported to have assured Nitish Kumar that the BJP will try to iron out his differences with Chirag Paswan, who has often targeted the Bihar Chief Minister during the last few months.

Nadda is also reported to have advised the LJP president not to attack the Bihar Government and agree to contest a realistic number of seats.

Sources said that the BJP and the JD(U) may agree to contest 123 and 120 seats each. The strength of the State Assembly is 243.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar greets BJP national president JP Nadda at his official residence in Patna PTI

The BJP will allot seats to the LJP out of its quota and JD(U) will meet the demand of former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi from its share of 120 seats. If this agreement holds, the LJP may be asked to contest 23 seats since the BJP

will not contest less than 100 seats, sources said.

In Delhi, Chirag said he will go with the BJP choice of the Chief Minister and he has no problem with the name of Nitish Kumar as the face of the NDA.

"I am okay with any Tom, Dick or Harry chosen by the BJP," a TV channel quoted the 37-year-old leader.

However, it was not clear how will the LJP react if offered 23 seats to contest. The party has been pressing for allotment

of at least 43 seats. In 2015 Assembly polls when the JD(U) was not part of the NDA the LJP had contested 42 Assembly seats.

The BJP chief accompanied by party colleagues like Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, national general secretary and State in-charge Bhupendra Yadav and State president Sanjay Jaiswal, called on Nitish at his official residence amid a growing row between NDA partners.

The NDA in Bihar consists of the JD(U), the BJP, the LJP and Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustan Awam Morcha (HAM).

In the middle of the visible fissures in the alliance, Union Minister for Home and former Bihar BJP president Nityanand Rai has claimed that the NDA would win 220 Assembly seats in the October-November slated polls.

Rai said that developmental works carried out across the country under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the help given to the underprivileged population during the coronavirus crisis phase, as well as the beginning of Ram temple construction in Ayodhya, will be the important issues in the upcoming elections in the State.

"NDA will form Government in Bihar under the leadership of Nitish Kumarji after winning 220 seats in the upcoming State Assembly elections," Rai told newsmen in Patna BJP office after Nadda discussed on Friday campaign strategy with party leaders in the election management committee meeting.

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Raghuvansh Prasad Singh on ventilator

Patna: Former Union Minister Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, whose recent resignation from the RJD founded and headed by Lalu Prasad has left political waters in Bihar astir, has fallen critically ill and put on a ventilator, a close aide said on Saturday.

"Singh sahibs condition deteriorated considerably last night. At 11.56 pm, he was put on ventilator. We are praying for his well-being," said the aide told PTI-Bhasha over phone.

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NCB raids in Mumbai, Goa after Rhea spills drug beans

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Continuing its crackdown on the drug peddlers and dealers, the Mumbai Zone officials of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) conducted raids in Mumbai and Goa on Friday night and Saturday.

Though a senior NCB official said that the raids were not directly linked to the drug case registered in connection with the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, official sources said that its teams had conducted the raids on Friday night and Saturday based on "specific information" thrown up during the investigations in the Sushant death-related drug case.

During the course of her prolonged questioning by the NCB ahead of her arrest on September 8, actress Rhea Chakraborty had reportedly told the investigators that

actress Sara Ali Khan and Rakul Preet, designer Simone Khambatta, Sushant's friend and former manager Rohini Iyer and filmmaker Mukesh Chhabra consumed narcotics substances. However, Rhea has retracted the confessional statement recorded by the NCB ahead of her arrest.

Unconfirmed reports said that the NCB might summon anywhere from "15 to 25" Bollywood personalities for questioning over the reports about their allegedly procuring and consuming narcotic drugs.

Sources said that the NCB officials had conducted the raids on the basis of specific information provided by alleged drug peddler Anuj Keshwani who was arrested by the NCB after Kaizan Ebrahim disclosed his name. Kaizan Ebrahim had reportedly told the investigators that Anuj Keshwani was his supplier of

narcotic drugs.

Keshwani and Kaizan are among the ten persons arrested in connection with the drug case registered by the NCB. The other arrested accused in the case are Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik, Abbas Lakhani, Karan Arora, Zaid Vilatra, Abdel Basit Parihar, Samuel Miranda and Dipesh Sawant.

During the 19-long hours of grilling carried out during a span of three days, Rhea 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.

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Maharashtra may surpass Russia in coronavirus count by Monday

Maha adds around 22-24K cases/day while Russia 5,500 new cases in a day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Maharashtra may be just a State, but its overall Covid-19 tally will soon surpass Russia, which occupies the fourth place in the list of worst affected countries. While Maharashtra has a total of 10,37,000 cases as on Saturday, Russia's tally stood at 10,57,362.

Maharashtra is adding

around 22,000-24,000 cases every day while Russia's daily count is around 5,500 new cases. It means Maharashtra will surpass Russia in terms of the total number of cases by Monday. Then Maharashtra will trail only the USA, India, and Brazil in terms of total numbers of infection.

With a tally of 66,39,386, the USA is the worst-hit country followed by India at the second spot with over 47 lakh cases. Meanwhile, Andhra Pradesh with 5,57,587 surpassed Argentina (5,35,705 cases) which is at the 10th spot in the country-wise rankings.

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Oxford, AstraZeneca to resume vaccine trial

London: Oxford University says trials of a coronavirus vaccine that it is developing with pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca will resume, days after being paused due to a reported side-effect in a patient in the UK. In a statement, the university said in large trials such as this "it is expected that some participants will become unwell and every case must be carefully evaluated to ensure careful assessment of safety."

CAPSULE

STRICT LOCKDOWN IN BENGAL, 3,000 ARRESTED

Kolkata: Normal life was hit in West Bengal on Friday in the complete lockdown which was strictly enforced to break the chain of Covid-19 with the police cracking down heavily on violators leading to the arrest of more than 3,400 people.

INDIA, ASEAN ADOPT NEW 5-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION

New Delhi: India and the 10-nation ASEAN carried out a comprehensive review of their strategic partnership in a range of areas, including maritime cooperation, and adopted a new five-year plan of action to further boost overall ties.

PLA hands over 5 'abducted' Arunachal villagers to India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Five villagers from Arunachal Pradesh who went missing last week near the Chinese border were back home on Saturday after China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) handed them over to the Indian authorities.

The five youth were received at Kibitu, a small town in Arunachal Pradesh's Anjaw district, located on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and were sent to quarantine for 14 days as per the coronavirus protocol. "The Indian Army took

over all five individuals at Kibitu on September 12, 2020, after completing all the formalities. Individuals will now be quarantined for 14 days as per Covid-19 protocol and will thereafter be handed over to their family members," a statement released by the Army read. The youth went missing after they went into the forest for hunting and reportedly strayed across the LAC into the Chinese territory.

However, Tapir Gao, MP from East Arunachal, had quoted local reports to allege the five villagers were "abducted" by the PLA.

On Monday, China made light of concerns over the whereabouts of the five youths and said it has never recognised Arunachal Pradesh as an Indian territory. "China's position on the eastern 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 said at a media briefing in Beijing. Lijian said the Chinese Government had never recognised "Arunachal Pradesh".



5 Indian youths handed over by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) to Indian Army, at Kibitu in Anjaw district, on Saturday PTI

After Kangana episode, DGCA says flight to be suspended for 2 weeks if photo snapped inside

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The schedule of flight on a particular route will be suspended for a period of two weeks if anyone is found doing photography inside it. It will be restored only after the airline has taken action against those violating these norms.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Saturday announced this after taking a strong note of alleged violation of safety and social distancing protocols by mediapersons during a Chandigarh-Mumbai flight that had Bollywood actress Kangana

Ranaut as a passenger. The order was sent to all the domestic airlines in India.

The DGCA order on Saturday said, "It has been decided that from now on, in case any violation (photography) occurs on any scheduled passenger aircraft — the schedule of flight for that particular route shall be suspended for a period of two weeks."

This announcement comes a day after the DGCA asked IndiGo to take "appropriate action" within 15 days against those who violated air safety norms in the Kangana flight.

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Delhiites can now avail doorstep delivery of 100 public services

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhiites can now avail the doorstep delivery of services such as those related to income certificates, driving license and new water connections, as the AAP government has restarted its ambitious scheme, which was in suspension for nearly five months due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the Government, people wanting to avail the listed services at their doorstep can call 1076 or book online, besides visiting one of the 46 centres for spot-booking.

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HOME THEATRE

A hostage crisis to be with



HOSTAGES 2
Disney+Hotstar
Season 2, Episodes 12
***ing: Ronit Roy, Divya Dutta and others**
Rated: 6/10

Hostages 2 takes off from where it ended in *Hostages*. Yet both the seasons couldn't be more complete in themselves. If first was about a doctor's predicament in the face of a political and corporate conspiracy to kill the Chief Minister, this one is equally tantalising but with another twist to the earlier take.

This time the Chief Minister is the hostage but for a repentant medical cause. Ronit Roy is in the lead as Prithvi, the larger than life retired cop in the series and generally the larger than life actor he takes himself to be with his penchant to accord a cocky seriousness to his 'I will never smile into the camera' pledge that he made to himself way back as a TV character he immortalised as Mr Bajaj.

But this one from the fast upcoming Applause house of mounts is interesting, thrilling for most bits with adequate twists and turns that should accompany a hostage crisis.

All the mumbo jumbo about ATS sleuths, night snipers and gameplans, including the surveillance set up and talk of storming in are in place around a ruins of a colonial

structure where the hostages are housed. The rotating search lights with accompanying conspiracy music are used well by series director veteran Sudhir Misra as props that enhance the experience as does the story which keeps weaving in side tales seamlessly into the main plot of a rogue Chief Minister (played to the hilt by Dalip Tahil) with a rapacious past made to stone for his sins with a forced marrow transplant with he as a donor even as the situation gets hot alongside Divya Dutta, the master negotiator, doing a brilliant job trying to save the hostages.

Some side stories are unnecessary and some quite pertinent to the main plot but the characters involved in all of them doing their bit to give authenticity and moments to a series that keeps the act going the best it knows. The certain predictability to the progression of events became inevitable only late into the 12 episode venture.

Actors are chosen carefully in their screen habits even though the presence may be largely unexplained, like Dino Morea as the smiling assassin who keeps killing as a fetish more than as a reason. Why is he even there and what is the purpose of all his killings get a very flimsy explanation in the end. However, *Hostages 2* still manages to hold on to your brain cells and eyeballs with established finesse.

Waste of good storyline

CARGO
Netflix
Episodes 4
***ing: Vikrant Massey, Shweta Tripathi, Nandu Madhav, Konkana Sen**
Rated: 5/10

There are some subjects on which Bollywood will take years to master. One such subject line is sci-fi. There is a big reason for this. We just don't spend enough on the sets. Though full marks to Arati Kadav, the writer-director of *Cargo* to have come up with an inventive storyline about death and Yamraj, giving it an interesting spin, what this movie lacks is execution.

There is no imagination when it comes to the spaceship itself. While the out of the ships looks good, the interior looks as if it was designed by amateurs.

One could have taken clues from any number of Hollywood films. But the makers decided that the story was enough to hold one's interest. Unfortunately, once one knows what is happening, it is on a repeat what is left is the gizmos that make a sci-if movie great to watch, not to see tin boxes with knobs for gadgets. How is it possible to have a huge spaceship with only one tiny space for its astronaut — read modern-day Yamraj. If this was not bad enough, the spaceship Pushpak 634A while does allow room for an assistant, there is no room for the person. There are boxes lined on a



platform which makes up the room for the assistant. Cardboard boxes on a spaceship? That has got to be the new low for a sci-if movie which is bound to give the makers of films like *The Abyss* and *Star Trek* nightmares for weeks to come.

Even though the lead look like they are uncomfortable in each other's presence, the individual acting is passable.

Overall, watch this one only for its concept.
— Shalini Sakseena

Quirky, full of laughs

WAKAALAT FROM HOME
Amazon Prime
Episodes 10
***ing: Sumeet Vyas, Gopal Datt, Nidhi Singh, Akarsh Khurana, Kubbra Sait**
Rated: 7/10



Creators Rohan Sippy and Anuvab Pal have struck gold with this 10-episode web series. The story is simple — a divorce via video conferencing. The inspiration comes from how many court cases in the country were heard via video conferencing due to COVID-19. But the way Rohan Sippy plays this out is absolutely brilliant. It is such a relief to watch something on the OTT platform that is not dark, edgy or has layers of complexities that something become difficult to decipher. *Wakaalat From Home* offers pure unadulterated entertainment with plenty of laugh out loud and roll on the floor moments even though there is an underlining message — don't not get involved with divorce lawyers.

While it is sad to laugh, even though it is a fiction show, at two people who have major differences and want to separate after 10 years of marriage despite being childhood

sweethearts, the way it unfolds is quirky and funny.

The whole idea of making a series with actors at different places and bring them together as one has been beautifully played out here. Another plus is that each episode is not more than 15 minutes. One doesn't have to binge watch to know how it all ends. The 10 episodes can be watched over two hours and thirty minutes.

Sumeet Vyas, Gopal Datt and Nidhi Singh give a great performance. Kubbra Sait needs a special mention. Her transformation from an uptight divorce lawyer to a sexy one is amazing and so brilliantly done making the series a must watch.
— Shalini Sakseena

Blood, gore & more blood

THE BABYSITTER: KILLER QUEEN
Netflix
***ing: Judah, Lewis, Emily Alyn Lind, Bella Thorne, Jenna Ortega**
Rated: 5/10

Hollywood's love for blood and gore continues in the sequel to *The Babysitter*. The movie takes a jump for a few years with the lead protagonist— Cole, played by Judah Lewis — now in High School and no longer requires a babysitter. Nobody naturally believes his story of a cult and people dying because once the cops show up, there are no dead bodies.

Therapy is the parent's answer to Cole's story. But we know that the dead who disappear have an uncanny habit of appearing when least expected. And lo and behold — the sequel. This also means heads being ripped off, people being set on fire and blood flying in all direction but to no avail. They come back from the dead like bad pennies for what reason? To drink the blood of a



pure human being to become all powerful. If we hope that given what happens in the end, there are no more undead people rising from the dead.

Watch this if blood and gore is your cup of tea.
— Shalini Sakseena

Plan Your Day

It's that time of the year where the nation comes together to celebrate a language that unites us all. This Hindi Divas, it's going to be a day full of blockbuster *Dhamaal!* All the way from Hollywood, your favourite heroes will pump up the *Dhoom* and bring on the *Tashan* on the destination for the biggest Hollywood hits, &flix. You heard it right! Come Monday, September 14, 2020, Hollywood goes Hindi as you celebrate the day with the biggest international blockbusters with a desi twist, airing in English and Hindi as part of the special day-long binge Hindi Day Flix. There's action, adventure, dance, drama and loads of excitement as you greet Hollywood's biggest heroes with a friendly *Namaste* only on &flix.

From the golden era of Hollywood to a trio of angels on a mission, and from the

most badass cop-duo to the ultimate street dance fiesta — Hindi Day Flix on &flix is sure to keep you hooked on to your screens.

The day-long binge includes the Academy Award-winning film starring the legendary duo Leonardo DiCaprio and Brand Pitt, *Once Upon A Time In...* Hollywood, the latest instalment of the popular franchise *Charlie's Angels* and the 2020 badass blockbuster starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence, *Bad Boys For Life*. That's not all! To add more merriment for you and your folks, the line-up brings exciting titles like *Zombieland: Double Tap*, *Step Up 2: The Streets* and *Red Dawn* in a back-to-back marathon.

What's special is the Hindi and homely touch to our international heroes that you will get to witness only on &flix!

TELLY TALE

'BALIKA VADHU WAS LIFE CHANGING'
Colors' cult show *Balika Vadhu* marked the debut of actress Avika Gor. An eye-opener, *Balika Vadhu* shattered the stereotypes that India Television had by exploring a serious subject in a very heartfelt and real manner. Now, as the



show is being rerun on the channel as a part of its #NostalgicAfternoons, Avika shared her thoughts about the show, what it meant for her to play the role of Anandi and how it has helped her in life. Talking about playing Anandi in her superhit debut show, Avika Gor says: "The show changed my life completely and gave me the opportunity to learn a lot of things. I was only 9 when I made my television debut with the show, and for me, it was not about work at that time. Acting in *Balika Vadhu* was a hobby and a passion that I got to pursue and that too on a large scale. I was happy about getting dressed up every day, getting so much love from the people and being on television. Besides that, the show had a fantastic star cast made up of some really talented theatre actors. For me, the show was like a film school where I learned the nuances of acting. I was the happiest person on set and I enjoyed every bit of it. I credit the show for making me the actor that I am today. I am happy that the show is being rerun on Colors, and I hope the viewers will have a lovely time taking a trip down the memory lane with Anandi and Jagya and all the other characters they have loved over the years."

AMOL PALEKAR'S NOSTALGIC MOMENTS

Zee TV's popular singing reality show, *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs* has been winning over everyone's heart courtesy the amazing performances by the wonderful contestants. After a week of the splendid Teacher's Day celebrations, this week the popular reality show is set to celebrate the living legend of Bollywood, Amol Palekar and with the actor taking us on a trip down memory lane, the episode was extra special.

The Li'l Champs, Ranita Banerjee and Aryananda Babu started off the nostalgic journey by giving a stupendous performance by giving *Jaaneman Jaaneman*

Tere Do Nayan from the movie *Chhoti Si Baat*, which starred Amol Palekar, Vidya Sinha, Dharmendra and Hema. The smashing rendition by the young kids left everyone spellbound, including our guest of honour and he praised the kids for their beautiful performance.

Revealing an unbelievable fact about his first bollywood movie, the actor said: "The song starts with superstar couple Dharmendra and Hema ji in larger than life visuals of the movie sequence, where Vidya and I are watching the film and in my imagination we are singing this song. We were supposed to shoot it like a regular day experience of a man, which involved standing in the queue waiting for the lift to go to office kind of visuals. That time Express tower was a newly made construction and the scene was shot in the lift and at the lobby of it. You won't believe I used to work in a bank and I had taken leave from work to shoot this movie. So, my colleagues and friends, everyone in the fountain area were known faces, they were enjoying the scene because they knew me as the boy who works with them, was shooting for a film. Even I was enjoying that feeling a lot. It was an extremely fascinating combination of larger than life cinema world and a regular day at work directed by Basu Chatterjee."

He further added: "I remember that the *Jaaneman Jaaneman* song from the movie *Chhoti Si Baat* was not just my first hindi movie so, it was the male



singer Yashodas ji's first hindi song too. It was our firsts in bollywood and his voice and my face became a combination that even lead to the great success of chitchoor movie songs."

With Bollywood's legendary Amol Palekar in the house, the viewers will surely have gala time, especially with his melodious songs being sung by the supremely talented Li'l Champs. While Saeed and Tanishka will deliver a spectacular duet performance on *Na Bole Tum na Maine Kuch Kaha*, Saksham and Ananya's performance to *Golmaal Hai Bhai Sab Golmaal Hai* will surely win everyone's heart. All in all, the upcoming episode of *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li'l Champs* will have a lot of melodies, memories and surprises for the viewers.



ALADDIN MEETS AMMI
Aladdin (Siddharth Nigam) and Yasmine (Ashi Singh) return to their roots, their kingdom, Baghdad. Sony SAB's fantasy drama *Aladdin: Naam Toh Suna Hoga* surprised viewers with a new storyline that showcased the mesmerising reincarnation of Alasmine. With Aladdin's rebirth as Shehzada Aladdin and Yasmine's reincarnation as the savior of the poor aka Kaali Chorni, the show continues to feature cute banter between the beloved duo, much to the audiences' delight.

After being banished from Turkistan, Aladdin and Yasmine come across a peer baba on their way. Ginie of the Ring (Praneet Bhatt) disguised as the baba, directs the duo towards Baghdad and decides to reunite the long lost friends, Aladdin and Ginoo (Raashul Tandon). Aladdin and Yasmine make their way through a challenging path within a cave and come across a magical lamp. As Aladdin rubs the lamp, Ginoo appears in front of them.

Viewers will witness an all new hip Ginoo with a new *andaaz* and the lovely friendship between Aladdin and Ginoo is set to rekindle. Ginoo takes Aladdin and Yasmine to Baghdad on his magical carpet. As they land in Baghdad, Aladdin is drawn towards a woman who looks like Ammi (Smrita Bansal) but to his disappointment, the woman turns out to be someone else. On his way back to Yasmine, Aladdin bumps into Ammi and their paths meet for the first time.

How will this first meet between Aladdin and Ammi transpire?

Siddharth Nigam, essaying the role of Shehzada Aladdin said: "Aladdin and Yasmine's journey has begun and unknown to both of them, their fate is bringing them closer to their mission. The turn of events that await them will lead Aladdin and Yasmine towards Baghdad, while reuniting them with an old friend in a new *avatar*, Ginoo. The familiar banter and rapport between Ginoo and Aladdin promises to leave our audience and fans in splits. Aladdin will also come face to face with Ammi and it will be really interesting for the viewers to watch how it unfolds. So, keep watching *Aladdin: Naam Toh Suna Hoga*."

'This is the biggest show for me'

SAHIL UPPAL, who plays Omkar Sanyal in Colors' *Pinjara Khoobsurti Ka*, tells MUSBA HASHMI about his role, how excited he was for the show and that he never felt like quitting

■ What is your role in Pinjara Khoobsurti Ka?

I play Omkar Sanyal, a mine owner. The show talks about his rags to riches story. He is obsessed with beauty. He can't tolerate anything which is black even his house is painted in white. The reason being his dark childhood due to poverty. Now he wants everything beautiful in life be it anything, even his love. When he first sees Mayura, he finds her beautiful and he wants her. It was not love at first sight, but more like 'I want her'. That's how he is, if he wants something, he wants it by hook or by crook. He is not a negative character though. A lot of people treat him like God because of his kind nature. He never disrespects anyone. So, the character has shades of grey.

■ What made you say yes?

It's been seven years since I am in this industry and never ever I felt that a project is mine during auditions. This is the first time that I was sure that this role is mine when I auditioned for it. I am a positive person but realistic as well. It's not as if I am over-confident, but this time my gut feeling said that the role is mine. After the auditions, I have done six mock shoots, but my confidence level was intact. I got finalised just before the lockdown and we started shooting in August.

■ When the lockdown was announced, were you apprehensive about the project?

Yes. I was scared when will things get back to normal and we would start shooting because I was very excited about this show. It's the biggest show for me till date. But I was happy that I had work and knew we would begin shooting soon. It was not like that I have to search for work post lockdown, so I was looking forward to it and worked hard for it. I was never laid back by the halt.

■ How was the journey from Noida to Mumbai?

First of all, I am grateful that I got a chance to be a part of this industry and keep working. The career graph is slow but I believe in slow and steady always wins the race. It all started with an ad. Before that I was shy and introvert and I never thought that I would pursue acting. When I was in college, I came across this ad on radio about Pantaloons Fashion Hunt. So I enrolled myself into it. I was selected in the top 10 boys of Delhi and fortunately I won the competition. Then the competition happened pan India and I became the second runner-up. Disha Patani and Parth Samthaan were also a part of that competition and Disha emerged as the



WHEN THE LOCKDOWN HAPPENED, I WAS SCARED THAT WHEN WILL THINGS GET BACK TO NORMAL AND WE WOULD START SHOOTING BECAUSE I WAS VERY EXCITED ABOUT THIS SHOW. BUT I WAS HAPPY THAT I HAD WORK AND I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT. I WAS CONTINUOUSLY WORKING HARD FOR IT AND WAS NEVER LAID BACK BY THE HALT

winner, while Parth became the first runner-up. Then onwards I realised that I could do something in this industry because let's be honest almost everyone is fascinated by this industry and wants to be a hero. Moreover, my father was extremely supportive. He always encouraged me to join an acting skill. This is how I started modelling in Delhi. After six months, I got an ad offer from Mumbai and also I was told that if I want to make a career in this field then I should fly to Mumbai. So I did. In December, 2013, I was in Mumbai and got a reality check that the industry is not how it looks like from outside. Hence, in the initial days I worked hard. I gave around six auditions every day. My first show happened after around two years and since then acting became a passion.

■ Did you ever feel like quitting?

Not really. Because when I started to get shortlisted, I knew that I have something in me otherwise someone wouldn't choose me in a crowd of hundred people. Even when I went for mock shoots, there were only three actors other than me. So it is a big thing in itself. I had that hope and belief that I would be getting an offer sooner or later. Also because in those two years, I had already given lots of auditions, so I had that confidence in me. But yes, it felt bad when I was shortlisted, but was not selected for a role.

HATEFUL CONTENT

Delhi Assembly panel summons FB India's vice president

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Consequent to the incriminatory material obtained through witness depositions during the previous proceedings of the committee as well as careful deliberation of the material on record, the Delhi Legislative Assembly Committee for Peace and Harmony under the Chairmanship of Raghav Chadha has decided to call upon Ajit Mohan, vice-president and Managing Director of Facebook India to determine the veracity of the allegations levelled against the social media platform.

sent to him for appearance before the committee on September 15 with a view to carry out the relevant proceedings. Some complaints shall also be examined on the same day.

The committee has prima facie found Facebook complicit in Delhi riots of February 2020 on the premise of incriminatory material produced on record by the witnesses as well as their scathing depositions before the Committee. Further, the committee has also urged the need of an independent investigation leading to the filing of a supplementary charge sheet in the ongoing cases related to Delhi riots on the

basis of supportive and corroborative material during the course of purported investigation. Several experts as well as independent witnesses have been thoroughly examined by the committee in its previous proceedings.

"Witness Awesh Tiwari had asserted in his deposition that complicity of Facebook is not only limited to aggravation in Delhi riots but has been consistently sheltering hate against minority communities since a very long time, it said in a statement, adding that Tiwari had further asserted before the committee that Facebook essentially refuses to take down the hateful and divisive content



of its platform but at the same time deliberately removes or lowers the visibility of content which aims at promoting unity

and amity amongst communities.

Second witness Kunal Purohit, an independent jour-

nalist and a researcher had pointed out that amidst the commercial transaction and rapid government collaboration between the ruling dispensation and Facebook, there is an apparent conflict of interest due to which Facebook flagrantly refuses to apply its restrictive policies to content displayed in favour of the Ruling dispensation.

Purohit had also asserted that whatever has happened on WhatsApp to foment and instigate hate against certain community, prior to Delhi riots, was premeditated and pre-designed in a planned manner which gradually spread all over Facebook as well, it said.

Further, it was also unanimously deposed that a free and fair investigation must be carried to ascertain the roles and complicity of alleged delinquent officials along with devious elements with ascertain their alleged complicity and roles, so as to impute their alleged culpability in the alleged orchestration of to attribute culpability of Facebook in Delhi riots.

The Delhi Legislative Assembly's committee on Peace and Harmony had received multiple complaints addressed to its Chairman Raghav Chadha alleging that despite its comprehensive policies and regulations on

curbing unabated dissemination of hateful and offensive content in place.

Taking into account the gravity of the allegations put forth in the complaints and its possible repercussions, the committee had firmly decided to delve into the issue and apprehend any devious conspiracy and unholy nexus of rabble-rousers with oblique motives to wreak havoc in the country and more particularly in Delhi by disturbing peace and tranquility as well as instigating intense communal disharmony, and thus the proceedings were initiated and are expedited in order to put this issue to its logical conclusion.

Covid medical equipment scam in UP, alleges AAP

Seeks probe

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Am Aadmi Party (AAP) Chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj on Saturday said that a massive scam took place in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh in the name of procurement of medical items during Covid-19.

Bhardwaj demanded an independent probe into the matter. Bhardwaj said that in Uttar Pradesh, corruption was being done by increasing the price of thermometers and oximeters by 500, 400 and 300 per cent at 65 districts.

"The BJP MLA Devmani Dwivedi wrote a letter to CM Yogi's Principal Secretary regarding the procurement of medical items at a much higher price at Sultanpur. Bhardwaj said that Sultanpur District Magistrate immediately held a press conference, stating the purchase of medical equipment followed the instructions of the government and rubbished the allegations of BJP MLA," he said.

Bhardwaj said that screenshots of WhatsApp sent by the MLA show how the District Magistrates were pressurizing the panchayats to pay the money



for the equipment quickly.

"These are some examples but the same thing is happening in every village of Uttar Pradesh. The oximeters are available within Rs 500 but in BJP-ruled UP these oximeters are being bought at such a higher price to do corruption. How can the BJP government under CM Yogi Adityanath overlook such a massive corruption under his nose," he asked?

Bhardwaj further said, "The CMO of Uttar Pradesh bought a machine called haematology analyser from a company named D N Enterprise, Pratapgarh. This company has sold these haematology analy-

sers which were from a Chinese company. These analysers were sold Rs 3,30,000 per machine. Whereas the UP government's e-marketplace website such machines made in India were available for just Rs 1,45,000 thousand".

"It is ridiculous that the Chief Minister himself constituted a special investigation team of three officers to investigate the corruption case in which the Chief Minister himself is being accused. How can we expect that the officers who were chosen by the UP CM will do an impartial probe? The AAP wants an independent probe on this case," said Bhardwaj.

