

OPINION 6
WORRISOME
OPTICS

WORLD 8
TRUMP SAYS KAMALA IS
'GROSSLY INCOMPETENT'

SPORT 12
KXIP FACE RCB
IN IPL CLASH

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KUMAR SANU
IS BACK WITH
A NEW SONG
10 VIVACITY

Rafale offset pact flouted: CAG

Accuses Dassault, MBDA of violating obligations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Congress leader Rahul



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

■ The CAG said the Defence Ministry has to overhaul the offset policy as the offset policy has

not yielded the desired results. ■ Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh will be the first woman fighter pilot to fly the sophisticated Rafale fighter jets recently inducted into the IAF at its Ambala airbase. Varanasi-born Singh was commissioned into the IAF in 2017 as part of the second batch of women fighter pilots. At present, she is flying Mig-21 jet and her conversion training to fly the Rafale has commenced, sources said here on Wednesday

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

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

qualify for the main supply contract but later were not earnest about fulfilling these commitments.

"For instance in the offset contract relating to 36 Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA), the vendors M/s Dassault Aviation and M/s MBDA initially proposed (September 2015) to discharge 30 per cent of their offset obligation by offering high

technology to the DRDO. The DRDO wanted to obtain technical assistance for the indigenous development of engine (Kaveri) for the light combat aircraft. Till date the vendor has not confirmed the transfer of this technology," the CAG then noted.

Giving background of the offset policy adopted in 2005, the CAG said it was applicable for all capital purchases above

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

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

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

Continued on Page 2

NCB to quiz Deepika, Shraddha, Sara, Rakul

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

The NCB had retrieved Deepika's WhatsApp chats with Karishma in which the two

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

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

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

Continued on Page 2

Railways MoS Suresh Angadi dies of Covid

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

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

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

Angadi had on September 11 himself announced on microblogging site Twitter that he had contracted the disease. The MP from Belagavi had requested all those who came in close contact with him over the last few days to monitor their health and get tested in case of any symptoms.

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Opp keeps up farm heat on Govt

Urges Prez not to give his assent to Bills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 2



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

RS passes 3 key labour Bills sans Opp MPs' participation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 2

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

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

DRDO TEST-FIRES DESI LASER ANTI-TANK MISSILE
New Delhi: An indigenously developed laser-guided anti-tank guided missile has been successfully test fired by the DRDO at a firing range in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar, officials said on Wednesday.

'FAKE NEWS AGAINST BATLA ENCOUNTER'
New Delhi: Fake news and "street rumours" were picked up by a section of politicians, activists and media to paint the 2008 Batla House encounter of IM terrorists as staged, retired IPS officer and the then chief of the Delhi Police special cell Karnal Singh has said.

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

Bihar DGP quits, likely to take electoral plunge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As expected for the last several weeks, Bihar Director General of Police (DGP) Guptaeshwar Pandey has finally taken voluntary retirement from service and is all set to plunge into politics.

There are speculation that Pandey will join the Janata Dal(U) and contest either the Assembly elections or Lok Sabha bypoll from Valmikinagar in north Bihar.

Pandey's request seeking voluntary retirement was approved by Governor Phagu Chauhan, a notification issued by the State Home Department

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

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

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

Sudarshan TV issued notice for violating code, Centre tells SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Continued on Page 2

No action against Facebook VP till Oct 15, orders SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL

CASES: 57,27,750

DEATHS: 91,163

RECOVERED: 46,67,060

ACTIVE: 9,68,708

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	12,63,799	33,886	9,56,030
Andhra Pradesh	6,46,530	5,506	5,70,667
Tamil Nadu	5,57,999	9,010	5,02,740
Karnataka	5,40,847	8,266	4,37,910
Uttar Pradesh	3,69,686	5,299	3,02,689
Delhi	2,56,789	5,087	2,20,866
West Bengal	2,34,673	4,544	2,05,028
Odisha	1,92,548	789	1,57,265
Telangana	1,77,070	1,062	1,46,135
Bihar	1,73,063	874	1,58,546
Assam	1,63,491	597	1,32,709
Kerala	1,48,134	593	1,04,678
Gujarat	1,27,541	3,368	1,07,801
Rajasthan	1,20,739	1,382	1,00,365
Haryana	1,16,856	1,233	96,347
Madhya Pradesh	1,13,057	2,077	88,168

Sisodia hospitalised

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

Air pollution in Delhi in winter to aggravate Covid situation

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

2008 BATLA HOUSE ENCOUNTER

Fake news used to label encounter staged: Then Spl Cell chief

New Delhi: Fake news and "street rumours" were picked up by a section of politicians, activists and media to paint the 2008 Batla House encounter of IM terrorists as staged, retired IPS officer and then chief of the Delhi Police special cell Karnal Singh has said.

The 1984-batch officer of the Union Territories cadre has come out with a book — Batla

House: An Encounter that Shook the Nation — on the police operation on September 19, 2008 at house number L-18 in the Batla House locality of Jamia Nagar in south Delhi.

The book has been published by Rupa Publications. The officer was spearheading a probe into the 2008 Delhi blasts as the head of joint commissioner of police of the elite

special cell that was raised specifically to undertake counter-terrorist operations.

Leads from the blast probed led the special cell to Batla House where Indian Mujahideen terrorists were holed-up.

A gunbattle broke between the policemen, who went for a reconnaissance, and the terrorists in which special cell

Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma lost his life, while two terrorists were eliminated.

Singh, who retired in 2018 as the Director of the Enforcement Directorate, spoke to PTI on the operation, seen as one of the most politicised police encounters of the country.

"There was a perception built around the Batla House encounter by disseminating fake news," Singh said. "Many politicians, activists and media houses picked up street rumours without any fact-checking."

"For example, some alleged that Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma died due to three bullets fired at his back by his teammates and they also alleged that the terrorist did not fire at all. The post-mortem report

clearly stated that Mohan had got two bullet injuries from front and not back," he said.

Doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences conducted the post-mortem of the two terrorists also and collected their hand wash and sent it to the forensic science laboratory for dermal nitrate test to conclude if they had fired or not, Singh said.

"The test for the terrorists came out to be positive indicating clearly that both the terrorists had fired on the police team," he said.

"Fake news circulation did create an obstacle but only for a short while. All the facts, evidences and investigations proved the authenticity of the encounter."

"This case has been through

multiple scrutiny from diverse and independent agencies and the truth has stood strong through the test of time, patience and adverse perceptions. Our turning point was when a few people who had earlier believed in fake news were open to factual accounts," the officer said, replying to a question on the upheavals they faced after the encounter. **PTI**

Maha sees spike in Covid cases, 479 die, 21,079 test +ve

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra on Wednesday witnessed a spike in both Covid-19 triggered fatalities and infections, as 479 more people succumbed to the pandemic and 21,079 others tested positive for Coronavirus in various parts of the state.

With an alarming 479 deaths — lower than the high-

est tally of 515 deaths witnessed on September 15, the total number of deaths rose from 33,407 to 33,886.

Similarly, with 21,079 fresh cases, the total number of infections increased from 12,42,770 to 12,63,799.

Of the total 479 deaths reported on Wednesday, Kolhapur accounted for a maximum of 63 deaths, followed 61 deaths in Pune, 58 in

Nagpur, 49 in Mumbai, 39 in Thane, 36 in Sangli, 30 in Raigad, 28 in Satara, 16 in Ahmednagar, 14 in Solapur and 13 each in Nashik and Parbhani

In the lower range, there were 8 fatalities in Nanded, 7 each in Palghar, Osmanabad, Amravati and Wardha, 5 in Jalgaon, 4 in Gondia, 2 each in Ratnagiri, Aurangabad, Latur, Beed and Bhandara and one

death each in Dhule, Jalna, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli

With 49 deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 8,555 to 8,604 while the infected cases shot up by 2,360 to trigger a jump in the total infections from 187,904 to 190,264

Meanwhile, for the fifth consecutive day, the state recovery rate rose from 75.36 per cent to 75.65 per cent

A day after Maharashtra posted 20,206 recoveries, 21,029 more people were discharged from the various hospitals. With Wednesday's development, the total number of patients discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year touched a final tally of 9,56,030. The mortality rate in the state stood at 2.69 per cent.

The number of "active cases" in the state went up from Tuesday's figure of 2,72,410 to 2,73,477.

Pune district with 2,70,866 infected cases continued to be the worst-affected city-district in Maharashtra. The number of deaths in Pune increased from 5368 to 5429.

Thane district remained on the third spot — after Pune

and Mumbai — with 1,75,733 total cases, while the pandemic toll rose from 4585 to 4624.

Out of 61,06,787 samples sent to laboratories, 12,63,799 have tested positive (20.69 per cent) for COVID-19 until Wednesday.

Currently, 18,75,424 people are in home quarantine while 34,457 people are in institutional quarantine.

Bihar DGP quits...

From Page 1

"The party which makes him a candidate will not be trusted by the people. The agenda behind his 'rajkiya taandav' over Maharashtra is clear now. He was running a political agenda with his statements over Mumbai case and he is going to receive his reward," Raut told ANI. Congress spokesperson Ragini Nayak tweeted that Pandey's purported political ambitions were similar to that of former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi who was nominated to the Rajya Sabha soon after his retirement. Pandey has recently been in the headlines for his stout defence of the Nitish Kumar administration when it was under attack from the Shiv Sena-led Government in Maharashtra over Bihar Police's probe into the death of Rajput.

With the intention of contesting the Lok Sabha polls, Pandey opted for voluntary retirement in 2009 also. However, he didn't get the BJP ticket at the eleventh hour from Buxar. Later, Pandey requested the Bihar Government to allow him to withdraw his resignation.

Didn't direct...

From Page 1

"I got notice from the Income Tax Department in reference to the affidavit I submitted in 2020 and 2014 and 2009-10. They are asking for some information and clarification and similarly they have asked this to Supriya (Sule) also for the last three elections," he said.

CANCELLATION / SHORT TERMINATION / SHORT ORIENTATION / DIVERSION / RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS DUE TO CALL OF 'PUNJAB BAND'

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Railways have decided to Cancel / Divert / Short Terminate / Short Originate / Reschedule following Passengers Special and Parcel Express Trains in view of the call of 'Punjab Band' from 24.09.2020 to 26.09.2020. During this period the traffic handling plan will be as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)	
02053 Haridwar - Amritsar Jan Shatabdi Express	25.09.2020 & 26.09.2020	
02425/2426 New Delhi-Jammu Tawi-New Delhi Rajdhani Special	24.09.2020 to 26.09.2020	
02054 Amritsar - Haridwar Jan Shatabdi Express	25.09.2020 & 26.09.2020	

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF SPECIAL TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Station	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
02903 Mumbai Central-Amritsar Golden Temple Mail	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	Upto 24.09.2020
02904 Amritsar-Mumbai Central Golden Temple Mail	From Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	25.09.2020 to 27.09.2020
02407 New Jalpaiguri-Amritsar Karambhoomi SF	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 23.09.2020
02408 Amritsar-New Jalpaiguri Karambhoomi Superfast	From Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	25.09.2020
02925 Banda Terminus-Amritsar	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	Upto 25.09.2020
02926 Amritsar-Banda Terminus	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	25.09.2020 & 26.09.2020
02715 Nanded-Amritsar Sachkhand Express	at New Delhi	New Delhi-Amritsar	Upto 25.09.2020
02716 Amritsar-Nanded Sachkhand Express	From New Delhi	Amritsar-New Delhi	25.09.2020 & 26.09.2020
04673 Jaynagar-Amritsar Shaheed Express	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	Upto 24.09.2020
04674 Amritsar-Jaynagar Shaheed Express	From Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	25.09.2020
04649 Jaynagar-Amritsar Saryu Yamuna Express	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	25.09.2020
04650 Amritsar-Jaynagar Saryu Yamuna Express	From Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	26.09.2020
03307 Dhanbad-Firozpur	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	Upto 24.09.2020
03308 Firozpur-Dhanbad	from Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	24.09.2020 to 26.09.2020
05933 Dibrugarh-Amritsar	at Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	of 22.09.2020
05934 Amritsar-Dibrugarh	From Ambala Cantt.	Amritsar-Ambala Cantt.	25.09.2020
04653 New Jalpaiguri-Amritsar Karambhoomi SF	at Saharanpur	Saharanpur-Amritsar	25.09.2020
04651 Jaynagar-Amritsar Humsafar Express	at Delhi	Delhi-Amritsar	25.09.2020
04652 Amritsar-Jaynagar Humsafar Express	From Delhi	Delhi-Amritsar	27.09.2020
02358 Amritsar-Kolkata	From Ambala Cantt.	Ambala Cantt.-Amritsar	24.09.2020

