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PRESUMPTION
OF INNOCENCE

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TAIWAN DURING US ENVOY'S VISIT

SPORT 12
LIVERPOOL
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IMPORTANT TO
STAY RESILIENT:
FARHAN AKHTAR
10 VIVACITY

Farm Bills anger farmers, protest spreads

Protests in Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, western UP; farmers' body plans rail roko from September 24 to 26



Farmers raise slogans during an ongoing protest outside the residence of former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal against three agriculture-related bills, at Badal village in Sri Muktsar Sahib, on Friday

PTI

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Lok Sabha passed two contentious agriculture Bills, despite the opposition by BJP's oldest ally Shiromani Akali Dal terming it as an "anti-farmer" move, farmers' protests have spread in several States, including Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and western Uttar Pradesh.

A protesting farmer in Punjab on Friday tried to commit suicide by consuming poisonous substance. Farmers' organisations have decided to hold a "rail roko" agitation from September 24 to 26 in protest against the Bills. Thousands of farmers from western Uttar Pradesh held a sit in protest on the Delhi-Meerut expressway on Friday.

The Congress has announced to launch a nation-

THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020

To remove commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of commodities	Big players to have an edge and are likely to dictate prices
To attract foreign direct investment	Latest decision to ban onion export creates uncertainty over execution

wide agitation against the farm Bills and is in talks with other Opposition parties to corner the Modi Government. Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal on Friday said Punjab alone would suffer a loss of ₹4,000 crore every year due to these legislations that will lead to mass destruction of rural livelihoods, increase farmer distress.

"We have decided to hold a rail roko nationwide agitation from September 24 to 26 against the three agriculture legislations," Congress Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee general

secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher said. Already, different farmer organisations in Punjab have given a call for a "bandh" on September 25.

A protesting farmer has tried to commit suicide in Badal village, the hometown of the Badals, in Muktsar district. He ate poison on Friday morning around 6:30 and his condition is still critical.

Thousands of farmers are sitting on dharna in Muktsar, Amritsar and other areas in Punjab under the banner of Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, Bhartiya Kisan

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020

PROVISIONS	CONCERNS
To provide for the creation of an ecosystem where the farmers and traders enjoy the freedom to sell and purchase products outside mandi	State govts will not able to get mandi fee if farmers sell their purchase to private players
To encourage interstate and intra state trade	The Bill is against Minimum Support Price procurement system
Reducing marketing /transportation cost	The role of commission agent is eliminated if farmers trade outside mandi

The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020

To provide for a national framework on farming agreements that protects and empowers farmers to engage with agri	Farmers in a contract farming arrangement may find it difficult to negotiate
Access to modern technology	Monopoly of big players and exporters in the market

agriculture marketing infrastructure network created in the past five decades. Benod Anand of Rashtriya Kisan Mahasangh, an organisation of 62 farmers unions," he said, adding that farmers will hit the road on September 24 across India.

The Centre has brought the Bills without discussion with stakeholders, he alleged.

"Agriculture falls in the State list of subjects," he said, adding that the Union Government's action impinges on the State's rights. Traditionally at odds (farmers and arthiyas) are together in this one-on-one against the BJP-led Centre aided by Opposition parties, farmers' organisations and activists. Perhaps the real issue is too technical and the threat of new ecosystem rendering MSP irrelevant more impacting. In

A member of Punjab Aarthiya Association, said, "These legislations will ruin the

Row over Nehru barb, LS resumes only after Anurag says sorry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Friday witnessed heated exchanges between the Congress and the BJP members, leading to four adjournments over Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur barb that Sonia "Gandhi family was cheating the public", during a debate on the tax laws amendment Act to include tax concessions to donations in PM Cares Fund. The Lok Sabha resumed only after Thakur apologised.

Chaos started after Congress MPs Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari and TMC MP Sougata Roy opposed the creation of PM Cares Fund and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman allowed her deputy Thakur to reply to the Opposition charges.

Praising Prime Minister Naredra Modi and the fund,

Thakur started attacking the Opposition and alleged that "Gandhi family" fooled the people by including the Congress president in the PMNRF set up by Jawaharlal Nehru.

"Opposition opposing PM Cares Fund, just for the sake of it, is like they opposed EVMs & then lost many elections. They subsequently termed Jan Dhan, demonetisation, Triple Talaq and GST bad. They find a defect in everything, truth is their intention is defected. Nehru ordered the creation of the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund in 1948 like a royal order but its registration has not been done even till today. How did it get FCRA clearance?", Thakur asked.

The Opposition leaders slammed Thakur and sought his apology.

Continued on Page 2

Paytm back on Google Play store after being pulled down for policy violation on betting

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Google on Friday restored the Paytm app on its Play store after removing it for a few hours for violating its policy on sports betting activities.

The app was back on the Google Play Store on Friday evening after the Softbank-backed Paytm removed the "cashback" feature from a recently-launched game on the application.

"Update: And we're back!" Paytm said in a tweet. On Friday morning, Google removed the Paytm app — which facilitates use of wallet and payments bank services — from the Play Store.

"The app was blocked for violation of Play policies — a clarification of our policy was released earlier today ahead of the IPL tournament," Google said in a response, adding that only the app availability on Play store was impacted.

Continued on Page 2

Dubai's U-turn, AI Exp flights' schedule intact

15-day suspension slapped after two fliers tested Covid positive revoked

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after the suspension of flights by Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) from India to Dubai for 15 days after two fliers tested positive for coronavirus, Air India Express on Friday evening announced that flight operations will begin as originally scheduled from September 19.

The announcement was made by the Air India Express on its Facebook and Twitter pages late on Friday. "Attention passengers from/to Dubai! All Air India Express flights from/to Dubai will operate as per original schedule w.e.f tomorrow, September 19, 2020 (sic)," the airline tweeted.

Earlier on Friday morning,



the DCAA temporarily suspended Air India Express flights scheduled to resume from September 19 to October 2, for 15 days alleging that two coronavirus positive passengers flew on board the flights on two separate occasions despite having Covid-19 positive test reports, a day before start of mega T20 cricket event 'Indian Premier League' in the UAE.

The Air India Express earlier submitted a letter to DCAA expressing its profuse apologies and detailing various actions taken in association with the concerned ground-handling agents to guard against such lapse in the future.

Continued on Page 2

Delhi schools won't reopen till Oct 5: Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Friday announced that in view of Covid-19, "all government and private schools will remain closed for all students till October 5. However, online teaching and learning activities will continue as usual".

The official order issued by the Directorate of Education (DoE) said school principals are authorised to call "staff as per requirement for smooth conduct of online classes or any other work".

Continued on Page 2

Don't be misled by dalals' advocates: PM to farmers

Bills 'rakhsha kavach' to save interests of farmers, says Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Accusing the opponents of the agriculture Bills passed by the Lok Sabha on Thursday were aimed at "reforming agriculture", the Prime Minister said the legislation would "free" farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country and fetch them more returns. He said new moves by the Government would provide farmers with "rakhsha kavach" and save them from brokers.

"But a few people who ruled the country for decades are trying to mislead farmers and telling lies. They had promised about the reform in their manifesto but forgot after reforms and when the NDA implementing them,

Asserting that three Bills passed by the Lok Sabha on Thursday were aimed at "reforming agriculture", the Prime Minister said the legislation would "free" farmers to sell their produce anywhere in the country and fetch them more returns. He said new moves by the Government would provide farmers with "rakhsha kavach" and save them from brokers.

"But a few people who ruled the country for decades are trying to mislead farmers and telling lies. They had promised about the reform in their manifesto but forgot after reforms and when the NDA implementing them,

these people are creating misgivings," Modi said on the occasion of inauguration of Kosi rail mega bridge in Bihar while addressing through video conference.

Without naming the Congress, Modi hit out at the Opposition party for "double crossing" farmers and creating "disinformation".

Praising Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Modi said, "Nitish understood what damage Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), set up by States to regulate markets, had done to the farmers and 'removed APMC Act in the State'."

Continued on Page 2

Dushyant meets Khattar to discuss way out

JJP leader Digvijay accuses Congress of misleading farmers, says coalition strong

MANOJ KUMAR ■ CHANDIGARH

A day after Akali Dal's Harsimrat Kaur Badal resigned from the Union Cabinet opposing the controversial farms Bills, Haryana Deputy Chief Minister and JJP leader Dushyant Chautala met Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday in a bid to find a way out of the vexed situation with farmers on the warpath in the State.

Sources said the State Government would reach out to the farmers and their organisations to take the message across that the Bills would actually help their cause.

JJP leader Digvijay Singh Chautala asserted that the

party's coalition with the BJP in Haryana is going strong and accused the Opposition Congress of trying to mislead the farmers. He downplayed reports that there was fissure in the alliance saying the Congress spreads rumours.

Interestingly, JJP had earlier apologised for the lathicharge on farmers in Kurukshetra's Pipli last week when farmers were protesting against the three farm ordinances promulgated by the Union Government.

Asked if the JJP was facing any pressure in its alliance with the BJP after Harsimrat's resignation, Digvijay said, "Our tie-up is strong. Our responsibility is to ensure that farmers' crops are procured as per the MSP and we will ensure this in the upcoming procurement season. The biggest issue is the MSP. It is our commitment to farmers that we will not allow their crops to be procured below the minimum support price."

Continued on Page 2

3 killed in Shopian encounter were labourers: Army probe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An enquiry ordered by the Indian Army to probe a controversial encounter in which three unidentified "terrorists" were killed in Amshipora of Shopian on July 18 has concluded that the three of them were labourers from Rajouri.

They have been identified as Imtiyaz Ahmed, Abrar Ahmed and Mohd Ibrar.

Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane on Friday said investigation into the lapses will be conducted with utmost fairness and will be taken to the logical conclusion.

The Indian Army has ordered disciplinary proceedings under the Army Act against those found prima-



facie answerable.

Srinagar-based Defence spokesman Col Rajesh Kalra in a written statement said, "The enquiry has brought out certain prima facie evidence indicating that during the operation, powers vested under the AFSPA 1990 were exceeded and the do's and don'ts of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) approved by the Supreme

Court have been contravened."

Op Amshipora had earlier come under the scanner after three Rajouri-based families lodged a missing report on August 10 at police post Peeru in Kotranka tehsil claiming they were not in touch with their children, ever since they had reached Shopian in search of work since July 17, 2020.

These families had approached the police after images of the slain ultras, killed in the encounter, were circulated in the social media along with images of three youngsters from Rajouri.

The Defence spokesman, however, added, their DNA report is awaited and the police are also investigating if they were in anyway involved with terrorism or related activities.

CAPSULE

MEDIA CAN'T TARGET COMMUNITIES: SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Friday questioned Sudarshan TV over "Bindas Bol" programme, whose promo had claimed that the channel would show the "big expose on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in Government service", and asked whether media can be allowed to "target whole set of communities".

US BANS WECHAT, TIKTOK OVER NATIONAL SECURITY

Washington: The US will ban the use of WeChat Sunday to "safeguard the national security of the US." The Chinese app TikTok will also be banned by November 12.

Pvt players free to set passenger fares

It aims to attract \$7.5 bn investment in next five years

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Government will allow private companies to set passenger fares once they start operating train services in the country, a move aimed at luring investors.

"Private players have been given the freedom to fix fares in their own way," said VK Yadav, chairman of Railway Board. But, "air-conditioned buses and planes also operate



on those routes, and they have to keep that in mind before fixing fares.

The move is considered to attract investors. As per reports, the decision to allow private players in Indian Railways will

attract an investment of around \$7.5 billion in the next five years. Various companies like Alstom SA, Bombardier Inc, GMR Infrastructure Ltd and Adani Enterprises Ltd have reportedly expressed their interest in such projects.

The Indian Railways will also start levying "user fees" as part of train fares for the stations that have been redeveloped and those with high footfall in order to generate revenue to provide better facilities for passengers.

Once it comes into effect, it will be for the first time that such charges are levied on rail passengers.

Continued on Page 2

Nepal introduces books with revised map incorporating Indian areas

Kathmandu: Nepal has introduced new text books in the school curriculum that include the country's revised political map showing three strategically-important Indian areas as part of its territory, amidst a border dispute with New Delhi.

India has already termed as untenable the "artificial enlargement" of the territori-

al claims by Nepal after its Parliament unanimously approved the new political map of the country featuring Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas which India maintains belongs to it.

The curriculum Development Centre, under the Ministry of Education, recently published the books with the revised map, infor-

mation officer at the centre Ganesh Bhattarai told PTI.

The new books titled "Nepal's territory and reading materials for border issues" for the 9th and 12th classes have a preface written by Education Minister Giriraj Mani Pokharel.

Nepal in May released the revised political and administrative map of the country lay-

ing claim over the three strategically important areas in Uttarakhand, more than six months after India published a new map in November 2019.

Following the endorsement of the new map by the Nepal Cabinet, then government spokesperson and Finance Minister Yuvaraj Khatiwada told the media that the government had decided

to update the schedule of the Constitution and school curriculum incorporating the new political map. India in its response said that it had already made its position clear on it.

"This artificial enlargement of claims is not based on historical fact or evidence and is not tenable. It is also violative of our current under-

standing to hold talks on outstanding boundary issues," Ministry of External Affairs Anurag Srivastava had said. The Nepal government has also decided to issue coins with the inclusion of Kalapani area.

The government has instructed the Nepal Rastra Bank, the central bank of Nepal, to mint the coins with

the revised map. An official at the bank, however, said that they had no immediate plan to mint the coin, though preparations are on to issue coins worth Rs. 1 and Rs. 2 with the inclusion of the new map within a year.

The India-Nepal bilateral ties came under strain after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated an 80-km-

long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on May 8.

Nepal reacted sharply to the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through Nepalese territory. India rejected the claim asserting that the road lies completely within its territory.

PTI

PM inaugurates ‘Kosi Rail Mahasetu’, slew of rail projects for Bihar

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the "Kosi Rail Mahasetu" and a slew of other rail projects worth about Rs 3,000 crore for Bihar and hit out at the previous UPA government for the "slow" progress in the development of railways in the state during its rule.

Modi dedicated the "Kosi Rail Mahasetu" to the nation and inaugurated through video conference new railway lines and electrification projects in the state.

The prime minister has in the past few days inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for a number of development projects for Bihar, which is slated to go to polls in October-November.

Speaking at the virtual event, Modi said that "new history" has been created in the field of rail connectivity in Bihar as projects worth about Rs 3,000 crore like the inauguration of the Kosi Mahasetu, Kiul

Bridge and a dozen other job creating projects have been launched.

The Kosi Rail Mahasetu (mega bridge) is 1.9-km long and its construction cost is about Rs 516 crore. This bridge is of strategic importance along the India-Nepal border.

These projects will not only strengthen Bihar's rail network but also strengthen West Bengal and eastern India's rail connectivity, he said.

The Kosi rail project was the "dream project" of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the then railway minister Nitish Kumar, but after the Vajpayee government, the speed of the project slowed down, Modi said.

"In 2003, Atal ji was prime minister and Nitish ji railway minister when the new Kosi rail line was conceptualised with an aim to solve the problems being faced by the people of Mithila and Kosi," Modi said.

PTI

Delhi schools...

From Page 1

Universities and schools across the country have been closed since March 16 when the Centre announced a countrywide classroom shutdown as part of measures to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus.

On March 25, the Central Government announced a nationwide lockdown to prevent the virus from spreading. While several restrictions have been eased in different phases

Farm Bills...

From Page 1

Harsimrat Kaur Badal, an Akali Dal MP who resigned from the Prime Minister's Cabinet on Thursday over the farm Bills, said she has opposed the ordinance and requested it to a select committee. The Congress said any move to "disturb" the present procurement system may deepen "social unrest" amongst farmers of the state.

"We urge upon the Government to review and reconsider these measures as these are unlikely to deliver on the promises made to them. Agri-marketing should be left to the states as envisaged in the Constitution," the party said.

Breaking his silence after his resignation as a Minister last year, the cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu described farming as the "soul of Punjab". In a tweet in

Punjabi, he said, "Farming is the soul of Punjab, the wounds of the body can heal but an attack on our spirit, our existence will not be tolerated. The war trumpet says Inqilab Zindabad, Punjab, Punjabiyat and each Punjabi are with the farmers." The three Bills will now be tabled in the Rajya Sabha and become laws after the Upper House also passes them. The Bills seek to open up the farm sector to more competition, modernise supply chains by allowing bigger agribusinesses to engage directly with farmers and create seamless access to markets.

Critics, including Opposition parliamentarians, however, said the Bills will dilute the country's public procurement system and lead to exploitation by private companies. The Bills have already been passed by the Lok Sabha, where the ruling alliance has a

brute major.

PMC Bank fraud case: ED attaches hotels worth ₹100 cr in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As part of its ongoing money laundering probe, the Enforcement Directorate has attached three immovable properties in New Delhi worth around Rs 100 crore in the Rs 4,355-cr PMC Bank fraud case.

The attached assets consisting of three hotels are owned by Libra Realtors Pvt. Ltd, Deewan

Realtors Pvt. Ltd, Rakesh Kumar Wadhawan, Romy Mehra, and Libra Hotels Pvt. Ltd and its Directors.

The names of the attached hotels here are Hotel Conclave Boutique (now known as Fab Hotels at A-20, Kailash Colony), Hotel Conclave Comfort (now known as Fab Hotels at D-150, East of Kailash) and Hotel Conclave Executive (now known

as Fab Hotels at C-22, Kalkaji). Investigation has revealed that proceeds of crime totaling Rs 247 crore were obtained fraudulently by Libra and Diwan Realtors from PMC Bank in the guise of loans. These loans are part of the Rs. 6117 crores owed by HDIL group of companies to PMC Bank.

"The ED initiated investigation under PMLA on

03.10.2019 against Housing Development Infrastructures Ltd. (HDIL), Rakesh Kumar Wadhawan, Sarang Wadhawan, Waryam Singh and Joy Thomas, Chairman and Managing Director of PMC Bank Ltd and others on the basis of FIR dated 30.09.2019 registered by Economic Offences wing of Mumbai Police," the ED said in a statement.

Dubai's U-turn...

From Page 1

The airline announced that it had introduced additional flights to Sharjah to accommodate passengers who had already booked their flights to Dubai, and also given them option to re-book on a future date.

Five flights, each to Kozhikode, Delhi, Mumbai, Kannur and Thiruvananthapuram, had been rescheduled for this purpose.

The latest case happened on board a Jaipur to Dubai flight on September 4. Besides, the DCAA also penalised Air India Express to bear all medical and quarantine expenditures of the COVID-19 positive patients who have been ferried to Dubai.

The world's biggest T20 league has been moved out of India due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will be played in the UAE. The first IPL match is scheduled to be held between Mumbai Indian and Chennai Super Kings from Saturday in Dubai.

As per the UAE Government rules, each passenger travelling from India needs to bring an original COVID-negative certificate from the RT-PCR test done 96 hours prior to the journey.

In a letter to the airline, the

DCAA has named the passenger concerned who was seated on 4C on board flight IX 1135. The said passenger was issued a Covid positive test report on September 2 by a diagnostic centre in India, said the letter naming the passenger and the diagnostic centre.

"Boarding a passenger with

Don't...

From Page 1

"What path Nitish showed then is being followed by the nation," the Prime Minister said referring to the bills to "free" farmers passed by the Lok Sabha.

On Thursday when the Lok Sabha passed two agriculture bills, Leader of the Congress Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had, however, made a counter point saying condition of Bihar farmers turned "worse" after deregulation in the State and at the same time he said farmers in the regulated States of Punjab and Haryana fared better.

Referring to the Kosi rail bridge, the Prime Minister again credited it to Nitish who he said as Railway Minister started it and now given extraordinary connectivity to many areas of the State.

Modi inaugurated the 1.9 km 'Kosi Mahasetu' (mega-bridge) along with 12 other railway projects across Bihar. The mega bridge has been a much-awaited project for the people of Kosi and Mithilanchal regions who have waited for 86 years.

Modi said Bihar created history today in railway connectivity with the launch of "Kosi Mahasetu" and "Kiul Bridge" along with dozen other projects which will contribute to Railway electrification, promoting Make in India in Railways and more job creators.

"I would like to quote some facts about the speed with which work is being done on Bihar's Railway network. Before 2014, only 125 crore new railway lines were started in Bihar. Whereas in the following 5 years, nearly 700 km of railway lines have been commissioned," said the PM, adding the State would witness similar progress in the power sector in coming days. Bihar is to go to polls in October-November.

Covid-19 positive test result for the second time, is contrary to and is in violation of the laid down procedures and/or protocols relating to air travel to and from airports in the Emirate of Dubai, during the pandemic. Therefore, all operation of Air India Express to Dubai is temporarily suspended for a duration of 15 days, effective from 00.01 hours on September 18 until 23.59 hours of October 2," the letter said.

"In addition to the suspension of operation, you will be further notified to pay all the expenditure incurred by the respective authorities for medical services and/or quarantine of any passenger(s) and the other passengers in the flight and also any other expenditure connected thereto," the letter added.

The letter referred to an earlier intimation made to the Airlines on September 2 for boarding a passenger with a coronavirus positive test result.

In order to resume flights to Dubai, Air India has been asked to submit a detailed corrective action plan implemented in letter and spirit to prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

"Air India Express has received the 'Notice of Suspension' from Dubai Civil Aviation Authority on

Dushyant...

From Page 1

Digvijay's elder brother and Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant and Khattar held a meeting in the backdrop of the developments in both Punjab and Haryana where farmers have repeatedly taken to the streets against the farm Bills, which they have dubbed as "anti-farmer".

They have expressed apprehension that the passage of these Bills would pave the way for the dismantling of the MSP system and leave the farming community at the "mercy" of big corporates. On the meeting between Khattar and Dushyant, Digvijay said the two held discussions on a range of issues, including the steps to be taken to ensure smooth crop procurement in the upcoming season. The lathicharge on farmers also figured in the discussions, he said without elaborating.

Meanwhile, the Opposition

September 17, 2020, as per which the airline's operations to Dubai airport are temporarily suspended for a duration of 15 days w.e.f September 18, 2020. The Notice has been issued on account of the erroneous acceptance of one Covid-19 positive passenger by the airline's ground handling agents at Delhi and Jaipur on Air India Express flights to Dubai on August 28 and September 4 respectively," the Air India said. "Passengers who were seated in close proximity to the Covid-19 positive passenger on each flight have undergone a Covid-19 test / been quarantined as determined by the Dubai health authority," it said.

Airline officials said that the ground handling agencies concerned have taken appropriate punitive action against their employees who have been held accountable for the lapse at Delhi and Jaipur.

In August, Air India was banned from operating flights to Hong Kong for two weeks for "carrying too many passengers infected with Covid-19." The Hong Kong government had acted after 11 passengers on Air India flight 314 from Delhi on August 14 tested positive for the coronavirus, with officials blaming poor preflight testing for the infection.

Freelance Journalist arrested under Official Secrets Act

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has arrested a freelance journalist who had classified Defence related documents in his possession.

The man has been identified as Rajeev Sharma, a resident of Pitampura.

According to a senior police official, he has been arrested by police in an Official Secrets Act case.

"He was found to be in possession of some Defence related classified documents. Investigation of the case is in progress and further details will be shared in due course," said the senior police official.

