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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

State needs to act for public good

Contemporary notions of correctness demand that good citizens should shun stereotypes. As a rule, this is unexceptionable. No one but the most hardened bigot would, with a straight face, say and believe that all Chinese look the same. Of course, they don't, and the suggestion is as preposterous as the old colonial belief in the teeming mass of faceless natives.

At the same time, Governments and policymakers inevitably fall back on stereotypes or, to use a less contentious term, generalisations or, if you so prefer, aggregation. The Covid-19 pandemic, for example, has two clear dimensions. First, there is the purely medical or scientific dimension centred on, first, evolving a preventive vaccine and, for the moment, securing forms of treatment that will minimise deaths from this deadly virus. No doubt there are some national characteristics involved in the different schools of medicine favoured by people. In India, for example, the vast range of immunity boosters available in the market range from homeopathic sugar pills to herbal cocktails based on medicinal plants. Then there is yoga and meditation. In the West, apart from immunity boosters containing Vitamin-C and zinc, there is greater emphasis on physical exercise and controlling obesity. The British Government, for example, taking its cue from an overweight Prime Minister who recovered from a very serious bout of Covid-19, has begun a campaign against obesity.

There is, however, another dimension to the management of Covid-19 that involves the state. It is well established that the virus is hugely contagious and is prone to spreading rapidly following contact with an infected person. Consequently, Covid-19 is a public health issue that demands state action to, first, 'flatten the curve' and then make the environment safe for people. And this is where national character assumes significance. At the heart of public policy is the question of the quantum of demands a state can legitimately make on its citizens. This is a question that mainly involves democracies. Authoritarian regimes — and China is the most notable example — are in a position to evolve top-down strategies that can be implemented by force on a passive citizenry. From all accounts — and despite subsequent controversies over the manner in which the virus crossed international borders — the lockdown in Wuhan, where the virus is understood to have originated, was by far the most draconian. When it was put into operation in the initial months of the pandemic, there were concerns over the blackout of news and the so-called violation of people's fundamental human rights. Regardless of the veracity of these charges and the paucity of credible information, it is now recognised that China has got its act together and no longer features among the world's hot spots.

China's approach to tackling Covid-19 was accompanied by people's adherence to its Government's guidelines. There was no real public debate on the issue and if people were resentful, they kept their disquiet to themselves. This is unlike other countries where restrictions on normal life has led to a spirited public debate. More to the point, it would seem that Governments have tried to balance between lives and livelihood, with varying degrees of success. In making their decisions, Governments have factored in their understanding of popular endurance and other socio-cultural assumptions.

In a statement to Parliament last week, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson asserted that the Covid-19 infections in the UK were worse than in Italy because Britons are far more 'freedom loving' and, therefore, less inclined to follow official instructions. "It is very difficult to ask the British population uniformly to obey guidelines in the way that is necessary."

This remark prompted the Italian President Sergio Mattarella to retort: "We Italians also love freedom, but we also care about seriousness."

The snub was timely. Italy has a reputation for being an extremely fun-loving country which is innately uncomfortable with regimentation — as even Mussolini found to his cost when he attempted to make his regime excessively militaristic. Italians also have a deep sense of family and it was said that excessive contact with grandparents was a factor behind the high death rates from Covid-19 in the initial months. However, despite these social complications, the March lockdown in northern Italy was draconian. The UK has never experienced anything like it.

That has less to do with Britons being more freedom loving. The British, as a rule, are said to be terribly law abiding. Had the Government risked temporary inconvenience for the larger good, it is more than likely that the British people would have adhered to the new rules. However, the problems invariably happen when Governments hesitate to take strong measures or put individual responsibility over the sense of common good.

This is what may be happening in the case of the Durga Puja celebrations in West Bengal scheduled for late-October. While the Government has suggested certain steps to ensure social distancing and advised the wearing of masks, these steps have been offset by the ₹50,000 grants promised to every puja committee. In other words, populist considerations have prevailed over a larger sense of responsibility in an election year. We can say this is the Bengali character, but if the State authority is weak-kneed, why should the innate irresponsibility of a few not set the tone?

National character is a reality but so is the power of a State to act for the public good.

Till when to wait for UN role: PM

Modi questions UN position in Covid fight

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Making a strong case for a significant role for India in the United Nations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday stressed the need for changes in the international body and questioned its position in fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

He also assured the global community that India will provide corona vaccine to the world as it is the world's biggest pharmaceutical drugs manufacturer.

Addressing the 75th annual session of the United Nations General Assembly virtually in Hindi, Modi said India has already supplied relevant drugs to more than 150 countries in the past few months since the outbreak of the pandemic. He said while the world is fighting

it for the last eight to nine months, "where is the UN in this joint fight. Where is the effective response?"

Focussing on a more prominent role for India in the UN and fight against corona, the Prime Minister avoided making any reference to ongoing tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and frosty ties with Pakistan in his 20-minute speech. He also did not respond to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's remarks about India in his speech.

However, Modi put a question mark on the UN role by stating that though the third world war did not take place so far but the past years saw several wars and civil strife besides terrorist attacks killing scores of innocent people.

The PM acknowledged that while the UN had several

notable achievements to its name in the 75 years of its experience, including the prevention of a third world war, "we can't deny terrorist attacks shook the world."

"We have successfully avoided a third world war but we cannot deny many wars happened, many civil wars happened. Terrorist attack shook the world. Blood was spilled. Those were killed were like you and me. Children left the world prematurely," he said.

Strongly pitching a greater position for India, he said when the UN was formed in 1945 the world was significantly different. Challenges in the 21st century and future are now different and the UN has to change to keep pace with changing times, Modi said adding the global forum needed to introspect.



Underlining that the UN commands respect in India, Modi, however, said the countrymen were anxious as to when will the much awaited reforms take place in the body. "They are worried whether the process will reach a logical end. Till when will India be kept away from the UN's decision-making process?" he said.

"When we were weak, we didn't trouble the world. When we became strong, we didn't become a bojh (burden) on the world. Till when do we have to wait? India has sent soldiers to UN peace-keeping missions and India has lost the most number of soldiers. India has always thought about the welfare of the world," the PM said in strong opening remarks.

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SAD quits NDA over farm laws

AMITABH SHUKLA ■ CHANDIGARH

One of the oldest partners of the BJP — the Shiromani Akali Dal — which has been with it through thick and thin for decades, finally quit the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Saturday, signalling a complete political break from its past on the three farm Bills passed by Parliament early this week.

Eying the March 2022 Assembly elections which is expected to be fought on the Farm Bills, SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal announced the decision to part with NDA after a meeting of the core committee of the party here saying the decision was taken due to injustice to farmers, Sikhs, Punjab and Punjabi language.

"In the last two months, our attempt was to make aware the Central Government, the sentiments of the people of Punjab. But with regret we have to say that the Bill was passed with brute force... You know what happened in the Rajya Sabha... Our Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal had resigned earlier in protest," Badal said late in the evening.

He said the party took a conscious decision after talking to the party workers, talking to the farmers and people of the state. "For the last few days, I have been talking to everybody... The entire leadership of the Akali Dal has decided not to be a part of the NDA which has brought Ordinances and Bills which are against Punjab and farmers," he said.

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Nadda forms new team

Drops Ram Mohan Singh, P Muralidhar Rao, Anil Jain, Saroj Pandey as general secretaries

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

BJP national president JP Nadda on Saturday announced a new team of office-bearers and significantly replaced Ram Mohan Singh, P Muralidhar Rao, Anil Jain, Saroj Pandey as general secretaries.

Nadda appointed Bengaluru Member of Parliament Tejasvi Surya as party's youth wing president, replacing Poonam Mahajan.

The list of eight general secretaries has five new faces with Bhupender Yadav, Arun Singh, and Vijayvargiya being retained.

Dushyant Kumar Gautam (MP Delhi), D Purandreshwari, CT Ravi (MLA, Karnataka), Chugh (Punjab), and Dilip Saikia (MP, Assam) are new choices as general secretaries.

In the list of vice presidents, Nadda has retained ex-Chief Ministers Dr Raman Singh (Chhattisgarh), Vasundhara Raje (Rajasthan), and Baijyanti Jay Panda (Odisha).

The new vice-presidents are: West Bengal leader Mukul Roy, former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das, members of Parliament Rekha Verma, Annapurna Devi, Bharatiben Shiyal, DK Aruna,



Radha Mohan Singh, M Chuba Ao and AP Abdullakutty.

Radha Mohan Singh is a former Union Minister and former State BJP president. His induction as the party's national VP comes ahead of the



Bihar Assembly polls, obviously to send a message among his Rajput caste men. Besides Radha Mohan Singh, the poll-bound Bihar has three others in the list of office-bearers, most of them retained from the last team.

Similarly, Mukul Roy's elevation as vice-president is seen as a move with an eye on the next year's Bengal Assembly elections. In addition to Roy, Member of Parliament (West Bengal) Raju Bisht figures as spokesperson in the list.

Bengal ex-BJP chief protests plum posts for turncoats
SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The reports of growing rift within the Bengal BJP that was hitherto ruled out by party stalwarts on Saturday came to the fore with senior leader and former State party president Rahul Sinha speaking out openly against the central leadership's decision to honour Trinamool Congress defectors with priced posts at the cost of time-tested performers.

Sinha's outburst came hours after Mukul Roy and Anupam Hazra were elevated to the post of BJP national vice president and national general secretary respectively.

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Govt needs ₹80,000 crore to buy Covid vaccines for all: SII

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The government will need ₹80,000 crore over the next one year to buy and distribute Covid-19 vaccine across the country, said Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII).

"Quick question; will the Government of India have ₹80,000 crores available, over the next one year? Because that's what @MoHFW_INDIA needs, to buy and distribute the vaccine to everyone in India. This is the next concerning the

challenge we need to tackle. @PMOIndia," Poonawalla tweeted.

The world's leading vaccine manufacturer, SII, has joined hands with five global pharma companies including AstraZeneca to produce one billion doses of its vaccine candidate, besides partnering with Russia's Gamaleya Research Institute to manufacture the Sputnik V vaccine.

The Serum Institute of India has pledged half of it to the country.

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Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL
CASES: 59,86,617
DEATHS: 94,493
RECOVERED: 49,34,546
ACTIVE: 9,56,730

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	13,21,176	35,191	10,16,450
Andhra Pradesh	6,68,751	5,663	5,97,294
Tamil Nadu	5,75,017	9,233	5,19,448
Karnataka	5,66,023	8,503	4,55,719
Uttar Pradesh	3,82,835	5,517	3,20,232
Delhi	2,67,822	5,147	2,28,436
West Bengal	2,44,240	4,721	2,13,975
Odisha	2,05,452	836	1,70,193
Telangana	1,83,866	1,091	1,52,441
Bihar	1,77,355	886	1,63,132
Assam	1,69,110	638	1,38,307
Kerala	1,67,940	657	1,14,526
Gujarat	1,31,808	3,407	1,12,009
Rajasthan	1,26,775	1,426	1,05,994
Haryana	1,22,267	1,291	1,03,827
Madhya Pradesh	1,19,899	2,181	95,490



CBI chargesheets 9 cops for custodial death of father-son

Traders were taken to TN police station for violating lockdown rule, they succumbed to police brutality

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

The CBI has filed a chargesheet against nine police officials, including then Inspector/SHO, two Sub-Inspectors, two Head Constables and four constables of Sathankulam Police Station (Tamil Nadu) for allegedly torturing a father-son duo, both traders, to death on June 19, in a case that triggered nationwide outrage.

Traders P Jeyaraj (59) and his son J Feniks (31) were taken into custody by the Sattankulam Police allegedly for violating the lockdown rule that mandated the closure of all business establishments after 8 pm. Jeyaraj, who owned a

mobile phone shop, had kept open his shop beyond the time limit, according to the police version. He was taken to the police station while his son reached the station to find out why his father was taken into custody.

While Feniks died on June 22 at the Kovipatti General Hospital, Jeyaraj was found dead on June 23. Police brutality is said to be the cause of the deaths.

The Tamil Nadu Government had ordered a magistrate level probe, but the cops in the Sattankulam Station refused to cooperate with the magistrate which led the Madras High Court to order the revenue administration to take possession of the police station, a first of kind incident in the country. Later the State Government ordered a CBI probe into the case following the request by the Director General of Police.

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Kejriwal: Will make water supply in Delhi as good as in developed countries

Delhi CM says there can be no privatisation of water at any cost

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said that the Aam Aadmi Party Government will make water supply in Delhi as good as in developed countries and hire a consultant for better water management ensuring not a drop goes waste in the city.

"The Government will hire a consultant to suggest measures to improve water supply management and no wastage of water in Delhi to enhance the water availability," he said.

"The process got a bit delayed due to corona otherwise the process would have been completed in March or April," he said.

The Chief Minister also



said that his Government has been working to increase water availability in Delhi.

He said, "We have been working to increase water availability in Delhi. We have been talking to the Governments of UP, HP, Uttarakhand and other States, which have more water."

The CM said some Opposition leaders are saying that the water supply in Delhi is being privatised. "No privatisation of water at any cost," he said.

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NCB questions Shraddha, Sara, confronts Deepika with manager Karishma

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Bollywood came alive — on Saturday, as the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) grilled three top actresses Deepika Padukone, Shraddha Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan and Deepika's manager Karishma Kapoor while it arrested Kshitij Ravi Prasad, a former executive of Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput's death-related drug case.

The day unfolded as Deepika took the media

Paparazzi by surprise as she walked quietly without any security into Evelyn House, the guesthouse of the Mumbai Port Trust near the Taj Mahal Palace which has been converted into the makeshift NCB office, at 9.48 am on Saturday.

She confronted with her manager Karishma Prakash during questioning. She was questioned for nearly six hours.

Shraddha Kapoor reached the NCB office around 12 pm and left after six hours, while Sara Ali Khan reached around 1 pm and left around 5.30 pm.

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Bollywood actresses Deepika Padukone, Shraddha Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan at the NCB office in Mumbai on Saturday

HOME THEATRE

Crackling thriller in need for Season 2



CRACKDOWN
Voot Select
Episodes 8
*ing: Saqib Saleem, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Iqbal Khan and others
Rated: 8/10

Apoorva Lakhia has shrunk from the big screen to tube space, from multiplexes to OTT, much too smoothly to not raise an eyebrow or two.

Having said that, the web series that he has directed, *Crackdown*, brings in it, explosive energy, slick pace and of course the ability to withstand and negate in style any possibility of being fathomed, till the very end.

That's what makes this slickly put together anti-terror spy story worth the time you would spend with it, on it. Lakhia skillfully pursues the goal of making his viewers susceptible to binge watching and then audaciously walks away with an ending that's abrupt, killing and fodder for another season chant without losing much time.

Without letting out any spoilers, the story pursues a covert operation and operators within RAandW to take down terrorati in general and terror cells in particular. Taking down terror cells, as it turns out, becomes like a walk into the beehive with plot after plot

springing up to taunt the hero in pursuit. Saqeeb, by the way, manages the operation with a no nonsense approach that leaves no time for the viewer to dwell on anything else than the job at hand. That gives the series a pinpoint focus and narrows down avenues to stray into emotions other than the one which gives them constant palpitation and anticipation.

Lakhia, please do zoom into Season 2 just like the way you took us through Season 1... with no time lost, with no bilaterals, with no dilly dallying. After all, you have sent the benchmark for this much anticipated second part.

Enola Holmes holds ground



ENOLA HOLMES
Netflix
*ing: Millie Bobby Brown, Sam Claflin, Henry Cavill, Helena Bonham Carter
Rated: 6/10

Let's get one thing clear here. Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes never had a sister; only an older brother, Microft. So fans of the original 56 stories by the author should not be scratching their heads wondering where this sister was all along.

This movie directed by Harry Bradbeer is based on a series of books written by Nancy Springer. Now that we have one of the most popular detective character all sorted out, it's time to talk about the movie.

It is interesting to see how this sister is so much like Sherlock Holmes and at times smarter. Yes, she does manage to outwit and outsmart him, at least in this one, to be a step ahead and solve the mystery. A bit strange to see a film that has Sherlock Holmes and him taking a back seat. But Henry Cavill, yes the man who plays Superman, fits the bill here. His straight laced face with somewhat smirk when he realises that he has been upped by a 16-year-old makes one smile since we all know that Sherlock Holmes was only outwitted once in his life — a woman whom he referred to as The Lady.

Given that Benedict Cumberbatch played this life size character in the BBC series so well, Cavill sits pretty in this role.

Millie Bobby Brown who plays Enola Holmes is brilliant. She is funny, charming and steals your heart from the word go even if she doesn't conform to the definition of how a proper lady should behave — definitely not stand in front of her brothers in knickers pants and camisole worn in 1890s. But she holds her ground brilliantly and takes you on a roller coaster ride. While there isn't much of a mystery yet Brown manages to keep the viewers entertained till the very end. So much so that one will wait for the next one. There are more right?

— Shalini Saksena

Fun take on X-Men series

SECRET SOCIETY OF SECOND-BORN ROYALS
Disney+Hotstar
*ing: Peyton Elizabeth Lee, Niles Fitch, Isabella Blake-Thomas, Olivia Deebie
Rated: 6/10

What would you do if you are the second-born royal? Most probably travel the world, do charity work, cut ribbons and support your sibling whenever called upon to so. Not quite right if one goes by the movie directed by Anna Mastro. Here, if you are second-born you are born with certain privileges or should one say powers unique to each royal born later even if it is by a minute. So if one is missing out on watching *Avenger* movies, *Secret Society...* is somewhat of a substitute. Or one can say that it is the fun take on the *X-Men* series.

While it may not be on the lines of *Avengers* and *X-Men*, it does come with its fair share of gizmos, secret organisation, a fancy costume, a jet and not to forget a plot where there is revenge and murder. The film is entertaining enough given that these royals have weird powers which they must master not to benefit themselves but to do good for the others and ensure that the world is free from dangerous criminals.

It is engrossing, exhilarating and kid-friendly. At the same time, the adults can enjoy the intrigue and the underground operative station — like a Batman Cave and state of the art weapons and computers to keep tabs on what is happening around the globe and in the house of the most notorious criminals as well. Quite the operation that will keep the adults glued to the seats till the very end.

If you love movies where the characters have superpowers that they use to fight crime, even if they are just teenagers, *Secret Society...* is just up your alley.

— Shalini Saksena



TELLY TALE

VANDANA LALWANI'S INSPIRATION
Sony Entertainment Television's latest offering *Indiawaali Maa* which aptly depicts that mother's love is pure,



unconditional, and eternal. The show features an ensemble cast starring Suchita Trivedi as Kaku, Nitesh Pandey as Hasamukh, Akshay Mhatre as Rohan, Sheen Dass as Chinamma along with Vandana Lalwani as Vasundhara in the show.

Vandana Lalwani who is making a comeback on the show after a long time is donning the kannadian avatar and playing the role of Chinamma's stepmother, speaks about her character. She said: "I got excited on knowing about this opportunity as I love Kannadian culture. Although it was a challenge for me to get into the character of Vasundhara who is Chinamma's stepmother and doesn't vibe well with her but somehow I perfectly managed to look authentic, and everyone loved it."

She then continues: "I love their attire and even for the auditions I donned a kanjivaram saree and with *gajara* which was loved by everybody. Hema ji and Sri Devi ji movies helped me out to catch hold of the accent and give my best. Also, Vasu is one such character who brings a laugh to everyone on sets and I hope for a positive response from the audience."

RANDHIR KAPOOR SPILLS SECRETS

Zee TV's popular singing reality show, *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li' Champs* has been winning hearts courtesy the amazing performances by the wonderful contestants. After celebrating the 80's era with Bollywood stars like Amol Palekar and Annu Kapoor, the popular reality show is all set to keep the era of classics alive by welcoming another legend of the Hindi film industry, Randhir Kapoor. In the upcoming episode, while the contestants will leave everyone mesmerised with their iconic performances, Randhir Kapoor will be seen revealing some interesting secrets!

Amongst the various performances put up by the Top 7 Li' Champs, it was Ranita and Aryananda's performance to *Der Na Ho Jaye Kahin* from the movie *Henna* which left everyone spellbound during the shoot. In fact, it took Randhir Kapoor down memory lane as he recalled fond memories that he shares with Rishi

Kapoor. While sharing several anecdotes about the movie, he revealed how *Henna* was originally Raj Kapoor's dream project. As the veteran actor shared: "*Henna* was indeed Raj Kapoor ji's prodigy and his dream project for years. After his sad demise, when we wanted to make a movie, Rishi and I, followed his path and went ahead with *Henna*. In fact, we even travelled to Pakistan only to convince Zeba Bakhtiar and get her onboard for the film, which was quite a hassle back in time. Casting for the movie was indeed a task, but somehow we worked through that and started to shoot."

Furthermore, speaking about the song, the actor added: "Our father was a very punctual man, but Rishi and I did not share this trait with him. When we were young, Rishi was always late and when Papa asked him why he was late, he would reply, '*Main der karta nahi, der hojati hai*' and this phrase was almost like our *takia kalam*. These incidents led to the song *Main der karta nahin* and thus the song was made and it was played during the climax of *Henna*. So it holds a very special place in my heart."



Sharing several interesting stories and anecdotes, Randhir Kapoor will surely leave the judges, jury and contestants stunned. And while contestant Tanishka Sarkar will be seen delivering a spectacular performance to Dalfiwale, Zaid Ali's performance to Hai Agar Dushman will surely win everyone's heart. All in all, the upcoming episode of *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li' Champs* will have a lot of melodies, memories and surprises for the viewers.