DIVERSION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Diverted Via	Date (from the Originating Station)
05909 Dibrugarh-Lalgarh	Rohtak-Bhiwani-Hisar-Hanumangarh	Upto 24.09.2020
05910 Lalgarh-Dibrugarh	Hanumangarh-Hisar-Bhiwani-Rohtak	24.09.2020 to 25.09.2020

SHORT TERMINATION/ORIENTATION OF PARCEL/VP'S EXPRESS TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Short Terminate at/ Short originate from	Partially Cancelled between Station	Date of cancellation (from the Originating Station)
00901 Banda Terminus-Jammu Tawi	At Delhi	Delhi-Jammu Tawi	Upto 24.09.2020
00467 Howrah-Amritsar	At Delhi	Delhi-Amritsar	24.09.2020
00465 Guwahati-Amritsar	At Saharanpur	Saharanpur-Amritsar	of 23.09.2020
00466 Amritsar-Guwahati	At Saharanpur	Amritsar-Saharanpur	25.09.2020
00902 Jammu Tawi-Banda Terminus	From Delhi	Jammu Tawi-Delhi	24.09.2020 & 26.09.2020

RESCHEDULING OF PARCEL/VP'S EXPRESS TRAINS			
• Train No. 00464 Amritsar-Howrah will be rescheduled on 27.09.2020 instead of 25.09.2020			
• Train No. VP-274 Gurdaspur-Shribrdya Lathi will be rescheduled on 27.09.2020 instead of 24.09.2020			
• Train No. DMCS-74 Bari Brahman-Namkon will be rescheduled on 27.09.2020 instead of 24.09.2020			
• Train No. VP-81 Kartarpur-Amritsar will be rescheduled on 27.09.2020 instead of 25.09.2020			

Note: For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Security Helpline No. 182

Integrated Helpline No. 139

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MoS Railways...

From Page 1

"Shri Suresh Angadi was an exceptional Karyakarta, who worked hard to make the Party strong in Karnataka. He was a dedicated MP and effective Minister, admired across the spectrum. His demise is sad-

dening. My thoughts are with his family and friends in this sad hour. Om Shanti," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Twitter. "Extremely saddened by the passing away of Central Minister Shri Suresh Angadi Ji. He was a remarkable leader who dedicated all his life for organisation and went on to

serve society with utmost diligence and compassion. My thoughts and Prayers are with his family and followers," BJP president J P Nadda tweeted.

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said on the micro-blogging website, "Deeply anguished at the unfortunate demise of Suresh Angadi ji. He was like my

brother. Words fall short to describe his commitment & dedication towards the people. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends in this hour of need. Om Shanti". HD Deve Gowda expressed his sadness over the demise and tweeted that Angadi was like a "younger brother".

Sudarshan TV...

From Page 1

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra and KM Joseph was informed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that Sudarshan TV has to give reply to the show cause notice by September 28, failing which an ex parte decision will be taken.

"During the course of the hearing today, Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India stated that the Central Government has, in exercise of the power conferred upon it by sub-section (3) of Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995, issued a notice to show cause dated September 23, to 'Sudarshan News,' the bench said in its order.

It said that since the notice is stated to be 'returnable' on September 28, Mehta has requested the Court to defer the hearing in the present case so as to enable the central government to take a considered view of the matter.

It added: "The notice shall be dealt with in accordance with law and the Central Government shall submit a report to this Court indicating the outcome of the notice."

"Since the notice has been

issued during the pendency of these proceedings, further steps in pursuance of the notice to show cause shall be subject to the result of the present proceedings and to such orders as may be passed by this Court."

The top court also said that its interim order of September 15, 2020 (injunction the telecast of remaining episodes of the programme) shall continue to remain in operation pending further orders.

Opp keeps...

From Page 1

The memorandum has also informed the President questioning the conduct of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh accusing him of favouring the Government and allowing the passage of the controversial Bills without following the due process. Harivansh, on his part, has already written to the President about the "unruly" behaviour of eight Parliamentarians in the Upper House.

The Farmer's Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, the Farmers

(Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, have been passed by both Houses and await presidential assent.

The Opposition has launched a staunch protest against passage of two agricultural Bills - the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 and the Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 - by voice vote in Parliament on Sunday.

NCB to quiz...

From Page 1

Meanwhile, Deepika, who is currently shooting for Shakun Batra's upcoming film in Goa, is expected to leave Goa for Mumbai on Thursday morning.

In a related development, the Bombay High Court postponed by a day the hearing on the bail pleas of Rhea Chakrabarty and her brother Showik, owing to heavy rains in the metropolis.

Rhea, whose bail plea is coming up for hearing before the Bombay High Court on Wednesday, has contended that she was innocent and falsely implicated in the Sushant death-related drug case.

Rafale offset...

From Page 1

The rest were largely rejected as they were not compliant to the contractual conditions and the Defence Procurement Procedure.

The remaining offset commitments of about ₹55,000 crore (₹66,427 crore - ₹11,396 crore) would be due to be completed by 2024 i.e. within next six years.

The rate at which the foreign vendors have been fulfill-

RS passes...

From Page 1

The Government claims that Bills will bring in reforms to ensure easier compliance with labour standards worldwide. This, in turn, will help bring in foreign investment. Sixteen States have already increased the threshold for closure, lay off and retrenchment in firms with up to 300 workers without Government permission, the Minister said.

The Opposition and labour unions fear the Bills make it easier to lay off workers and put restrictions on their right to protest. The Industrial Relations Code Bill allows companies with up to 300 workers to lay off people without the State Government's approval. So far, only companies employing up to 100 people were allowed to do this.

Under the same law, no industrial worker is allowed to go on strike without a 60-day notice. So far such rules were applicable on only those involved in public utility services like water, electricity, natural gas, telephone and other essential services. Workers in essential services are required to give a six-week notice before any strike.

The Code on Social Security Bill extends social security funds only to workers for app-based firms. But labour unions claim more is needed as these workers continue to remain in a legal grey zone. They are often treated as inde-

ed due to various deficiencies. Despite the fact that the vendors failed to keep up their offset commitments, there was no effective means of penalising them. Non fulfillment of offset obligations by the vendor especially when the contract period of the main procurement is over, is a direct benefit to the vendor, the CAG observed. The audit also found that there was not a single case where the foreign vendor had transferred high technology to the Indian industry.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that Mr. Neha Kapoor, Komal Ajmani & Pranika Ajmani W/o Shri Rajul Kapoor (Shanti Ajmani & Nikhil Ajmani are the title holder of property/DDA Flat bearing No 511, pocket 2, Block F2A, Golf Links Residency Sector 18B, Dwarika New Delhi. E-mail: sudeshkumari@gmail.com) by virtue of the Sale Certificate duly registered as Registration No. 19667 in Book No. Volume No 4726 pages No 157 to 155 dated 19.09.2019 in the office of the sub registrar II B, Janakpuri, New Delhi, that my client has lost the Original offer to Possession dated 19.09.2019 AOC to obtain Water & Electricity Connections in Favour of Parvez Ahmad Dar in respect DDA Flat bearing No.501, Pocket 2, Block F2A, Golf Links Residency Sector 18B, Dwarika, New Delhi have been Lost/ misplaced in lieu of report dated 17.09.2020 with Delhi Police bearing LR NO 580655/2020 Dated 17.09.2020 has been filed. Any person(s) company (ies)/ Bank(s) etc. is in possession of the above mentioned documents or having information of the same is requested to put forth their claim(s) if any with supporting documents to be delivered to the undersigned within 15 days of publication of this notice, post expiration of which any claim(s) objections, if raised shall be treated as null, void and as waived.

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF,
RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION,
JAL "O" PARIMAL BHAWAN, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001, ODISHA
Tel: 0674-2395734, FAX: 0674-2394946, e-mail: cerwssodisha@gmail.com

**NOTICE INVITING BID
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT FOR EXECUTION
OF RURAL PIPED WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS ON EPC
CONTRACT**

**No. __6280__ / Date: 21.09.2020
Request for Proposal (RFP)**

The Engineer-in-Chief, RWSS, (Water Supply) Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of the Governor of Odisha is engaged in the execution, operation & maintenance of water supply projects to the villages of different districts in the State of Odisha & as part of this endeavour, Government of Odisha has decided to undertake the work as mentioned below (the "Project") under EPC contract (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) basis, & has decided to carry out the bid process for selection of the eligible Contractors to whom the projects under the package may be awarded eventually for construction as well as operation and maintenance for a period of 5 years.

Package No.	Name of work	Bid Identification No	Indicative project cost (Rs. in crore)	Period for completion & O&M period	Availability of Bid document for online Bidding From To
Pkg-I	Execution of 02 Nos Individual Rural Piped Water Supply Project pertaining to Chilika, Tangi, Banpur blocks & Khordha, Jatni blocks of Khordha district including 5 years O&M on EPC contract under the package	EIC, RWSS - 05/20-21	395.65	24 (Twenty four months) & 60 (Sixty Months)	17.00 hrs of 30.09.2020 To 17.00 hrs of 30.10.2020
Pkg-II	Execution of 02 Nos Individual Rural Piped Water Supply Project pertaining to Aul Block & Rajkanika Block of Kendrapara district including 5 years O&M on EPC contract under the package	EIC, RWSS - 06/20-21	268.11	24 (Twenty four months) & 60 (Sixty Months)	17.00 hrs of 30.09.2020 To 17.00 hrs of 30.10.2020
Pkg-III	Execution of Rural Piped Water Supply Project pertaining to Ranipada cluster of Banpur Block of Khordha district including 5 years O&M on EPC contract under the package	EIC, RWSS - 07/20-21	53.62	24 (Twenty four months) & 60 (Sixty Months)	17.00 hrs of 30.09.2020 To 17.00 hrs of 30.10.2020

Name & address of officer inviting Bid: Engineer-in-Chief, RWSS Jal "O" Parimal Bhawan, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar Ph: 0674-2395734/ 0674-2531533 e-mail: cerwssodisha@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>

Sd/21.09.2020
Engineer-in-Chief, RWSS

OITPR-25040/11/0003/2021

CM hails scientists for developing tech to obviate stubble fire

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

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



tion of the technology on Thursday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

amount is inadequate to meet the entire salary bills of even these six colleges including arrears as the 12 colleges have not disbursed salaries to the staff since May, 2020.

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

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

The Congress president also condemned the Delhi Municipal Corporations' move to resume sealing of industrial units in residential areas,

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

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

Delhi Police suffering from shortage of manpower: CAG

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

"Only one out of the 72 police stations, test-checked by the audit had staff as per the norms prescribed by Bureau of Police Research and Development. In these 72 police stations, we found, there was 35 per cent shortage of manpower. Acute shortage of staff has put the police personnel under tremendous strain as their average daily duty hours in the six test-checked police districts (Central, New Delhi, South, Dwarka, North East and Rohini) ranged from 12 to 15 hours against eight hours as prescribed under the Model Police Act 2006," the CAG said. The facilities for public like reception/waiting areas, toilets, women help desk were



also below the required standards.

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

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

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

Ranges were ailing from deficiencies in terms of availability of vehicles, protective equipment like bulletproof jackets, and arms & ammunition, which are vital for quick in real time response.

"SWAT, the first responder to any armed act by the terrorists, gangsters or international elements in Delhi, was functioning with reduced efficiency in terms of bullet-proof jackets as well as specialized training for their all-round development and preparedness. The Cyber Crime Unit of the Special Cell was suffering from non-deployment of sufficient number of trained and qualified manpower to efficiently handle the cyber related crimes leading to inadequate disposal of cases in the Cyber Crime Unit," it added.

The audit revealed that against requirement of 3896 police personnel for protection of all the Protected Persons (PPs), only 2661 were posted for active duty, i.e., 32 per cent shortage of man power. "Although there was overall shortage of manpower in Security Unit 207 police personnel were assigned permanently for the security of 12 PPs who were not residing in Delhi. Similarly, there were 15 PPs who were residing in neighbouring states, but were provided round the clock security (54 police personnel) by Security Unit. As per the norms, security should be provided by the concerned state governments," the CAG said.

Drug addict held for stealing vegetables from Okhla mandi, selling outside

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



Hindu Sena members stage protest against illegal annexure of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) in Pakistan, near Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi on Wednesday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Kid, man killed in separate road accidents in Gurugram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

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

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

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

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

the ground hard," the victim told the police.