DTC to start public trial of e-ticketing

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to contain the spread of COVID-19, Minister of Transport Kailash Gahlot has constituted a task force to explore the options of contactless mobile ticketing in buses run by the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC).

The move is taken with an aim to avoid physical contact between bus conductor and commuters during exchange of tickets and cash. Further, on the recommendations of the task force, DTC is conducting an actual trial of contactless mobile ticketing from 14 to 21 September.

"This trial will be conducted on 29 buses of route number 534. To publicize and popularize the contactless ticketing, posters and QR code have been affixed inside these buses explaining the mechanism to download the App and to buy mobile tickets," the DTC said in a statement.

"The pink pass for women commuters can also be acquired from this App instead of paper pass. DTC checking teams have been deployed to physically inspect the trial in the 29 buses on route number 534 on all days of trial and get feedback from the commuters," it said.

Delhi Govt doctors hail CM's anti-dengue drive

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Doctors of Delhi Government hospitals have hailed the efforts of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the second week of the 10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute Anti-Dengue campaign.

The ten weeks long anti-dengue mass awareness campaign on preventing dengue urges people to inspect their houses for signs of stagnant clean water inside their homes or their surroundings, which can lead to the breeding of mosquitoes that spread dengue.

The doctors, who continue to remain the backbone in this fight against Dengue, have come out in support of the anti-dengue campaign and are assuring the citizens that Delhi will cope up with Dengue together.

The Delhi government has been providing free of cost treatment and testing for Dengue in all Delhi government hospitals and has also launched a telephonic and WhatsApp helpline to assist the general public for Dengue.

Kejriwal launched the campaign on September 6 by inspecting his residence for stagnant water to prevent the



breeding of mosquitoes.

Taking to social media, he tweeted, "The people of Delhi had once again started a war against dengue. On the first Sunday of this 10-week massive campaign, I have also changed the clean water accumulated in my house and eliminated the possibility of mosquito-borne diseases. For the next 10 weeks, every Sunday at 10 AM, we need to check our homes for just 10 minutes. Along with saving our families from Dengue, we have to save Delhi from Dengue. I am sure the people of Delhi will defeat dengue this time as well."

The ten weeks long anti-dengue mass awareness campaign on preventing dengue urges people to inspect their houses for signs of stagnant clean water inside their homes or their surroundings, which can lead to the breeding of mosquitoes that spread dengue

Cong councillor beaten up by AAP leader

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress Councillor from the Delhi Cantonment Board Sandeep Tanwar was allegedly beaten by a local AAP leader on Saturday after the former tried to save a jhuggi of a Scheduled Caste family from being demolished in his area.

A complaint is filed by the Tanwar at the Naraina Police Station, and also written to Sushil Kumar, Secretary, National Scheduled Caste Commission, seeking a probe into the assaults, and strictest against the AAP leader.

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar strongly condemned the attack on Congress Councillor and appealed to the Lieutenant Governor and the Police Commissioner to take the strictest action against the AAP leader.

Kumar said that the brutal assault on Tanwar was proof enough that Delhi Chief Minister Arvind's concern for the people living in 48000 jhuggis across railway tracks in Delhi was false, as he was neither their well-wisher nor keen on saving the slum clusters from demolition following a Supreme Court order, he said.

Delhi BJP chief slams AAP Govt for not implementing Ayushman Bharat Yojana

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Adesh Gupta slammed the Kejriwal Government for not implementing Ayushman Bharat Yojana in Delhi.

Why such yojana which provides health insurance of Rs 5 lakh to the poor was stopped from being implemented by the Delhi Government, he asked? "Who is responsible for poor people who died without treatment due to lack of money? Who is responsible for those who could not get treatment," he said.

Gupta said Kejriwal should know that in the States where this scheme has been implemented, more than 1 crore people have taken advantage of it so far. "More than 12.54 crore people have been issued e-cards of Ayushman Bharat Yojana and more than 20 thousand hospitals have been listed," he said.

the Kejriwal government from being implemented in Delhi stopped even such an important scheme. He said that if this scheme were implemented in Delhi, 50 lakh people of 10 lakh families would have benefited directly. "They could have got health insurance of up to Rs 5 lakh under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana in Delhi. Beneficiaries could have got free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh in the Corona period," he said.

Gupta said this is not the first time that the Kejriwal Government has deprived people of their rights. "The Kejriwal government did the same with the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. This scheme was also not allowed to be implemented in Delhi, whose consequences are being faced by 48 thousand slum-dwellers of Delhi today. It is because of the Kejriwal government that about 48000 slum dwellers are about to lose their home," he said.

Police Commissioner holds meet to discuss city's law & order situation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Commissioner, SN Shrivastava on Saturday held a Crime and Covid-19 review meeting in the National Capital to discuss the law and order situation and implementation of Covid guidelines for safety of police personnel deployed across the city.

The CP during the meeting also rewarded personnel from

Outer, West, Southeast and Rohini districts in recognition of courageous and outstanding works done by them during the past few days.

The CP also briefed all the Assistant Commissioners of Police (ACsP), Station House Officers (SHOs), ATOs and Inspectors of the districts and Transport Range and emphasised them to address all the complainants who wish to meet

them, through video-conferencing.

The CP directed them to redress the complaints swiftly and conduct empathetically with victims. The CP further also directed them to ensure safety and convenience of senior citizens who are staying alone.

"Beat officers should be directed to meet them regularly to look for their well being and safety," the CP said.



Pay ₹15 lakh or will blow up wedding hall: Man arrested after 5 yrs of issuing threat

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 36-year-old man who was absconding since 2015 after threatening to bomb a marriage pandal if the owner failed to pay Rs. 15 lakh has been arrested from Rampur in Uttar Pradesh.

Police said that the accused identified as Vishnu was declared as a proclaimed offender in the case by a Delhi court in 2011. He was arrested from his village in Rampur district of Uttar Pradesh on September 4 with the help of technical surveillance.

According to a senior police official, the matter was reported to police in 2015 where in the complainant, Pranab Seth, a resident of Roop Nagar had stated that he was running a marriage pandal near wave cinema in the name of Janak Villa.

"In his complaint, Seth stated that the accused had been threatening to blast his pandal if he failed to pay Rs. 15 lakh," said the senior police official.

"Based on his complaint, a case under section 384 (Punishment for extortion) and 506 (Criminal Intimidation) of Indian Penal Code was registered at Rajouri Garden police station and an investigation was initiated, following which the accused absconded," said police.

Sisodia: Providing quality education to all is dream of Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Providing quality education to all is the dream of the Delhi Government and our agenda will be to focus on higher, technical and skill education in the next few years, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Saturday.

Sisodia was speaking at the annual day celebrations of Vivekanand College in East Delhi in its golden jubilee year through video conferencing. While congratulating the staff for the completion of 50 years, he said, "It was a brave effort to start a women's only college 50 years ago in this area and successfully running it for such a long duration." The college was established in 1970 and is one of the most sought after colleges in the Trans-Yamuna area for women education.

The Deputy Chief Minister said "I congratulate all the staff members, students, and parents who were a part of this journey. Vivekananda College under the able leadership of Principal Dr Hina Nandrajog is well positioned to build on the excellent foundation of the last 50 years to build a world class institution. In the future, when the college will be celebrating its 100 year anniversary, the second fifty years that took shape under this team's vision should be considered as significant as the first 50 years."

IGI Airport gets India's 1st airport Covid testing facility

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) launched India's first on-site Coronavirus testing laboratory on Saturday at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) for arriving international passengers.

For this venture DIAL has collaborated with Genestrings Diagnostic Centre - a Delhi-based laboratory, which is currently associated with Delhi government to test COVID-19 samples.

The facility ensures a safe journey of all passengers entering the city or scheduled for domestic connecting flights. The laboratory will have

walk-in option to get the test conducted after landing at Delhi Airport. However, International arrival passengers who would travel without a valid COVID negative certificate can opt this facility online as well and book a slot in advance.

A DIAL spokesperson said Passengers will have to provide with their details such as, name, contact details and valid ID proof while applying online for this facility. They will also have an option to modify the slot in case they are not able to reach at the scheduled appointment time. Besides, passengers belonging to the same family can book a single slot all together through online. Interestingly, results of

samples collected at the laboratory will be declared within 4-6 hours to the incoming passengers. With a negative RT-PCR test report, passengers can continue their onward journey with confidence.

Until the results are confirmed, passengers will be isolated at the waiting lounge or may opt to stay in a hotel. In case of a positive result, passengers will be processed in line with applicable ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) protocols by the State authorities.

This will help the authorities concerned to avoid passengers affected with the disease from coming in close contact with those already having RT-PCR negative report.

Constructed in 3500 square feet area at multi-level car parking (MLCP) of Terminal 3, this is the first such arrangement among Indian airports. Additionally, sample collection stations have been positioned near the arrival pier.

As the Government of India is preparing to open the sky with the rising air bubbles, the laboratory will be a key element in facilitating a safe journey for all the passengers.

Based on Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) guidelines, international arriving passengers having RT-PCR negative certificate would be exempted from institutional quarantine granted by the State authorities

and will be allowed for onward air journey. This exemption will be basis negative RT-PCR test report for which the test has to be conducted within 96 hours before undertaking the journey.

However, if the passenger could not get the same done within the desired time limit before boarding a flight from abroad, the RT-PCR testing facility at Delhi Airport will allow them to get tested once they have landed at Delhi Airport.

"A COVID-19 negative report will allow these passengers to take a connecting flight to other domestic destinations in India without needing to be quarantined in the city," DIAL official said.

Videh Kumar Jaipuria, CEO-DIAL, said: "Delhi Airport continues to be a hub for international travellers even during the pandemic. The pilot initiative has been taken to ensure testing of all arriving international transfer passengers scheduled to board a domestic connecting flight post arrival in Delhi Airport. The COVID-19 testing laboratory at Delhi Airport has been adequately equipped for testing and sample collection that will be conducted in compliance with the protocols established by ICMR and NABL. We are also developing online facility of RT-PCR test for the passengers to book a slot in advance that will help smoothen their onward journey."



COVID-19 Don't delay visit to hospital, patients told

Puducherry: People with any symptoms of COVID-19 should visit hospital without delay so that their lives can be saved, Puducherry Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner A Anbarasu said on Saturday. There were instances of patients going to hospitals at the last minute and dying despite the treatment given to them, he told reporters. Stating that government and privately-run medical college hospitals were equipped with necessary infrastructure and manpower to treat coronavirus patients, he said that with the increase in testing facilities, more than 3,700 samples were tested on Friday leading to identification of 419 positive cases. Anbarasu, who is also the Development Commissioner, said primary health centres and also sub-centres in rural areas had been geared up with facilities to test samples. Each of the sub-centres would collect 100

samples a day and test them. While rural areas had 15 such centres there were six centres in urban areas. He said 25 mobile units were also pressed into service and 20 more such units would be introduced soon to collect samples. In addition to the Indira Gandhi Government Medical College Hospital, the ICMR-sponsored Vector Control Research Centre and JIPMER and most of the private medical college hospitals were also doing the testing and Puducherry had set a record of doing more examination of samples, Anbarasu said. The number of beds were also being increased in government hospitals and in private institutions. While government hospitals would have more than 2,100 beds additionally, private colleges would have five more beds soon. "We are providing the best food to COVID-19 patients

taking treatment in government institutions," he added. Oxygen beds were also adequately available. Anbarasu said to keep a track on those resorting to self-medication the government had asked the medical shops to collect names and phone numbers of people purchasing anti-fever medicines. Doctors practising privately should also refer patients approaching them with complaints of fever, cold and other complications to hospitals as they might be potential COVID-19 patients. The government was inclined to bring down the positivity rate as much as possible. Health Secretary T Arun said door-to-door surveillance with the participation of the members of self-help groups in rural areas was part of efforts to assess the health condition of residents and to protect them from the pandemic. **PTI**

NEET: Another medical aspirant kills self in TN

Madurai (TN): A 19-year-old medical aspirant died of alleged suicide here on Saturday, apparently 'apprehensive' over the National Entrance cum Eligibility Test (NEET), police said. The victim, identified as Jothisri Durga, daughter of a police Sub-Inspector, was found hanging at her residence and a purported suicide note left behind by her said she was 'apprehensive about NEET though others had high 'hopes' on her, they said. The death, which comes days after another medical aspirant in Ariyalur in the state also allegedly committed suicide, drew sharp responses from Tamil Nadu political parties opposed to NEET, even as Chief Minister K Palaniswami and his deputy O Panneerselvam of the ruling AIADMK expressed shock over the incident. DMK president M K Stalin said NEET "is not an exam at all." Talking to Twitter, Palaniswami expressed grief over the "sad" incident and said students have many avenues to

taste success and resorting to such extreme steps was distressing. "It is distressing to see students, the hope for the future, taking such steps," he said. Condoling the girl's death, he expressed his sympathies with the family. In a tweet, Panneerselvam expressed grief over such incidents concerning the students, who are the "pillars of the future." "Students should learn to face any situation with guts and parents should aid them in this," the deputy CM, also the AIADMK Coordinator, said. State Revenue Minister R B Udhayakumar visited the family and consoled them. Stalin, Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, expressed shock over the alleged suicide, but said killing oneself was not the solution. "We can realise from the death of Anitha (a medical aspirant who died of suicide in 2017) to Jothisri Durga that NEET is severely affecting students," he said in a tweet. **PTI**

ED seizes ₹89 cr assets of DMK MP Jagathrakshakan for FEMA violations

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI
The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday seized properties worth Rs 89.19 crore from DMK's Lok Sabha member S Jagathrakshakan and his family members on charges of violation of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). The DMK leader represents Arakkonam constituency in Tamil Nadu in the Lok Sabha. According to a statement by the ED, the agency had received information that Jagathrakshakan had acquired foreign security in violation of FEMA. The ED found that Jagathrakshakan and his son Sundeeb Aanand had subscribed to 70,00,000 shares and 20,00,000 shares respectively (valued at Singapore \$1 per share) of Silver Park International Pte Ltd, Singapore, without Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) prior approval. "Further investigation in the case is in progress.

"Further, these unauthorised acquired shares were transferred by Jagathrakshakan to his family members in contravention of Section 4 of FEMA read with Regulation 3 of the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Foreign Security) Regulations, 2004," said the ED. Citing Section 37 of FEMA, the ED said it has the power to seize property in India whose value is equivalent to the value of foreign exchange, foreign security, or any immovable property situated outside India. As a result, the immovable properties in the form of agricultural land, plots, houses and others etc in Tamil Nadu and movable properties in the form of balance in bank accounts and shares totalling Rs 89.19 crore held by Jagathrakshakan and his family members were seized, said the ED.

Karnataka adds 9,140 fresh cases

PTI ■ BENGALURU
Karnataka on Saturday reported 9,140 new coronavirus cases taking the total number of infections to 4,49,551 while the death toll touched 7,161 with 94 fatalities, the Health department said. The total infections comprised 3,44,556 discharges including 9,557 on Saturday whereas there were 97,815 active cases in the state including 795 in the ICU, the department said in a statement. The spike in cases was led by Bengaluru Urban district, which recorded 3,552 fresh infections and 21 deaths. The city has cumulatively reported 1,67,183 cases and 2,391 deaths due to the coronavirus. There were 40,929 active cases including 278 in the ICU. There were cumulatively 1,23,862 discharges in the city including 3,538 on Saturday. Mysuru was the second biggest contributor after Bengaluru Urban. The city reported 637 fresh cases and 14 deaths on Saturday. Cumulatively, 25,086 coronavirus cases and 576 deaths have been reported here since the outbreak of the disease. According to the bulletin, 401 fresh cases were reported in Dakshina Kannada district, 366 in Ballari, 324 in Hassan, 304 in Tumakuru, 267 in Davangere, 239 in Dharwad, 222 in Kalaburagi, 213 in Haveri, 211 in Bengaluru Rural district and 201 in Belagavi. Cases were also reported in Bagalkote, Bidar, Chikaballapur, Chikmagalur, Chitradurga, Mandya, Raichur, Koppal and other districts.

2,278 new cases push Telangana's coronavirus tally to over 1.54 lakh

Hyderabad: Telangana reported 2,278 more coronavirus cases on Saturday, pushing its total tally over 1.54 lakh, even as 2,458 more recoveries were recorded in the state. With the new cases, the total tally mounted to 1,54,880, of which 1,21,925 have recovered. Ten more deaths during the last 24 hours took Telangana's COVID-19 death toll to 950. Health officials said the state's fatality rate remained 0.61 per cent, well below the national average of 1.66 per cent. Of the all fatalities, 53.87 per cent had comorbidities. While Hyderabad and neighbouring districts continued to account for the maxi-

mum cases, the surge in other districts remained a concern for the authorities. During the last 24 hours till 8 pm on Friday, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) reported 331 new cases. Neighbouring districts of Rangareddy and Medchal Malkajgiri reported 184 and 150 cases respectively. Sangareddy, another district bordering the state capital, recorded 62 cases. Outside Hyderabad and surrounding districts, Nalgonda recorded the highest single-day jump of 126 cases. Karimnagar added 121 cases, Khammam 98, Warangal Urban 91, and Siddipet and Nizamabad 89 each. **IANS**

Raghuvansh Prasad Singh on...

From Page 1
Singh, who has been admitted at AIIMS, Delhi for about a week after developing post-Covid complications, resigned from the primary membership of the party on Thursday and followed it up with an open letter, a day later, addressed to Prasad's arch rival and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, triggering speculations about his future moves. A staunch loyalist of the RJD supremo whom he supported in thick and thin, Singh ran afloat with the party a few months ago when murmurs about mafia don turned politician Rama Singh, his rival in Vaishali Lok Sabha constituency, led him to resign from the post of the national vice-president. A cabinet colleague of Prasad in the Manmohan Singh government, Singh thereby stymied Rama Singh's

entry into the party and although he did not give up the primary membership at that time, he stayed away from the RJDs day to day affairs which was attributed, in part, to his ill-health. On Thursday, his handwritten note addressed to Prasad declaring that he has had enough went viral on the social media. On the same day, the RJD supremo sent a letter to Singh from Ranchi, making an emotional appeal to his companion for over three decades not to leave the party. On Friday, Singh wrote another letter from hospital, this time addressed to Nitish Kumar, which was seen as his attempt to cosy up to the chief minister, who heads the JD(U) and has been a fierce rival of the RJD supremo for decades. Often called the architect of the MNREGA scheme, which was

floated when he was the Union minister for rural development, Singh has been in political wilderness for some time, having lost two consecutive elections in 2014 and 2019 from Vaishali which he has represented in the Lok Sabha a record five times. His relations with Tejashwi Yadav, younger son and heir apparent of Lalu Prasad, turned sour when he started pitching for Nitish Kumar back to the Grand Alliance helmed by the RJD, after the party received its worst-ever drubbing in the Lok Sabha polls last year. The JD(U) is said to be keen to win over Singh, a highly respected Rajput leader, in the run up to the assembly elections, and speculations have been rife that it is mooting a legislative council berth for the former Union ministers son. **PTI**

Equipment worth lakhs of rupees vandalised at Bengal institute

PTI ■ KOLKATA
Unidentified persons have vandalised equipment worth "lakhs of rupees" at a premier teachers' training institute in Kolkata, its spokesperson said on Saturday. The incident took place at the West Bengal University of Teachers' Training, Education Planning and Administration in Ballygunge area of the city. The institute authorities on Saturday morning found several rooms across four floors of the building ransacked and equipment vandalised, she said. The Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) examinations are scheduled to be held online from October 1. All the machines in the server room were destroyed, while the laboratory and the auditorium also bore the brunt of the attack that possibly took place on Saturday night, the spokesperson told reporters. "We think more than one person was involved. They must have scaled the boundary wall to enter the institute but we are clueless about their motive," she said. As per preliminary assessment, the damage would be of lakhs of rupees, the spokesperson added. The institute authorities have filed a police complaint.

Delhiites... 22,084 test +ve, 391 die in Maha

From Page 1
"We have started the doorstep delivery scheme. It will take some time to stabilise since it was suspended for a considerable time during the lockdown. "Currently, all the 100 services are available, but people do not have proper information about it. We will launch a publicity campaign next week," Delhi Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot told **PTI**. The 100 services to be provided at the doorstep of Delhiites include issuance of caste certificates, domicile certificates and marriage certificates, sewer connections, duplicate ration cards, learner's license, duplicate vehicle registration certificates and renewal of driving licence. The Government has already hired a private company through which its services will be provided at the doorstep of the citizens and the company has hired "mobile sahayaks" (facilitators). A "mobile sahayak" will be equipped with all necessary equipment such as biometric devices and a camera. If a person wants to apply for a driving licence, he will have to call 1076 and give the details. Thereafter, the agency will assign a "mobile sahayak", who will visit the applicant's residence and get the required details and documents. The applicant has to pay Rs 50 more to avail the doorstep delivery of public services. The government has also set up a feedback system for the citizens availing the doorstep delivery of public services.

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:
In a drop in the number of infections and fatalities, Maharashtra on Saturday recorded 22,084 infected cases - lower than all-time high of 24,886 cases recorded on Friday, while the number of deaths dropped from 442 to 391 during the last 24 hours. With 22,084 fresh infections, the total number of positive cases jumped in the state jumped from 10,15,681 to 10,37,765. Similarly, with 391 fresh deaths, the total number of deaths in the state mounted to 29,115. Of the total 391 deaths, Pune topped the list with 61 deaths, while there were 42 deaths in Mumbai, 40 in Nagpur, 31 in Sangli, 23 in Kolhapur, 22 in Solapur, 18 in Satara, 17 in Ahmednagar, 16 each in Thane and Nanded, 12 in Aurangabad and 10 each in Raigad and Nashik. In the lower range, there were 9 deaths

in Palghar, 8 in Amravati, 7 each in Jalgaon and Sindhudurg, 6 in Parbhani, 5 each in Dhule and Latur, Akola, 4 each in Osmanabad and Yavatmal, 2 each in Ratnagiri, Beed and Washim and one death each in Nandurbar, Bhandara, Gondia and Gadchiroli. In addition, three persons from other states/ countries died in Maharashtra. In a couple of notable features, the districts of Nagpur, Sangli, Kolhapur, Solapur, Satara, Ahmednagar, Nanded and Aurangabad witnessed sharp spikes in deaths, while as many as five districts in the state reported zero deaths. With 42 deaths Mumbai's Covid-19 toll rose from 8,067 to 8109, while the infected cases increased from 165,306 to 1,67,656. Pune district with 2,28,416 infected cases continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra. The number of deaths in Pune increased from 4693 to 4754.

Thane district remained on the third spot -- after Pune and Mumbai - with 1,54,994 total cases, while the pandemic toll rose from 4118 to 4134. In a related development, as many as 13,489 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, went up to 7,28,512. The recovery rate stood at 70.2 per cent. The mortality rate in the state is 2.81 per cent. The state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 2,78,768. Out of 51,64,840 samples sent to laboratories, 10,37,765 have tested positive (20.09 per cent) for COVID-19 until Saturday. Currently, 16,52,955 people are in home quarantine while 38,275 people are in institutional quarantine.

PTI ■ JAMMU
A four-year-old boy who died at a hospital here on Saturday after falling from the roof of his house tested positive for COVID-19, officials said. After the boy's death at the hospital, his family members protested alleging that there was negligence during treatment, they said. The boy fell down from the roof of his house at Janipur locality of the city and was rushed to a nearby hospital in Sarwal, from where he was referred to Government Medical College (GMC), the

Jammu: Boy dies after falling off roof, tests +ve for corona

officials said. As the boy had tested positive for the COVID-19, his body was not handed over to his family who protested outside the hospital building for several hours, alleging that no ventilator was available at the hospital. The family also claimed that the boy did not show any COVID-related symptom and was in good health before he fell from the roof while playing cricket. The body of the deceased was later laid to rest at a Sarwal graveyard following the set COVID-19 protocol, the official said.

Public Notice
Known to all that my client Mr. Mahesh Jaiswal is purchasing the Third Floor with Roof Right of Property No. XVII/2390, Kharsa No. 59, Village Shadipur, New Delhi-110008, from Smt. Savita Bawa, Smt. Vinita Bawa and Smt. Rekha Rani and mortgaging with New Habitat Housing Finance Ltd. And said Smt. Savita Bawa, Smt. Vinita Bawa and Smt. Rekha Rani purchased the above said property from Smt. Poonam Mehadrathi for self and as GPA of her son Gautam Mehadrathi and daughter Rupali Kapoor who are the legal heirs of deceased Vijay Kumar. And if any person is having any objection, right or claim in respect of the said property in capacity of legal heirs of said Vijay Kumar, in any manner or said mortgage then he may contact the undersigned within 8 days of publication of this notice.
For AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760, Dwaika Court, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
Mr. 9899013918

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Wahhaj Ahmad Ashraf, S/O. Siraj Ahmad, R/o. F-8/2, Street No.6, Zakir Nagar, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name as Chowdhry Wahhaj Ahmad Ashraf for all purposes.
PD(8738)A

After Kangana ...

From Page 1
The airline will be taking action against reporters and camera persons who were present in the flights. The order stated that as per Rule 13 of the Aircraft Rules 1937, no person is allowed to take any photographs inside a flight except when permission is granted by the DGCA or the Civil Aviation Ministry. "In spite of these regulations, it has been noted that at times, the airlines have failed to follow these stipulations primarily because of lack of diligence on their part," the order noted. "Needless to say that such deviations result in a compromise in maintaining the highest standards of safety and

therefore is not to be allowed," it mentioned. Therefore, the order said if any incident of photography takes place inside any flight, that scheduled flight will be suspended for a period of two weeks and it will be "restored only after the airline has taken all the necessary punitive action against those responsible for the violation". As per the DGCA rules, an airline can put an "unruly passenger" on its "no-fly list" for a certain period of time after an internal enquiry. According to a video of the incident that took place inside Wednesday's flight, reporters and cameramen were jostling and bunching up to get a comment from Kangana, who was sitting in one of the front rows of the plane.

From Page 1
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: "In 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 gms of marijuana, including imported marijuana joints and capsules, Rs 1,85,200 in cash and 5,000 Indonesian Rupian". The quantity of LSD that has been recovered is commer-

NCB raids in Mumbai, Goa after Rhea spills drug beans

From Page 1
Rhea - whose brother Showik was arrested along with late actor's house manager Samuel Miranda by the NCB on September 5 in connection with the Sushant death-related drug case - had earlier been questioned by the NCB her about the WhatsApp exchanges between Rhea and others that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had shared with the CBI and NCB alleging "procuring and usage" of drugs. It was on the basis of this WhatsApp message trail that the ED had joined the investigations on August 26 into the allegations that Sushant's girlfriend Rhea used to procure banned drugs illegally from dealers and administer them to Sushant, who was found dead in his rented duplex flat in Mount Blanc at Bandra's Carter Road in north-west Mumbai on June 14. On her part, Rhea had earlier denied consuming drugs and said that she was prepared for a drug test anytime. She, however, admitted that Sushant used to take marijuana and despite her efforts, she could not control him.

Nadda, Nitish...
Industries will be set up here, there is immense scope of setting up agriculture-based industries here. Food processing, fish farming, among others can be started here," he said. Nadda on Saturday visited Muzaffarpur as part of BJP's 'atmanirbhar' campaign and met women farmers who have evolved newer ways of self-reliance in agriculture and fishing production.

Maharashtra may surpass...

From Page 1
The other worst-hit countries are Peru at the fifth position with a tally of 7,16,670 followed by Columbia with 7,02,088 cases, Mexico (6,58,299), South Africa (6,46,398), Spain (5,76, 697) and Argentina (5,35,706) at the tenth spot. On Saturday, Maharashtra reported 22,084 new Covid-19 cases, 13,489 discharges, and 391 deaths. The total number of cases in the State rises to 10,37,765 including 7,28,512 recoveries and 2,79,768 active cases. Mumbai alone reported 2,321 new cases and 42 deaths. The total number of positive cases increases to 1,67,608 in Mumbai, including 29,131 active cases, 1,30,016 recovered cases and 8,106 deaths. Meanwhile, Delhi reported 4,321 new cases and 28 deaths in the last 24 hours. As many as 3,141 people recovered during this period while the total cases in the national Capital rose to 2,14,069 including 4,715 deaths. The number of active cases stood at 28,059.