NEW TWIST IN BAAALVEER RETURNS

Sony SAB's fantasy show *Baalveer Returns* is set to take an unexpected twist as the upcoming episodes promise to put the viewers on the edge of their seats. After nearly being killed by the evil group from Shinkai, Vivaan (Vansh Sayani) and Baalveer (Dev Joshi) commence their hunt for Vivaan's attacker. The viewers must brace themselves for an exciting turn of events as Baalveer and his team come one step closer in uncovering this new threat on earth.



Baalveer, while saving Vivaan, gets injured and drops unconscious on the stage. Milsa (Shweta Khanduri) makes use of this opportunity and collects a vial of Baalveer's blood for his plasma and sends it off to Baambaal through Tauba Tauba (Shridhar Watsar). Baalpari (Sharmilee Raj) cures Baalveer through her magic and learns that Baalveer's blood has been taken by Milsa. Baalpari reveals that a single drop of Baalveer's blood is really powerful and if it gets into the wrong hands, it can be used to create havoc.

To stop the culprit, Baalveer, Vivaan and Baalpari start their hunt to find Milsa. The team comes one step closer to their mission, as they finally get hold of Milsa — Baambaal's loyalist. Baalveer and Vivaan force and torture Milsa to reveal the names of her team member and their mission on earth. On the other hand, Baambaal (Vimarsh Roshan) comes to know about Milsa's capture and realises that he now runs the risk of getting exposed.

Will Milsa reveal their true intention on earth? What will Baalveer and Vivaan do next?

Dev Joshi, essaying the role of Baalveer said: "Veerlok has finally captured Milsa. The upcoming episodes on *Baalveer Returns* of packed with suspense and twists. The entire week was full of dance and dhamal while the weekends with a shocking plot twist. Our viewers are going to thoroughly enjoy this major twist on the show as one of the evil gang members has finally been captured. It has been exciting to shoot the dance sequences with Anahita, Shoaib and the others as this is not something we often do on the sets. It has been an entirely new and refreshing experience which I will always cherish. So, stay tuned and watch this masti and suspense-filled week unfold only on *Baalveer Returns*."

Shweta Khanduri, essaying the role of Milsa said: "Essaying a negative role is challenging but I am glad I am playing the role of Milsa. This character has so many shades to her. She is brutal, smart and a go-getter. The episodes further will witness Milsa accomplish a part of Shinkai's bigger mission and it will be interesting for the viewers to watch how she protects her team members. I have had a blast shooting for these episodes and I hope our viewers enjoy the surprises we have in store for them."

'I want to explore all mediums'

SHEEN DASS, who plays Chinamma in SET's *Indiawaali Maa*, speaks with MUSBA HASHMI about her role, how the acting bug bit her and how she ends up following actors and directors on social media after every movie that she watches

■ What is your role in *Indiawaali Maa*?

I play Chinamma, a girl from Mangalore. She is Rohan's girlfriend. They both have moved to the US and are planning to return to India now. She is truly in love with Rohan and wants to support him in his business. She has a lot of baggage since her childhood. She lost her mother at an early age so she never got to experience that selfless love. She wonders how someone can love selflessly and make sacrifices. Though her father loves her, he wants her to follow the family traditions. However, she wants to do what she loves in life. She wants to experience what true love really is.

■ What made you say yes to the role?

I have worked with Akshay before and when he told me about the project and that he had signed it, I found it interesting. The story is such that it will touch everybody's heart. Today, most of us have become thankful to our parents and the efforts they put in our upbringing. In such a scenario, the show gives out a beautiful message and it feels great that I am a part of this show. The show is a tribute to all Indian mothers.

■ How did acting happen to you?

I was always inclined towards it, but I didn't take it seriously initially. No one from my family was in this field and I had no idea of how to get there and become a part of it. It just happened with me. I was working with a bank in Delhi and got an opportunity to do a small role in a project. Then people started recommending me for some projects and then I started giving auditions. It was like a chain for me.

■ How supportive was your family?

My family has always been supportive. They never me or my sister what should we become in our lives, they left it upto us to make a choice. Had anyone from my family been in this field, I would have definitely received some tips from them, but that was not the case. Hence, I was all by myself, but they never stopped me from doing anything.

■ Were there any apprehensions before entering this field?

There were many. But slowly you realise that in every artistic field, there is very low certainty. So either you go for a settled job and be certain about everything or take that risk to become what you want. It's your choice to make.

■ What kind of roles attract you?

There are a lot of roles that attract me. TV is changing and some beautiful shows are coming up that offer actors some good roles. So I would like to be a part of shows that are unique and have an interesting story to tell.

■ Any plans of exploring the digital space?



I WAS ALWAYS INCLINED TOWARDS ACTING, BUT I DIDN'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY INITIALLY. NO ONE FROM MY FAMILY WAS IN THIS FIELD AND I HAD NO IDEA OF HOW TO GET THERE AND BECOME A PART OF IT. IT JUST HAPPENED WITH ME

Yes, definitely. There are so many platforms now and an actor can do so much. I would like to explore everything. I have not done much work till date, it's almost like a starting. I want to web series, theatre and films. I want to explore all the mediums.

■ Any actor or director you would like to work with?

There are lots of them. It's very hard to name one. After every movie that I see, I end up following the actors and directors on Instagram and then keep stalking them.

■ Do you still get butterflies in your stomach when you see yourself on TV?

Yes. It happens with me everytime I do a new project. Whenever I am on sets, I get so nervous and excited at the same time. But after doing a couple of scenes, I get back to normal.

Govt to give houses to families displaced by National War Museum

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In its 29th board meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board has taken a decision to provide in-situ housing to affected people of Princess Park area near India Gate on account of the construction of the National War Museum by the Ministry of Defense.

As per a survey carried out by DUSIB, 203 families are living in that area. On eligibility determination as per Delhi Slum and JJ Relocation and



Rehabilitation Policy 2015 (Now Mukhya Mantri Awasth Yojana), they will be allotted houses at Dwarka till houses at Dev Nagar near Karol Bagh will be constructed which will take nearly 18 months.

"The Delhi Government has decided to construct 784 houses at Dev Nagar near Karol Bagh at a cost of Rs 102 crores to facilitate these people to have in-situ housing. The houses that are being constructed will have two rooms, a kitchen, bath, and toilet with all good amenities like parking space, parks, community halls, etc.

The buildings will be multi-storied (still plus 14 stories) having lifts and fire staircases, etc. The project will be completed in 18 months," the government said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the residents of the Princess Park area will be shifted to already constructed houses by DUSIB at Sector 16-B, Dwarka, they will have the option to shift to the newly constructed housing premises in Dev Nagar, Karol Bagh, it said.

The slum-dwellers from 150 jhuggis at Dev Nagar plot will also be shifted to Dwarka

to facilitate the construction of 784 houses.

After allocating houses for inhabitants of Princess Park

and Dev Nagar, the remaining houses will be used for in-situ rehabilitation of jhuggis nearby, it added.



—Representational photo

AAP slams SDMC for razing 2 residential colonies' 8 gates

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) bulldozed eight gates of two residential colonies at Green Park Extension and at Safdarjung Enclave; Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders said that the civic body took action without giving any prior notice. However, SDMC spokesperson Radha Krishan did not respond to calls or WhatsApp messages and officials of the south zone of the SDMC have no idea about the issue.

AAP senior leader and MLA Somnath Bharti and senior leader Durgesh Pathak on Saturday slammed the BJP-ruled municipal Corporation for demolishing eight gates of the Green Park Extension without any prior notice.

"The gates were constructed after many criminal activities were reported in the area. The AAP demands immediate posting of Delhi Police officers in the area to ensure the safety and security of the RWA. The AAP will stand shoulder to shoulder with the people and rebuild all

these eight gates," he said.

Bharti said, "The destructive mentality and policies of the BJP got exposed in Delhi at the Malviya Nagar assembly constituency. "Amid the COVID-19 pandemic such behaviour from the BJP-led MCD is condemnable and completely unacceptable," he said.

"In the past 15 years, the BJP is ruling the municipal corporations of Delhi but they have not helped any RWA regarding any issues but today the BJP is demolishing their gates. These gates were built by the RWA for the safety and security of the residents. The Delhi police is also under the Bharatiya Janata Party ruled central government and if the Delhi police was competent enough to secure the residents of the RWAs then there would not have any necessity to build these gates," he said.

Durgesh Pathak said, "The employees of municipal Corporations are not getting their salaries and the whole city has become dirty due to the incompetence of the MCDs. The BJP has a bigger plan to demolish all the gates of the RWAs across Delhi. This will

happen at GK, Safdarjung, Pitampura and other places too. The AAP will not allow such demolition in Delhi and we will stand beside the residents and rebuild these gates," he said.

Shrimati Neha Puri, General Secretary of Green Park Extension RWA said, "Yesterday the officials of SDMC along with the Delhi police came to our RWA with three JCBs and demolished eight gates. The RWAs of Delhi have always walked beyond their responsibilities for the safety and security of the residents. In the time of COVID-19, the RWAs have provided quarantine facilities and oxygen to the people without much support and recognition."

"Our safety and security have gone for a toss and the whole RWA is completely open from all the sides. The officials lied to us by saying that this was done following a High Court order. Today we met the Deputy Commissioner of SDMC and briefed him the situation but no official showed us any formal order copy of the demolition. Moreover, I want to say that MCD has encroached various parts of our RWA," she said.

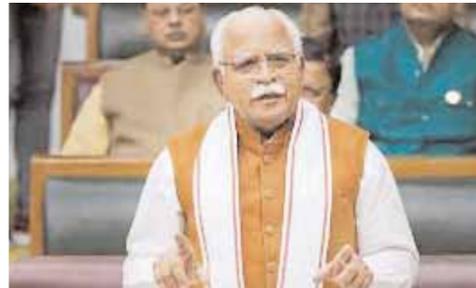
'New industrial and job policy to be implemented on Haryana day'

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The new Industrial and Employment Policy of Haryana, 2020 will come into force from November 1 on the occasion of Haryana Day.

This announcement was made by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Saturday while briefing the media in Gurugram.

Haryana CM Khattar and Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala earlier had invited suggestions from entrepreneurs on the draft of new industrial and employment policy for the state and also chaired a meeting with entrepreneurs with them.



Khattar, at the meeting, informed that the new industrial and employment policy of the state will be formulated by incorporating the suggestions received from entrepreneurs. "The Haryana government

is putting all its efforts to provide employment opportunities to the youth of the state in industries and when suggestions were invited from entrepreneurs in this regard, they suggested making skills and

behaviour along with skill up gradation for the youth of the state to work in the industries," the CM said at the meeting.

"For this, we have directed Raja Nehru, Vice Chancellor of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, to prepare a short term course for Behavioural Aptitude. This university will also give its certificate to the youth after that course," he added.

"In the new industrial and Employment Policy -2020, there will be a focus on bringing maximum investment in Haryana and giving employment to the youth of the state."

Earlier, in a meeting organized with entrepreneurs, the Chief Minister said that

Haryana is still one of the leading states in the country as an industry.

After this, with the efforts of the government, Haryana came in sixth place and later also reached the third place.

"This time Haryana fell a bit behind in the ranking due to some procedural shortcomings but in future, those gaps will be removed and will again come to the leading states, Khattar said.

The Deputy CM Chautala said that "it is the government's idea to focus on providing employment to the people of the state. For this, the youth will be made skilled and made available to the industries," he said.

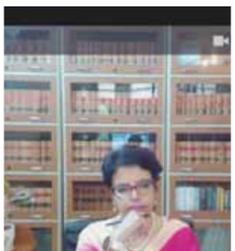
Lok Adalat virtually inaugurated by Justice Hima Kohli

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

For the benefit of BRPL consumers especially those residing in West Delhi a new Permanent Lok Adalat (PLA) was virtually inaugurated by Justice Hima Kohli, Judge, Delhi High Court and Executive Chairperson of Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) in Vikasपुरी.

A senior BSES official said that after being established by the DSLISA, this is the first exclusive PLA for a discom in Delhi. "The other two PLAs are common for all the discoms in the National Capital. The two existing Permanent Lok Adalats (Electricity) at ITO were set-up way back in 1999 to take-up the cases pertaining to the Delhi Vidyut Board. After privatisation, they have been entertaining cases pertaining to the Delhi Discoms, including BSES Rajdhani Power Limited and BSES Yamuna Power Limited," he said.

Working under the aegis of



DSLISA, a PLA is an important tool for consumers and Discoms to amicably and speedily resolve billing disputes and power-theft cases. In fact, it is an institutionalized form of the Lok Adalat, he said.

Earlier, the residents of West Delhi had to travel a great distance to file their cases at the PLA at ITO in Central Delhi. "The establishment of the PLA at Vikasपुरी will greatly help the electricity consumers of West Delhi. Apart from the traditional route, West Delhi consumers will also be able to avail services of the virtual PLA at Vikasपुरी," he added.

NMC removes encroachments from Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) removed a large number of temporary encroachments from Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar with the help of local police, a senior official said on Saturday.

"North Corporation lifted 15 trucks parked in the no parking zone with the help of cranes and took them to the Corporation's store. About 55 temporary kiosks on the pavement were also removed with the help of JCB," he said.

The official said that about 2700 square meters of road was cleared from encroachment. "The encroachments were removed in a joint action by the official of licensing, engineering, horticulture and health department of Civil Lines Zone in the last couple of days," he said. The action was taken by the Civil Lines zone to reduce dust emission as per instructions of the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority and Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

Guard killed in road crash

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A security guard, in his early 40s, was allegedly killed after a delivery van hit his cycle on the Lala Lajpat Rai Marg in National Capital.

The deceased, identified as Ajay Kumar Singh, a resident of Sangam Vihar in south Delhi. According to R.P. Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Southeast, the incident took place around 9 pm on Friday near Shamshan Ghat, Lala Lajpat Rai Marg.

"Singh, who was a security guard at a showroom in Connaught Place, was on the way to his workplace when the van rammed into the rear of his cycle, killing him on the spot," said the DCP.

"The accused driver was apprehended from the spot and a case was registered under Indian Penal Code sections 279 (rash driving or riding on a public way) and 304 A (causing death by negligence). The accused driver, Satender Singh, is a resident of Govindpur in Southeast Delhi. He was arrested," said the DCP.

Commissioner unveils Wellness Centre at police station

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Commissioner, SN Shrivastava on Saturday inaugurated a "Wellness Centre" under umbrella project Niramaya at Sector-23 police station in Dwarka.

According to Santosh Kumar Meena, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka, the Wellness Centre (in Association with Chaudhary Brahm Prakash Ayurved Charak Sansthan) CBPACS, Najafgarh, Yoga Park and Open Gym have been operationalized for Police officers or personnel and their family members, as "Good Health adds Life to Years".

"Police as a profession is known for tremendous stress, that it takes one through continuous unspecified working hours leading to unhealthy eating habits causing adverse impact on their efficiency. Most



of the police personnel either show little concern about their health for numerous reasons or are extremely pressed for time. This essentially means an immediate need to reach a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being," said the DCP.

"Keeping up with our commitment of responsible community policing as well as to have a health reality check and

early detection of the health issues, Dwarka District Police took an initiative in this direction under "Niramaya Project" and opened three different facilities including Wellness Centre, Yoga Park and Open Gym at Dwarka Sector-23," said the DCP.

"The focus of the initiative was to nip the bud and to increase awareness about the major health concerns, the

repercussions of these concerns as well as how to best handle these health issues," said the DCP.

"The emphasis was also on the health and general well being of our police personnel and their families. The team of doctors will give free consultancy to the police officers and personnel with emphasis on the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle as a preventive care. Yoga Park will benefit police personnel as well as residents to boost their metabolism, minimize stress, etc. and Open Gym helps in dealing with athletic performance and regular exercises. It will overall boost 'Healthy and Stress free Living'," said the DCP.

Apart from this, the CP also interacted with 34 rewardees who had done good works. Further, VC room for interaction with complainants was also operationalized at Police Station Dwarka Sector-23.

DDA ANNOUNCES

MEGA e-AUCTION OF PLOTS

PRIME COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND MANY MORE

115	Institutional (Leasehold)	52	Industrial (Freehold)
55	Commercial (Freehold)	37	Residential (Freehold)
25	EHS Plot (Freehold)	25	Function Site (License Fee)

CRUCIAL DATES & EVENTS

30.09.2020	Opening of Help Desk and commencement of Registration
24.10.2020	Last date of Registration and Submission of EMD
27.10.2020	Bidding of Residential and Institutional
28.10.2020	Bidding of Industrial and Commercial
29.10.2020	Bidding of Function Site and EHS

For details of Plots and procedure, kindly visit our e-auction website www.ddaeuction.co.in or click the e-auction link available on our site www.dda.org.in and download the same through "E-AUCTION OF PROPERTIES" link available at home page of e-auction portal. Intending bidders may register themselves / their firms online at the above site through "Registered with us" link. Kindly note that digital signature of all the intending bidders are mandatory to participate in e-auctioning of DDA. A help desk has been opened at the Nagrik Suvidha Kendra, Ground Floor, 'D' Block, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi to help the intending bidders to understand the process of e-auction. For obtaining digital signatures and registration / training of prospective bidders and for any other clarification on e-auctioning, please contact our help desk No. 011-49424365/8800991846/8800378610 from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm (all working days) or ddaeuction@gmail.com.

Subu R. Commissioner (LD)

For further details contact: Commissioner (LD), Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023

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NDA is one, will contest poll together: Prasad on Bihar tiff

Patna: Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Saturday that the constituents of the NDA will contest the Bihar assembly elections together, asserting that the problems within the coalition will be resolved.

Prasad, the Union Law Minister, exuded confidence that the Nitish Kumar-led alliance in Bihar will win the election with a decisive mandate because of the development work done by the Centre and state government.

"NDA is one... We will contest the elections together. If there is some problem, it will be solved," he said, replying to a question on the differences between the LJP and JD(U).

Nitish Kumar's JD(U) and Chirag Paswan-led LJP have been at loggerheads for some time.

The LJP has indicated that it would field candidates against the JD(U), leading to an uneasy situation within the NDA in Bihar. Even as Paswan swears by his loyalty towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in whose cabinet his father and LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan is a minister, he has often criticised the Nitish Kumar government. The elections will be held in the state in three phases from October 28 to November 7. The votes will be counted on November 10.

Speaking to reporters at the party office here, Prasad said that discussions are underway on the seat-sharing "at levels where it should be".

"This is the domain of the parliamentary board and central election committee. It is their job to decide. I can't enter their domain," he said, reply-

ing to a question on the seat-sharing formula.

Prasad, who represents the Patna Sahib seat in the Lok Sabha, said the Nitish Kumar-led government has done a lot of work for the state's overall development.

"I am confident that the people of Bihar will bless the NDA and help it return to power with a decisive mandate because of its development work. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's love for Bihar is evident from the fact that the announcements which he made have been translated into reality," the minister said.

In an apparent swipe at RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, Prasad questioned why the photos of Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi have been dropped from the party's hoardings. **PTI**

PM to inaugurate 8 sewage treatment plants in U'khand on September 29

PTI ■ DEHRADUN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate online eight sewage treatment plants (STPs) set up at different places in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange project on September 29, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said on Saturday.

Out of the eight STPs, built at a cost of over Rs 500 crore, four are in Haridwar, two in Rishikesh and one each in Muni-ki-Reti and Badrinath, he said.

Together these STPs will have a capacity of treating 152.5 million litres of sewage per day, Rawat said, adding that the solid waste generated by the plants will be used as compost.

Those opposing agri-related Bills anti-farmer, says Yogi

Jaunpur/Deoria (UP): Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said those opposing the Centre's agriculture-related Bills are "anti-farmer".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to double the income of farmers and the Bills have been passed with this aim in mind, he said, addressing BJP workers at a school auditorium in Jaunpur.

The chief minister said the legislations will free farmers from the grip of middlemen and provide them with an option to sell their produce as per their choice. "The opposition is misleading people but they will not be allowed to succeed, he said, terming those opposing the Bills as "anti-farmer".

Without taking names, the chief minister in Deoria said: "Those who exploited farmers and mocked migrants... Those

who don't know whether sugarcane is grown on land or trees are pretending to be warriors of farmers and labourers."

Speaking about the work done by his government during the coronavirus pandemic, he said those who have been with the people in the most difficult times will be in power and claimed that in the last six months, the state government has distributed free foodgrain 12 times so that no one faces hunger. Referring to the upcoming bypolls in the state, he said there will not be any big rallies or public meetings.

So, every BJP worker and office-bearer will have to take the responsibility of every booth.

If you win a booth, you will win an election, he said, exhorting party workers to win the Malhani (Jaunpur) and Deoria Sadar assembly seats for the BJP.

We are dedicated to development and in this by-election you all have to think about who will bring development and who will provide employment, he said.

Bypolls to eight Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh are likely to be held soon. Enumerating the achievements of the BJP-led government at the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh while speaking in Deoria, he said:

"We took the development work forward with establishment of Medical College in Deoria... By next year classes will also start with 100 students and people will get high quality medical facilities."

He said that due to government focus on water drainage, potable water and cleanliness, the number of deaths due to encephalitis has reduced substantially in comparison to 2014. **PTI**

C'garh: BSF jawan injured in IED blast in Kanker district

PTI ■ RAIPUR

A jawan from the Border Security Forces (BSF) was injured when a pressure improvised explosive device (IED), laid by naxals, went off in insurgency-hit Kanker district of Chhattisgarh on Saturday, police said.

The incident took place at around 1.30 pm on Koyalibeda-Dhutta road under Koyalibeda police station area, where a team of BSF's 4th battalion was out on a road security operation, Kanker additional superintendent of police Gorakhnath Baghel told PTI.

When the patrolling team was cordoning off the forest near a culvert, it might have come in contact with the pressure IED connection, triggering the blast, he said.

SAD quits NDA over farm...