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

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

The deceased was identified as Sunil Kumar and his injured friend was identified as Pawan Kumar both are of Maharajganj in Uttar Pradesh. The duo on his way to work when the accident took place, said police.

"Their motorcycle was hit by a speeding car from the behind near the Belvedere Tower, located at DLF Phase-2. As soon as the collision occurred, the balance of the bike deteriorated and both fell down on the road. The accused escaped from the spot after the accident," said Subhash Boken, spokesperson of the Gurugram police.

Pawan Kumar, who was the pillion rider, suffered injuries in his leg. While Sunil suffered a major head injury and started bleeding. The ambulance was called by the people who were present at the spot and rushed the victims to a private hospital where Sunil died during treatment while Pawan is undergoing treatment, he said.

A case has been registered against the car driver. We have got the car number and the driver will be arrested soon," Boken said.

SDMC Mayor gives ₹10 L to family of Covid warrior

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) Mayor Anamika on Wednesday handed over a cheque of Rs 10 lakh to the family of two of its workers who died due to Covid-19 while on duty.

"SDMC has provided the financial aid of Rs 10 lakh as compensation to the families of deceased Corona warriors Selva Raj (contractual beldar) and Mahinder Singh (Safai Sainik)," the mayor said.

Anamika further said that a permanent job will also be provided to one of their family members. "Both of them contracted the virus and lost their life while on duty. They were deployed in the South Zone.

City sees 55 fresh dengue cases

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

At least 55 fresh cases of dengue have been reported in the National Capital, taking the total number of people infected with the disease to 255 this year. Also, 30 new cases of malaria and 10 cases of chikungunya also reported last week taking the total number to 213 and 67 respectively.

Mosquito-breeding has been reported in at least 67,882 households and 52,125 legal notices have been issued this year. The dengue breeding checkers have checked 14069524 houses and also issued challans to 4571 numbers of office and residential premises," according to the latest report by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), which compiles data after taking inputs from three other corporations: south Delhi, East Delhi and North Delhi municipal corporations.

Out of dengue cases, 41 patients who diagnosed with

30 NEW CASES OF MALARIA AND 10 CASES OF CHIKUNGUNYA ALSO REPORTED LAST WEEK TAKING THE TOTAL NUMBER TO 213 AND 67 RESPECTIVELY



the disease belong to Delhi while 12 patients traced here were from different states and other six patients did not provide their address. Similarly, out of total cases of malaria, 24 were from Delhi and 6 visited the city for treatment purposes from other states, as per the report of the SDMC. Dengue mosquito larvae

breed in clear, standing water while those of malaria mosquito thrive even in dirty water.

The Delhi Government has launched '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute' campaign to check mosquito breeding to prevent vector borne diseases. Last year, due to the campaign, only 2036 cases and two deaths were reported in the city. The

first edition of the anti-dengue campaign was launched in 2019.

Following a huge participation from the citizens of Delhi in the second week of the 10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute anti-dengue campaign of the Delhi government, the 10-week mass awareness campaign enters into its third week.

Railways to go for PPP model to improve services

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In order to introduce modern technologies and improve efficiencies, Indian Railways is planning to use 'Public Private Partnership' (PPP) model to complete some of the initiatives to improve services.

"It is estimated that Indian Railways would need Capital investment of around ₹50 lakh crore up to 2030 for network expansion and capacity augmentation, rolling stock induction and other modernization works to enable better delivery of passenger and freight services and to improve its modal share in transport," said Minister of Railways and Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

"One of the PPP initiatives is to invite partners to invest and induct modern rakes over select routes to provide world class services to the passengers. As part

of this initiative, the Ministry of Railways has invited applications for investment and induction of modern rakes over select routes through Public Private Partnership (PPP) to provide world class services to the passengers," he said.

Accordingly, the MOR has issued 12 'Requests for Qualification' (RFQs) on 1st July, 2020 for operation of passenger trains over approximately 109 origin-destination pairs (divided into 12 clusters) through PPP on 'Design, Build, Finance and Operate' (DBFO) basis, he said, adding that the routes are spread across various states covering the entire railway network straddling across the boundaries of the States.

The minister further said that the railways had conducted a survey through 'Interactive Voice Response System' (IVRS) on passenger amenities including train and station cleanliness. "One lakh calls were made

every day to reserved passengers randomly for obtaining their feedback. The feedback has been discontinued since the Covid outbreak as a very limited number of trains has been plying. However, no survey is being conducted based on the socio-economic profile of passengers," he said.

Replying to another question, he said that in order to cater to the travelling needs of lower income groups, Indian Railways operate mail express trains having general class coaches and sleeper class coaches.

"Besides this, fully unreserved services like Jan Sadharan, Janseva, Jan Nayak

Express, Antyodaya Express, some Intercity trains, passenger trains are also operated by Indian Railways. Further, trains are also augmented with general Class and sleeper class coaches as per commercial viability and operational feasibility," he said.

Accordingly, during the



years 2019-20, of the total 1490 coaches utilized for augmentation of existing services, 940 coaches (524 sleeper class, 389 general class and 27 second class chair car coaches) were to facilitate the passengers of lower income groups, he said.

Augmentation of services and coaches are an ongoing activity based on various parameters including demand, commercial and operational viability.

"The work of redevelopment is in advanced stage at Gandhinagar (Western Railway) and Habibganj (West Central Railway) railway stations. Redevelopment works are in progress at Gomtinagar (North Eastern Railway) and Ayodhya stations (Northern Railway). Contracts have been awarded for redevelopment of Anand Vihar (Northern Railway), Bijwasan (Northern Railway) and Chandigarh (Northern Railway) railway stations," he informed.

Married man arrested for firing outside ex-girlfriend's home for ignoring him: Delhi Police

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

The accused has been identified as Sumit Tomar. According to R P Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast district, late on Sunday night Tomar opened fire in Dharampal Colony in Aali Vihar when the 24-year-old woman was at home with her family.

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

he ran away," said the DCP.

"She found the main gate damaged and an empty cartridge and bullet lead. The woman told police that she was in a relationship with Tomar for 10 years but after his marriage in 2018, she had started ignoring him," said the DCP.

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

"During interrogation, Tomar told police that he wanted to marry the woman but could not. He had procured the gun last month from Agra," said the DCP adding the gun was found with him.

Flight Lt Singh first woman fighter pilot to fly Rafale

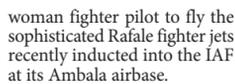


Varanasi-born Singh was commissioned into the IAF in 2017 as part of the second batch of women fighter pilots. At present, she is flying Mig-21 jets and her conversion training to fly the Rafales has commenced, sources said here on Wednesday.

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh will be the first woman fighter pilot to fly the sophisticated Rafale fighter jets recently inducted into the IAF at its Ambala airbase.



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

Duty bound to take disciplinary action against rowdy MPs: Naidu



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LS adjourned sine die amid Covid scare

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

there have been a number of precedents when the business was taken up as per schedule and bills were approved in the wake of boycott or walkout by some members.

In this context, he cited the passage of the Finance Bill and Appropriation Bill in 2013.

Naidu said had the letter suggested the postponement of bill by stating that they would attend the House, he would have discussed the issue with the government. He said there



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

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

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

Before passing the Major Port bill, 2020, Union Minister

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

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

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

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

they have been deeply painful for all those who hold the stature and the dignity of this House dear to their hearts. He appealed to the members to ensure that such unseemly behaviour was not repeated.

Though it was not the first time that some members were suspended and Bills passed when some sections of the House boycotted the proceedings, Naidu said "I find it extremely unpalatable. This kind of a situation needs to be avoided by all means."

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Govt empowers NIA to probe offences under narcotics Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

However, the latest Gazette notification signed by the Under

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

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

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

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

Bharat Biotech inks deal with Washington University School of Medicine



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AIR TICKETS

SC asks Centre to clarify on modalities of refund to passengers

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

He said that the DGCA should also cover people for refund, who have booked flights on these carriers to come back to India like in the Gulf Countries and therefore the issue needs to be clarified. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Ministry of Civil Aviation and DGCA, said that the Government has taken a decision of refund keeping in mind the welfare of all and an appropriate solution has been worked out.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CBI busts terror link with cattle smuggling

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday busted a cattle smuggling network with terror links in a State-wide raid at 15 places including Kolkata, sources said. Surprisingly the CBI investigations reached the doors of some Border Security Forces officers who along with their counterparts in the Customs department facilitated the cattle smuggling the proceeds from which found its way to trans-border terror funding and arms market. The CBI action comes about week after the National Investigation Agency busted an Al Qaeda network operating from Murshidabad district bordering Bangladesh. The CBI conducted raids at senior BSF official S Kumar's residence and sealed it after six-

hour search operations, sources said adding he was in touch with one Enamul Haq who has been identified as the mastermind of the whole operations, Md Ghulam Mustafa, Enamul Sheikh and others. It is the second time that Haq's name appears in an FIR. A big fish in illegal cattle trade he paid bribes to BSF and customs officials," said sources. The proceeds from the cow smuggling were used to purchase arms, gold and other items for the Jamatul Mujahideen Bangladesh or JMB the terror outfit whose network was busted in 2014 following the Khagrachar blasts in Burdwan district. JMB has been involved in conducting subversive activities in the neighbouring country. A team of 110 CBI sleuths conducted raids at various places including Salt Lake, Topsia and

other places in Kolkata for about eight hours sources said adding the accused had discovered a unique way of functioning without raising eyebrows. The CBI sources said some senior customs officials were also in their radar. "Suppose they would capture 50 cows ... they would then hand over the seized cattle to the Customs Department which then would call tenders to dispose the animals off. ... However while doing so they would sell away 500 in place of 50 cattle and those like Enamul would purchase them with legal documents before ... the proceeds from the sale would then go to purchase arms, gold and currency of various countries for the JMB," sources said adding investigation was on to find out whether the network had links with other organisations or not.

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala, which had declared itself as Covid-free in May 2020, faces the prospects of equalling or even overtaking neighbouring Tamil Nadu in the number of Covid-19 patients in the coming weeks. The State on Wednesday diagnosed 5,376 new patients, the highest number of positive cases to be registered on a single day. The State also registered 20 fatalities in a single day, highest number to be registered in a 24 hour period till date. Disclosing the official figures to the media on Wednesday evening, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the situation in the State is serious. "There are 42, 286 Covid-19 patients across the State on Wednesday who are under treatment. Out of the 5,376 patients diagnosed with the pandemic on Wednesday, 4,424 contracted the disease through social contacts. There are 852 patients

Thiruvananthapuram and the situation in the capital city is grievous," said Vijayan. The day also saw V S Sunil Kumar, minister for agriculture, testing positive for coronavirus. Vijayan blamed the agitations led by the BJP and the Congress throughout the State for the hike in the number of patients. "It is because of the violation of the norms by the opposition parties that the disease has spread all over the State and the number of patients went up," said Vijayan who also said that many of the participants in the agitations had tested positive. The Chief Minister also disclosed that the day saw 99 health workers and policemen testing positive. The number of new persons tested positive on Wednesday was higher than 5,337 patients in Tamil Nadu as on Tuesday. On Tuesday, Tamil Nadu had 46,350 Covid-19 patients while the tally in Kerala reached 42, 286 on Wednesday evening.

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has taking strong exception to the Union Ministry of Culture's move to keep scholars from the State away from the expert committee constituted for conducting a holistic study of the origin and evolution of Indian culture during the past 12 millennia and its interface with other cultures of the world. In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, excerpts of which were released to the media, Palaniswami expressed his shock and surprise over the non-inclusion of any scholars from Tamil Nadu in the committee. "Tamil Nadu has a glorious past and is home to one of the oldest civilizations, viz. Dravidian civilization-a living and thriving culture in the South of India," said the Chief Minister in the letter. He also drew the attention of the Prime Minister about the latter's visit to Mahabalipuram, the sea shore heritage site of Mahabalipuram for the India-China summit in October 2019. "You visited Mahabalipuram where you had observed the awe-inspiring timeless monuments and glorious legacy of Tamil heritage in full splendour. You will therefore agree with me that any chronicle of Indian history and culture would be grossly incomplete without giving its rightful place to Tamil culture and language," wrote the Chief Minister.