1. अल्प कालीन निविदा संख्या टी-81/2020-21 - विद्युत पारिषद खण्ड, खुर्जा के अन्तर्गत 220 केंडीओ उपकेंद्र, डिब्राई पर अनुसंधान सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2,000/- (निविदा प्रयत्न शुल्क ₹ 590/-) (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 24.09.2020
2. निविदा संख्या टी-82/2020-21 - विद्युत पारिषद खण्ड, बुलन्दशहर के अन्तर्गत उपखण्ड अधिकारी, विद्युत पारिषद खण्ड, उपखण्ड-ग्राम, बुलन्दशहर हेतु एक नम डीजल बलित वाहन चालक सहित एक वर्ष पर किराये पर रखने सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2,500/- (निविदा प्रयत्न शुल्क ₹ 590/-) (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 01. 10.2020. **3. निविदा संख्या टी-83/2020-21** - विद्युत पारिषद खण्ड, खुर्जा के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न उपकेंद्रों पर अनुसंधान सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2,000/- (निविदा प्रयत्न शुल्क ₹ 590/-) (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 13.10.2020
4. निविदा संख्या टी-84/2020-21 - विद्युत पारिषद खण्ड, बुलन्दशहर के अन्तर्गत 220 केंडीओ उपकेंद्र, सिकन्दराबाद हेतु सामग्री की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2,000/- (निविदा प्रयत्न शुल्क ₹ 590/-) (कर सहित)। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2,000/- (निविदा प्रयत्न शुल्क ₹ 590/-) (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 13.10.2020
5. निविदा संख्या टी-85/2020-21 - विद्युत पारिषद खण्ड, बुलन्दशहर के अन्तर्गत 220 केंडीओ उपकेंद्र, सिकन्दराबाद हेतु सामग्री की आपूर्ति। धरोहर राशि ₹ 2,000/- (निविदा प्रयत्न शुल्क ₹ 590/-) (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 13.10.2020
कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउनलोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग ऑन करें।
अधिकांश जिल्लियां, विद्युत पारिषद संकलन 03090402/030904010, 400 केंडीओ उपकेंद्र, पाली, ग्रेटर नोएडा। प्रक्रिया-1459 विभाग/03/सेन्ना/7-181 to 85/2020-21 दिनांक - 10.09.2020, "राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाय"

Chola
Enter a better life

Cholamandam Investment and Finance Company Limited
Corporate Office: No.2, Dare House, 1st Floor, NSC Bose Road, Chennai - 600 001.
Branch Office: 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to ROMIT MANCHANDA and RAJNI MANCHANDA Loan Account X0HEDHE00001369165 & X0HEEDL00001561671 that Cholamandam InvestmentAnd Finance Company Limited has taken physical possession of its secured asset bearing Addressing 408 sq. Yds., bearing build up area of 2055 sq.ft., with roof and terrace rights, third floor, property bearing no. C-193,(Plot no 193), Block-C, situated in the layout plan of Vivek Vihar, Phase-1, New Delhi through the order of CMM court. In the said premises, some belongings of the borrowers is lying in the above property, which we have removed while giving physical possession to the auction purchaser and moved to warehouse. Cost of Rs 43,227/- per month is occurred on said goods so concerned is hereby informed to remove it and contact to branch within in seven days from the published of this notice failing which we shall dispose of the belongings as unidentified and unclaimed property without any further notice.
Place: Delhi/NCR Date : 13-09-2020 Sd/- Authorised Officer Cholamandam Investment and Finance Company Limited

Afghan sovereignty must be upheld: Jaishankar



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As negotiations commenced on Saturday in Doha for bringing peace to strife-torn Afghanistan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said here the process must respect sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country. He also hoped that its territory will not be used for anti-India activities. In a virtual address on the inaugural intra-Afghan peace negotiations, Jaishankar said the peace process must promote human rights and democracy, ensure interest of minorities, women and the vulnerable sections, and "effectively" address violence across the country. US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo also participated in the inaugural event. Giving a gist of his address in a series of tweets, Jaishankar also reaffirmed India's long-held position that the peace process should be "Afghan-

led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled". Outlining New Delhi's approach to Afghanistan, he said "the friendship of our peoples is a testimony to our history with Afghanistan. No part of Afghanistan is untouched by our 400-plus development projects. Confident that this civilisational relationship will continue to grow", he said. Last month, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani agreed to release 400 Taliban prisoners, paving the way for the beginning of the long-awaited peace process aimed at ending nearly two-decades of conflict in the war-torn country. India has been a major stakeholder in peace and stability of Afghanistan. It has already invested USD two billion in aid and reconstruction activities in the country. It has been backing a national peace and reconciliation process which is Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled. Moreover, India was keenly following the evolving political situation after the US inked a peace deal with the Taliban in February. The deal provided for the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, effectively drawing curtains to Washington's 18-year war in the country. The US has lost over 2,400 soldiers in Afghanistan since late 2001. India has all along maintained that care should be taken to ensure that any such process does not lead to any "ungoverned spaces" where terrorists and their proxies can relocate. It also called upon all sections of the political spectrum in Afghanistan to work together to meet the aspirations of all people in that country including those from the minority community for a prosperous and safe future. The external affairs ministry said Jaishankar's participation was in response to an invitation extended to him by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar, Mohammad bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani. A senior official delegation led by J P Singh, Joint Secretary (PAI) in the Ministry of External Affairs participated in the inaugural ceremony.

Tomato costlier than apple, prices soar up to ₹85-100/kg

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Apple is cheaper than tomatoes in the retail market. Tomato retail prices on Saturday skyrocketed to ₹85-100 per kg depending on the quality and the residential colonies in parts of India due to disruption in supply from growing areas due to floods, landslides and other reasons. According to the ministry of consumer affairs data, tomato prices have touched ₹100 a kg in Aizwal, Itanagar, Tura and Imphal while apple is being sold at ₹50-60 in the markets. Most of the vegetables are being sold at ₹60-70 across India while banana retail prices are ruling ₹40-50 a dozen; Pomegranate at ₹50 a kg and Papaya at ₹30-40 a kg. In Delhi, Mother Dairy's Safal vegetable outlets were selling tomatoes at ₹78/kg, e-tailer Grofers at ₹74-75/kg and Big Basket at up to Rs 60 per kg while vendors in unorganised market are selling it at ₹80-85 per kg. At Azadpur mandi, Asia's largest fruits and vegetable wholesale market, tomato prices were ruling at ₹40-60 per



kg, according to trade data. According to tomato association president Ashok Kaushik, the situation is expected to come to normal in the next 20-25 days. "Normally, 70-80 trucks loaded with tomatoes would arrive in mandis regularly, which has decreased to 25-30 trucks since July end. The new crop of Maharashtra and Karnataka is yet to arrive in the market and then only the prices of tomatoes will cool down," said a wholesale vendor from Ghazipur mandi in Delhi. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh are the states with deficit tomato production. The country produces about 19.73 million tonnes of tomato annually, while the consumption is about 11.51 million tonnes, as per the ministry of consumer affairs data. "During the lockdown, big retailers, restaurants, catering were all closed, which first brought down the prices of the produce and thereafter the supply. Now, the demand has been growing on a daily basis, but the supply remains the same," said Pradeep Sonkar of Bandil Wholesale market from West Bengal. Tomato prices have been firm since June and were ruling in the range of ₹50-60 per kg depending on the variety till the last few weeks. The rates have again shot up since July end on reports of lower arrival of the new crop from key growing States. Not only tomatoes, all vegetables including are pinching the common man during Covid 19 when people are facing salary cut and loss of jobs across India. Potato retail prices have touched ₹40 a kg in several States.

Congress set to oppose farmer-related Ordinances in Monsoon Session

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress will oppose at least four ordinances, including the three related to farmers, in the monsoon session of Parliament beginning Monday. The Ordinances likely to be replaced are The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020, The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 and The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020. The main Opposition party will oppose it in both Houses of Parliament. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said there are several errors in The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020. Alleging that the Ordinances would subjugate the farmers "at the altar of a handful of crony capitalists" and were a "death knell" for

agriculture, the party asserted that it will oppose the legislation both inside and outside Parliament and reach out to like-minded parties to put up a joint resistance on the issue. The Modi Government has promulgated 11 ordinances and will seek to replace them with bills in the forthcoming session that starts from September 14. An ordinance has a shelf life of six months and needs Parliament's approval to make the law permanent. The amendments in the farm-related laws were rolled out in June to help farmers amid the tough pandemic crisis. The Ordinance aimed to improve upon the country's farm sector as the Centre changed the six-decade-old Essential Commodities Act and moved the other two ordinances to remove all restrictions on farm trade from while guaranteeing a legal framework for pre-agreed prices to farmers.

Covaxin's animal trial gets robust immune response, says Bharat Biotech



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech on Saturday said that its Covid-19 vaccine candidate, Covaxin, has successfully completed phase I animal trials and the results showed the shot's "remarkable immunogenicity and protective efficacy". Covaxin is one of the frontrunners in the race for a Covid-19 vaccine in India and developed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Bharat Biotech, is being tested at 12 institutes across India. The drug maker said the data from the study on primates substantiate the immunogenicity of the vaccine candidate. "Bharat Biotech proudly announces the animal study results of COVAXIN - These results demonstrate the protective efficacy in a live viral

challenge model," the company tweeted. It also said in a statement here that it developed and assessed the protective efficacy and immunogenicity of an inactivated Sar-CoV-2 vaccine (BBV152) or Covaxin in rhesus macaques. Twenty macaques were divided into four groups of five animals each, it said. "One group was administered a placebo while three groups were immunised with three different vaccine candidates at 0 and 14 days. All the macaques were challenged with SARS-CoV-2 14 days after the second dose. The protective response was observed with increasing SARS-CoV-2 specific IgG and neutralising antibody titres from third week post-immunisation," the drug company said. It added that viral clearance was observed from

Record 81,533 Covid-19 patients recover in a single day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mid record surge in the Coronavirus cases on Saturday, the Union Health Ministry found solace in the recoveries being reported. With its focussed strategies and measures, India has been continuously reporting higher number of recoveries. India has scaled yet another peak today, tweeted the Ministry. The highest ever single day recoveries of 81,533 have been registered in the last 24 hours. "The gap between the Percentage of Recovered Cases

and percentage of Active Cases progressively growing wide. More than 3/4 of total cases (more than 36Lakhs) recovered & discharged," it said in the tweet. The active cases in the country are known to be only a "small portion", which is less than one-fourth of total cases, it said. A senior official said that at least 60 per cent of the total recovered cases were being reported from five States, viz. Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. "bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, nasal swab, throat swab, and lung tissues at 7 days post-infection in the vaccinated groups." "No evidence of pneumonia was observed by histopathological examination in vaccinated groups, unlike the placebo group which showed features of interstitial pneumonia and

localisation of viral antigen in the alveolar epithelium and macrophages by immunohistochemistry," it added. "To summarise, the vaccine candidate was found to generate robust immune responses. Thus, preventing infection and disease in the primates upon high amounts of exposure to live SARS-CoV-2 virus," it added. Bharat Biotech had received approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation to conduct the Phase-II trials earlier this month. It had announced in June that it successfully developed Covaxin in collaboration with ICMR and the National Institute of Virology (NIV).

Prone position on ventilator can permanently damage nerve: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Severely-ill Covid-19 patients on ventilators are placed in a prone (face down) position because it's easier for them to breathe and reduces mortality. However, a new study published in the British Journal of Anaesthesia shows that the life-saving position can also cause permanent nerve damage in these vulnerable patients. According to the study, published in the British Journal of Anaesthesia, nerve damage is the result of reduced blood flow and inflammation. Other non-Covid-19 patients on ventilators in this position rarely experience any nerve damage. "This is a much higher percentage of patients with nerve damage than we've ever seen in any other critically ill population," said study author Colin Franz from Northwestern University in the US. "Ordinarily, very sick people can tolerate the position



that helps their breathing. But Covid patients' nerves can't tolerate the forces other people can generally bear," Franz added. Based on this study, 12 to 15 percent of the most severely ill COVID-19 patients have permanent nerve damage. Based on the number of Covid patients worldwide, Franz estimated thousands of patients have been impacted. "The injury has been missed because people who have been critically ill are expected to wake up with some generalized, symmetric weakness because they have been bedridden, Franz said. The pattern of weakness in the Covid-19 patients caught the researchers' attention during rehabilitation since quite often an important joint such as the wrist, ankle or shoulder would be completely paralyzed on one side of the body. "We noticed patients are getting a lot of pressure at the elbow or at the neck, so we've made some adjustments to the way we position the joints as well as putting extra padding under the elbow and the knee where there is the most pressure," Franz said. The most common injuries are wrist drops, foot drops, loss of hand function and frozen shoulder. Some patients had as many as four distinct nerve injury sites. Some people who are dragging a foot need assistance with walking such as a wheelchair, brace or cane. "This could mean permanent difficulties with walking or critical hand functions like writing or operating a computer or cell phone," Franz said.

Mining exploration cos should pay NPV on boreholes basis: FAC

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a move that might raise the hackles of green activists, the Union Environment Ministry's Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has recommended that mining and exploration companies should be allowed to pay Net Present Value (NPV) on the basis of boreholes instead of the present practice of paying 2 or 5 per cent NPV of the total leased out forest area. NPV is the upfront payment made to compensate for the loss caused to a forest and its ecosystem services by an infrastructure project and is used for conservation efforts. The Supreme Court had in 2002 mandated NPV for all infrastructure projects in forest areas. Mining companies used to pay 2 to 5 percent of Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest areas leased out to them for exploring hydrocarbons. As per the revised norms which are yet to get the Ministry's approval, the NPV would now be based on the area dug up for each borehole (around 0.1 ha) which was nearly a fraction of what is charged earlier. The FAC in a meeting on August 18m recommended tweaking of a clause of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in this regard. The Union Mines Ministry had requested that exploration

challenge model," the company tweeted. It also said in a statement here that it developed and assessed the protective efficacy and immunogenicity of an inactivated Sar-CoV-2 vaccine (BBV152) or Covaxin in rhesus macaques. Twenty macaques were divided into four groups of five animals each, it said. "One group was administered a placebo while three groups were immunised with three different vaccine candidates at 0 and 14 days. All the macaques were challenged with SARS-CoV-2 14 days after the second dose. The protective response was observed with increasing SARS-CoV-2 specific IgG and neutralising antibody titres from third week post-immunisation," the drug company said. It added that viral clearance was observed from

Bhushan moves SC, seeks right to appeal in contempt conviction, hearing by larger, different Bench

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan, convicted and awarded one rupee fine for his contemptuous tweets against the judiciary, on Saturday moved the Supreme Court seeking the right of appeal against convictions in original criminal contempt cases to be heard by a larger and a different bench. Bhushan on August 31 was directed to deposit the fine with the Supreme Court registry by September 15 and failure to comply would entail a three-month jail term and debarment from law practice for three years. In a fresh plea filed through lawyer Kamini Jaiswal, he has sought a declaration that a "person convicted for criminal contempt by this court, including the petitioner herein, would have a right to an intra-court appeal to be heard by a larger and different bench". Bhushan, in the plea, suggested procedural changes to reduce the chances of "arbitrary, vengeful and high-handed decisions" in criminal contempt cases saying that in such cases the top court is the aggrieved party, the "prosecutor, the witness and the judge" and hence they raise fear of inherent bias. The petition said the right of appeal is a fundamental right guaranteed under the Constitution and is also guaranteed under international law

and this would act as a "vital safeguard against wrongful conviction and would truly enable the provision of truth as a defence". The plea, to which the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Registrar of the apex court have been made parties, has also sought a direction for framing rules and guidelines "providing for intra-court appeal against conviction in original criminal contempt cases". Under the present statutory scheme, a person convicted for the criminal contempt has the right to file review petition against the judgement and that plea is decided in chambers by the bench usually without hearing the contemtor. Bhushan said his petition has been filed for the enforcement of fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14 (right to equality), 19 (Freedom of speech and expression) and 21 (right to life) of the Constitution. "That the existing Act and Rules, do not bar or prohibit the prayers as sought by the Petitioner. In fact, it is in the spirit of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 to lay down such a procedure. This Hon'ble Court has in the past framed special rules to deal with cases concerning death penalty and has also devised special remedy in the nature of 'curative petition' against a final judgment of the Supreme Court.

Modi gives pucca houses to 1.75L families

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the 'Grih Pravesham' event in Madhya Pradesh, where 1.75 Lakh Families were delivered pucca houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G). The launch was through video-conferencing. Modi said the beneficiary families who are moving into their new houses have got their dream home and also a confidence about the future of their children. He said that the beneficiaries who got homes "today have joined the ranks of the 2.25 crore families who have got their own house in the last 6 years and will now be living in their own house rather than living in a rented house or a slum or a kutcha house". The Prime Minister said that while this strengthens the hope of the homeless in the country this also proves how the Government scheme was launched with right strategy and intention reach the targeted beneficiaries. Modi said that notwithstanding the challenges during the Corona period, work of 18 lakh houses has been completed throughout the country under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana-Gramin and among that 1.75 lakh houses completed in Madhya Pradesh itself. He said that on an average, building a house under PMAY-G takes about 125 days but during this period of Corona, it was completed in

just about 45 to 60 days which is a record in itself. He said this was made possible owing to the migrants returning from cities to their villages. The Prime Minister said this is a great example of turning a challenge into an opportunity. He said that these migrant labour took care of their families by taking full advantage of the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Rozgar Abhiyan and at the same time worked to

PM said that on an average, building a house under PMAY-G takes about 125 days

build homes for their poor brethren. He added that the poor are not only getting a house, they are also getting toilets, Ujjwala Gas connection, Sowbaghya Yojana, Power connection, LED bulb and Water connection also along with it. He said that schemes like PM Awas Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan are playing an important role in changing the lives of rural sisters. Prime Minister said about 27 welfare schemes of the Central Government are linked to the PM Awas Yojana.

SORIL INFRA RESOURCES LIMITED (CIN : L52190HR2005PLC077960)				
Extract of the consolidated unaudited financial results for the quarter ended 30 June 2020				
Particulars	3 months ended 30 June 2020		Previous year ended 31 March 2020	
	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited
Total income	50.80	231.06	56.32	56.32
Net profit for the period (before tax, exceptional and extraordinary items)	16.69	10.39	3.89	3.89
Net profit for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	16.69	10.39	3.89	3.89
Net profit for the period after tax (after exceptional and/or extraordinary items)	12.94	6.66	3.02	3.02
Total comprehensive income for the period (comprising profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	13.15	10.90	3.11	3.11
Paid-up equity share capital	31.50	31.50	31.50	31.50
Earnings per share before extraordinary items (face value of Rs. 10 per equity share)				
*(EPS for the quarters are not annualised)				
-Basic (Rs)	4.11 *	2.01	0.96 *	0.96 *
-Diluted (Rs)	4.11 *	2.01	0.96 *	0.96 *

Note to the financial results:
1) The above results have been reviewed by the audit committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 12 September 2020. These financial results have been subjected to a limited review by the statutory auditors of the Company.
2) Key standalone financial information of SORIL Infra Resources Limited:

Particulars	3 months ended 30 June 2020		Previous year ended 31 March 2020	
	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited
Total income	33.70	194.19	50.60	50.60
Profit / (loss) before tax	3.23	(4.89)	0.56	0.56
Net profit / (loss) after tax	2.87	(4.89)	0.61	0.61

3) The above presentation is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly / annual financial results filed with the stock exchanges under regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly / annual financial results are available on the Company's website (http://www.sorilinfraresources.com) and on the website of BSE (http://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (http://www.nseindia.com).

Registered Office: Plot No. 448-451, Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurugram - 122016
For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Anil Malhan
Whole Time Director

KERALA GOLD SMUGGLING

BJP demands Min's ouster

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

All district headquarters in Kerala turned battlegrounds on Saturday as the activists of BJP and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morchha (BJYM) took out rallies demanding the immediate resignation of Minister for Higher Education KT Jaleel who was interrogated by the sleuths of the Enforcement Directorate on Friday in connection with gold smuggling case.

The northern districts saw police using force, water canons and lathi charges to disperse hundreds of activists of the Hindutva brigade who demonstrated in front of the collectorates. The heavy downpour across the State did not dampen the spirits of the agitators who burnt the minister by effigies in all districts.

K Surendran, Kerala BJP president alleged that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was hand in glove with Jaleel in the smuggling operations. "Vijayan knows that if he drops Jaleel from the ministry, the latter would create more problems for him. That's the reason why Vijayan is protecting Jaleel," charged the BJP leader while speaking to journalists at the capital city on Saturday morning.

Surendran pointed out that Vijayan had no hesitation in dropping industries minister E P Jayarajan from the council of ministers when the latter was named as an accused in a case probed by the vigilance department. "Why there are two laws for Jayarajan and Jaleel? Isn't it to protect the vote bank of the CPI(M) Vijayan is protecting Jaleel?" asked Surendran.

He asked Jaleel to come out and tell the people what were the questions asked by the ED. "He owes a moral responsibility to the people as he took oath of office on the Constitution of India. He is bound to tell the world what were the questions asked by the ED," said Surendran. The BJP leader also disclosed that agitations would continue till Jaleel submits his resignation.

Youth League, the youth wing of the Muslim League too joined the demonstrations demanding Jaleel's sacking and arrest. "He has committed blasphemy by misusing the Quran for un-Islamic purposes," said P K Feroz, president, Youth League.

Jaleel says he was ignorant about protocol, offers to return Quran

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

KT Jaleel, Minister for Higher Education, reportedly told the sleuths of the Enforcement Directorate that he was ignorant about the protocol laws which prohibit public servants from interacting with diplomats and high ranking officials from foreign countries.

Jaleel, summoned by the ED, was interrogated for more than two hours on Friday about his acceptance of gifts and Qurans sent by the UAE Government during the Ramadan period.

The Minister said that he was willing to send back the Qurans which were 'gifted' by the UAE Consulate. He also reiterated that he never had any personal dealings with Swapna Suresh, the kingpin of the gold smuggling racket. The media in Kerala had reported that the minister was having "hours and hours" of telephonic chat with Swapna since March 2020 and his claims that he had called her for official works were not true.

Meanwhile Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala unleashed a ruthless attack on the CPI(M) on Saturday describing the party as anti-national and undemocratic. He accused Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan of protecting and saving Jaleel.

"This is the first time in Kerala's history a minister is interrogated by ED, one of the top investigating agencies in the country. Jaleel was accompanied by a person who himself is an accused in criminal cases and a close associate of CPI(M) leaders in New Delhi," said Chennithala.

Senior BJP leaders B Gopalakrishnan and five others were injured in police lathicharge at Thrissur on Saturday. Gopalakrishnan was leading a rally towards the Police Commissioner's Office demanding Jaleel's resignation. The police resorted to lathicharge when the demonstrators tried to jump over the barricade and enter the PCO. Elsewhere in the State, BJP and BJYM took out processions despite heavy rains. Many activists were injured in police resorted to lathicharge and bursting of tear gas shells.

Covid tally crosses 3-lakh mark in UP, death toll climbs to 4,349

Lucknow: The COVID-19 caseload crossed the three-lakh mark in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday with 6,846 more people contracting the viral infection, while the death toll due to the disease reached 4,349 with 68 fresh casualties.

Additional Chief Secretary Amit Mohan Prasad said the number of active cases went up to 67,955 in the state, while 2,33,527 patients have so far been discharged from hospitals following recovery.

The total count of coronavirus cases in the state stands at 3,05,831.

State capital Lucknow recorded the highest number of 1,117 fresh cases on Saturday, followed by Kanpur Nagar (523), Prayagraj (328) and Ghaziabad (303), a health department bulletin said.

Among the casualties, 10 were reported from Lucknow, nine from Kanpur Nagar, six from Prayagraj and five from Meerut, it added.

Of the 67,955 active cases, 36,334 or 53.46 per cent are in home isolation, Prasad said, adding that 3,607 patients are admitted in private hospitals and 275 in semi-paid facilities.

So far, over 1.49 lakh people have been in home isolation in the state, of whom over 1.13 lakh have completed the quar-

antine period, he said.

The COVID-19 recovery rate in the state has gone up to 76.35 per cent while the case fatality rate presently stands at 1.42 per cent, which is lower than the national average, Prasad said. On Friday, over 1.40 lakh tests were performed, which has taken the total number of examinations for detection of COVID-19 conducted so far in the state to over 73 lakh, he added.

Appealing for community help in controlling the spread of the virus, the additional chief secretary recalled that the "gram nigrahi samitis" had played an important role during the period when the migrant labourers were returning to the state and now, once again it is required that they work actively as some cases have also been reported from the rural areas.

Besides, he also called upon the resident welfare associations of the housing complexes in the cities to remain in action mode and promptly inform the authorities about those showing symptoms of the viral disease.

"To check the virus, it is required that community surveillance should also effectively be in place, along with the government agencies which

are already working in this direction," Prasad said.

Presenting the age-wise statistics of those infected with the virus in the state, he said 13.98 per cent of the patients are in the age group of 0-20 years, while 48.58 per cent are in the age group of 21-40 years.

Those in the 41-60 years age group account for 28.69 per cent of the cases and those above 60 years account for 8.75 per cent cases. Of the total number of cases, 69 per cent are males while the remaining 31 per cent women, Prasad said.

At a meeting with senior officials earlier in the day, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed them to pay special attention to Lucknow and review the facilities at the KGMU, SGPGI and RMLIMS hospitals, besides activating other COVID hospitals in the state capital and increasing their capacity.

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Awasthi said the chief minister has asked to ensure that all necessary arrangements in the COVID hospitals and private medical colleges of Lucknow are in accordance with the prescribed norms and directed for increasing the manpower at the hospitals in keeping with their capacity.

Robbers loot jewellery worth ₹35L, ₹50K cash

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

At Banna Devi police station Area, near the Sarsol intersection, armed robbers looted gold jewellery worth ₹35 lakh and cash of ₹50,000 from the jewellery showroom named "Sundar Jeweller" on gunpoint. On receipt of the information, the top police officers, including IG and SSP reached the spot. The full incident was captured on CCTV. Around half a dozen police teams are engaged in the search operation of robbers.

Nearly 200 meters from Sarsol intersection is the house of Sundar Verma on Khair bypass Road along with his showroom named "Sundar Jeweler".

At around 1:04 PM, Sundar was in his showroom with his son and a servant.

Three customers, including the couple, were also inside the showroom when three masked people entered the showroom.

He first sanitized their hands, after they all took out a pistol and started looting the showroom.

Aligarh: 172 new Covid cases, 1 death reported

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The corona is now taking a grisly form. 172 new positive cases reported including CMO and four other people from the CMO office while 142 recovered. The number of infected people has now reached 6135 in the district while 4503 people recovered and 1600 active. One death of the elderly was reported at JN Medical College.

Today, around 2800 people were screened mostly of Antigen kits. Of these 172 were found infected. At the same time, 142 people recovered. Most of the patients were from home-isolations. One old aged person, a resident of Amir Nishan, has died at the Medical College on Friday. He was admitted by the family three days back and died there. The report came positive on the investigation.

Take steps for Resident Doctors as well. The Resident Doctor's

Association of AMU's JN Medical College has said that about 50 junior doctors and 5 senior doctors of JN Medical College and their families have been infected with covid-19 infection.

The situation is that every second day the reports of junior doctors are coming as positive. The death rate of doctors in the country is higher than the death rate of common people. They have demanded that the college administration should take strong and strict steps to protect the doctors.

Every person needs to take precautions. According to Dr. Nitin Gupta, currently, the biggest challenge is to protect ourselves from corona infection. If you will be safe, then you will be able to do whatever you want in life. Eight months have been passed but till now no medicine has been discovered. Precaution is the only way to protect against corona.

ATTACK ON EX-NAVY OFFICIAL

Rajnath speaks with injured, condemns attack

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Still smarting under widespread criticism over the hasty demolition of "illegal" portions of actress Kangana Ranaut's bungalow by the party-run Brihmanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the ruling Shiv Sena on Saturday faced further embarrassment, this time over Friday's assault on a retired naval officer by its workers in north Mumbai, as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spoke to the victim and condemned the incident.

A day after a group of Shiv Sainiks, led by a party shakha pramukh, attacked a 65-year-retired Navy officer Madan Sharma at Kandivli in north Mumbai for forwarding a cartoon that projected chief minister Uddhav Thackeray in a poor light, Rajnath spoke to the victim and made

enquiries about his health. He said that such attacks on ex-servicemen "were completely unacceptable and deplorable". "Spoke to retired naval officer, Shri Madan Sharma who was attacked by hooligans in Mumbai and enquired about his health. Such attacks on Ex-Servicemen are completely unacceptable and deplorable. I wish Madanji a speedy recovery," Rajnath tweeted.

Meanwhile, the the Samata Nagar Police on Friday night arrested the six persons --- comprising Shiv Sena Shakha Pramukh Kamlesh Kadam and five of their associates Sanjay Manjre, Rakesh Belnekar, Prapat Sund Vera, Sunil Desai and Rakesh Mulik - in connection with the incident.

The six arrested Shiv Sainiks were on Saturday produced before a city court which granted them bail. Additional Commissioner

of Police (North) Dilip Sawant said that the arrested Shiv Sainiks had been booked for various charges including unlawful assembly and rioting.

Madan Sharma, who is a retired chief petty officer in the Navy, is a member of housing society at Kandivli in north Mumbai. On Wednesday, Sharma had forwarded a cartoon showing Uddhav prostrating before pictures of NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Congress President Sonia Gandhi in a WhatsApp group of his housing society. He had seen that cartoon in another WhatsApp group earlier.