From Page 1

Badal also referred to the Jammu & Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020, in which Punjabi was not recognized as an official language in the Union Territory which has a sizeable number of Punjabi speaking people.

After the resignation of Harsimrat Kaur from the Narendra Modi Cabinet, SAD had been raising the twin issues of the Farm Bills and the status of Punjabi language publically. He had repeatedly lashed out at the BJP for "misusing" its "brute majority" to pass bills in the Parliament.

"Dr Farooq Abdullah of the National Conference, who is a former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, supported me and said that a sizeable number of Kashmiris also spoke Punjabi. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has also supported the inclusion of Punjabi as an official language in the union territory," he said earlier.

Terming the entire development as a "sad day for democracy", Sukhbir said that the

founding fathers of the Constitution were inspired by a vision of India as a multi religious, multicultural and multilingual nation and respect for regional languages was seen an important tool to preserve and promote this ideal.

He also expressed anguish that while Punjabi had been excluded from the list of official languages, English had been included in the list.

"This is sure to hurt the sentiments of Punjabis in Jammu and Kashmir as well as everywhere else", he added.

Earlier this week, Sukhbir had hinted that no alliance or government was important for Akali Dal in front of the welfare of the farmers, while declaring that the party would fulfill its responsibility towards the 'annadaata' come what may.

He said that the SAD had taken a consistent stand from day one in favour of farmers and told farmer representatives that it would fulfill its responsibility as and when required.

Shopian fake encounter: BJP seeks compensation for families of three slain men

PTI ■ JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP on Saturday urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to immediately provide compensation to the families of three men who were allegedly killed in a fake encounter in South Kashmir's Shopian district in July.

The men, hailing from remote areas of Rajouri district, had gone to Shopian for work but they went missing on the day the Army claimed to have neutralized three "terrorists" in a gunfight.

"The Army in its inquiry into the killings at Amshipora village, prima facie, found that the soldiers involved had exceeded their powers under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), and

that disciplinary action would be taken. "Also recently, the DNA samples of the labourers have matched with those of their family members," BJP spokesperson Tahir Choudhary said in a statement here. He said the families of the deceased are facing difficult times and therefore, the government must intervene.

"I urge the LG to give a hearing to their families and provide compensation to them at the earliest," the BJP leader said, thanking Sinha for his "efforts and for pushing authorities for a fair probe".

Choudhary said he had also submitted a presentation to Union Home Minister Amit Shah for providing compensation to the families of the victims.

Maha recoveries cross 10 lakh mark as 23,644 people discharged

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid a grim battle being waged by it against Coronavirus, Maharashtra notched a positive milestone of 10 lakh recoveries on Saturday, as 23,644 more people were discharged from various hospitals after full recovery.

On a day when 430 more people succumbed to Covid-19 and 20,419 others tested positive for the pandemic, the number of people discharged from various hospitals after full recovery since the second week of March this year went up to 10,16,450.

With fresh 430 deaths, the Covid-19 toll in the state breached 35000 mark, as the

total number of deaths shot up from 34,761 to 35,191.

Similarly, with the fresh 20419 new cases, the total infections rose from 13,00,757 to 13,21,176.

Of the 430 deaths reported on Saturday, Pune accounted for a maximum of 90 deaths, followed by 56 deaths in Thane, 44 in Mumbai, 28 in Sangli, 27 in Kolhapur, 21 in Satara, 18 each in Nashik and Solapur, 15 in Nagpur, 12 in Parbhani, 11 in Osmanabad and 10 in Jalgaon.

In the lower range, there were 9 deaths in Chandrapur, 8 each in Ahmednagar and Aurangabad, 7 each in Raigad and Yavatmal, 5 each in Ratnagiri, Nanded and Wardha, 4 each in Latur, Amravati and

Buldhana, 3 in Palghar, 2 each in Sindhudurg and Beed and one death each in Jalna and Washim. In addition, five persons from outside the state died in Maharashtra.

With 44 deaths, Mumbai's Covid-19 toll went up from 8,706 8,750 while the infected cases rose by 2,282 cases to trigger a jump in the total number of infections from 194,303 to 196,585.

Meanwhile, for the seventh consecutive day, the state recovery rate rose from 76.33 per cent to 76.94 per cent. The mortality rate in the state stood at 2.66 per cent. The number of "active cases" in the state went down from Friday's figure of 2,72,775 to 2,69,119.

Till when to wait for...

From Page 1

He said 130 crore Indians still believed in the ideals of the UN but added the global body needed to adapt and change to stay relevant in current times.

His remarks came in the backdrop of India elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC), the highest-decision making forum.

There are five permanent members - the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and France. India was elected as a non-permanent member of the UNSC for a two-year term in June, along with Ireland, Mexico and Norway and will assume the new responsibility from January next year.

He also said India took the lead in marking October 2 as International Day of non-violence and June 22 as International Day of Yoga. India has always thought about the welfare of the world. "From our neighbourhood first policy to look-east policy, are all guided by these principles," the Prime Minister said.

A regards India's efforts against corona, Modi said vaccine production here will help in bringing the world out of the pandemic. "We are moving towards Phase 3 of clinical trials. We are increasing infrastructure and will help others increase it," he said.

On its role as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, Modi said India will use its experience as the world's largest democracy for the benefit of the world. "India will stand for shanti, suraksha and samridhhi. We will always oppose drugs, illegal weapons, money laundering. India's experience will strengthen the way for vishwa-kalyan (good for the world)."

Highlighting the achievements in the last four to five years, Modi said India brought changes through Reform-Perform-Transform process. In the last few years, linking 400-500 million people with the banking system was not easy. India is one of the leaders in digital transactions globally. India is working on making country tuberculosis-free by 2025. India has initiated a huge process of connecting villages with optical fibre, he said.

Nadda...

From Page 1

Nadda has effected changes in its national spokespersons - dropping leaders GVL Narasimha Rao (RS MP) and Meenakshi Lekhi (MP, New Delhi).

One of the stark and distinct changes in the team is the replacement of the high-profile Madhav who was overseeing sensitive States, including Jammu & Kashmir, with Punjab's Tarun Chugh as general secretary.

It is expected that the changes in the party might be followed by the long-awaited Cabinet reshuffle in coming months, according to sources. There is no confirmation

whether those who were moved out of the office-bearer's list would be shifted to Government or assigned other key party jobs.

"Firebrand" Bengaluru MP Surya, appreciated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself, has been appointed as party's youth wing president, replacing Poonam Mahajan.

The reshuffle has raised the number of national spokespersons to 23, MP Anil Baluni elevated as chief spokesperson and remains media in-charge. The list of spokespersons include Sambit Patra, Sudhanshu Trivedi (RS MP), Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Nalin Kohli, Rajiv Chandrashekhar (RS MP), Seyed Zafar Islam (MP RS), and Tom Vaddakam.

Dr K Laxman from Telangana has been appointed in-charge of the OBC cell while Raj Kumar Chauhan, an MP from Uttar Pradesh, will head the Kisan Morcha. Lal Singh Arya has been named the head of the SC Morcha, Samir Oarao will head the ST Morcha and Jamal Siddiqui will head the Minority Morcha. There are 12 vice-presidents, eight national general secretaries and one general secretary (organisation) BL Santosh with joint general secretaries ---V Satish, Saudan Singh, Shiv Prakash (all four RSS representatives in the BJP) --- and 13 national secretaries. Treasurer's post has been given to Rajesh Aggarwal with Sudhir Gupta (MP) being his deputy.

CBI...

From Page 1

The chargesheet has been filed under Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, murder and common intention among others.

The chargesheet filed before a designated court at Madurai also covers other IPC Sections including those dealing with wrongful confinement, destruction of evidence, false information, false evidence, false charge of offense made with intent to injure, falsification of records by a public servant.

One more accused, then Sub Inspector died during investigation. The charged policemen were arrested during the investigation and are presently in judicial custody.

The CBI had registered two cases on July 7 this year related to the allegations of the custodial deaths on the request of Tamil Nadu Government and further notification from the Centre.

"A CBI team camped continuously at Madurai and

worked untiringly in the cases despite the odds of Covid-19 pandemic," the agency said in a statement here.

CBI investigation revealed that the father-son duo was arrested in the evening of June 19 and allegedly tortured at the Sathankulam Police Station by the accused in the evening as well as in the intervening night, consequent to which both of them succumbed to the injuries and died in the intervening night of June 22 and June 23.

After investigation, a combined chargesheet in both cases has been filed. Further investigation is continuing to look into the role of other persons in the case, it added.

The accused chargesheeted in the cases are S Sridhar, then Inspector/SHO, K Balakrishnan, then Sub-Inspector; P Raghuganesh, then Sub-Inspector, S Murugan, then Head Constable, A Samadurai, then Head Constable, M Muthuraja, then Constable, S Chelladurai, then Constable, X Thomas Francis, then Constable and S Veilumuthu, then constable.

Kejriwal: Will make water...

From Page 1

The Chief Minister said a lot of water goes to waste in Delhi. The Delhi Jal Board supplies 930 million gallons of water (MGD) per day to the city - 176 litres per person. Of this, a lot of water gets stolen and leaked.

Accountability should be fixed for every drop of water. There should not be any wastage, Kejriwal asserted. He said, "We have started walking in the direction of providing round-the-clock water supply. The consultant will tell us about the state-of-art technology, such as the SCADA system, with the help of which water supply can be managed from the central control room," he said.

Kejriwal said that the Delhi Government is committed to ensuring a regular supply of water in Delhi just like many developed and technologically advanced nations across the world.

Bengal ex-BJP chief protests plum posts for turncoats

From Page 1

Both the leaders had defected from the TMC with former once being Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Man Friday.

Refusing to hide his anger Sinha said, he was highly disappointed "at the way the TMC defectors are being honoured in the party at cost of old time-tested workers."

Sinha was replaced by Hazra a former TMC MP. Apparently expecting some 'compensatory' arrangement from the party high command Sinha said, he would come out with a detailed statement a few days later.

"I will speak up in details 10-12 days later but for now I can say that I am extremely disappointed by the new arrangement where TMC defectors have been honoured with priced posts... Is this the reward I got for serving the party for the past 40 years?" he said adding "nothing can be more unfortunate and disappointing than this."

NCB questions Shraddha, Sara, confronts Deepika with manager Karishma

From Page 1

Karishma, who appeared before the NCB for the second consecutive day and whose arrival at the investigating agency's office went unnoticed, was grilled for nearly eight-long hours.

Talking to media persons after the film personalities' day-long questioning, NCB's Deputy Director General Mutha Ashok Jain said: "We have not issued fresh summons to anyone else today. Over the next couple of days, our Special Investigation Team and the Mumbai zonal office will review the progress of the two cases - CR no 15/20 and CR no 16/20 and plan for the future."

"We have questioned Deepika Padukone, Karishma Prakash, Sara Ali Khan and Shraddha Kapoor," Jain said.

Jain clarified that while Deepika was questioned in connection with the expanded Bollywood-drug nexus case involving the use of drugs by the film personalities, Sara and Shraddha were grilled in connection with the both the Sushant death-related case and expanded Bollywood-drug

Govt needs...

From Page 1

SII presently produces 1.5 billion doses of polio, measles and influenza vaccines for 170 countries.

A fortnight ago, Poonawalla said that it would take four to five years until "everyone on the planet" gets vaccinated. He estimated the need for close to 15 billion doses of the Covid-19 vaccine if a two-dose programme - similar to the measles vaccinations drive - is put in place.

"It's going to take four to five years until everyone gets the vaccine on this planet," Poonawalla had earlier predicted that if the coronavirus shot is a two-dose vaccine, as is the case with measles or rotavirus, then the world would require 15 billion doses. The phase-III or the last stage of the clinical trial of the Covid-19 vaccine "Covishield", being developed by Oxford University, and manufactured by the SII began at the state-run Sassoon General Hospital in Pune on Monday.

Goa records 503 new cases

Panaji: With the addition of 503 fresh infections, the count of COVID-19 cases in Goa rose to 31,574 on Saturday, an official from the health department said. At least 688 patients were discharged from hospitals, taking the number of recoveries in the coastal state to 25,759, the official said. A total of 1,983 swab samples were tested, of which reports of 503 suspects came out positive for the infection, he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the General Public that I have lost the Builder Buyer's Agreement Number: 1683 dated 31-08-2011 of Property No. CGF-304 in DLF Capital Greens, Medhi Nagar, Delhi bought by me from M/s DLF Homes Developers Ltd & allotted vide letter no. DLF/CS/CGF304 dated 09.09.2011. A complaint in this regard is lodged vide NCR No. LR 603646/2020 dated 25.09.2020 in Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi. I have requested M/s. DLF Homes Developers Ltd to issue True Copy of the Buyer Agreement and have agreed to indemnify against any third-party claims, if any".
Mr. Harpal Singh S/o Late Sh. Swarn Singh R/o 181A, Pocket C, Siddharth Extension, Jeevan Nagar, South Delhi - 110014

कार्यालय उपनिदेशक (वि./याँ.)
राज्य कृषि उत्पादन मण्डी परिषद, उप्र
नवीन मण्डी स्थल मुण्डेरा, अतिथि गृह प्रथम तल, प्रयागराज।
पत्रांक-(वि०/याँ०)/आगणन/2020-246 दिनांक-26.09.2020
ई-कोटेशन नोटिस
नवीन मण्डी स्थल प्रतापगढ़ में स्थापित वे-ब्रिज की मरम्मत हेतु दिनांक 22.10.2020 को ई-कोटेशन आमंत्रित किया जाता है। बिल ऑफ़ क्वांटिटी मण्डी परिषद के वेबसाइट www.etender.in पर देखा/पढ़ा जा सकता है। दिनांक 21.10.2020 तक अपराह्न 1 बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है तथा उसी दिन 5 बजे तक बिड डोक्यूमेंट कार्यालय में जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। दिनांक 22.10.2020 अपराह्न 1 बजे ई-कोटेशन खोला जायेगा। एक अथवा अधिक ई-कोटेशन बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार सक्षम समिती को होगा।
नोट - मात्र उपरोक्त कार्य की दरें प्राप्त करने हेतु कोटेशन आमंत्रित किया गया है। जबकि इन दरों पर कार्य आवंटित नहीं किया जायेगा तथा फर्म से कोई एफओडीआर एवं डीडीओ आदि का कोई शुल्क नहीं लिया जायेगा।
उपनिदेशक (वि./याँ.)
मण्डी परिषद, प्रयागराज

Bhopal Municipal Corporation
11nd Floor, Above Passport office, Kushabhu Thakre Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) Campus, Ambedkar Marg, Near Chetak Bridge, Bhopal (M.P.)
Swachh Bharat Mission (Civil)
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BHOPAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION invites online bids through <https://mptenders.gov.in> for following works from the bidders fulfilling eligibility criteria.
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At 412 cm, Goa records heaviest rainfall since 1961

Panaji: This monsoon season, Goa has recorded the highest rainfall since 1961, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said. Speaking to reporters on Saturday Rahul M, scientist at IMD Goa, the state witnessed 412 cms of rainfall from the south west monsoons in 2020, which is 41 per cent higher than the normal value of rainfall in the state. **IANS**

चौ.चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ
ई-निविदा सूचना
दिनांक-26.09.2020
विश्वविद्यालय में कार्यरत कर्मियों की ऊष्मी वर्दी एवं बर्ष 2020-21 में ग्रीम कालीन वर्दी हेतु एवं गैस सेसिंग सेट अप आपूर्ति हेतु ई-निविदाये निर्धारित निविदा प्रपत्र पर जिसमें निविदा सम्बन्धी शर्तों का उल्लेख होगा, चौ.चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ की ओर से आमन्त्रित की जाती है। निविदाओं से सम्बन्धी सभी जानकारी वेबसाईट www.etender.up.nic.in एवं विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाईट ccsuniversity.ac.in पर उपलब्ध है।
वित्त अधिकारी

NPPA caps price of liquid medical oxygen



PNS/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to tackle shortage of medical oxygen and the resultant increase in prices amid rising Covid-19 cases in the country, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has capped the ex-factory price of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) and filled cylinders for six months.

It has also instructed the states to fix transport costs for the supply of medical oxygen to address COVID-19 exigencies.

The ex-factory price of LMO at the manufacturers' end has been capped at Rs 15.22 per cubic metre, exclusive of GST, while the ex-factory cost of a medical oxygen cylinder has been capped at ₹25.71 per cubic metre, exclusive of GST, as against the existing ceiling price of ₹17.49 per cubic metre.

However, it is subject to the transportation cost fixation at the state level.

The move by the NPPA comes after a three-fold increase in the price of medical oxygen gas. A few days ago the Centre had urged the States to allow unhindered movement of the oxygen cylinders to ensure timely help to the needy patients.

The authority said that the demand for medical oxygen had gone up almost four times, from 750MT/day to 2,800 MT/day. Besides, delivery through cylinders has increased from 11 per cent pre-Covid to 50 per cent of current oxygen supply, leading to an exponential rise in prices.

"This has caused a strain at all levels in the value chain of production and supply, especially for distant and interior districts based on terrain and distance."

The manufacturers of medical oxygen and fillers had represented to the Government for up to a three-fold price increase in the ceiling price of gaseous medical oxygen.

"It is, therefore, imperative to cap the price of LMO to ensure uninterrupted availability of medical oxygen through cylinders to the hospitals and consumers," the organisation said.

The NPPA said that use of oxygen for medical purposes has also significantly increased. "Currently, during the Covid-19 pandemic, around 50% of the total liquid oxygen production is used for medical purposes in comparison with around 15% usage during the pre-Covid period.

Liquid oxygen is being diverted from industrial use to medical use to cope with the additional demand. Many states/UTs are dependent on the medical oxygen supply from other states/UTs. To meet the enhanced requirement, medical oxygen is being supplied to remote areas of the country after incurring additional cost on transportation," it added.

However, the All India Industrial Gas Manufacturers' Association (AIIGMA) felt that the Government should cap the cost of oxygen at the level of the hospital instead of the supplier end.

PACIFYING 'AGITATING FARMERS'

Centre OK's immediate paddy procurement in Punjab, Haryana



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

After announcing minimum support prices for rabi crops in advance, the Centre on Saturday ordered commencement of procurement operations for kharif paddy/rice "immediately" (from Saturday) in Punjab and Haryana to placate farmers agitating against the farm Bills. Significantly, these two States have been witnessing maximum protest against the farm Bills in the last few days.

While 'rail roko' agitation by farmers organisations was continued in Punjab's Amritsar and Ferozepur districts on Saturday as more farmers and their farmers joined in. The protesters reached the protest site in tractor trailers, buses, four-wheelers and even on motorcycles and went bare-chested to express their resentment over the response got from the Union Government. Farmers have extended the 'rail roko' agitation till September 29. Besides, farmers protests continued in sporadic manner in Haryana, UP and southern states.

In its order, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said it would commence procurement of paddy in the two north Indian States from Saturday, ahead of October 1, the date set for commencing procurement across the country otherwise. The order said that the step has been taken in view of early arrival of paddy this year. According to the ministry, state procuring agencies including Food Corporation of India (FCI) are in a state of readiness for smoothly undertaking procurement operations.

The Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2020-21 for paddy/rice was scheduled to commence from October 1 in all procuring States, but the

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said it would commence procurement of paddy in the two north Indian States from Saturday, ahead of October 1, the date set for commencing procurement across the country otherwise

Centre has allowed procurement operations to begin from Saturday in both these states. "...in view of early arrival of paddy in the mandis of Haryana and Punjab. Government of India has appeared the commencement of procurement operations for paddy/rice immediately in both these States from today, i.e. with effect from 26th September 2020 to ensure that farmers are facilitated in selling their produce at Minimum Support Price (MSP) expeditiously," the order said. "Orders for commencement of procurement operations for paddy/rice from 26th September, 2020 in Haryana and Punjab have been issued," it added.

P K Das, additional chief secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs department, Haryana, said that about 4 lakh quintals of 'PR-126' variety of paddy has been harvested by farmers in four districts of Kurukshetra, Karnal, Ambala and Kaithal. Farmers of these districts have brought their crops to the mandis and procurement will

Farm Bills: Congress launches 'Speak up for farmers' campaign

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday launched a 'Speak up for farmers' campaign on social media protesting the farm Bills, with former party chief Rahul Gandhi urging people to raise their voice against what he described as the Narendra Modi Government's "exploitation" of farmers.

The party also attacked the Centre over the controversial labour Bills passed by the Parliament. It asked the other Opposition parties to join the protest on the new labour laws just like they extended their united protest against the farm bills that has led to a country-wide agitation.

"Let us raise our voices together against the atrocities and exploitation of farmers by the Modi Government," Rahul said in his message.

The three farm Bills and the labour code laws were passed by both houses of Parliament during the Monsoon session and are awaiting presidential assent.

Rahul, who was abroad for his mother and party chief Sonia Gandhi's treatment when the bills were passed, said these legislations will "enslave" farmers and minimum support price (MSP) will be "snatched

away".

Rahul extended party's full support to the ongoing farmers' agitation across the country, particularly in Punjab and Haryana, where it entered its second day with sporadic incidents of violence being reported.

Rahul even went to the extent of claiming that these legislations will result in an East India company-like culture.

The Congress, on its official Twitter handle, alleged that the agriculture bills passed by the government in a "highly undemocratic manner are nothing but an attack on our farmers and an attempt to transform agriculture into another revenue stream for their crony capitalist friends".

Describing the three labour codes passed by Parliament as "anti-labour", Congress said the farms bill passed has already led to country wide agitation by farmers and this new labour law will bring another set of restlessness to the workers class who are the propeller of the country growth.