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

KOCHI: 67-year old Kummanam Rajasekharan, former Governor of Mizoram, has alleged that people are denied fundamental and civic rights in Kerala by the Marxist Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. "Under the Marxist rule, the police is using violence to suppress agitations for justice and democracy. What we see in Kerala is the worst kind of Stalinism as the chief minister has turned himself into a dictator. There is all round corruption and nepotism in everything associated with the Kerala Government," said Rajasekharan while inaugurating the day-night agitation by BJYM, the BJP's youth wing at Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. Rajasekharan said that Kerala has not seen the kind of police brutality being unleashed by the Government on activists agitating for restoration of fundamental rights. "Pinarayi Vijayan is exploiting religious sentiments of the people by alleging that the agitations were for banning Quran. We are not against Quran or any holy books. But we are against misusing religious sentiments to divert the attention from real issues like gold smuggling," he said. PNS

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Administrative Council (AC) which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday approved the proposal of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj to issue a notification for conducting elections to vacant Sarpanch/Panch constituencies. The detailed schedule will be finalised by the election authority. According to a statement issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations, "Filling of the vacant constitutional posts will ensure devolution of powers and proper grass-root planning in the 3rd-tier of the Local Self Government". "It will ensure that the non-functional Panchayats become functional", the statement read. Earlier, general elections to 39,521 Sarpanch/Panch constituencies in 4,483 Halqa Panchayats were conducted in 2018 of which 13,257 positions are vacant due to resignation, removal, election of Sarpanch as BDC Chairpersons, death, and non-availability of candidates at the time of election. Among them, 1,089 vacancies pertain to the office of Sarpanch, whereas 12,168 are Panch

vacancies. Pertinently, the elections to the vacancies notified earlier were postponed due to security concerns and the onset of COVID-19. Meanwhile, in another landmark decision the Administrative Council approved the re-allocation of 1997 number of unfilled supernumerary posts for recruitment of registered Kashmiri migrants and non migrant Kashmiri Pandits, who are willing to serve and settle down in Kashmir under the Prime Minister's Package. According to the government spokesman, "the decision of re-allocation of the unfilled posts is aimed at accelerating the recruitment under the PM's package and the benefits of employment to Kashmiri migrants and non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits". The Administrative Council also approved conducting the recruitment only on the basis of written test/skill test, without viva-voce, for the selection of suitable candidates through the J&K Services Selection Board within six months of the referral of posts by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, and Rehabilitation & Reconstruction. The re-allocated posts include posts of Sub Inspector Commercial Taxes and Assistant Compiler in Finance Department (997), Field Assistant,

Thane building collapse toll mounts to 40

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The death toll in Monday's collapse of a three-storey building at Narpoli in the powerloom town of Bhiwandi in the adjoining Thane district mounted to 40 on Wednesday, as more number bodies from under the debris on the third consecutive day. A 43-year-old three-storey Jilani building -- situated in the Patel Compound at Narpoli near Dharamkar Naka at Bhiwandi -- had crumbled like a proverbial pack of cards at 3.45 am, when the residents were sleeping at their homes in the early hours of Monday. The collapsed building had in all 40 flats. There were 150 residents in the building when it collapsed. The rescue and relief operations, which have been going on for the past three days, have been hampered by heavy intermittent rains. A few persons are still feared trapped under the debris of the collapsed structure.

Aligarh: Oxygen on sale without proper inspection

Aligarh: Oxygen gas was being sold by Kasimpur road located Radha Industrial Gas Plant without any proper testing, license, and registration. On Monday night, the plant was sealed after a night-long investigation by the team led by the City Magistrate. They also cease the company's bill book and receipts. Supply records are being scrutinized for the last two-month deliveries. District Magistrate was directed to register a case against plant owner Arun Agarwal and has sought a response from the drug inspector. The administrative team already confiscated all the documents along with 300 cylinders and 4 vehicles last night. The team has questioned plant owner Arun Agarwal in which it was revealed that this plant has been supplying gas in Aligarh, Hathras, Kasganj and Etah since 24th August. On 7 September, the plant owner applied for a license in the Control of Explosives office, Agra. After this raid, there is chaos within the departments for prosecution. District Magistrate Chandra Bhushan Singh gave a strict warning to the drug inspector for the action. City Magistrate and ACM II team has been instructed to do this activity continuously. PNS

Hospitals getting oxygen cylinders from unlicensed dealers

Aligarh: In the corona period, oxygen gas cylinders are playing important role in saving the lives of patients. Most of the hospitals are getting the oxygen cylinder from unlicensed dealers. According to the business sources, dealers are supplying oxygen gases which are basically used in welding to various hospitals in the district. This welding oxygen gas can be dangerous for the patients as it contains many harmful substances. In this regard, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs has already ordered to be vigilant, yet the supply is continuing without any testing. The main reason is that the industrial oxygen cylinder is much cheaper than medical oxygen. The purity of medical oxygen must be 99% but the industrial oxygen contains carbon dioxide and other heavy hydrocarbons which can be harmful to the patients. PNS

Protest against Kerala's bias against Tata's Covid Hospital

KOCHI: Citizens in Kasaragod district in Kerala are up in arms against the State Government for its indifference to the Exclusive Covid Hospital built by the Tata Group as part of their commitment to the people. "The 541-bedded hospital was built at a cost of Rs 60 crore by the Tatas in just 150 days. The Tatas handed over the fully furnished hospital building to the Kerala Government on September 9. But till date the State administration has not appointed even a single doctor or para-medic staff to the hospital though the district is seeking a surge in the number of Covid-19 patients," Sukumaran Periyachoor, Kerala State Secretary of Saparya Cultural Society, said in a release on Wednesday. PNS

Tigress that killed woman captured in Maha forest

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what came as a huge relief to the local population, a tigress on prowl in the forests of Pandharkawada in Yavatmal district of eastern Maharashtra was captured by the state forest department officials on Wednesday. Within days after it mauled a 60-year-old woman to death in an agricultural field near Andharwadi and Pattanbori villages, the two-year-old sub-adult tigress named T2C1 was captured near the Tisheshwar Wildlife Sanctuary. Ahead of its capture, the tigress was being routinely spotted through camera trap images along Andharwadi, Koparmandvi, Vasari and Kobai villages in Pandharkawada Forest Reserve. Apart from killing an elderly woman, the man eater had also attacked another person, but he escaped with injuries. The tigress had also attacked cattle. In a well-planned operation, the tigress was darted and captured successfully by the state forest officials on Wednesday, following the protocols of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

2 security guards die in flooded lift in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Two security guards of a building were killed on Wednesday after having been trapped in a flooded lift at a housing society at Agridada in south Mumbai, even as overnight rains continued to batter the metropolis and its suburbs inundating the low-lying areas and paralysing the road and rail traffic in the country's commercial capital. On a day when Mumbaiers woke up to heavy rains that had been lashing the metropolis and its suburbs for the entire night, a shocking tragedy befell Nathani Residency building in Agridada, where two security guards met a watery grave when they went to waterlogged basement at around 8 am to start the water supply for the society. However, water levels started increasing when they entered the lift and closed the doors and tried to go to the upper floors. "The flooded lift did not start nor did the doors open... They pressed the alarm buttons and some residents rushed down to save them, but could not go there due flooding," Agridada Police Station Senior Police

BDC Chairman shot dead

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A Block Development Council (BDC) Chairman of Khag Budgam was shot dead in cold blood by 'unidentified' terrorists near his ancestral home at Dalwaha village in the Central Kashmir's Budgam district late Wednesday evening. The public representative was identified as Bhupinder Singh by the local police authorities. He was not accompanied by his personal security officers at the time of the deadly attack, official sources claimed. A senior police officer in Srinagar said, the BDC chairman Bhupinder Singh left two PSOs in police station Khag and left for ancestral home alone without informing Station House Officer Khag. Local reports said, "Singh used to stay at Alooichibagh Srinagar and had gone to Khag for some work". Local political workers said Singh had contested election independently but was supported by PDP. Mainstream politicians in Kashmir valley condemned the targeted killing of BDC chairman. Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah tweeted, "Mainstream grass root political workers are easy targets for militants and unfortunately in recent years the threat to them has only increased".

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

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

With Uttar Pradesh Panchayat elections including Aligarh in the upcoming months, the demand for illegal weapons has also soared to influence voters and intimidate rivals and to score a victory at any cost. In the elections for Pradhan, violence, power and money are the backbone of most of the candidates which often turns the election into the battlefields. This resulted in rivalry affects generations of family's candidate. On the other hand, these elections are an ever-green market of illegal firearms and liquor which has received fresh input during this election in Aligarh. These weapons are being sold at elevated prices to the criminals in Aligarh division. Aligarh, Etah, Mainpuri and Bulandshaher are the biggest market of illegal arms in western UP with Aligarh as the main manufacturing hub of these illegal firearms because it is an industrial epicenter of lock and hardware industries due to which cheap labor, technique and materials are readily and easily available. Most of the country made arms also manufactured by blacksmith here in Aligarh. These weapons are being used by villagers and farmers to protect them from criminals and wild animals but during elections, these arms are used to intimidate voters and maintain their supremacy.

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General public is hereby informed that the one female **Namely: Neha Kaushik, D/o: Kailash Chand, R/o: H. No. 28, 3rd Floor, Singhal Pur Village, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. Age: 22 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Build: Medium, Wearing: Black Colour Suit and Salwar, Plastic Sleeper in feet, has been missing since 17.09.2020 at about 12.00 hrs. from her house in the area of P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.** In this regard a DD No. 111A, dated 17.09.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Shalimar Bagh, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far. Any Person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following.

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

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

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006,
Tel.: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508,
CIN No. U40101UR2019SGC025866, website: www.ujvn.com

Tender Notice दिनांक 23.09.2020

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

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

For "Replacement of Bailey Bridge by RCC Bridge on the road from Kanchanpur to Dasda at Ch. 3.00 KM sanctioned for implementation under NABARD (RIDF-XXIII), Job No. TP/COM/10/2018-19(4th call)"
DRAFT NIT No: 15/CE/PWD(R&B)/ACE(P&DU)/2019-2020

With

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

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

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

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown Age: about 30 years, Height: about 5', Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Wearing: Black colour shirt & pant & along with Red colour Belt, Bare footed has been found dead at Ekta Vihar phase 3, PS Khanjhwala, Delhi on 20.09.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 58A dated 20.09.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Khanjhwala, Delhi.** Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO:
P.S. Kanjhwala, Delhi
Rohini Distt., Delhi
DP/420/RD/2020 Tel. No. 011-25952485, 25957486

SEARCH FOR MISSING

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

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Aarti, D/o: Chedhi Lal, R/o H.No. 1854/39, Judh Bagh, Tri Nagar, Delhi, Age: 16 years, Height: 4'10", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Build: Normal, wearing Black Top and Black Pink Stripes Leggi, has been kidnapped from her house since 17.09.2020. In this regard a FIR. No. 550/20 u/s 363 IPC, dated 17.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**
P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi
DP/397/NW/2020 Ph.: 011-27181325, 27195810

Opp conundrum

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



In the end, a moral victory is inconsequential, simply because it doesn't change the facts on the ground. As noted American satirist HL Mencken said, "In human history, a moral victory is always a disaster, for it debauches and degrades both the victor and the vanquished." So though, for once, the Opposition seemed to have got its way in meeting the President over the farm Bills and was united against the Government's gross subversion of parliamentary procedures in rushing through them in the Rajya Sabha by a voice vote despite lacking the numbers, what stops the new laws? The President is not likely to withhold assent or send the Bills back except

granting an audience. Even if he were to do so hypothetically, they would be passed again, with or without any amendments, as the ruling BJP has an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha and has already set a precedent of passing debatable Bills by voice vote without discussion, deliberation or consensus. Besides, the President is not bound to act within a time-frame. And the way more Bills were passed even as the entire Opposition stayed away from the House in protest, it looks like the ruling party has no compunction in reducing an august institution to a stamping authority. So Opposition members can speak and cry hoarse all they want but cannot seek solace in parliamentary procedure or vetting by committees to stop motivated laws from being enacted. And when it comes to street fights, last year's general elections showed us how the members of the grand anti-BJP alliance frittered away their best intentions to their selfish, regional interests. Till that cohesiveness congeals as a single movement, there cannot be any hope for the Opposition.

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

Facebook vs Delhi

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



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

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

Worrisome optics

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



BHOPINDER SINGH

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Irrespective of the Governments in power, the narrative has been disconcerting.