According to Sharma's daughter Dr Sheela Sharma, one of the members of their housing society group had alerted Kadam about the "objectionable" cartoon.

On Friday, a group of eight to ten Shiv Sainiks came to his housing society and assaulted

Sharma.

Later, CCTV footage posted on Twitter by BJP MLA from Kandivli (east) Atul Bhatkalkar showed a group of men chasing after Sharma and dragging him outside the society premises by his shirt collar. The footage, which went viral, also showed the men slapping Sharma and pulling at his shirt even as the society's security guards remained silent spectators.

Later in the evening, Sharma lodged a complaint with the Samta Nagar police station against Kadam and other Shiv Sainiks.

Meanwhile, apart from demanding stern action against the Shiv Sainiks behind the incident, Sharma's daughter Dr Sheela Sharma has rooted for the imposition of President's Rule in Maharashtra, citing that nobody was safe in the state.

J&K: Pakistan violates ceasefire along LoC



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Barely hours after the joint teams of the security forces recovered a huge consignment of arms and ammunition in Mendhar tehsil of Poonch, the Pakistan Army violated ceasefire agreement along the line of control in Mankote and Gulpur sectors of Poonch district on Saturday.

According to Defence spokesman Lt- Col Devender Anand, "the Pakistan Army resorted to intense mortar shelling around 8.00 p.m after initiating small arms firing in the forward areas of Mankote and Gulpur sectors of Poonch". Till the time of filing the report, Indian army was effectively retaliating to silence the roar of Pakistani guns, he added.

Earlier, the joint teams comprising Army, Mendhar police and SOG Jammu had recovered a huge consignment of arms and ammunition after

intercepting the two accused persons from the Mendhar tehsil of Poonch.

Jammu & Kashmir police spokesman said the recovered arms and ammunition, explosives and other material was to be used in subversive activities. "The material was supposed to be carried from the forward area to the hinterland for subversive activities", the spokesman said in a written statement.

"As of now 2 accused have been apprehended and a case FIR 217/ 2020 under relevant sections of Unlawful Activity Prevention Act has been registered at police station Mendhar.

The police spokesman said, the recoveries included Chinese pistol -03, Pistol magazines -06, Pistol rounds -70, Hand grenades -11, Wireless set -01, IED -01, Batteries -02, Flags -02, Mobile phone -01, Charger -01, Pen drive -01 and other related materials to IED.

Kangana faces ire for anti-Uddhav comment

Sena workers take out donkey procession at Miraj, burn actress' effigy

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Within days after she made "objectionable" comments against Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, Bollywood actress Kangana Ranaut faced backlash on Saturday, as the ruling Shiv Sena workers took out a procession of a donkey with Kangana's poster wrapped on it and later burnt her effigy at Miraj town in western Maharashtra.

The Shiv Sainiks staged a massive protest against Kangana at Miraj in Sangli district of western Maharashtra. As part of the protest, they took out a donkey procession with a poster of the actress wrapped over the animal. The protesters raised slogans against Kangana for her "objectionable" remarks against Udhav Thackeray and the Mumbai police.

The protesters said that the actress, through her remarks, had insulted "self-

respect" of Maharashtra. At the end of the procession, the protestors burnt an effigy of the actress.

Saturday was the second occasion when the Shiv Sainiks staged a protest against Kangana. Earlier the Sena activists had burnt her effigy and pictures in Mumbai, Pune, Aurangabad, Thane, Palghar, Nashik and other cities. On its part, the BJP too has distanced from Kangana's "anti-Mumbai" comments.

Kangana has come under fire from various quarters for controversial statements comparing Mumbai to "Pak-Occupied Kashmir" and saying "it seems Mumbai is addicted to blood" and dubbing Bollywood as an 'Islam-dominated' film industry. There have also been protests erupted in Mumbai and other cities against the actress.

Through a series of tweets put out during and after the BMC workers demolished her

Kangana has come under fire from various quarters for controversial statements comparing Mumbai to "Pak-Occupied Kashmir" and saying "it seems Mumbai is addicted to blood" and dubbing Bollywood as an 'Islam-dominated' film industry

office at Bandra's Pali Hill area in north-west Mumbai on Wednesday last, Kangana had among other things come up with a "..... tujhe kya lagta hai?" dare for Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, whom she had threatened to expose.

It may be recalled that referring to Uddhav Thackeray as "tujhe", Kangana had on September 9 launched an all out war against the Maha Vikas Aghadi government. "Uddhav Thackeray, tujhe kya lagta hai? (what do you think?)... coluded along with the film mafia, demolished my home

and took revenge on me? My home was demolished today, your arrogance will crumble tomorrow," Kangana had said in a video message on her arrival in Mumbai.

As the BMC was in the midst of the demolition of alleged illegal structures in her bungalow, Kangana -- who was on her way from Himachal Pradesh to Mumbai, had compared her office to Ram mandir and said that Babar is demolishing it. She compared BMC officials to "Babur army" and said that history would repeat itself and she will reconstruct her 'mandir'.

"This is the wheel of time, remember, it never stays the same," she said, adding that she could sense as to what could have happened with Kashmiri pandits. "Today, I promise that I will make a film on Kashmir like Ayodhya....Uddhav Thackeray....I feel good that it has happened to me...it has a meaning," she had said.

Kerala reports 2,885 fresh cases

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala reported 2,885 COVID-19 cases on Saturday, taking the tally to 1,05,139 as 75,848 people have recovered so far from the infection, Health minister K K Shailaja said.

The state had crossed the grim milestone of one lakh cases on Friday after 2,988 people tested positive. With 15 deaths being confirmed over the past few days, including that of a 101-year-old man from Kalady in Ernakulam district, the toll has climbed to 425.

Of the positive cases, 2,640 were infected through contact and the source of infection of 287 persons was not known.

Forty two people had come from abroad and 137 from other states, the minister said.

W h i l e Thiruvananthapuram reported 566 cases, Malappuram accounted for 310. Over 200 cases were reported today from Kozhikode, Kollam and Kannur. As many as 1,944 people were discharged today after their samples turned negative, following which 28,802 are presently under treatment.

While 2.03 lakh people are under observation in various districts, 22,177 are in hospitals, including 2576 admitted today.

TN records further decline in Covid-19 cases

Chennai: Tamil Nadu continued to log a downslide in the number of Covid-19 cases with recoveries outnumbering fresh infections in the state.

In a statement issued here by the state health department on Saturday, the number of Covid-19 patients in the state was 47,110 lesser than that of 48,000, reported two days back.

The number of Covid-19 cured and discharged persons in the state was 6,227 taking the total recoveries to 441,649 persons.

The total number of persons who had tested positive for coronavirus over the past 24-hours stood at 5,495 pushing the tally to 497,066, the department added.

EASTERN RAILWAY

ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE

Abridged Tender Notice No.: 02HWHCON1I of 2020-21 (Tender No.: 02HWHCON1I of 2020-21) for e-tendering. Open Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/III HWH, 371 No. New Railway Office, Telkolhata, Howrah-711101 from reputed contractors with sufficient experience, financial capability and having proper and requisite resources and experience for the following work:- **Name of Work:** Balance work of Earthwork, Blanketing, Minor Bridge, Retaining wall, Platform surface & other ancillary work in connection with 3rd line in between Bandel - Boinchi. **Tender Value:** ₹ 6,25,30,384.44; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 4,62,700/-; **Date of Opening:** 16.10.2020 at 12.30 hrs. Details of tender notice, documents and corrigendum issued from time to time alongwith required eligibility criteria are available at website **"www.ireps.gov.in"** The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and manual offer if received shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.

CON-17/2020-21
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

कार्यालय नगर निगम हल्द्वानी - काठगोदाम

पत्रांक : 925 ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक : 11/09/2020

नगर निगम हल्द्वानी-काठगोदाम क्षेत्रांतर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु दिनांक 18.08.2020 को आमंत्रित निर्माण कार्य की ई-निविदा पुनः आमंत्रित की जाती है, निविदा के सम्बन्ध में समस्त शर्तें एवं सूचनाएँ <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 14.09.2020 को अपरान्ह 2.00 बजे से दिनांक 27.09.2020 को सायं 05 बजे तक उपलब्ध रहेगी।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (₹0 लाख में)	कार्य की जमानत राशि	निविदा फार्म का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा की वैधता
1	वार्ड नं० 35 में केन्द्रीय जीएसटीओ भवन से हाईडिल गेट चौराहे तक नाले का निर्माण कार्य।	40.44	81,000.00	3000+18% G.S.T.	9 माह	45 दिन
2	वार्ड नं० 13 में कुछ आश्रम से प्रेमा जी के घर तक राजपुरा नाला कवरिंग का निर्माण कार्य।	28.01	56,000.00	2000+18% G.S.T.	6 माह	30 दिन

(डा. जोगेन्द्र पाल सिंह रौतेला) महापौर नगर निगम हल्द्वानी (चन्द्र सिंह मर्तोलिया) नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम हल्द्वानी

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



KAREENA

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

Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in> E-Mail ID : cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 DP/281/SW/2020

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Name:** Kareena, **D/o:** Ram, **R/o:** H.No. 599, Near Bhaiya Chowk, Mahipalpur, New Delhi, **Age:** 13 Years, **Height:** 5'2", **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Slim, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Orange Colour Salwar-Suit and Hawaii Chappal in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 01.09.2020 from her house. In this regard **FIR No. 358/2020, Dated 02.09.2020**, has been lodged at **P.S. Vasant Kunj North, New Delhi.**

SHO P.S. Vasant Kunj North, New Delhi Ph.: 011-26842530, 26123835

Chola
Enter a better life

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited
Corporate Office: No.2, Dare House, 1st Floor, NSC Bose Road, Chennai - 600 001.
Branch Office: 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to RAJ SHARMA, REENA SHARMA and SUKHPAL SHARMA Loan Account XOHEDHE00001258608 that Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited has taken physical possession of its secured asset bearing MPL NO. 1/9805, measuring 3 Biswa (150 Sq. Yds) out of khasra No. 292, Situated in the area of village Babarpur known as west Gorakh park, Gali no. 1, Shahdra, Delhi-110032 through the order of the CMM court. In the said premises, some belongings of the borrowers is lying in the above property, which we have removed while giving physical possession to the auction purchaser and moved to warehouse. Cost of Rs Rs 43,227/- per month is occurred on said goods so concerned is hereby informed to remove it and contact to branch with in seven days from the published of this notice falling which we shall dispose of the belongings as unidentified and unclaimed property without any further notice.

Place: Delhi/NCR Date : 13-09-2020 Sd/- Authorised Officer Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

AFTER DECADES OF WAR

Warring Afghans meet to find peace

Dubai: Afghanistan's warring sides started negotiations on Saturday for the first time aimed at ending decades of war, bringing together delegates appointed by the Afghan government and the Taliban.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo attended the opening ceremony, which was held in Qatar where the meetings will take place. It's the latest in a flurry of diplomatic activity by the Trump administration ahead of the US presidential election in November.

The discussions are important in the search for lasting peace that will also provide an exit for US and NATO troops after nearly 19 years.

The sides will try to tackle tough issues. This includes the terms of a permanent cease-fire, the rights of women and minorities and the disarming of tens of thousands of Taliban fighters and militias loyal to warlords, some of them aligned with the government.

The talks in Doha follow the US-brokered recognition of Israel by two Gulf nations — Bahrain on Friday and the United Arab Emirates earlier this month.

The Afghan sides are also expected to discuss constitutional changes, and power sharing. Even seemingly mundane issues like the flag and the name of the country — the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan or as the Taliban's administra-



Taliban negotiator Abbas Stanikzai, right, with his delegation attends the opening session of the peace talks between the Afghan Government and the Taliban in Doha, Qatar on Saturday

tion had been known, when it ruled, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan — could find their way on to the negotiation table and oil temples.

Among the government-appointed negotiators are four women, who vow to preserve women's rights in any power-sharing deal with the fundamentalist Taliban. This includes the right to work, education and participation in political life — all denied women when the Taliban ruled Afghanistan for five years.

The Taliban were ousted in 2001 by a US-led coalition for harbouring Osama bin Laden, the architect of the September 11 terrorist attacks on America.

There are no women on the Taliban's negotiation team, led by their chief justice Abdul Hakim.

Pompeo has said he expected the discussions to be contentious.

Washington's peace envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad said on Friday that launching the talks is an important achievement, but that "there are difficulties, significant challenges on the way to reaching agreement".

"This is a test for both sides, for the Taliban and the government," he said. "Can they reach an agreement despite differences, in terms of their visions for the future of Afghanistan?"

The intra-Afghan negotiations were laid out in a peace deal Washington signed with the Taliban on February 29. At that time the deal was touted as Afghanistan's best chance at peace in 40 years of war.

Expect US polls to have consequences for troops overseas

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden both say they want to pull US forces out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

But their approaches differ, and the outcome of the November 3 election will have long-term consequences not only for US troops, but for the wider region.

During his election campaign four years ago, Trump pledged to bring all troops home from "endless wars," at times triggering pushback from military commanders, defense leaders and even Republican lawmakers worried about abruptly abandoning partners on the ground.

In recent months he has only increased the pressure, working to fulfill that promise and get forces home before Election Day.

More broadly, Trump's 'America First' mantra has buoyed voters weary of war and frustrated with the billions of dollars spent on national defense at the expense of domestic needs.

But it has also alienated longtime European partners whose forces have fought alongside the United States, and has bruised America's reputation as a loyal ally.

Biden has been more adamant about restoring US relations with allies and NATO, and his stance on these wars is more measured.

He says troops must be withdrawn responsibly and that a residual force presence will be needed in Afghanistan to ensure terrorist groups can't rebuild and attack America again.

That approach, however, angers progressives and others who believe the US has spent too much time, money and blood on battlefields far from home.

"We're getting out of the endless wars," Trump told White House reporters recently.

He said the "top people in the Pentagon" probably don't love him because "they want to do nothing but fight wars so that all of those wonderful companies that make the bombs and make the planes and make everything else stay happy."

He continued: "Let's bring our soldiers back home. Some people don't like to come home. Some people like to continue to spend money."

Biden, the former vice president, has sounded less absolute about troop withdrawal. In response to a candidate questionnaire from the Center for Foreign Relations, he said some troops could stay in Afghanistan to focus on the counterterrorism mission.

"Americans are rightly weary of our longest war; I am, too. But we must end the war responsibly, in a manner that ensures we both guard against threats to our homeland and never have to go back," he said.

SURVIVAL THIRST



Migrants scuffle to take bottles of water during a distribution by local authorities near Mytilene town, on the northeastern island of Lesbos, Greece on Saturday

Greek refugee camp fire: Thousands still homeless

Moria (Greece): Thousands of asylum-seekers have spent a fourth night sleeping in the open on the Greek island of Lesbos, after successive fires destroyed a notoriously overcrowded migrant and refugee camp during a coronavirus lockdown.

Officials have said the Tuesday and Wednesday night blazes were deliberately set by some camp residents angered at quarantine and isolation orders imposed after 35 people in the Moria camp tested positive for COVID-19.

With the camp gutted,

Saturday morning found men, women and children sleeping under improvised shelters made of reed stalks, blankets and salvaged tents. Thousands gathered for a protest to demand to be allowed to leave the island.

Mostly children and women stood at the front of the crowd as the protest got underway peacefully as riot police observed. Participants held up banners with slogans written on pieces of cardboard or sheets.

"We need peace & freedom. Moria kills all lives," read one.

Leaving the island would require a bending of European Union rules, under which asylum-seekers reaching Greece's islands from Turkey must stay there until they are either granted refugee status or deported back to Turkey.

The Moria camp was built to house around 2,750 people but was so overcrowded that this week's fires left more than 12,000 in need of emergency shelter on Lesbos. The camp had long been held up by critics as a symbol of Europe's failings in migration policy.

Erdogan slams Macron amid east Mediterranean tensions

Istanbul: Turkey's president has taken aim at France's leader, following French criticism about Turkish maritime activities in the eastern Mediterranean that have ignited tensions with Greece and the European Union.

In a speech Saturday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan claimed that French President Emmanuel Macron was targeting him.

"You will have many more problems with me," Erdogan said, adding, "don't mess with the Turkish nation and Turkey."

On Friday, Macron said that Europe needed to be "clear and firm" with Erdogan's government over its actions.



France and Turkey, both NATO members, have been at odds over an arms embargo for Libya and over the situation in the eastern Mediterranean, where Paris is supporting Greece and Cyprus, who say Turkey is looking for oil and gas in their waters.

Turkey says it has equal rights to the resources in those waters. Erdogan also said France has no right to criticise Turkey, considering its colonial record.

Relatives urge China to return 12 detainees to Hong Kong

Hong Kong: Relatives of 12 Hong Kong activists detained at sea by Chinese authorities called on Saturday for their family members to be returned to the territory, saying their legal rights were being violated.

At an emotional news conference, the group said their relatives should be allowed to meet with lawyers they themselves have hired, not those appointed by Chinese authorities. They also said they should be provided with needed medications, be allowed to call their families and eventually be allowed to return to Hong Kong.

The relatives wore masks,

hoods, sunglasses, jackets and hats to hide their identities in front of the television cameras.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Friday that the US was "deeply concerned" that the 12 had been denied access to the lawyers of their choice, along with the lack of information about their welfare and the charges against them.

"We question Chief Executive Lam's stated commitment to protecting the rights of Hong Kong residents, and call on authorities to ensure due process," Pompeo said, referring to Carrie Lam, Hong Kong's leader.

Lam said Tuesday that the

12 must be "dealt with according to mainland laws" if arrested or for breaking Chinese law.

The detention of the 12, who include a 16-year-old boy, follows China's imposition of a sweeping new national security law on the former British colony, which was wracked by months of anti-government protests last year.

Critics say the law amounts to a major crackdown on free speech and political activity by the opposition and further erodes the civil liberties promised to Hong Kong under the "one country, two systems" principle in place since it reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.

US, Maldives sign defence cooperation deal amid China's growing presence in Indian Ocean

Washington: The US has signed a framework for defence cooperation with the Maldives to deepen engagement in support of maintaining peace and security in the strategic Indian Ocean, the

Pentagon has announced, as the Trump administration looks to strengthen alliances in the Indo-Pacific to counter China's growing presence in the region.

The framework for defence and security relationship was signed in Philadelphia on September 10 between Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for South and Southeast Asia Reed Werner and Maldivian Minister of Defence Mariya Didi.

"The framework sets forth both countries' intent to deepen engagement and cooperation in support of maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean, and

marks an important step forward in the defence partnership," the Pentagon said.

The Indo-Pacific is a biogeographic region of Earth's seas, comprising the tropical waters of the Indian Ocean, the western and central Pacific Ocean.

During discussions after signing the agreement, Mariya Didi said the framework will strengthen defence and security cooperation between the two countries, Maldivian portal Sun Online reported.

Mariya Didi said that peace and security in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean region is tied to the best interests of both countries.

Iran condemns Bahrain's plan to normalise ties with Israel

Tehran: Iran on Saturday strongly condemned Bahrain's plan to normalise relations with Israel, calling it a shameful and ignominious move by the Gulf Arab country.

Bahrain's announcement Friday followed a similar normalisation agreement last month by the United Arab Emirates, a fellow US ally. The two Arab nations' establishment of full relations with Israel is part of a broader push by the Trump administration to find common ground with countries that share US. Warmness of Iran. Tehran's arch rival Saudi Arabia may also be close to a deal.

In a statement, Iran's

Foreign Ministry said Bahrain's normalisation "will remain in the historical memory of the oppressed and downtrodden people of Palestine and the world's free nations forever."

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard also denounced Bahrain's move using similar language, calling it a betrayal of the Palestinian people and a "threat to security in West Asia and the Muslim world."

The agreements by the UAE and now Bahrain are a setback for Palestinian leaders, who have urged Arab nations to withhold recognition until they have secured an independent state.

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NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Tuesday, September 15th, 2020 at 03:00 p.m. at the Registered Office of the Company at 1 Anandgram, Aya Nagar, M G Road, New Delhi-110047 to inter alia, consider, approve and take on record the Standalone Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended June 30th, 2020 and other businesses as per agenda.

"Equally Shareholders of the company are invited to send their queries/agendas, if any, to be discussed with the board in their ensuing meeting in word files to kohl@vinygroup.com along with your name, address, Folio No./DP ID and Client ID along with number of shares held". Trading window which is closed from 1st July 2020 shall remain closed till 48 hrs after the Board Meeting. Notice of Board meeting is available on stock exchange website viz: www.cse-india.com

By Order of the Board
For Moulin Commercial Limited
Sd/-
Ashish Gupta
Managing Director
DIN: 60115099

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
We hereby inform the general public that Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi has by its order dated 06.09.2020 in the matter of Phoenix Arc Pvt. Ltd vs Vinod Upadhyay (CP/IB) No. 842/2020) filed under section 95 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, has directed the commencement of an interim moratorium against Mr. Vinod Upadhyay S/o Ram Chandra Upadhyay R/o D-50, Patel Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201001 personal guarantor to a loan availed by Ruchika Autolinks Private Limited with effect from 30.06.2020 under Section 96 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. During the period of interim moratorium- (i) any legal action or proceeding pending in respect of any debts of Mr. Vinod Upadhyay shall be deemed to have been stayed; and (ii) the creditors of Mr. Vinod Upadhyay shall not initiate any legal action or proceedings in respect of any debt.

Around the Globe

Paris: Activists relaunched France's yellow vest movement on Saturday after the disruptive demonstrations against Emmanuel Macron's presidency and perceived elitism tapered off during the coronavirus pandemic.

Paris: Al-Qaeda has threatened French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo with a repeat of a 2015 massacre of its staff, after it published controversial cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, the SITE observatory said on Friday.

Berlin: German police said on Saturday they have seized about 250 firearms and a few thousand rounds of ammunition from a man who is believed to be a far-right sympathiser.

Iran executes wrestler, Olympic body expresses shock amid global outcry

Tehran: Iran said it executed a wrestler on Saturday for murdering a man during a wave of anti-government protests in 2018, drawing widespread condemnation and eliciting shock from the International Olympic Committee.

Navid Afkari, 27, was executed at a prison in the southern city of Shiraz, provincial prosecutor general Kazem Mousavi was quoted as saying on state television's website.

Afkari had been found guilty of "voluntary homicide" for stabbing to death Hossein Torkman, a water department employee, on August 2, 2018, the judiciary said.

Shiraz and several other urban centres across Iran had been the scene that day of anti-government protests and

demonstrations over economic and social hardship.

The International Olympic Committee said it was "shocked" by the execution and that it was "deeply upsetting" that it was athletes around the world and international bodies had failed to halt it.

"Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Navid Afkari," the IOC said in a statement. London-based rights group Amnesty International said the "secret execution" was a "horrifying travesty of justice that needs immediate international action".

Reports published abroad say Afkari was convicted on the basis of confessions aired on television after being extracted under torture, prompting online campaigns for his release.

Amnesty has repeatedly called on Iran to stop broadcasting videos of "confessions" by suspects, saying they "violate the defendants' rights".

The judiciary's Mizan Online news agency denied the accusations.

According to Amnesty, Afkari's two brothers Vahid and Habib are still in the same prison where he had been detained.

The death sentence had been carried out at "the insistence of the victim's family," said Mousavi, the prosecutor general for Fars province.

JAMMU & KASHMIR POLICE HEADQUARTERS
Phone/Fax No.- 0194-2443031/2443032 (Sgr), 0191-2459029/2459255 (Jmu)
Website :- www.jkpolice.gov.in, E-mail :- phqjk@jkpolice.gov.in

[GIST] NIT NO: 41 OF 2020
DATED: 10.09.2020

E-Tenders are hereby invited by Police Hqrs, J&K, from original Manufacturers or their authorized dealers having proper authorization of the manufacturer to quote against the tender for the **supply of Drone System (UAV) Category- 1** as indicated in the detailed SBD & BOQs. The download of NIT shall start on **11.09.2020 at 1100 hours**. Tenders shall be submitted online on **J&K Government e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in** before **01.10.2020 upto 1800 hours**.

The tenders (technical bids only) will be opened online on **03.10.2020 at 1100 hours at Police Headquarters, Peerbagh Srinagar, J&K**. Pre bid Meeting will be held at **PHQ, J&K Srinagar on 22.09.2020 at 1500 hrs**. In case of unforeseen circumstances, the date of opening will be next working day or else as notified separately.

Detailed tender documents (SBD) with terms and conditions are available on J&K Government e-procurement Portal **www.jktenders.gov.in**.

Sd/- (Rayees Mohammad Bhat) - (IPS),
AIG of Police (Provision/Transport),
For Director General of Police, J&K- Srinagar

No: DIPP-5507/20
Dated: 12.09.2020

Indiabulls Integrated Services Limited
(CIN: L51101HR2007PLC077999)

Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the period ended June 30, 2020 (Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 30 June 2020 Unaudited	Year ended 31 March 2020 Audited	Quarter ended 30 June 2019 Unaudited
1	Total Income from Operations	61.15	348.03	70.60
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(8.96)	(266.74)	(204.95)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items))	(8.96)	(266.74)	(204.95)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (after Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items))	(12.60)	(293.18)	(205.21)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	179.68	(1,125.91)	(205.12)
6	Equity Share Capital	17.87	17.87	17.87
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year		290.33	
8	Earnings per Share (EPS) before extraordinary items *(EPS for the quarters are not annualised) - Basic (Amount in Rs.) - Diluted (Amount in Rs.) Earnings per Share (EPS) after extraordinary items *(EPS for the quarters are not annualised) - Basic (Amount in Rs.) - Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(1.92) (1.92) (1.92) (1.92)	(33.08) (33.08) (33.08) (33.08)	(23.09) (23.09) (23.09) (23.09)

Notes:
1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 12 September 2020.
2) **Key Standalone Financial Information:** (Rs. in crores)

Particulars	Quarter ended 30 June 2020 Unaudited	Year ended 31 March 2020 Audited	Quarter ended 30 June 2019 Unaudited
Total Income	3.08	8.60	5.95
(Loss) / Profit before Tax	(7.83)	(19.04)	2.08
Net (Loss) / Profit after Tax	(7.83)	(22.45)	(0.30)

3) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (https://indiabullsintegratedservices.com) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com).

Registered Office: Plot No. 448-451, Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurugram - 122016
Place : Gurugram
Date : 12 September 2020

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
M.S. Weila
Whole Time Director

'Amazon sold some items at inflated rate during Covid-19'

IAN S ■ SAN FRANCISCO

Amazon sold several items including essentials such as toilet paper and hand sanitiser at inflated rate during the Covid-19 pandemic, said a report by US-based consumer rights group Public Citizen. Amazon set prices of products during the pandemic to levels that would be considered violations of price gouging laws in many states of the country, showed the findings of the report released this week. Numerous examples of price increases were found on essential products sold directly by Amazon, it added.

While the e-commerce giant publicly blamed so-called third-party sellers for price increases, it continued to allow them to increase their prices, the research showed. "Amazon claimed that it

took several steps to curb price gouging," said the report.

"But we have uncovered a pattern of significant price increases on essential products sold directly by Amazon, as well as price gouging by third-party sellers," it added.

This report details 15 essential products that have been sold by Amazon during the Covid-19 pandemic with markups over the recent price on Amazon.com or other national retailers ranging from 76 per cent to more than 1,000 per cent.

It also details 10 products sold on Amazon by third-party sellers during the same period with markups ranging from 225 per cent to 941 per cent.

It showed that prices of many items increased manifold between May and August. Responding to the report,

Amazon said that its service has "no place for price gouging." The Verge reported on Friday.

"Our systems are designed to offers customers the best available online price and if we see an error, we work quickly to fix it," a spokesperson of the company was quoted as saying.

The e-commerce giant's leadership had earlier also made clear that they do not tolerate price gouging and that they will stop third-party sellers from taking advantage of the pandemic.

"However, it is clear that not only are third-party sellers engaged in price gouging, but Amazon itself is selling essential products at significant price increases, and in many cases at a much higher price than other national retailers," the report by Public Citizen concluded.

Diesel price dips below ₹73, petrol rate cut for 2nd time in six months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Diesel price on Saturday fell below ₹73 a litre mark while petrol saw a second reduction in rates in six months, according to state-owned fuel retailers.

While petrol price was cut by 13 paise per litre on Saturday, diesel rates dropped by 12 paise, price notification of state-owned fuel retailers said.

Petrol price in the national capital fell to ₹81.86 a litre from ₹81.99 per litre. This is the second reduction in rates in three days.

Petrol price was for the first time cut in six months on September 10 when rates were reduced by 9 paise a litre.

Diesel price fell to ₹72.93 per litre in the national capital from ₹73.05. Diesel rates had seen their

first reduction since mid-March on September 3. Since then, rates have fallen by 63 paise.

The September 3 was the first reduction in diesel price since mid-March when Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) froze rates for 82 days to adjust a record hike in excise duty on auto fuels against falling benchmark cost.

Diesel rates had gone up by ₹12.55 a litre between June 7, when oil firms resumed revising prices in line with cost, and July 25.