"They have weakened trade unions and finished the security and safety for the workers," senior Congress leader and former minister of labour and employment Mallikarjun Kharge said at

AICC Press conference. He was joined by party spokesman Pawan Khera and INTUC General Secretary G Sanjeev Reddy.

Attacking the Government over the Bills, Kharge said the government's claim that the laws will increase ease of doing business is false.

"States' powers have been usurped by the central government with these laws. These codes are anti-worker, anti-labourer and it is important to agitate against them," the Rajya Sabha MP said.

"All parties must oppose these laws. The Modi government only listens to corporates and after these laws it will not listen to trade unions," he said.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera alleged this government is "betraying the interests" of different sections one after another. As the issue of injustice to farmers was ongoing, this government betrayed workers, just like farmers," he said.

Reddy alleged that there is no provision for safety and security of workers in these bills.

"We will protest and struggle against these unjust, anti-labour and anti-trade union laws," he said.

KVIC appoints design and fashion icon Sunil Sethi as adviser

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has appointed Sunil Sethi, a leading personality in the Indian fashion industry, as its adviser.

Sethi will advise the Commission on latest design interventions in the ready-made garments segment as well as promotion of Khadi in India and abroad.

Earlier, renowned fashion designer Ms Ritu Beri served as advisor to KVIC whose

term expired recently.

Sethi has over four decades of experience in global merchandising, where he has contributed significantly to the growth of Indian handicrafts, design and the textile industry, through many innovative and successful initiatives.

As Chairman of the Fashion Design Council of India, which is represented by 400 designers, Sethi has been working to take Indian fashion industry global.

"Sustainable growth of

Khadi in the fashion industry, both locally and internationally, is the key idea behind the appointment. KVIC has already marked its advent on the global platform and from here on we must capitalise on every opportunity.

Khadi artisans are capable of producing the finest quality and the most unique fabric in the world and with the newest design innovations, Khadi can be a favourite of a vast global consumer segment," KVIC Chairman, Vinai Kumar Saxena said.

Greetings pour in as Singh turns 88

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh turned 88 on Saturday, greetings poured in from across the political spectrum with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi saying that India feels the absence of a PM with the "depth" of Singh.

If anyone in public life alive today is deserving of the Bharat Ratna, it is "undoubtedly" Singh, said his party colleague P Chidambaram who served as finance minister and home minister under the UPA I and II governments led by Manmohan Singh.

Greeting his predecessor on his birthday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished Singh a long and healthy life.

Several Union Ministers and BJP leaders, including Nirmala Sitharaman, Rajnath Singh, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Jyotiraditya Scindia and Vasudhara Raja Scindia, DMK

chief M K Stalin and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also extended their greetings.

Manmohan Singh headed the UPA coalition Governments between 2004 and 2014 and earlier as a finance minister under the P V Narasimha Rao government supervised the liberalisation of the Indian economy in the 1990s.

"Birthday greetings to Dr Manmohan Singh Ji. I pray to Almighty that he is blessed with a long and healthy life," Prime Minister Modi tweeted.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi wished Singh, saying, "India feels the absence of a PM with the depth of Dr Manmohan Singh. His honesty, decency and dedication are a source of inspiration for us all."

"Wishing him a very happy birthday and a lovely year ahead," Gandhi tweeted with the hashtg

'Happy Birthday DrMMSingh'.

Stalin hailed Singh for his "visionary leadership & futuristic ideas", saying that they had been instrumental in establishing India's global prominence.

"Greetings to former Prime Minister and Economist Dr. Manmohan Singh ji on his birthday. Wishing him good health and more productive years in public life," Trinamool Congress supreme Mamata Banerjee tweeted.

Congress general secretary in-charge organisation K C Venugopal lauded Singh's "journey filled with incredible achievements".

"Dr. Manmohan Singh's life is an inspiration to us all. His humility, honesty and incredible intellect make him an exemplary leader," he tweeted.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh extended warm wishes to Singh, praying for his good health and long life.

of rice was procured from Punjab (109 lakh tonnes metric tonnes), and the state was followed by Telangana (73 LMT), Andhra Pradesh (54 LMT), Chhattisgarh (49 LMT), Odisha (47 LMT) and Haryana (43 LMT).

Farmers have been protesting on rails tracks at many places in the state since September 24. Squatting on rails tracks, agitating farmers on Saturday shouted slogans against the BJP-led government at the Centre and demanded the rollback of the farm Bills which they described as black laws.

In Amritsar, a group of protesting farmers went shirtless to express their anger

against the farm Bills. Farmers have taken off their 'kurtas' and shirts to make the government hear our voice, said Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee general secretary Sarwan Singh Pandher over the phone. Bare-chested protesters, sitting on Amritsar-Delhi rail track, raised slogans against the BJP-led central government.

In Mohali, farmers burnt effigy of PM Modi and blocked roads. Keeping in view the undergoing blockade of railway lines by farmers at several places, the Northern railway's Ferozepur division has extended the cancellation of 14 trains (up and down) for one more day on September 27.

'India's trade can't grow sans women entrepreneurs'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Thursday said the idea of an aspirational India is deeply linked to our spirit of entrepreneurship and this spirit is a driving force which will turn the wheels of Indian economy, propelling it to greater heights.

"If India's growth story has to continue then without women entrepreneurs and gender parity, India cannot grow, and it is pretty clear that India's businesses cannot grow without women entrepreneurs. Gender constraints impede women entry in the entrepreneurial Landscape and a healthy ecosystem, it truly requires conscious efforts to improve women's access to knowledge and the requisite skills," Kant said at a webinar organised by FLO, the Women's Wing of FICCI on "Aspirational India- Role of Women Entrepreneurs in India's Transformation."

The session elaborated on the role of women entrepreneurs as an important, untapped source of economic growth and have an important role as key drivers in India's transformation journey.

Jahnabi Phookan, National President, FLO said "Talking about an aspirational India is not enough, we should all be a partner in the process. Our endeavour is to create economic possibilities for women at different levels and equip them to be in charge of their lives and participate in the sustainable development of the nation".

PM Modi holds talks with Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held wide-ranging talks with his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa, covering the entire expanse of bilateral ties and with a focus on further expanding cooperation in key areas.

In his opening remarks at a virtual bilateral summit, Modi said he was confident that the massive electoral victory of the ruling party in Sri Lanka backed by the Rajapaksa Government's policies will facilitate deeper cooperation between the two countries.

"An opportunity has come to begin a new chapter in India-Sri Lanka ties after your party's electoral victory. People from both the countries are looking at us with new hope and expectations," Modi said.

Rajapaksa was sworn in as Sri Lankan prime minister for

a fresh term on August 9 after his party, the Sri Lanka People's Front, secured a two-third majority in the parliamentary polls.

Modi said India gives priority to its relations with Sri Lanka as he mentioned his government's neighbourhood-first policy as well as SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine.

It was Prime Minister Modi's first such virtual bilateral engagement with a leader of a neighbouring country. For Rajapaksa, it was the first diplomatic engagement with a leader of a foreign country after he was sworn in as prime minister.

It was learnt that the two leaders deliberated on a host of issues like ways to further deepen overall defence and trade ties as well as expansion of existing cooperation in several key areas.

PM Modi holds talks with Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

and eunuchs".

"In spite of declaring transgender people to be a 'third gender' by this court, there is no provision / section in the Indian Penal Code which may protect the third gender from the sexual assault by male/female or another transgender," it said.

The PIL challenged the constitutional validity of certain clauses of Section 354A (outraging the modesty of woman) of IPC, to the extent that they are interpreted to exclude victims of sexual harassment who are transgender persons, as being ultra vires Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution.

The plea filed by lawyer

Shah to inaugurate 'Destination North East-2020' today

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate a four-day event here on Sunday to highlight the Northeast region's various potentials like eco-tourism, culture, heritage and business.

The 'Destination North East-2020' is a calendar event of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region conceptualised with the objective of taking the northeastern region to other parts of the country and bringing them closer together in order to strengthen national integration, an official statement said.

The home minister will inaugurate the event through video conference while Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region

PIL in SC seeks equal protection of law to transgenders in sexual offence cases

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The plea filed by lawyer Reepak Kansal, in his personal capacity, said that though the apex court in 2014, had granted "recognition to the transgender/ third gender as 'persons' falling under the ambit of Article 14 of the Indian Constitution", still they do not have equal protection of law in relation to sexual offences

come up for hearing in few days, has sought a direction to the Centre to "make appropriate modification/interpretation of sections/ provisions of IPC dealing with sexual assault to include transgender/transsexuals/ kinnar and eunuchs in the definitions accordingly".

The plea, which may

The plea filed by lawyer Reepak Kansal, in his personal capacity, said that though the apex court in 2014, had granted "recognition to the transgender/ third gender as 'persons' falling under the ambit of Article 14 of the Indian Constitution", still they do not have equal protection of law in relation to sexual offences

also referred to an incident of not lodging an FIR by Delhi Police on a sexual harassment complaint of a Delhi University transgender student on the ground that there was no provision in the IPC to deal with transgenders.

The plea urged the top court "to issue an appropriate order... Directing the respondents to pass an Anti-Discrimination Bill that penalises discrimination and harassment on the basis of gender".

It also sought a direction to the Centre to adopt and implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights being signatory of it.

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have equal protection of law in relation to sexual offences.

"The petitioner is filing this petition...With respect to equal protection of law to the third gender/transgender from the sexual assault /offences as there is no provi-

7,006 more test +ve in Kerala, 5,647 in TN

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI/CHENNAI

Kerala, which declared itself as a Covid-19 free-State on May 8, is facing an unprecedented grievous situation with a steep hike in the number of new patients diagnosed with the pandemic as well as the total number of persons undergoing treatment for the disease. The State has put neighbouring Tamil Nadu way behind in both the categories, according to the facts and figures released by the respective State Governments on Saturday.

While Kerala diagnosed 7,006 new persons with Covid-19 by Saturday evening, there were only 5,647 new patients in Tamil Nadu which has more than twice the population than the former. There were 52,678

active Coronavirus afflicted persons in Kerala as on Saturday evening. But the corresponding figure for Tamil Nadu was 46,336.

The only segment in which Kerala is trailing Tamil Nadu is in the number of fatalities. While Kerala announced 21 deaths on Saturday, Tamil Nadu saw 85 persons succumbing to the pandemic during the last 24 hours.

A Government physician in Kerala, whom The Pioneer has been in touch with since the first case was reported in the State, said that the Government of Kerala has been furnishing false details about the number of cases from the beginning itself. But he did not want his name to be disclosed.

"Even the number of deaths from the State is faulty.

I have authentic figures from Pathanamthitta district where more than 50 persons had died because of Covid-19. But the official claim is just three deaths," said the doctor.

A senior scientist of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, said the situation in Kerala has been grave from the beginning itself. "If you are bold enough, just go to Medical College Hospital in the capital city. I have seen it personally," said the scientist.

The doctor said that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan knew well that the situation in the State would no more be kept secret from the general public. "It is dangerous to come to Kerala at this juncture. Out of the 7,006 new cases diagnosed on Saturday, 6,668 contracted the pandemic through social contact" he said.

Kerala Govt sabogating probe in all corruption cases: State BJP chief

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

BJP's Kerala unit president K Surendran alleged on Saturday that the CPI(M) Government in the State is sabogating the probe into all corruption cases brought to light by his party.

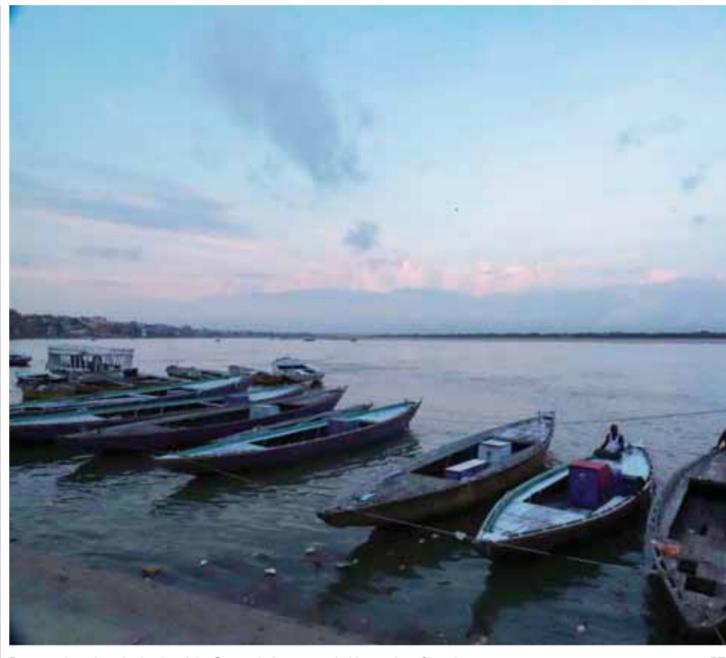
"A day after the Central Bureau of Investigation launched a probe against the LIFE Mission project of the State Government, the Vigilance Department under the direct control of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has removed and destroyed all the relevant files from the Secretariat at Thiruvananthapuram. It was to subvert the probe by the CBI, the Chief Minister ordered Vigilance probe into the allegation of corruption worth hundreds of crore rupees," said Surendran while speaking to

reporters at Pathanamthitta where he inaugurated a Mahila Morchha rally demanding the resignation of Ministers E P Jayarajan and K T Jaleel against whom there are big allegations of corruption.

The CBI on Friday has registered a case in the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Ernakulam, in awarding the LIFE Mission contracts of building apartment complex at Wadakkancherry to two private entrepreneurs without any experience in construction sector.

According to sources in CBI, even ministers would be summoned for questioning in this case.

The CBI case is a follow up to a complaint filed by Congress legislator Anil Akkara, who represents Wadakkancherry constituency in the Assembly.



Boats anchored on the banks of the Ganga during sunset in Varanasi on Saturday

PTI

Aligarh: Youth shot dead for opposing liquor sale

Aligarh: A youth was shot dead in Peepli village of Tappal area for opposing liquor sale. Police has registered a case against 8 people. One is in custody.

36-years-old Neeraj alias Neeru, resident of Peepli village was a farmer. Neeru's brother Prakash has said in the complaint that some people used to bring liquor from Haryana and sell it in the village.

When Neeru opposed to selling liquor, they started accusing and threatening to kill him. Late in the night, Neeru was sleeping in a separate room when 4 people, including Jayveer, entered the room and started beating Neeru with hockey and rods and finally shot in the head with a gun. PNS

Hathras gangrape: 4th accused arrested

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH/HATHRAS

The case of murderous assault and gang-rape of a young dalit woman in Boolgadhi village of Kotwali Chandpa in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district is continuously catching on. Superintendent of Police Vikrantveer has moved the line to Inspector of Chandpa. Inspector posted in crime branch has been given charge of Chandpa. Along with this, on Saturday, the police have arrested the fourth accused and sent him to jail.

This was the case: Last month, the command of Chandpa police station from Kotwali Hathras was handed over to the crime inspector by the Superintendent of Police. After taking charge, the inspectors were examining the atmosphere of the area. Meanwhile, on 14 September, a young woman from Boolgadhi was attacked. In which the police took action by registering a case against an accused. The woman was admitted to

JN Medical said that she was gang-raped by four people including Sandeep and strangled with the intention of killing her.

This matter kept on catching up. Various organizations united to provide justice. During the deliberations, the section of gang rape was increased. On Friday, the police arrested the third accused and sent him to jail. On Friday night, the Superintendent of Police moved the line to Inspector Chandpa.

Laxman Singh, posted in the crime branch, has been given the command of Chandpa Kotwali.

The SOG and the Chandpa police were continuously pushing to catch the fourth accused of gang rape and murderous attack. The police finally got success on Saturday morning. Police arrested the fourth accused Ramu son of Rakesh and sent him to jail. SP Vikrantveer says that three names came to light during the deliberations. In this case, all the accused and those who came to light have been arrested.

Man gets 7-year sentence for rape in J&K's Udhampur

PTI ■ JAMMU

A local court on Saturday awarded seven year sentence to a man for raping a woman on the pretext of marriage in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir, an official said.

Additional session judge Udhampur, S R Gandhi pronounced the judgment after hearing the additional public prosecutor Anil Kumar Magotra for the state, and counsel for the accused and the material on record, the official said. Surinder Singh, a resident of Kotli Jija village of Udhampur, was arrested after the woman lodged a written complaint at Rehmbal Police Station on December 7, 2011, alleging that the accused had called her and when she met him, he outraged her modesty and also threatened her not to tell anyone about the incident.

The victim also claimed that Singh afterwards repeatedly made physical relations with her with a promise to marry her, the official said.

On the basis of the report, an FIR was registered and the accused was arrested after thorough investigation. Later, the charge sheet was presented in the court of Additional District and session judge court, Udhampur.

Security beefed up along LoC following Pak dropping arms

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Following repeated incidents of arms dropping using drones by the Pakistan based handlers of terrorist outfits in different parts of Jammu region, the border security grid and security checkpoints along the National highway has been beefed up to prevent any major terror strike on a vital security installation in the region.

Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh Saturday chaired a high level meeting with the district police chiefs following apprehensions of 'subversive' activities by the anti national elements and reviewed the Border Security Grid and National Highway security.

In the recent weeks, sever-

al incidents of arms dropping along the International border in Samba and Kathua have come to light where local Over ground workers (OGW's) were tasked to ferry the arms and ammunition consignment to their conduits before handing them over to the commanders of different terrorist outfits. In many cases, these conduits have been caught red handed with arms consignment by the alert security forces but there are apprehensions that some of these consignments have been delivered 'successfully' without coming on the radar of the security forces.

In a separate meeting on Friday IGP, Jammu Mukesh Singh had directed the senior police officers to remain alert in their respective jurisdiction and ensure strict 'Naka' check-

ing on the National Highway from Kashmir valley to Jammu region to prevent the movement of arms and terrorists in their region.

The meeting was attended by the senior police officers including range DIG's and district police chiefs of Jammu, Samba, Kathua and Udhampur. During the security review meeting, detailed presentations were given by the senior officers discussing the three tier deployment of paramilitary forces along the International border and the counter terrorist grid in the region. Directions were issued to the police officers of these bordering districts to strengthen the intelligence network in the border belt and maintain tight vigil on the movement of suspected people in the area.

Rajasthan records 2,045 fresh cases, 14 deaths

Jaipur: Rajasthan reported 2,045 fresh coronavirus cases on Saturday while the state's death toll due to the infection rose to 1,426 with 14 more fatalities, according to a health department bulletin.

The state's infection tally now stood at 1,26,775.

Ajmer, Banswara, Baran, Bikaner, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Jalore, Jhunjhunu, Jodhpur, Kota, Pali, Sikar, Tonk and Udaipur reported one death each, according to the bulletin.

The maximum number of fresh cases was reported from Jaipur (415), while Jodhpur and Bikaner reported 335 and 108 infections, respectively. Other cases were report-

ed from Ajmer (100), Alwar (153), Banswara (22), Baran (20), Barmer (3), Bharatpur (15), Bhilwara (90), Bundi (10), Chittorgarh (18), Churu (23), Dausa (37), Dholpur (20), Durgapur (35), Ganganagar (23), Hanumangarh (19), Jaisalmer (29), Jalore (84), Jhalawar (10), Jhunjhunu (26), Karauli (20), Kota (53), Nagaur (43), Pali (83), Pratapgarh (5), Rajasamand (32), Sawaimadhopur (18), Sikar (58), Sirohi (5), Tonk (30) and Udaipur (103).

In Rajasthan, 1,05,994 patients have recovered from COVID-19 so far and the number of active cases stood at 19,355. PTI

Jamaati will not be able to leave even after bail

Aligarh: Jailed foreigners who joined the Tablighi Jamaat in Delhi Nizamuddin during the corona period are facing difficulties these days. Even after granting the bail, they will not be able to leave the district till the trial is settled and will remain under the vigilance of the district police-administration. In Aligarh also, two Sri Lankan Jamaatis were arrested on 1st April from Rangrezan Masjid, who are currently in jail.

Uttar Pradesh Special Secretary Ramnivas Sharma issued a letter to DM-SSP stated that these foreigners can be involved in illegal activities or they can escape. Jamaati, who was caught in some districts, are trying to go to their country after coming out of jail. They should not be sent to their country until the government orders. PNS

UP reports 4,412 fresh cases, 67 more deaths

Lucknow: As many as 4,412 fresh COVID-19 cases took Uttar Pradesh's infection tally to 3,82,835 on Saturday, while 67 more deaths pushed the toll to 5,517.

There are 57,086 active cases in the state, according to officials. A total of 4,412 fresh coronavirus cases were reported. The death toll due to the virus has mounted to 5,517, Additional Chief Secretary, Health, Amit Mohan Prasad said.

The number of active patients in the state stands at 57,086. Currently, 29,266 patients are under home isolation, he said. As many as 3,20,232 patients have recovered and been discharged from hospitals, Prasad said, adding that the state's recovery rate has gone up to 83.64 per cent.

On Friday, over 1.56 lakh samples were tested, taking the total number of COVID-19 tests conducted in the state to

over 94 lakh, he said.

Stressing that the positivity rate in the state is coming down, the officer said since the past one week, a declining trend has been seen in the number of daily cases. In a meeting with senior officials earlier in the day, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed satisfaction over the declining positivity rate.

He said it is an indication that the state's strategy to contain the infection is showing good results. He asked officials to continue testing in the same manner and ensure that there is no shortage of manpower or medicines in COVID-19 hospitals. Adityanath directed the officials to pay special attention to Lucknow, which has reported the maximum number of cases and deaths in the state, and prepare a better model for containing the infection after consulting the district's nodal officer. PTI

Many workers got infected while serving people: Goa BJP chief

Panaji: Goa BJP president Sadanand Shet Tanavade on Saturday said that the fact that dozens of BJP workers, including Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, tested coronavirus positive only showed that the cadres were out in the field during the pandemic.