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

SOUND BITE

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



Field hockey player —Lalit Upadhyay

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



UN Secretary-General —Antonio Guterres

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



US President —Donald Trump

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



Russian President —Vladimir Putin

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Change in guard

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

Rahul Chouhan Ujjain

Return farm Bills

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

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

Bhagwan Thadani Mumbai

Defuse LAC tension

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

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

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

KV Seetharamaiah Hassan

Ensure compensation

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

Geo-strategic significance of Gilgit-Baltistan

After using a territorially misleading map that includes parts of Kashmir, Junaqadh and other Indian territories at the virtual meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation on September 15, it now seems that Pakistan is determined to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan to the status of a full-fledged province. India is categorical that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit-Baltistan, are an integral part of India.

Pakistan's resolve to include Gilgit-Baltistan will have profound implications. First, it legalises the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This conduit connects Balochistan and Xinjiang, and is a part of the flagship project of China's multi-billion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India has expressed strong reservations against BRI as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Second, Pakistan assumes that if the India-China conflict flares up, the Kashmir issue would get internationalised and when the UN steps in, Pakistan will get to keep Gilgit-Baltistan.



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

Venu GS Kollam

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

Najibullah Mumbai

Boost handloom sales

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

Madhu Agrawal Chandni Chowk

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A win-win situation for all

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



HIMA BINDU KOTA

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

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

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

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

STEPS TAKEN FOLLOWING THE ABOLITION OF THE SPECIAL STATUS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR FURTHER COMPLICATED THE PROBLEM.

—TURKISH PRESIDENT RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN

POINT COUNTERPOINT



THE REMARKS BY PRESIDENT OF TURKEY ON J&K ARE GROSS INTERFERENCE IN INDIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ARE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE.

—INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN TS TIRUMURTI

Can Jinping afford to relent?

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



ANIL GUPTA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

roadmap in what is referred to as the "China Dream"

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

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

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

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

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

Despite the propaganda unleashed by the State-controlled media of the invincibility of the PLA forces, Xi is uncertain of an assured victory. Even a stalemate would be viewed as an Indian victory and a Chinese failure.

There is no dearth of dissenters at home waiting for his failure and ensure that he doesn't get a second chance. Xi is faced with a dilemma of relent or retreat. Knowing the ambitious persona of Xi, he is unlikely to yield ground to his dissenters so easily. Rather than being forced to resign, he would prefer to relent at an opportune time and order the PLA to vacate. How and when is a matter of negotiations and timing. Meanwhile, India should not dither under any circumstances.

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

Time to fight tobacco use with telemedicine

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



ROMITA SHAH

VIVIAN SHARAN

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



FOREIGN EYE



A CRISIS MADE IN DOWNING STREET

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

Trump says Kamala is 'Grossly incompetent'

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

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

"I was surprised to learn when Joe Biden selected (Kamala) Harris as his running mate. Believe it or not, it's true she is rated the most liberal person in Congress. I think she's grossly incompetent I'll be

honest with you," Donald Trump said during a rally in Pennsylvania.

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

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

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

"The way she talks about

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

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

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

Nepalese stage protests against China's land encroachment: Reports

Kathmandu: A civil society group in Nepal has launched protests against China for allegedly constructing buildings on the country's territory in Humla district, according to media reports on Wednesday.

The activists chanted slogans such as "Return Nepal's land" and "stop Chinese expansionism," it said.

According to media reports here, China has allegedly constructed 11 buildings on the Nepalese territory in the Humla district bordering Tibet. The disputed area lies in Lampha village of Namkha Rural Municipality in Humla district.

Beijing has maintained that the constructions were carried out on the Chinese side of the border.

The reports also said that Pillar Number 11 that defined

the Nepal-China boundary was missing from the area.

"There was just a hut in the area in 2005," Dattaraj Hamal, assistant chief district officer of Humla who visited the disputed area recently, was quoted as saying by The Kathmandu Post.

"I talked to the people there and reported to the chief district officer," Hamal said. "In turn reported to the Home Ministry. He now has gone to the area as per the Home Ministry's instructions."

Chakka Bahadur Lama, a Member of Parliament from Humla, said that as long as both sides do not ascertain the location of the missing pillar, the dispute will continue. On Tuesday, a Nepalese delegation led by Chief District Officer of Humla had reached the area to talk to Chinese officials, My Republica reported. **PTI**

Some freed Taliban prisoners returned to battlefield, says Afghan official

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

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

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

"I do know that some have returned to the battlefield, which is a violation of the agreement that they had made," Abdullah said during an online conference with the US Council on Foreign Relations. Abdullah said talks



between the two sides had begun in Doha on a positive note, as the delegations build some familiarity with each other.

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

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

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

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

Democrats propose sweeping bill to curb presidential abuses

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paris: Eiffel Tower reopens after bomb scare

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

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



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

US obstructing global fight against emissions, climate change: China

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

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

atures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

China blasts US House bill, denies forced labour in Xinjiang

Beijing: China on Tuesday lashed out at the passage of a bill by the US House of Representatives that threatens sanctions over the alleged use of forced labor in China's Xinjiang region, calling the accusation a lie.

Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the bill "maliciously slandered the human rights situation in Xinjiang" and sought to curb development and progress in the region while stirring up ethnic divisions and interfering in China's internal affairs.

"The so-called problem of forced labor is totally a lie fabricated by some organizations and personnel in the United States and the West," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

The House voted 406-3 to declare that any goods produced in Xinjiang are presumptively made with the forced labor of detained Uighurs and other ethnic minorities, and therefore banned from being imported to the US.

If enacted into law, it could force companies to avoid a region that produces 80% of the cotton in China, one of the world's top producers of the fiber, as well as tomatoes and manufactured goods.

Members of Congress say the measure is needed to press China to stop a campaign that has resulted in the detention of more than 1 million Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups under brutal conditions. **AP**

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

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

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

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

As China locked down the city of Wuhan in January, the

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

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

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

Saudi's King slams Iran in UN speech

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

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

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

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

also said Saudi Arabia welcomes US efforts at resolving the crisis.

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

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL

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



Sonia Kumari

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

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



Deen Dayal

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING



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

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

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

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

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

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

Date and other details of Notice issued u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act in loan Code No. 00035650			
Rs.80,53,79,337/- (Rupees Eighty Crore Fifty Three Lac Seventy Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Seven) payable as on 31/08/2020 along with further interest, non-compliance charges, incidental expenses, costs, and any other charges etc. from 01/09/2020 till the date of repayment, as per notice dated 31.08.2020.			
1. Rani Promoter Private Limited B-9, Shekhar Apartment, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110091 (Borrower/ Mortgagee)	2. Mr. Mithilesh Kumar Jha Flat No.212, Janki apt, plot no 7, Dwarka sector 22, Delhi 110075. (Director/ Guarantor)	3. Mr. Nagendra Kumar Sinha House No 3B, Vasudha apartment, sector 6, Vasudhra, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201012. (Director/ Guarantor)	4. Mr. Manoj Kumar NO. 2C, Vasudha apartment, sector 6, vasudha, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201012. (Director/ Guarantor)
5. Mr. Ashwani Kumar Dhawan A/61, Vivek vihar phase II, Vivek vihar, East Delhi, Delhi, 110095. (Director/ Guarantor)	6. Akshat Dhawan A/61, Vivek vihar phase II, Shahdra Jhilmil, Delhi, 110095. (Director)	7. Shanti Niketan Buildtech Private Limited B-9, Shekhar Apartment Mayur Vihar Ph-1 Delhi 110091 (Pledger)	8. Art Constructions Private Limited A/61, Vivek vihar phase II, Vivek vihar, East Delhi, Delhi, 110095. (Pledger)

Details of secured assets:
Exclusive charge by way of Registered Mortgage of leasehold land allotted to the Borrower for construction of residential flats of Project Aakriti Shantiniketan situated at PLOT NO. GH-1/B, SECTOR - 143B, NOIDA (SUB DIVIDED PLOT NO. GH-01, SECTOR - 143 B), district. GAUTAM BUDH NAGAR, U.P. MEASURING 12820.14 SQ.MTRS. (LEASE HOLD PROPERTY) (Previously allotted area measuring 13330.49 later on reduced to 12820.14 sq.mtrs.) and 74 unsold units of Project Aakriti Shantiniketan, more particularly described in the Annexure II to the Mortgage Deed alongwith hypothecation of present and future unsold construction thereon together with all receivables for the said project as per Annexure I & II to the Hypothecation Deed.
(Please Note that the units constructed in "Aakriti Shantiniketan" for which DHFL has issued NOCs for sale/lease, may be excluded from the list mentioned in 13/2 Notice, on production of copies of the NOCs of DHFL along with proofs in respect of payment made to DHFL and compliances of all other terms and conditions stipulated therein.)
The details of the abovementioned mortgaged properties and its receivables hypothecated with DHFL are more particularly described in Schedule of the 13(2) SARFAESI Notice dated 31/08/2020, which have already served you by post/courier and pasted at secured assets.

As per Rule 3(5) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, we hereby draw your attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, under which the Borrower has right to redeem the "Secured Assets" by tendering the amount of dues of the secured creditor at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets. The Borrower, Mortgagees and Guarantors are therefore, requested to pay the entire amount due together with accrued interest, costs, and charges, expenses thereon and redeem the secured assets before the date of publication of notice as stated herein. Please Note that under sub-section (13) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act the Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagees are barred from transferring and/or dealing with any of the Secured Asset(s) described above by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without obtaining our prior written consent of DHFL and non-compliance of the said provisions of the SARFAESI Act is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the SARFAESI Act.
This notice is issued without prejudice to DHFL's rights and remedies available to it under all other Acts and the same shall not be construed as waiver of any of them. DHFL also reserves its right to raise further demands for the sums found due and payable by the Borrowers, Guarantors, Pledgers and Mortgagees to DHFL.
All correspondence pertaining to this notice must be addressed to The Authorised Officer, Wholesale Lending Division, Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited, HDIL Towers, Ground Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400 051.
Date: 24-09-2020 Place: NOIDA
Sd/ (Authorised Officer) Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited

Sikkim University
SU/REG/PRO/F-2/05/2018/Vol-I/564 Date: 23.09.2020
ADMISSION NOTICE
Sikkim University announces admission to M.Phil & Ph.D programmes for the Academic Year 2020-21 in the following departments.

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

The details of courses and other admission procedure to be followed will be available on University website at www.cus.ac.in on 25th September 2020. Last date for submission of online application form is 31st October 2020 (up to mid night).
Sd/ (T.K. Kaul) REGISTRAR
davp 21318/11/0004/2021

2 year extension of GST compensation

CESS LEVY LIKELY TO COVER SHORTFALL IN TAX COLLECTION

PII ■ NEW DELHI

The GST Council is likely to approve a two-year extension of compensation cess levied on goods and services to allow Centre to pay entire shortfall in GST tax collection by states expected till June 2022.

Sources in the Government said that with 21 states expressing their preference for the Borrowing Option-1 proposed by the Centre to meet the GST compensation needs of states this year, the next course of action would extend the period of cess levy beyond five year GST transition period that ends in June 2022.

As the Council is likely to adopt the compensation formula suggested by the Centre in the difficult year of Covid-

19 pandemic, sources said it may also decide how long compensation cess levy should be extended to clear all dues to states.

"A two-year extension of cess is the most likely outcome of the Council meeting scheduled on October 5. However, the council may decide to adopt compensation formula for FY21 in the next meeting and defer decision on cess extension till a more appropriate study of the issue is done," sources quoted earlier said.

Under the existing GST Act compensation for shortfall in GST collection over an agreed formula is payable by the centre for the first five years of the operations of new tax system from July 2017 to June 2022. This is paid through collection made on account of cess levy on certain goods and services.

The term of the cess is commensurate with compensation liability with the Centre. So, the Council should withdraw cess

also after completion of five years. But with Covid presenting different challenge before the governments and has led to states bleeding over GST collections, the compensation needs of the Centre has grown manifold.

As cess could not cover this high level of compensation needs this year and may be next year, there is talk of extending the levy of cess beyond June 2022.

As per the Centre's projection, the total amount expected to be collected from Compensation cess would be to the tune of Rs 65,000 crore in fy21 while total compensation payable to all states and union territories may be to the tune of Rs 3,00,000 crore. So there is a total shortfall of Rs 2,35,000 crore expected this year.

The Centre wants this shortfall be met through extra borrowings under special dispensation by the states while their dues get settled after June 2022 by extending the compensation cess levy.