Diesel price has remained unchanged in the country since July 25, except in Delhi where a reduction in VAT lowered the rate by ₹8.38 per litre. Petrol price went up by ₹9.17 per litre before hitting a pause.

Rupee expected to strengthen on fund inflows: Analysts

IAN S ■ MUMBAI

Expected fund inflows into India Inc. and the domestic equity market will strengthen the rupee's value during the upcoming short term, sector based analysts said on Saturday. Last week, the rupee weakened to ₹73.55 against a greenback.

"Rupee will strengthen as Reliance Retail stake money is expected to come in by next 2-3 months and more stake buys are likely to be announced on the lines of Reliance Jio," said Sajal Gupta, Head, Forex and Rates, Edelweiss Securities.

"Strong reserves and vocal signals from the RBI that strong rupee helps lower imported inflation will also support the rupee."

He predicted a range of 73.50 to 72.75 with downward

Last week, the rupee weakened to ₹73.55 against a greenback

bias for next week.

According to Rahul Gupta, Head of Research-Currency at Emkay Global Financial Services, the previous trade week, saw a minute recovery in the dollar index, which dragged all Asian currencies along with the rupee lower.

"There are a lot of corporate dollar inflows due in coming sessions with Reliance selling its stake," Gupta said.

"Thus, unless the USD-INR spot doesn't consistently trade above 73.75, the spot will remain sideways between 73-73.75."

Retail tomato prices surge to ₹80-85 per kg in Delhi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retail prices of tomato on Saturday skyrocketed to ₹80-85 per kg in the national capital due to tight supply from growing areas, according to private traders. Tomato prices have been firm since June and were ruling in the range of ₹50-60 per kg depending on the variety till last few weeks. The rates have suddenly shot up this week on reports of lower arrival of the new crop from key growing states, traders said. On Saturday, tomato was quoted at ₹80-85 per kg by vegetable hawkers and vendors in unorganised markets depending on the quality and residential colonies. But the government data showed the average retail price of tomato at ₹60/kg in Delhi.

Govt to implement several global emission standards, safety measures in transport vehicles

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Saturday said it is in the process of implementing several international standards on emissions and safety measures, including electronic stability control systems and brake assist systems, in transport vehicles.

The plans are to bring Indian automotive industry at par with developed nations in such regulations.

"The government has embarked upon a transformational programme of implementing international standards of emission and safety measures in the transport vehicles. As such government is moving on the path of a long-term regulatory road map for the automobile industry to grow and increase its contribution to GDP," Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said in a statement.

The Ministry is in the process of finalisation of implementation of standards for electronic stability control systems (ESC) and brake assist systems for relevant categories by next two years, it said.

The notification of ESC for buses has been issued last

year. "Draft notification has also been issued for electronic stability control systems for buses, which is likely to be brought into force by April 2023. We are contemplating higher level of safety for all categories of vehicles," the statement said.

The ministry has identified certain priority areas for international standardisation in this field, it said and added these include the tyre pressure monitoring system for certain categories of vehicles which is likely to come into force by October this year. The standards for vehicle dimensions and safety of construction equipment vehicles have been notified.

Similarly, notifications have already been issued for side stands, foot rests and external projections of 2-wheelers, it said and added these will come into force soon.

The ministry said that the Indian automotive industry has kept pace with these changes and in recent years has undergone a number of changes in the domain of passenger safety, emission control and connected technology.

CCI approves 20% Pharma Co's stake purchase by 'Curie'

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Fair practices regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 20 per cent stake in Pharma Co by special purpose acquisition vehicle 'Curie' or (CA Clover Intermediate II Investments).

Accordingly, Piramal Enterprises will transfer the global pharmaceutical business to its wholly owned subsidiary -- Pharma Co. -- whose 20 per cent stake (issued and paid-up equity share capital) 'Curie' will purchase.

"The proposed combination relates to the transfer of global pharmaceutical business (Transferred Business) by Piramal Enterprises Limited (PEL) to a wholly owned subsidiary of PEL, i.e. Pharma Co, followed by the acquisition of 20 per cent of the issued and paid-up equity share capital of Pharma Co. by Curie (Proposed Combination)," Ministry of Corporate Affairs said in a statement.

'Curie' is a special purpose acquisition vehicle, owned and controlled by investment funds advised by the affiliates of the Carlyle Group Inc.

Power Min RK Singh inaugurates NTPC's community focused initiatives in Bihar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: RK Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, New and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, today inaugurated a host of community focused facilities developed by NTPC in Bihar in the vicinity of NTPC Barh (1320 MW), Nabinagar Power Generation Company Pvt. Ltd. (NPGCL), Nabinagar (660 MW) and Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited (KBUNL), Kanti (610 MW).

While inaugurating the facilities from Patna, Shri R. K. Singh, Hon'ble Minister said "In the past 3-4 years, the Power Ministry has invested Rs 11,000 Crore worth of initiatives for electrification in Bihar, which includes substations, transmission and rural electrification projects that we see today. NTPC has given good dividends for every investment made in terms of nation building. In the past 5 years, cost of coal and railway freight increased by 40%, but due to efficiency displayed by NTPC, they were able to limit power price hike by only 12%."

Hon'ble Minister R. K. Singh further added, "The

organisation has given Rs 257.5 Crore, the highest amongst Power PSUs to PM CARES fund. It has given over Rs 12 Crore to AAIMS, Patna. NTPC is diversifying its portfolio into other ways of generating power and we have a vision to transform it into a true multinational company. NTPC was also given the responsibility for electrification for the rural areas in Odisha, which they completed well before the deadline."

The construction of these facilities and infrastructure inaugurated today will make the life convenient for the locals, improve access and help save travel time. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Shri Sushil Kumar Singh, Hon'ble MP-Aurangabad, Shri Ganendra Kumar Singh, Hon'ble MLA-Barh, Shri Ashok Kumar Choudhary, Hon'ble MLA-Kanti, Shri Virendra Kumar Singh, Hon'ble MLA-Nabinagar along with Shri Gurdeep Singh, CMD, NTPC, senior officials of Ministry of Power, NTPC and Administration of Bihar.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sushil Kumar Singh Hon'ble MP, Aurangabad said "I would like to extend my gratitude to NTPC for its CSR and power generation efforts."

Discoms' liquidity package set for hike at ₹1.2 lakh cr this month

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The ₹90,000-crore liquidity package for discoms to help them pay their dues till the month of March would soon be enhanced to Rs 1.2 lakh crore factoring in these utilities' outstanding till June, said a senior official. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May announced a ₹90,000 crore liquidity infusion into cash-strapped discoms for payment of their dues till March 2020. Discoms have been facing demand slump due to the lockdown to contain COVID-19.

Participating in a webinar on 'Innovation in Renewable Energy' organised by PHDCCI, Power Secretary S N Sahai said the liquidity package would cover the outstanding dues of discoms for the months from April to June also and it would be enhanced to Rs 1.2 lakh crore.

While announcing the package, the government had said, "At present discoms have a total outstanding of ₹94,000 crore towards power generation firms (gencos)." However, later states demanded that the package be extended to include outstanding dues towards power generation and transmission firms for the month of April and May as well.

Fuel demand falls again after hope in July

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's fuel demand is showing signs of stress with a sharp fall in August, the biggest monthly decline since April when the Covid-related lockdown brought economic activity to a standstill.

Coronavirus surge continues in the country and at local levels lockdowns continue affecting a real pick up in economic activity.

The sales of petroleum products (refined products such as petrol, diesel, ATF etc) have registered a 16 per cent decline to 14.39 million tonnes in August this year as compared to the same month last year.

The fall is also over previous month of July at 7.5 per cent, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell

(PPAC) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas showed. This is the sharpest fall in demand since April.

What is worrisome is the sale of diesel has also fallen in August. Diesel is considered a barometer of economic activity in the country and accounts for about 40 per cent of overall sales of petroleum products. Diesel consumption, fell by about 12 per cent to 4.85 million tonnes in August from 5.51 million tonnes in July.

The decline has also been witnessed in the case of petrol which fell by 7.4 per cent from a year earlier to 2.38 million tonnes. However, petrol sales have risen 5.3 per cent from 2.26 million tonnes in July, as the Unlock phase and continued restrictions on public transport have pushed up use of personal vehicles.

LG Delhi inaugurates integrated command and control centre at NDMC's HQ

New Delhi: Lt. Governor - Delhi, I Anil Bajaj inaugurated Integrated Command & Control Centre of NDMC Smart City through video conferencing in the presence of Member of Parliament - Meenakshi Lekhi and NDMC Chairperson - Dharmendra. He also inaugurated Shera Maidan Sports Complex at Mandir Marg, New Delhi.

After inaugurating the Integrated Command and Control Centre of NDMC, Shri Bajaj said that it is a smart package of technologies to improve the monitoring and tracking of citizen services delivery in new digital era continued.

He suggested that the maintenance of this high technological asset must be ensured by the civic body for proper performance in the interest of citizens.

Bajaj suggested to the NDMC Chairperson to call the head of other civic bodies and agencies of Delhi like MCDs or others to get the idea for implementing it in the other parts of Delhi.

He was also impressed by the high standard facilities at Shera Maidan Sports Complex, Mandir Marg, New Delhi and said that it is not only an important facility for the fitness of any citizen but also useful to make high quality sports persons.

Congratulating the NDMC for operationalization of Integrated Command and Control Centre at Palika Kendra, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi expressed that it is a unique step in the capital city of the nation for making it a Smart City as per dream of our Hon'ble Prime Minister.

She said that this smart step is now becoming a tool for constant monitoring and tracking of citizen services delivery in a smart manner.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



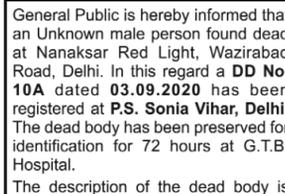
General public is hereby informed that one boy named **Abhishek, S/o Bunty, R/o D-2/237, West Kidwai Nagar, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi, Age: 16 years, Height: 4', Complexion: Shallow, Built: Strong, Face: Oval, wearing Red colour Shirt & Yellow Pant, has been missing from his house since 07.09.2020 at 10:30 AM.**

In this regards a **FIR No. 313/2020 U/S 363 IPC, dated 08.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Sarojini Nagar, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/288/SW/2020

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY



General Public is hereby informed that an Unknown male person found dead at Nanaksar Red Light, Wazirabad Road, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 10A dated 03.09.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Sonia Vihar, Delhi.** The dead body has been preserved for identification for 72 hours at G.T.B. Hospital.

The description of the dead body is given as under **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/O: Unknown, Age: About 60-65 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: White Kurta Pajama.**

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/307/NE/2020

SHO, P.S. Sonia Vihar, Delhi Ph.: 7065030399, 8750870729

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Phone No.: 011-24694291-92; Fax: 011-24625694; Email: istgroup.hq@gmail.com; website: www.istindia.com

EXTRACT OF FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH June, 2020 (Fig. in Lacs unless otherwise stated)

Sl. No	Particular	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended 30.06.2020	Quarter ended 30.06.2019	Year ended 31.03.2020	Quarter ended 30.06.2020	Quarter ended 30.06.2019	Year ended 31.03.2020
1	Total Income from Operations	171.17	355.73	1755.07	2658.87	2711.84	11825.38
2	Other Income	354.60	358.37	1093.22	1160.41	946.96	3416.30
3	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	216.29	245.61	598.48	3034.03	2959.75	10803.65
4	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after exceptional items)	216.29	245.61	598.48	3034.03	2959.75	10803.65
5	Net Profit for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	192.10	194.21	499.47	2253.92	2156.19	7992.16
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	192.76	194.06	502.15	3039.28	1895.07	6672.90
7	Equity Share Capital (face value of Rs. 5/- each)	584.68	584.68	584.68	584.68	584.68	584.68
8	Other Equity	-	-	18363.02	-	-	79737.02
	Earning Per Share (Face value of Rs. 5/- each)						
	- Basic (Rs.)	1.65	1.67	4.28	19.42	18.62	68.91
	- Diluted (Rs.)	1.65	1.67	4.28	19.42	18.62	68.91

Notes:
1) The above un-audited standalone and consolidated financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee at its meeting held on 12-Sep-2020 and thereafter approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 12-Sep-2020. The limited review has been carried out by the Statutory Auditors of the Company
2) The figures for the quarter ended 31 March, 2020 are balancing figures between the audited figures of the full financial year ended 31 March 2020 and the unaudited published year to date figures upto 31 December 2019, being the date of the end of the third quarter for the financial year which was subject to limited review.
3) Figures of the previous period / year have been re-grouped / re-arranged and / or re-casted, wherever required

By order of the Board
Sd/-
(S.C. Jain)
Executive Director
Place: New Delhi
Dated: 12th September, 2020

WESTERN RAILWAY			
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No.S/20/2020 Date 10.09.2020			
S.N.	Short Description of items	Quantity	T.O.D.
557	Key for Brake Shoe	25780 Nos.	25.09.2020
558	Bed Side Locker/Clinical Cabinets	300 Nos.	28.09.2020
559	Two Central Station High End Bed Side Multiparameter Monitor	1 No.	28.09.2020
560	High Frequency 15 KW X-Ray Machine	1 No.	30.09.2020
561	C.R System	1 No.	30.09.2020
562	Oil Machinery/General Purpose	295 K.Ltrs.	05.10.2020
563	Cut off Angle Cook	4802 Nos.	06.10.2020
564	10" Brake Cylinder	65 Nos.	07.10.2020
565	Set of brake valve	80 Sets	08.10.2020
566	POH Kit	1389 Sets	08.10.2020
567	5kVA, 415/190V, 3 Phase, Dry Type Natural Air Cooled Power	504 Nos.	09.10.2020
568	Lower Rubber Washer	9978 Nos.	09.10.2020
569	Set of Lock Nut F.S.	162 Sets	10.10.2020
570	Reverser J1 and J2	16 Sets	12.10.2020
571	Tapper Roller Bearing Unit	99 Nos.	12.11.2020
572	Metallised carbon strips	448 Nos.	30.11.2020
Reverse Auction			
11	Copper Catenary Wire(19/2 10mm)65 Sq.mm	232000 Mtrs.	07.10.2020
12	Hard Drawn Grooved Copper Contact Wire Jointless, 107Sq.mm.	90500 Mtrs.	09.10.2020

CORRIGENDUM: Please visit www.ireps.gov.in for corrigendum issued to following tender **Sr.No.459 of Tender Notice No. S/17/2020 Dt.20.08.2020 (Thin walled E. Beam cable of various sizes)**

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

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ADDI INDUSTRIES LIMITED

CIN: L51109DL1980PLC256335
REGD.OFFICE: 23 EASTERN AVENUE, MAHARANI BAGH, NEW DELHI- 110065
E-Mail : atul.addi@gmail.com, Tel. : +91-120-2529335

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended 30.06.2020	Quarter ended 31.03.2020	Quarter ended 30.06.2019	Quarter ended 31.03.2020	Quarter ended 30.06.2020	Quarter ended 31.03.2020
1.	Total income from operations	10.41	25.14	17.32	92.57	13.65	28.46
2.	Net Profit for the period (before Tax and exceptional items)	(7.67)	(103.95)	(1.57)	(96.46)	(4.46)	(100.68)
3.	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, after exceptional items)	(7.67)	(103.95)	(1.65)	(96.54)	(4.46)	(100.68)
4.	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after exceptional items)	12.48	(96.38)	(1.08)	(85.51)	15.69	(93.23)
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))	13.97	(93.46)	(0.07)	(79.56)	17.18	(90.31)
6.	Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value - 5/- each)	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00	540.00
7.	Earnings Per Share (of - 5/- each)(Not Annualised)						
	Basic	0.12	(0.89)	(0.01)	(0.79)	0.15	(0.86)
	Diluted	0.12	(0.89)	(0.01)	(0.79)		



THE SECOND COMING

With over 4.66 million cases and 77,472 deaths, India has overtaken Brazil to become the second worst Corona-hit country. This is not all, there are around 95,000 cases reported daily. Is India witnessing a second wave of the virus? MUSBA HASHMI speaks with doctors to tell you more

Just when we thought that India is getting a respite from the Coronavirus and the Capital is on its path to recovery, the second wave of the virus is about to grip the nation. So much so that the country started to recording not less than 80,000 cases per day and went on to overtake Brazil to become the second worst-hit country by the virus.

Having said that, what seems like a silver lining in the clouds is the recovery rate which has soared to 77.77 per cent.

Dr Ajay Kaul, Chairman & HOD — CTVS, BLK Super Speciality Hospital, tells you that with over a billion population, lack of hygiene and overcrowding there is a good chance of having a second wave of COVID-19 and that India is prepared to handle that.

"This pandemic has prepared us very well for the second wave or any other outbreak of a major pandemic in future. The rise of technologies like telemedicine and teleconsultation, proved to be beneficial during this time because it has minimised the doctor-patient contact. This technology has been there for years, but was not being used frequently. Also the use of 3D-printing to make various equipments like ventilator, mask, PPE kits and other disposable items at a very short notice and custom made according to the needs of the medical staff, has equipped us to lead the fight. Not only this, but with the help of various apps which can be installed on mobile phones, we were able to trace the infected people. An example of a country that made the best use of technology for curb the disease is China," Kaul says.

He adds that in order to slow down the falling economy many shops, metros and shopping malls are opened up and a lot of people are already flocking to these places.

This along with the lack of discipline and preventive measures is definitely going to bring a second wave of COVID-19. But, fortunately this time we are better prepared to handle the problem. In hospitals too, we are well prepared to segregate the patient right from the emergency unit to the ward, the whole hospital is geared up to manage an infective patient without contaminating the other routine patients.

We should learn from the countries which has reduced the infection rate and are back going to normal, he says. "The countries like Germany, Italy, Spain, UK, France and other European countries where despite of an early rise in the number of cases, implementing strict measures are able to reduce the number of infected patients. This is an example that it is not impossible to curb or at least slow down the spread of the virus," he tells you.

There are reports that claim that winters can prove to be worse in terms of the virus spread. However, Kaul says it can be the other way round. "Since, very little is known about this virus, we still don't know what is the effect of weather and climate on this virus. Normally, viruses multiply rapidly in cold atmosphere and a decline is seen in summers, but this was not true about coronavirus where even during the peak summer months in India the virus continue to spread very fast and in fact during the months of June and July it was a peak time. So contrary to the normal belief that in winters there may be an increase in the number of patients, it may be the other way around. But, we shouldn't forget that in the months of October and November there is a sharp increase in the number of patients with other viral illness. So, we have to be very careful and should perform hand hygiene frequently. Social

NORMALLY, VIRUSES MULTIPLY RAPIDLY IN COLD ATMOSPHERE AND A DECLINE IS SEEN IN SUMMERS, BUT THIS WAS NOT TRUE ABOUT CORONAVIRUS. SO CONTRARY TO THE BELIEF THAT IN WINTERS THERE MAY BE AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS, IT MAY BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND

— DR AJAY KAUL, CHAIRMAN & HOD — CTVS, BLK SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL

distancing and face masks are the preliminary shields in fighting the virus," he says.

He adds that the number of cases may see a decline from October onwards, when the case load rate gets lesser than the recovery rate, there after COVID-19 patients would start to see a decline.

Dr Shiba Kalyan Biswal, Consultant, Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine, Narayana Hospital, Gurugram, says that one can't speculate about whether the country will see a second wave or not.

"While witnessing an alarming rise in the number of infected cases it is understood to be sceptical about the situation. Considering population, congestion, infrastructure and lack of proper use of mask and social distancing norms in a section of society in the country are adding to the problem of rising cases, but it cannot be considered as a second wave, and it cannot be speculated whether our country will see one or not," he tells you.

The reason behind the increased number of cases, he says, is lockdown being lifted with guidelines and restricted movement is almost free. "People are now coming out of their confined places for economic reasons. And once you step out of your house risk is there. Lesser education, poor awareness and lesser understanding about the precautions related to COVID infection are adding to the problem. The situation is such that it is hard to identify whether the person standing next to you is infected or not, because there are asymptomatic cases as well. Hence, the person may be feeling totally fine, but still can be the carrier of the virus. To curb this, the crowd in public places needs to be managed," Biswal says.

and consult a doctor if needed," he asserts.

Dr Shuchin Bajaj, Founder-Director, Ujala Cygnus Healthcare Services tells you that the high number of cases that are recorded every day can be a result of the second wave. "It looks like the second wave of COVID-19 has already started. And with more States opening up for business purposes, we can say that this wave will be severe and more widespread. Because usually the second wave of any disease is more severe with higher fatality rates. Take for example the Spanish flu, the second wave of which was started in winter season was deadly. For COVID-19, it may not be as deadly because we have better healthcare infrastructure and facilities and certainly have more knowledge about this virus. But having said that, the number of cases are expected to rise in the second wave for sure," Bajaj explains.

To protect ourselves in the second wave, he says, people need to be more vigilant than ever. "Proper sanitisation is must. Follow the rule of SMS — Sanitisation, Mask and Social Distancing. As the virus is relatively new, we don't know the post infection complications. Hence, it is all the more important to follow proper hygiene practices. We have seen some young patients who got cured but months later they came back to us with breathing problems. The only solution is to take as much precautions as possible," he says.

He adds that with winter approaching we have to be more careful. "The Spanish flu's second wave was seen in the winter months. The viruses are known to thrive in cold conditions and the infection rate is high in cold weather," Bajaj says.

Our healthcare workers, doctors and frontline warriors are fighting this battle day in and out. Hence, we are more prepared to fight the virus, he says. "A number of steps have been taken by the Central and State Governments. We have private and Government COVID care centers. Every required step is being taken as per the need. Now that we all are aware about the infrastructure and lack of availability of proper medication in certain areas of the country, we need to work on that as well. As far as the treatment is concerned, even developed countries are working hard to prepare a vaccine and medical trials are being done. This virus and its mutation is making the situation more complicated," Biswal says.

As for the cases of reinfection that India has seen in the past few days, Biswal says that it can prove to be a setback.

"Without any doubt it may prove to be a setback because this means a COVID-19 survivor is equally at the risk of getting infected again. Developing antibodies may help to fight the infection but it is not a guarantee that one cannot be infected again. Back in time we had witnessed the same with dengue. In some areas, people were repeatedly getting infected with the same disease again. Hence, precaution is the key for everybody. Follow a healthy lifestyle, work on your overall wellbeing

'Following a centralised crisis management approach is key'

At a time when the world is fighting to curb the raging virus, Praja Foundation released its report on the Importance of Local Governance in Crisis Management in Mumbai on September 8, 2020. The report is based on Praja's COVID-19 response study of 29 cities across all 28 States and NCT of Delhi in the initial phases of lockdown during the months of May and June, 2020.

Nitai Mehta, Founder and Managing Trustee, Praja Foundation, says that the country followed a strongly centralised approach during the initial phase of the lockdown.

"Cities across the country have become hotspots of the

COVID-19 virus. City level crisis management is of paramount importance in the wake of such crises. However, it was observed that the COVID crisis management in the country followed a strongly centralised approach during the initial and extremely vital period of the lockdowns before June 2020," Mehta tells you.

Under such circumstances, it is important to understand how city Governments across the country were handling the COVID crisis in the cities. Hence, Praja reached out to stakeholders i.e., elected representatives, administrators of City Governments and CSOs in 29 cities across 28 states and NCT of

Delhi.

"To start with, Praja's COVID response study highlights that eight cities (Vijayawada, Itanagar, Guwahati, Bhopal, Shillong, Kohima, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore) out of the 29, do not have an active functioning City Government council as municipal elections are yet to be held," Mehta says.

The report also covers key data points on the involvement of City Governments and Councillors in the COVID crisis management interventions, City Governments that undertook ward level actions, and on distribution of control over delivery of public health service in the cities.

"The decentralised and



efficient delivery of public health services have always been very important, especially in this pandemic. In line with this, The Twelfth Schedule in the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act has provisions on the need for State Government to devolve Public Health function to the City Government. However, it was noted that out of the 29 cities covered in the study, the control of delivery of public health services lies with multiple agencies in 20 cities, and only in four cities, the City Government has control over the delivery of public health service whereas rest of the five cities have public health service delivery under the complete control of the State

Governments," he tells you.

The report also covers the case studies of Agartala, Aizawl, Guwahati and Kochi, which have set examples of localised management of COVID crisis through decentralised citizen engagement in the city.

In Agartala, The Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC) utilised the ward committees led by the Mayor and respective councillors across the city for discharging quick relief measures as a result of the COVID crisis. Localised monitoring and enforcement of COVID-19 norms were issued at each ward. The AMC also used shelter home kitchens for supply of cooked food to the migrant workers.

5 sets, two fighters, one winner

Zverev erases 2-set hole, will face Thiem in US Open final



Alexander Zverev reacts after winning point against Pablo Carreño Busta during US Open semifinal AP

AP ■ NEW YORK

For two full sets, Alexander Zverev was confused and listless, his body language as poor as his winner-to-error ratio against Pablo Carreño Busta in the US Open semifinals on Friday. Zverev double-faulted and smacked his left high. He put a backhand into the net to cede the opening set and covered

It's the biggest goal and also the biggest dream I have in my tennis career, since the moment I realized that maybe one day I can make it. This was the biggest goal I want to achieve.

DOMINIC THIEM
ON WHAT IT WOULD MEAN TO WIN A GRAND SLAM TITLE

I can tell you honestly, two months ago, (if) someone would tell me I would make semis of US Open, I would be super happy.

DANIIL MEDVEDEV
ON A HAPPY TWO WEEKS

I looked at the scoresheet after two sets. I thought to myself, I'm playing a Grand Slam semifinal. I needed to play better, start something new. It turned out well in the end.

Alexander ZVEREV
ZONING IN WHEN IT COUNTED

quite a comeback, getting his game in gear to beat a fading Carreño Busta 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 and reach the title match at Flushing Meadows.

Zverev, the No 5 seed, will play No 2 seed Dominic Thiem on Sunday, and one will walk away with his first Grand Slam trophy in a mostly empty Arthur Ashe Stadium; spectators were barred because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Mentally, I stayed in it. ... A lot of players would have gone away," Zverev said. "There's no easy matches anymore. Sometimes you have to dig deep. Today I dug deep, dug very deep."

Thiem, a 27-year-old from Austria, won a far more entertaining match on Friday night, holding off 2019 US Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev 6-2, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (5). Medvedev held a set point in both the second and third, but Thiem hung in there both times and now will try to improve his 0-3 record in Grand Slam

finals. He has lost to Rafael Nadal at the French Open the past two years and to Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open this February.

"I love these big matches — even more when there's a full stadium, but it's also great in front of many, many TV spectators," Thiem said. "To face the best guys in the world, that's what I do the hard work for all the time at home and in the offseason."

The No 3-seeded Medvedev hadn't dropped a set all tournament until facing Thiem. He'd been broken just three times, a total Thiem matched by Friday's second set.

After conceding first set, Medvedev went up an early break in the second and was two points from taking it while ahead 5-3 and Thiem serving at love-30, but couldn't come through. Medvedev held a set point at 6-5 in the tiebreaker and faltered again, even though Thiem felt something in his right heel while chasing a drop shot.

Thiem began limping and wincing and was worked on by a trainer before the third set. His team also sent him some fresh shoes, but after he slipped behind the baseline on one point, Thiem shouted in German, clearly miffed. After the match, Thiem said he was in pain.

Medvedev was a point away from taking the third set at 5-3, 40-30, but framed a forehand.

"I lost the most important points," Medvedev lamented, "and that's how he got the win."

Zverev is the first man to win a US Open

US Open Men's Final
Live from 1:30am IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & 2

semifinal after a 2-0 set deficit since Djokovic did it against Roger Federer in 2011 — and, keeping good company, he's also the youngest male finalist at any major tournament since Djokovic was 23 in New York in 2010.

Zverev's first trip to a major semifinal came in January at the Australian Open, where he was eliminated by Thiem, who leads their head-to-head series 7-2.

"A great friendship, a great rivalry," Thiem said.

A day after a pair of well-played and competitive women's semifinals — won by Naomi Osaka and Victoria Azarenka, who face each other Saturday night for the championship — Carreño Busta vs Zverev offered little in the way of those characteristics for two sets.

"A big opportunity," the 20th-seeded Carreño Busta called it.

Zverev simply kept missing the mark, even on neutral balls.

Yet after totaling 25 winners and 36 unforced errors over the first two sets, Zverev had 46 winners and just 21 unforced errors over the last three.

"I started taking the ball much earlier. I started taking the ball more on the rise. I started giving myself the chance to be the one that is aggressive," Zverev explained. "I think in the first few sets, Pablo was the one dictating much more than I did. This is how the match slowly turned around."

Undeterred when Carreño Busta twice hit balls right at him during points in the fourth set, Zverev could throw his head back and allow himself a wide smile at the end.



Laura Siegemund, right, and her partner Vera Zvonareva hold up the trophy after winning women's doubles final AP

Zvonareva, Siegemund win women's doubles

New York: Vera Zvonareva and Laura Siegemund stood awkwardly facing each other, rackets and arms in the air in confusion.