"He was produced in court on Friday which granted police his custody for six days," he added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that SMC Certificate stating legal heirs of Mr. Uday Ram & Mr. Murlidhar in respect of Property No. H-60, measuring 50 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 63/28, situated at Jawahar Park, H-Block, Gali No. 3, Garwali Mohalla, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi, has been lost / misplaced. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 10 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)

200, Ind Fr. 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-15

Ph. 011-41112527-28; kumarassociatesadvocate@gmail.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client JAGDISH KUMAR S/o SH. SHYAM LAL R/o FLAT No.80D, DDA SFS-MIG FLATS, POCKET-1, SECTOR-10, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075 has disowned his son NAVEEN KUMAR, and daughter-in-law ANKITA KANOJIA D/o SH. TILAK RAJ from all his moveable and immovable properties, due to disobedience, misconduct towards my client. My client shall not be responsible for any acts of them in future.

PREM PRAKASH (Advocate)
207, Plot-1, MLU Sector-10 Dwarka, New Delhi-75 Ph..9871268399

Public Notice

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **Bhartiya Panchayati Raj Party (Loktantrik)**. The office of the party is located at **B-247 3rd Floor, Priyadarshini Vihar, Delhi - 110052**. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as **Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951** - Names/Address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows: **President/Chairman :** Rajeev Kumar/Ranjan **General Secretary / Secretary :** Satish Parakh **Treasurer :** Anilendra Pandey If any one has any objection to the registration of **Bhartiya Panchayati Raj Party (Loktantrik)** they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 within 30 days of the publication of their notice.

Follow safety protocol at gyms: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday appealed to gym owners and the general public to follow the safety protocol at the gym centres to minimise the risk of spreading Covid-19 infection.

The representatives of the gym associations of Delhi met with the Chief Minister and thanked him for opening the gyms and yoga centres in Delhi.

Kejriwal tweeted, "I appeal to all gym operators and the public in Delhi to follow the safety protocols at gym centers. We have to stop the spread of corona infection along with staying healthy."



The meeting came after an order issued by Delhi Disaster Management Authority saying that the gyms and yoga centres will be allowed to open

and regular sanitization of the gym areas are being followed to ensure safety inside the gyms.

Kejriwal appealed to the gym owners that they should ensure all the 'Standard Operating Procedures' issued by the central government are properly followed.

"People coming for workouts at these establishments should follow all safety standards and protocols to cease the spread of Corona infection. The Delhi government has started opening the city after Unlock orders of the Central government were issued and the economic activities also began in Delhi. It took some time to get the permit for the openings of gyms but we con-

tinued raising the issue in the DDMA meetings," he said.

"I am glad that we were able to convince Lieutenant Governor that the opening of yoga and gym establishments were very important so that people stay healthy and immune," he said.

Meanwhile, the national Capital recorded 4,127 fresh COVID-19 cases on Friday, taking the total number of persons infected with coronavirus to over 2.38 lakh.

According to the Delhi health department bulletin the active cases tally was 32250 and out of the total number of beds in Covid hospitals, 8018 are vacant. As per report, 2335 beds in Covid care centres are

occupied by persons under quarantine, including travellers who have returned by 'Vande Bharat Mission' and bubble flights, it said.

The number of tests done per million, as was 127927 it said. A total of 201671 patients have recovered, migrated or been discharged. The number of COVID-19 containment zones in Delhi has risen to 1751.

On Thursday, Delhi recorded 4,432 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to over 2.34 lakh while the death toll reached 4,877 with 38 fresh fatalities. While on Wednesday, the national capital had registered a record single-day spike of 4,473 COVID-19 cases.

G'gram sees surge with 5,237 Covid cases in 20 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Gurugram recorded 5,237 Covid-19 cases in the last twenty days from August 30 to September 18. The officials said the reason behind the rise spike is the flouting of Covid-19 norms.

However, the city had recorded over 421 fresh Covid patients on Wednesday, the highest single day count in the last three months. The health department attributes this spike to the fact that more people are getting themselves tested following Haryana government's decision to allow walk-ins for Covid test without prescription.

"We are registering more than 300 cases every day. It is a concern for us. We are working hard to contain spread in limited places. People need to follow Covid guidelines and maintain social distancing rules said a health official.

In view of the rising cases, the district administration has suggested home isolation."It has been observed that 80% corona-infected patients may recover from it if they follow necessary guidelines of the health department," he said.

Meanwhile, the district health department detected 339 fresh infections in the district on Friday. The Covid-19 tally in Gurugram rose to 17,063 according to a daily health bulletin.

Three more patients infect-



ed with coronavirus died on Friday in Gurugram. A total of 156 persons in the district have lost their lives to the dreaded virus to date.

There are a total of 2,755 active Covid cases in Gurugram. A total of 14,152 people have been cured and discharged after recovery.

The health department said out of 156 deaths 110 died due to co-morbidities and the remaining 46 without co-morbidity.

Meanwhile, Amit Khatri, District Commissioner, Gurugram has directed all government and private hospitals in the district to reserve at least 35% beds for Covid-19 patients.

"These health facilities have been instructed to update the data about availability of beds daily on "onemapggm.gmda.gov.in," Khatri said.

DDA automates digital mode of bill payment

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has fully automated the process of payment of water bills to facilitate digital mode of payment.

"Public who are availing services of DDA can deposit their bills online. Most of the people taking services are from Dwarka and Rohini and this process will benefit them the most," the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) said in a statement.

"The customers will be required to have a bank account for the payment of water bills online. The payment can be made through debit card, credit card and net banking etc. The payments can also be made through Bharat Bill pay system as well. The URL of the water bill system is <https://online.dda.org.in/water-billonline>. Its link also exists on DDA's website www.dda.org.in.

"Online system is one of our priority areas. People can avail the benefits of various services offered by DDA at the comfort of their homes. The water bill payment system has been developed in-house by Delhi Development Authority (DDA)," it said.

Measures initiated to boost Railway infra: Min

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to increase the speed and ensure timely running of trains including goods trains, Indian Railways has initiated several measures for upgrading the infrastructure, modernising the rolling stock for streamlining operations.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Railways Minister Piyush Goyal said the blueprint for increasing the speeds of trains will be taken such as including increasing the track speeds on trunk routes to 130 Kmph, enhancing the speed potential of Golden Quadrilateral and its diagonal to 160 Kmph.

Accordingly, 160 Kmph projects on the Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah sectors are already sanctioned, he said, adding that discontinuance of manufacturing of Integral Coach Factory (ICF) design coaches with 'Maximum Permissible Speed' (MPS) of 110 kmph and enhanced manufacture of Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches with MPS of 160 Kmph.

"Introduction of modern signaling systems such as 'Train Collision Avoidance System' (TCAS), accelerated removal of permanent speed restrictions, construction of roads over bridges and under bridges will also be done to eliminate level crossing gates," he said.

"The average running speeds of trains on railway systems depend upon various factors, such as, type of track structure, signalling systems, motive power, type of rolling stock, network congestion, etc," he said.

"Some of the international railway systems, such as the Shinkansen in Japan and the TGV system in France, have dedicated networks of high speed railway lines with maximum speeds over 300 Kmph. The average running speeds of all categories of trains across different railway systems abroad are not compiled," he added.

The railway minister further said that Indian Railways has a heterogeneous system

with freight trains and passenger carrying trains being operated on common tracks with a very high level of capacity utilization.

During the financial year 2019-20, the average speed of premium trains (Rajdhani, Shatabdi, Duranto and Vande Bharat) was above 70 kmph, Superfast trains was above 55 kmph, express services was above 50 kmph and that of freight trains was 24 kmph. However, during the current financial year, i.e. 2020-21, the average speed of freight trains has increased to 46.71 kmph, he said.

In reply to another question, he said that Indian Railways has planned to set up

solar plants on its vacant land and along the tracks. "As a part of this initiative, 4.7 Mega Watt (MW) land based solar plants have already been commissioned. Action has been taken for installation of solar power projects on unused railway land at Bhilai (Chhattisgarh, 50 MegaWatt (MW), Diwana (Haryana, 2 MW)

To further proliferate solar plants, railways has planned to install solar plants of 20 Giga Watt (GW) capacity by the year 2030 by utilizing its vacant land and to begin with, bids for 3 GW solar plants on vacant railway land parcels and land parcels along the railway track have already been invited, he said.

BJP-ruled MCDs use distorted map of India in Class IV books, alleges AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak on Friday alleged that the BJP ruled municipal Corporations used distorted map of India in books meant for 4th standard students.

Pathak said that the same maps were issued by China and Pakistan. Slamming the BJP-ruled Corporation, he said that the attempts made by Pakistan and the Chinese Governments for years to play with the territorial integrity of India, have been validated and proven right by the BJP-led MCD.

On behalf of the AAP, Pathak demanded immediate withdrawal of these books and said that all the BJP leaders and

officials associated with this act should be booked under sedition. Addressing the media, he said, "Many revolutionaries and freedom fighters have suffered in jail because of demanding freedom for our nation, they stayed in jail for years and sacrificed their lives and many people were martyred for our freedom."

"Since India gained independence, we fought three wars for the protection of our nation and its people. Many soldiers were martyred and many women lost their husbands and mothers lost their sons but unfortunately, the attempts made by Pakistan and the Chinese governments for years to play with the territorial integrity of India, have been validated and proven

right by the BJP-led MCD," he said.

"The maps that have been printed in the books of the 4th standard of MCD's schools are the same maps that are issued by the Pakistan government and the same maps which are issued by the Chinese government have been approved for the books of the MCD schools in Delhi," he said, adding that the fact that they cannot clean roads and cannot pay salaries to their staff can be forgiven but playing with territorial integrity cannot be forgiven.

"How is it possible that these maps are being given to students in the classrooms? There is an education committee that approves the syllabus and everything for schools," he asked?

Sept 17 will be considered as black day for farmers: Mann

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

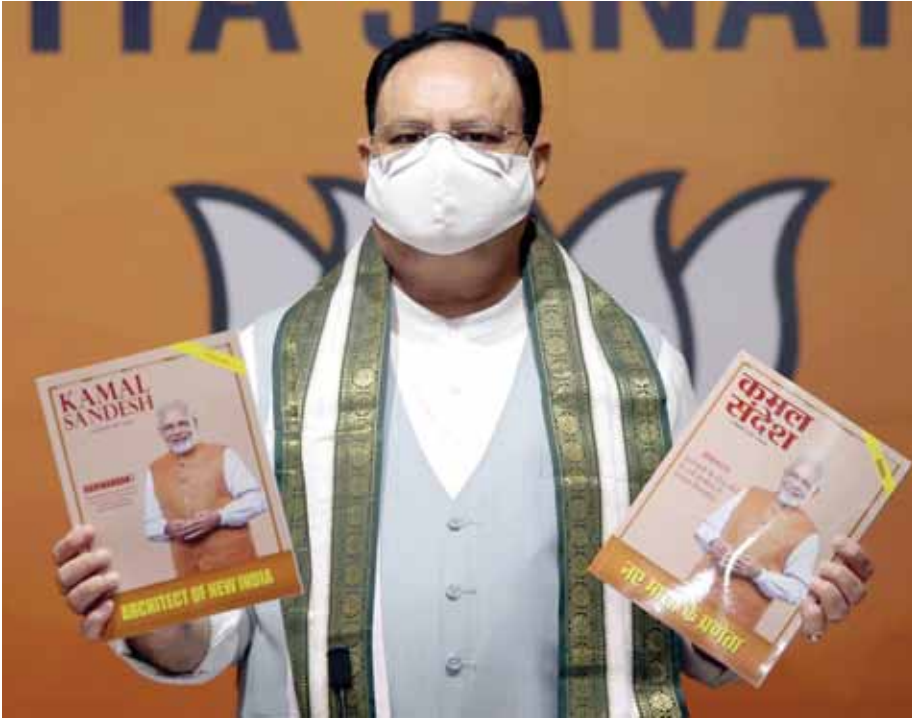
Senior Aam Aadmi Party leader and Lok Sabha MP Bhagwant Mann on Friday said that September 17 will be considered as a black day for the farmers of India as on his birthday Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a bunch of anti-farmer bills to the nation.

Mann said that both the Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal are equally responsible for bringing these bills.

"The AAP protested against these bills at the Lok Sabha. I am making it very clear that this amendment bill is completely against the farmers and will only benefit the industrialists. At the end of the day, the farmers will become beggars. The farmers are very strong and no bill or atrocity can stop these courageous people," he said.

"The Green Revolution has affected the farmers of Punjab because the groundwater level has gone down drastically. Amid all these problems the farmers of Punjab were trying their best, but now after these amendments, their lives will be devastated," he said.

Mann said, "I want to ask the Congress party to clear their stand on this issue. When these bills were in the preparatory state then the Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal supported these bills. Both of these leaders are from the Congress party. I believe that both the Congress party and the Shiromani Akali Dal are equally responsible for these anti-farmer bills."



BJP national president JP Nadda releases Kamal Sandesh special edition, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 70th birthday, at BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Friday

Horse dies of electrocution in Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A horse allegedly died of electrocution in Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti in South Delhi on Friday, police said.

The incident happened at Alvi Chowk around 11 am, a policeman present at the spot said.

The owner of the horse had come to buy fodder for the animal from Turkman Gate, locals said. Waste water from overflowing sewers led to the incident. Kamal Hassan, a resident of the area, claimed.

Sheikh Mohammad Umar, the secretary of the Nizamuddin West Resident Welfare Association, said people have repeatedly complained about the overflowing sewers and the pathetic condition of electricity wires to authorities concerned, but the problem persists.

"A big mishap could have taken place. The horse sensed the danger and kicked his owner away, but the poor animal itself collapsed to the ground. A dog has also been injured in the incident," he said.

Police constable hangs self from fan in Malviya Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 37-year-old Delhi Police constable allegedly hanged himself from a ceiling fan at his house in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar. The incident occurred on Thursday night.

The deceased constable, Satender, was posted at Daryaganj Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP's) office in Central district of Delhi Police and lived with his wife and child at PTS colony in Malviya Nagar. Police said that no suicide note was recovered from the spot.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, police were informed about the incident around 11.26 PM on Thursday. "The constable came home around 10 pm and after sometime, he was found hanging. Satender was taken to Max Hospital where he was declared brought dead," the DCP said. "Police teams are investigating the incident and they are yet to ascertain the reason behind the alleged suicide. Inquest proceedings are going on," said the DCP. "The body will be handed over to the family after post-mortem," police said.

Construction of flyover near Sarai Kale Khan ISBT to hit traffic for 15 days, informs traffic police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police (DTP) on Friday said that the construction work of a flyover near Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi will be carried out in the next 15 days due to which traffic movement could be affected in the area.

Taking to twitter, the DTP alerted commuters about the ongoing construction work for the flyover near Sarai Kale Khan ISBT and advised them to use alternative routes.

For traffic coming from Ashram towards Rajghat, the police have suggested the commuters to take DND, Mayur Vihar, Akshardham to reach Ring Road.

"Likewise, for traffic coming towards DND to reach New Delhi, they can either commute from Noida via Akshardham and reach Ring Road or from DND they can go towards Barapullah," the traffic police said.

NIC registers FIR after suspected malware attack on it, but no loss of data reported

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has filed a complaint with the Delhi Police about a suspected malware attack after one of its staffer faced difficulty in accessing his official email account on a computer.

According to a senior police official, an email was sent to the official ID of an NIC staffers and when the receiver clicked on the link, it appeared that malware had set in on that particular computer but the NIC claimed there is no loss of data.

"The First Information Report (FIR) was registered in the first week of September on the complaint of the NIC, fol-

lowing which the Delhi Police investigated the matter and has identified the source," said the senior police official adding that for now they cannot disclose the source yet as they are proceeding further in their investigation.

"The reports being carried in certain sections of the media about widespread cyber intrusion involving high offices are unsubstantiated and do not reflect the current stage of investigation," said Anil Mittal, the Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO).

The NIC of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is providing network backbone and e-governance support to central and state governments,

UT administrations, districts and other government bodies.

"A government employee had recently reported that he was having difficulty in accessing his official email account by the NIC which was lying unused for some weeks," said Mittal.

"It was found by the NIC that there was an attempted breach by unidentified cyber actors -- a kind of regular activity over cyberspace which was, however, detected by its robust cyber security systems," said Mittal.

"As an abundant precaution, a formal investigation into the matter has been launched and a case registered at the Delhi Police's Special Cell," he added.

Capital's last elephant Jasmine celebrates year of freedom

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's last elephant— 'JASMINE' celebrated a year of freedom & is living a safe, retired life at the Wildlife SOS Elephant Rehabilitation Centre in Haryana.

After having suffered decades of abuse and torture isolation, Jasmine's long-awaited rescue in 2019 finally closed the curtain on the Capital's long-drawn association with captive elephants.

Her rescue was facilitated by the Delhi Police, Forest Department and wildlife conservation NGO, Wildlife SOS.

In a city which is not a suitable habitat for elephants,

40-year old Jasmine suffered silently for decades. Navigating through the jam-packed roads of Delhi, even as the noise from the traffic caused her immense psychological distress, was a part of her daily routine.

Gracing events and ceremonies, giving joyrides to people and begging on the streets was her designated 'occupation.'

According to officials, Jasmine was forced to live in despicable conditions along the banks of the infamously polluted Yamuna river, where she would eat and bathe every day.

Relief from her stressful life seemed afar, until the



Delhi High Court passed an order to rehabilitate the remaining seven elephants of the city in 2019. While six elephants were safely relocated out of the city, Jasmine and her owner went missing for several months and were eventually tracked down by the enforcement authorities which led to a dramatic rescue operation that lasted almost 14 hours.

The Delhi police, Forest Department and Wildlife SOS facilitated the rescue operation and they safely relocated Delhi's last elephant from the bustling city to the peaceful jungles of Ban Santour, near the Kalesar National Park. The Elephant Rehabilitation Centre, jointly run by Wildlife

SOS & the Haryana Forest Department covers 400 acres of forested land and provides a safe sanctuary for abused, exploited, sick and geriatric elephants requiring lifetime care and treatment.

Dr. S. Ilayaraja, Deputy Director, Veterinary Services for Wildlife SOS, said, "Jasmine's health has been severely compromised due to negligence and her feet are in terrible condition. She is currently receiving regular medicated foot baths to aid the fast recovery of her torn and delicate footpads and wounded cuticles."

Kartick Satyanarayan, co-founder & CEO, Wildlife SOS said, "Jasmine's life was bur-

dened, and physically so, with the overbearing weight of a carrier crushing her spine and her spirits down. Now, with the serene surroundings of the jungle and dedicate care of the Wildlife SOS elephant caregivers, her health is improving gradually. We are grateful to the Delhi Forest Department and Haryana Forest Department for entrusting us to provide Jasmine the necessary veterinary care." Her days are filled with long walks with her caregiver around the vast forested area, spending hours in a jumbo pool with her friends and gorging on healthy and delicious fruits and vegetables, he added.

RS passes Bill to cut MPs' salaries by 30% for yr



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Friday passed a Bill to reduce for one year the salaries of MPs by 30 per cent “to meet the exigencies arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic”. The Bill was passed in Rajya Sabha with a voice vote while Lok Sabha had passed the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2020 Bill earlier this week. The Rajya Sabha also approved two Bills, replacing ordinances related to the Central Council of Homoeopathy and the Indian Medicine Central Council.

While supporting the cuts in salaries, most Opposition members who participated in the discussion urged the government to review its decision to suspend the Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme for two years saying it

was necessary to carry out development works in their respective constituencies. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, however, said this was a temporary suspension.

Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy moved the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2020 and both bills were taken up simultaneously and passed by voice vote.

During the debate, Joshi said it did not matter how much money was being saved through salary cuts of members. “Charity should begin from home and that is the concept we have started. It is not ₹4 crore saving as said by DMK member but ₹53.9 crore per year from members’ salary,” he said. DMK member P Wilson had earlier during the discussion said the measure would entail savings of just ₹4

Indian genes helpful in battling coronavirus, reducing mortality rate: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian genes are helping battling coronavirus and reducing the mortality rate in comparison to the US and Europe, according to scientists including an expert from the Banaras Hindu University (BHU). The study is published in the PLOS ONE journal.

A team comprising distinguished genetic experts from six institutions, led by Prof Gyaneshwer Chaubey of the BHU, analysed complete DNA data of the Angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) gene of X chromosome from various continental populations and found that it is the Indian genes that have protected the population and helped battle the deadly virus.

This explains why the mortality rate of COVID-19 has been much higher in European countries and in the US, as compared to India and Southeast Asian countries, they said.

The scientists have provided a possible molecular genetic explanation for why Iranians, Europeans and Americans of European ancestry are at more mortality risk to the novel Coronavirus than people in India and East Asia, as reflected in the current global distribution of reported COVID-19 cases per 1,00,000 inhabitants.



There have been a few initial studies on the ACE2 gene by other research groups, but all of them looked for the presence or absence of various mutations, whereas, this team used more powerful haplotype-based analysis (the method in which experts break the whole length of DNA into several pieces and make comparisons).

The international team analysed complete DNA data of the ACE2 gene from various continental populations and found that certain mutations in this gene are helping South Asian and East Asian populations in successfully battling the virus and reducing mortality rate in comparison to the US and Europe.

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Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill passed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Earlier in the day, the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 seeking to further extend the time to form the Central Council of Homoeopathy by a year and the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020 also seeking a year’s time to reconstitute the central council and provides for a board of directors to exercise its powers in the interim period was passed in the Upper House after a debate.

Satav said “no one knows to whom it is caring”. He also pointed out expenses by the government during the pandemic on projects such as Central Vista, Bullet train and a special ₹850 crore aircraft for the PM. Trinamool Congress member Dinesh Trivedi said the bill for reduction of members’ salaries was decided only by some MPs on whatsapp.

Cong to launch nationwide stir against farms Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday announced to launch a nationwide agitation against the Centre’s three agriculture-related Bills. It is in talks with other Opposition parties to come on board to corner the Modi Government on the farmer related issue which has also led to the resignation of Union Minister Harsimran Kaur of Shiromani Akali Dal, BJP’s oldest ally in the NDA.

With farmers protesting against the bills, Congress alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has misled the farmers and the country and Modi is a big liar.

“Person sitting on prime minister’s post should not mislead farmers and country. The PM is lying at a time when the country is battling coronavirus and China is breathing down our neck,” Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said

at AICC Press conference near Parliament.

Congress said any move to “disturb” the present procurement system may deepen “social unrest” amongst farmers of the state. “We urge upon the government to review and reconsider these measures as these are unlikely to deliver on the promises made to them. Agri-marketing should be left to the states as envisaged in the Constitution,” the party said.

Congress again ques-

tioned as to why the Modi Government is trying to finish off MSP. “Both the Agriculture minister and the PM are saying that MSP will continue but when mandis will be finished, who will give MSP? Will FCI (Food Corporation of India) go to farmers’ fields to give MSP?” Prime Minister Narendra Modi says now farmers can sell produce anywhere, 86.2 per cent farmers own less than six acres of land and 60

per cent own less than two acres of land. How can such poor farmers have access to far-off markets,” Surjewala said. He was joined by his party colleagues and Parliamentarians Gaurav Gogoi, Rajeev Satav, Jasbir Singh Gill, Hibi Eden, and Amar Singh.