Govt proposes to formulate retail trade policy: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

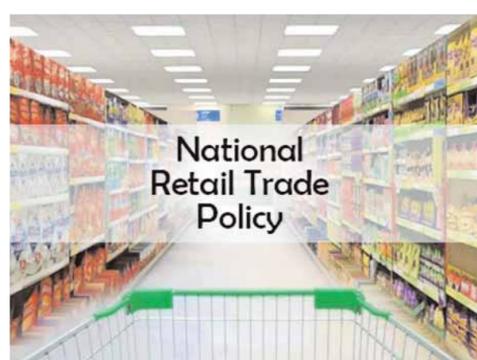
The Government has proposed to formulate a National Retail Trade Policy and stakeholder consultations are being held for the same, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that the government has set up a National Traders' Welfare Board with the objectives of welfare of traders and their employees, simplification of the Acts and rules applicable to traders, reduction of compliance burden and improvement in access to funds.

"Yes. The government proposes to formulate National Retail Trade Policy," he said in reply to a question.

Replying to a separate question, he said the government is in the process of finalising a National Logistics Policy which will help bring down logistics cost significantly.

He also said 24 sub-sectors



(such as agro-food processing, steel, agro chemicals, electronics products, furniture, leather, auto parts and textiles) in manufacturing have been identified in consultation with industry based on export potential, import substitution and employment generation capacity, where attention would be given to make India a self-reliant country and a global supplier.

In another reply, the minister informed the Upper House that Make in India is now focusing on 27 sectors under Make in India 2.0.

"D P I I T (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) is coordinating action plans for 15 manufacturing sectors, such as aerospace and defence, food processing, capital goods, leather, pharmaceutical and medical devices, etc, while the Department of Commerce is coordinating for 12 service sectors," he added.

Govt sweetens discom privatisation plan to attract investment

PII ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has sweetened the deal to privatise state-owned power distribution operations in Union Territories as 100 per cent equity holding will be sold only in financially viable utilities while it will retain 26 per cent stake in weaker discoms expected to have continued need for subsidised retail tariffs.

Also, the power purchase agreement (PPAs) of only better performing discoms having retail tariffs that cover the cost of power purchase will be assigned to the purchaser. Discoms making losses on sale on power will continue to be supported by the state-owned entity for a specified period after equity transfer to a private entity.

"The draft standard bidding document finalised for privatisation of discoms in UTs has laid emphasis on giving a commercially attractive deal to investors. This is

expected to attract better valuations for discoms," said a government official asking not to be named.

The provisions in the draft bidding document means that privatisation of discoms in say, the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, will continue to have a role of state agencies to meet the subsidy needs of the consumers. There is a gap of Rs 2.12 per unit in the average cost of supply and the average cost of realisation in J&K while the aggregate transmission and commercial (AT&C) losses in the state are staggering 47.85 per cent.

As part of the AatmNirbhar Bharat announcements, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on May 16 announced the privatisation of power distribution companies (discoms) in the UTs, including Jammu & Kashmir, amid the Covid-19 crisis. She said that this will set a model for adoption of similar reforms initiatives in states.

Markets extend losing streak for 5th day

Bharti Airtel crashes 8 pc

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices pared intra-day gains to end with losses for the fifth straight session on Wednesday as sentiment remained risk-averse despite supportive cues from global markets.

Telecom and finance counters witnessed robust selling, while gains in index heavyweights RIL and HDFC Bank restricted the losses for the benchmark.

After opening on a positive note, the 30-share BSE Sensex suddenly came under selling pressure in afternoon trade, before finally closing 65.66 points or 0.17 per cent lower at 37,668.42. Similarly, the NSE Nifty shed 21.80 points or 0.20 per cent to close at 11,131.85.

Bharti Airtel was the top laggard in the Sensex pack,

tanking 7.89 per cent, a day after Reliance Jio unveiled aggressively priced post-paid plans bundling data and subscription to streaming services.

Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, PowerGrid, ONGC, TCS and Bajaj Finance were among the other losers, tumbling as much as 3.46 per cent.

On the other hand, Axis Bank, HUL, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Nestle India and Titan led the winners' chart with gains of up to 1.82 per cent.

Reliance Industries closed 0.83 per cent higher after the company said global investment firm KKR will invest Rs 5,550 crore in its subsidiary Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) for 1.28 per cent equity stake.

Global equities found firmer ground following a rebound on Wall Street, which was once again led by technology stocks.

"Indian benchmark indices traded in a tight range

₹ closes almost flat at 75.57 amid strong \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated by one paisa to close at 75.57 against the US dollar on Wednesday as investors turned cautious amid weak domestic equities.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened weak at 73.59 against the greenback and moved in a close range in the day trade. It finally settled 1 paisa higher at 73.57 against the US currency. A strong dollar against major currencies overseas put pressure on the domestic unit, forex dealers said.

before finally ending the day with a negative bias. The uncertainty and lack of direction was clear in the market trend,

Gold, silver prices tumble

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold price declined on Wednesday by ₹614 to ₹50,750 per 10 grams in the national capital amid lower price for the yellow metal in the international market, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, it had closed at ₹51,364 per 10 grams. Silver also tanked by ₹1,898 to ₹59,720 per kilogram from its previous close of ₹61,618 per kilogram. "Spot gold prices for 24 carat in Delhi extended decline by Rs 614..." HDFC Securities Senior Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said.

which was actually supported by gains in RIL and HDFC Bank. Banking index ended the day slightly positive.

India tops up strategic reserves with cheaper crude, saves over \$685M

PII ■ NEW DELHI

Taking advantage of low prices in major oil-producing centres in Saudi Arabia and UAE, India has filled up its strategic crude oil reserves to meet its energy needs in times of emergency and saved a neat \$685.11 million in the process.

It bought crude oil at an average price of \$19 per barrel to fill its reserves in April and May when prices reached an all-time low while the US oil touched negative price levels in futures market.

The state-funded reserves are meant to tide over short-term supply disruptions and will take care of India's oil needs for 9.5 days.

The country was already holding half of its total 5.33 million tonnes oil reserves capacity when the government decided to take advantage of the low crude prices.

India's three petroleum

Another 6.5MT facility is coming up at Padur in Karnataka, and Chandikhole in Jajpur

reserve caverns at Visakhapatnam (1.33MT), Mangaluru (1.5MT) and Padur (2.5MT), managed by India Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPR), are now full.

Another 6.5MT facility is coming up at Padur in Karnataka, and Chandikhole in Jajpur.

Work on two more facility at Bikaner in Rajasthan and Rajkot in Gujarat will be initiated soon. When complete, these facilities will hold enough oil to meet domestic require-

ments for over a month.

The oil ministry has also told the ISPR to identify new sites so that the storage facility is increased to ensure oil stock of 90-100 days for use in an emergency at all times.

A large strategic oil reserve capacity can benefit even more from lower oil prices as these lead to huge savings for the exchequer.

The ISPR has signed a memorandum of understanding with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) for the lease of half of its 2.5 million tonnes Padur facility. Last year, it signed an MoU with Saudi Aramco for the lease of a quarter of Padur SPR.

The ISPR has already leased half of the 1.5 million tonne capacity in Mangaluru storage to ADNOC. It has also filled its 1.03 million tonne Vizag facility with Basra oil from another OPEC producer, Iraq.

24 firms' liquidation ordered by NCLT during April-June

New Delhi: Although fresh insolvency proceedings were suspended in May for a period of six months to help companies weather the coronavirus pandemic, ongoing proceedings continued and as many as 24 companies were ordered to go in for liquidation by NCLT benches across the country in about two months after the nationwide lockdown was imposed.

As many as 19 of these companies were defunct, according to the data of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

The total admitted amount of the companies was ₹9,302.82 crore, and the total liquidation value was just 8.6 per cent of the total admitted amount at ₹803.89 crore, the data showed. Data of some of the companies, including admitted dues and liquidation were not available.

Three corporate debtors which were ordered for liquidation as a going concern, or which were not defunct, were Bhatia Global Trading Private Ltd, Lotus Auto Engineering Private Ltd and Vintron Communication Private Ltd.

Bhatia Global Trading was ordered for liquidation by the Ahmedabad bench of the NCLT on May 29 while the New Delhi bench ordered the same for Lotus Auto Engineering and Vintron Communication on June 1 and 8, respectively. The admitted claims for Bhatia Global Trading amounted to ₹1,273.93 crore while the liquidation value was ₹250.92 crore.

RLDA invites e-bids for leasing Railway land parcel in Chennai

PII ■ CHENNAI

The Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has floated a Request for Proposal (RFP) for leasing a land parcel of 3,700 square meter in East Tambaram in Chennai.

According to the RLDA officials, the land parcel is located along Bharathamadha Street, near Tambaram Sanatorium Flyover and is located just 7 km away from the airport, 3 km from the nearest bus stand and 2 km from Tambaram Railway Station which is the third busiest station and second-largest revenue generator in Chennai.

The reserve price of the site is Rs eight crore.

"It is permitted for uses under Institutional Land Area by CMDA for 45 years. An online Pre-Bid conference was hosted by RLDA on September 14 and elicited exceptionally

good response from developers based in Chennai and nearby metros," an RLDA official said.

Ved Parkash Dudgeja, Vice Chairman of RLDA said that bolstered by a spate of infrastructural developments, the growth of IT/ITes sector and a robust infrastructure of retail complexes, hospitals and schools, Chennai has carved an identity of a stable real estate market.

"Being well-connected to the railway station, bus stand and airport, the site located in East Tambaram, South Chennai, has immense potential for institutional development," he said.

Dudgeja also stressed that the planned development on the site will boost infrastructure escalating prices of real estate projects in the vicinity and herald the socio-economic transformation of the region.

According to RLDA, the

land parcel falls under the jurisdiction of Metropolitan Transport Corporation, Chennai, Tambaram has emerged as a prominent residential hub in South Chennai.

The site is owned by Southern Railway and it is surrounded by a lower mid-end residential colony on the east side of the site. It is permitted for institutional development and is also eligible for the construction of high-rise buildings.

The lessee will be mandated to provide buildings and building services, civic amenities, vehicle parking for users and visitors on surface and basements, internal security, roads and internal circulation network, and landscaping on the site.

The lessee will be granted marketing & sub-leasing rights as per Terms and conditions of Agreement.

National book trust promotes India's Young Voices

New Delhi: The National Book Trust, India (under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India) initiated a unique step towards books and reading by organizing a Session on Promoting India's 'Young Voices'.

The session brought together eminent Children's Writers / Illustrators and the young budding Child Authors of India on a single platform. Ms. Sudha Murthy, Ms

Deepa Agarwal, Mr Subir Roy, and Dr Rajesh Vyas shared their experiences of writing and understanding what children today are interested in reading. The young Child Authors aged 7 to 15 talked about their inspiration behind writing at such a young age, and their future goals.

Ms. Sudha Murthy, Chairperson of Infosys Foundation and a prolific writer in English and

Mobile app to help pre-book vaccination

Mumbai: With an aim to augmenting AatmaNirbhar concept across the healthcare stakeholders in the country, Mumbai-based start-up WONDRx has launched a mobile app to book an appointment with the nearest doctor or the vaccination clinic. It has already listed 180K plus healthcare providers, making it the largest healthcare providers' aggregator in India.

"This product will make the vaccination journey highly convenient for every stakeholder," said WONDRx founder and director Pankaj Sindhu.

order for liquidation by the Ahmedabad bench of the NCLT on May 29 while the New Delhi bench ordered the same for Lotus Auto Engineering and Vintron Communication on June 1 and 8, respectively. The admitted claims for Bhatia Global Trading amounted to ₹1,273.93 crore while the liquidation value was ₹250.92 crore.

Karnataka debt zoomed 255% in fiscal 2018-19: CAG

Bengaluru: Karnataka is facing a financial crunch, evident from a record 255% increase in its net debt for fiscal 2018-19, an official said on Wednesday while citing a Comptroller and Auditor General report. "In its state finance audit report, the CAG red-flagged that Karnataka's net debt was ₹17,766 crore in 2018-19 financial year, a whopping increase of 255% over the 2017-18 fiscal," said the report, which was tabled in the state legislature on Tuesday. A 6-day Monsoon Session of the legislature began on Monday after it was delayed due to the Covid-induced lockdown and surging virus cases across the southern state. To meet the growing expenditure, the previous Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S) Congress coalition Govt borrowed heavily -- 55% of the debt from the open market, 27 per cent public account, 6 per cent from national social security fund and 5 per cent from the central Govt.