"Sixty eight BJP workers throughout Goa tested positive during the pandemic. They tested positive precisely because they were out in the field, in the service of people, unlike Congress leaders who stayed indoors and only issued statements," Tanavade said.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the state Bharatiya Janata Party executive meeting held in Mapusa town, located a short distance from Panaji, Tanavade said that the BJP was already actively preparing for a host of elections, including zilla panchayats and municipalities, ahead of the 2022 Assembly polls.

In all, one fifth of Goa's 40 legislators have tested positive, including Sawant, former Deputy Chief Minister Sudin Dhavalikar, former Chief Ministers Churchill Alemao and Ravi Naik, MLAs Antonio Fernandes, Nilkanth Halarnkar, Dayanand Sopte and Clafasio Dias.

Union Minister of State for Defence and AYUSH Shripad Naik, who is a Lok Sabha MP from Goa, had also tested positive.

Tanavade said that the BJP in Goa was gearing up for the upcoming polls delayed due to the Covid-19 spread. "The BJP will return to power with an absolute majority in Goa in 2022," he said. IANS

Dev Anand's indirect connection with Aligarh: through Gopaldas Neeraj

Aligarh: Evergreen actor Dev Anand whose birth anniversary is celebrated on this day (26 September) and famous poet Gopaldas Neeraj, these two celebrities that touch the peak of popularity are no longer among us but once upon a time, stories of their friendship were famous in Bollywood. Dev Anand had no connection with Aligarh but once upon a time, there were songs of Neeraj in each film of Dev Anand which made him special for Aligarh. Neeraj always mentioned Dev Anand in every discussion of the Bollywood. Dev Anand kept in touch with Neeraj till the end of his life. PNS

SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN DELHI Jn. AND AZAMGARH
In part supersession to the Public Notice published in different newspapers on 25.09.2020 regarding running of Delhi Jn.-Azamgarh Special Kaiifyat Express, it is to notify for the information of passengers that this train will start its services from 28.09.2020 from Delhi Jn. instead of 27.09.2020 and from 29.09.2020 from Azamgarh railway station instead of 28.09.2020 as per following time table:-

02226 / 02225 Delhi Jn. - Azamgarh - Delhi Jn. Special Kaiifyat Express Train (Daily)					
Train No.: 02226			Train No.: 02225		
ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.	
-	19:10	Delhi Jn.	07:10	-	
19:51	19:53	Ghaziabad	06:28	06:30	
21:48	21:50	Aligarh Jn.	04:46	04:48	
23:42	23:44	Etawah	02:32	02:34	
01:37	01:42	Kanpur Central	00:45	00:50	
02:03	02:04	Unnao Jn.	00:08	00:10	
03:00	03:20	Lucknow	22:55	23:15	
04:05	04:07	Barabanki Jn.	21:39	21:41	
04:59	05:00	Rudauli	20:28	20:30	
05:35	05:37	Faizabad Jn.	19:50	19:52	
05:55	05:57	Ayodhya	19:22	19:24	
06:42	06:44	Akbarpur Jn.	18:38	18:40	
07:02	07:04	Malipur	18:20	18:22	
08:00	08:25	Shahganj Jn.	17:35	18:00	
08:46	08:48	Khorason Road	17:03	17:05	
08:58	09:01	Saraimir	16:53	16:55	
09:30	-	Azamgarh	-	16:25	

Days of Run : 02226 Ex. Delhi Jn. Daily from 28.09.2020 and 02225 Ex. Azamgarh Daily from 29.09.2020.
Accommodation : 1st Tier AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & Sleeper.
The passengers shall adhere to the COVID-19 related safety norms & guidelines.
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
Integrated Helpline No. 139 Security Helpline No. 182

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINENDING ENGINEER
CENTRAL CIRCLE (R&B), BHUBANESWAR
No. 2184 Dated, 23/09/2020

CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.2 (Estr.) of 2020-21

In partial modification to this office Tender Call Notice No.2 of 2020-21, the following changes are effected due to unavoidable circumstances.

- The Sale and receipt of tender documents in the website - from 5.00 PM of 28.09.2020 to 5.00 PM 12.10.2020 instead of 5:00 PM of 24.09.2020 to 5:00 PM of 08.10.2020.
- The Date of Opening of the Tender = 11.00 AM on 13.10.2020

Sd/-Er.G.C.Sahu
Superintending Engineer
Central Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar
OIPR - 34005/11/0005/2021

Superintending Engineer (P&W)
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (GENERATION)
SGTSPS: MPPGCL: BIRSINGHPUR DISTT-UMARIA 484552
PH. & FAX NO. : 07655-260226 Email: sepnw.sgtpsbirs@gmail.com
No.511-0100/SGTSPS/P&W/E-NIT-18/2061 Birsinghpur, Dated 24.09.2020

E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE

M. P. POWER GENERATING CO. LTD. Invites Electronic tenders from manufacturer/reputed supplier /contractor, for the supply/works of following items for SGTSPS, MPPGCL Birsinghpur.

SI No	MPPGCL TENDER ID	PARTICULARS	Estimate (In Rs)	TENDER COST (In Rs)	E.M.D. (In Rs)	LAST DATE of closing of online submission	DUE DATE of e-TENDER OPENING
1	2020-MPPGCL-107130-1	Work contract for unloading of coal from N- BOX wagons / BOBRN wagons or any other type of wagons at Old and New track hoppers, pushing & breaking the coal inside the hopper grill. Removal of stone/ shale from the hopper grill and throw the same to nearby side of Old Track Hopper/ New Track Hopper at SGTSPS, MPPGCL, BRS.	11.22/- Crore	5,000/-	11,22,200/-	14.10.2020	17.10.2020
2	2020-MPPGCL-103491-1	Work contract for picking of stone shell etc. from running conveyor belt 1A/B & 4A/B of 4X210 MW CHP-1 and 21 A/B & 24 A/B for 1X500 MW CHP-II and wagon tipple conveyor 19A/B at SGTSPS, MPPGCL, BRS for a period of two years.	5.67/- Crore	5000/-	5,67,200/-	28.10.2020	06.11.2020

These tenders are being invited through e-tendering system. For viewing detailed E-NIL downloading tender documents and participating in Electronic Tender, for any clarifications and/or for date extensions or corrigendum, please visit the website www.mptenders.gov.in regularly. Any clarifications and/or due date extensions or corrigendum shall be issued on the website www.mptenders.gov.in only.

Superintending Engineer (P&W)
O/o The Chief Engineer (Gen.)
SGTSPS, Birsinghpur, Umaria

"SAVE ELECTRICITY. SAVE POWER. SAVE MONEY"

Andhra steps up vigil at places of worship

Amaravati: The Andhra Pradesh Government has ordered the police to secure all places of worship to avoid any untoward incident, especially in the light of the Antardvedi Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple chariot blaze, at a time when religious politics is raging in the state.

The police department has already initiated the process of asking priests and religious heads across the state to be vigilant and fix surveillance cameras in churches, temples, mosques.

In Prakasam and West Godavari districts, like all others, the police visited temples, churches and mosques, suggesting safety measures to the clergy as well as locals.

A Prakasam police official said the department is keeping 24x7 vigil at all places of worship in the district.

A couple of policemen were seen securing a Lord Hanuman temple at Parchur village, another temple at Komarole, a mosque in Kandukur town and a Telugu Baptist Church in Pamuru.

Similar scenes were seen in Eapurapalem, PC Pali, Kanigi and other places in the district. Meanwhile, Prakasam Superintendent of Police (SP), Siddharth Kaushal, has warned hate mongers that the police are keeping a strict vigil to thwart any opportunity for vested interests to exploit the situation.

"We are taking it very seriously on the ground. We are ensuring that no opportunity is given and everything is attended to promptly on ground, responded to promptly and no opportunity is given to exploit this situation," Kaushal told IANS.

He said police are also monitoring social media to look for troublemakers. "We are drawing up a list of suspects who might want to capitalise on a provocation. We are keeping a close watch, taking everything very seriously on the ground," he asserted. IANS

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRRailwaysIndia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 66/2020 Dt. 25.09.2020

Supply of Stores Items. e-Procurement Tender Notice

The following Tenders have been floated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender Closing time is 14.30 hrs of the Due date of the Tender. "For all indigenous offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on www.ireps.gov.in."

Tender No.: BRIEF DESC: Bogie Bolster Arrangement **Tender No:** 30.20.5006A **BRIEF DESC:** Flap Door for Vestibule **Tender No:** 30.20.3414 **BRIEF DESC:** Auxiliary Reservoir **200 ltrs Tender No:** 77.20.1145A **BRIEF DESC:** Paint Ready Mixed Red Oxide **Tender No:** 56.20.1002 **BRIEF DESC:** 48V, 120AH Bank with regulated lead Acid Stationary Cell (MF-vr1a) **Battery Tender No:** 82.20.5011 **BRIEF DESC:** Digital radiography system **Tender No:** 38.20.1146 **BRIEF DESC:** Bogie centre pivot **Tender No:** 38.20.1172 **BRIEF DESC:** Bogie centre pivot-bottom

Note:- Due dates of Opening:
S.No. 01 on 05.10.2020.
S.No. 02 on 12.10.2020
S.No. 03 on 21.10.2020
S.No. 04 to 06 on 22.10.2020
S.No. 07 on 26.10.2020
S.No. 08 on 28.10.2020
Beside above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs. 25 lakhs. For details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/ A1103 Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Russia meddled in 2016 polls for Hillary: Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has alleged that a new set of documents have revealed that Russians interfered in the 2016 presidential elections on behalf of his then rival and Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

The alleged Russian interference in US elections in 2016 was one of the major topics for the Opposition Democrats in the first three years of Trump's presidency and also became the basis of the failed impeachment proceedings against him.

"I've been tarred with this horrible witch hunt for four years. And I didn't do it. Think of it. What would my numbers be, if I didn't go through almost four years of a Russian witch hunt that turned out to be just the opposite. They were the ones involved with Russia," Trump said while addressing a Republican campaign rally in Newport, Virginia on Friday.

"A new trove of documents...now prove that Russia interfered in 2016. Unfortunately, it was on behalf of Hillary Clinton, not Trump. They interfered with disinformation," Trump said.

Trump alleged the 2016 presidential elections were interfered by the Russians on behalf of rival Clinton's campaign.

"The newly released text messages make 100 per cent clear. The FBI knew that Democrats purchased Russian disinformation targeting me, your favourite president, which then formed the basis for the witch hunt," he said as he praised several Fox News anchors for standing by him during those days.

Trump also accused the Democrats and the Russians of spying on him and his campaign.

"It was a whole big disinformation campaign," he said amidst cheers and applause from his audience. Now it's turning out...Not



turning out, turning out, it's done because if you look at everything, that's come out over the last few days, it's we caught them. They spied on my campaign and they tried for a coup," he said.

"Can you believe it, in this day and age? And we caught them cold. ... It turned out to be a total hoax. In fact, Biden's son was just revealed two days ago, got USD 3.5 million dollars from the wife of the mayor of Moscow," he alleged.

The Trump administration earlier this month charged a Russian national in a sweeping plot to sow distrust in the American political process and imposed sanctions against a Russia-linked Ukrainian lawmaker accused of interfering in the US presidential election.

Those actions, combined with a Microsoft announcement on hacking attempts targeting US political

campaigns, parties and consultants,

underscore the extent to which the same cyber intrusions and foreign influence operations that defined the 2016 White House race remain a persistent concern, according to local media reports.

Meanwhile, latest polls show that Trump, 74, is fast catching up with his Democratic rival and former vice president Joe Biden, 77, with the latter leading by 6.7 per cent on a national average against a double-digit lead more than a month ago.

In the battleground States, the lead has now come down to 3.6 per cent ahead of the November 3 presidential election.

Trump in his rallies over the past 10 days has been attracting a huge crowd, with his supporters ignoring social distancing measures of coronavirus pandemic.

Biden on the other hand has not been doing large public rallies. His meetings are mostly virtual and small in-person ones at times.

Senior Communist party official suspended in Tibet for divulging State secrets



Beijing: The ruling Communist Party of China has suspended a senior official in Tibet for corruption and divulging state secrets, according to the official media.

Wang Jinhe, 55, a former party member and deputy director of Tibet's transport authority, has been subject to disciplinary and supervisory investigations for suspected serious violations of discipline and law in April this year.

He has been in the vice post of the Tibet transport authority for eight years since 2012, the state-run Xinhua news agency.

The discipline inspection commission of the Tibet Autonomous Region announced on Friday that Wang was expelled from the Communist party and removed from his position for corruption, divulging state secrets and illegally possessing ammunition.

The commission said Wang had demonstrated disloyalty to the party and even countered the inspection by transferring and concealing evidence.

He illegally occupied public houses; divulged state secrets, and illegally possessed ammunition, the commission said.

He took advantage of his position to provide unlawful help in contracting projects to those who offered him bribes of a huge amount, it said, without releasing details.

Wang has seriously violated the party's disciplines of politics, organisation, work and life. And, his actions should be dealt with seriously, it said.

Wang has since been expelled from the party and removed from his government position with all illegal gains confiscated. Thousands of Communist Party of China officials have been suspended since Chinese President Xi Jinping took power in 2012.

Critics allege that Xi also made effective use of the anti-graft campaign to consolidate his power. PTI

S Korea calls for N Korea to further investigate shooting

Seoul: South Korea said on Saturday it will request North Korea to further investigate the killing of a South Korean government official who was shot by North Korean troops after being found adrift near the rivals' disputed sea boundary while apparently trying to defect.

Seoul could also possibly call for a joint investigation into Tuesday's shooting, which sparked outrage in the South and drew a rare apology from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Kim was quoted as saying he was "very sorry" over what he described as an "unexpected, unfortunate incident" in a message sent by Pyongyang's United Front Department, a North Korean government agency in charge of inter-Korean relations.

However, the North Korean message, which was announced by the office of South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday, largely passed the blame for the shooting to the South Korean official, claiming that he refused to answer questions and attempted to flee before North Korean troops fired at him.

South Korean officials during a presidential National Security Council meeting Friday evening concluded that further investigation was needed because the North's account of the incident was different from what was gathered by South Korean intelligence, Moon's office said.

"We have decided to request the North to conduct an additional investigation and also request a joint investigation with the North if needed," the

Blue House said in a statement. It said the South will also "swiftly take measures to further strengthen surveillance posture" in waters off the country's western coast to prevent similar incidents.

South Korea's coast guard was deploying dozens of vessels and hundreds of officers to search waters near the western sea border Saturday for the official's remains.

The North's state media have yet to report on the incident or Kim's apology.

South Korea earlier accused the North of shooting the man, who was likely trying to defect, and burning his body after finding him on a floating object in North Korean waters. South Korean officials condemned what they called an "atrocious act" and pressed North Korea to punish those responsible. AP

US moves to restrict stay of Chinese journalists to 90 days

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump Administration is seeking to restrict the stay of journalists from China in the US to just 90 days with the provision of another extension for a similar duration, according to a federal notification.

The move came amidst worsening of bilateral ties over a range of issues like the coronavirus pandemic, trade, Beijing's increasing grip on Hong Kong and alleged human rights abuses against minorities in the Xinjiang province.

The proposal of the

Department of Homeland Security is part of the fixed time limit on visas of students, researchers and foreign journalists in the US.

While the time limit for foreign journalists in general has been restricted to 240 days and another extension of a similar period, those for a journalist from China would be issued a visa by the United States just for 90 days, as per the federal notification issued on Friday.

State holders have 30 days to respond to the federal notification before it can be enforced.

China's fastest metro train makes debut

Beijing: China's fastest subway train, travelling at 160 kms per hour, made its debut in southern Guangzhou city, official media reported on Saturday.

The subway train will be put into service at Guangzhou Metro's No. 18 and No. 22 metro lines, which are still under construction. Once it is put into service, it will take 25 minutes and 30 minutes from Nansha Free Trade Zone to the South Guangzhou train station and East Guangzhou train station, respectively, state-run Global Times reported. The two lines will extend to Guangdong's Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Dongguan cities in the future. PTI

Russia, China block release of UN report criticising Russia

United Nations: Russia and China blocked the official release of a report by UN experts on Libya that accused its warring parties and their international backers -- including Russia -- of violating a UN arms embargo on the conflict-racked country, UN diplomats said Friday.

Germany's deputy UN ambassador, Günter Sautter, said he brought the issue to the Security Council after the two countries blocked the report's release by the committee monitoring sanctions on Libya, which Germany heads. "Many delegations have asked for the publication of the panel of experts' interim report," he said.

"This would create much needed transparency. It would contribute to naming and shaming those who continue to blatantly violate the arms embargo in spite of agreements that have been made."

But diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity because Friday's council consultations were closed, said Russia and

close ally China again blocked the report's publication.

Sautter said before the meeting, when asked what Germany could do if Russia and China blocked the report's release again: "Let me assure you I will continue to use every tool at hand in order to make sure that we have the necessary transparency."

The report, seen by The Associated Press earlier this month, said the arms embargo was being violated by Libya's UN-supported government in the west, which is backed by Turkey and Qatar, and by rival east-based forces under commander Khalifa Hifter, backed by the United Arab Emirates, Russia and Jordan.

The panel said the embargo remains "totally ineffective." The experts said 11 companies also violated the arms embargo, including the Wagner Group, a private Russian security company that the panel said in May provided between 800 and 1,200 mercenaries to Hifter.

In addition, the experts said the warring parties and their international backers, along with Egypt and Syria, failed to inspect aircraft or vessels if they have reasonable grounds to believe the cargo contains military weapons and ammunition, as required by a 2015 Security Council resolution.

Anwar Gargash, the United Arab Emirates' minister of state for foreign affairs, told a group of reporters at a virtual briefing Friday that he wouldn't comment on a report he hadn't seen. But he said that "we categorically deny" many of the "wild allegations that we've been hearing in the press."

In the years after the 2011 uprising that toppled longtime autocrat Moammar Gadhafi, Libya has sunk further into turmoil and is now divided between two rival administrations based in the country's east and west, with an array of fighters and militias backed by various foreign powers allied with each side. AP

Trump to nominate judge Amy Coney Barrett to succeed Ginsburg: Report

Washington: President Donald Trump plans on Saturday to name conservative federal appeals court judge Amy Coney Barrett to fill the vacancy on the US Supreme Court created by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, two sources said on Friday.

His decision, which comes a week after the liberal icon's death at age 87, sets the stage for what promises to be a bitter confirmation fight in the US Senate, which is controlled by Trump's fellow Republicans. Trump has asked Senate Republicans to confirm his nominee ahead of the Nov. 3 US election, when he seeks a second term in office and Democrats aim to seize control of the chamber.

Barrett, 48, was appointed by Trump to the Chicago-based 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 2017 and is known for her conservative religious views. Supreme Court justices

are given lifetime appointments.

If confirmed by the Senate, she would become the fifth woman to serve on the high court while expanding its conservative majority to a rock-solid 6-3.

Trump plans a formal introduction at the White House on Saturday. Two sources confirmed on Friday that Trump plans to nominate Barrett, but warned that Trump could change his mind. Trump himself told reporters on Friday that he had made his decision, but declined to say who his pick was.

Barrett has been viewed as a frontrunner throughout, along with fellow federal appeals court judge Barbara Lagoa. Barrett previously served as a clerk to conservative Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who died in 2016. Agency

Thousands protest COVID restrictions in central London

London: Thousands gathered on Saturday at London's Trafalgar Square to protest lockdowns and social distancing rules imposed to slow the spread of COVID-19.

London's Metropolitan Police has warned demonstrators to follow social-distancing rules. Police said before the event that officers will first engage with people and explain the social distancing rules, but they may take enforcement action if protesters still fail to comply. As the protest began, police were visible around the edges of the crowd but didn't confront protesters, most of whom weren't wearing masks.

"I know there is great frustration to these regulations, but they have been designed to keep everyone safe from what is a lethal virus," Cmdr. Ade Adelekan said. "By flagrantly gathering in large numbers and ignoring social distancing, you are putting your at risk." AP

Around the Globe

Kiev: One of the two survivors of a Ukrainian military plane crash died in hospital as the death count climbed to 26 on Saturday after three more bodies were found. President Volodymyr Zelensky arrived at the scene of the tragedy near the eastern city of Kharkiv where an Antonov-26 transport plane carrying 20 young cadets and seven crew members crashed Friday evening.

Berlin: Hundreds of anti-coal protesters entered a mine in western Germany on Saturday to protest the continued extraction and use of fossil fuels.

Environmentalists object to the German government's decision to allow the mining and burning of coal in the country until 2038, a deadline the activists say is too late to effectively tackle climate change.

Beirut: Lebanon's PM-designate resigned on Saturday amid a political impasse over Govt formation, nearly a month after he was appointed to the job. The announced by Moustapha Adib deals a blow to Emmanuel Macron's efforts to break a dangerous stalemate in the crisis-hit country. Macron has been pressing Lebanese politicians to form a Cabinet made up of independent specialists that can work on enacting urgent reforms to extract Lebanon from a devastating economic and financial crisis.

France: 7 in custody after stabbing linked to Charlie Hebdo

AP ■ PARIS

Seven people were in custody on Saturday after a stabbing outside the former Paris offices of satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, including the suspected assailant, authorities said. Counterterrorism authorities are investigating what authorities called an Islamic extremist attack linked to Charlie Hebdo, which lost 12 employees in an al-Qaida attack in 2015.

The weekly, which routinely mocks religious and other prominent figures, recently republished caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad that outraged many Muslims.

The suspected assailant on Friday's stabbing had been arrested a month ago for carrying a screwdriver but was not on police radar for Islamic radicalisation, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said. He said the screwdriver was considered a weapon, but did not explain why.