Surjewala further asked the Centre, “How will small farmers fight for rights against mega corporate?” “When APMC act will no longer be there, how will small farmers, mandi workers and transporters earn their livelihood? The mandi fees helps development in villages,” Surjewala said also announcing for the joint agitation against the decision.

AICC sources said that agitation being planned with other parties can be both physical and virtual.

Accusing the Congress of doublespeak, the BJP has been pointing out that the opposition party itself had in its manifesto for 2019 Lok Sabha elections proposed the abolition of APMC Act and making agricultural produce free from restrictions.

But former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda said his party will move a resolution against the legislations when the assembly session is convened. Talking to reporters later, Hooda said Haryana farmers are facing an existential crisis due to the three “black laws”, which will “take away” the protection provided to them. It is important that all parties raise their voice in the interest of the State’s farmers, he said, adding that they will not allow the implementation of the legislations in Haryana.

Corps Commander-level talks between India, China likely in next 3 days

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following the agreement between External affairs minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on September 10 to defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at the earliest, the next round of military level talks will see India urging simultaneous disengagement and de-escalation. The Corps Commander-level talks between the two armies are likely to take place in the next two to three days.

The Indian stance during

the forthcoming military level talks was discussed at great length for more than 90 minutes in the China Study Group(CSG)meeting chaired by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval here on Friday, sources said. The top defence brass including Chief of Defence Staff(CDS)General Bipin Rawat took part in the crucial meeting, they added.

The two commanders Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin have held five rounds of parleys so far since June 6 but no significant improvement took place

on the ground. The last round was held on August 2 when it was agreed to disengage and de-escalate.

However, China did not honour the commitment and in fact tried to unilaterally alter the LAC in south bank of the Pangong Tso(lake)on August 29 and 30. The aggressive action was thwarted by the Indian army.

Moreover, both the sides in the last fortnight fired more than 200 rounds in the air on at least four occasions thereby increasing tension at the already volatile border.

Sudarshan TV requests SC for live telecast of hearing on ‘Bindas Bol’

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sudarshan TV, which is facing legal proceedings in the Supreme Court, has moved an application seeking a live telecast of the hearing of the plea, which has raised a grievance over its “Bindas Bol” programme, the promo of which had claimed that the channel would air a “big expose on the conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service”.

On September 15, the top court had restrained the channel from telecasting the episodes of “Bindas Bol” till further orders, saying that “the intent” of the episodes “prima facie” appeared to “vilify” the Muslim community.

The application filed by Sudarshan News through its director and editor Suresh Chavhanke said, “It is respect-

fully submitted that the present case is one of the most important cases concerning the public at large as the question of freedom of press protected by Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India is involved.”

It said crores of viewers of the channel want to know about the legal proceedings and hear the points of arguments being raised by the parties.

“Direct for a live telecast of the proceedings of this case through audio-visual broadcasting/telecasting universally by an official agency as the court may deem fit and proper,” the application said.

A bench comprising justices D Y Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra and K M Joseph will take up the matter for hearing at 12 noon.

Apex court hikes damages for victims of road accidents

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has enhanced the compensation to a victim of road accident saying that courts should be mindful that a serious injury not only imposes disabilities but also inflicts deep mental and emotional scars.

The apex court said it has emphasised time and again that “just compensation” should include all elements that would go to place the victim in as near a position as she or he was in, before the occurrence of the accident.

The top court said that no amount of money or other material compensation can erase the trauma, pain and suffering of the victims.

States bank on herbal immunity boosters to defeat corona

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Covid-19 battered world continue to scout for vaccine to combat the deadly virus, States in India are banking on herbal immunity boosters among other safety norms like masks and social distancing to keep the pathogen at a bay which has so far infected 54 lakhs people and claimed 83,000 lives across the country.

While Tamil Nadu is distributing Siddha-based herbal immunity boosters like ‘Athimathuram’ and ‘Kabasura Kudineer’, Karnataka is supplying ayurveda-based immunity enhancing tablets and decoction to the locals as part

of the fight against coronavirus. So is the case with Delhi and Punjab where cops are being armed with the formulation based on medicinal plants and essential oils to fight the virus from the front.

Punjab has recently announced doling out to its police personnel Covid-care kits having medical gadgets like mask, oximeter besides medicines and an herbal immunity booster Amynity Plus to combat the virus. Nearly 3,800 police personnel have tested Covid positive in the State.

The herbal formulation is extract of around 51 herbs like harad, Neem, Amla, Sunthi, Ashwagandha, Gudduchi

besides eight essential oils to empower immunity of the body system.

Dr Sanchit Sharma, Executive Director of AIMIL Pharmaceuticals which has developed the herbal brew, noted that not only a strong immune system but multi-system immune defence could be the perfect solution to tackle the infection which has brought the world standstill.


Like in Punjab, police personnel in Delhi are being distributed ‘Ayuraksha Kit’ comprising of ‘Kadha’ concoction (herbal tea), ‘Sanshamani’ tablet (made from Giloy), oil to be used as nasal drops and pack of Chyawanprash while Tamil Nadu is offering the concoction like ‘Athimathuram’ and ‘Kabasura Kudineer’.

“These are not a cure for Covid-19 but for boosting the immunity of an individual,” said Chief Minister Edappadi K

Palaniswami launched the scheme by distributing the drink to police personnel.

Similarly, Karnataka Government is offering ayurveda-based immunity boosting tablets and decoction to lakhs of families in Shivamogga under an initiative by Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa as part of the fight against covid-19. Likewise, Uttar Pradesh too is pushing herbal immunity boosters to fight the virus.

In fact, scientists from Government organisations too are doing their bit in this regard. For instance, Dr Sanjay Jachak, scientist from Researchers from National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) in Mohali, Punjab has developed an immunity booster herbal tea—a combination of six herbs such as Ashwagandha, Giloy, Mulethi, Tulsi and GreenTea—to strengthen the body and build physical resistance to the virulent infections.



Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
5th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is implementing the umbrella scheme “Scholarships for Students with Disabilities” for their empowerment through education w.e.f. 1st April, 2018. There are six components of this scheme i.e. Pre-matric, Post-matric, Top Class Education, National Overseas Scholarship, National Fellowship and Free Coaching. The brief details of the umbrella scheme are given below:

S No.	Components	Courses covered	No. of Scholarships per year	Parental income ceiling per annum (Rs.)	Rate of scholarship	How to apply								
1.	Pre-matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities	Class IX and X	25,000	2.50 lakh	Scholarship of Rs.500 per month for day scholars and Rs.800 per month for hostellers plus book grant and disability allowance ranging from Rs.2000/- to Rs.4000/- per annum.	These three scholarships scheme are being implemented through National Scholarship Portal (NSP). Apply on-line on National Scholarship Portal (www.scholarships.gov.in). The portal has been opened for registration from 16th August 2020.								
2.	Post-matric Scholarship for Students with Disabilities	Class XI to Master's Degree or Diploma level	17000	2.50 lakh	There are different rates maintenance allowance for Post-Graduate, Graduate, Diploma, professional courses leading to degree, diploma etc. in different disciplines. It ranges from Rs.900-1600 p.m. for hosteller and Rs.550-750 p.m. for day scholars plus tuition fee (maximum ceiling Rs.1.50 lakh per annum), book allowance and disability allowance ranging from Rs.2000/- to Rs.4000/- per annum	Last date for submission and verification of applications on NSP is as under:- <table><thead><tr><th>Levels</th><th>Last Dates</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Student registration</td><td>31.10.2020</td></tr><tr><td>Institute Verification</td><td>15.11.2020</td></tr><tr><td>State Verification</td><td>30.11.2020</td></tr></tbody></table>	Levels	Last Dates	Student registration	31.10.2020	Institute Verification	15.11.2020	State Verification	30.11.2020
Levels	Last Dates													
Student registration	31.10.2020													
Institute Verification	15.11.2020													
State Verification	30.11.2020													
3.	Scholarship for Top Class Education for Students with Disabilities	Graduate/ Post Graduate Degree or Diploma in 241 notified institutions of excellence	300	6.00 lakh	Monthly maintenance allowance of Rs.3000/- for hostellers, Rs.1500/- for day scholars, Rs.2000/- per month disability allowance, book grant Rs.5000/- per annum and tuition fee upto Rs.2.00 lakh per annum.	(*) for latest updates, please visit website: www.scholarships.gov.in								
4.	National Overseas Scholarships for Students with Disabilities	Master's degree and Doctorate degree in foreign universities abroad	20	6.00 lakh	Maintenance allowance of 9,900 Pound (Great Britain) per annum for UK and for other countries US \$15,400, plus Tuition fees, Annual Contingency Allowance, cost of air passage, etc.	Receipt of application is open throughout the year. The proforma for submission of application is given on the website of this Department i.e. www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in . Application may be submitted in the prescribed proforma to Under Secretary (Scholarships), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Room No.519, 5th Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003								
5.	National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities	M.Phil/Ph.D in Indian Universities	200	No income Ceiling	Monthly Rs.31,000/- for JRF (first two years) and Rs.35,000/- for SRF (3rd year onwards up to complete duration of the course) and Contingency Grant, Escort Allowance/ Reader Allowance and House Rent Allowance (at applicable rates).	Selection is done by the University Grants Commission. The candidates may apply online as and when applications are invited by UGC. No application is required to be sent to Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities								
6.	Free Coaching	For appearing in competitive examinations for jobs in Government/ Public Sector and admission to technical and professional courses	2000	6.00 lakh	Coaching fee shall be payable to empanelled Institute by this Department. Stipend and Special allowance for Disability @ Rs.7,000/- per month for outstation candidates and Rs.4,500/- per month for local candidates shall be payable.	The Coaching Institute may send their proposals in the prescribed application form with the recommendations of concerned State Govts./UTs and having registration certificate under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 for empanelment of the Coaching Institute.								

All the above scholarships are applicable to students with 40% & above disability and having a valid disability certificate to this effect issued by the competent medical authority. **Disability is as defined in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.**

For further details, please visit: www.disabilityaffairs.gov.in

davp 38117/11/0014/2021

Kerala: Covid-19 surge continues

4,167 more afflicted on Friday

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI:

The forecasts made by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Health Minister KK Shylaja early this month is coming true in Kerala as the number of persons diagnosed with Covid-19 continued to surge ahead on Friday too. The last 24 hours saw the State identifying 4,167 new patients across Kerala out of which 3, 849 persons contracted the disease through social contact.

The death toll in the State touched 501 by Friday evening as the Department of Health confirmed that 12 persons succumbed to the pandemic. Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, CPI(M) State Secretary who addressed the media earlier in the day blamed the opposition BJP and the Congress for the surge in the Covid-19 cases.

“The demonstrations and rallies staged by the BJP and the Congress

across Kerala were with the intention of sabotaging the good works being done by the CPI(M)-led Government. They threw to the wind all safety protocols and restrictions like wearing facemasks and maintaining social distancing,” Balakrishnan said while speaking to the press after the State Secretariat meet.

Thiruvananthapuram district topped the table with 926 new patients on Friday while Kozhikode diagnosed 404 patients. Except in Wynadu district which diagnosed 68 new cases, all districts registered high numbers of patients. The medical fraternity in the State is upset over the ever increasing number of health workers who contract the pandemic. On Friday 102 health workers were diagnosed with Covid-19. As on Friday, there were 35, 724 Covid-19 patients in the State. On Friday, 3,282 persons were admitted to hospitals across the State.

J&K sees 1,330 new infections, 15 deaths

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Fifteen more Covid-19 patients died here in Jammu & Kashmir while 1,330 new cases of coronavirus were reported taking the total tally of active positive cases to 20,770 and the total number of deaths to 966 on Friday.

Compared to Kashmir valley, the situation is worrisome across Jammu region as no district remains untouched with the spread of the virus in the last two weeks.

The hilly districts of Doda and Kishtwar and twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch are recording spike in number of cases due to blatant violation of social distancing norms and ignorance over use of face masks in public.

Several social gatherings in the region were directly linked to spread of the virus in remote areas of the hilly districts. Meanwhile, situation across Jammu hospitals remain grim. Large number of patients from the periphery are reaching GMC, Jammu for admission and when they failed to get hospital bed or admission in the isolation ward the caretakers show their resentment as chaos is prevailing in the hospital premises.

According to the media bulletin, 672 cases were reported from Jammu while Kashmir region recorded 658 cases. Out of fifteen deaths, 10 patients died in Jammu and five in Kashmir valley on Friday. Out of 20770 active positive cases, Jammu region accounted for 11823 patients while Kashmir reported 8947 cases. Out of 966 deaths, 757 were reported from Kashmir and 209 from Jammu region.

A total number of 39,305 patients have recovered so far across Jammu & Kashmir.

BJP, Congress conspiring to sabotage Govt: CPM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The CPI(M) on Friday alleged that there was a deep-rooted conspiracy by the BJP and the Congress against the Government of Kerala and the current unrest seen in the State is a proof of this secret plan.

“The BJP and the Congress want to sabotage and derail the Kerala Government led by the CPI(M). A conspiracy has been hatched by the Sangh Parivar and the Congress to murder Minister K T Jaleel. The attacks on the official car of the Minister on Thursday by the BJP elements is proof of this plan,” said Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, CPI(M) Kerala secretary during a press meet at the capital city on Friday.

Balakrishnan was addressing the media after Friday’s State Secretariat meet of the CPI(M). He said there was nothing unusual in the National Investigation Agency summoning Jaleel to their office.

“The NIA in its letter of invitation sent to Jaleel has said that the agency would like to speak to him as a wit-

Kerala Police spying on us to subvert probe: Central agency

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Even as the CPI(M) State Secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan alleged about a BJP-Congress conspiracy to derail the Kerala Government, the Central investigating agencies, probing the gold smuggling, import of Quran and violation of protocols by a Minister, said that the Intelligence Wing of the Kerala Police was spying on them.

“Telephones of senior investigating officials are being tapped by the State Intelligence Wing reporting directly to the Chief Minister. They are keeping an eye on all out activities in the gold smuggling probe, Quran import case and drug trafficking probe,” a senior official in the investigating team told The Pioneer on Friday. He said though he or other officials in the team are not familiar with the nuances of telephone tapping, it is a truth that the State officials were resorting to all kinds of dirty tricks to keep track of the progress they make in the investigating. The Intelligence Bureau is closely following the activities of their Kerala counterparts.

“It is routine and characteristic of the CPI(M) to ensure that their people are guarded and protected from the investigation. They feel that we do not know of their antecedents. Swapna Suresh and her associates were taken to the Thrissur Medical College Hospital so that they could communicate with her through the mobile phones of the hospital staff. A minister (A C Moideen) reaching the hospital at that time was not a coincidence,” said the official.

Fashion designer Sharbari Dutta found dead at her Kolkata home

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Eminent fashion designer Sharbari Dutta on Friday was found dead under mysterious circumstances police said adding she was discovered dead inside her bathroom with blood oozing out of her mouth and some bruises on her ankle.

Dutta 63 and daughter of Dutta Bengali poet Ajit Dutta, was a pioneer of male fashion designing. She had draped a galaxy of cricketing icons like Sachin Tendulkar, Sunil Gavaskar, Imran Khan, Kapil Dev, Sourav Ganguly apart

from a host of film personalities and politicians.

Dutta reportedly did not enjoy good chemistry with his son and his wife who lived in the same building running separate brands after the mother and the son parted ways three years ago.

Though preliminary post-mortem reports suggested she “might have suffered a cerebral attack,” the police would not come out with any final conclusion. “The investigation process is on and things would be clear in a few days though initial PM reports suggest that she had suffered cerebral stroke.”

Aligarh, 1st in State to get electricity bill on WhatsApp

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

If your electricity bill is not reaching your home or there is a mistake in the bill, then don’t worry, you will have to send the old bill to Whatsapp number 9193304552 of the Electricity Department and the problem will be resolved.

If there is not too much mistake in the bill then the new bill will be generated in an hour and will be reached on your WhatsApp, otherwise, it will be available on the second day, Aligarh is the first district in the state to start this facility.

During the corona period, the major problem was that the bill not reaching the consumers. Meter readers also did not stop visiting the homes to take the readings during the lockdown.

Junior engineer suspended for giving wrong power connection

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Junior engineer Dharmpal of medical road electricity house was suspended for giving the wrong electricity connection. On his suspension, the union of JEs visited Superintendent Engineer SK Jain and said that wrong action has been taken against Dharmpal. In this case, the inquiry committee has been established.

In the medical road powerhouse, there was a domestic connection in the name of Aslam. Executive engineer Akhilesh Kumar told that a bill was outstanding for Rs 3.67 lakh on Aslam’s connection. A new connection cannot be given on an outstanding bill connection.

Aligarh Admin bans oxygen cylinder supply to industries

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Because of the increasing number of Corona patients, the district administration has banned the supply of oxygen cylinders for industries. Now cylinders will be supplied in the hospital only. An order has been issued on behalf of the drug inspector to all four wholesalers in the city. The cylinder will be issued for industry only under special circumstances.

There are 4 wholesalers supplying oxygen gas cylinders in the district. These include Radhika Air Traders based at Talanagari, Laxmi Traders at Ram Ghat Road, Universal Gas Cylinder at Masudabad, and Trilok Gas Service at Marris Road. These traders are supplying cylinders for industries and medical purposes. Etah, Kasganj, Hathras, and Agra also getting cylinders from these

Aligarh lock industry hit hard by new trends

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

There was a time then the whole world was crazy about the cycle and all the cycles around the world were fitted with Aligarh lock at that time. The frame lock was not made anywhere in the world except Aligarh. Its technology and design were prepared by technicians of the Aligarh lock industry. That lock was manufactured in more than hundreds of factories here.

But now the time has changed and this industry has been reduced to 30% only. In addition to the decreased demand for bicycles, the increasing demand for the cable lock and wire lock also results in the lagging demand of frame locks.

All kinds of locks are made in Aligarh from the vault to furniture and are export to different countries from here, but by the year 1980, Aligarh was recognized worldwide for its bicycle lock. Konark Lock, Link Lock, Harrison Lock, Master Bajaj Lock, and other well-known brands had established unitary rule on domestic and foreign markets. At that time, 70 to 100 skilled laborers worked in a factory. With passing time, the design of the bicycle changed and the demand also started decreasing because of the bike market. Ranger Cycle replaced Standard Cycle.

The locks installed in them started being made in other countries as well with new technologies. Cable and wire lock started trending in the market. Due to the fashion look, the demand of Aligarh’s frame lock started decreasing. After 2005, Chinese made cheap wire and cable locks came in the market, this directly affected the manufacturing unit of Aligarh.

President of Aligarh Manufacturing Bicycle Lock Association Hari Om Aggarwal said that Aligarh bicycle locks had a worldwide identity but changing trends brought the crisis on this business.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles.

VEHICLE FOR SALE

- 1) MAH BLAZO25GCB REG. NO. RJ52GA4521-YOM-2018
- 2) TATAMOTORS LPT909CHTK REG. NO. RJ52GA4523 YOM 2018
- 3) BB4928TCSS REG. NO. RJ09GC0168-YOM -2018
- 4) T1613CBGD REG. NO. UP23T3868-YOM-2014
- 5) BB2523CBGD REG. NO. HR55W7721-YOM -2015
- 6) BLAZO49TTS REG. NO. HR47D2072- YOM -2017
- 7) CB_TATA LP 1109 FULLY BUILT REG. NO. UP62BT2272-YOM-2018
- 8) EICHR_VECVVE1095CH REG. NO. DL1MA1324 YOM 2018
- 9) CB_LOADKING 4 TYRE FULLY BUILT REG. NO. DL1LAC9882- YOM- 2019
- 10) CB_MAHINDRA BLAZO31 FBT GOODS REG. NO. JK14F0232-YOM -2017
- 11) CB_MAHINDRA BLAZO31 FBT GOODS REG. NO. JK14E9716-YOM -2017
- 12) CB_MAHINDRA BLAZO31 FBT GOODS REG. NO. JK14F0236-YOM -2017
- 13) CB_MAHINDRA BLAZO31 FBT GOODS REG. NO. JK14F0233-YOM -2017
- 14) CB_MAHINDRA BLAZO31 FBT GOODS REG. NO. JK14F0235-YOM -2017
- 15) CB_TATA LPT 2518 FULLY BUILT GOODS REG. NO. UP38T0692-YOM -2013
- 16)TATAMOTORS-T2518FBGD REG. NO. UP77T6375 YOM 2014

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS “AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION” INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 7 DAYS AT

BRANCH ADDRESS: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT : JAGBIR SINGH / RAJESH ANTIL KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD. Cont.No.9999996157/9711173320

‘Convey message of ‘No Mask, No Entry’ to all’

Jaipur: Rajasthan Commissioner of Information and Public Relations Department Mahendra Soni said that to prevent the rising corona infection in the State, the resolution of “no mask-no entry” and other measures should be made available to the people. Spread wide public awareness of corona by using various means of publicity. Soni was directing the district information and public relations officers through video conferencing from the headquarters here on Friday.

Commissioner Soni said that cases of corona infection in the State have been steadily increasing.

In view of this, we all have to become more serious and responsible, he said. For this, eminent doctors of the country have considered masks to be the most useful. According to him, if all people have masks, then the possibility of infection of this virus is greatly reduced.

440 more die in Maha, toll rises to 31,791

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The daily Covid-19 toll crossed 400-mark in Maharashtra for the second consecutive day on Friday, as 440 more deaths were reported in the state, while 21, 656 more people tested positive for Coronavirus.

A day after staggering 468 deaths were reported in the state, Maharashtra logged 440 more deaths on Friday, taking the total number of deaths to 31,791.

Of the 440 deaths recorded on Friday, 405 deaths were reported today while 35 old deaths were added to the tally after the updation of the Covid-19 portal.

With 21,656 fresh infected cases, the total number of infections jumped from 11,45,840 to 11,67,496.

Of the total 440 deaths (including 35 old deaths) reported on Friday, Nagpur accounted for a maximum of 64 fatalities, while there were 52 deaths in Mumbai, 39 in Pune, 34 in Satara, 32 in Thane, 21 each in Ahmednagar and Sangli, 16 each in Nashik and Jalgaon, 12 each in Solapur, Aurangabad and Latur and 11 deaths in Kolhapur and 10 in Yavatmal.

Similarly, in the lower range, there were 9 deaths in Raigad, 7 in Beed, 6 in Sindhudurg, 5 in Palghar, 4 each in Nanded and Gondia, 3 each in Dhule, Parbhani and Washim, 2 in Osmanabad and one each in Jalna, Hingoli, Akola, Amravati and Buldhana. In addition, two from outside the state died in Maharashtra.

2 more Maha Ministers test corona positive

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Two more Maharashtra Ministers — Nitin Raut and Hasan Mushrif – tested positive for Covid-19 on Friday.

The two ministers took to twitter to share information about their having contracted Coronavirus.

Sixty-three-year Raut, who is Maharashtra Energy Minister and the State working president of Congress, tweeted: “I have tested positive for COVID-19. I would request all those who had come in contact with me to get themselves tested as a precautionary measure. Stay Safe everyone and take care”.

Mushrif, who is the State Rural Development Minister and NCP leader, said in a Marathi tweet posted on his official handle: “I have tested positive for COVID-19 and those who came in my contact should get themselves tested. I will soon be at your service defeating coronavirus. My health is fine”.