Particular	Standalone		
	Quarter ended 30.06.2020	Year ended 31.03.2020	Quarter ended 30.06.2019
Total Income from Operations (net)	22.67	89.13	18.40
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and Extraordinary Items)	4.44	6.82	0.70
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and Extraordinary Items)	4.44	6.82	0.70
Net Profit/(Loss) for the period	2.97	4.70	0.47
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax))			
Paid-up equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10 per share)	57.30	57.30	57.30
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserves as shown in the Balance Sheet of previous Year)	171.85	168.88	164.65
Earnings per share - (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)	0.52	0.82	0.08
Diluted earnings per share- (after exceptional items) (of Rs. 10/- each)	0.52	0.82	0.08

Notes: The above is an extract of the Standalone unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter ended 30th June 2020. The detailed Standalone unaudited results for the three months ended on 30th June, 2020 files with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Standalone Financial Results for the three months ended on 30th June, 2020 are available on the Stock Exchange website.

For Moulin Commercial Limited Sd/-
Ashish Gupta
Managing Director
DIN: 00115999

Place: Gurgaon
Date: 15.09.2020

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Building No -A2, Pandav Nagar Enclave, Above Apni Rasoi Restaurant, Ganesh Nagar, Delhi-110092, Ph : 9654529043, 7306123353

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted on following dates. The gold ornaments being auctioned have been pledged by various borrowers who have failed to close the loan accounts and redeem the pledged gold ornaments despite being notified by letters sent by registered post. The lists of pledges taken up for auction have also been displayed at the respective branches. Please note that the items remaining un-auctioned shall be auctioned on any other date with our further notice. Changes, if any, in the venue and date of auction shall be displayed at the venue on the date of auction mentioned above and on the Company website and no further notice regarding the change of date and venue shall be issued.

NORTH EAST DELHI: Bhajanpura, Dilshad Colony, Gauri, Moujpur, Durgapuri Branches

AUCTION CENTER: Durgapuri Branch, Kosamattam Finance Ltd., C-240, Ground floor, 100 feet road, Harday puri, Near- LIC, Durgapuri, Delhi, Phone- 9654529043, 7306123353, Date & Time: 28/09/2020 10:00AM

List of pledges- **BHAJANPURA:** 257, 2170, 2211, 2212, 2317, 4040, 4064, 8571, 8668, 11135, 14187, 14188, 15536, 16811, 16872, 17002, 17014, 17163, 17194, 17378, 17416, 17421, 17429, 17432, 17540, 17576, 17622, 17623, 17630, 17650, 17660, 17703, 17720, 17725, 17728, 17737, 17885, 17924, 17966, 17970, 18084, 18091, 18099, 18114, 18129, 18143, 18156, 18175, 18176, 18180, 18202, 18217, 18266, 18284, 18286, 18304, 18327, 18404, 18419, 18465, 18482, 18525, 18527, 18528, 18541, 18548, 18684, 18693, 18723, 18748, 18800, 18857, 18871, 18873, 18930, 18949, 18954, 18955, 18957, 18958, 19023, 19055, 19061, 19215, 19246, 19280, 19301, 19322, 19335, 19355, 19373, 19448, 19463, 19472, 19479, 19509, 19515, 19535, 19592, 19700, 19702, 19715, 19752, 19768, 19772, 19871, 19892, 19916, 19936, 19956, 19958, 19962, 20001, 20007, 20031, 20035, 20046, 20072, 20084, 20109, 20113, 20152, 20160, 20205, 20209, 20238, 20242, 20251, 20255, 20300, 20319, 20327, 20340, 20345, 20376, 20387, 20401, 20405, 20409, 20414, 20422, 20424, 20429, 20440, 20455, 20465, 20467, 20493, 20522, 20532, 20533, 20550, 20573, 20590, 20597, 20608, 20610, 20613, 20627, 20640, 20643, 20671, 20687, 20689, 20717, 20743, 20746, 20750, 20764, 20776, 20783, 20788, 20807, 20809, 20832, 20871, 20932, 20984, 20995, 21037, 21050, 21051, 21069, 21082, 21089, 21102, 21114, 21128, 21133, 21139, 21157, 21215, 21258, 21260, 21266, 21279, 21294, 21296, 21306, 21322, 21324, 21327, 21340, 21353, 21358, 21371, 21373, 21384, 21392, 21397, 21401, 21455, 21464, 21485, 21486, 21524, 21525, 21554, 21571, 21577, 21596, 21611, 21634, 21649, 21669, **DILSHAD COLONY:** 4027, 6666, 6670, 6739, 6811, 6858, 6915, 6920, 6926, 6931, 3207, 3218, 3264, 3305, 3345, 3357, 3369, 3370, 3439, 3445, 3458, 3476, 3478, 3516, 3608, 3645, 3671, 3672, 3746, **MAYURVIR PHASE III:** 9274, 9494, 10068, 10129, 10179, 10221, 10228, 10288, 10320, 10327, 10338, 10418, 10539, 10549, 10575, 10695, 10697, 10701, 10735, 10755, 10772, 10795, 10814, 10825, 10826, 10830, 10834, 10852, 10877, 10880, 10881, 10887, 10890, 10891, 10901, 10937, 10983, 10996, 11018, 11077, 11092, 11146, 11168, 11169, 11177, 11196, 11222, 11291, 11298, 11301, 11339, 11350, 11381, 11386, 11391, 11413, 11428, 11538, 11548, 11562, 11611, 11615, 11622, 11628, 11671, 11685, 11708, 11716, 11731, 11767, 11804, 11810, 11879, 11891, 11923, 11946, 11997, 12026, 12239, 12259, **SHAKARPUR:** 219, 394, 478, 479, 567, 27, **ASHRAM:** 206, 252, 367, 396, 398, 399, 453, 458, 480, 481, 482, 496, 497, 498, **MAYURVIR PHASE I:** 2894, 3066, 3207, 3565, 3630, 3640, 3654, 3682

WEST DELHI: Adyapak Nagar Branch & Chanakya Place

AUCTION CENTER: Adyapak Nagar Branch, Kosamattam Finance Ltd, No. A-20, Adhyapak Nagar, Opp. Hanuman Mandir, Najafgarh Road, Nangli, West Delhi, Delhi. Pin- 110041, Ph: 9654529043, 7306123353, Date & Time: 29-09-2020 10:00 AM

List of pledges- **ADHYAPAK NAGAR:** 58, 61, 64, 947, 5234, 5550, 5560, 5634, 5784, 5806, 5851, 5854, 5856, 6116, 6143, 6177, 6207, 6230, 6255, 6269, 6278, 6285, 6348, 6408, 6411, 6458, 6499, 6530, 6541, 6542, 6592, 6609, 6611, 6637, 6640, 6641, 6650, 6669, 6701, 6720, 6731, 6736, 6768, 6773, 6801, 6812, 6831, 6877, 6884, 6901, 6923, 6927, 6953, 6996, 6998, 7007, 7015, 7030, 7043, 7053, 7065, 7082, 7095, 7115, 7166, 7175, 7176, 7185, 7190, 7192, 7205, 7213, 7214, 7216, 7228, 7231, 7235, 7249, 7260, 7261, 7274, 7291, 7306, 7329, 7330, 7335, 7360, 7363, 7366, 7372, 7421, 7440, 7494, 7499, 7530, 7543, 7546, 7555, 7557, 7562, 7564, 7613, 7636, 7652, 7661, 7670, 7674, 7693, 7705, 7709, 7710, 7715, 7729, 7730, 7747, 7749, 7755, 7771, 7778, 7791, 7793, 7803, 7820, 7846, 7852, 7855, 7856, 7858, 7860, 7861, 7863, 7867, 7869, 7870, 7874, 7875, 7876, 7877, 7878, **CHANAKYA PLACE:** 220, 244, 260, 262, 271, 273, 390, 400, 416, 426, 441

PERSONS WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ABOVE AUCTION SHALL COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. Submit Know Your Customer (KYC) documents to the satisfaction of the company;
2. Submit an Earnest Money Deposit of Rs 1,00,000 (One Lac Rupees Only) by way of RTGS / Neft / Demand Draft drawn on Kosamattam Finance Limited. The same shall be returned to the unsuccessful bidders.
3. Allowing participation in the auction and acceptance of bids shall be at the sole discretion of the Company. For further details and terms & conditions please contact us on +91 9654529043 during office hours on or before 28-09-2020.

REGIONAL MANAGER

Trend Blazer

'I pledge to work for deaf community'

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

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

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



'I had certain work commitments to fulfill. As actors, our nature of work

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

—Alaya F

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



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

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

Cusack on his interest in Kashmir

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

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

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



A SAFER HOME AWAY FROM HOME

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Edward believes that challenging and dangerous times provide

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

Well, the future is the present.



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

History in the making

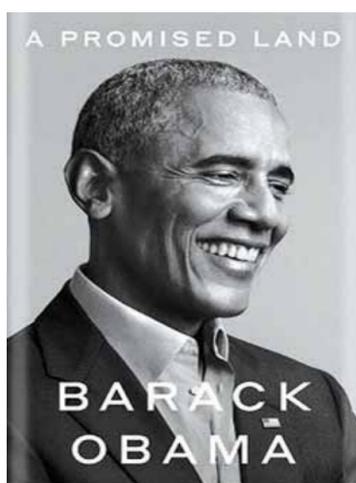
From a young man searching for his identity to a leader of the free world, **BARACK OBAMA**, in his presidential memoir, *A Promised Land*, describes details of both his political education and the landmark moments of the first term of his historic presidency — a time of dramatic transformation and turmoil

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Ayushmann in Time's list

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

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

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



Ayushmann said.

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

FLY MORE

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

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

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



eration of revenue and employment for local youth. The design height of the building is optimally done to reduce the cost

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

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

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

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

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

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

GAIL's campaigns reach masses

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

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

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

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

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

Its #GreenDriveWithNaturalGas online initiative aimed to spread awareness about the use of natural gas as a fuel.

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

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

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

A NOTCH HIGHER

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



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

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

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

for SMEs, BFSI, large institutions and multinational corporates to make working from home easier, safer and more efficient.

The collaboration display embraces a 4K Ultra HD 70-class interactive display, 12+12W built-in speakers, a high-quality camera and an IoT sensor hub that works seamlessly with the best Microsoft 365 collaboration tools. The device comes with a built-in microphone and a wireless casting that works with Windows and Android devices. It provides clear, visual information to enable more efficient workstation utilisation and creates a comfortable meeting and training environment for more productive collaboration and learning, while also improving overall facilities management. Besides, the 10-point Projected Capacitive [PCAP] touch technology and Direct Optical Bonding provides a more accurate touch precision and natural Pen-on-Paper experience.

The launch took place virtually with a footfall of over 500 corporate customers across the industry. The 4K Ultra HD Windows Collaboration Display is available for purchase all over India directly from the company or through authorised SHARP dealers and is priced at ₹11,29,000.

Western Railway organises webinar

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

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

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

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

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



Championship) were talked about with great pride.

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

the very best for the Games.

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

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

GREENER AND CLEANER

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

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

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

Where did you see it the most?

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



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

Do you have any plans to make the city beautiful?

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

What is the action plan to protect the property of the

Municipal Corporation from the land mafia?

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

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

RITES to work on ₹475 crore railway electrification

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

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

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

KIIT honoured with Utkrisht Sansthan Vishwakarma Award

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

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

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



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

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

IN SHORT



The Swachhta Pakhwara is being organised at various locations in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) premises till September 30. The Swachh Colony programme began at CLW on Sept 20 and ended yesterday. On the third day, the cleanliness drive was held in the various areas of CLW like Area 5, Area 6 and drains,

wherein CEE/D&D, CMM/TM along with other officers, staff, vice wardens of Area 5 and Area 6 and cleanliness workers actively participated, maintaining all precautionary measures for COVID-19.

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



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



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

TODAY

KINGS XI PUNJAB VS **ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE**

Live from 7:30pm
STAR SPORTS 1 & 3

IPL 2020

Faf du Plessis | 130 runs

Sam Curran | 4 wickets

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

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

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

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



Sanju Samson in action against CSK | IPLT20.com

Samson worked on fitness, power-hitting

PTI ■ SHARJAH

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

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Skipper Rohit Sharma's effortless batting formed the cornerstone of Mumbai Indians' resounding 49-run win over Kolkata Knight Riders in an Indian Premier League match here on Wednesday.

On a big Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Rohit pummelled the KKR bowlers into submission for a 54-ball 80 and powered Mumbai to an imposing 195/5.

The night belonged to Rohit, the great white-ball exponent, whose knock was laced with six sixes.

Then the Jasprit Bumrah-led Mumbai attack did most things right to restrict KKR to 146 for nine and end their winless streak in the UAE.

KKR were never on course for a comfortable chase as they lost openers Shubman Gill (7) and Sunil Narine (9) cheaply to be in a spot of bother at 25 for two.