The suspect arrived in France three years ago as an unaccompanied minor, appar-

ently from Pakistan, but his identity was still being verified, the minister said.

Seven others were detained in the aftermath of Friday's attack, but one has been released, according to judicial officials.

Five of those in custody were detained in the Paris suburb of Pantin in a residence where the suspect is believed to have lived, a police official said.

Two people were wounded in Friday's attack, a woman and a man working at a documentary production company who had stepped outside for a smoke break.

The interior minister conceded that security was lacking on the street where Charlie Hebdo was once headquartered, and ordered special protection for all "symbolic sites," noting in particular Jewish sites around the Yom Kippur holiday this weekend.

Sirisena should take responsibility for Easter Sunday attack: Ex-police chief

Colombo: Former Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena should take responsibility for the 2019 Easter Sunday bombings that claimed the lives of over 250 people, ex-police chief Pujith Jayasundara has told a panel probing the attack, according to media reports.

On April 21, 2019, Easter Sunday, nine suicide bombers belonging to the local Islamic extremist group National Thawheed Jamaat (NTJ) carried out a series of blasts that tore through three churches and as many luxury hotels in the island nation, killing 258

people, including 11 Indians, and injuring over 500 people.

Sri Lankan police have arrested over 200 suspects in connection with the bombings. Links between the NTJ and the Islamic State (IS) were later established.

Suspended Inspector General of Police Jayasundara testified on Thursday before the presidential inquiry commission probing the attacks, the Daily Mirror Lanka reported. "I provided intelligence to senior DIGs Nandana Munasinghe, Latheef, Priyalal Dasanayake and Waruna Jayasundara who had been

appointed to cover the entire island. Provincial officers were also informed," the newspaper quoted Jayasundara as saying.

He said Sirisena's brother had ensured the intelligence that he provided was deleted from telecom records, who at the time was the president of Mobitel Telecom, reported the Colombo Page. Jayasundara told the commission that Sirisena had asked him to take responsibility for the attack and indirectly offered inducements — high government post, appointment as an Ambassador. PTI

Scores arrested in protest against Belarus' Presz

Kyiv: Hundreds of women calling for the authoritarian president to step down protested in Belarus' capital on Saturday, continuing the large demonstrations that have rocked the country since early August.

Police blocked off the center of Minsk and arrested more than 60 demonstrators, according to the Viasna human rights organisation. Some of those arrested were chased down by

police in building courtyards where they were trying to take refuge, Viasna said.

Protests, by far the largest and most persistent in Belarus since independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, began August 9 after an election that officials said gave President Alexander Lukashenko a sixth term in office.

Opponents and some poll workers say the results, in

which Lukashenko was tallied with 80 per cent support, were manipulated.

Despite wide-scale detentions of demonstrators and the arrest of many prominent opposition figures, the protests haven't shown signs of abating. Lukashenko further angered opponents this week by taking the oath of office for a new term in an unexpected ceremony. AP

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Sunti Brijija, D/o Ramun Brijija, R/o H.No. 45/09 Upper Ground Floor, East Patel Nagar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 13.08.2020 from the area of PS Patel Nagar, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 33A dated 06.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Sunti Brijija, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 19 years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Blue colour kurti and white colour pajama. If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/Patel Nagar, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Patel Nagar, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-25872637, 8758070434

DP/363/CD/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 25-30 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found unconscious near Shop No. 1132, Bazar Matia Mahal, Jama Masjid, Delhi on 24.09.2020. The unidentified person was admitted to the Lady Hardinge Hospital. During the treatment, he was declared dead by the doctors. In this regard, a vide has been registered with **DD No. 19-A dated 24.09.2020 at PS, Jama Masjid, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under:

Sex: Male, **Age:** about 25-30 years, **Height:** 5'8", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Identification Mark:** A tattoo mark of "OM" on the right hand and "AMIT" on the right forearm, **Wearing:** White and blue colour striped t-shirt, dark grey colour pant and bare footed.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/ Jama Masjid, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639

SHO
P.S. Jama Masjid, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-23261625, 23269777

DP/390/CD/2020

PRESS NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (ABRIDGED)

No e-12/AGRI/EE/MECH/2020-21

Separate sealed e-E.O.I (web-portal: www.tripuratenders.gov.in) are invited by the Executive Engineer (Mech.), Mechanical division, Department of Agriculture & F.W, Matripalli, Badharghat on behalf of the "Governor of Tripura" from the eligible bidder(s) for "Empanelment of vendor (Model specific) to sell Manual Seed Treatment Drum" (2nd Call) upto 03.00 P.M on 20/10/2020.

Details can be seen in web-portal: www.tripuratenders.gov.in and may be contracted with O/o the undersigned if desired.

Sd/-
(Er. S.K. Malakar)
Executive Engineer (Mech)
Deptt. of Agriculture & FW,
Matripalli, Badharghat

ICA/C-1698/2020-2021

RBI to retain lending rates, accommodative stance, say experts

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

Persistently high inflation fanned in part due to supply side disruptions along with seasonal factors will deter the Reserve Bank to administer a dose of lending rate cut during the upcoming monetary policy review.

In a poll conducted by IANS, economist and industry experts cited elevated inflation level as a key determinant for a pause in policy easing.

Notably, the expected move comes at a time when industrial output is at historic low due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A policy easing, if administered, would have theoretically allowed commercial

banks to reduce their lending rates thereby helping both consumers and the industry to get cheaper finance.

Subsequently, the increased money flow in the hands of consumers would have helped to boost demand, and for the industry provided a higher flow of capital investment on the back of lower cost.

Nonetheless, retail inflation has been at an elevated level during July-August.

"In view of the retail inflation being higher than RBI's comfort zone for two consecutive quarters in the past and likelihood of it remaining in excess of 6 per cent in July-September as well, no rate cut is expected in the upcoming policy review," Sunil Kumar

Sinha, Principal Economist, India Ratings & Research told IANS.

"But RBI will continue to maintain its accommodative policy stance to signal that policy rates are not going to go up either."

Lately, data showed that India's August retail inflation stood at an elevated level.

The retail or consumer price index stood at 6.69 per cent in August. It had risen to 6.73 per cent in July.

As per the data, retail inflation level has reached the upper limit of the medium-term CPI inflation target of 4 per cent. The target is set within a band of +/- 2 per cent.

"Given the elevated CPI inflation, we expect an extend-



ed pause from the MPC," said Aditi Nayar, Principal Economist, ICRA.

The RBI's MPC (Monetary Policy Committee) is expected to release its resolution on the monetary policy after their meet on Sep 29th to Oct 1st, 2020.

"We believe that MPC will

economic indicators, showed decline in production and in essence revival of economic growth due to localised lockdowns, supply chain disruptions and lack of labour supply.

"Our inflation trajectory suggests that technically the next opportune time to cut may not come before end-3QFY21," said Madhavi Arora, Lead Economist, FX and Rates for Edelweiss Securities.

"However, the modest reduction in July and August CPI inflation will provide some comfort for the RBI. We maintain the depth of ongoing fall in demand is not yet reflected accurately in inflation, and as it starts to percolate in data and as supply normalise progressively, headline CPI inflation

will likely moderate towards 4 per cent by end-CY20, admittedly also helped by base effect."

The August datapoint further showed that India's consumer food price index had eased a bit to 9.05 per cent against 9.27 per cent reported for July 2020.

On its part, Brickwork Ratings said: "We expect inflation to remain below 6 per cent in Q3FY21 as food inflation is likely to lower in the wake of abundant harvests."

"The pandemic is still evolving, and credit offtake, even at a low rate of interest, looks sticky. With uncertainty regarding the pandemic looming large, the RBI may not provide a GDP forecast for FY21 in the upcoming MPC meet-

ing. As in the previous statements, the RBI may continue to talk about economic contraction without quantifying the magnitude."

Last month, the MPC of the central bank decided to retain its key short-term lending rate to curb the rise in inflation, and stabilise the general economic environment.

Even though it retained the repo rate -- or short-term lending rate for commercial banks, at 4 per cent, the MPC agreed to maintain the growth-oriented a ccommodative stance.

Likewise, the reverse repo rate stood unchanged at 3.35 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the 'Bank Rate' at 4.25 per cent.

Temporary retention of GST cess pending reconciliation not diversion: FinMin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance ministry sources have countered CAG audit finding of central Government wrongly retaining ₹47,272 crore of GST compensation cess meant for States, saying temporary retention cannot be termed as diversion.

Days after the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) flagged that the Centre in first two years of the GST implementation wrongly retained GST compensation cess that was meant to be used specifically to compensate states for loss of revenue, ministry sources said compensation due for the year 2017-18 and 2018-19 was fully paid to states.

Time taken in reconciliation of compensation receipts can't be termed as diversion of GST cess fund when the dues to states were fully released by the central government, they said.

Sources said that in 2017-18, ₹62,611 crore was collect-

ed, out of which the government released full compensation dues of ₹41,146 crore to the States and union territories (UTs).

In 2018-19, an amount of ₹95,081 crore was collected, out of which ₹69,275 crore was paid as full compensation dues to States and UTs.

They said an amount of ₹47,271 crore collected in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 had remained unutilised for reconciliation post full payment of GST compensation dues.

For the year 2019-20, the central Government released ₹1,65,302 crore as GST compensation against a cess collection of ₹95,444 crore which it could do so with the unutilised cess of ₹47,271 crore.

The GST (Compensation to States) Act guarantees all states an annual growth rate of 14 per cent in their GST revenue in the first five years of implementation of GST beginning July 2017. It was intro-

duced as a relief for States for the loss of revenues arising from the implementation of GST.

If a state's revenue grows slower than 14 per cent, it is supposed to be compensated by the Centre using the funds specifically collected as compensation cess. To provide these grants, a GST compensation cess is levied on certain luxury and sin goods.

The collected compensation cess flows into the consolidated fund of India (CFI), and is then transferred to the Public Account of India, where a GST compensation cess account has been created. States are compensated bi-monthly from the accumulated funds in this account.

However, instead of transferring the entire GST cess amount to the GST compensation fund during 2017-18 and 2018-19, the CAG found that the Centre retained these funds in the CFI and used it for other purposes.

Diesel gets cheaper, petrol prices unchanged

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Diesel prices fell again on Saturday continuing its southward movement in tandem with fall in global product prices and steady crude prices.

Oil marketing companies, however, kept petrol prices unchanged for the fourth consecutive day.

In the national capital, diesel prices fell by 16 paise per litre to ₹70.94 a litre down from ₹71.10 per litre on Friday. Petrol prices remained static at ₹81.06 a litre.

In the other metros of Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata as well diesel prices fell between 15-18 paise per litre.

The price fall is on the back of expectation of slowing demand for oil globally as a second wave of coronavirus spike threatens further derail economic activity.

Rate decision, US stimulus likely constraints to rupee's further appreciation

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Caution over the upcoming monetary policy review along with a strong US dollar is expected to check the appreciation in Indian rupee during the short-term.

Notably, a likely US fiscal stimulus package combined with caution over the upcoming monetary policy review slated for October 1 may limit the rise in the USDINR spot.

"The strength in dollar index, foreign fund outflows could weigh Rupee for next few weeks going ahead," said Devarsh Vakil, Deputy Head of Retail Research at HDFC Securities. "Dollar continues to gain as concerns about rising Covid-19 cases in ducing a slowdown in the global economic recovery weigh on stock markets and emerging currencies, in turn benefiting the oversold dollar." Recently, a comment by a senior US Fed official on the need for more US fiscal stimulus added "fur-

ther fuel to the fire".

"In near term, dollar and the safe haven yen are likely to outperform," he said.

According to Sajal Gupta, Head, Forex and Rates, Edelweiss Securities: "Rupee closed at 73.60 after a roller coaster week, but remained stable to strong on expected Reliance Retail deal pipeline."

"Other developments such as RBI again mopping-up \$3 billion in the previous week, S&P affirming India's ratings with a word of caution on future growth outlook are expected curtail the appreciation, however, rupee may strengthen toward 73 in coming days within a range of 73.90 to 73.20." Besides, market will keep an eye out for the pan-ultimate monetary policy review for the calendar year 2020 which is slated for Oct 1.

Last week, the rupee strengthened to Rs 73.60 against a greenback.

"Rupee can be in range of 73.25-74.10 as the dollar index

keeps has strong support near \$94-94.20, and some upside possibly towards \$95-95.40 shall keep rupee appreciation at check," said Jateen Trivedi, Senior Research Analyst (Commodity & Currency) at LKP Securities. "The market is cautiously awaiting the outcome of the RBI monetary policy meeting on October 1. More or less the range remains between 73.25-74.10 on broad trading." However, corporate dollar inflows along with IPO listing will keep the appreciation momentum going on for the Indian currency.

"The hope that the US fiscal stimulus package will rollout soon is tempting to think that this may be an end to the dollar bull run, but there's still remains a high risk over the passage of the stimulus package. So unless the bill is passed, we may observe some appreciation in the USDINR spot towards the 74 zone," said Rahul Gupta, Head of Research-Currency at Emkay Global Financial Services.

DigitX announces opening of trading operations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Building on the opportunity of trust, transparency and security in Crypto trading, India's first Business-to-Business (B2B) Crypto trading exchange, DigitX, has announced its commencement of trading operations.

Speaking on the occasion Ashish Mehta, Co-Founder, DigitX said "Crypto even since its inception have had a roller coaster ride, where it enjoys a high degree of popularity among a certain section of the society and at the same time it faces questions on security and transparency. It is our humble initiative, to educate investors in the ecosystem and people at large about the potential of this alternative asset class, which works on the principal of super efficiency through Block Chain. We are starting operations with our trusted members and by the end of 2021, we are aiming to have members on board."

NTPC stops land acquisition for greenfield coal-based projects

New Delhi: In a big change in its business strategy, the country's largest coal-fired power

producer NTPC proposes to completely stop land acquisition for green field thermal

projects and rather look for reducing its carbon footprint through aggressive renewable energy push.

"We have taken the decision not to acquire any further land for green field thermal projects in near future and the focus will be on reducing the carbon foot print," NTPC chairman Gurdeep Singh said in a statement to the shareholders at a recently concluded AGM. As part of its initiative to transform itself into a renewable player, NTPC has also decided to set up a separate green focused subsidiary.

By 2032, state-owned NTPC plans to add 32 GW of renewable generation capacity to its portfolio through organic and inorganic routes. Non-fossil fuel-based generation capacity will make up nearly 30 per cent of its portfolio, which, at present, is less than 10 per cent. Short term target is to reach 10 GW of renewable capacity up to 2022. "In order to get access to large tracts of land for RE projects, discussions are in progress with state governments of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh for allocation of land parcels for setting up of renewable projects. These would be developed under Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks scheme of the government of India," the company chairman informed the shareholders. IANS

Trair drops probe against Voda Idea on priority plan issue after telco tweaks offer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom regulator Trair has decided to drop proceedings against Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) in priority plan matter after the telco withdrew contentious claims on faster speed and modified its offering.

The move brings down curtains on the controversial priority plan issue, which saw the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trair) initiating a probe into telco's claims of priority network and faster data speeds for premium customers.

Last month, the regulator had slapped a show-cause notice on VIL over its priority mobile plan, saying the tariff offer lacked transparency and was "misleading" and not in compliance with regulatory framework.

Faced with regulatory heat, VIL recently dropped the faster data speed claims which formed a prominent part of its pay-more-for-priority-treatment offering and filed a revised plan with Trair.

The regulator has now informed VIL that "the authority has decided not to proceed with the investigation/further inquiry". Trair letter, seen by PTI, noted that the operator has informed that the earlier RedX plan has been discontinued and that a new tariff

plan of RedX, without the claim of priority 4G network feature with faster speed, has been filed. "It has been further stated that VIL believes that the same would address the concerns of the authority and based on the same, VIL requested the authority to grant closure to the pending enquiry," the regulator said closing the matter. Earlier this month, VIL submitted a new RedX plan with Trair as

it removed claims of faster data speeds - a major bone of contention. The company's website too had stopped touting claims of faster speeds for RedX plan and instead spoke of benefits purely in terms of entertainment privileges (Netflix and Amazon Prime), travel privileges, mobility benefits and other privileges for the said offer. Trair had been examining VIL's priority plan RedX and Bharti Airtel Platinum offering to see if network preference to specific customers led to deterioration of services for other non-premium subscribers or violated any norms.

Bharti Airtel, however, was not issued a show-cause notice for its platinum plan. Airtel had withdrawn its platinum offering and offered to abide by Trair's views and hence the regulator did not proceed with further investigation on it.

Fortis Healthcare hands over a cheque of ₹2.5 crore to ICMR



Fortis Healthcare hands over cheque of ₹2.5 crore to ICMR from CSR fund in the presence of MoS Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey

New Delhi: Leading private sector medical service provider Fortis Healthcare has handed over a cheque of ₹2.5 crore at the initiative of Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Ashwini Kumar Choubey.

Fortis Healthcare's MD and CEO Dr Ashutosh Raghuvanshi, senior Vice President (Corporate Affairs

and CSR) Manu Kapila, SRI's CEO Anand Kumar handed over the cheque to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Prof (DR) Balram Bhargava and senior financial advisor Rajiv Roy. On the occasion, Shri Choubey was present. At the event, Shri Choubey said that the ICMR has established an outstanding parameter in the

field of research. Not only in India, this institute one of the best research institute in the world. Since day first of Covid-19 pandemic, the scientists are working tirelessly day and night. He also said that the Fortis Hospital has done a commendable job and "I am sure this would inspire many."

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Jai Prakash Saini S/o Phool Singh Saini and his wife Geeta Saini both R/O H.No. 1, Gali No. 2, Block B, Sant Nagar Barari, North Delhi. Delhi 110084 have severed their relations from their son Abhishek Saini and his wife Shakti Bhetwal due to their Misconduct and Quarrelsome behaviour towards My Clients and have debarred them from their moveable and immovable properties. My clients shall not be responsible for their any acts/transactions. Umesh Mishra (Advocate) Chamber No.-325, 3rd Floor, F Block Karkardooma Court, Delhi Mob.-991 965450892

E-TENDERING PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, CD-1, Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD Opp. ESI Hospital, Basai Darapur Opp. ESI Complex New Delhi-110027 Invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate tender from approved and eligible contractors for the following works:-

- NIT No. EE/CD-1/D/2020-21/22 (ID No. 2020_IFC_194690_1) H.O.A:- 4217-Plan (MLALAD), Name of Work:- Supplying installation testing and commissioning of 72 watt LED fitting etc.(200Nos.) in ward No. S05,S06,S07,S08 in Rajouri Garden Assembly Constituency-27. E.C. Rs 19,92,850/- Earnest Money Rs. 39,857/- period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of submission & opening of bid on 28.09.2020 at 3:00 P.M. & 3.05 P.M respectively.

Note:-
1. Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
2. Amendment(s) / alteration(s) / corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.
Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER/CD-1
DIP/Shabdharth/0325/20-21

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Tel.: 0135-2763808, Fax-0135-2763508, CIN No. U49101UR2001SGC025886, website: www.uttarakhandujvnyut.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER दिनांक 26.09.2020

For and on behalf of UJVN Ltd., Executive Engineer (Civil), Pashulok Barrage Rishikesh, invites sealed & separate tenders from interested contractors for following work:-

- Tender Notice Reference :** NIT No.-09/2020-21/EE(C)/Pashulok Barrage- Annual Sweeping and Cleaning Works of Maneri Bhal-II Colony, Rishikesh.
- Estimated Value of Tender :-** Rs. 6,43,089.02
- Date of availability of bid document on website :-** 26.09.2020 from 17:00 Hrs. (IST)
- Last Date for Submission of Tender :-** 16.10.2020 upto 14:00 Hrs. (IST).

For eligibility criteria and full and further details kindly visit our web site. The tenders can be downloaded from our web site i.e. www.uttarakhandujvnyut.com and tender cost shall be paid at the time of submission of the tender.

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

WESTERN RAILWAY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO. S/22/2020
Date 24.09.2020

S.No.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
583	Rear Cover for Axle Box	2497 Nos.	09.10.2020
584	Equalising Stay Complete for Lower Spring Beam	2083 Nos.	09.10.2020
585	Wearing Piece for Side Bearer on Bogie Boister Susp	753 Nos.	09.10.2020
586	Set of 35 mm Non Asbestos Based Organic Brake Pads	3933 Nos.	09.10.2020
587	Flap Door for BCNA Wagon	620 Nos.	09.10.2020
588	Loctite 518 Sealant/ Loctite of M/s. Henkel	187 Nos.	12.10.2020
589	Blower for AHU Motor of SIEMENS EMU rake	120 Nos.	12.10.2020
590	Semi Automated Column Agglutination Gel	1 No.	12.10.2020
591	Supply of Single Section Digital Counter (SSDAC)	2 Sets	15.10.2020
592	Axle Box Housing Finish Machined	766 Nos.	15.10.2020
593	POH Kit	240 Sets	15.10.2020
594	Glass Unit for Fixed Window	1242 Nos.	16.10.2020
595	Paper Masking Tape size 24 mm	2700 Nos.	19.10.2020
596	Paper Masking Tape size 2 inch width and 25 Mtrs.	4325 Nos.	19.10.2020
597	Air Brake Hose Coupling	6230 Nos.	19.10.2020
598	Complete Assly. of Swing Door	345 Nos.	19.10.2020
599	Internal Combustion Engine Oil Grade SAE 40	12600 Ltrs.	19.10.2020
600	Centre Pivot Pin	36 Nos.	21.10.2020
601	Rubber Spring Plate for Draw & Buff Gear	3132 Nos.	22.10.2020
602	PIN Flat Head	2178 Nos.	23.10.2020
603	Coupler Body with Shank Wear Plate (Welded)	985 Nos.	23.10.2020
604	Slack Adjuster Type	13 Items	23.10.2020
605	Auxiliary Reservoir	300 Nos.	23.10.2020
606	Modified Lubricant Grease Sealant Stick	3261 Nos.	23.10.2020
607	18W (4 feet Length) LED	3227 Nos.	24.10.2020

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

For Principal Chief Materials Manager
Like us on! [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on twitter.com/WesternRly

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of passenger that the decision regarding the increase in frequency of train no. 02303/02304 Howrah - New Delhi Poorva Express Special (Via Patna) and 02381/02382 Howrah jn. - New Delhi Poorva Express Special (Via Dhanbad) published on 26.09.2020 has been postponed till further advice.