With Friday’s development, the total number of Maharashtra ministers testing positive for Covid-19 has gone up to ten. Earlier, Ministers Jitendra Awhad (housing), Ashok Chavan (PWD), Dhananjay Munde (social justice), Sunil Kedar (animal husbandry), Balasaheb Patil (cooperation), Aslam Shaikh (textile), Abdul Sattar (MoS-rural development), Sanjay Bansode (MoS-environment) and Vishwajit Kadam (MoS-cooperation) had tested positive for Coronavirus.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work	Supply & fixing of jumper cable support link assembly (Stainless Steel) for LHB AC coaches.
Tender No.	30-Elect-3T-Chg-2020-21
Approx. cost of the work in (Rs.)	Rs. 50,81,280/-
Cost of tender form	Rs. 3,540/-
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Chg/Northern Railway, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,01,600/-
Period of completion of work	04 Months
Last Date & time of submission of tender	16.10.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.
And Opening of tender	16.10.2020 at 15.01 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Chg/DLI

2035/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Appeal for Identification



General public is hereby informed that one person **Name:** Ramprasad, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 65 Years, **Height:** 5'11", **Sex:** Male, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Black Colour T-Shirt, Black Trouser, **Place of Recovery:** Found unconscious on 14.09.2020 in the area of P.S. Dwarka South, Delhi.

In this regard **DD No. 10A, U/s 174 Cr.P.C., Dated 14.09.2020** has been lodged at **Police Station, Dwarka South, Delhi.** Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

Phone: 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229 & 23015218 ext. 210
Web-site : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: clic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23015218
DP/260/DW/2020

SHO
P.S. Dwarka South, Delhi
Ph.: 011-8130150279

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:

1. Name of Work	Rag picking of track from KM 1536/0 - 1533/0 UP & DN M/L NDLS- PWL section, KM 1536 to KM 1532 UP & DN GAL NDLS-SBB section from KM 0/26 to KM 12/0 UP & DN GAL NDLS-SBB section = Total KM = 43 kilometer and 3rd & 4th line between ANVR-SBB section = 9 kilometer NDLS-DSB 1538-1539/695= 3 KM Total=55 km in the section of SSE/Pway/NDLS under ADEX/NDLS.
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 64,57,995.69 (Rupees Sixty Four Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five & Sixty Nine Paise Only)
3. Earnest Money to be Deposited	Rs. 1,29,200/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Only)
4. Cost of tender document	Rs. 5900/-
5. Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	13.10.2020 @15.00 Hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	www.ireps.gov.in

• The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for participating in the e-tender system. • For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. • No manual offers are acceptable. • Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

E-Tender No.: 128-W/280/E-Tender Notice/NIT/19/2020-21/W-3
Dated : 18.09.2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**UJVN LIMITED**
H.O.: “UJJWAL”, Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No.: U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : www.ujvn.lm

Letter No.: 558 **e-Procurement Time Extension Notice** Dated: 18.09.2020

The dates of bids invited against e-tender No.: **01/EE (M)/2020-21** by office of the Executive Engineer (Monitoring) “Ujjwal”, Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun are hereby extended as under:

Last date for submission of bids on website : **03.10.2020** up to **16:00 Hrs.**, Submission of original document to office of EE (M) : **06.10.2020** up to **11:00 Hrs.**, Date & time of opening of bids on website : **06.10.2020** at **15:00 Hrs.**, For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal **http://uktenders.gov.in**

“Avoid wasteful use of Electricity”

Farmers' woes

The farm Bills may claim to open up the agricultural sector but the implied corporatisation may engulf farming communities



Corporatisation of agriculture in the US, where factory farming birthed an uninterrupted chain of “farm to fork,” has wiped out rural communities, their organic methods, their unique produce, their relevance and independent existence. It all began in the 1970s to realise a dream of becoming big enough to command the world’s food market with industrialised processes, merging of lands and shifting priorities to commodity crops. But in no time there was a glut due to over-production, farmers could never get the commensurate prices and were driven to debts. They had no option but to foreclose and sell out. Now farmers do not even make up a quarter of the total US agricultural production. Buying into the promise of “making it big,” they stretched their resources and were subsumed by food giants. This is exactly the scenario that our farmers fear following the passage of farm Bills, which began as ordinances during the lockdown, in the Lok Sabha. Yes, structurally, they may seem to streamline the agricultural processes but the farmer is not willing to give up his right to exist on his terms. Worse, he fears that these could ultimately reduce the current system of open-ended FCI procurement by the State. Little wonder then that farmers have taken to the streets across North India despite the Prime Minister’s assurance that the new Bills would “empower” them by giving them direct linkages to the market and that their minimum support price (MSP) would still be guaranteed. Such has been the cascading effect of their anxieties that regional parties that sustain on the rural votebank, namely the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), are under pressure to withdraw support to the ruling BJP as allies. The farmers have made it very clear that there would be no political future for parties and MPs that voted with the Government. So the lone SAD Minister, Harsimrat Singh Badal, resigned as Union Minister of Food Processing Industries while in Parliament Sukhbir Singh Badal warned that the proposed laws would “destroy” the 50 years of hard work done by successive Punjab governments to build the farm sector. While the Government insists that the new laws will help create “one nation, one market” and remove trader barriers so that farmers can sell their produce outside notified grain markets, the latter fear that in an open, competitive market, they would not get the minimum support price that the Government has promised to continue. Besides, they feel that entering into contracts with corporations would willy-nilly give the latter negotiating rights and greater control that would impinge on their autonomy and decision-making. And that although the older system would continue, as a weakened parallel mechanism, it would ultimately crumble before emerging monopolies. It is the implication behind the grandiloquence of a prosperous countryside and the devil in the detail that have our farming community up in arms. For example, the Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill 2020, allows buys and sales outside the notified Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandis*, thereby limiting their cartelisation tendencies. It also prohibits State Governments from collecting the fee, cess or levy for trade outside the APMC markets. A licence won’t be required to trade in farm produce and anyone with a PAN card can now buy directly from growers. Hence they want clarity on what “outside” means and contrary to perception that they want middlemen out, they actually have a trusted bond with their existing commission agents, as their licence is proof enough of their credibility and delivery abilities, and would not want to experiment with an untested model. With most of them not literate enough about exercising their rights, dispute resolution could also end up being loaded against them. Besides, they would want direct payment as banks could deduct amounts as loan recovery. State Governments like Punjab are obviously upset that access to another market would dry up their own revenue from APMC *mandis* and are seeing this as an affront to federal controls. The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, seeks to bring uniformity in contractual farming rules and State APMC acts. So the farmer can now enter into a contract with a corporate entity at a mutually agreed price. The problem here is that the mechanism for price fixation is not codified and farmers fear that corporations could use their institutional heft to manipulate or browbeat them into accepting their terms. Finally, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, aims to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from a regulated list, which is being seen as a major threat to the food security of the poor. The Government argues that as a food-surplus nation, we don’t need it anymore but the pandemic-induced crisis has shown us how supply chain disruptions and local level hoarding can lead to a price spiral.

Farmers are not entirely without reason, battling as they are bad loans and non-payment of sugarcane dues in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. They do not want to be swamped. Many experts would argue that it is easy enough to push reforms in a sector that anyway makes a very small portion of our GDP. But farmers make up 60 per cent of the country’s population, a voter base that no political party can ignore. Both the SAD and JJP owe their political legitimacy to farmers and have no option but to advocate their rights. Besides, both represent States that are heavily dependent on procurement at MSP. The Bills may well turn out to be the BJP’s Achilles’ heel provided the Opposition is quick enough to mount a united campaign.

Flight of fancy

Aerial sightseeing has become very popular as several nations still have travel restrictions on incoming arrivals



It began with some intrepid folks chartering planes to fly around. Then airlines such as Singapore Airlines and Australia’s Qantas caught wind of the idea and ran with it. What are we talking about? The concept of “flights to nowhere in particular” seems to have taken off, literally. Qantas’ recent trip, involving low-flying, aerial survey of the Great Barrier Reef, was sold out. Airlines are happy as this allows them to fly their aircraft relatively full, thus keeping some jobs safe and their expensive assets, the planes themselves, flying. Of course, scenic flights that operate in and out of the same airport are not a new concept. Qantas itself has run seasonal flights to Antarctica for several years every southern summer. But 2020, as we all know, is not like any other year, with several nations still putting travel restrictions on incoming arrivals, some not even allowing non-citizens to return and others instituting strict quarantine regulations, even for travel within a country.

As a result the global aviation business is hurting, thousands of pilots, cabin crew, ground crew and aircraft maintenance engineers have already lost jobs and unless things change dramatically, several thousand more will lose their jobs in the coming months. Many airlines have already shut for good and many more are in deep financial distress. It is not a good time to be an airline or be employed by one. So yes, while these flights of fancy might seem extravagant and a waste of money and resources, even adding pollution, their popularity means that airlines will probably survive as well as regain some overall confidence in flying. Let us not forget, these flights are being bought by people, who after six months of being grounded, want to get back in the air. They want to experience airport security and airline food for better or for worse. The very frequent flyer might have celebrated the first couple of months of no flying but almost every single person in that category misses that experience now and these flights, pointless as they might seem, allow these people to get a fix. There are many willing to take off in India as well and maybe a scenic flight or two around the Himalayas or the wonderful coastal areas may not be a bad idea here.

opinion06Presumption of innocence

The media overlooked the principles of ethical juridical coverage while tracking Sushant Singh Rajput’s death and its sordid aftermath



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Media, particularly television, coverage of Sushant Singh Rajput’s suicide — I will call the manner of his death so until established otherwise — and its aftermath has raised questions. Avoiding the mutually accusatory statements that have been doing the rounds, I would rather focus on some of the deeper issues involved. The first is whether the extent of coverage extended to it is justified.

The event, doubtless, was most tragic. A young man, who has given much to Indian cinema, and could have given more, has been cut short in his prime. The unnatural nature of his passing, the allegations and counter-allegations ranging over it, the controversy about who should investigate it, the Centre’s decision to put the CBI in charge, the Supreme Court’s verdict endorsing the transfer and the subsequent developments, certainly merited media coverage. But did it have to take up huge chunks of prime-time coverage on most channels since June 14 when the alleged suicide occurred?

The question is relevant when the country is facing a serious threat of Chinese aggression, a raging and escalating COVID-19 pandemic and an economy in crisis — to mention three of the most important challenges. The argument that these are also receiving attention raises the question: Is the attention of the deserved quality and extent? The question can be countered by two arguments. First, any answer, in the negative or affirmative, will involve a large measure of subjective judgement and, hence, cannot be regarded as definitive. The second can be that viewers want the kind of coverage provided.

As to the first, all judgments on all issues are subjective in the sense that whatever the quality of the evidence, a person or a group must assess it and come to a conclusion. The assessment is by individuals who have their own predilections and orientations, which they may or may not be able to overcome. But then, a society would not have been able to function if it did not proceed by accepting as valid judgements that, under the normative criteria embedded in its underlying social contract, passed the tests of rationality and morality.



Here, rationality dictates the question: Whether Rajput’s death and its sordid aftermath has greater relevance to the lives of the country and its people than the Chinese aggression, the COVID-19 pandemic and/or the economic crisis? One can argue that the aftermath’s importance can hardly be under-stated because it is leading to the unravelling of the Bollywood drug network, which in turn may lead to the eradication of the drug trade’s tentacles throughout the country. Against this, one has the Union Minister of State G Kishan Reddy’s written reply to a question by a Congress MP, K Sudhakaran, in the Lok Sabha on September 15 stating, “Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) carries out search, seizure, arrest and investigation continuously throughout the year on the actionable inputs developed on its own and/or on receipt from other sources. During the period of COVID-19 lockdown, no such actionable inputs were received by the NCB revealing the nexus between people in the film industry and drug traffickers.” He, however, added, “However, a case in this regard has been registered by NCB Mumbai zonal unit on August 28, 2020. Till date, in this case 10 persons have been arrested. Drugs such as *Ganja*, *Hashish*, *Tetra Hydro Cannabinol* and *Lysergic acid De-ethylamide* have been seized in the operation.”

Clearly, one has to see what the NCB produces. Until then it

would be a bit too much to cite the possibility of its unearthing a pan-India drug racket to justify the massive coverage given to the train of events following Rajput’s death. This leads to the second justification cited above: Viewers want it. This may be true given that the titillation and voyeuristic pleasure that a very large number of people get from watching the lives of celebrities unscramble or the aftermath of a shocking tragedy unfold.

The mere fact that people want to see something does not make it acceptable. Time was when nothing was considered wrong with masses assembled in Rome’s Colosseum roaring in applause as a gladiator killed another or a lion. Even now, many in Spain are happy to witness bullfights in which matadors kill bulls in unequal combat, and thousands participate in *jallikattu* in South India in which bulls suffer horribly.

Clearly, popular participation or viewing does not by itself justify an event or its extensive and approbatory coverage — especially when it diverts attention from critical issues facing a country and trivialises discourse in what the German social philosopher, Jurgen Habermas, calls the “public sphere.” The latter, he states in *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere* (1962), is a virtual or imaginary community which does not necessarily exist in any identifiable space. In its ideal form, the public sphere is “made

up of private people gathered together as a public and articulating the needs of society with the state.” It is a space where private individuals discuss public matters, which mediates between society and the state, leading to a critical consensus translating itself into a coherent public opinion, which makes the state accountable to citizens.

The media has a critical role in providing information for discussion in the public sphere. It, however, also has a responsibility to ensure that investigations proceed along right lines. Investigating and prosecuting agencies charged with delivering criminal justice are known to make mistakes and even frame innocent persons, often when under pressure to solve a crime. This writer’s decision to become a journalist has been significantly influenced by his witnessing, as a school student in the early 1950s, the film *Call Northside 777*. Directed by Henry Hathaway, it was based on the real life efforts by a *Chicago Daily Times* reporter, James McGuire, undertaken at the behest of the city editor, Karin Walsh, that led to the release of Joseph Majczek, wrongly convicted of murdering a police officer and serving a 99-year prison term.

One, however, must proceed with extreme caution. Pressures on investigative agencies to produce results can make probes go horribly wrong, leading to prolonged, rough interrogation, arrest and prosecution of innocent people whose lives are dev-

astated in the process even if the judiciary exonerates them in the end. The matter reminds one of the title of Malcom Feeley’s much-discussed book, *The Process is the Punishment: Handling Cases in a Lower Criminal Court*, first published in 1979. Doubtless, the book deals with lower criminal courts in the US and not India. Also, we are talking here not just about lower criminal courts but the entire process. It can be a long haul, involving expenses in the form of lawyers’ fees and transport, time spent in preparations, which often involves time taken off from income-generating activities and, of course, stress and worry.

Should a person, eventually proved innocent, have been made to suffer all this because media pressure led to him/her being pronounced guilty? This does not mean that investigative journalism should not extend to cases under investigation. But it does mean scrupulous observance of the canons of fair play and integrity and two cardinal principles of democratic, libertarian jurisprudence, wedded to respect for human rights.

The first is enshrined in Article 11(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948. It reads, “Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.”

It is also incorporated in The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights, originally Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which came into force on 3 September 1953. It states in Article 6(2), “Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.”

The famous English jurist, William Blackstone, articulated the second principle when he wrote in *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, “...all presumptive evidence of felony should be admitted cautiously, for the law holds that it is better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer.” Benjamin Franklin, one of the founding fathers of the United States, went further and said, in a letter in March, 1785, “That it is better 100 guilty Persons should escape than that one innocent Person should suffer, is a Maxim that has been long and generally approved.”

Journalists should remember both, always.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, The Pioneer, and author)

SOUNDBITE

I have always enjoyed watching Dhoni play because of the style he has. The aggression...I really like that. It has influenced me in my game, too, as football is a game where you need to be tough.

Footballer
—Anirudh Thapa



Farming is the soul of Punjab. Wounds on the body can heal but wounds of the soul will not be tolerated and condoned.

Congress leader
—Navjot Singh Sidhu



Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, Asian-Americans have been forced to endure demeaning and disgusting acts of bigotry and hate.

US Congresswoman
—Grace Meng



No matter how hard you work and what you do, the President is going to do something that is detrimental to keeping the Americans safe.

Ex-White House Aide
—Olivia Troye



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Question Hour matters

Sir — Question Hour is the liveliest hour in Parliament and lends a certain depth to proceedings. MPs ask questions to hold the Government and its Ministers accountable. It is a sacred parliamentary device meant for exercising legislative control over executive actions. Unfortunately, the ruling party has watered down the Question Hour for this monsoon session. This decision erodes the constitutional mandate of parliamentary oversight over executive actions as envisaged under Article 75 (3) of the Indian Constitution.

Noor Ahmad
Hyderabad

Stranded Indians

Sir — It was heart-wrenching to watch the viral video on social media, which claimed that thousands of Indians, mostly from UP and Bihar, are lodged in jails of Saudi Arabia for more than six months now. With the lockdown eased, many Governments have evacuated their citizens as has ours. But somehow we have been callous about these helpless

migrants, who have not been able to articulate their plight.

AMS Nadwi
Lucknow

Biased investigation

Sir — The ongoing investigation into the Delhi riots of February 2020 has begun to assume a farcical character. The focus of the

investigation has shifted from the perpetrators of the riot and its instigators and turned towards only civil society dissenters and protesters of Government policies. In effect, the conspiratorial net has been cast so wide as to capture anyone who opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), be it a student activist, political leader or voluntary worker. The investigation must

be thorough, fair and transparent, and deemed as such.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

China’s digital theft

Sir — The collection of digital data on our President, Prime Minister, politicians, judges, military officers, industrialists and other dignitaries by China is a

Tension continues to simmer at LAC



recurring frictions could escalate anytime. The Defence Minister underlined the state of preparedness of Indian troops for any eventuality. At the same time, he sounded statesman-like when he observed that there are many ways to start a war, not many to end it. Hence, it is axiomatic that cooperation is better than confrontation.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

matter of national security. An English newspaper report said that a company associated with the Chinese Government and the military is monitoring the Internet and social media activities of about 10,000 distinguished Indians and their close ones. It is clear from this that along with strategic and economic aggression, the digital breach is also a part of China’s hybrid war against India. Along with the expansion of information technology and the Internet, the issue of data security is a matter of grave concern.

Bhupendra Singh Ranga
Haryana

Classes resume

Sir — The Telangana Government has announced that senior students of classes IX to XII should start attending school with 50 per cent teachers. However, with many parents unwilling to pay the fees for the month of June, the State Government must arrange the necessary amount from its Treasury to get the system rolling.

SM Arif Hussain
Hyderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

The expanding judicial remits

Over the years, the courts have changed the face of justice in India and focussed on issues where the executive has failed in its duty



VK BAHUGUNA

In any system of governance, the judiciary is always an essential part of civilised life. In Indian history, too, kings played a very important part in dispensing justice. In the days of yore, population pressure was less, crimes were few as people were more law-abiding, resources were available in abundance and the system of justice was not stretched like it is today. By and large the judicial system followed the diktats of the rulers and it sufficed. However, with the advent of democracy, modern jurisprudence developed. Independent jurisprudence got a big boost after the Magna Carta was signed by the King of England in 1215. Now, people in most parts of the world recognise the judiciary as an independent pillar of Government. It is complementary to the executive and the legislature but independent from the other branches of Government, as judicial accountability enshrines the principle of neutrality.

The beginning of codified common law in India can be traced back to 1726 when a Mayor's Court in then Madras, Bombay and Calcutta was established by the East India Company. Needless to say, the courts changed the face of justice in India and focussed on issues where the executive failed in its duty. This judicial assertion started from the Kesavananda Bharati case when it ruled that basic features of the Constitution cannot be changed. The enunciation of the doctrine of Public Interest Litigation (a relaxation on the traditional rule of *locus standi*) by Justice PN Bhagwati opened the courts to socially-disadvantaged sections of society and course correction in the functioning of the executive.

In the recent past, many landmark judgments in the field of environment have endeared judges to the people of the country. Notable among them were Justice Kuldeep Singh and Justice AN Verma. The 1996 Godavari case turned the trajectory of forest and wildlife management in India. Despite the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the lackadaisical attitude of the Central and State Governments put forests and biodiversity at great risk. Interventions by courts in the last 24 years forced executive agencies to act for the smooth implementation of constitutional provisions for the conservation of forests and wildlife resources.

India was one of the earliest nations in the tropical world to implement working plan provisions for managing forests sustainably. However, the working plans were almost forgotten by it. The Supreme Court, through its interventions, streamlined forest management in the country and forced respective governments to prepare and regulate management of forests through working plans. Now the results are visible on the ground.

Similarly, rampant mining in forest areas is being closely monitored by the apex court. This positive action of the Supreme Court struck a balance in restoring the constitutional obligation of the executive. Yet another instance of excellent intervention relates to declaring Ganga River a live entity by the Uttarakhand High Court. Such decisions have touched the lives of millions of our citizens. What is most significant in this regard is the recognition of the rights of those who cannot speak for themselves like trees, animals and rivers which are crucial for sustaining life on Earth. The establishment of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in the country, which now has an impressive collection of nearly ₹50,000 crore in its kitty, was possible on the direction of the Supreme Court.

In yet another epoch-making intervention, the apex court came down heavily on the real estate-politician-bureaucrat nexus in Noida. A Supreme Court Bench, headed by Justice Arun Mishra, sent a stern message to those involved in the Amrapali housing projects. The builder Anil Sharma, who was allegedly in league with politicians and officers of the Noida Authority, swindled more than ₹8,000 crore of homebuyers' hard-earned money. This crime was perpetrated under the noses of those who were supposed to protect the interest of the people. The problem with our governance system is such that it gleefully ignores the sufferings of the people at the hands of criminals and the corrupt. The Supreme Court has been relentlessly trying to restore faith in the rule of law among the 40,000 hapless homebuyers while the executive with all its power has failed miserably on all counts. The court had appointed a receiver for the case, tied up funds from banks and asked the National Building Corporation to complete the projects. The promoters of Amrapali are cooling their heels in jail for the last six months and their properties are under auction.

The vital question is why does the executive fail in its duty and why does the judiciary have to step in? The answer lies in the lopsided democracy we follow, wherein only vote-fetching and Government formation are a priority of our political masters and public interest takes a back seat. Because of this the remits of the judiciary are being redefined. The judiciary, however, also needs to reinvent itself on certain issues concerning quick delivery of affordable justice so that it does not fall into the same rut like the executive.

(The writer is a retired civil servant)

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

YOU LOOK AT COUNTRIES. IN AUSTRIA THEY LIVE IN THE FOREST. AND THEY DON'T HAVE FIRES LIKE THIS. AND THEY HAVE MORE EXPLOSIVE TREES. —US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



AUSTRIA IS A COUNTRY WHERE PEOPLE DO NOT LIVE IN THE FOREST, BUT RATHER WITH THE FOREST AND IN A CLOSE, SUSTAINABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE. —AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER ELISABETH KOESTINGER

A matter of interest

If borrowers get interest relief during the moratorium period, bank investors and depositors would stand to lose unless compensated by the Govt, like it happens in farm loan waivers



SUBHASH CHANDRA PANDEY

Responding to the pandemic, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had "permitted" banks to grant moratorium on payment of instalments of term loans due after March 1 up to August 31. A similar dispensation was "allowed" on recovery of interest on working capital. The moratorium was initially permitted up to the end of April and 55.1 per cent of customers of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), accounting for 50 per cent of outstanding credit, had availed this facility. In Public Sector Banks (PSBs), 80.3 per cent of all individual customers, accounting for 80 per cent of total outstanding individual loans, opted for the moratorium. A whopping 74 per cent of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) borrowers and 28.8 per cent of corporate borrowers, covering 81.5 per cent and 58 per cent (by outstanding amount in category loans), availed the facility.