Finally, Siegemund turned to the chair umpire for a ruling.

"Are we allowed to give a hug?" she asked. The rules of tennis during the coronavirus pandemic were the only thing Zvonareva and Siegemund couldn't figure out in their first tournament together.

The duo won the US Open women's doubles title on Friday, beating the third-seeded team of Xu Yifan and Nicole Melichar 6-4, 6-4.

Zvonareva and Siegemund collected \$400,000 — and also their hug — by racing to quick leads in both sets and holding on when their opponents began to play better.

Unseeded after deciding to play together shortly before the tournament, Zvonareva and Siegemund found their games worked together and plan to partner again at the upcoming French Open.

"I felt like the third match we really started communicating well, we really started to understand each other," Zvonareva said. "Yeah, it just got better and better from there on."

Zvonareva, a Russian who turned 36 this week, added this title to the 2006 US Open trophy she won with Nathalie Dechy. She also was the runner-up in singles at Flushing Meadows in 2010, falling to Kim Clijsters, and rose to a career-high singles ranking of No 2 the following month.

She also won the 2012 Australian Open doubles title but later battled injuries and began playing less, especially after giving birth to daughter Evelina in 2016. As for Xu and Melichar, they finished second for the second straight tournament in New York. The pair was runners-up at the Western & Southern Open that's usually played in Ohio. AP

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Hazlewood stars in Oz win

Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood insisted it was a case of "onwards and upwards" after he starred in a 19-run win over world champions England in the first ODI at Old Trafford on Friday.

Hazlewood took a miserly 3-26 from his maximum 10 overs that stifled England's pursuit of a target of 295 from the outset, removing opener Jason Roy and Test skipper Joe Root for single figure scores as the hosts limped to 22-2 off the first 10 overs.

This was Australia's first 50-over match against England since a crushing eight-wicket defeat by their arch-rivals in the semi-finals of last year's World Cup at Edgbaston.

Hazlewood, however, didn't play in that match after being controversially omitted from the World Cup squad, with the selectors instead wanting him to regain full fitness following a back injury for the subsequent Ashes in England.

Asked if the way he bowled on Friday made his World Cup absence all the more painful, Hazlewood replied: "Nah it's onwards and upwards. That's a long time ago now, so always looking forward."

The 29-year-old was close to unplayable during a stunning opening spell of two wickets for five runs in six overs.

"England's top order is probably the form top order in the



Josh Hazlewood, third left, celebrates with Australian teammates the dismissal of England's Jason Roy during 1st ODI AP

world in the last three or four years, so I guess going against them is a good measure of where you're at," Hazlewood said after what was just Australia's third win in 14 ODIs against their oldest foe. "To keep them down to 20-odd for two in the first 10 was great."

Meanwhile England captain Eoin Morgan said Hazlewood had enjoyed a "day out" after his side went 1-0 down in a three-match series that continues on Sunday.

"They (Australia) were outstanding, incredibly accurate and they got the ball moving," he said. "It's not often it happens to us."

'KEEPING STOKES'S CHAIR WARM'

Sam Billings kept England in the game with 118, his maiden ODI hundred, after sharing a century partnership with Jonny Bairstow (84) following the hosts' collapse to 57-4.

Billings was the only member of England's XI on Friday not involved in the World Cup squad, with his inclusion owing

much to star all-rounder Ben Stokes still being on compassionate leave with his ill father.

Billings, reflecting on his "mixed feelings" at making a hundred in a losing cause, told Sky Sports he was keen to "keep putting scores on the board" after what was just his 19th ODI appearance in a five-year England career.

The 29-year-old Kent batsman added, however: "I don't think it matters how many runs I get, I know I'm only keeping Stokes's chair warm for him."

Smith available

Manchester: Star Australia batsman Steve Smith has been cleared to take part in the second ODI against England after passing a second concussion test on Saturday.

The 31-year-old was withdrawn from the playing XI of the first ODI "as a precautionary measure" after sustaining a blow on the head in the nets from a throw-down by a coaching staff member on the eve of the match.

However, Smith has passed the two concussion tests, one on Friday and the other on Saturday, according to *cricket.Com.Au*.

Left-arm seamer Mitchell Starc experienced some groin pain on Friday. He managed to complete his 10 overs after slipping on the field but is also expected to play on Sunday. PTI

Morgan, however, insisted Billings had batted brilliantly on the back of "sporadic" chances caused by the fact he, as well as Jos Buttler and Stokes, had often been at No 6 instead.

"But today he (Billings) really stood out in a spot that is really difficult to bat, where you can be thrown in at all different circumstances," said Morgan.

IPL will set momentum for Down Under: Shami

PTI ■ KOLKATA

The Indian Premier League (IPL) is the right kind of tournament that allows players to get into the groove nicely, an absolute must before they hit the Australian shores for two and half months, feels Indian team's premier speedster Mohammed Shami.

The Australia-bound India players will fly directly after the IPL concludes on November 10 for the much-anticipated tour which is likely to begin with a T20 series followed by four Tests and ODIs.

"It would be great that the Australia-bound players are playing IPL. It will set the body and momentum perfectly by then," the Kings XI pace spearhead said.

India under Virat Kohli achieved the historic feat of winning in Australia for the first time in 2018-19 but the hosts did not have Steve Smith and David Warner back then because of their involvement in the ball

tampering scandal. The duo's presence would make the series even more exciting and Shami said everyone is focused on the tour as well.

"I feel it's better that we are playing IPL before a big series. Apart from IPL, everyone is also focused on that tour (Down Under). There is a lot of talk about that series. We will have a good contest."

With the IPL shifted to the UAE, the tournament will be held across three venues of Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah, comprising 60 matches spread over 53 days.

Shami feels unlike in India where they have to fly all over the country for away matches, the IPL in UAE would be less hectic this time.

"Yes, there's back to back matches, training, travelling that's a bit of headache. But it's a short format, short matches, physically there should not be any workload issue. This time, there won't be much travelling. You will have to travel just about two hours by bus (when there is a match in Abu Dhabi)."

Adelaide names home base

Players set to prepare for home summer using new hotel accommodation and training facilities at Adelaide Oval

Melbourne: The Adelaide Oval's onsite hotel is set to serve as biosecure bubble for the Australian men's squad ahead of the high-profile Test series against India later this year.

Cricketer Australia on Saturday announced that its national squad would return from the current tour of the UK to Adelaide for its mandatory quarantine period and preparation for the upcoming home season, a report in *cricket.Com.Au* said.

Those players not involved in the Indian Premier League, as well as coaching and support staff, will make the Adelaide Oval their home once the white-ball tour of England concludes following Wednesday's third

ODI in Manchester. They can train throughout their quarantine period at the new Oval Hotel based at Adelaide Oval.

For Australia players like Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Starc, Marnus Labuschagne and Matthew Wade, the quarantine period at Adelaide Oval biosecure bubble will mark the start of preparation for a Test summer against heavyweights India and potentially Afghanistan.

According to the report, CA also "remains in productive conversations with state Governments regarding arrival and quarantine arrangements for the Indian team, as well as Australian players returning from the IPL in the UAE". PTI

Ferguson looking forward to rub shoulders with Cummins

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Kolkata Knight Riders speedster Lockie Ferguson is relishing the prospect of bowling alongside one of the world's best pacers, Pat Cummins, in the upcoming IPL.

Two-time winners KKR comprise a heavy pace artillery this time. Most of the bowlers can clock 140-150kph consistently, with the star Australian recruit leading the attack.

"We are always nice to the guy who can bowl at 150kph. Yeah, pace-offs we are surely going to have with each other," the New Zealander told *kkri.in*.

"I don't know if you are aware of this fast bowling club. Look, Pat is an exceptional bowler, there is no secret about that. He is the bowler of the year



internationally almost every year. "He seems to be getting better and better and he is still so young. He is a lovely guy and I am thoroughly looking forward to rubbing shoulders with him," the 29-year-old said of the No 1 speedster in Test cricket.

Back for his second season, Ferguson was training with the squad on Friday after serving the mandatory quarantine.

Ferguson said he's working on some variations but his priority is to get back to the grind and bowling again.

"Certainly, in my arsenal, I pack my yorkers and slower balls. But I am also working on some other variations. It was a nice little break (during the lockdown) but yeah, my body needs to adjust now from no bowling to lots of training."

With New Zealand great Brendon McCullum back at KKR as the head coach, Ferguson said he's super excited "Brendon (McCullum) was

Ali Khan of US to join KKR

Abu Dhabi: The IPL is set to see participation of a player from the USA for the first time with Kolkata Knight Riders roping in fast bowler Ali Khan for the upcoming 13th edition of the league.

The two-time winners will pick the 29-year-old fast bowler — pending IPL approval — as a replacement for the English seamer Harry Gurney, according to an *ESPNcricinfo* report. Khan's signing will make

him the first USA player to feature in the IPL. He was part of the Trinbago Knight Riders' squad which remained unbeaten on the way to their CPL title win. He picked up eight wickets with an economy rate of 7.43. Bravo, in one of his Instagram stories, posted a video with Khan, Brendon McCullum and a few more inside a plane with the caption 'Next stop Dubai'. PTI

B'desh ready to tour SL if 7-day quarantine is maintained: BCB

Dhaka: Bangladesh is set to go ahead with its scheduled three-match Test tour of Sri Lanka as per schedule provided the hosts stick to the seven-day mandatory quarantine regulations for the visiting team, the country's cricket board (BCB) said on Saturday.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday stated that Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has informed them that the visitors will have to spend a week in quarantine instead of the earlier mandated 14-day period ahead of their upcoming series.

Bangladesh has started their preparation and the players might have a week-long residential camp ahead of the tour beginning on September 21. PTI

Mo Salah, more goals

Egyptian's last-minute penalty seals win for Premier League champions!

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool began the defence of the league title with 4-3 win in a thrilling game at Anfield. Mo Salah blasted the Reds into the lead from the penalty spot but Jack Harrison levelled things with a smart finish following a brilliant Calvin Phillips cross-field pass.

Virgil van Dijk rose highest unmarked from an Andy Robertson corner to head Liverpool back into the lead.

However, the Dutchman was at fault for Leeds' equaliser as his poor clearance allowed Patrick Bamford to slide the ball past Alisson.

Leeds couldn't hang on again and after failing to clear Andy Robertson's free-kick properly, Salah powered a shot into the top corner to restore Liverpool's lead.

Helder Costa's pinpoint pass found Mateusz Klich in the area who brought the score level for a third time.

It looked as if Leeds had come away with a stunning opening-day point before Rodrigo's foul on Fabinho awarded the hosts their second penalty of the game.

Salah made no mistake again to earn Liverpool the three points.

WILLIAN STARS

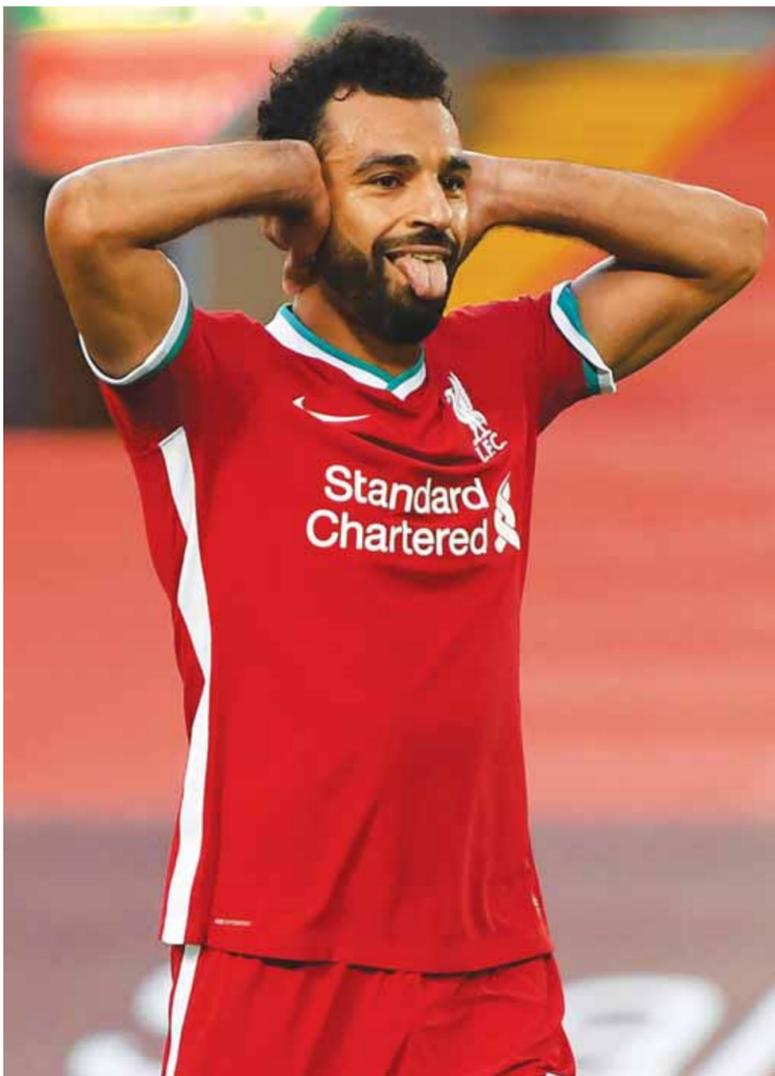
Earlier in the first game of the new season, Arsenal made a flying start as Gabriel Magalhaes grabbed a debut goal and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored a stunner in 3-0 win at Fulham.

Arsenal's free-flowing attack was too incisive for promoted Fulham and Alexandre Lacazette gave the visitors an early lead at Craven Cottage.

Brazilian defender Gabriel scored Arsenal's second after the break in his first appearance since his close-season move from Lille.

Aubameyang added the final flourish with a typically eye-catching strike that emphasised why Arsenal are so desperate for the Gabon forward to sign an extension to the contract which expires at the end of the season.

Arteta has said that fans concerned about Aubameyang will leave can "relax" because he is "very optimistic" his captain will agree a new deal soon.



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah celebrates after he scored his side's fourth goal against Leeds United at the Anfield stadium

With former Chelsea winger Willian providing a pair of assists on his debut, it was the ideal way for Arsenal to start a season that appears full of promise after last season's FA Cup triumph.

Although their eighth-placed finish in the Premier League ranked as Arsenal's lowest final position since 1995, Arteta had little to do with that after taking charge in December following the

dismal reign of Unai Emery. The former Manchester City assistant coach has been a much-needed breath of fresh air for Arsenal and pushing for a place in the top four should not be beyond



Arsenal's Alexandre Lacazette, center, scores Arsenal opening goal against Fulham

Spurs vs Everton
Live from 9:00pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

his revitalised team this term.

While the continued absence of fans due to the coronavirus and shorter than usual break has taken a little anticipation away from the new campaign, Arsenal were keener than most to get back in action after beating Chelsea in the FA Cup final.

The Gunners had underlined their rapid improvement by defeating Premier League champions Liverpool on penalties in the Community Shield last month and Fulham were no match for them.

CRUMBLING FULHAM

The only dark cloud for Arteta was a pre-match spat between Dani Ceballos and Eddie Nketiah.

The pair had to be separated by Arsenal team-mates after Nketiah reacted to an aggressive challenge from Ceballos while a group of players were exchanging passes in the warm-up.

Arteta must have been alarmed when Ainsley Maitland-Niles hit a weak back pass that caused confusion between Gabriel and recalled keeper Bernd Leno early on.

Aboubakar Kamara nipped in but Leno managed to save at his feet before the Fulham forward could get a shot away.

Arteta's worries were eased when Lacazette netted in the ninth minute.

Granit Xhaka's strike forced a miscued clearance from Tim Ream and Willian pounced with a close-range shot that Fulham keeper Marek Rodak could only push out to Lacazette, who slotted home from virtually on the goalline.

It made Lacazette the first player to score the opening goal of a Premier League campaign twice after the French striker also bagged the opener in 2017-18.

Willian was denied a debut goal when his low free-kick cannoned off the base of the post.

Gabriel was enjoying a composed debut and the 22-year-old showed he can be a goal threat as well when he doubled Arsenal's lead in the 49th minute.

Willian swung over the corner and Gabriel showed his desire as he rose above Michael Hector for an attempted header that hit his shoulder as it flashed into the net.

Fulham's defence was crumbling like the recently demolished Craven Cottage stand and Aubameyang finished them off in the 57th minute with a carbon copy of his Community Shield goal against Liverpool.

Just as at Wembley, Willian's superb cross-field pass picked out Aubameyang and he was allowed to advance unchecked into the area before bending a fine finish into the far corner.



Hamilton wins Tuscan pole

Bottas comes second as Mercedes book front row

AFP ■ MUGELLO

Lewis Hamilton claimed a record-increasing 95th pole position on Saturday when he outpaced Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas to seize the prime grid position in qualifying for Sunday's inaugural Tuscan Grand Prix.

It was the series leader and six-time champion's seventh pole in eight races this year as Mercedes continued their dominant run to nine poles out of nine this season with an eighth consecutive front row lockout.

Bottas had been fastest in all three practice sessions, but he was unable to maintain his superiority over the Briton in the decisive hour albeit that his second run was affected by yellow flags after Esteban Ocon spun in his Renault.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen was third ahead of his team-mate Alex Albon with Charles Leclerc claiming fifth for Ferrari, as they celebrate their 1000th Grand Prix at their own circuit.

Sergio Perez, who faces a one-place grid penalty for his brush with Kimi Raikkonen on Friday, qualified sixth ahead of his Racing Point team-mate Lance Stroll, Daniel Ricciardo of Renault, Carlos Sainz of McLaren and Ocon.



"It's been a very tough weekend," said Hamilton. "And I'm very grateful to my team because it has been so close with Valtteri and Max, but what a circuit this is!"

'A WORK IN PROGRESS'

Mercedes hope to complete their contract talks and agree a new deal with Lewis Hamilton during the upcoming mini-breaks in the congested Formula One calendar, team chief Toto Wolff has revealed. But, he told a news confer-

Tuscan Grand Prix
Live from 6:45pm IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

ence at Mugello, he does not have a date in mind when he hopes to announce a happy conclusion and confirmation that the six-time world champion has a new deal with the team.

The series leader said in July that he expected it to be a relatively straightforward process and "not a big effort" and he had no desire to move to another team.

Wolff supported this on Friday when he pointed out that the three 'triple-headers' this season — making for nine races in 11 weeks since the coronavirus-hit calendar began — had offered few opportunities for talks.

"This is a work in progress and I wouldn't want to commit to a specific date," said Wolff.

"We get on very well, but then when it comes down to the detail, you just need enough time to do that. With one race after the other, we don't want to be distracted by contract talks. In between, with the larger gaps, like next week, we're moving towards a satisfactory outcome, but I don't know when it will be announced."

Neymar back in PSG squad

AP ■ PARIS

Neymar is back in the Paris Saint-Germain squad for Sunday's home game against bitter rival Marseille after recovering from the coronavirus.

However, PSG coach Thomas Tuchel is not sure whether Neymar, winger Angel Di Maria, goalkeeper Keylor Navas or midfielder Leandro Paredes will start the game at Parc des Princes.

They recovered after being among six PSG players who tested positive for Covid-19 following a club-approved trip to Ibiza soon after the 1-0 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League final on



Aug 23. "If I asked them, their answer would be clear. They want to play, that's obvious," Tuchel said at a pre-game news conference on Saturday.

"I will decide tomorrow. It's a question of whether they start or they finish the match for us. We don't need to wait too long. If there's no risk, we'll try."

Captain Marquinhos and striker Mauro Icardi also tested positive following that trip to Spain and are not in the squad.

Neither is star striker Kylian Mbappé, whose positive virus test happened on international duty with France last week.

LYON HELD AT BORDEAUX

Champions League semifinalist Lyon was held at Bordeaux to 0-0 in a tepid French Ligue 1 encounter on Friday.



Celta Vigo drew at Eibar 0-0 as the Spanish league started a new on Saturday still without fans in the stands. Eibar could thank resolute goalkeeper Marko Dmitrovic for salvaging a point at home

Maguire retained as Man United captain

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will continue with Harry Maguire as the team's captain for the new season, calling the defender "an absolute top human being."

Maguire was given a suspended 21-month sentence last month for assaulting a police officer, swearing, resisting arrest and attempted bribery during an incident on the Greek island of Mykonos in the offseason. He has since filed an appeal against his conviction and will get a retrial in a more senior court on a date yet to be announced.

"He's handled it really well and, of course, I'll be here to support him," Solskjaer said of Maguire.

"He is going to be our captain. We'll just leave Harry and his people and the process to run."

"For me, he is a top, an absolute top human being and has always been a positive guy with the right values. So I really hope we can see Harry performing at his best."

Ney signs up with Puma

Paris: German sportswear giant Puma on Saturday announced that it has signed a long-term partnership with Brazil and Paris St Germain star Neymar.

The development comes two weeks after the forward's nearly 15-year association with Nike came to an end.

The 28-year-old put out a message on his social media handles entitled "The King is Back", in which spoke about the impact that football greats such as Pele and Diego Maradona have had on his life, and his decision to follow in their footsteps by partnering with Puma.

"I grew up watching videos of great football legends such as Pele, (Johan) Cruyff, Eusebio



and Maradona," he said. "These were the kings of the pitch, the kings of my sport. I wish to bring back the legacy that those athletes created on the pitch. They each played in PUMA, and each of them created their magic in the KING." AP

Former CSA employees accuse it of being 'unfair' & 'unlawful'

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

The crisis in South African cricket deepened with five former employees of the sport's governing body in the country accusing it of being "unfair and unlawful."

They made the accusations in a six-page letter to the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC), which has asked Cricket South Africa's board to step aside as it investigates "many instances of maladministration and malpractice" in the organisation.

The five person in question are former head of sales and marketing Clive Eksteen, former chief operating officer Nassei Appiah, ex-senior manager of finance Ziyanda Nkuta, former manager for procurement Lundi Maja and Appiah's former personal assistant, Dalene Nolan.

"Our concern is that Cricket South Africa has, through various officials, misled and continues to mislead Parliament, the Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture and the public," they said in the letter, according to www.Iol.Co.Za.

"By so doing, Cricket South Africa has created a narrative

that the organisation's woes are the results of irresponsible stakeholder and financial management for which we were suspended and in most cases dismissed."

While Appiah was the last to be sacked, in August, Eksteen, too, was fired this year in June and the three others were shown the door last December.

"The organisation seeks to paint a picture whereby it appears to have dealt with the problem by our expulsion and to assure all interested parties that this was done in keeping with good governance, natural justice and the law of the land."

"This cannot be further from the truth as Cricket South Africa has been underhanded in its dealing with us by completely abandoning any ethics that demand that a disciplinary hearing is conducted in a manner that is lawful, procedurally fair and in the best interest of the organisation and the sport."

The CSA has been left with no one to run the daily affairs after SASCOC asked the board to step aside.

CSA has been in the middle of administrative chaos for last two years and is currently also facing allegations of corruption and racial discrimination.

Systematic approach and two-way communication key to rise in world rankings: Sunil

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Indian men's team striker SV Sunil on Saturday expressed that the growth of the national teams, both men and women, over the past 10 years has been tremendous as there is a lot more professionalism and accountability now. He drew comparison to when he began his journey in international hockey in 2007 at the Asia Cup.

"It was very different when I came into the senior India team in 2007. A lot has changed in terms of how the national team is managed now in comparison to 10-12 years ago," expressed Sunil who has been the cynosure of India's forward line for over a decade.

"There is a lot more professionalism and accountability. Hockey India



has ensured we have quality support system which is on par or better than other top nations and the planning of events and competition ensures we gain the right exposure before top tournaments. This systematic approach has definitely contributed to the team's

improvement over the years," he added.

The experienced forward emphasised that a two-way communication system in coaching has helped the team climb up the ranks in world hockey.

"Earlier, we would do what the coach would say without questioning or without reasoning. But this has changed drastically over the years and there is a two-way communication approach where players are equally involved in planning training sessions," he said.

"Senior players are also consulted by Hockey India, to ensure we are on the right track. I think these aspects have not only made the players as well as support staff more responsible and accountable but it has also largely helped in India's climb up the world rank to No 4."

The striker is confident both Hockey India and Sports Authority of India (SAI) will ensure the best preparation opportunities for the teams in the lead up to the Olympic Games next year.

"While we are aware there may not be any competition at all this year barring select internal-matches, we are confident good tours will be planned early next year that will give us the right exposure before the Asian Champions Trophy and the FIH Hockey Pro League.

"We will need a good build up to the Olympic Games and we have been told a proposal has already been made by Hockey India and the coaching staff to SAI for our tours and we look forward to doing our bit also," Sunil said.

'You can't have a good role in a bad script'



What is your role in *Flesh*?

I play ACP Radha Nautiyal. She is a cop in the Mumbai Anti-trafficking unit. She is trying to trace a girl who has been kidnapped and that is when she discovers a trafficking racket. The show is a much wider look at the world of human trafficking. And because it's a series, the format allows you to delve into details.

You haven't played a cop before. How challenging was it to get into the skin of the character?

Yes, it is the first time I am playing a cop and

also the first time I am doing action. It was exciting and of course challenging. The toughest part for me was that no one in my family or friends is a cop. So I had to start from the scratch. I met a lot of policemen and policewomen to understand what their lives are like. It is quite interesting because one of the common threads that I found in all of them was the sense of frustration that they have because of the fact that all the criminals have a way to manipulate the system and get away. They work so hard to catch the criminals and yet the criminals get away because of some personal connections or bribes. I found this very interesting and used this frustration to make that the motivating factor of Radha's character. She is actually a cop who has a lot of frustration against the system and that was a good way to frame the character. Then, I had to train for the action. I have never held a gun in my hand in my life. I hated it and it was the hardest thing. I knew I could never play a real-life cop because I hate guns so much. And that was my least favourite part of the shoot. I also had to train for the running. When I ran for the first time, the director told me that I run like a girl. I was like 'umm yes'. Then he told me that you are playing a cop and you have to bring that in your body language. Then I trained with an athlete and my running slowly improved dur-

Talktime

SWARA BHASKER

Bhasker, who has done films like *Anaarkali of Aarah*, *Nil Battey Sannata* and *Veere Di Wedding*, speaks with Musba Hashmi about her latest project *Flesh* on *Eros Now*, challenges faced and the thing that makes her feel uncomfortable on the sets even today

I feel nauseous and sick with anxiety on the day of the screening of the film. I am a very nervous actor. On the first day of shoot, I always feel that I have forgotten how to act. When the film is about to release, I just can't sleep the night before even today

Were there any apprehensions before taking up the role?

I was terrified and I still can't believe that I pulled this off. When people praise my work, I am like 'what, are you sure' because I still can't believe it. I

was scared of this role. Having said that, the reason why I said yes to the role is because it was challenging and I wanted to do it. I was keen to do it and see how this new thing will turn out for me. And of course the script is good and the story is compelling, so it was like an add-on.

Is there a checklist that you follow when you pick and choose your projects?

There is no checklist. But the first thing that I look out for is definitely the script and the role. You can't have a great role in a bad script or story and you can't have a great story with a terrible role. Both things have to work for me. Also for me the intention of the maker is very important. I always feel if the intent is right, we can figure out everything else. I am always careful that as an actor whether I will get a chance to perform in a good story. I also try to make it possible that we can build the project if the story is good. For *Anaarkali of Aarah*, everyone asked me why I was doing it but I told them that I have faith in the story.

What is that one thing that makes you uncomfortable while you are on the sets?

I don't like when people are not serious about the work and if people are not appreciating someone's work. Filmmaking is teamwork and the idea that only one person makes a film or only actors make a film is not true. So I

don't like it when people act like only their job is important in the film. I find that problematic and I am very careful about that, that I don't behave in such a manner.

What keeps you grounded?

The sense of the outside world. I have a good awareness of the fact that Bollywood is not the whole world. It is just a small part of a huge world where a lot of things are happening. Apart from this what keeps me grounded is my parents, friends and family who never treated me any differently, both before and after I entered the industry.

How does it feel like when you look back at your journey? Are there any regrets?

I feel proud and happy. My journey has been one where I have worked on my terms and beliefs. I have nothing to be ashamed of and I can stand on my body of work and feel proud of it. But yes when I look back at some projects I do feel that I could have done better acting but apart from that I don't have any complaints at all.

Do you still have butterflies in your stomach when you see yourself on the 70 mm screen?

I feel nauseous and sick with anxiety on the day of the screening of the film. I am a very nervous actor. On the first day of shoot, I always feel that I have forgotten how to act. When the film is about to release, I just can't sleep the night before even today.

The Coronavirus outbreak has indeed tested our values, principles and humanity. And almost everybody has stepped up to come forward and help those who are less fortunate in whatever way they can. Meet one such real-life hero — Neelam Talwar, special flight's cabin crew member of Vande Bharat Mission.

Talwar's story is that of inspiration not only has she been instrumental in getting back thousands of Indian stranded abroad under the Government's initiative Vande Bharat Mission (VBM) she has also pledged 100 km for the Sunfeast India Run As One initiative in order to make a difference in the lives of people from the marginalised society and those who have lost their livelihood.