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

Integrated Helpline No. 139 and Security Helpline No. 182

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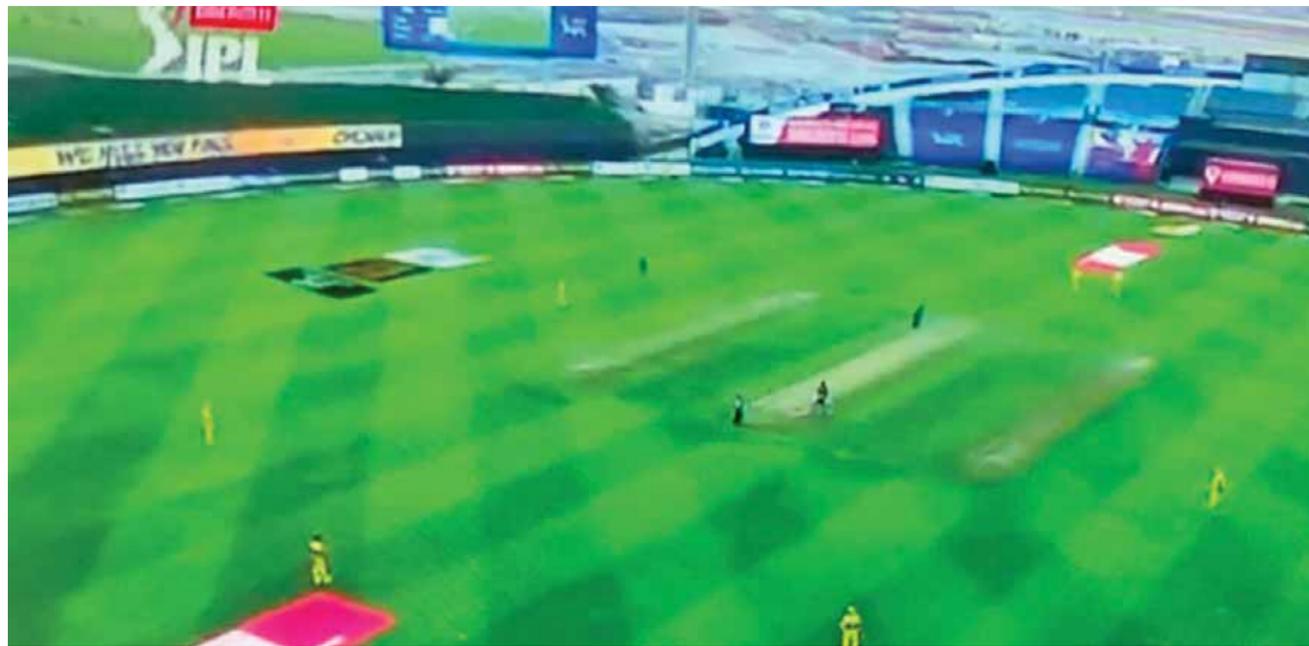
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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely** : Unknown S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown **Age**: about 40-50 years, **Height**: 5'2", **Complexion**: Shallow, **Face**: Long, **Built**: Medium, **Hair**: Black, **Mustache & Beard** **Wearing**: Black colour half pant has been found dead at near shop no. 2590, Sir Syed Ahmed Road, Darya Ganj, Delhi on 20.09.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 19A Dated 20.09.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours in MAMC Hospital Mortuary, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found dead person may kindly inform to the following:- **SHO** : P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi Central Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23279331, 23274683

DP/386/CD/2020



Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, the opening match of IPL 13 between Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings is being played in an empty stadium in the UAE

Pioneer Photo



Photo: IPLT20.com

FANTASTIC MOMENTS



The IPL Season 13 is back after braving pandemic propelled cancellation fears. The fans tell SHALINI SAKSENA that while watching the match at home is not a patch on populating the stands in the stadiums, the love for cricket is keeping them glued to their TV screens

The Virat Gang star

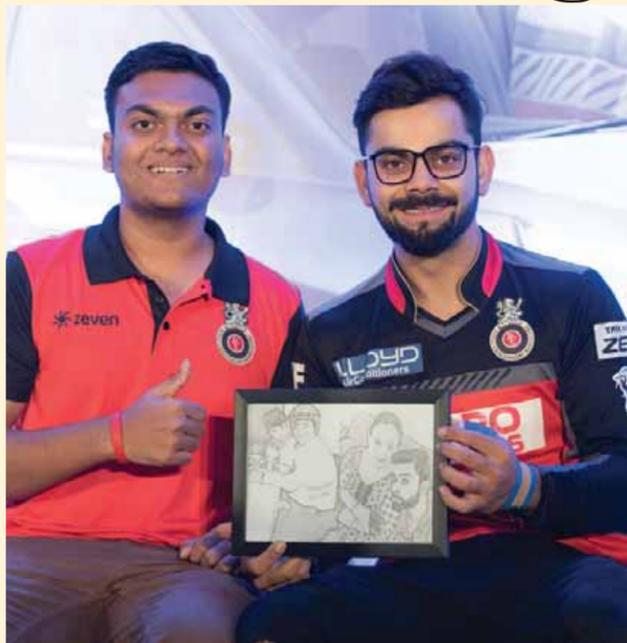
PRATHAMESH AVACHARE
Nashik
Favourite IPL team:
Royal Challengers Bangalore

His love for the game began when he was in Class III. From there on there was no turning back. While he played cricket at district level, he didn't pursue it further because his parents wanted him to have a proper job that was steady. Meet Prathamesh Avachare, the co-founder of the ViratGang fan community that has seven lakh followers since its inception in 2012.

"I was a good player and maybe managed to play at the State level as well. But destiny had other things in mind. I was always good with numbers and computers hence, did my computer engineering and today I have my own digital marketing agency in Nashik. What keeps me going is the ViratGang — a fan club that a friend, Dileep MK, and I started back in 2012. It was a chance meeting that led me to Dileep. When I was 17, I had won a competition run by Cinthol to challenge Virat Kohli to an unusual game. I was among the top five winners. I had played with Kohli using a baseball bat; neither won. We were tied. It was fun. He is such a good player. I love the way he plays. I came to Delhi and came to know of Dileep. We instantly connected and kept in touch," the 25-year-old tells you.

Both Avachare and MK are Kohli fans and wanted to do something. Hence, ViratGang was born. The community holds events where fans congregate. If possible, the present Team India captain makes an appearance. One is told that theirs is the only fan club that Kohli follows on Twitter.

"It is not possible for Virat Kohli to be there at each and every event that we organise but he does make an appearance when possible. We are always in touch



Prathamesh Avachare celebrates his big fan moment with RCB skipper Virat Kohli

It is not possible for Virat Kohli to be there at each and every event that we organise but he does make an appearance when possible. We are always in touch with him over Twitter

with him over Twitter. There is very little that we don't know about the man and the game that he plays. Even during the lockdown, we posted things that Virat Kohli said to keep the morale of the people high and ensure their mental wellbeing. While there was nothing much related to the game, it was important that we were in touch with the community," Avachare tells you.

While it is not always possible for him to be present for each and every match that India plays, he is there for all the

matches that are played in the country and the important ones.

"I was there in England last year for the World Cup. I travel as much as I can and follow the team. It is easier to do so when they are playing domestic cricket. It is a bit of an expensive hobby but the pleasure that I derive from watching Kohli play in the stadium has a charm that can't be replaced," Avachare tells you.

The lockdown pushed forward some of the plans that the club had planned but things are moving now, he tells you and soon they will be out with merchandise on Virat Kohli. He tells you that since the IPL started, they have a parallel fan club for the RCB team where they just don't go ga-ga over Kohli but the entire team. "We have the RCB Bold Brigade called The Red Army. This means that when the team won their first match the other day, we were thrilled. It goes without saying that they are my favourites. Here we follow all the players in the team and even have merchandise to offer to the fans like T-shirts, key chain and wrist bands," Avachare says.

All this requires a lot of work and planning, he tells you and therefore Dileep and he make a calendar of events that they need to follow everyday. "It is not as if we can afford to have a blank day on Twitter. We have to update everyday and let the fans know what is happening. If it is not about the game, it is about the events that we are set to organise," Avachare says.

He tells you that while he has followed every game that Team India has played since 2005, when Sachin Tendulkar was in the team he hasn't seen any reruns of games played before that.

"I started following cricket seriously in 2005. Don't know much about the match played before. But that doesn't mean I don't know who the top players of that time were or what their records were. It is just easier to follow the game as one is growing up and keep tabs on your favourite player," Avachare says.

Four generation of cricket love

Professor ASHISH THAKKAR
Mumbai
Favourite IPL team: Mumbai Indians

He is a Chartered Accountant by profession and takes tutorials. Numbers is his love but what keeps the family together is their love for cricket. His childhood dream was to play cricket or become an umpire. But unfortunately, the love for food meant that he couldn't maintain the well of fitness that was required to play international level. Meet Ashish Thakkar.

"We are a Gujarati family and our inherent love for numbers is in me as well. However, my grandfather, father, me and now my daughter are such avid fans of the game that it was impossible to stay away from it. While I did not end up being an umpire or a cricket analyst, I am happy that I can still be part of the game even as a spectator," Thakkar tells you.

Ashish's love for the game comes from his family. He tells you that his great grandfather had some interest which was passed on to his grandfather who then introduced his son and later Ashish to the game.

"I still remember it was in November 1986 that I saw my first game at Wankhede Stadium. It was a match that my father took me to; it was just a practice match between England and Bombay. I fell in love with the atmosphere. It was in Class IX when I started regularly going for all the international games that were played in the city. I am not a fan of any player, it would be difficult to name one. I am a fan of the game. As long as the game is played in the spirit of the sport, it doesn't matter who wins," Ashish says.

While his great grandfather, grandfather and father grew up listening to the commentary for away games. For other games, they would end up watching at Brabourne Stadium. He started watching the game on the Black and White TV and then Wankhede Stadium.

His father, Surya Kanth Thakkar tells you that his memory of the game dates back to the radio days. Like his son, he is the fan of the game. "When I was introduced to the game, I was told to love the game and no side with a team. I taught the same thing to my son and now granddaughter," the 71-year-old tells you and says that during his time, his favourite player was Andy Roberts. He used to regale Ashish with stories about the cricketer.

"I am will be honest here. I am a traditionalist and love Test Matches, then ODIs and then comes T20 format. There have been instances when I have sat alone to just watch a Test Match. My daughter on the other hand prefers the T20," Ashish tells you.

His 12-year-daughter, Ishti is no less. While she may not be a fan of the Test Match, her love for the T20-format keeps her glued and interested in the game. When I first saw the T20 game, I fell in love with the players who would hit fours and sixes. My problem with the IPL is that since all of them have Indian players, it has become difficult for me to choose a team. But since I live in Mumbai, I support Mumbai Indians and its Captain Rohit Sharma. The way he captains his team is great," Ishti says. For her, the best part of cricket is the sportsmanship that the game inculcates. And while there are boys in her class who are fans of the game, she did manage to convince some of her girlfriends who are now fans of the game.

He and his family have no problems that the game had to be held outside. While he would have preferred it to be held in India, what he loves is that the league is being held at least even though there is no crowd to cheer the players on the field.

While Ashish's dream to umpire at the international level never materialised, he has umpired for the local community games. "I was perhaps the only 16-year-old who was umpiring games for 25 year olds back when I was in school. I have no regrets that I was not able to umpire. I am happy I can watch the game with all the changes that have been introduced over the years including the introduction of the third umpire. If technology can eliminate human error, why not? There have been matches in the past that a team has lost due to a wrong decision by the umpire. It is good to improve the game and introduce new rules," Ashish says.



Ashish and his daughter, Ishti have been with cricket live and happening. This time however it is television screens for them

At 81, she won't miss a ball in cricket

SHARADAMBAL VISWESWARAM
Chennai
Favourite IPL team:
Chennai Super Kings

One would have thought that a person who has seen the era when following live cricket match via radio commentary, the IPL matches with its 20 over game would not hold much interest. However, those who love the sport for the game and the sportsmanship that it brings on the field

would tell you that whether it is T20, or ODIs or even IPL, it is not the format that keeps them glued to their seats but the game itself. One such person is Sharadambal Visweswaram from Chennai in Tamil Nadu. The 81-year-old who today spends her time reading magazines, watching movies and spending time with her grandchildren is an avid follower of the game.

"The format doesn't matter. I just love the game. It was not as if I always followed the game. Yes, there were fun-filled days during the winter season

back in the 70s when we used to sit around and follow the game via radio commentary," Visweswaram recalls.

Her interest in the game started when Kapil Dev started playing for Team India. "I really liked Kapil Dev and the way he used to play. That's where my interest for cricket started. Back then there were only two formats — Test Matches and ODIs of 60 overs that each team played. Back then it was strange to watch a match that would be over in a day. But it was fun too. I am sure the 1983 World Cup is etched in every



AGE NO BAR: Sharadambal Visweswaram loves the energy of IPL

Indian's memory, at least those who were old enough to remember. We would have never lifted the Cup had it not been for Kapil Dev's 175-not out against Zimbabwe. It is sad that there is no record of that game. One can only imagine how explosive his game would have been. Once he got going, there was no stopping him. Such a great player," Visweswaram tells you who has never seen a match in the stadium. And recounts the glorious days of commentary over the radio.

"There was a charm to that. The

commentary was such that one felt one was right there, sitting in the front row watching the game. But it was not always possible to follow the game all the time. Household chores took a lot of my time. But for cricket fans, commentary was everything and still is given that, at least for me, there is no such thing as too much cricket," she says who has an ongoing banter with her son-in-law over the phone during IPL season. He is a Mumbai Indian fan and she is CSK.

But it was not as if she understood

the league from day one. "My son-in-law, who is a fan, explained the league to me. It got me interested in the CSK team. I like MS Dhoni; he is so calm on the field. He is second to Kapil Dev," Visweswaram says.

She loves the energy that IPL brings to the ground. It is great to see how the game brings families together. People want to have family time and what better way than sports — cheering for your team. Even though IPL had to shift out, the good part is that it is back, no if or buts," Visweswaram says.

TODAY

VS

Live from 7:30pm
STAR SPORTS 1 & 3



Faf du Plessis | 173 runs

Kagiso Rabada | 5 wickets

KL Rahul was in exceptional form against RCB, so he will be a key wicket as always and I think we'll see another potentially high-scoring game at Sharjah

It's a nice feeling, when you start by winning your first two matches, it helps in giving you confidence and now we need to capitalise on the momentum

This year I am going to try and play my strokes but more along the ground. I would like to see the highlights of my knock and see what I did well to get to the 50

I want to make sure that the 10 guys who are playing and the other players on the bench, I should be talking to them and make them feel important

Leading from the front

Young Gill shines in KKR's seven-wicket win over SRH **Need to up my game and get a few runs: DK**

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Young Shubman Gill drove, pulled and cut with authority in an unbeaten 62-ball 70 as Kolkata Knight Riders overwhelmed Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday.

Gill and Eoin Morgan (42 not out in 29 balls) complemented a disciplined bowling effort, helping the Knight Riders open their account with a convincing win.

The 21-year-old opener anchored the chase perfectly as Morgan counterattacked to seal the issue in KKR's favour with two overs to spare, after their opening game debacle.

Opting to bat, Sunrisers Hyderabad never got going after Pat Cummins (1/19) and rookie spinner Varun Chakravarthy (1/25) removed the opening pair of Jonny Bairstow and David Warner respectively, and were restricted to a below-par 142/4.

After an explosive start by KKR, the bowling-heavy SRH did make some inroads with Khalil Ahmed and T Natarajan dismissing Sunil Narine (0) and Nitish Rana (26 off 13).

Rashid Khan got into the act straightway, trapping KKR skipper Dinesh Karthik for a duck.

But a calm and composed Gill was in complete control of his innings and paced it brilliantly on way to his fifth IPL fifty. Reigning World Cup-winning skipper Morgan played the perfect supporting role before joining the party by smacking Bhuvneshwar Kumar for a huge six in the 15th over to tilt the match in favour of KKR.

Earlier, KKR looked more intent and aggressive with their approach, having



KKR batsman Shubman Gill celebrates with his teammate Eoin Morgan after he guides his team to 7 wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL clash on Saturday **IPL20.com**

Abu Dhabi: It was a happy weekend outing for his team Kolkata Knight Riders but skipper Dinesh Karthik had no qualms in admitting that he needs to up his own game after failing again in the IPL.

While he was delighted with his team's convincing win on Saturday, Karthik, who failed to open his account, said he will look to get going in the coming matches.

"One duck doesn't make you a bad player. I need to probably up my game and get a few runs," Karthik said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

He added, "Always good to get on board. We have been working really hard. I think one of the advantages of having all-rounders and it is a privilege to use them whenever I can."

"The fact that we have been able to groom the youngsters is pleasing. It has been an emotional journey for us with (Kamlesh) Nagarkoti for the last couple of years.

brought in Narine and Cummins up front with the new ball.

Having drawn flak for bowling short against Mumbai Indians, the IPL's most expensive overseas bowler Cummins smartly altered his length and bowled Jonny Bairstow with an absolute ripper to give KKR the first breakthrough.

In his second-coming, architect-turned-spinner Chakravarthy dismissed a well-set Warner (36 off 30) in a soft manner for his maiden IPL wicket, giving KKR the big breakthrough.

The Australian left-hander, who got out cheaply against Royal Challengers Bangalore, looked to make a mark with some clean hits, but a lapse in concentra-

"But credit to the management to have stuck to him. It feels good to see the youngsters doing well. I want Gill to enjoy his journey in cricket."

His counterpart David Warner, who opted to bat after winning the toss, said his team needs to score more boundaries.

"I think I got my decision right. For us, our strength is death bowling. I thought it was actually a difficult wicket to accelerate on. The Kolkata boys showed us that if you can keep wickets at the end, that's what wins you games."

"I don't regret what I did at the beginning of the game and I stick by my decision. Cummins, as he does, (bowled) Test match line and length. There was a little bit of movement here and there."

"We went four or five overs for 20 and coming back with three wickets in hand at the end probably killed us a little bit there. An extra 30 or 40 runs would have been great."

tion did him in and he spooned a simple catch to Chakravarthy.

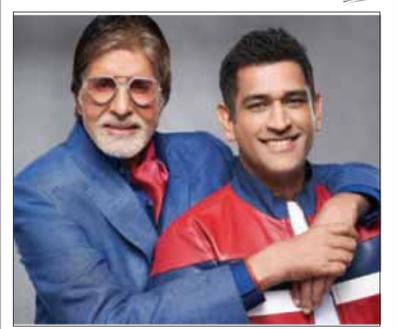
The two wickets meant that SRH could not step up the momentum and at the halfway mark, at 61 for two, the run-rate was just above six.

Manish Pandey returned to form at No 3 with a 38-ball 51 and along with Wriddhiman Saha (30 off 31 balls), tried to repair the damage but the duo were dismissed at the death and SRH lacked the finishing touch to settle for a seemingly below-par total.

In hindsight, sending Saha ahead of Mohammad Nabi looked like a tactical blunder as the Indian wicketkeeper wasted a lot of deliveries in making 30 off 31.

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



Bollywood legend Amitabh Bachchan posts a photo with former Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni from his Twitter account on Friday night with a caption "The silent calm of cool..."

CSK BATSMEN NEED TO HAVE GLUCOSE

Former Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag feels CSK batsmen have not been able to play freely and score quickly so far in the 13th IPL edition and thus they need to have "glucose" to add intensity to their game.

"Chennai ke batsman simply not getting going. *Glucose chadwaake aana padega next match se batting karne.* (CSK batsmen are not getting going. They need to have glucose when they come out to bat in the next match)," Sehwag said in a tweet on Saturday.

WE'RE 'LITTLE BIT MUDDLED' AT MOMENT

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming has admitted that his side were "a little bit muddled" at the moment and they need a clearer strategy going ahead after suffering two losses in three matches. Fleming also rued the missing of some key players that he said has affected the team combination. "Well, we're a bit muddled at the moment. We're missing some key players, and we're trying to find a balance that allows us to be competitive. We're looking to develop a personality based on the wickets that we're facing," Fleming said after CSK lost to Delhi Capitals.

"Each wicket has been completely different, and our batting is without Rayudu, Raina etc. We're trying to find a way or a combination and how to use players. We've learned a massive amount over three days," he added.

SHAW TIRED TO AVOID SILLY MISTAKES

Young opener Prithvi Shaw, who starred in Delhi Capitals' victory over CSK, says his plan was to play along the ground and avoid "silly mistakes" after failing to make an impact in the first match. "My plan was to play my natural game but play the shots along the ground, last game we saw there were some silly mistakes and it was not working for me or the team," Shaw told skipper Shreyas Iyer in a video posted on the IPL website. Shaw shared a 94-run opening stand with Shikhar Dhawan to guide DC to 175 for three. The duo started slowly, scoring just 36 runs in the first six overs but soon gained momentum. "CSK has some good pace bowlers. I was able to time the ball and get some gaps. As the spinners came on, even if we are 40/0, it doesn't matter. I knew me and Shikhar Dhawan could pace our innings after the powerplay," he said.