For private banks, 41.8 per cent of individual customers, accounting for 80 per cent of outstanding individual loans, and 20.9 per cent of all MSME customers opted for moratoriums, comprising 42.5 per cent of outstanding loans to MSMEs. About 21.6 per cent of corporate borrowers, covering 19.6 per cent of total outstanding corporate loans, had availed the facility.

The Supreme Court has extended the moratorium and the Central Government has appointed an expert panel to look into the issue. Exactly how many loans accounts and what loan amount is under moratorium are not known. Some borrowers may have decided against seeking the moratorium facility due to uncertainty about relief on interest. Had the interest relief been announced upfront, almost all borrowers would have instantly opted for the moratorium, except possibly for borrowers too proud of their financial standing to seek any relief.

Since the verdict of the apex court was not available by August 31, it was the borrowers' call to take a wager on the verdict and decide whether to opt for a moratorium or not. It is unclear if the relief, if and when granted, would be available only to those availing of the moratorium. Overall, the system lacks incentives for those remaining fully compliant while the non-compliant people may hope to get some relief. Had the interest relief been a matter of legal right under the Banking Regulation or Disaster Management Acts, it would have been through by now. The Disaster Management Act (DMA), empowering the Government to take immediate relief and rescue measures, cannot be over-read to give it unfettered powers to deal with the full economic fallout of the disaster. It certainly does not empower the Government to alter terms of private contracts on jobs, rentals, sales, lending and so on. That explains why the tone and tenor of parts of the "orders" issued under the DMA is not peremptory, prescriptive, definitive but indicative, persuasive and advisory in nature. Hence, legally binding orders regarding timely payment of full salaries, non-recovery of rent and school fees and so on could not be issued for this reason. Appeals to good conscience is a different matter.

Likewise, the Banking Regulation Act (BR Act) would by itself not confer any rights on the RBI to mandate any alteration in individual contracts entered into by the banks unless supplemented with legal remedies under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act (SARFAESI Act) or the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Appropriately, the RBI has "permitted" grants of moratorium while extending regulatory forbearance on recognition of the non-performing asset (NPA). The BR Act does not empower the RBI to mandate

“ IN THE ABSENCE OF FULLY DISAGGREGATED DATA ON DIFFERENT TYPES OF LOANS UNDER MORATORIUM, A BACK-OF-THE-ENVELOPE QUANTIFICATION OF THE IMPACT OF INTEREST RELIEF CAN BE ₹1 LAKH CRORE PER MONTH ASSUMING INTEREST RELIEF TO BE ABOUT ONE PER CENT PER MONTH ON TOTAL PRE-PANDEMIC OUTSTANDING CREDIT OF ABOUT ₹100 LAKH CRORE. EVEN DIRECT FISCAL RELIEF TO THE GENERAL POPULATION IS NOT OF THIS MAGNITUDE ”



changing loan terms already contracted. Loan contracts can be changed only on the orders of insolvency courts. Mandatory moratorium requires more than the BR Act.

There are no free lunches in economics except those paid for by others. If borrowers get interest relief during the moratorium period, bank investors and depositors would stand to lose unless compensated by the Government, like it happens in farm loan waivers. Charity at others' expense is systemic. Relief to borrowers at the expense of depositors is akin to relief to consumers ending up suppressing remunerative market prices for farmers. The bank depositors are also adversely impacted by the pandemic-induced fall in interest rates that stand to benefit new borrowers as well as the borrowers who are able to refinance high-cost old loans. The post-outbreak rate cuts and liquidity infusion by the RBI, aided by rising foreign exchange reserves, has caused a precipitous fall in interest rates. Some are offering record-low home loan interest rates under seven per cent per annum with new products of repo-linked home loans on offer. Low interest rates bring cheer to borrowers but gloom to depositors.

There are no fiscal guarantees to depositors on minimum interest rates and the IBC haircuts have been too costly in some cases. When corporate borrowers get a tax reduction bonanza, they don't share the booty with lenders as they are not obliged to. When farm loans are waived, Governments provide fiscal support to banks but at present the Centre does not seem able and willing to compensate the banks for interest relief.

In the absence of fully disaggregated data on different types of loans under moratorium, a back-of-the-envelope quantification of the impact of interest relief can be ₹1 lakh crore per month,

assuming interest relief to be about one per cent per month on total pre-pandemic outstanding credit of about ₹100 lakh crore. Even direct fiscal relief to the general population is not of this magnitude.

Financial stakes on the Supreme Court's verdict are very high. The interest relief has been sought from the highest court of justice precisely because it is not a legal right. The golden balance of justice is being watched by distressed borrowers and anxious depositors. All borrowers are not equally distressed by the pandemic. Some differentiating criterion based on quantum of liability outstanding on March 1 and purpose of loan (whether educational; for first home/car or second one, for the Economically Weaker Section or affordable housing, past credit history) and proven impact of the contagion on income can be evolved to give relief to a truly needy class of borrowers. The relief even to this subset should not be entirely a burden on bank depositors. Ideally such relief is best provided by governments under fiscal stimulus paid by taxpayers, current or future.

The need to maintain the health of banks can hardly be overemphasised. Deep-rooted socio-cultural beliefs stigmatising indebtedness (indebted person embarrassed and lenders reviled) continue to change worldwide.

Post World War, the wheels of growth are lubricated by the continuous supply of credit. India joined the borrow/spend bandwagon in the 80s. Lending by Scheduled Commercial Banks rose from ₹8,64,300 crore (30 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product [GDP]) at the end of March 2004 to ₹67,35,200 crore at the end of March 2014 (60 per cent of the GDP). At present, bank lending is only about 50 per cent of the GDP.

As on July 31, the total deposits of SCBs were ₹141,61,689 crore (₹127,44,583 crore a year ago); outstanding credit was

₹102,65,888 crore (₹97,29,002 crore a year ago) and investments were ₹42,78,294 crore (₹35,57,063 crore a year ago). The combined effect of risk aversion of banks to lend and predominantly domestic financing of fiscal deficit is that only about two-third of deposits get lent to non-Government entities.

We have made great strides in terms of expanding the reach of banking services and financialisation of savings but high-profile delinquencies by those who can afford to pay continue to eclipse these achievements.

The gross NPA of SCBs that had peaked to 11.2 per cent in 2017-18 has been brought down to 8.5 per cent by March. This achievement is at great cost to bank investors/depositors on account of hefty haircuts following not-so-competitive slump sales of distressed companies under the conventional, single round bidding system being followed under the IBC. The RBI has assessed that the gross NPA of all SCBs may increase from 8.5 per cent in March to 12.5 per cent by March 2021 and even to 14.7 per cent if the adverse economic impact of the pandemic is very severe. Seeing the plight of forecasting tools, the economic fallout of the contagion is hard to predict and measure.

Since bank lending is only about 50 per cent of the GDP and post-pandemic recovery would require a heavy dose of credit, it is imperative to maintain incentives for financial savings.

Erosion of bank profitability runs the risk of dire consequences of de-financialisation or informalisation of savings, derailing the hard-won recovery. The banking system needs calibrated support to prevent relapse into transmitted sickness.

(The writer is a retired IAAS officer and former Special Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.)

Fight hunger with an inter-sectoral strategy

The 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' seems to have made some headway with an ambitious target of achieving a malnutrition-free India by 2022



SUNIL RAJPAL

It is disconcerting that every second child in India suffers some form of nutritional failure in India. Over the years, Government data have borne witness to how many people, especially women and children, do not get three square meals in a day. Worryingly, the potential disruptions caused by the lockdown may make the varied forms of malnutrition a lasting reality. However, the launch of the Government's flagship programme 'POSHAN Abhiyaan', seems to have made some headway, with an ambitious target of achieving a malnutrition-free India by 2022.

It also aims to reduce stunting in children aged between zero and five

years from 38.4 per cent to 25 per cent during the same period, along with reducing the level of anaemia and low birth weight in children.

With inter-sectoral convergence being the key strategy, the programme makes a shift from the existing approach of making planning and implementation the responsibility of one Ministry. Instead, it rightly notes the various critical components of success and makes 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' a multi-ministerial initiative. While the Ministry of Women and Child Development acts as the nodal office, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is responsible for the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) that ensures cleanliness and hygiene and the Ministry of Education is responsible for the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS).

Two other Ministries, that of Health and Family Welfare and the one responsible for Rural Development, are looking after health programmes such as Mission

Indradhanush for immunisation coverage and rural income schemes, such as MNREGA, respectively. The LPG distribution scheme by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas enabled safe and hygienic cooking in underprivileged households.

But will India accept malnutrition as everyone's problem? The copious fund allocation for the 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' and its increase in the past three years have shown the Government's sincerity in taking the mission to its intended conclusion. From ₹950 crore in 2017-18, the current allocation for the 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' reached a sum of ₹3,400 crore for the financial year 2019-20. However, the potential challenge can be bringing social and behavioural change towards malnutrition at the community level. Ensuring equitable nutrition to build a healthier nation will require the following.

Eating local and seasonal food: This comprises a part of the trend known as 'sustainable eating' and has

been proven to be an economical solution to the food crisis globally. This saves time and the cost of transportation while promoting the use of fewer preservatives. Such food items are also suitable to fulfil the nutritional needs of the people in a way that is commensurate with the local environment.

The concept of introducing kitchen gardens in schools to fulfil some part of the requirements under the MDMS is an innovative step. In the coming days, introducing more steps, such as promotion of local, nutritious millet and crop diversification to promote traditional millet will be the right steps to complement this ongoing effort. Recent studies have observed that investing \$1 in nutrition-related interventions will have economic gains of about \$19 to \$22.

Addressing intrinsic social and cultural biases: In his paper 'POSHAN Abhiyaan: Making Nutrition a Jan Andolan', NITI Aayog member Vinod K Paul and co-

authors observe that despite the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 mandating the legal age of marriage at 18 for girls, 30 per cent of them are married before that age and eight per cent are already pregnant by the time they are 15-19 years of age. Facing intra-household deprivations due to their sex and abject poverty, these young girls often forego necessary nutrition, care, and rest even during their pregnancy, thus delivering low birth weight babies. For these babies, the cycle of malnutrition has already begun, they note.

This long-standing social bias deepens with socio-economic nuances. For example, in tribal households, the overall amount of food is anyway low and the men, by tradition, get the larger share of it, considering the physical labour they must undertake. A male child may get less to eat than his father, but is likely to get more than his mother, grandmother or sister. There is a need to free nutrition from the perceived requirement of the

receiver. Disseminating a scientifically-validated diet chart according to age and sex to the Panchayat level can help in spreading awareness and help households modify their practices.

Clear and visible measures for better accountability: Owing to the possible institutional leakages, Government initiatives should be monitored by some metric for accountability. For this, an enhanced information and process system is crucial. Monitoring, surveillance, and evaluation remain critical to all Government initiatives not only to firm up the people's trust but for better outcomes as well. Understanding ground-level realities will not only enrich policymakers' understanding, it may help in building a positive perspective among beneficiaries about public interventions. Public consultations, surveys among beneficiaries and social audits are some of the most effective ways to do this.

Building a case against hidden hunger: Few realise that malnutrition

is not exclusively a rural phenomenon. Many people, especially children, in the cities, too, suffer from malnutrition, albeit of a different kind. Since a good part of their diet is filled with refined and finished items, not to mention the large amounts of salt, sugar and trans-fat they consume, the children lack micronutrients such as iron and zinc. Traditional crops and millet, marked as nutri-cereals that should have been part of our diet, are fast becoming a favourite of the educated and wealthier part of the society. However, as companies producing fast-moving consumer goods look to the rural market to revive from the economic effect of the pandemic, it is important to ensure that rural consumers do not acquire the habits of cities. The onus is on the Government to ensure that the learnings from the cities reach the villages before it is too late.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Health Economist, IIHMR University, Jaipur)

US bans TikTok from Sun, WeChat from November 12

Washington: The United States on Friday ordered a ban on downloads of popular Chinese-owned video app TikTok and use of the messaging and payment platform WeChat, saying they threaten national security.

The move, to be implemented Sunday, comes amid rising US-China tensions and efforts by the Trump administration to engineer a sale of TikTok to American investors.

"The Chinese Communist Party has demonstrated the means and motives to use these apps to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and the economy of the US," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement.

The initiative would ban WeChat, an app with massive use among Chinese speakers, and TikTok from the online marketplaces operated by Apple and Google.

But while WeChat will effectively be shut down from Sunday in the US, existing TikTok user

will be able to continue using the app until November 12 -- when it would also face a full ban on its US operations.

But the Commerce Department said if national security concerns over TikTok were resolved before then, the order may be lifted.

TikTok's brand of brief, quirky videos made on users' cellphones has become hugely popular, especially among young people.

The plan follows through on a threat by President Donald Trump, who has claimed Chinese tech operations may be used for spying, and it ramps up the pressure on TikTok parent ByteDance to conclude a deal to sell all or part of TikTok to ally US security concerns.

A deal which appeared to be taking shape would allow Silicon Valley giant Oracle to become the tech partner for TikTok, but some US lawmakers have objected to allowing ByteDance to keep a stake.

China flies 18 warplanes near Taiwan during US envoy's visit

Senior US envoy holds talks in Taiwan amid Chinese drills

Taipei: China's military sent 18 planes including fighter jets over the Taiwan Strait in an unusually large show of force on Monday as a US envoy held a day of closed-door meetings on the self-governing island claimed by China.

Under Secretary of State Keith Krach, who handles the economic growth, energy and the environment portfolio, held talks with Taiwan's minister of economic affairs and vice premier. He also met with business leaders over lunch and was to dine with President Tsai Ing-wen later Friday.

In response to Krach's visit, the Eastern Theater Command of the Chinese People's Liberation Army held combat exercises near the Strait, in at least the second round of war games this month aimed at intimidating supporters of the

island's independent identity.

Taiwan's defense ministry said two bombers and 16 fighter jets from China crossed into Taiwan's air defense identification zone. It said it scrambled jets in response and monitored the movements of the Chinese planes. Chinese defense ministry spokesperson Ren Guoqiang called the drills a "legitimate and necessary action taken in response to the current situation across the Taiwan Straits to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

"Recently, the U.S. And (Taiwan's ruling) Democratic Progressive Party authorities have stepped up their collusion and frequently stir up troubles," Ren told reporters Friday morning.

"Whether it is using Taiwan to contain China or relying on foreign powers to threaten others, it is wishful thinking and is destined to be a dead end." In a brief message on its microblog, the Eastern Theater Command said the exercises involved naval and air force units in the Taiwan Strait aimed at gauging their ability

to carry out joint operations.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also defended the move. Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said China has the "firm will, full confidence and sufficient ability to thwart all external interference and separatist actions by Taiwan independence forces." Beijing views Taiwan as part of its own territory and strongly opposes any type of formal interaction between other countries and the self-ruled island democracy.

Krach's trip follows a visit in August by U.S. Health Secretary Alex Azar, the highest-level U.S. Cabinet official to visit since the U.S. Switched formal relations from Taiwan to China in 1979.

It is one of a series of moves by the Trump administration to strengthen relations with Taiwan, including stepped-up arms sales and support for the island's participation in international forums.

Before Krach's arrival, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Kelly Craft, had lunch Wednesday with Taiwan's top official in New York, in a meeting she called historic.

Kosovo awards Trump with Order of Freedom for peace efforts

Pristina: Kosovo awarded US President Donald Trump on Friday with one of the country's highest honours for his government's efforts on peace and reconciliation in the former war-torn region.

President Hashim Thaci awarded Trump with Kosovo's Order of Freedom "for his exceptional contribution for the freedom of Kosovo and the strengthening of Peace and reconciliation in the region."

The honour is given to local and foreign citizens for their high contribution in defending Kosovo's freedom.

Trump's administration has been working to normalise relations between Serbia and Kosovo, two former Balkan war foes, and two weeks ago Serbian President Aleksander Vucic and Kosovo Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti signed an economic normalisation deal at the White House.

Thaci also awarded Trump's National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien and his envoy for Serbia-Kosovo talks Richard Grenell with the lower Presidential Medal of Merits.

AP EXCLUSIVE

More migrant women say they didn't OK surgery

Houston: Sitting across from her lawyer at an immigration detention center in rural Georgia, Mileidy Cardentey Fernandez unbuttoned her jail jumpsuit to show the scars on her abdomen. There were three small, circular marks.

The 39-year-old woman from Cuba was told only that she would undergo an operation to treat her ovarian cysts, but a month later, she's still not sure what procedure she got. After Cardentey repeatedly requested her medical records to find out, Irwin County Detention Center gave her more than 100 pages showing a diagnosis of cysts but nothing from the day of the surgery.

"The only thing they told me was: 'You're going to go to sleep and when you wake up, we will have finished,'" Cardentey said this week in a phone interview.

Cardentey kept her hospital bracelet. It has the date, Aug. 14, and part of the doctor's name, Dr. Mahendra Amin, a gynecologist linked this week to allegations of unwanted hysterectomies and other procedures done on detained immigrant women that jeopardize their ability to have children.

An Associated Press review of medical records for four women and interviews with lawyers revealed growing allegations that Amin performed surgeries and other procedures on detained immigrants that

CARDENTEY KEPT HER HOSPITAL BRACELET. IT HAS THE DATE, AUG. 14, AND PART OF THE DOCTOR'S NAME, DR. MAHENDRA AMIN, A GYNECOLOGIST LINKED THIS WEEK TO ALLEGATIONS OF UNWANTED HYSTERECTOMIES AND OTHER PROCEDURES DONE ON DETAINED IMMIGRANT WOMEN THAT JEOPARDIZE THEIR ABILITY TO HAVE CHILDREN

they never sought or didn't fully understand. Although some procedures could be justified based on problems documented in the records, the women's lack of consent or knowledge raises severe legal and ethical issues, lawyers and medical experts said.

Amin has performed surgery or other gynecological treatment on at least eight women detained at Irwin County Detention Center since 2017, including one hysterectomy, said Andrew Free, an immigration and civil rights lawyer working with attorneys to investigate medical treatment at the detention center. Doctors on behalf of the attorneys are examining new records and more women are coming forward to report their treatment by Amin, Free said.

Russia OK's 1st Covid prescription drug for sale in pharmacies

AFP ■ MOSCOW

Russia has approved R-Pharm's Coronavir treatment for outpatients with mild to moderate COVID-19 infections and the antiviral drug could be rolled out to pharmacies in the country as soon as next week, the company said on Friday.

Coronavir's approval as a prescription drug follows the green light for another Russian COVID-19 drug, Avifavir, in May. Both are based on favipiravir, which was developed in Japan and is widely used there as the basis for viral treatments.

R-Pharm's announcement is another sign Russia is pushing hard to take a global lead in the race against the virus. It is already exporting its COVID-19 tests and has clinched several international deals for supplies of its Sputnik-V vaccine.

R-Pharm said it received approval for Coronavir after Phase III clinical trials involving 168 patients with COVID-19.

Same-sex couples in HK get legal victory over inheritance law

AFP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong's high court on Friday ruled that same-sex couples should receive equal treatment under inheritance law, in a step forward for LGBT rights in the finance hub.

But the victory came on the same day as a separate legal bid for full recognition of foreign same-sex marriages was struck down, underscoring what campaigners say is a lack of progress on equality issues.

Hong Kong's law does not allow same-sex marriage and does not recognise foreign unions, though limited recognition has been granted in recent years in several landmark rulings.

Edgar Ng, a gay Hong Konger, last year launched a legal challenge against the city's inheritance and intestacy laws, alleging discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

In 2018 he bought a gov-

ernment-subsidised flat, a year after marrying his partner in London, according to court documents.

Under Hong Kong's housing policy, his husband cannot be recognised as the joint homeowner, and Ng was concerned that should he die without a will, his property would not be passed to his partner.

In the judgement handed down Friday, Judge Anderson Chow said the exclusion of spouses in same-sex marriages from their legal entitlements "constitutes unlawful discrimination".

The judge said "differential treatment is not justified".

LGBT rights activists with campaign group Hong Kong Marriage Equality described the ruling as an "important victory".

"The government should seize this opportunity to work with the LGBT+ community to implement marriage equality in the city," the association said.

China biopharma plant leak infects thousands with bacterial disease

Beijing: Thousands of people in northwest China have tested positive for a bacterial disease after a leak from a state-owned biopharmaceutical plant making animal vaccines last year.

Health officials in Lanzhou city said 3,245 people had contracted brucellosis, a disease often caused by close contact with infected animals or animal products that can bring about fevers, joint pain and headaches.

Another 1,401 people tested as an early positive for the disease, and health authorities said there was no evidence of person-to-person transmission so far.

Chinese authorities found a biopharmaceutical plant had used expired disinfectant in its production of Brucella vaccines for animals between July and August last year — meaning the bacteria was not eradicated in its factory exhaust.



Hasidic Jewish pilgrims dance as they gather in front of Ukrainian border guards at the checkpoint Novaya Guta near Novaya Guta, Belarus on Friday

US court turns down challenge to Trump's temporary ban on H-1B

Washington: An Indian-American federal judge has turned down an appeal by 169 Indian citizens who had challenged President Donald Trump's order that barred foreign nationals on H-1B specialty occupation visas from entering the US till the end of the year.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or

technical expertise. The technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

US District Judge Amit P Mehta of US District Court for the District of Columbia in his 11-page order on Wednesday said that Indian citizens, who are now trapped abroad during trips to India when borders closed, are unlikely to win their case contesting the travel ban proclamation of Trump.

CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED				
<p>Capri Global Capital Limited Registered & Corporate Office : 502, Tower-A, Peninsula Business Park, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai-400013</p> <p>Circle Office :- Capri Global Capital Limited 2nd Floor, 38 Pusa Road Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110005</p>				
APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)				
<p>Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub –section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CGCL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.</p>				
S. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1.	(Loan Account No. LNCGCDDTL0000008192 LNCGCDELTL0000002506 of our Delhi Branch Ganesh Trancher (Borrower) Manuti Overseas, Mr. Sooraj Kumar, Mrs. Deepa Goenka, Mr. Mayoor Kumar, Mrs. Lata Rani Goenka, (Co-Borrower)	All that piece and parcel of Shop bearing No. 5223 on Ground floor, at admeasuring 350 sq feet, Part of Plot No. 20 and Plot No. 20-A situated at Kohlapur Road, Delhi-110007 ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH. AND All that piece and parcel of Office Space No. TF-04 (A) on third floor, super area approximately 840 sq ft, JMD Regend Plaza, M.G.Road, Gurgaon, Haryana-122002 ALONGWITH CONSTRUCTION THEREON PRESENT AND FUTURE BOTH.	07-05-2020 Rs. 1,42,63,388/-	15-09-2020
<p>Place : Delhi+NCR Date : 19/09/2020 Sd/- (Authorised Officer) For Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL)</p>				

 DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED National Off.: HDIL Towers, B-wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051. Branch Off.: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) 400602.																					
DEMAND NOTICE																					
<p>Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd.(DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s)to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.</p>																					
<table><tr><th>Loan Agreement No./Name of the Borrower/Co Borrower/Guarantor</th><th>Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Data</th><th>Description of secured asset (immovable property)</th></tr><tr><td>(LC No. 00004988 of Lucknow Branch) Jitendra Kumar (Borrower) Reena Yadav (Co Borrower 1)</td><td>19-08-2020 /₹ 998054 /- (₹ Ninety lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Fifty Four) NPA (01-04-2020)</td><td>Plot No C 24 & Plot C 25 Part Of Khalsa No 835 Vill Saraswa Pargana Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020</td></tr><tr><td>(LC No. 00000972 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Mukul Chandela (Borrower) Sawitri Devi (Co Borrower 1) Babu Ram (Co Borrower 2)</td><td>19-08-2020 /₹ 8422619 /- (₹ Eighty Four lakh Twenty Two Thousand Six Hundred Nineteen) NPA (01-03-2020)</td><td>Plot No-283/38, Mustatl No-20 Killa No-10/1 Khewat No-31 Village Khyala Vishnu Garden Extn-1 Delhi Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110018</td></tr><tr><td>(LC No. 00001165 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Vandana Bhushan (Borrower) Shakuntla (Co Borrower 1) Sunit Kumar (Co Borrower 2)</td><td>19-08-2020 /₹ 2595490 /- (₹ Twenty Five lakh Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred Ninety) NPA (01-03-2020)</td><td>Property no-219, Block-D, Pocket-00 sector-1, Rohini New delhi Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085</td></tr><tr><td>(LC No. 00006907 of Lucknow Branch) Rakesh R (Borrower) Kusum Yadav (Co Borrower 1)</td><td>19-08-2020 /₹ 580698 /- (₹ Five lakh Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Eight) NPA (01-05-2020)</td><td>Plot No. B-154, Part Of Khalsa No. 188 Gha, Village- Dahiyar, Pargana & Tehsil Mohanlalgarh Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020</td></tr><tr><td>(LC No. 00000925 of Calicut Branch) Vijayakumar Koppatta (Borrower) Jitha B S (Co Borrower 1)</td><td>19-08-2020 /₹ 2161995 /- (₹ Twenty one lakh Sixty One Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five) NPA (01-03-2020)</td><td>9.62cents Of Land In Resurvey No 21/5 Nellithode Village Kozhikode Taluk Kozhikode Dist Kozhikode Kerala - 673017</td></tr><tr><td>(LC No. 00000963 of Ghaziabad Branch) Abhijeet Sharma (Borrower)</td><td>07-07-2020 /₹ 1609779 /- (₹ Sixteen lakh Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Nine) NPA (01-01-2020)</td><td>Unit No. K-201, 2nd Floor, Tower/ Block K Amrapali Heartbeat City, Plot No. GH-01/d Sector-107, Noida Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201301</td></tr></table>	Loan Agreement No./Name of the Borrower/Co Borrower/Guarantor	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Data	Description of secured asset (immovable property)	(LC No. 00004988 of Lucknow Branch) Jitendra Kumar (Borrower) Reena Yadav (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 /₹ 998054 /- (₹ Ninety lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Fifty Four) NPA (01-04-2020)	Plot No C 24 & Plot C 25 Part Of Khalsa No 835 Vill Saraswa Pargana Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020	(LC No. 00000972 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Mukul Chandela (Borrower) Sawitri Devi (Co Borrower 1) Babu Ram (Co Borrower 2)	19-08-2020 /₹ 8422619 /- (₹ Eighty Four lakh Twenty Two Thousand Six Hundred Nineteen) NPA (01-03-2020)	Plot No-283/38, Mustatl No-20 Killa No-10/1 Khewat No-31 Village Khyala Vishnu Garden Extn-1 Delhi Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110018	(LC No. 00001165 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Vandana Bhushan (Borrower) Shakuntla (Co Borrower 1) Sunit Kumar (Co Borrower 2)	19-08-2020 /₹ 2595490 /- (₹ Twenty Five lakh Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred Ninety) NPA (01-03-2020)	Property no-219, Block-D, Pocket-00 sector-1, Rohini New delhi Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085	(LC No. 00006907 of Lucknow Branch) Rakesh R (Borrower) Kusum Yadav (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 /₹ 580698 /- (₹ Five lakh Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Eight) NPA (01-05-2020)	Plot No. B-154, Part Of Khalsa No. 188 Gha, Village- Dahiyar, Pargana & Tehsil Mohanlalgarh Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh - 226020	(LC No. 00000925 of Calicut Branch) Vijayakumar Koppatta (Borrower) Jitha B S (Co Borrower 1)	19-08-2020 /₹ 2161995 /- (₹ Twenty one lakh Sixty One Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five) NPA (01-03-2020)	9.62cents Of Land In Resurvey No 21/5 Nellithode Village Kozhikode Taluk Kozhikode Dist Kozhikode Kerala - 673017	(LC No. 00000963 of Ghaziabad Branch) Abhijeet Sharma (Borrower)	07-07-2020 /₹ 1609779 /- (₹ Sixteen lakh Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Nine) NPA (01-01-2020)	Unit No. K-201, 2nd Floor, Tower/ Block K Amrapali Heartbeat City, Plot No. GH-01/d Sector-107, Noida Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201301
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<p>If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.</p>																					
<p>Place : Delhi Date : 19.09.2020</p>	<p>Sd/- (Authorised Officer) Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited</p>																				

UJVN Limited	
HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006	
Telephones: 0135-2763508 Fax: 0135- 2763808	
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com	
पत्र सं: 559	18 / 09 / 2020
TENDER NOTICE	
Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint). Chilla Power House via Haridwar, Pauri Garhwal (Uttarakhand), invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:	
(i) NIT No.06/EEM/2020-21 (ii) NIT No.07/EEM/2020-21	
Name of work : (i) Dismantling of Shaft Sleeve, Cland Seal System, Strainer Housing Cover & Removal of SS broken studs of Chilla Power House.	
(ii) O&M & Repairing and Maintenance works of 125 HP and 40 HP Three Phase Induction Motor of Chilla Power House.	
Estimated cost : (i) Rs. 205380.00/- (ii) Rs. 593257.00/-	
Date of availability of bid document : 18.09.2020 from 16:00 Hrs on website	
Last date for submission of bids : 13.10.2020 upto 16:00 Hrs on website	
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvn.com	
Executive Engineer (Maint).	
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"	

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/Dankuni/E-Procurement/20-21/14	
Dated:16-09-2020. PCMM/CLW/DKAE on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender/s is/are for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.irops.gov.in . These are E-Tenders; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website. Sl., Tender No., Description of Stores, Qty., Due On, Tender Cost are as follows : (1) 34202596A , 1] Illuminated Push Button - 1 to CLW Specn. No-CLW/ES/3/0072/E. 2] Illuminated Push Button-2 to CLW Specn.No -CLW/ES/3/0072/E. 3] Illuminated Push Button Emergency Flasher Light, to CLW Specn.No-CLW/ES/3/0072/E. 4] Illuminated Push Button Reset Vigilance Control toCLW Specn.No - CLW/ES/3/0072/E. 5] Illuminated Push Button For Configuration InSB1 to CLW Specn.No -CLW/ES/3/0072/E. 6] Illumination Push Button ConstantSpeed Control to CLW Specn.No -CLW/ES/3/0072/E.7] Illuminated Push Button ForFailure Acknowledge to CLW Specn.No -CLW/ES/3/0072/E; As per Tender Doc., 09.10.2020, 0.00; (3) 34202542 , Contactor For Main Compressor And Bur-1/2 (Contactor Type-3) To CLW Specn. NO. CLW/ES/3/0095/C or latest; As per Tender Doc., 14.10.2020, 0.00; (4) 34202611A ; Fuse Auxiliary, 415/110V along with Base with Micro Switch as per CLW Drg./Specn.No.CLW/ES/3/0092/C; As per Tender Doc., 20.10.2020, 0.00, (5) 34202526 , Earthing Switch For VCB with locking arrangement to CLW Specn.No.CLW/ES/3/0010/D or Latest; As per Tender Doc., 12.11.2020, 0.00. (6) 34202699 , Contactor Auxiliaries In HB-1 & HB-2 to CLW SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/0201/C; As Per Tender Doc., 16.11.2020, 0.00 (7) 34202739 , Fire Detection Equipment along with Connector in SB2 as per Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0057; As Per Tender Doc., 10.12.2020, 0.00; (8) 34202740 , MaximumCurrent Relay In SB-1 as per CLW Specn. CLW/ES/3/0059/D; As Per Tender Doc., 15.12.2020, 0.00.	
SIDDH -111 PCMM/CLW/DANKUNI	
Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrrailways	

WESTERN RAILWAY	
VARIOUS ELECTRIFICATION WORKS	
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, 1st Floor, Headquarter Building, Churchgate, Mumbai - 400 020 invites offer through e-tender portal www.irops.gov.in for the following tender: Tender No. : ELT/TC/019/2019-20/12R-R. Name of Work : Electrification of : (A) AC Coach depot with pre-cooling point facilities, Train lighting depots facilities at UDN, UDNRRI building, Island platform, FOBs, Service building at UDNR with LHB coach maintenance facilities at UDNR, newly constructed PWII/OV offices at various locations in UDNR-JL section on Mumbai Division of Western Railway. (B) Niyol station building and platform in connection with DFCCIL alignment on Mumbai Division of Western Railway. NIT Cost : ₹ 3,51,76,814/- EMD : ₹ 325,900/- e-Bid Submission Closing on : 09/10/2020 at 15.00 hrs. e-Bid Opening Date : 09/10/2020 at 15.30 hrs. Instructions to the Tenderers : 1) Only e-offers submitted online through e-tender portal will be considered. Please note that printed offers will not be entertained. 2) The date of tender, terms & conditions and scope of work are uploaded and are available in electronic format on our website www.irops.gov.in	
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly	

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY	
Open E- Tender Notice	
OPEN TENDER NOTICE No.: S&T/SEE/O7/20-21/11, Date: 17.09.2020	
The DRM (Sig. & Telecom) SEE for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works. The last date of online E-tendering is 14.10.2020 up to 12.00 hrs. Information and tender documents related to E-tender is available on website - www.irops.gov.in .	
Sl.No.: 1. E-Tender No.: S&T/SEE/O7/20-21/11, Name of Work: Provision of IBH between MNE - MSK., Approx Cost (₹): 1,19,16,474.11, Earnest Money (₹): Rs. 2,09,600.00, Cost of Tender Document (₹) (Non refundable): Rs. 5,000.00, Completion period: 06 (Six) Months from date of issue of LOA. The above tender notice is available on website - www.irops.gov.in . Uploading date 17.09.2020 RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER: Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone /modify or to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.	
Divl. Signal & Telecom Engineer, East Central Railway/Sonpur PR/655/SEE/S&T/T/20-21/44	

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED	
<p>General public is hereby informed that one female namely Poonam D/o Ramadhar R/o H.N. 2446 Madar Dairy Panjab Basti Subzi Mandi, Delhi-07, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi since 12.08.2020. In this regard, a case DD No. 70A, dated 13.08.2020, has been registered at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi. The description of the missing female is as under.</p>	
<p>Age: about 18 Years, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5', Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue Colour Top and blue Colour lower. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/Kidnapped child then please inform P.S. Subzi Mandi Delhi following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in</p> <p>Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639</p> <p>Sd/- S.H.O. P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi Ph: 011-23823161, 9582608911</p>	
<p>DP/471/N/2020</p>	

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)	
N.I.T. No.	07/20-21 dated 17.09.2

Retail inflation for farm workers, rural labourers eases

New Delhi: Retail inflation for farm workers and rural labourers cooled down to 6.32 per cent and 6.28 per cent, respectively, in August compared to the year ago period mainly due to the softening of prices of some food items. Point-to-point rate of inflation based on the CPI-AL (Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers) and CPI-RL (Consumer Price Index-Rural Labourers) was 6.39 per cent and 6.23 per cent respectively in August 2019, the labour ministry said in a statement.

Inflation based on food index of CPI-AL is at 7.76 per cent and of CPI-RL at 7.83 per cent in August 2020 compared to 7.27 per cent and 6.98 per cent, respectively, in the same

Inflation based on food index of CPI-AL is at 7.76 per cent and of CPI-RL at 7.83 per cent in August 2020

month last year.

Among states, the maximum increase in the CPI-AL and CPI-RL was experienced by West Bengal State (27 points and 28 points respectively) mainly due to rise in the prices of wheat-atta, pulses, mustard-oil, milk, chillies-green, ginger, country liquor, firewood, bidi, meat goat, fish dry, bidi, bus fare, vegetables and fruits etc.

The maximum decrease in CPI-AL and CPI-RL was experienced by Kerala (6 points and 8 points respectively)

Sensex erases gains in late selloff; bank, financial stocks weigh

Mumbai: Equity benchmarks nursed losses for the second consecutive session on Friday as investors offloaded banking, finance and consumption stocks amid mixed global cues.

The BSE Sensex, which opened on a firm footing, came under fag-end selling pressure and closed at 38,845.82, down 134.03 points or 0.34 per cent.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 11.15 points or 0.10 per cent to finish at 11,504.95. HDFC Bank was the top loser among the Sensex constituents, skidding 2.39 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Maruti, Titan, SBI, HUL, HDFC and Tata Steel.

Bharti Airtel led the gainers' list with a jump of 3.73 per cent. M&M, NTPC, Tech Mahindra, Sun Pharma, PowerGrid and ONGC were among the other winners, climbing as much as 2.72 per cent. During the week, the Sensex dropped 8.73 points or 0.02 per cent, while the Nifty advanced 40.50 points or 0.35 per cent. "Indian benchmark indices, after trading in the

green for most of the day, succumbed to a round of selling in the last hour of trading, to close out the day flat, with a slight negative bias. **PTI**

Rupee rises by 21 paise to over 1-week high as dollar weakens

Mumbai: The rupee strengthened by 21 paise to close at more than one-week high of 73.45 against the US dollar on Friday as the greenback weakened in the global markets.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened higher at 73.47 against the dollar and touched a day's high of 73.15 as the dollar fell against its major rivals.

The local unit later lost some ground to close up by 21 paise at 73.45, a level not seen since September 7. On Thursday, the rupee depreciated by 14 paise to end at 73.66 against the US dollar. The rupee advanced largely due to broad dollar decline globally. **PTI**

TRAI issues rules for clear communication of tariff plans, terms by telcos

New Delhi:Telecom regulator TRAI on Friday issued a fresh set of rules for publication and advertisement of tariff plans by telcos, in a bid to boost transparency in mobile offers and to help subscribers make informed decisions.

The consumer-oriented move assumes significance as telecom subscribers often grapple with issues such as lack of information, unclear or hard to find plan details - a situation that affects subscribers' ability to make proper choices.

Tightening the rules for telcos, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Friday issued directions on tariff publication and tariff advertisements. "...It has been observed that existing measures adopted by telecom service providers are not transparent as they should be and that some of the telecom service providers are not prominently highlighting additional terms and conditions," TRAI directive said. **PTI**

mainly due to fall in the prices of pulses, coconut oil, chillies-dry, onion, fish fresh etc. Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said, "The continued softening of inflation in succession for seven months may be mainly attributed to the relief measures announced by the government to help poor people including labourers during the COVID-19 pandemic. "The increase in the index will have a positive impact on the wages of millions of workers working in the unorganized sector in rural areas." Director General Labour Bureau D S Negi said, "Labour Bureau has been able to bring out the monthly indices as per the pre-defined schedule consistently even during the tough time of COVID-19." **PTI**

Google says will remove apps that facilitate sports betting from Play Store

New Delhi: Google on Friday said it does not allow apps facilitating sports betting and will remove such apps from the Google Play Store. There is often a surge in launch of such apps before major sporting tournaments like the IPL. The latest season of the IPL is scheduled to start from September 19 in the United Arab Emirates. "We don't allow online casinos or support any unregulated gambling apps that facilitate sports betting. This includes if an app leads consumers to an external website that allows them to participate in paid tournaments to win real money or cash prizes, it is a violation of our policies," Google said in a blog post. **PTI**

Sebi extends deadline for public comments till Oct 18 on biz responsibility reporting format

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi on Friday extended the deadline till October 18 to submit public comments on the proposed format for business responsibility and sustainability reporting in view of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proposed format for business responsibility and sustainability reporting covering environmental, social and Governance perspectives will be applicable to top 1,000 listed firms by market capitalisation.

The comments on the proposed format were invited till September 18. **PTI**

Over 4.87 cr e-way bills worth ₹13.85 lakh cr generated in Aug

New Delhi: Over 4.87 crore e-way bills, valued at over Rs 13.85 lakh crore, were generated by businesses and transporters in August, reflecting a pick up in economic activity, GSTN data showed.

Electronic way or e-way bills are required for interstate movement of goods worth over Rs 50,000. For intra-state movement, limits vary from state to state.

As per the data shared by the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), 4.76 crore e-way bills, valued at over Rs 13.66 lakh crore, were generated in July.

The number stood at 4.27 crore in June (worth Rs 12.40 lakh crore), 2.51 crore in May (Rs 8.98 lakh crore), 84.53 lakh in April (Rs 3.90 lakh crore) and 4 crore in March (Rs 11.43 lakh crore).

In February, before the

coronavirus lockdown came into force, 5.63 crore e-way bills were generated, valued at Rs 15.39 lakh crore.

In a statement, GSTN, which manages the technology backbone of GST, said businesses can now download their e-way bill data for past one-month period from the e-way bill portal run by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

So far, taxpayers or transporters could download e-way bills generated by them for a limited period of 5 days. GSTN said it had received suggestions from taxpayers to increase the number of days for which e-way bills could be downloaded.

"Taxpayers can now make use of this facility to download the e-way bills in excel format and use in their systems. This facility is presently available daily between 8 AM to 12 noon," it said. **PTI**

India Ratings gives 'negative' outlook for banking sector in 2HFY21

Mumbai: India Ratings and Research has revised its outlook on the banking sector to 'negative' from 'stable' for 2HFY21.

The ratings agency Ind-Ra said this revision was done in view of an expected spike in stressed assets, higher credit costs, weaker earnings on account of interest reversals and lower fee income, and muted growth prospects.

Even the capital buffers for most public sector banks (PSBs) remain modest, it said.

As per Ind-Ra's bear case, the spike in stressed assets due to the pandemic is expected to double the credit costs for banking system than estimated pre-Covid-19 levels for FY21.

Consequently, Ind-Ra

revised the rating outlook on PSBs to 'negative' for 2HFY21.

"PSBs' modest capital buffers are expected to deplete further in FY21, due to provisioning requirements. Also, pre-Covid profitability expectations for FY21 would be belied and most banks are likely to report net losses," the agency said in a statement.

"They may also need to continue to build-up their provision cover in FY22 for restructured assets as some of the restructured assets could turn NPA in FY23. PSBs' could require INR350 billion-550 billion in 2HFY 21 for Tier-1 ratio of 10 per cent. Covid-19 or contingent provisions are much lower than that for private banks." **IANS**

'Festive season to push auto sales but disproportionate billings may lead to stress for dealers'

New Delhi: Although festive season demand may provide some temporary relief to the auto industry in the next two-three months, the continued disproportionate wholesale billings by original equipment manufacturers could lead to increased stress for dealers if uptake is lower than expected, according to a report.

In its latest report on the auto sector, India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) on Friday said retail sales are likely to continue to lag behind wholesale sales in September 2020 although the sector has reported a month-on-month rise in sales over May-August 2020 after the washout in April.

"After an above-average acreage backed by adequate monsoon, the prospects of a robust kharif harvest have original equipment manufacturers

US-China investment at 9-year low amid bilateral tensions

Hong Kong: Investment between the United States and China tumbled to a nine-year low in the first half of 2020, hit by bilateral tensions that could see more Chinese companies come under pressure to divest US operations, a research report said. Investment, both direct investment by companies and venture capital flows, between the two countries fell 16.2% to \$10.9 billion in January-June from the same period a year earlier - also hurt by the coronavirus pandemic, according to figures from consultancy Rhodium Group and the National Committee on US-China Relations, an NGO. That's a far cry from half-yearly totals of nearly \$40 billion seen in 2016 and 2017. Flows are unlikely to recover this year, regardless of the outcome of the U.S. presidential election, the report said.

Strict customs scrutiny of FTA imports from Sept 21; importers must satisfy value addition norm

New Delhi:Beginning Monday, Indian customs authorities will strictly scrutinise documents provided by importers claiming duty benefits under free-trade agreements, a move aimed at curbing serious misuse of the concessions under these pacts, finance ministry sources said.

Importers will now have to provide sufficient proof to the domestic customs authorities that the goods being imported have a minimum 35 per cent value addition in the country from which it is being exported to India, they said.

"It will be the responsibility of importers to ensure that the goods being imported by them should have been only manufactured or produced on the foreign countries and minimum 35 per cent value addition have

taken place in those countries," the sources said.

For example, if a mobile is exported from, say, Indonesia to India, then it would qualify to be of Indonesian origin only if such mobile is made significantly in Indonesia and 35 per cent of its value is contributed by that country. The move assumes significance in the backdrop of concerns being raised by certain quarters of the domestic industry about misuse of free trade agreement (FTA) benefits from 10-member ASEAN countries.

The importer has to possess all documentary proof to prove that the 35 per cent value addition requirement has been met and showing a mere 'certificate of origin' provided by the exporting country to Indian importer would not suffice. **PTI**

NBFC delinquencies could see up to 250 bps spike this fiscal

New Delhi: The rapid increase in Covid-19 afflictions and intermittent lockdowns will increase asset quality challenges of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), already grappling with the economic slowdown since last fiscal, Crisil Ratings said on Friday. According to Crisil, the trend in monthly collection efficiency till August 31, 2020 (unadjusted for moratorium) shows there is still some way to go before reaching pre-pandemic levels.

While the recent restructuring scheme afforded by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would be a leash on reported non-performing assets (NPAs), underlying challenges continue.Loan delinquencies of NBFCs could dart up 50-250 basis points (bps) this fiscal, depending on the segment of operation, because of vulnerability in borrower cash flows. **IANS**

Fan manufacturers want GST for sector be lowered to 5% from 18%

New Delhi:Indian fan manufacturers on Thursday sought lower GST rate at 5 per cent on fans, saying the existing 18 per cent tax is "adversely" impacting the industry.

The lower GST (goods and services tax) slab would make the fans a promptly accessible commodity for everyone by increasing grass-root level penetration, exceptionally in rural India, the Indian Fan Manufacturers Association (IFMA) said in a statement after its virtual Annual General Meeting.