She tells you that the idea behind her pledge stems from the way the COVID-19 has impacted not just the entire world but India as well due to which many people have lost their jobs. "The initiative is a good move. The idea is to either run, jog, walk and later do yoga and exercise for half-an-hour which comes to 1 km of run. One can do all this and the proceeds from the run go to the people who have lost their livelihood," Talwar explains.

Some of the people who would be benefitting are micro-entrepreneurs, farmers, migrant workers, LGBTQIA communities, differently-abled, tribal communities, athletes, sportspersons, vulnerable women and women supported families to name a few.

"These are testing time for the society and we are fighting a battle against a virus that shall only proliferate in the future until a vaccine is invented, but we can't let this bring our lives to a complete standstill. We need to unite against this and lend a helping hand to people who need our support. Therefore, when I heard about this initiative, I decided to pledge to run 100 km and would urge others to come forward and pledge as many km as they can," the air hostess tells you who has been working since 1993.

All one has to do is to register at www.sunfeastindiarunasone.procam.in and pledge whatever km one can run. It starts with a run at ₹99; then there one for ₹499 and finally for ₹999. "Whatever one registers for, all this money goes towards the cause — GiveIndia, the NGO to whom the money will go to who will then use the money to build the livelihood of the marginalised. This is in collaboration with Procram International with Sunfeast as the title sponsor," Talwar says.

One can of course pledge as many more km as one wants to but due to the nature of Talwar's job, she was not sure

The present pandemic has thrown up unprecedented challenges globally. But there have been real-life heroes who have stepped in to lend a helping hand to those who have lost their livelihood. SHALINI SAKSENA speaks with one such warrior

Running for a cause



that she could run more. "Since the cause here is to raise the money, it is not the distance one runs. However, just to motivate people, if one pledges for ₹499, one gets a bib number and a medal. If one registers for ₹999, one gets a special number at the end of the event. I was however, not looking at the money but the distance I wanted to run," Talwar says. The reward also includes a specially designed e-certificate of recognition, autographed by Tiger Shroff and marathon legend Eliud Kipchoge.

There are over a dozen Bollywood stars besides Tiger Shroff, Athiya Shetty, Milind Soman, Armaan Jain, Tara Sutaria and Rahul Bose too have joined this movement. The other names associated with the movement are Olympic Gold medalist Abhinav Bindra, Padma Shri gymnast Dipa Karmakar, Padma

Shri Vijay Amritraj, and Olympian marathoner Nitendra Singh Rawat. Cricketers Amit Mishra, Shikha Pandey and Paralympic swimming sensation Niranjana Mukundan too have joined in. The main goal of this movement is to showcase the power of togetherness which will contribute to changing the lives that matter.

Interestingly, one doesn't have to do any kind of physical activity to be part of this initiative. One can just register for whatever amount they want to. The reason why Talwar chose to run is because she is a runner. The initiative that kickstarted on August 15, 2020 and was to end on September 13, 2020 has now been extended to September 30, 2020. One can still register and pledge.

When Talwar had started off, she had to complete her pledge run by

September 13, 2020 but has already run 115 km and counting despite the hectic demands of her job. She tells you that it is not all that tough "It is all in the mind. I just needed a push to get out of the house. I had stopped running due to COVID-19 situation. I had taken up indoor exercises and yoga. But when I heard of this initiative, I took up the chance to run again. But when VBM started I started running every alternative day," Talwar says for whom running is a lifestyle.

"I have always been a runner. I was a national level athlete in school and college. However, running took a backseat when I joined Air India back in 1993. The demands of the new job and travelling the world took over. But then in 2009, I started off with lawn tennis and started hitting the gym as I wanted to

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A RUNNER. I WAS A NATIONAL-LEVEL ATHLETE IN SCHOOL AND COLLEGE. HOWEVER, RUNNING TOOK A BACKSEAT WHEN I JOINED AIR INDIA BACK IN 1993. THE DEMANDS OF THE NEW JOB AND TRAVELLING THE WORLD TOOK OVER. BUT THEN IN 2009, I STARTED OFF WITH LAWN TENNIS AND STARTED HITTING THE GYM AS I WANTED TO PURSUE LONG-DISTANCE RUNNING

pursue long-distance running due to some health issues. Once I got my stamina back, I started running again and since then I have been a part of numerous marathons and long-distance running events. Unfortunately, due to my hectic flying schedule, I haven't been able to take part in as many competitions as I would wish to, but I try my best to have an active running lifestyle," the mother of two tells you.

In order to complete her pledge well before the deadline, Talwar gets out of the house at 4:30 am to run on NH-48. Of course, safety is an issue hence her husband is with her, in his car while she runs. Though her husband is not a runner, he loves to cycle and when he goes riding, she does the tailing. Now, her younger son too has taken to running and pledged 70 km to the movement.

Her advice to those who want to take up physical activity: "One doesn't have to run only. There are other things that can keep you going. Don't copy others, take up an exercise that one enjoys. Eat health and start thinking about yourself," Talwar says.

'Son of Abish has done wonders for my career'

Comedian ABISH MATHEW speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about his latest season of *Son Of Abish* which has guests like Raftaar and Indian American rapper Utkarsh, how working with limited resources helped and journey so far

What is *Son of Abish* Season 7 about?

The first episode of the season is already out. It is fully done all while being at home. We wanted to address the live audience as it just adds to the flavour of the show. We got all the audience online with their mics and videos. We have had good conversations.

How did the idea come up for the show?

The show started in 2013-14. I love being on stage be it hosting, comedy or performing since I was in school and stumbled upon *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno. I thought it was an interesting format without knowing what it entailed. There were two things that caught my imagination — one doing what I do best and there is a live audience. I just wished that there was some way that I could both. But I didn't know what broadcasting was and other technical aspects. When YouTube came, I started a show with comedy. Season 2 was a talk show and Season 7 I a mix of things — talking to the audience, give my opinion and celebs who come in.

How did you get into standup comedy?

When I was in school my teacher told my parents that while I had not done too well academically — in Math, but don't worry he will do well on stage. My parents said that they were aware of it and hence didn't pressurise me. That is when I doubled down and went into music, radio and host programmes. From there I got into making people laugh.

What are the celebs this time around?

I am very proud of the guest list that I have this time. We have Raftaar who comes in with Utkarsh Ambudkar, an Indian-American rapper, he is a Hollywood actor who was in *Pitch Perfect*. Then there is Hari Kondabolu, one of the most popular Indian American stand-up comedians who came with Sumukhi Suresh. Then there is Asif Ali with Kalki Koechlin. Then there is the Flying Beast Family — Ritu and Gaurav and in the middle their daughter came in and waved, that was so cute.

How does it work, with you at home, celebs where they are and the audience — all at different locations?

Technically, we recorded everything. We had our technical and creative team in place. The only concern was to figure out whether the audience will enjoy the experience since they are the ones who bought the tickets. I spend more time with them. Even the celebs made sure that they entertained.

Was it tough to convince the celebs to be part of the show?

It is tough given the present situation. Whether it will be good for them or not. But luckily, I have done six seasons. This was easy to approach first-timers like Raftaar. If the celeb refused, I understood that there were constraints. If someone didn't know, I was like a salesperson.

What were the challenges — finances and technical?

Digital challenges could be met with by buying Google Drive space. Everyone worked remotely and kept backup. I am not working with writers, I am working with a group of producers who know how to edit, direct and produce. Everyone had one major project and everyone helped each other.

How has the journey been?

I would say that this show has done more to my career than my stand-up. This is good since this was the am. I have become a better performer and producer. Because of this I have been able to build another show *Journey of a Joke* and two-three other shows. I now understand the business of things. *Son Of Abish* is my teacher.

Can Indians take jokes on themselves and be more tolerant?

We have always managed to joke on ourselves. The only problem is that on social media, it is difficult to determine the age of the audience. If you want to say something, some may agree and others not. One has to be mature to take it. Take an example. On TV, there are many programmes, but I want to watch cartoons even though there is news. People have the right to say what they want. Right now, this is not happening but it will soon — when people will listen to what the other has to say.

What next?

I have started a company that is single-handedly producing *Son Of Abish*. I want to make other shows and work with a few friends. We want to build what we want and what makes us happy.



Hi5 'ACTORS ARE NOT MADE, THEY ARE BORN'

NITIN ARORA, who was recently seen in MX Players' *Dangerous*, shares with MUSBA HASHMI the experience of working with Bipasha Basu, his fondest memory from the sets and the reason why thrillers can never go out of trend

What is your role in *Dangerous*?

I play a cop, Jags. But the role is more of a detective, like Sherlock Holmes than a cop. It's an amazing role. Bipasha and I are out on solving a case.

What attracted you towards the role?

For any actor who is getting to play such a role is like a dream. The film is good and the way it has been shot in London is brilliant. Also the role that I am playing, it's not a usual cop. He doesn't wear a uniform. He is an extremely calm character throughout. It's a beautiful role altogether. Also no one would like to miss a chance to work with Bipasha Basu.

Dangerous marks your OTT platform debut. How was the experience working on the platform?

The experience was amazing. It

was like the most beautiful 50 days of my life. Natasha (Suri) and I had a wonderful time together and we fought a lot too. It was like revisiting my college days.

Your fondest memory from the sets.

Natasha and I were sharing a big room together on the sets. We used to get ready there and I pulled her leg throughout. We became best friends during the course of time. Like, I said it was more of a college time for me. The way I played pranks on her, it was fun.

Thrillers never go out of trend. What do you think makes them so popular?

You are absolutely right, thrillers can never get out of trend because they are very edgy. We all love to have thrills in life but we usually don't get to see these things hap-



pening in our lives. It goes without saying that we are automatically attracted towards things that doesn't happen in our life. It also creates excitement in the audience wherein they anticipate what happens next in the film. Excitement level is high and that is the reason for people's inclination towards thrillers.

You don several hats that of an actor, director, host and others. What comes naturally to you?

I have been hosting for 20 years now. Every host is an actor. When you are on stage, you are acting. I remember when I hosted Commonwealth games, there were 60,000 people in the stadium. You have to be a great actor in order to control such a huge crowd. On the stage, I was reciting a poem — *Veer tum badhey chalo hum tumharey saath hain* and the whole crowd was

reciting it with me. Hence, you have to be an actor to get connected with your audience at a given point of time. So acting and hosting come naturally to me and I love doing it.

How do you define acting?

Acting is a skill that you naturally have. Actors are not made, they are born. Of course, you brush up your skills over time, but this doesn't change the fact. An actor is like water. Whichever vessel he'll be in, he is so flexible that he will acquire that very shape. That's why an actor is called a character. He is bound to get into the skin of the character that he plays.

You can't pay enough money to cure that feeling of being broken and confused
— Winona Ryder



FROM THE INSIDE

The spiritual garden

The gardens of the world teach us how we can nurture the seed of our soul so that it may blossom

2



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Let things happen naturally

Everybody comes into life with a preordained programme that usually drives one's course of life

If technology becomes inclusive of the elderly population, it stands to improve their quality of life tremendously. So, even if it feels overwhelming to them at first, it is totally worth the effort of learning how to use it, writes HARISH KHATRI

EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

THE BARRIERS & SOLUTIONS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



Life expectancy has constantly been on the rise for the last 150 years in developed countries, mainly due to better living conditions, higher hygienic standards and improved medical care. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), global average life expectancy increased by 5.5 years between 2000 and 2016, the fastest increase since the 1960s. Life expectancy in India has increased from 49.7 years in 1970-75 to 68.7 years in 2012-16, as per the National Health Profile 2019.

The high life expectancy we face today has led to a significant increase in the number of senior citizens in our society. And they have become a strong and independent segment and a community by themselves. Parallely, the world has seen a huge growth in technology, which now supports and streamlines many day-to-day activities. It would have been almost impossible to navigate our way through world lockdowns and isolation periods if it was not for the internet, technology-based platforms and apps that home delivered conveniences to us.

Even in the pre-Covid world, we saw people changing their lifestyles and even asset buying habits because of the massive changes brought in by technology. Many preferred not to buy cars because of apps offering rides on call. From our health to our home and work place everything became entwined in technology. For our Senior Citizens technology has come as a boon, helping them stay at home and be able to handle many tasks. But has embracing technology been smooth for this segment? We all know many older persons who can barely text let alone manoeuvre mobile apps! In fact, many older adults say they still don't feel confident about using gadgets and tech-based platforms.

As was recently published, according to the lead author of a study, Shengzhi Wang of the Design Lab at the University of California San Diego (UCSD), researchers found that many times "frustration" with new technology made older adults unsure of their ability to use it, leaving them unmotivated to even try. So, what are these barriers that are causing the frustration?

● **Barrier of Constant Updates and Change:** One of the biggest barriers that frustrated the elders was removal of buttons from mobile phones. They had adapted well to the "Button Mobiles", but with the technology advancements and introduction of new "Touch Mobiles", they started feeling uncomfortable. The Smartphone became an all new beast to conquer and many of them still struggle.

● **Barrier of Remembering too many passwords:** Although this problem is quite prevalent for all age groups, but the burden of having a password for every different app and account affects the Seniors the most. Nowadays, it is impossible to get into any online or app-based service without the "log in" procedures. Although Google allows accessing many of the online portals through a single login account, but there are still many platforms out there that will require a separate account setup. In many instances the tech of most mobile apps is tedious and complicated, whereas it should have been inclusive and guiding. Moreover, Seniors usually prefer to have one password for all their online accounts so that they won't forget it. However, this is no longer a recommended practice as it attracts cybercriminals and hackers. This itself should encourage mobile apps to have simpler ways for login.

“THE IT INDUSTRY NEEDS TO REDEFINE AND INCULCATE NEW PRACTICES TO MAKE TECHNOLOGY MORE INCLUSIVE. TO BEGIN WITH, FOR THE AGING POPULATION, A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION HAS TO BE FOCUSED ON DESIGN TO SUPPORT THE PERFORMANCE OF IMPORTANT EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION, HEALTHCARE, AND WORK”

● **Barrier of Fear of making a mistake:** The fear of navigating a mobile app indicates that you are getting old! The main reason of being afraid is making mistakes. Even in the past, the earlier generation used to think twice before handling the VCR remote due to the same fear. Although touch and voice commands can do wonders for seniors, we must build confidence in them enough to experiment with these tech monsters! Like when we buy a smart television, someone from the Company comes and give us a demo, Tech companies should go to that level and provide doorstep demo services for their mobile apps. Once the fear of losing money isn't there, rest all other worries can be taken care of by giving them confidence to hit and try. It's okay to make a mistake as long as there is no price to pay for their mistakes.

● **Barrier of too many Options:** We live in an era where we have numerous choices of products. Even though it is beneficial for us, it has made the buying process even more confusing, especially for Seniors. They can't select which product is best for them in a plethora of product options. There has to be an honest and simple grading system which helps the elderly understand what's available, and how does it rank in quality and service.

● **Barrier of Barrier of Visual Impairments:** Visual functions decrease as people age. The change in visual functionality or the ability to see details decelerate at the age of 55 and above. The age-related changes in colour vision and contrast sensitivity creates more trouble for older adults particularly while reading smaller fonts and different icons in smartphones and other gadgets.

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HELPING SENIORS BECOME COMFORTABLE WITH TECHNOLOGY
The IT industry needs to redefine and inculcate new practices to make tech more inclusive. To begin with, for the aging population, a

great deal of attention has to be focused on design to support the performance of important everyday activities such as transportation, healthcare, and work.

We need to take inspiration from "Button Mobiles" and create "Touch Button Technology" which is simple and easy to use. For instance, the recently launched app, India Assist that has been created for the Senior Citizens uses technology to deliver 24x7 assistance to the elderly via a phone app. Prototype of using an Elder-friendly design can be seen in this app. Big buttons, clearly mentioning what they are supposed to do, with the right visuals, remove a lot of barriers that we discussed above.

We also need to focus on the value tech can create in their lives, like assisting them to live an independent and dignified life. We should ensure use of easy and non-confusing language. The new words the Internet has created in our dictionary might not make sense to someone who barely uses a computer.

Apart from that we should help the elders understand and take advantage of social use of technology, like connecting with their family and friends through video calls, building their own community and forums on Social Media platforms, use Whatsapp Groups to stay connected and exchange information... Technology should give them the confidence that they are not alone. If and when they would need support, the support will be provided to them at the touch of a button. Not only this, tech should help them in managing their medication records. Many senior citizens find it challenging to keep a track of their medication. This should lead to keeping a track of their health related issues.

BENEFITS OF TECHNOLOGY FOR THE SENIORS
If technology becomes inclusive of the elderly population it stands to improve their quality of life tremendously. So, even if it feels overwhelming at first to introduce it into your life at a later stage, it is

totally worth the effort of learning how to use it.

● **Financial Management:** Banking and investments are extremely important in everyone's life. The hassle of making a trip to the bank, standing in queues and getting your work done in crowded spaces is frustrating for the best of people. For the Seniors, it can actually end up becoming a heavy burden. Using technology and netbanking simplifies this completely and empowers them to manage their finances from the comfort of their homes. Most banks offer phone apps now. And this makes it possible for the elderly to know their statements, transfer funds, receive money all very conveniently.

● **Social Interaction:** Video calls are a nicer way to connect with your loved ones. As are emails, whatsapp groups and of course social media platforms like Facebook. With growing nuclear families, many people are living alone and as they retire from work-life and their social life decreases due to health issues, or cost-of-living issues, they find themselves lonely and isolated. The availability to communicate with others is something easily accessible via tablets and smartphones. It helps seniors combat feelings of depression and isolation, which are common to living alone.

● **Entertainment:** This is a big benefit. Once the Seniors learn to navigate and subscribe to apps they have 24x7 streaming of their favourite shows and films and music. With cinema halls becoming difficult to access as people age, they have no reason to be deprived of their favourite films. In fact, a whole new world of knowledge and information opens up too with documentaries and non-fiction shows. Reading becomes tough as you get older and the visual media and audio books downloaded can easily replace that.

● **Assistance & Support:** This is a huge and very relevant advantage of technology. When parents and our elders live alone, children are always worried about their support struc-

ture. Now, medicines purchase and doctor consultation can be done online. One doesn't need to go out for daily needs. Groceries and other conveniences can be delivered at home. Cleaning services, electricians, plumbers, para-medical helpers are all available at the click of a button. As are cabs and travel assistance. What's very important to note is that these services are verified and the personnel are credible and safe. Once the Elderly are taught to overcome their resistance to technology and use it, they will love the ease of living and social fulfillment it brings to their lives.

The responsibility of supporting the agings is collective. The mobile companies need to ensure that they provide large screen mobiles at affordable prices. The internet companies need to ensure that they run specific campaigns to target Senior Citizens and try to bring them into mainstream by providing them wifi access at reasonable cost. The mobile apps development companies need to ensure that they create easy-to-use tech and provide a demo of their product at the doorstep of the customers. Governments need to incentivise companies making their tech inclusive for senior citizens. Once all the stakeholders start playing their roles well, we will see seniors becoming comfortable and in fact depending on technology to make their quality of life better.

With increasing number of families going nuclear units in India, and children living away from parents due to professional pursuits, it is not only a need but a necessity to equip our Elders with friendly technology that will be their safety net. And, this is not just about doing social good! Given that the elderly segment makes for a large part of the world's population, intelligently conceived and specialised technology driven products for the Older Adult segment would not be a bad thing for new businesses and the Indian economy either!

The writer is the founder of India Assist, a startup that has created a mobile app for the support of senior citizens



POSITIVE THINKING WILL LET YOU DO EVERYTHING BETTER THAN NEGATIVE THINKING WILL — ZIG ZIGLAR



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Lessons from Bhagavad Gita



With no end in sight, the Corona pandemic continues to take its toll on human health. More in terms of mental than physical. The fatality rate due to the corona infection still hovers around two to three percent but the intriguing feature is that the fear of the pandemic is such that as if anybody who catches corona is going to die. There are diseases that kill more people than corona, yet more people are fearing corona than all the other diseases taken together. One probable reason may be that there is no certain treatment in sight. Of course, claims to the contrary are there in big numbers. However, the important point is the fear of the pandemic and its impact on human mind. And the answers are not easy to find. Even as the International Labour Organisation study finds that one out of two young people are subject to anxiety and depression, there are scant efforts to handle this psychodemic. The young apart, the old as well as the children, are also suffering from the mental distress. The Covid-19 protocol further adds to stress and fear. The very feeling that wearing mask gives is sickening. People are scared to venture out and are confined to homes unless it is necessary. As we appear clueless about the answer to the pandemic, let us try to find the solution in the Bhagavad Gita. The lessons may, perhaps, show us the way to cope with Corona fear and anxiety. Many of us, like Arjuna, are burdened with anxiety and fear of the impending war and seem to have given up. It is this giving up that is the most dangerous of all the psychological states that leads to most of the problems of mental health. Arjuna, out of fear of adverse outcome, tells the Lord that he sees little point in fighting the war which he is not sure to win. Rather, in the heart of his hearts, he thinks he is going to lose. It is then that Lord Krishna recites his essential Gita lessons, suggesting why fighting is important, winning or losing being of little consequence. So Krishna tells Arjuna to drive away his fear and ready himself for the war. We are in a similar plight in this Covid situation and our fear is of defeat or death and anxiety of uncertainty of the outcome. Gita lessons offer the panacea for living in turbulent times which in Management jargon is a VUCA world, that is Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous. The principal lessons of Gita can be summed up in the following basic tenets. First and foremost is to drive away your fears and submit to God with full faith. The second is to prepare yourself to fight and for this you need to learn to control your mind, which is the biggest distraction. The third tenet is to focus on effort and not to worry about the results. Worrying about the results will sap vital energy you need to apply, in order to put wholehearted efforts. The results are not in your hands as some other force controls the outcome. You only have right to efforts. But the Lord also says that if efforts are put in wholeheartedly and with full faith in God results will be achieved. As the battle with Corona is still on, fear is the biggest detriment in influencing the efficacy of our response. Have faith in God and fight.

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our physical level, we need to do our best in all circumstances. We need to take the best possible action, but then leave the results to God. Even if we do our best, but another result was destined, then we need to let go. We can be confident we did our best, but God may have another plan for us. When something is not going our way, we need to accept that there is another plan for us and let go. We did what we could, but we should leave the rest in God's hands.

In a garden, when we have given our seed fertile soil, water, sunlight, and air, we know we have done our best. How the plant grows then is not in our hands. It is in the hands of God. If the plant does not turn out the colour we wanted, the size we wanted, or the shape we wanted, we know there was something beyond our control. We do not blame ourselves for we know we did our part. Then, we know that God had a different plan for that plant. Similarly, we do our best in all circumstances, and then leave the results to God. In this way, we free ourselves from blame, guilt, or regret. We need to do our best and trust in God to take care of us.

LESSON OF HUMILITY

From the plants, we learn the lesson of humility. If we watch the trees and bushes on a windy day, what do we see? We find that trees that resist the wind, crack and split. Trees that bend low to the ground with the wind do not break. When the wind passes, the trees spring back up to their upright positions. Often when challenged by the winds of other people or winds of change, we push back. We resist or fight back. We get into arguments. We may even push back physically and get into a physical fight. We may push back verbally and say things that cause altercations or a vicious exchange of words. We may even keep quiet, but mentally go into an outburst of negative thoughts towards the person, which the person may not directly hear but can feel through the strong vibrations of anger we spew out. Thus, we intensify their initial attack with our own response, and the cycle of violence continues. We should learn to observe how those trees, bushes, and flowers that go with the flow of the wind are able to prevent themselves from breaking and cracking. This is the secret of humility.

Let us learn from the garden the secret of nurturing the seed of our soul with meditation on the Light and Sound of God. Let us learn from the garden the value of patience, trust, and humility. We will then experience the eternal springtime as we bask in God's blissful garden.

The writer is a spiritual leader

THE SPIRITUAL GARDEN

The gardens of the world teach us how we can nurture the seed of our soul so that it may blossom and shine, writes SANT RAJINDER SINGH



As a plant needs sunlight to grow, so does our soul need to focus on the inner Light. Once connected to the Light and Sound within, we need to concentrate on it to experience spiritual growth. Daily meditation is the daily sunlight our soul needs to grow.

When we learn to meditate on the inner Light and Sound of God, our soul experiences God's love for itself, and the sleeping seed of our soul is awakened. Through connection with the current of Light and Sound, the seed of the soul is watered. This current reverberates in all forms of life, from humans, to animals, to plants.

Plants need the carbon dioxide that we give off. Then, the plants utilise the carbon dioxide and water and give off their waste, which is the oxygen we require to breathe. Similarly, the seed of the soul needs the breath of God's grace to help it grow. This divine grace is the boost that helps our soul soar into the spiritual realms beyond. Thus, we can nurture the seed of the soul by sitting in meditation. There are also many life lessons we can learn from the garden. These lessons help us grow and thrive on our spiritual journey.

THE ART OF PATIENCE

Once we learn to meditate, we need to practice it diligently.

Unfortunately, many grow impatient when they do not see instant results. We live in an instant society. We want instant coffee, instant pudding, and instant oatmeal. We want our computers to boot within microseconds or we get impatient. When we plant a garden, we expect to see the sprouts within a day. If we do not see the sprouts shoot up immediately, we become impatient. Similarly, when we are growing the inner garden of the soul, we need to keep tending it, day after day, with meditation, even when we do not instantly see the dramatic results we want.

Yet, with patience and diligence, we are ultimately rewarded when we start seeing new growth. When we see the sprouts of Light shoot forth within and hear the faint whispers of the inner Sound calling to us, we realise that our efforts sprinkled with God's grace are bearing fruit. Then, the steady growth of the plant reveals that all was not wasted. Our efforts have borne fruit and we grow spiritually.

We do not see the seeds in the ground through the long winter, yet with proper care, they sprout into buds and then flowers. Similarly, we may not see the fruits of our meditation right away. But with diligent practice, we will find that the blossoms will appear. We will be blessed with the inner vision and inner hearing of the divine Light and Sound that will carry

WE DO NOT SEE THE SEEDS IN THE GROUND THROUGH THE LONG WINTER, YET WITH PROPER CARE, THEY SPROUT INTO BUDS AND THEN FLOWERS. SIMILARLY, WE MAY NOT SEE THE FRUITS OF OUR MEDITATION RIGHT AWAY. BUT WITH DILIGENT PRACTICE, WE WILL FIND THAT THE BLOSSOMS WILL APPEAR

us into the inner realms until our soul merges back into God.

TRUST IN GOD

The plants and trees in the gardens of the world cannot move or act on their own. They cannot talk, so they cannot ask for what they want. They cannot walk, so they cannot go out on their own to get what they need. They are planted in one place with no ability to communicate, move, or take action. They are at the mercy of Nature and God. Yet, everything is provided for them. God provides them with soil, sunlight, air, and water. Whether they are in a tended garden or out in the wild, God has provided for them for ages. If God can provide for every blade of grass on this planet, can't we trust that God is going to provide for us also?

From the garden, we learn the lesson of trust in God. There is a plan for each of us. When we do not realise how much of our life is provided by God's plan for us, we spend a tremendous amount of time worrying over things that are bound to happen anyway. If we could learn the lesson of trust in God, much energy that we waste in worrying could be used for more productive endeavours.

DO YOUR BEST AND LEAVE THE REST

Since we do not know what is planned and what is not planned at

Taking to art for therapy

Art Therapy encourages positive thinking. It activates inner dialogue that helps us recall traumatic memories, share them and start healing, says SUJATA DERE

Man is a social animal and we all remain interconnected. People who are emotionally and mentally strong also need social interaction and cannot thrive being islands unto themselves.

This came home to me many years ago when my neighbour knocked at my door to borrow some sugar. When she was leaving, she thanked me, but said that I made her uncomfortable because I never asked her for anything, and was so self contained. This made me reflect — Yes, I would do without something rather than ask another. Going deeper, I realised that, in my mind, everything was all right if I could manage things on my own. From the outside it was a perfect picture, but like everyone else, I had my frailties, highs and lows. I just couldn't show them. It made me feel vulnerable. Yet, I didn't think any less of a person whose shortcomings were apparent. So there is nothing to be afraid of — the first step towards healing is Acceptance.

Some things are in our control and we have the power to take steps in a certain direction. This will only happen if we take Responsibility for our good and bad, right and wrong decisions, without blaming others. Every situation has a root, triggers, a support system and help lines. Acceptance and taking responsibility is the key. We can then move towards finding solutions.

Be it stress, failed relationships, complexes, anger issues, trauma or grief; at times we are not able to handle our life situations and need help. Art Therapy is one such remedy. It uses the creative process of Art to improve the physical, mental and emotional well being of individuals of all ages.