One-down skipper Dinesh Karthik (30 off 23) and Nitish Rana (24 off 18) tried to up the ante but they were still playing the catch-up game with 125 runs needed from the last 10 overs.

Kolkata were dealt a double blow in quick succession — first Karthik was trapped by Rahul Chahar (2/26) in front of the wicket and then Hardik Pandya grabbed a running catch on the fence to send back Rana.

Bumrah (2/32) in the 16th over sealed the game for Mumbai as he removed Andre Russell (11), who was bowled, and then forced Eoin Morgan (20) to edge to the wicket-keeper.

Pat Cummins (33 off 12) launched into Bumrah with four sixes in a very expensive 18th over, but it was too late for Kolkata, who failed to put up a contest. Bumrah went for 27

GET SET RO

Rohit stars in Mumbai Indians' 49-run win over KKR



Rohit Sharma chats with his Mumbai Indians teammate Suryakumar Yadav during Mumbai Indians innings | IPLT20.com

Pollard plays 150th game for Mumbai

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

"Having someone like Pollard in the squad is always nice. He is a massive player for us, hopefully he'll come out and enjoy his game, like he always goes," MI captain Rohit Sharma said at the start of Wednesday's match. A master of hitting humongous sixes, 33-year-old Pollard has played 11 consecutive seasons for MI since 2010, has scored 2,786 runs at an amazing strike rate of 146.64 — hitting 177 sixes and 183 boundaries.

The only other player that instantly comes to mind for his loyalty to a single franchise is Virat Kohli, who has played for RCB in all 13 seasons that IPL has been in existence for. Pollard didn't have an extraordinary first season with MI in 2010 — 273 runs in 14 matches without a half-century and 15 wickets — but the franchise owners kept faith in him as he was more than handy with the ball too. He has bagged 57 wickets at an economy rate of 8.83. A brilliant fielder in the deep, Pollard has taken 83 catches so far. **IAN S**

DUGOUT MOTION PICTURE



Mumbai Indians West Indian all-rounder Kieron Pollard poses for a picture as he receives a t-shirt for playing his 150 match for the defending champions | IPLT20.com

DEW FACTOR WILL GAIN MORE SENSE

The first week of the IPL has already shown that dew will play a major role in the tournament and it will only gain more significance as the pitches get slower, said Australian limited overs skipper and RCB opener Aaron Finch. The teams are expectedly preferring to chase after winning the toss with pitch getting easier in the second half and a wet ball making life tougher for the bowlers. "The dew will play a big part in the tournament. The last three games, the game at Sharjah (CSK vs RR) and our game here (Dubai), there was more dew than expected," said Finch. "I think as the games go on and there will be lots of games played over and over on the same wickets, the wickets will get slower and the dew factor will become even more."

MORRIS RECOVERING FROM SIDE STRAIN

South Africa all-rounder Chris Morris is unlikely to be available for RCB's match against Kings XI Punjab on Thursday after suffering a side strain, the team's Director of Cricket Operations Mike Hesson said. "Chris Morris unfortunately picked up a slight side strain a few days ago, he would have played a huge role through the middle and death overs, his batting would have had a huge impact as well," Hesson said in a video posted by on RCB's Twitter handle. "This does change the balance of our side, he is a three in one cricketer, he is not easy to replace and as a result, we had to change the structure of our side. "Hopefully, Chris will come into consideration for selection in a game or two, we will continue to monitor him," he added.

HOLDER REPLACES MITCHELL MARSH

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

RAYUDU COULD MISS ONE MORE GAME

A mild hamstring niggle is likely to keep CSK in-form batsman Ambati Rayudu out for one more IPL match. Rayudu, who played a blazing 71-run knock in the tournament opener against Mumbai Indians, missed CSK's second match against Rajasthan Royals on Tuesday night due to the injury. "It is not a serious injury. He has a mild niggle in hamstring. His participation in next game will be known only on match day," CSK's chief executive officer Kasi Viswanathan told PTI.

GILL FOCAL POINT OF KKR BATTING

Shubman Gill is a "terrific" batsman and is the focal point of the Kolkata Knight Riders batting unit, feels former New Zealand cricketer Scott Styris. Gill, 21, has played a total of 28 matches for KKR in which he has amassed 506 runs. "I've been the number one cheerleader since the last 18 months. Since Shubman Gill has been around I can say I'm at the top of that fanboy list and I think Gill is a fabulous cricketer. I think he's a terrific, talented batsman," Styris said while speaking on Star Sports show Game Plan. "Shubman Gill, now with the loss of Robin (Uthappa) and Gautam Gambhir at KKR, is a leader, the focal point of that batting unit. He is best batsman of KKR," he added.

14-day quarantine didn't help: MS

PTI ■ SHARJAH

The extended two-week quarantine of Chennai Super Kings hampered his preparations as he did not get enough time for batting practice, said captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni after his side lost to Rajasthan Royals by 16 runs in their second IPL game.

Dhoni came in to bat at No 7, sending the likes of Sam Curran and Kedar Jadhav ahead of him in a mammoth 217-run chase on Tuesday.

Asked why he came so low in the order, the CSK captain said, "I haven't batted for a long time. 14-day quarantine doesn't help."

"Also, we wanted to try different things, give opportunities to Sam (Curran). We have the opportunity to try different things. If they don't work, you can always go back to your strengths," the CSK skipper said.

Dhoni's reference was to CSK's extra one-week quarantine after 13 people in their contingent tested positive for Covid-19, resulting in missing out on important training sessions. He was not out on 29 off 17 balls with three sixes in the last over.

Although he didn't name Murali Vijay but the veteran opener's run-a-ball 21 was one of the reasons for CSK falling short besides an off-day from his spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Piyush Chawla.

"With 217 on the board, we needed a very good start which was not the case. Steve (Smith) and (Sanju) Samson batted very well. We need to give credit to their bowlers. Once you've seen the first innings, you know the lengths to bowl," Dhoni said.

"Their spinners did well to bowl away from the batsman. Our spinners made the error to bowl too full. If we would've maybe restricted them to 200, it would've been a good game."

Kings look to open account

PTI ■ DUBAI

Kings XI Punjab will look to put behind the controversial 'short run' decision in their IPL opener and start afresh when they take on Virat Kohli's buoyant Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Thursday.

In their opening game against Delhi Capitals, the square-leg umpire erroneously called KXIP's Chris Jordan for a short run in the third ball of the 19th over, effectively costing his team the closely fought game.

KXIP went on to lodge an appeal to the match referee over the incident but on Thursday, KL Rahul and Co would like forget the unsavoury incident and focus on the task ahead.

In contrast, RCB opened their campaign on a winning note



Chris Gayle arrives to bat in KXIP nets | Twitter

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

Devdutt Padikkal started his IPL career on a classy note hitting a sublime half-century and will once again be in focus, while AB de Villiers will also look to continue in the same vein following a crucial half-century.

Both Kohli and Aaron Finch looked good on Monday night and would be itching to spend more time in the middle. Yuzvendra Chahal, as always, will be the key man in the RCB bowling attack. But Umesh Yadav continues to leak runs and going by his showing in the first game, he could be replaced by Mohammad Siraj. It remains to be seen if the team can fit in England all-rounder Moeen Ali in the middle-order. With Josh Philippe being chosen as the specialist wicketkeeper batsman to start with, Ali can only replace Dale Steyn in the

Batting at No 7 is not leading from front: Gambhir lashes out at Dhoni

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni did not lead from the front by dropping himself down the batting order during a mammoth chase, opined former India batsman Gautam Gambhir, tearing into CSK captain's decision to bat at number seven against Rajasthan Royals.

The former India opener reckons that if any other captain had done this, he would have drawn a lot of flak but since it is Dhoni, people are not even talking about it.

"I was a bit surprised to be honest. MS Dhoni batting at No 7? And sending (Rituraj) Gaikwad, Sam Curran before him. Makes no sense to me. In fact you should be leading from the front," Gambhir told ESPNcricinfo's T20 Time Out.

"This is not what you call leading from the front. Batting at No 7 when you're chasing 217. The game was over. Faf was probably the lone warrior," he said.



Faf du Plessis raises his bat after scoring fifty runs against Rajasthan | IPLT20.com

The 38-year-old Gambhir, who played 58 Tests and 147 ODIs between 2003 and 2016, also questioned CSK's intent to win the game.

"There is nothing wrong if you end up getting out early, at least start leading from the front, trying to inspire the team as well. What you did in the last over (hitting 3 sixes in last over), probably if you'd done that coming in at No 4 or 5, alongside Faf, you could have made a game out of it," said Gambhir. "Probably there was no such intent to make a game out of it. I thought after the (first) six overs, they had literally

Dhoni will take some time to find form: Fleming

Sharjah:

It will take some time to see MS Dhoni — the finisher, that everyone is waiting for, says Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming as his side fell short in its run chase against Rajasthan Royals despite having the former India captain at the crease.

"We have this question every year. He was in the 14th over, which is pretty much optimal time, and sort of batted accordingly. He is coming back from not playing a huge amount of cricket," Fleming said at the post-match press conference. "So, the expectations to see him at his best is gonna take some time. But you see him towards the end, he was very good. Faf du Plessis carried the

form, so we weren't too far away. It wasn't the batting that was the worry to be honest."

Fleming said his spinners were slow in adjusting the length of their deliveries (they bowled overpitched). Sanju Samson (74) was on fire against their spinners. "Their (RR) hitting was very good in the 8 overs they faced. It was a good surface (to bat) and we were slow on adjusting. We did not adjust quickly. There was intent to adjust but execution was poor."

"So it was dangerous time and we had to just hang in there and try. We came close to pulling back to a manageable score but that last over took us out of reach." **PTI**

Gambhir said it was "absolute miscalculation" on the part of CSK to delay Dhoni's arrival at the crease. "When you don't have Suresh Raina, you're making people believe that Sam Curran is better than you. You're making people believe

that Rituraj Gaikwad, Curran, Kedar Jadhav, Faf du Plessis, M Vijay, all these guys, are better than you. "Probably not the right captaincy as well. This is not how you ask someone like MS to lead the side."

Bianca to miss rest of 2020

Ottawa:

Last year's US Open champion Bianca Andreescu said on Tuesday she will sit out the remainder of the season to focus on her "health and training" after a year beset by injury. Andreescu, who beat Serena Williams at Flushing Meadows 12 months ago, has not played a match since hurting her knee last October at the WTA Finals in Shenzhen.

"I have come to the difficult decision to skip the clay court swing this year and will be taking the remainder of the season off to focus on my health and training," Andreescu wrote on Twitter.

"As hard as it was to come to this conclusion, I have so much to look forward to in 2021, including the Olympics; I want to use this time to focus on my game so I can come back stronger and better than ever."

Andreescu joins defending Roland Garros champion Ashleigh Barty and newly-crowned US Open winner Naomi Osaka on the absentee list for the September 27-October 11 Grand Slam in Paris. **AFP**

Women's FIFA U-17 World Cup likely to be postponed again

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The women's FIFA Under-17 World Cup, which has been rescheduled to February-March, is likely to be postponed yet again in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Originally scheduled to be held in five venues of India from November 2 to 21, the women's age group showpiece was pushed to February 17-March 7 next year due to the pandemic, which has played havoc with sporting calendars worldwide.

With the health crisis still showing no signs of abating and with the qualifying tournaments yet to be held in Africa, North and Central America and South America, there is a high possibility of the tournament getting postponed yet again.

"There is a high possibility that the women's FIFA U-17 World Cup will be postponed again. The new time frame when the tournament will be held is yet not known. But most probably it is getting postponed," a source privy to the development told PTI. All India Football Federation (AIFF) general secretary Kushal Das, however,

told PTI that there is "no official update" on the matter yet. "But when asked specifically whether there is a possibility of the postponement of the tournament in view of the prevailing situation, he said, "It can be (postponed)."

With less than five months left for the tournament, the confederations of Africa (CAF), North and Central America (CONCACAF) and South America (CONMEBOL) are yet to hold their qualifiers. Europe (UEFA) cancelled its qualifying tournament last month and nominated Spain, England and Germany — its highest-ranked teams. The confederation of Oceania (OFA) did the same and nominated New Zealand as its representative in the U-17 World Cup.

Only Asia (AFC) conducted the qualifiers as scheduled. Japan and North Korea qualified after becoming the champions and runners-up respectively in the 2019 AFC U-16 Women's Championship. The AIFF had planned to start the national camp early next month but it may not happen if the tournament is postponed.