The fan industry lost around 35 per cent of its annual sales due to the outbreak of COVID-19 this year during the peak sale period, causing huge financial losses for fan companies, said the association. **PTI**

JK Jain joins as Director (HR) of Delhi Transco Ltd

New Delhi:Shri J K Jain has taken over as Director (HR) of Delhi Transco Limited. With proficiency in Hindi, English and Bengali, Shri Jain is a qualified Chartered Accountant. He has also done courses in Marketing & Financial Management as well as Business & Labour Laws from Indian Institute of Management,Kolkata(IIM- C). An officer of DANICS of 1994 batch, Shri Jain has extensive work experience of more than 26 years. Shri Jain started his career as SDM of Haus Khas, Delhi and move to become Deputy Secretary (Finance). The other important postings Shri Jain has handled in Delhi include, Collector – Property Taxes in MCD.

RITES announces share buybackat ₹265 per share


Gurugram: RITES Ltd. (NSE: RITES, BSE:541556), the leading Transport Infrastructure Consultancy and Engineering firm, reported that its Board of Directors has approved buy-back of₹6,98,113 equity sharesof face value of '10 each at '265per share, translating into the total buy back amount not exceeding ₹257 crore.The company was listed in July 2018 and at present 72.02 % shares are held by Gol and balance is with the public& Fls. Commenting on the share repurchase program, Mr. Rajeev Mehrotra, Chairman and Managing Director, RITES Limited, said, "The company has strong financial fundamentals with debt free balance sheet. This repurchase reflects management's confidence in the company's growth in sectors".

'DELHI witnesses the launch of first of its kind networking platform for women'

New Delhi:29th August 2020 was a day which will be marked as a special occasion in the diaries of many women. On this day, a unique networking platform for Global Indian Women, GIWA - was launched at the Taj Ambassador, New Delhi. Though keeping in mind, the restrictions of COVID 19, the gathering was of only 25 women (maintaining the social distancing norms), the excitement they demonstration was massive and mind blowing. Based on the idea of giving women 'Wings to Fly', GIWA Women Association aims at helping women from diverse backgrounds to come forward and fulfil their dreams. Giving them the requisite platform to showcase their talents and getting for them the much-awaited accolades.

Tuticorin Airport undergoing major expansion to offer better services

New Delhi: In order to cater the rising passenger traffic and the demand for better services, AAI'sTuticorin Airport is undergoing major up-gradation in phaseswith cost of Rs 381 crores.The master project includes widening extension and strengthening work of existing Runway and associated infrastructure. In order to cater to the rising passenger traffic, construction of the new Domestic Terminal Building is also planned, spreading over an area of 13530 sqm.The new Terminal Building will be able to handle 600 passengers during peak hours. The Terminal Building will be equipped with all the modern facilities and passenger amenities.

 AXIS BANK	Retail Assets Centre, Noida: Axis Bank Ltd. K-10, 2nd Floor, Sector-18, Noida, Office - Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wistown, Noida (U.P.)		
	201301, Corporate Office: Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400 025, Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheshwar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006		
DEMAND NOTICE			
<p>Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from Axis Bank Ltd. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset on the respective dates mentioned hereunder in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.</p> <p>The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.</p>			
Name of The Borrower / Address/ Co-Borrower And Guarantor Name	1. NPA Date 2. Date Of Demand Notice 3. Outstanding Amt (Rs.) As On Date Of Notice 4. Loan Amount (Rs.)	Property Address Of Secured Assets IMMOVEABLE ASSETS Property comprising in khasra no. 11/B, 13, 18, 23, khasra no. 14/B/31, situated at Mauza Sarapur, Teshli-Balabgarh, District Faridabad ,Haryana (identified as Plot no.8, Gali No.8/B-W, Sarapur Industrial Area, Teshli-Balabgarh District, Faridabad) measuring 1200 sq. yards owned by Smt Suman Devi With Boundaries of the property as follows :- North - Plot no 7 South - Plot no 9 East - M/S Reva West – Road	
1. M/S Unnati Engineers & Fabricators, Plot No.8, Gali No.8/B, Saroorpur Industrial Area, Sohana Road, Faridabad-Haryana - 121005,Through Its Proprietor Sh Giriraj Sehrawat.	1. 29-Jan-20 2. 7-Sep-20 Rs.98,47,331/- Rs.11,75,715/- Rs.1,00,00,000/- & Rs.11,49,000/-		
2. Sh Giridhari Sehrawat, Proprietor Of M/S Unnati Engineers & Fabricators, Plot No.8, Gali No.8/B, Saroorpur Indl. Area, Sohana Road, Faridabad-121005, Haryana.			
Also At :- Ms. Suman Devi W/O Sh Balram Karimpur, Majra Kushak, Teh. Palwal, Dist. Palwal. (Guarantor)			
<p>In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules thereunder.</p> <p>Kind attention is invited to provisions of sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act where under you can tender the entire amount of outstanding dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank only till the date of publication of the notice for sale of the secured asset(s) by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty. Please also note that if the entire amount of outstanding dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is not tendered before publication of notice for sale of the secured assets by public auction, by inviting quotations, tender from public or by private treaty, you may not be entitled to redeem the secured asset(s) Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.</p>			
Date : 19.09.2020 Place: Delhi	Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd.		

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Sonam, D/o: Harish Chand, R/o: Khasra No. 749-50, Gali No. 01, F-Block, Swami Shardanand Park, Delhi, Aged, 17 years 6 months, has been missing/ kidnapped from her house since 14.08.2020. In this regard a FIR No. 486/20, u/s 363 IPC, Dated 15.08.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:**

Height: 5' feet, Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Physique/Build: Normal, ID Mark: Bruise under eye, Clothing: White Colour T-Shirt, Blue Colour Pajama and Slipper in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing/kidnaped girl, may inform SHO, **Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi at E-mail: ctc@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in** **Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641**

S.H.O
P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27811933, 27811934

DP/475/ON/2020.



Sonam

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 60 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Sex: Male, Face: Ovel, Build: Medium, Wearing : Pant and Bare Footed, has been found at WZ-57, Basai Darapur, Delhi at 10:44 Hrs Dt. 08.09.2020 During Treatment at Safdarjang Hospital Patient dead on 08.09.2020. In this regard, a DD No. 26-A, dated 06.09.2020 has been lodged at PS Moti Nagar, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

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

SHO
P.S., Moti Nagar, Delhi
Ph. : 011-25101150, 8750871125

DP/210/WD/2020



PUBLIC NOTICE


This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of UDAY BHARATAM PARTY. The office of the party is located at C-310, Sigma-II, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201308. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951- Name/address of the office-bearers of the Party are as follows:

President : Dr. Rajendra Prasad, R/O : 6-1, Adusumili Vari Veedhi, Siripuram, Medikonduru Mandal, Guntur DT, A.P.-522401

General Secretary : Mr. Alok Kumar, R/O : P-166, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201002

Treasurer : Mr. P. Sureshan, R/O : B 1107, OXY Homez, Near Koyal Enclave, Ghaziabad-201102

If any one has any objection to the registration of UDAY BHARATAM PARTY they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delh-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.



Shabnam

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Shabam, D/o Md. Hakim, R/o: M-208, Shastri Nagar, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi, has been missing/ kidnapped since 26.05.2020 at 11:00 am. from the area of P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi In this regard a case vide DD No. 95A dated 27.05.2020 has been registered at P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi.**

The description of the missing/ kidnapped girl is as under: **Age: 19 years, Sex: Female, Height: 5', Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Red colour top, grey colour salwar and slipper in her feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.**

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

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - ctc@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Sarai Rohilla, Delhi
Ph.: 011- 23693611, 8750870133

DP/245/N/2020



Shabnam

SHORT CIRCUITS

NORA FATEHI

I feel lucky that I have been chosen to perform on Neha's (Kakkar) songs. Whenever I get a song, I get very excited knowing that it's hers as we know it will be a big hit. I will be performing on a beautiful voice, not all artists get a chance to do that. There are other singers with amazing voice but she has something which cannot be explained.

ANKUR BHATIA

Crackdown is a gallant project. I am playing the Pakistani Army Chief. It's a difficult character, totally contrary to what I am as a person. It is based on the secret services across borders. I think the level that web series are setting on OTT is commendable. It's important especially during the lockdown.

AKSHAY OBEROI

I've launched myself into the preparation and I'm going to be stationed in Dubai for 25 days. I'm super excited to be facing the camera after being quarantined for so long. I am glad to go back to the usual shooting drill in this beautiful city (Dubai)! We are all taking the required precautions and doing our best.

SONA MOHAPATRA

Calling others gold digger, mafia bimbo, *sasti* copy? Playing the messiah of the masses by using a tragic death is the worst act of opportunism. This doesn't make you the pillar of virtue, justice or the flag-bearer of Hindu Cultural values. It highlights the worst side.

PARIS HILTON

I see little girls nine and 10 years trying to get the perfect selfie, they're putting the filters on, they can't even look at themselves in the phone without putting a filter. I can't even imagine being a 13-year-old girl today.

VOGUE 45 MINUTES



The pandemic and then a series of lockdowns, that followed shortly after, gave us a moment to hit pause on our fast-paced lifestyles. There was enough time to reflect on our actions, relationships, beliefs, the power of art, fashion and creativity. We could discover a narrative that stirs the existing dialogue of love, where the boundaries are patched, corridors of division are narrow, cults and definitions are pushed far and wide to make space for love — the only thing that matters. This is what fashion designer Gaurav Gupta's muse turned out to be while he worked on his collection for the FDCI India Couture Week 2020, the digital version. He said, "Through our theme — *Name is Love* — we aim to put all the light on love; for self, all genders, all body shapes, all ethnicities, all sexualities, and most importantly, for inclusivity."

During the process of casting models for the show, which kickstarted online yesterday, he discovered "beautiful stories" where differences and sexualities were not just accepted but celebrated. Said Gaurav, "We were enamoured by every individual's sheer optimism. Their experiences felt familiar and bold. And I realised that their stories needed to be told."

A young, proud lesbian couple Anjali and Manauti living with their parents; Vee, an 18-year-old trans-male student; Anjali Lama, the first Indian trans-female supermodel, and many other models who earned a name in unconventional setups, became the designer's many ways to represent the varied forms of love. "I hope that this message resonates and connects with millions who are facing prejudice or feel inhibited to express themselves due to the pre-conceived societal norms," said Gaurav and emphasised, "We're celebrating uniqueness."

In these desperate times when humans have become more agile and vulnerable, the designer was glad that technology could make the Couture week happen. Said he, "It was the need of the hour to keep the show going, lighten up the mood and make things more celebrative. It has given me hope. It's so nice to see that millions of people around the world can view the show and our collections."

Well, the show is definitely different under the shadow of the novel Coronavirus but what's new this time? "We have presented 50 new women's wear, 20 men's wear and 50 jewellery pieces. I wanted my collection



THE SHOW MUST GO ON

As the India Couture Week kicks off digitally, designer GAURAV GUPTA's collection revolved around the themes of love and inclusivity and presented wedding fashion in sophisticated shades. By SAKSHI SHARMA

to reflect me and my choices. It had to be very 'Gaurav Gupta'. I also discovered new colours like Cerise, Bright Emerald, Berry Pink, Snow Pink, Shadow Pink and more. I wanted to give a new life to these sophisticated colours. I also wanted to do a whole Black-and-White line. It was very new and cool for me. I also played with a lot of organza giving rise to new forms," he said. Another notable thing about his collection, he pointed out, was the indigenous technique of sculpting, which was reinvented in the form of structured wings, graphic spiralling ruffles and architected waves. "We have also incorporated dramatic shimmers, sheer fabrics, 3D floral applique, intricate hand embroideries along with pearls and metallic sequins," said Gaurav. The designer's men's wear was refined with embroideries and mystical motifs. Said he, "We have introduced full Bordeaux velvet

suits with the house's signature sculpting techniques, punctuating the looks and creating perfect statement pieces for a cocktail or reception." The garments, sharply tailored and accented with ornate hand embroideries, gave a meticulous and detailed look — coming all the way from the crisp 'Downtown Abbey' shirt in Egyptian cotton. The collection was further elevated with timeless accessories across all categories like pocket squares, bow-ties and loafers. Gaurav's collection also found their way to the couture jewellery. The line was expressed through five distinct elements of infinity, classic, pearl, feather and forest and



featured pieces created with rare diamonds, rubies, emeralds, opals and tanzanite — sourced from Burma, Botswana, Colombia and Hyderabad. The handmade collection was created with precious stones, crafted in shades of white and rose gold. It was rendered with details of a custom wedding gown. The jewellery was inspired by the Indian heritage integrated with the influences of the Victorian era. Said Gaurav, "We have taken this ideology to construct and reinvent these jewels. What makes our jewellery couture unique is a distinct approach, where each diamond is individually cut according to the design." His latest collection included necklaces, bracelets, rings, earrings and ear-cuffs. Talking about whether the festive market is trending more than the wedding one, the designer chose the latter. He said, "The wedding market is more in trend and will always be. Brides are looking for authentic sculptures and that 'wow' factor, something timeless that they can wear even after four to five



years. They can also mix and match a lot of things from my collection. They wear our lehenga blouses with saris because there's so much detail in each element that one is able to play it up as and when they want to." When we talk of the Couture Week, it is imperative to know the consumer behaviour as the buying pattern internationally has undergone a drastic change. The gulf countries are purchasing more as they are comparatively less affected from COVID-19. Added Gaurav, "But slowly and gradually, the international markets are coming back into line. We have a big market in the gulf all across UAE and Middle East. Earlier, they used to fly down and have couture appointments but this time they're all purchasing our products online, even couture. They do video consultation with our stylists and get garments fitted virtually."

TRIBUTE

A woman who knew men

As fashion designer SHARBARI DUTTA breathed her last, netizens remember her immense contribution to ceremonial menswear

Fashion designer Sharbari Dutta was found dead inside the bathroom of her South Kolkata's Broad Street residence on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. As per police sources, Dutta was found dead inside her bathroom at around 12.15 am on Friday. Officials of local police station and the Kolkata Police headquarters Lalbazar's homicide branch reached the spot at night.

Her family members said Dutta (63) was last seen during the dinner on Tuesday. After that she also went incommunicado. Primary investigation suggests that she died of a sudden cardiac attack in the toilet. But Dutta's family members claim that she was otherwise keeping fine and had no such chronic ailment. Kolkata Police's homicide branch will carry out the investigation to find out the actual reason of the designer's sudden demise.



Dutta's body was sent for the post-mortem examination. Daughter of celebrated Bengali poet Ajit Dutta, Sharbari Dutta was a popular name in the costume designing industry for over past few decades, and was the only women designer to work on men's ethnic fashion wear. It was Dutta who had introduced coloured Bengali dhotis and designer Punjabi kurtas to the mainstream fashion world with her exclusive touch on bright colours along with embroidery works. The fashion mogul has also styled present Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan and cricketer Sachin Tendulkar. Dutta has shattered stereotypes defining men's ethnic fashion over the years. Well, through a flood of condolences from models, actors and people from the film industry for her family on social media, we can certainly see how significantly she contributed to the Indian fashion at large. —With inputs from agencies

STUDIO CHAT 15 MINUTES

Farhan kickstarts IPL

Actor Farhan Akhtar will open Star Sports' Live Broadcast on 'Cricket Live', ahead of the opening match of Dream11 IPL 2020. The nation has been going through tough times due to COVID-19, making this season even more special since it gives a reason for people to come together to watch our very own tournament. Farhan will set the tone of the tournament by introducing 'Cricket Live', before the much-anticipated clash between Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings. He will be addressing today's testing times, and how we need to ride over this crisis. Speaking on this, Farhan said, "These are trying times and our nation continues to persevere and move forward. With the world picking up pace in the new normal, the announcement of the IPL was a breath of fresh air. I have been looking forward to some sporting action, and Live Indian cricket is back after a long hiatus. There's much to learn from the journey of a team or an individual in it. To rise after you fall, to learn from ones mistakes and most importantly, to stay grounded and humble in victory. I resonate with this feeling even more after working on my forthcoming film *Toofaan* in which sport is the backdrop, made on sim-



ilar ethos. It is important to stay resilient, optimistic and ready to battle all odds for a better tomorrow. Personally, it also is an absolute pleasure to open the maiden show. Looking forward to a grand opening game." (Watch the actor on Star Sports' pre-show Cricket Live from 6 pm onwards on September 19.)

CONVERSATION 60 MINUTES

Change the pace of change

Architect-author GOONMEET SINGH CHAUHAN tells AYUSHI SHARMA that his book, *Invertonomics: Eight Ideas to Transform India*, presents innovative yet pragmatic ideas for solving some of India’s most fundamental and chronic problems. He has ways to deal with social inequity, cleanliness, safety of women, education and a sharply declining economy



India has made a remarkable progress in several areas over the seven decades since Independence. But at the same time, it has been beset by some fundamental and chronic problems. There is poverty and inequity, the air in many cities is unbreathable, the streets are littered with garbage, women feel unsafe, levels of basic education are low and the economy is sharply declining. The problems have lasted so long that they seem unsolvable in a lifetime.

Architect-author Goonmeet Singh Chauhan argues that they can actually be solved decisively. To achieve this, he presents a new methodology that he calls *Invertonomics* in his eponymous book, which inverts problems into economic opportunities. The book identifies eight persistent problem areas and proposes well-resolved and, in some cases, successfully-implemented models for tackling them. It presents innovative yet pragmatic ideas that will have a direct impact on our lives and help us realise the dream of an advanced India. We speak to him to find out how. Excerpts:

How did you conceptualise it?

I have always enjoyed solving problems, especially the stubborn ones. A three-pronged strategy typically works for me. It begins with analysing the problem and its key drivers in a manner where we can measure the critical root causes and their impact. Then, the process of solutioneering begins on how the ‘whole relates to the parts’, and simultaneously, how the ‘parts relate to the whole’. It may seem abstract but the key to problem-identification typically lies in a few parts, while the solution lies in the whole. Once the key stone and the king pin have been identified, the final step begins. The third leg of the exercise is imagining a new ecosystem approach, wherein all parts work synergistically to achieve a newer, brighter and beautiful possibility.

As architects, we have a free hand in creating newness within the limits of a land. Sometimes, we look at urban design and try it to impact the quality of lives of people. But our interventions tend to be more physical in nature. This book is a response to my inner calling to go beyond the physicality so that true transformation can happen. It has ideas that use money, technology and common sense to solve some real, hard problems of our country.

What research went into it? And how long did it take to complete the book?

I started thinking about it 10 years ago. I wanted to write 21 ideas but when I got to the research part and assessing the practicality of each solution, it turned out to be an exhaustive process and every idea took more than a year each to be accomplished. The book project relied on a team effort for research, which was based on



three methods — physical measurement and secondary data collection on ground, internet-based research to inform us of interventions that spread across geographies and time, interviews with informed persons in civil society and the bureaucracy to gauge the practicality of our solutions proposed.

Every chapter starts with a general narrative of the problem — for this, we used internet-based research to find out about the history of the problem across geographies and time. For instance, we studied how honking was a public issue in post-World War I London and in Hitler’s Germany. We studied the solutions that various governments and NGOs had attempted earlier; successful case studies that could be scaled up to be applied across a national scale; a lot more. It took seven years to complete the book including an year-long process of edits and updates.

Your book lists some successfully-implemented models that you’ve designed. Can you elaborate on them?

A few of the book’s ideas have been or are being implemented with some initial success and a lot of promise.

The Wise foundation (World Initiative for Service and Education): This idea looks at establishing free residential schools for underprivileged children, who seek out a living foraging through garbage. These kids would now be housed in free residential hostels-cum-schools and receive love and care. They would grow up in campuses called Sanctuaries, which would be set in suburban fringes of the cities and would impart value based education based on *Sewa* and *Samridhi*.

These sanctuaries would be set up and run by educational trusts and the entire capital and operational expenditure would be paid by the trust. However, the government would step in as a regulator and funding agency. They would pay a fee for each child like a parent would pay for a residential school. This fee would enable the educational trust to receive a return on investment for the educational trust, thereby allowing this project to scale up. We are imagining a project of one million children across 500 centres in 30 states. The Delhi Government has also expressed its eagerness to adopt this model and are looking to establish the first such school in Delhi soon.

Clean and dry toilets: Six months before the Commonwealth games, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi took on the challenge of building public toilets of international quality in the city. They were in need of ₹100 crore for the project and struggled to get provision for the funds.

At this point, we suggested a model wherein new toilet complexes would be created on a PPP model and sited adjacent to existing MCD governed marketplaces within their parking lots. A concessionaire would build on a 2,000-square foot plinth, modern toilets with a frontal entrance into a reception area that would be manned to collect charges and lead to separate, clean and dry toilets with dedicated attendants. These would be flanked by two kiosks for ice-cream/florist/ATMs and on top of this structure would be a coffee shop of 2,000 square feet. The janitors and operations of the entire complex would be managed by the concessionaire. The revenues from pay and use toilets would far exceed the operational expenses and we recommended the

concessionaire would pay an annuity to the market association in addition to paying a upfront bid money to acquire the rights to build to the municipality.

The proposal was implemented and 28 new international-quality toilet complexes were constructed and the Municipality earned significant sums in revenues. The project has been hugely successful and can be easily replicated across India.

How can invertonomics be used widely in India, including the remote and underprivileged areas?

Invertonomics imagines a rejuvenated Bharat and proposes three mega interventions in India’s rural hinterland.

Office of Bharat: The office of Bharat would be like a central business-cum-administrative district centre, one each for India’s 650 districts. This 100-acre development would have within it a new administrative set up including civil administration, police, district courts, disaster management centre. Social infrastructure such as educational facilities, health facilities, cultural complex, sports centre, vocational training centre and business centres including an international logistics oriented agricultural *mandi*, ware housing, cold storage, food processing plants, commercial office centre, rural hotels, hostels, rural shopping centre etc. A new centralised powerhouse like this will spur the dormant administrative, commercial and socio-economic energies of our hinterland into action. This nucleus would infuse capital into the district economy and act like a catalyst of commerce and social change.

Cocoons: The Cocoon Corporation of India shall provide post-paid containers (called cocoons) to the farmers to store their produce and support with facilities for digital trade of their agri-commodities. This facility would help the farmers and allow them to fetch a better price for their produce and significantly empower them finan-

cially both in terms of revenue as well as the ability to raise capital at lower interest rates. The corporation shall also run a proper logistics centre to ship these cocoons (containers), which are rodent, dust and weather-proof, and even refrigerated in case needed for their trade destinations. The platform would radically empower farmers, making agriculture the engine of rural economy once again, not remittances from rural folk living in cities.

Residential development around the office of Bharat: A true socio-economic revival shall happen around these offices of Bharat as new residential developments, schools, hospitals, cultural complexes, etc, will enable jobs, livelihood and quality life for the rural folk. It will decongest our cities too as villages would become preferable places to live, learn and work.

Long-term solutions such as sensitising the public through education and awareness campaigns have always been there. Do you think this approach would lead to faster and more effective means of modifying citizen behaviour?

The book promises to change the pace of change. So far, we have been cutting butter with a chainsaw, while all we need is a butter knife called invertonomics! I feel citizen behaviour can be altered using a three-pronged approach, including creating an inspired citizenship wherein individuals act in the interest of collective good.