Why Art? you may ask. As Pablo Picasso said: "Art washes away from the soul, the dust of everyday life". It helps us to disconnect our mind from stress and futile thoughts — helping us find solutions lying



undiscovered within us. Here, it is not a recreational activity, nor is the focus on aesthetics. It is used as a tool to impact the mind in a positive manner. As humans, we constantly go through different thoughts, emotions, beliefs and attitudes. These can have a negative effect on our bodies. Art Therapy helps guide our thought process in a positive way. It activates inner dialogue that helps us recall traumatic memories, share them and start healing.

Creative methods are used to express emotions and pain, find solutions and identify false assumptions that govern actions. The next step is to restructure the thought process with realistic and positive expectations. This helps in regaining control of one's life in a calibrated manner.

A minimum of eight sessions are needed on an individual basis to address most problems. In the case of stress, 2-3 sessions may be good enough, and can be conducted in a small group.

The therapist is bound to follow a strict code of ethics. At the closing of every session, there is a review and the closure is on

a happy note. This is very important and helps carry the person through till the next session. It is a cathartic exercise where the mind and body work in conjunction with each other. Our mind impacts the health of our body as well.

To follow a more holistic approach, Art Therapy could be integrated with other forms of healing, like *Chakra* balancing. The whole universe is made up of energy — and so is our body. This energy is our life force — *Pрана*. It constantly spins and rotates inside us. It has seven main centres in the body, starting from the base of our spine to the top of our head. In a healthy person, these seven *chakras* provide the right amounts of energy needed for every part of the body, mind and spirit. Over time some *chakras* get blocked through emotional upheaval, fear, stress, loss or accidents. When blocks accumulate there is a disruption in the flow of energy and our health suffers. *Chakra* healing with Art Therapy re aligns and balances the body, mind and spirit.

The writer is an artist & art therapist based in Delhi-NCR

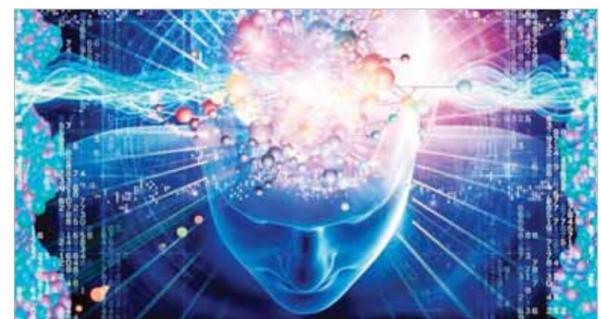
Guard your faculties

Careful use of our faculties — spiritual and physical — can help us lead a *satvik* and healthy life, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Let me start with the definition of the word faculty. It is any of the physical or mental abilities that a person is born with. The first faculty I will take up is intelligence, because it is in use most of the waking hours or should be. Lord Krishna has described the proper use of intelligence in the verse #18.30 of the Gita, where He has stated, that one should know what is worth doing and what is not. However, this is not so simple. One must have sufficient spiritual knowledge, otherwise one may go wrong. All our other faculties require guidance.

The next faculty — the mind, is also subtle. Its control is crucial for a quality life. We have been alerted in the Gita that if the mind has not been conquered by self it acts as an enemy of self. (6.6) And we see this all the time. Take the present situation. There is a pandemic, and almost the entire world is affected. But we don't have to be frightened; we can take necessary precautions, especially social distancing, and we will be reasonably safe. However, such control of the mind comes mainly with the help of God. Theoretically, one can have good mental control, but I would rather take help from God.

The third faculty is equally important because its use must be limited to doing duties and nothing more. I am referring to ego or *ahankar*. It was given to us to feel motivated to do our duties, that is, I will do it; I am the doer; who else but I must do my duties. What happens when we cross its *maryada*, i.e. use it beyond what it was meant for we get in serious trouble. The worst thing we can do is not to heed God's instructions or account of ahankar. And what can happen is not very pleasant; we will perish. (18.58) How does one protect



oneself from that happening? One must take shelter of God, who is the Master of the universe. (13.13-16) There are innumerable benefits in doing so. One has to do so to realise what was being missed. Ask me.

Now I take up our gross faculties beginning with the eyes. These are most precious. Our eyes are the best tool for gaining information/knowledge. We can see as well as read. However, the modern man has corrupted this magnificent faculty. This harms both the psyche and consciousness. Obviously, we should restrain ourselves. I will take up the tongue next. This faculty was provided to us to enjoy what we eat. So what have we done? We have corrupted it as well by eating all kinds of meats. This meat-eating craziness harms the climate, when we burn forests to grow more grains, which can then be fed to animals, whom we can eat. There is a possibility that this dangerous virus has found entry into human beings this way.

The speech and hearing were meant to help us communicate and share goodness. Our eyes and ears are excel-

lent tools to gain information and knowledge. But we waste these faculties by spewing venom, passing rumours and creating unpleasant environment around us, full of suspicion and aggression, especially on social platforms.

Our hands are best used when they are made up of, i.e. in extended position. Bending them fully is necessary to eat. Legs, likewise, should be in the vertical position to stay healthy; keeping the legs up should be restricted to the limited period of entertainment. Sitting down to work or lying down to sleep is fine. These days nose should be kept covered to guard against the virus. Good quality masks must be worn when in public places.

Similarly, we must protect our skin, especially hands to avoid contact with the virus. Proper hygiene is crucial if we wish to avoid getting stricken. Good care of ourselves and careful use of our faculties — spiritual and physical — can help us lead a *satvik* and healthy life.

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KIRAN raises hopes of robust New India

Indeed it is often the case that my patients are only pieces of a total situation which I have to explore. The single patient who is by himself is rather the exception.

The psychiatrist in TS Eliot's *The Cocktail Party*

Gifted with ability to observe keenly and sensitively human behaviour, literary figures, those who penned poems, novels and plays, brought to human knowledge many scintillating and moving descriptions of characters displaying abnormal behaviour. This happened much before abnormal behaviour became an area of scientific enquiry. Even psychologists believe that literary classics while describing human abnormality in all its infinite elegance often achieve explicitly representational accounts that science cannot archive. Othello introduced readers to deep insight into facets of obsessive jealousy. Euripides in his play *Medea* described emotions of jealousy and revenge by a mother who killed her children. Sophocles in *Orestes* vividly explained delusional and hallucinatory symptoms stemming from severe feelings of remorse and guilt. The intense guilt reaction of Lady Macbeth after her having participated in killing of King Duncan got expressed in her symbolic hand washing and turning a somnambulist. The noteworthy descriptions of "world within", one can come across in two books: one by Thomas De Quincey in his eighteenth century unforgettable autobiography *Confessions of An English Opium-Eater* and Salman Rushdie's book *East, West*. De Quincey, inter alia, described the content of his dreams induced by consumption of opium:

"I brought together all creatures, birds, beasts, reptiles, all trees and plants, usages and appearances that are found in all tropical regions, and assembled them together in China or Indostan. From kindred feelings, I soon brought Egypt and all her gods under the same law. I was stared at, hooted at, grinned at, chattered at, ran into pagodas; and was fixed for centuries at the summit, or in secret rooms: I was the idol; I was the priest; I was worshipped; I was sacrificed. I fled from the wrath of Brahma through all the forests of Asia; Vishnu hated me; Siva laid wait for me. I came suddenly upon Isis and Osiris...I was kissed, with cancerous kisses, by crocodiles; and laid, con-founded with all unutterable slimy things, amongst reeds and Nilotic mud."

Moving to as recent past as 1994, in a story titled "The Harmony of the Spheres" included in: *EAST, WEST*, Salman Rushdie portrayed a character named Eliot Crane, a thirty-two year man, who was suffering from what he called "brainstorms" of paranoid schizophrenia. As part of these "brainstorms", Eliot used to narrate tales of local Sabbats. He sold his haunted house and shifted to a new one but it had not worked. Rushdie wrote, "...the demon had traced the number of his (Eliot's) car licence plates, that it could call him any time on his unlisted telephone; that it had rediscovered his home address." Analysing Eliot's condition, Rushdie reconnoitered, Lucy, wife of Eliot, "...would phone with bulletins: the drugs were working, the drugs were not working because he refused to take them regularly, he seemed better as long as he did not try to write, he seemed worse because not writing plunged him into such deep depressions, he was passive and inert, he was raging and violent, he was filled with guilt and despair."

One day, Eliot along with his wife had lunch together. He appeared joyful, told his wife he needed rest and would go to bed early. He kept his words but an hour later, though Lucy was awake with "premonition of disaster", she slept soundly until morning. In the meanwhile, Eliot used his shotgun and pulled the trigger. He repeated the history



Mathematical genius from Bihar late Vashishtha Narayan Singh writing on a notebook during the onset of his mental disorder (first), his demise (second) and, earlier when he was spotted at a tea stall after he went missing from his home during his schizophrenic days

bequeathed to him by his father. The only note Eliot left after committing what Rushdie called, "this final act of macabre symmetry" was how to clean and take care of the gun.

It's interesting to glimpse through some of the Eliot's typed and hurriedly written papers containing "inchoate rants against the universe in general". These included alternative personal futures "of extra-ordinary distinction and renown" for himself or a self-pitying of himself as a genius lost in obscurity ultimately ending in agonising illness or assassination by jealous rivals, etc.

While De Quincey had delved deep into his own mental and physical experiences and thought processes, Rushdie recorded virtually the same in case of his character Eliot. Both explanations deal with concerned individual's intense emotional turmoil, and a nightmarish sense of utter confusion. These also highlighted underlying symptoms of various types of behavioral deviations, indicative particularly of disorders like schizophrenia, bipolar disorders and drug addiction, etc. De Quincey's book and Rushdie's story provide the world an account of irrational motivations and images that come to fore under the influence of delirium, the influence of drugs or severe mental disorders when inner restraints become feeble leading to distortions of perceptions and an inward orientation away from reality. These two storytellers, through their literary creations, exactly do the job of a well-trained psychiatrist.

The term "abnormal" connotes "away from the normal". In case of physical deviations or illness the norm is functional and structural integrity of the body and any disequilibrium in such integrity can be easily measured by medical science through various tests. But is there any such norm for gauging abnormal deviation? Psychologists suggest normal behaviour conforms to social expectations whereas abnormal does not. Another view is when a person's behaviour is maladaptive i.e. when he/she is unable to cope with life situations as he/she sees these, he/she is abnormal.

The word "deviance" or

"deviant behaviour" in the past has been equated with bizarre and dangerous behaviour. Of late with discovery of better and very effective medicines available for treatment and psychosocial and family help available to patients, the notion of mental disorders and patients suffering from these has undergone complete change. That is also possible because of realisation that these disorders cover a wide range of behavioural patterns. While some may be pathological by nature, others need not have pathological causes, but they

fearful of an object or situation but they cannot help worrying. These are definitely cases of cause for concern but well within the bounds of ordinary, understandable human experience. More severe cases include examples such as a man believing irrationally that his enemies have plotted a device for pouring sludge into his mind and controlling his thoughts or a man who sees dreams while he is awake and believes these to be true (hallucinations) or who has auditory voices commanding him. Broadly speaking, mental

We have to realise the interdependence among us. If any individual loses his ability to achieve his full potential because of mental health issues, it is a loss to us both individually and collectively. Society loses. One cannot forget the genius mathematician from Bihar late Vashishtha Narayan Singh, who was affected by schizophrenia and the consequential loss to society which was deprived of his immense contribution. What an irreparable loss to the world!

have displayed an inability to cope with various problems of day to day life. Excessive worries and apprehensions about failure in examination by brilliant students, failure of rejection by young and beautiful girls for modelling, fear of losing jobs, fear of divorce, etc, may be such examples. People nurture "free-floating" sources of anxieties where the eliciting stimuli causing deviations in behaviour are nebulous and pervasive. These people admit they have no real cause to be

disorders have been classified under two categories: neurosis and psychosis. Neurotic symptom patterns include ailments like anxiety involving light to severe anxiety the source of which is not specific, phobia involving various irrational fears from which the patient cannot obtain freedom, obsessive-compulsive neurosis involving irrational actions and thoughts which keep persisting, hysterical neurosis involving amnesia and multiple personality, hypochromic

neurosis involving preoccupation with one's health and most importantly depressive neurosis commonly called depression involving abnormally prolonged dejection, internal conflict and interpersonal loss. However, depression is considered the most common and most talked of mental health issues. It is said to be a form of "existential neurosis" indicative of a maladaptive pattern marked by chronic feelings of alienation and purposelessness. Joseph Cowen rightly captures a depressed individual's state of health in following lines: "In the slave market of my melancholy mind I mount the auction block to sell myself to the highest bidder of misery." Depression is believed to be a "byproduct of our contemporary society".

When we move from the realm of neurosis to that of psychosis, we enter a far more serious field of abnormal psychology where patients suffer from distortions of reality, disorganisation and fragmentation of perceptions, thoughts and emotions and withdrawal from social interaction. The principal symptoms are delusions (irrational beliefs that patient treats as truths like others are talking about him or enemies are harming him or he is a great scientist and writer or leader) Hallucinations of different types (seeing demons or angels, hearing voices ordering him what to do, sensing irrational taste: sensing poison in his food, etc)

Last century and of course current one has witnessed use of psychotropic or psychoactive drugs that have therapeutic value for medicinal purposes for treating mental disorders like depression, schizophrenia and bipolar diseases. However the danger lies in concurrent misuse of such drugs for drug dependence or addiction. Alcoholism being an important example. There are drugs that affect mental processes and the drugs most commonly associated with dependence would appear to be narcotics, sedatives, stimulants, tranquilisers and hallucinogens. Man has used opium and its derivatives for more than 5000 years. Literary figures of eminence had bragged about opium's so-called benevolent effects. Let us visit a few.

Coleridge was unques-

tionably a poet of extraordinary abilities and imagination. He suffered rheumatism. Seeking remedy from excruciating pain he came across what he called "infallible" remedy: opium. It worked like magic for him; his pains disappeared. He became alive again. Once he slept under the influence of the drug to be invaded by glorious dreams and ecstasies. Immediately on waking up, he penned down a poem known as *Kubla Khan* where he described the gardens and fountains, ancient forests and incense bearing trees. The very words he wrote occurred to him as he saw them in his dreams. In the meanwhile, a visitor came to meet him and after he left, there were no remains of his rendezvous with his dreams. He kept keenly exploring the haunts of forbidden experience. All futile.

Similarly De Quincey called the opium selling druggist "unconscious minister of celestial pleasures" and further summarised his experiences an hour later after taking opium: "O heavens! What a revulsion! What a resurrection, from its lowest depths of the inner spirit! What an apocalypse of the world within me."

Citing these is only for literary/academic interest and not meant in any way to justify the misuse of these legally banned drugs.

Recently, there are very effective medicines available for treatment not only of milder versions of abnormal behaviour but also serious illnesses like schizophrenia and bipolar disorders the prognosis for which until quite recent times was generally unfavorable. Psychiatrists and behavioural therapists very effectively handle serious cases by focusing on removing the reinforcing conditions that appear to contribute to development and maintenance of symptoms. Patients with proper treatment and family care can lead a normal, healthy life discharging family and social responsibilities.

Towards the end, one may like to pause and visit the totality of circumstances that is being spoken about in *The Cocktail Party* as cited in the beginning. World over increasing public awareness of the magnitude of contemporary mental health problems may

make it possible to do a concerted attack on these disorders with a view to obtain better and more holistic understanding, more effective treatment and long-range prevention. We have to realise the interdependence among us. If any individual loses his ability to achieve his full potential because of mental health issues, it is a loss to us both individually and collectively. Society loses. One cannot forget the genius mathematician from Bihar late Vashishtha Narayan Singh, who was affected by schizophrenia and the consequential loss to society which was deprived of his immense contribution. What an irreparable loss to the world!

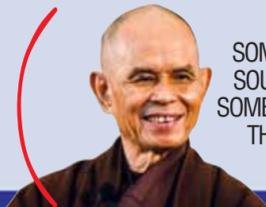
It is enticing that the Central Government recently decided to launch 24x7 toll-free mental rehabilitation helpline KIRAN in thirteen languages that will definitely go a long way in providing much needed succour to needy people. The helpline is dedicated to resolve issues concerning mental health and provide counselling relating to various disorders like anxiety, depression, suicide, substance abuse, etc. Such and similar efforts by the Government of India will certainly add a new dimension to emergent New India, for the mental health of a nation is determined and manifested in various ways: in its courage, purposes, scientific and cultural achievements, moral responsibility, self-reliance and quality of life

(The writer, is a poet, writer and columnist. Author of three volumes of poetry. His poems have been translated into Hindi (*Andhere Se Nikli Kavayen-VANI PRAKASHAN (2017)*) and his book "Shadows of the Real" into Russian by veteran Russian poet Adolf Shvedchikov. His fourth book "Soliloquy of a Small-Town Uncivil Servant": a literary non-fiction published in March 2019 by Rupa Publications, New Delhi, has been receiving international acclaim in literary field. He was Additional Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General in the office of Comptroller & Auditor General of India when he superannuated recently. Views expressed here are his personal views)



KK SRIVASTAVA

It is enticing that the Government of India recently decided to launch 24x7 toll-free mental rehabilitation helpline KIRAN in thirteen languages. Such and similar efforts will certainly add a new dimension to emergent New India, for the mental health of a nation is determined and manifested in various ways: in its courage, purposes, scientific and cultural achievements, moral responsibility, self-reliance and quality of life



SOMETIMES YOUR JOY IS THE SOURCE OF YOUR SMILE, BUT SOMETIMES YOUR SMILE CAN BE THE SOURCE OF YOUR JOY — THICH NHAT HANH



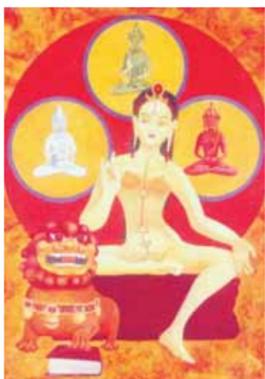
YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19
On the health front, you need to be alert this week. This is a time when you may encounter some health challenges. Don't try to avoid them rather deal with them well. Managing your stress level is important. Get enough rest and heal both physically and emotionally. On the career front, good time is indicated. You will experience happiness and satisfaction concerning work. Your near and dear ones will be happy to see your progress. Promotion, success in a project will be yours. Those awaiting interview results will get good news and will get their desired job. On the personal front, you may have to face some issues in love relationships. At such a time, don't get stressed. Give yourself and your partner some space to deal with the problem.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Beige
Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22
This week your health will be good. Those facing physical problems should pay attention to diet, exercise and take rest to bring about balance. You might feel disengaged or demotivated in general and tend to cut yourself out from the world. This may not be the right thing to do. On the career front, things are likely to go well. Those facing challenges should follow a compassionate approach towards work. You may experience a sense of calm and emotional connectedness with others. Trust your intuition to bring about balance. This is a make or break period in your relationship. Evaluate everything and be true to yourself and your needs. Be very clear about what you want from life and your relationship and take steps to make it happen.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21
This week there will be an abundance of opportunities to entertain yourself and spend quality time. This will be reflected in your health. The charm and attraction in your persona will be magnetic and others will feel positive vibes in your company. Family plays a major role in your success, whether it is personal or professional. On the career front, something good is likely to happen. The dilemma you had been facing last few days will get over now and you can look forward to a bright future. Your colleague or friend is quite supportive of you. If you are in the line of promotion, it may come to you soon. On the personal front, love and romance are in the air. Those seeking love will meet the partner of their liking in this week.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Thursday



TAURUS April 20-May 20
This week you may work yourself into exhaustion. Stress may take a toll on your body. There are things you need to do to rebuild yourself. Keep calm and take adequate sleep and rest. You need to prioritise your activities so that you can balance your work and health. On the career front, you may have a difficult time. Your feelings or ego might get quite bruised with something that happens to your work. You need to follow a different approach now and take some assistance in this regard. Those looking for employment should probably look in a different way or a different field. On the relationship front, you need to be open to the other person for the relationship to work. Don't avoid any issues in your relations and because it will only make things worse.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Mauve
Lucky day Monday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22
This week a health problem or some illness may pull you down, but don't lose heart. You need to take a spiritual leap and heal yourself with meditation and positive thinking. Undoubtedly, this will do wonders for you. Take care of yourself and allow yourself to get in touch with your inner strength to heal faster. Stay positive in terms of work. You will have to make this line your ally in difficult times. You may worry and be full of anxiety with something concerning your work. Understand that this is not going to help, rather leave your anxiety and focus on what you can control. On the relationship front, be resilient in your relationship with others. There will be challenges but if you give space to yourself and your partner, any differences can be resolved.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Pink
Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19
This week you will enjoy the warmth of relations and healthy lifestyle. You will feel sound — physically, emotionally and spiritually. Things are at their right place. Those with heart and BP problems will recover fast with proper medical attention and will power. Career-wise, the week promises monetary gains. Those in business could earn good money. The income may come from more than one source. Business expansion plans are successfully started. You may meet an influential person who may prove beneficial in terms of your career. On the personal front, you are a positive and caring person. You work for the benefit of others. This will work very well in terms of your relations too. Love demands your attention which probably you won't be able to pay much.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



GEMINI May 21-June 20
Moderation and balance is the key to good health. Ensure that you are eating well, sleeping well and exercising the right amount. You need to take all this into account to stay in shape. You will be enthusiastic about your work this week. Your confidence levels will be high and you are ready to take on new projects. However, you also tend to be impulsive. Don't rush into things and take into account what consequences of your actions can be in the future. On the personal front, you will rejoice in friendship and harmonious relationships. You are open to helping others which in turn means others are helping you. Some of you will be celebrating some special occasions with your loved ones.

Lucky number 18
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22
Your energy and vitality will be high this week. Though this is a positive sign and you'll be quite active, make sure to take out time for adequate rest as well. You can take care of yourself and when faced with health challenges, with a positive mindset you will not only face them but will be able to overcome them. At your workplace, you may find yourself engaging in a conflict or disagreeing with others. This might be due to your behaviour. Trying to accomplish your personal goals with disregard to its consequences on others, you might think to be a winner but still, end up being a loser. On the personal front, maybe you or your partner is working very hard in your jobs but this might be interfering with your relationship. The workload is not letting you take out time for each other.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Thursday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18
This week is not so lucky in health matters. You may suffer a seasonal ailment. Drink plenty of water, and consume green salads. You are advised to avoid tea and coffee, or any kind of addiction this week. Avoid black colour too, and wear more yellow and pastel colours in your clothes. On the work front, your wish could be accomplished in this week. Those who are searching for a job, may get a call from the company they have been aspiring for. Your family and friends will support you and boost up your morale. In the matters of heart, you need to be little soft and considerate in relations else you might end up spoiling them. Avoid conflicts and confrontations, which are likely to occur in this week.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Magenta
Lucky day Friday



CANCER June 21-July 22
Take rest from difficult times such as health worries and stress. It is good that you develop your mental strength. Practice meditation in a calm atmosphere and do some spiritual thinking. This is a time to count your blessings and take things easy. Professionally, your life is full of hope and good things. Things are going extremely well. If you are currently not happy, then, new opportunities will come knocking at your door. A deeper understanding of yourself and others with mental stability will help you ease out any difficulty at the workplace. You may not be at a very comfortable position in your relationship at this point. It may be that either you or your beloved is having a tough time. You need to give your support.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21
Anxiety, stress and worry will affect your life this week. Health challenges are likely to come your way. Make sure you are treating yourself well. A balanced diet, exercise and fluid intake will help you. More than this, meditation and breathing exercises are particularly useful to you. Work-wise, you will have a pleasant time. Things are going well and you are happy with your work. You may be bonding with colleagues at work and enjoying social get together with them. The work environment is also constructive. Money inflow is good. On the personal front, if you are in a committed relationship, then the bond with your lover would get stronger than before. You are tolerant of others, forgiving of their imperfections. In doing so, you create a safe and trusting environment.

Lucky number 6
Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20
You will feel creative, enthusiastic and full of energy this week. Health remains good and you take charge of your near and dear ones. Your theory of 'Prevention is better than cure' will work well and you bear the fruits of your determination. On the work front, your creativity will be reflected in your work. With unbounded energy and stamina, you will finish all pending tasks. You are a workaholic and would attain the favour of your seniors. You may leave your colleagues and rivals surprised and overwhelmed. In the matters of heart, you are lucky, as this week your search for the right partner will come to an end. There will be true bonding between you and your partner. The support for each other will strengthen and increase your work efficiency.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Saturday

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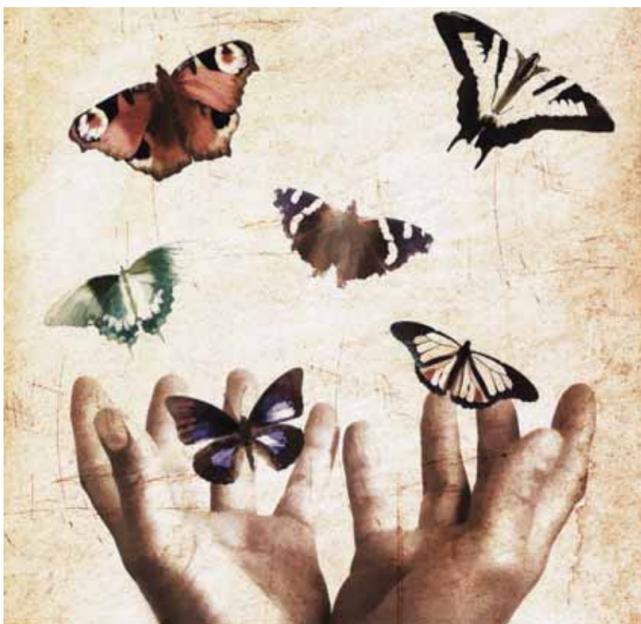


ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Let things happen naturally

Parents of a daughter, worried about undue delay in her marriage, came asking the other day: "My daughter has already entered her forties and yet we could not organise her marriage despite our relentless efforts. Why so? Is she cursed? What is in store of her destiny? Is her marriage promised, and if so, when? Suggest some remedial measures, if that could help expedite her marriage." "At the outset, let me tell you that your daughter's marriage is promised, but is due for a delayed marriage. Have patience, it is now round the corner." I assured them. Remember, everybody comes into life with a preordained programme that usually drives one's course of life, coming as it may with Karmic carryover from the past. It is ordinarily difficult to change that course. No puja can undo Karmic carryover. It is only a spiritual process that can help figure out one's basic fabric of making through self-reflection, and then make necessary amends. Provided, the person concerned pursues the process in all seriousness for a continued stretch of time. The problem, however, is that ordinarily at marriageable age, the youngsters live in their own dream world, often distanced from

ground realities, and seldom drawn towards spirituality. Here again, it is unfair to assign delayed marriage to any curse. The delay, if indicated in a horoscope is always purposeful. It needs to be appreciated here that marriage by itself is not the end game. More important is a harmonious and stable marriage. Only a matured person could handle the subtleties of marital life with ease and comfort. Remember, marriage means union of two characters, both born unique, each marked with a particular mind-trend — habits and attitudes as well as virtues and attributes. The habits and attitudes deserve particular attention as they often prove a spoiler. Marriages don't go bad because it would be so scripted in one's horoscope. It often happens because of one's unseemly conduct, primarily guided by habits and attitudes. So, if there is delay, it offers time and space to develop the maturity necessary to efficiently negotiate marital issues. Going through learning lessons of life, one is able to improve interpersonal relationship skills, which helps being in accord with each other, overriding all individual limitations.



Let us now look at the astrological pointers to her personality trends. She is born in Scorpio *lagna*, a fixed and an aggressive sign. *Lagna* lord Mars is there in *lagna* itself together with its dire enemy Saturn. This needs to be read together with mind signifying Moon in a fixed sign Leo, and placed adverse to Mars. It speaks of a stubborn character having a fixated one track mind. She would be having a commanding nature, keen to live in a demanding mode. If ever provoked, she may get into fighting mode, at times taking things to extreme. What could further compound her problems is her volatile emotionality, coming as it may with combust Venus. That makes her too much touchy and sensitive. She may get over exercised even of trivial issues, and stretch them beyond their due. She may keep mulling over them, scheming how to fix the other side at the earliest possible opportunity. If that would not be enough, Mars is also placed adverse to Jupiter, which speaks loud of her inflated ego. That makes her stuck to self-defined limits, not keen to look beyond for a reality check. If ever, things don't happen her way, it becomes difficult to digest. She may then go wild, and in an agitated

state, could become a victim of her own making. Uranus in the *lagna*, placed adverse to Mercury, which is also ill-disposed off to erratic Rahu, makes her eccentric and opinionated. It also accounts for insensible reasoning and judgment. She lacks the focus and patience necessary to dwell on any issue in hand, which doesn't let her figure out the underlying truth. All the more because Moon is placed adverse to Saturn, which brings in a sense of negativity, whereby she would habitually blame others for all the wrong happening, and be overcritical of them. On top of that, the Sun placed adverse to Uranus makes her self-willed and tactless. To sum, it is girl's good luck that she did not have an early marriage. Otherwise, given her habits and attitudes, it would have proved disastrous. So, let her marriage happen when naturally due, which is expected early next year. Rest assured, given her astrological directions, it will prove a stable and successful marriage. The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com