Money and technology: Invertonomics uses a carrot and stick approach by offering each individual monetary incentives or disincentives for expected citizen behaviour. For assessing individual behaviour, it uses non-invasive technology to gauge behaviour in the public domain. For example, to manage the incidence of honking on our roads, the book proposes an auditory charge of ₹1 for every instance of honking beyond a threshold of say 30 free honks a month. It further levies a charge of ₹10,

say for honking near a hospital or a night within a colony. It also incentivises the least honkers by measuring their relative performance to peers in the same city. Such positive citizens may receive recognition or rewards or corporate discounts, while non-compliant citizens would pay hefty fee. They would also receive surrogate tutorship on how to improve their citizenship by adjusting to acceptable behaviour.

Measurement, transparency and connectivity: More complex issues like safety in cities and equity would require an ecosystem level shift, which shall be achieved using measurement of some key parameters, tabling them in a transparent, technology-driven manner and then publishing the data real-time on public platforms so that all the stakeholders are connected with that data. Such awareness and collective intelligence of the ecosystem shall raise the median performance of all systems and accelerate the transformation to higher ground.

In a country as diverse as ours, how difficult do you think it is to catalyse change?

When demographics are diverse, one has to work out simple and binary solutions where expected behaviour by citizens is understood by all. Like the Odd-Even scheme of the Delhi Government was easily understood by an auto driver as well as a financial analyst because the expectation was binary. The compliance was high.

In India, we tend to obfuscate the law and the poor citizen often finds himself on the wrong side of it, forcing him to use unfair means to extricate himself out of the situation. This phenomenon has led to the incremental lowering of the median of citizenship, with citizens adopting a sort of flexible morality that suits their convenience. *Invertonomics* proposes the use of very simple laws and the new ecosystem would lay down binary expectations. Also incentives in terms of money are easily understood by all. Money is like a universal language that possibly rivals music in its universal appeal! Money-based systems shall ensure that things operate in a demography-agnostic manner, successfully.

You’ve mentioned in the book, “In India, we are in a negative cycle as far as citizen participation for common good is concerned. This shift can only come from policy change and legislation aimed towards the creation of definitive goals.” How do you think this can be acted upon in India, where it might take years to change policies and laws or create a new one?

Change is always bottom up. While it’s affected through top-down instruments like new legislations, new institutions and a new ecosystem, the demand for it is always propelled by the need for it. It takes civil society and thought leaders to articulate a vision that gradually alters the popular narrative. Thereafter, the course of transformation can either take an incremental route or an accelerated route, depending upon the willingness of the political dispensation and the strength of the advocacy to take a hard look at issues and seek convenient and strong resolutions.

We need conversations around inspired citizenship, and local-level leadership to demonstrate action in areas, which can be handled locally like segregation of garbage, pedestrian safety and much more. For this, we have also set up the Invertonomics Foundation for India, which promises to take up issues from the book and pursue them to make sure that they get implemented and how.

GALLERIA 15 MINUTES

PAPER TOWN

Jharkhand artist VIVEK DAS uses the traditional papier-mâché process to create sculptures that leave more than a floating memory. By UMA NAIR

Last month, I discovered the power of paper in the hands of an artist sculptor. I was looking at a lantern. One that was sliced vertically and had a surreal flavour. Suddenly, the object had become subject through an interplay colours and the contours. Master sculptor Vivek Das from Jharkhand is expanding the paper’s potential through the time worn art of papier mache.

POWER OF PAPER

Paper oscillates through time and tide. Paper has been the greatest invention for an artist, it has been a symbol of possibility and an abacus for writers, researchers architects, designers, artists and sculptors ever since its invention in China around 105 A.D. We think of Leonardo da Vinci’s drawings, we think of Reubens, Raphael, Rembrandt, Van Gogh and the ultimate Picasso. Paper is more than a medium, more than a material, it is the most humble of tools in an artist’s hands.

Vivek Das’s lantern tells us that paper has a vast potential as a material for sculpture. Not only is it versatile: it can be featherweight and translucent while being heavy and rigid like papier-mâché. But most importantly, it’s non-toxic, it’s not so expensive and is accessible to everyone. Vivek says, “I try to create sculptures all the time in the hope that I can convert these into bronze.”

Curves, curls, convex and concave surfaces all come into play as he creates sculptural wonders that celebrate the malleable magic of papier mache. Vivek brings back the words of the great French writer and poet Rainer Maria Rilke who in his Book of Hours said: “Go to the limits of your longing... Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.”

In that universal cadence, Rilke assures us to “just keep going,” for “near-by is the country they call life.” Das exemplifies this and more in his brilliant works. Says he, “Whenever I try to pick out a subject to create, I find there is a



co-existence of life with things that connect — for instance the lantern connects with life and light. I didn’t want to create a portrait of the lantern as it is. That would be too common, I wanted a unique portrayal.”

The lantern born of Vivek’s many moorings and thoughts is a metaphor for the existence of man through thick and thin, for his spirit of being that lives through the times rendered both within and without. “Beauty has no other origin than the singular wound, different in every case, hidden or visible, which each man bears within himself,” said the French writer Jean Genet. Vivek’s sculptures are about solidity and an inner life-force, their undulating forms conveying “tension, force and vitality.”

UNTOLD HISTORIES

Vivek says, “I’m touching upon untold histories, as well as highlighting its parallel to my own identity.” He appreciates the papier mache for its accessibility, and explores the medium in various ways. “It’s a practice that’s very practical to follow,” he says. “No kiln, foundry, or harsh

chemicals are necessary.” He approaches the medium with empathy. “It’s about assessing the composition I want to make, responding to it, and giving it what it needs,” he explains. “My approach is to treat papier mache like a complex yet beautiful contextual composition with a dynamic, hidden life.”

PAPER’S TACTILE FERVOUR

Using the traditional papier-mâché process to shape his sculptures, he models and occasionally carves the paper to achieve the desired shape, creating a sort of hybrid of sculpture and drawing. His admiration for paper’s tactile qualities, the subtlety of its colour and the softness of its shadows evokes a sense of physical space.

The lantern seems to speak of a psychological space and time through the layering of paper. Looking at Vivek’s works we realise that papier mache is innovative and inventive, there are endless ways that paper can be drawn on, cut, embossed and manipulated, both two-dimensionally and sculpturally to create masterpieces.

LET THE SHOW BEGIN

Glitzy IPL marks start of Indian sporting events in Covid times



PTI ■ ABU DHABI

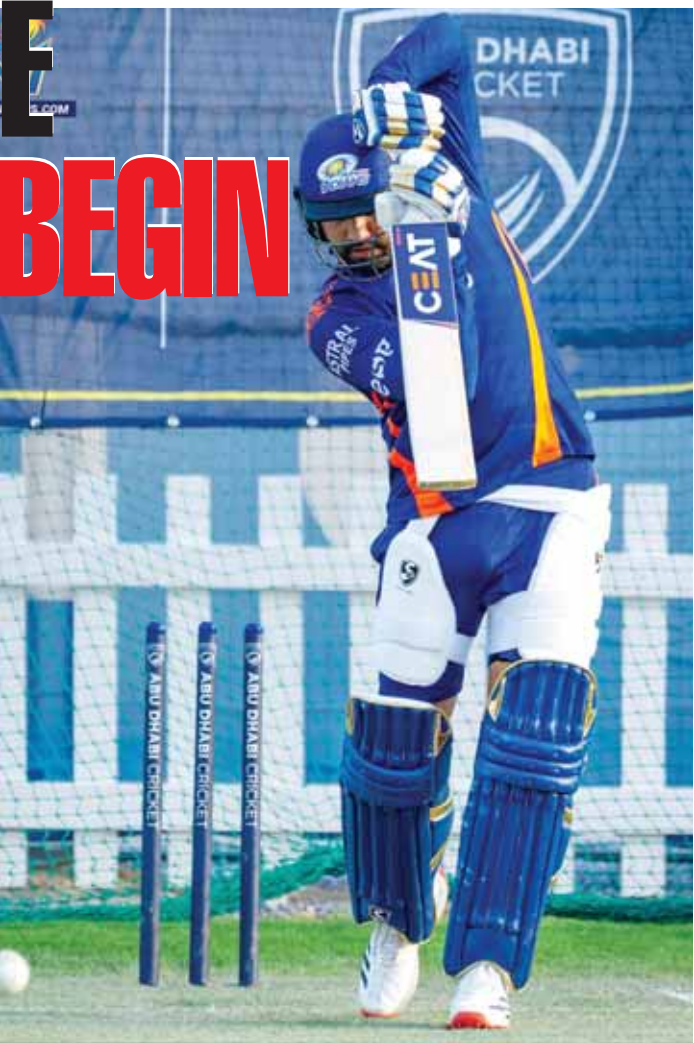
Mahendra Singh Dhoni's poker face, Virat Kohli's raw emotions and Rohit Sharma's effortless handling of his *Galacticos* will be back to charm cricket fans across the globe with the Indian Premier League starting on Saturday, promising to be a happy distraction in a world scarred by Covid-19.

Rohit's defending champions Mumbai Indians will be locking horns with Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings in what is likely to be a fittingly exciting opening showdown here.

The tournament, which has been shifted to the UAE due to five million plus Covid cases in India, is a "TV-only event", expected to be lapped up by all and sundry who crave for cricket and Bollywood in equal measure during prime time.

Bollywood had its share of prime time in the past few months but rest assured, the next 53 days would belong to Dhoni's CSK, Kohli's RCB and Rohit's Mumbai Indians challenged by young pretenders comprising KL Rahul's KXIP and Shreyas Iyer's Delhi Capitals among others.

IPL happening in foreign shores is not a new phenomenon, not even the shift to the Emirates but as Indian sports hits the restart button with the billion dollar cricketing extravaganza, the hugely popular event to be held closed doors in a bio-secure environment will be a new experience.



Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma bats during nets session ahead of IPL opener. MI/Twitter

David Warner or Chris Gayle's towering sixes welcomed by artificial crowd cheer will be the new normal and the deafening roars during Super Overs will be missing but no one can complain as at least the show will go on in amid a devastating health crisis.

A look at the teams would indicate that Mumbai Indians by a distance is the most formidable with Rohit, Pandya brothers — Hardik and Krunal, the indomitable Kieron Pollard and the 'King of Death' bowling Jasprit Bumrah giving it a menacing look.

The perennial Dad's Army Chennai Super Kings can never be counted out till that man with 'Hawk Eyes' uses his peripheral vision behind the stumps.

Experience can't be bought and the likes of Shane Watson, Dwayne



Bravo, Faf du Plessis and Ravindra Jadeja have given their blood and sweat for the 'Yellows' and it would be no different this time.

For Kohli, winning a tournament as a captain would reaffirm his status even as naysayers question his style of leadership. The team is a shade better with presence of Aaron Finch, Chris Morris and the wonderfully gifted Devdutt Padikkal, who if all goes well, is destined to become a big name in years to come.

Delhi Capitals, with their new found vigour and more pragmatic new owners, found their mojo last year and would like to go one better under an enormously talented skipper in Shreyas Iyer, who can be matched in skills by a Prithvi Shaw or a Rishabh Pant.

Seasoned brains like R Ashwin would be ideal foil for the team's

MSD is fresh, engaged & determined after break: Fleming

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

His sabbatical from the game has done Mahendra Singh Dhoni a world of good, Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming said on Friday, asserting that the enigmatic skipper is "mentally engaged and determined" to encounter the challenges of a "tactically different" IPL.

Dhoni's CSK will take on Rohit Sharma's Mumbai Indians in the tournament opener on Saturday. Fleming, a former New Zealand captain, stressed that his team's experience of winning big matches will come in handy during the next 53 days.

Dhoni retired from international cricket last month after being on a break for over one year and when asked about the 39-year-old's preparedness for the IPL, Fleming said, "It has been no different. He's very fit and mentally, he's been very engaged and determined."

"In some ways the break can work for the experienced and older



players that we have. MS is fresh and ready to go," Fleming said in a pre-tournament interview to CSK's official website.

The three-time champions are banking heavily on their 35-plus players, including Dhoni himself, Shane Watson, Dwayne Bravo, Kedar

Jadhav, and Imran Tahir to name a few.

"...Experienced players identify key times and that's why they've done so well in their careers. They can turn games, absorb pressure or just sum out the situation. That's what experience is about and that's why we value it so highly," said Fleming.

"And that's why we've been able to get over the line in so many close games because the key player has been one with a lot of experience. And you also mix that with skill. You are conscious of having a skilful side and adding youth when we can and with that get the balance pretty right."

Starting against a quality side like MI is certainly exciting for Fleming, who wants his men to have a crack at the defending champions after their agonising last-ball loss in the previous edition.

"The first game is always full of anxiety, nerves and excitement, and CSK-MI has added extra excitement and pressure and we enjoy that. We've earned the right to play the

first game by playing well last year, and given the way the final finished last year, it's nice to have another crack at MI.

"They (MI) are a very good side and it gives you a good gauge as to how the pre-season has gone and the areas that need improvement. You get a good idea after the first game as to where your team is sitting."

With the home advantage of playing seven games at Chepauk gone, Fleming is bracing up for a very different tournament tactically where adaptability will be the key.

"I see this season is going to be very different tactically. With no real home ground advantage here, we've got to be very good at adapting to the conditions in each ground."

"We've got three different grounds to assess and each ground has its own character and nuances and we've just got to be good enough to pick the right team and get the right game plan to match that. It's like every game is an away game," he explained.

HEAD TO HEAD		
Matches: 28	Mumbai Indians won: 17	Chennai Super Kings won: 11
MEETING IN 2019		
Mumbai Indians defeated Chennai Super Kings by 37 runs at Mumbai (League)		
Mumbai Indians beat Chennai Super Kings by 46 runs at Chennai (League)		
Mumbai Indians beat Chennai Super Kings by 6 wickets at Chennai (Qualifier 1)		
Mumbai Indian beat Chennai Super Kings by one run at Hyderabad (final)		
FOR THE RECORD		
Rohit Sharma who scored		
		Faisal Features
4898 runs at an average of 31.60 in 183 innings of 188 matches for Deccan Chargers and Mumbai Indians is the third highest scorer in IPL behind Virat Kohli (5412 runs in 177 matches) and Suresh Raina (5368 runs in 193 matches). Dwayne Bravo who claimed 147 wickets in 131 innings of 134 matches, needs just three wickets to become the fifth bowler to take 150 wickets in IPL.		

youthful exuberance.

KXIP's KL Rahul is a class act and how he shapes as a leader could also create a narrative for the future when Indian cricket goes through another change of guard.

There will be a lot of interest as to how he handles players like Glenn Maxwell, Gayle and Mohammed Shami, who are savage on their days but can be ordinary on some others.

Handling an inconsistent team to a decent finish will be on top of

Rahul's agenda.

The low profile Sunrisers Hyderabad once again will be gunning for a place in the summit clash and their skipper David Warner knows how to win the IPL having always led the way with spectacular performances.

There is Jonny Bairstow's flair, Kane Williamson's poise and Rashid Khan's flamboyance with a host of youngsters like Virat Singh and Priyam Garg eager to make a name

Injured Osaka withdraws from French Open



AP ■ PARIS

Newly crowned US Open champion Naomi Osaka pulled out of the French Open with a sore hamstring on Friday, in a fresh blow to the coronavirus-hit Grand Slam which is already missing world number one Ashleigh Barty.

Japan's Osaka made the announcement just days after lifting her third Major title behind closed doors in New York.

"Unfortunately I won't be able to play the French Open this year," Osaka said in posts on Instagram and Twitter.

"My hamstring is still sore so I won't have enough time to prepare for the clay — these two tournaments came too close to each other for me this year."

The French Open is due to start on September 27 at Roland Garros, rescheduled from earlier in the year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Osaka, who has never made it out of the third round of the French Open, did not say when she will play next. She did assure her fans they would see her "sooner than later".

Attendance reduced to 5,000 per day

Paris: The French Open rescheduled for later this month will be limited to 5,000 spectators daily, a reduction from the 11,500 announced by organisers, the Paris police prefecture said on Thursday.

Earlier this month, the French tennis federation revealed plans for the September 27-October 11 Grand Slam to allow 11,500 fans to attend each day, with the Roland Garros venue divided into three independent zones.

However, the deteriorating health situation in the country and current French Govt regulations capping public gatherings at 5,000 forced them into a rethink. The revised number was announced by tournament director Guy Forget just 10 days ago.

The main show courts, Philippe Chatrier and Suzanne Lenglen, were to be limited to 5,000 spectators apiece with Simonne Mathieu restricted to just 1,500 and no tickets sold for the outside courts. **AFP**

Sindhu pulls out of Denmark Open

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Olympic Silver medallist PV Sindhu on Thursday pulled out of the Denmark Open tournament scheduled to be held in Odense from October 13 to 18.

"Sindhu is not playing in Denmark, she has pulled out," a source in the Gopichand Academy told PTI.

The BAI had on Tuesday written to the players who have sent their entries for the Denmark Open, stating that they would be "travelling or participating at their own responsibility due to the current pandemic" and "have to send their consent within September 17".

Though Sindhu decided against travelling to Denmark, she plans to participate in the Asia Open-I and Asia Open-II scheduled to be held in November.

Kidambi Srikanth, Lakshya Sen and Subhankar Dey were among those players who have sent their consent letters and will be participating in the super 750 event.

Saina Nehwal and Parupalli Kashyap have also sent their consent letters but will take a final call nearer to the date of the tournament.

Variety in spin, will give CSK edge in UAE conditions: Lee



New Delhi: Former Australian speedster Brett Lee has tipped three-time champions Chennai Super Kings to win the 13th IPL, saying the variety in their spin department gives them an advantage in the UAE conditions.

"They (CSK) are up there. I have picked them to win and I think CSK have a good chance because of their spin attack," Lee

said on *Star Sports* show *Game Plan*.

"With Santner, Jadeja needs to step up and be the No 1 spinner and CSK have got great variety and none of the spinners are same, so they are at an advantage for the conditions in the UAE as the tournament progresses."

Four-time winners Mumbai Indian will miss the services of their bowling spearhead Lasith Malinga who opted out of the tournament citing personal reasons.

However, the 43-year-old Lee said he has no doubts that Jasprit Bumrah will be able to fill in the shoes of the experienced seamer.

"I am always Bumrah's fan since he burst onto the scene some years ago. He has got a different bowling action, he pushes the ball in, and can swing the ball both ways. He is good with the new ball but I like him with the old ball and that's why he can fill the shoes of Malinga and can bowl at death overs," he said.

"He can bowl at 140kmph and zoom the ball in at the batsman's feet. He is bowling the yorkers consistently and there are very less bowlers like that, so he can fill those shoes."

Lee, who has 310 wickets in 76 Tests and 380 scalps in 221 ODIs, said he considers Mumbai Indians in his top four.



PTI

Halep extends her perfect record

Rome: Top-seeded Simona Halep improved to 7-0 in tennis' restart with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Dayana Yastremska on Friday to reach the Italian Open quarterfinals.

Halep, who is actually on an 11-0 run overall stretching back to February, recovered an early break in the opening set and then overpowered her 29th-ranked opponent the rest of the way.

Having won a title in Dubai before the coronavirus pandemic, Halep marked her return with another trophy in Prague last month. She then skipped the US Open due to health concerns amid the virus.

Halep, who lost two straight finals in Rome to Elina Svitolina in 2017 and 2018, will next face Yulia Putintseva.

Also on the red clay courts of the Foro Italico, defending champion Karolina Pliskova defeated Russian qualifier Anna Blinkova 6-4, 6-

3 and will next play 11th-seeded Elise Mertens, who eliminated Danka Kovinic 6-4, 6-4.

In men's action, Novak Djokovic was being pushed so hard in the first set by Filip Krajinovic that he urgently needed somewhere to sit down and catch his breath but he finally closed out the first set in 1 hour, 28 minutes and went on to finish off a 7-6 (7), 6-3 victory for a spot in the quarterfinals for the 14th straight year.

"It was a great battle," said Djokovic. "Definitely one of the longest sets I've ever played. We went toe to toe. It could have gone a different way."

The tournament has been played without fans so far due to the pandemic, although the Italian Government announced Friday that up to 1,000 spectators will be allowed in to watch the semi-finals and finals. **AP**



Spurs avoid embarrassing exit

AFP ■ LONDON

Tottenham scored twice in the final 10 minutes to avoid a humiliating Europa League exit to Lokomotiv Plovdiv as Jose Mourinho's men came from behind to beat the nine-man Bulgarians 2-1 on Thursday.

Harry Kane's penalty and Tanguy Ndombele's winner five minutes from time ensured the 2019 Champions League finalists did not fall at the first hurdle of their Europa League campaign to a side that have never progressed beyond the qualifying stages of European competition.

"I think it was a helluva experience for the players. Sometimes in football miracles happen and when you play a knockout, one-leg it is the perfect scenario for a miracle to happen," said Mourinho.

"Everyone on their side had the moment where they dream and we had the moment where we believed a nightmare could arrive."

Mourinho named a strong side featuring Kane, Hugo Lloris and Son Heung-min with just four changes from Sunday's 1-0 defeat to Everton to start their Premier League campaign.

But there was more evidence why Spurs are desperate to secure Gareth Bale's return on loan from Real



Tanguy Ndombele celebrates with Harry Kane after scoring Spurs second goal

AP

Madrid as they struggled to break Plovdiv down and went behind to Georgi Minchev's header 19 minutes from time.

The tie swung back in Spurs favour nine minutes later when Momchil Tsvetanov punched clear off his own line and the referee had no option but to point to the spot and send Tsvetanov off.

Birsent Karagaren was then also



Gareth Bale looks at fans as he arrives at the training ground of Tottenham Hotspur in London on Friday. Real Madrid winger Gareth Bale is in London to complete his return to Tottenham seven years after he left for Madrid in 2013 for 100 million euros

AP

shown a second yellow card before Kane dispatched the spot-kick into the top corner.

Ndombele has struggled for game time under Mourinho despite being the club's record signing.

But the Frenchman, who was introduced on the hour mark, proved the match winner by bundling home from close range.

A trip to Macedonia next week to face KF Shkendija faces Mourinho's men in the third qualifying round.

Liverpool finally signs Thiago

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Liverpool completed the signing of Thiago Alcantara from Bayern Munich on Friday, bringing in one of the world's most technically gifted players to add another dimension to the English champions' midfield.

The 29-year-old Thiago ended his seven-year spell at Bayern by moving for an initial fee of 20 million pounds (\$26 million), with a potential additional 5 million pounds (\$6.5 million) later.

"My decision is purely of a sporting nature," the Spain international said in a video announcing his departure from Bayern.

"As a football player, I seek new challenges to develop myself further. Bavaria will always be my home."

Thiago, whose father is former Brazil midfielder Mazinho, leaves Bayern as a European Cup winner, his last match being the 1-0 victory over Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League final

in August. He also won seven straight Bundesliga titles with Bayern.

"When the years are passing, you are trying to win as much as you can — and when you win, you want to win more," Thiago said.

"I think this club describes what I am as well. I want to achieve all of the goals, win as many trophies as possible."

At Liverpool, he will add a more creative edge to a midfield that currently is more notable for its energy and intensity through hard-running players like Jordan Henderson, Georginio Wijnaldum and James Milner.

Thiago — with his technique, touch and vision — will provide Liverpool with more control in midfield, too, allowing manager Jurgen Klopp to adopt a different approach in certain games.

In that regard, the midfielder has been likened to compatriot Xabi Alonso, who played for Liverpool in a deeper-lying role from 2004-09.