MARSH SECURES FLIGHT HOME

Mitch Marsh's nightmare scenario of being stuck in limbo in a Dubai hotel room has been averted after the allrounder secured a flight home to Australia. Marsh was ruled out of the IPL after suffering an ankle injury in Sunrisers Hyderabad's tournament opener and faced the prospect of being forced to remain in the UAE given the current difficulties of arranging international travel at short notice. But a Cricket Australia spokesperson confirmed the Sunrisers had secured a flight for Marsh back to Perth that arrives Saturday evening. He will begin a 14-day quarantine period on arrival. It will be a considerable relief for national selectors ahead of India's upcoming tour.

Warne surprised that Sanju isn't representing India

DUBAI: Spin legend Shane Warne on Saturday expressed his "surprise" that wicketkeeper-batsman Sanju Samson is not playing for India across formats.

Samson smashed a 32-ball 74 against Chennai Super Kings to power Rajasthan Royals to a 16-run win in the IPL on Tuesday.

Warne praised the 25-year-old player after his exploits.

"Sanju Samson, what a player he is. I have said for a long time and I think Sanju Samson is probably one of the most exciting players I have seen for a long time. I am surprised that he is not playing all forms of cricket for India," said Warne in an Instagram live session of Rajasthan Royals.

The Australian legend added, "He is that good. He is an absolute champion he is got all the shots, quality, and class."

"So, hopefully, he has a consistent year and helps Rajasthan Royals lift the IPL trophy and I hope to see in him Indian colours in all three forms of cricket."

In recent times, KL Rahul has cemented his place as the number one wicketkeeper-batsman in the Indian team for the limited overs format, pipping Rishabh Pant. **PTI**

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Sanju Samson would like to continue his dream form while the presence of Jos Buttler puts Rajasthan Royals on even keel with Kings XI Punjab in an IPL game which promises to be yet another six-hitting contest.

Coming into the match after morale-boosting victories, both KXIP and the Royals would look to build a winning momentum after starting the tournament as underdogs.

Buttler, who missed the first match due to quarantine rules as he reached the UAE separately with his family, is expected to open alongside Yashashvi Jaiswal while Steve Smith will take David Miller's position in the batting order. Tom Curran and Jofra Archer will again complete the four-player overseas quota.

"I am really excited to play my first game, it was great to be back in training with the boys, there's a great vibe around the team so I'm really looking forward to taking the field," Buttler said on the eve of the match.

"The atmosphere and energy around the squad is fantastic, obviously lots of confidence after that first game. The training has been very energetic, guys are lively and enjoying each other's company. So expecting a really tough match against Kings XI,"

Jos back in Royals XI

Buttler said after a net session at Sharjah ground.

KL Rahul, touted as a future India captaincy material, plundered a record 132 not out off just 69 balls with the help of seven sixes in a much bigger ground in Dubai to lead KXIP to a resounding 97-run win over RCB.

The 28-year-old Rahul, one of the cleanest hitters of the ball, notched up the highest score by an Indian in IPL history and he would like to continue in the same vein on a ground which has short boundaries on all sides.

The young Samson, on the other hand, made a mince-meat of the Chennai Super Kings

bowlers, hitting nine sixes in his 32-ball 74 before Jofra Archer joined the party with a four-six burst in the final over in the match played at the same venue in Sharjah on Tuesday.

The Royals captain Smith also chipped in with a 47-ball 69 while playing his first match after concussion related issues in the United Kingdom.

"Great to get a win on the board, the team played fantastically well in the first game. It was an outstanding batting perfor-

mance and a fantastic bowling performance in tough bowling conditions," Buttler said, praising his colleagues.

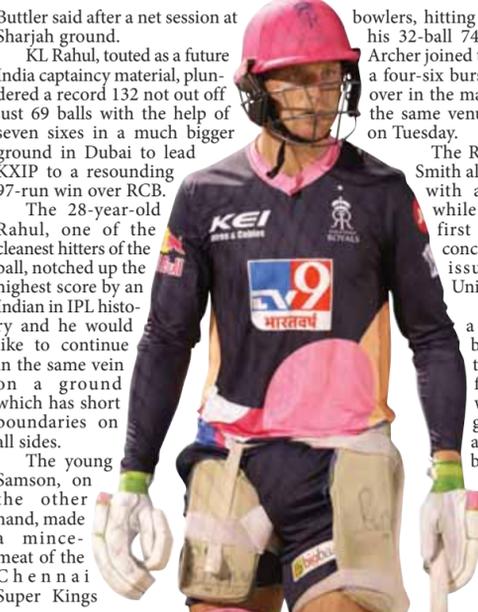
For KXIP, Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell would look to make amends for his low score (5) in the earlier match against RCB.

In the bowling department, Mohammed Shami and West Indian Sheldon Cottrell led the pace-bowling department quite well for KXIP while the likes of leg-spinners Ravi Bishnoi and Murugan Ashwin grabbed three wickets apiece against RCB.

The Royals managed to defend their 216 run target with Archer bowling brilliantly at the death and leg spinner Rahul Tewatia (3/37 in 4 overs) inflicting top order damage.

The sore point was yet another poor show from Jaydev Unadkat, who has never been able to raise his IPL game save one odd season with Rising Pune Supergiants.

It will be interesting if Smith and Andrew McDonald decide to try out rookie Kartik Tyagi or seasoned Varun Aaron in Unadkat's place keeping his lack of pace and short boundaries in mind.



Stats: Faisel Features

POINTS TABLE

	P	W	L	NRR	PTS	
1	DC	2	2	0	+1.100	4
2	KXIP	2	1	1	+2.425	2
3	MI	2	1	1	+0.993	2
4	RR	1	1	0	+0.800	2
5	KKR	2	1	1	-0.767	2
6	CSK	3	1	2	-0.840	2
7	RCB	2	1	1	-2.175	2
8	SRH	2	0	2	-0.730	0

'CSK not doing well both in batting & bowling'

PTI ■ DUBAI

Two consecutive defeats have left Chennai Super Kings reeling and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni is contemplating rejigging the combination, saying they are lacking steam and need to come back with a clearer picture for the next IPL games.

"I don't think it was a good game for us. There was no dew, but the wicket did slow down. We are lacking a bit of steam in the batting and that hurts. The run rate keeps on mounting after such slow starts and adds pressure, we need to figure that out," Dhoni said after the match against Capitals on Friday night. "We need to come back with a clearer picture, looking at the combination. Maybe, the team balance will get better once (Ambati) Rayudu comes back in the next game."

Rayudu, who struck a brilliant 48-ball 71 in CSK's five-wicket win over MI in the tournament-opener, missed the next two games due to a hamstring injury.

The CSK captain expressed hope that Rayudu will be available in their next game.

"That will give us the room to experiment with an extra bowler perhaps. There are quite a few things we can think about. We are one batter extra to start off, so the players need to step up."

Dhoni also asked his bowlers to pull up their socks after two ordinary outings.

"We need to get better with our lengths, lines and pace. I think the spinners have not come to the party yet. We are bowling good



MS Dhoni chats with Faf du Plessis **IPL20.com**

to think that the style of play that we've developed over the last 12 years is heavily based on spin. So what we're trying to do is find a different personality.

"Spin still plays a part, and we've played on three different grounds, so each game has been different conditions. We're struggling to adjust to find the pace and the style to bowl through the middle, and that, in the last two games in particular, has been an area where we haven't done so well. So from a strength to an area of concern, we need to rectify that."

Asked about the possible team combination in the upcoming matches, Fleming said, "All bets are on the table at the moment as we try to find a way. We are looking forward to playing a number of games here (in Dubai), we were interested in how this pitch played, and get conditions right so we can get right combination."

Barring some fielding lapses, Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer was happy with the performance of his side so far.

"I am really happy with the performance. I would give them the benefit of doubt, it's tough to catch in these conditions. You misjudge the ball, really don't know how to pace yourself," he said.

Shimron Hetmyer grassed two chances but it did not hurt the team much.

"In the team meeting we decided that we are going to assess the batting conditions early and then play accordingly. The way the openers started, gave us a lot of confidence and the finish was good too."

Neetu David to lead new Indian women's selection committee

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Neetu David, one of India's finest woman cricketers in the late '90s and early 2000s, has been appointed chairman of the women's selection committee replacing Hemalata Kala, the BCCI announced on Saturday.

The other members of the panel are Mithu Mukherjee, Renu Margrate, Arati Vaidya and V Kalpana — all former India players.

The four-year term of the previous panel, led by Kala, ended in March 2020. It had Sudha Shah, Anjali Pendharkar, Shashi Gupta and Lopamudra Banerjee as other members.

Their last assignment was selecting the team for the women's World T20 in Australia, where India ended runners-up.

"On account of seniority, Neetu David, the former left-arm spinner, will head the five-member committee," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

She holds the world record for best bowling figures in an innings in a Test — 8/53 against England in Jamshedpur in 1995.

"She is also the second-highest wicket-taker for India in WODIs with 141 scalps and was also the first from India to take 100 WODI wickets," Shah observed.

India's women's cricket will get back to action with a three-team Women's Challenger Series in the UAE and for that, the BCCI was required to form a new women's selection panel.

There were a lot of applications but the former left-arm spinner David, who was India's highest wicket-taker in WODIs before Jhulan Goswami surpassed her, was the top contender.

David played 10 Tests in which she had taken 41 wickets. She retired from international cricket in 2008.



Gardner Schutt NZ in 1st T20

AFP ■ BRISBANE

Brilliant performances from Ashleigh Gardner and Megan Schutt helped Australia defeat New Zealand by 17 runs in the first T20I of the three-match series on Saturday.

With both sides playing international cricket for the first time since the T20 World Cup in March, it was the experienced hand of White Ferns skipper Sophie Devine who elected to bowl first, and claimed 3/8 from her first three overs to leave the Australians reeling at 81/5.

However, Gardner, who came to bat at number five, played a superb knock of 61 to help the hosts post 138/6 in their allotted 20 overs. The 23-year-old batswoman scored 6 fours and 3 sixes during her 41-ball knock.

Chasing the target, the visitors had a decent start as openers Devine (29) and Maddy Green (5) put on 27 runs for the first wicket. However following their dismissals, the White Ferns went off the track and kept losing wickets at regular intervals, thus unable to keep up with the required run-rate.

While Suzie Bates (33) did keep their hopes alive, she couldn't find support from the remaining batters as New Zealand could manage 121/7 in their full quota of overs.

For Australia, Schutt was the pick of the bowlers as she scalped four wickets giving away just 23 runs.

Djoker braced for French demons

AFP ■ PARIS

Novak Djokovic will renew his love-hate relationship with Roland Garros in the knowledge that it is himself rather than seemingly unsettled 12-time champion Rafael Nadal who could pose the greatest threat to winning a second Paris title and 18th Grand Slam crown.

The only man to beat Djokovic in 2020 is Djokovic, after the Serb's hair-trigger temper prompted a sensational disqualification from the US Open.

The 33-year-old arrives in the French capital with a 31-1 record this year after his New York brain-fade was followed by a record 36th Masters title in Rome.

Djokovic's 2016 triumph at Roland Garros allowed him to become only the third man after Don Budge and Rod Laver to hold all four Grand Slams at the same time.

Not even Nadal, the holder of 19 majors, or Roger Federer, with a record 20 Slams, can match that staggering achievement.

Federer will miss the French Open as he rehabs his injured knee while Nadal has played just three matches since February, a ring-rustiness evident in his quarter-final exit in Rome.

However, Djokovic refused to get carried away by his chances at Roland Garros ahead of Sunday's start in a wet and chilly Paris.

"It's Nadal," insisted the world number one when pushed on who is the favourite. "You just can't put anybody in front of him."

Djokovic is right to be cautious after experiencing numerous low points on the red clay of Paris.

In the 2012 final against Nadal, having won eight games in a row, he was up a break and pushing to level the match at



Novak Djokovic celebrates win in Italian Open semifinal AP

French Open (Day 1)
Live from 2:15pm IST
STAR SPORTS 2 & 3

two sets apiece when rain brought an overnight suspension.

Play resumed the following day but Djokovic's momentum was lost and a double-fault on championship point completed his misery.

Twelve months later, Djokovic was poised for a semi-final win over Nadal with just a routine putaway required to help give him a 5-3 final set lead and a chance to serve for the match.

However, he chose a smash rather than a soothing touch. He tumbled into the net, losing the point and Nadal pounced to eventually take the tie after four hours and 37 minutes.

In 2018, he lost a quarter-final to world number 72 Marco Cecchinato while last year he was beaten in the semi-finals by Dominic Thiem.

That match took two days to complete, featured numerous rain stoppages and winds so strong that a court-side umbrella was sent flying across court.

"BALL IS DANGEROUS"

Djokovic will start his tournament against Sweden's Mikael Ymer, the world number 80.

Nadal, who skipped the defence of his US Open title due to fears over coronavirus, eyes a 13th French Open.

Since his title-winning debut in 2005, the Spaniard has only lost twice at Roland Garros in 95 matches — to Robin Soderling in 2009 and Djokovic in 2015.

The 34-year-old may appear to be under-cooked after his last-eight exit in Rome to Diego Schwartzman.

However, the last time he suffered such an early departure from the Italian capital was in 2017 — just weeks later he was lifting a 10th French Open without dropping a set.

Nadal cut an unsettled figure at a pre-tournament press conference on Friday

where he admitted the cold and damp conditions forced him to face his "most difficult ever Roland Garros".

He is also unhappy about using a new brand of ball.

"For the health of the players, the ball is super heavy and becomes dangerous for the elbow and for the shoulders," he said.

Nadal begins his campaign against Egor Gerasimov, the 83rd-ranked Belarusian.

The unusual sight of Roland Garros being played in the autumn also means radically different conditions to those expected in its normal time slot of May and June.

MURRAY VS WAWRINKA

That could suit newly-crowned US Open winner Thiem who has lost the last two finals to Nadal in Paris.

The world number three Austrian has 17 career titles with 10 of those on clay.

Four of his five wins over Nadal have come on clay with three of four victories against Djokovic carved out on the sport's most testing surface.

This year, Thiem will be in the same half of the draw as Nadal and starts against Marin Cilic, the 2014 US Open winner and a former world number three.

World number five Daniil Medvedev has yet to win a match at the tournament in three visits while sixth-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas made the last 16 in 2019, losing a five-set marathon to 2015 champion Stan Wawrinka.

Wawrinka faces fellow three-time major winner Andy Murray in the first round on Sunday in a rematch of their 2017 semi-final epic, a tie which Murray described as the clash which "ended his hip".

Serena confident of performing

AFP ■ PARIS

Serena Williams admitted she is still feeling the lingering effects of an Achilles problem on Saturday but said it would not derail her protracted pursuit of a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam at the French Open.

The American is a three-time winner at Roland Garros but remains one major triumph short of Margaret Court's all-time mark after losing in the semi-finals of the US Open earlier this month.

She has yet to play on clay this season and withdrew from the Italian Open in Rome last week due to a left Achilles tendon injury sustained in New York.

"I didn't play any tune-ups, which is really rare. But this whole year has been really rare," said Williams.

"After New York I flew to France and I've just been training at (coach Patrick Mouratoglou's) academy, mostly rehabbing, trying to be ready."

"I wouldn't be playing if I didn't think I could perform," she added.

"I'm not at 100% physically. But I don't know any athlete that ever plays physically when they're feeling perfect. That's just something I think as athletes we have to play with."

Williams turned 39 on Saturday and is appearing at Roland Garros for the 18th time. She made her tournament debut in 1998, losing to eventual champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the fourth round.

"I honestly never thought I would be playing at my age. I mean, I don't quite look 39. But yeah I don't know when it's going to stop for me. I just have fun. When



I feel it's over, it's over," Williams said.

"But I could have guaranteed and pretty much bet my life that I would not have been playing at 39."

"HOME AWAY FROM HOME"

Her last Grand Slam title came at the 2017 Australian Open while in the early stages of pregnancy. Since giving birth to baby Olympia, she has reached four finals in nine attempts without being able to land that elusive 24th major.

She has not gone beyond the last 16 in Paris since her defeat to Garbine Muguruza in the 2016 final.

Williams initially indicated she would prefer to stay in private accommodation while competing at the French Open, but organisers insisted that all players stay in tournament hotels to reduce the risks from coronavirus.

"It's definitely weird. This has always been my home away from home. I always loved being here. It has been really different for me staying at an apartment," said Williams, who plays compatriot Kristie Ahn in a repeat of their US Open first-round encounter.

"It was really important to do everything that I could to just create my own personal bubble, just to stay in it, a travel bubble, like everything that I can possibly do we kind of do. It works. It definitely beats staying at home."

The rescheduled tournament, pushed back four months due to the Covid-19 outbreak, will begin in wet and blustery conditions with temperatures at 16 degrees Celsius (60 Fahrenheit) accompanied by winds of up to 60 km/h.

"I hate the cold. I'm from LA and I live in Florida. For half my life I've never seen snow. Cold weather and me do not mix. That's my Achilles heel," joked Williams.

"But I'm dealing with it. I'm having a positive attitude about it."

Toffees top of the league

AFP ■ LONDON

Everton extended their perfect start to the Premier League season as Richarlison's controversial penalty sealed a 2-1 win at Crystal Palace on Saturday.

Carlo Ancelotti's side took the lead through Dominic Calvert-Lewin's fifth goal of the campaign in the first half at Selhurst Park.

Cheikhou Kouyate equalised for Palace before Eagles defender Joel Ward was penalised for handball after the video assistant referee advised Kevin Friend to consult the pitchside monitor.

Brazil forward Richarlison converted the spot-kick and Everton held on in the second half to make it three successive league victories and five wins in a row in all competitions.

Everton sit top of the table at this early stage and while a title challenge is unlikely, they could be contenders for a top-four finish.

The visitors went ahead with their first serious attack in the 10th minute.

Colombian playmaker James Rodriguez unfurled a sublime pass into Seamus Coleman and the captain cut



back for Calvert-Lewin to net with conviction.

Palace hit back in the 26th minute when Kouyate got between Michael Keane and Richarlison to head his second goal for the club.

The Eagles richly deserved it and yet they were almost immediately pegged back when VAR had to look at a handball incident involving Ward on the half-hour mark.

Richarlison's cross had hit the Palace full-back on the

shirt sleeve and it was not deemed a spot-kick, but it was only a brief let-off for Roy Hodgson's men.

In the 40th minute, James's superb pass was headed by Lucas Digne onto Ward's hand in the penalty area.

Friend pointed to the spot after using the pitchside monitor and Richarlison fired into the corner to put Everton back in front.

Calvert-Lewin should have grabbed his sixth goal of the season and put the game to bed in the 51st minute, but his effort from James's corner sailed wide.

As rain poured down in south London, Palace pressed for an equaliser, with Wilfried Zaha and Ebere Eze having shots blocked.

Eze was replaced by Michy Batshuayi with 15 minutes left and Hodgson also introduced Christian Benteke, but it was to no avail.

Bad luck Brighton

Brighton: Bruno Fernandes converted a penalty in the 10th minute of stoppage time with the last kick of a wild game to earn Manchester United a 3-2 win over Brighton, which had earlier scored in added-on time and also hit the goal frame on five occasions on Saturday.

United was awarded a spot kick after the referee saw on the pitchside monitor that Harry Maguire's header deflected off the outstretched hand of Brighton striker Neal Maupay before being cleared off the line.

Despite the full-time whistle having already been blown, Fernandes was allowed to take a penalty and the Portugal playmaker found the corner of the net to score the latest Premier League goal since 2011 and secure a first win of the campaign for United.

Even Bruno accepted it was fortunate. "They have a lot of chances, it's true," Fernandes said. "Maybe everyone can say they deserve more, or not. The point is, score goals — don't hit the crossbar or the post. 'Sometimes you have to have some luck.'"

Brighton went ahead in the 40th minute when Maupay converted a cheeky *Panenka*



penalty after Fernandes brought down Tariq Lamptey.

United equalized three minutes later via an own-goal by Lewis Dunk, who inadvertently turned the ball into his own net after Nemanja Matic pulled the ball back across the face of goal at a free kick.

Brighton was denied a penalty at the start of the second half after Paul Pogba was initially adjudged to have clipped the legs of Aaron Connolly. The referee changed his mind after viewing the incident on the pitchside monitor and booked Connolly.

Then United went ahead through Marcus Rashford, who cut in from the left after being played in behind the Brighton defense, delivered two shimmies, before getting the ball back on his left foot and rifling in a shot that deflected into the top corner in the 55th minute. **AFP**

Hamilton takes yet another pole

AFP ■ SOCHI

Runaway Formula One series leader Lewis Hamilton emerged from a "horrible" red-flagged qualifying session at Sochi on Saturday with a stunning pole position for Sunday's Russian Grand Prix.

The Mercedes six-time champion clocked a best lap in one minute and 31.304 seconds to outpace Max Verstappen of Red Bull by half a second.

His Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas was third-quickest with Sergio Perez of Racing Point sharing the second row.

Hamilton is bidding to claim his fifth win at the Sochi track where Mercedes have dominated winning all six races since 2014.

If he translate pole into victory, he will equal Michael Schumacher's career record of 91 Grand Prix wins.

Saturday's second session was interrupted for 10 minutes after Sebastian Vettel crashed in his Ferrari. He was unhurt.



Replays showed that the German driver, in his final season with Ferrari, lost control as he smacked into the barriers.

The red flags came out with Hamilton in a perilous 15th place with just over two minutes remaining.

He said: "It was one of the worst qualifying sessions. It

was horrible — heart in your mouth.

"I wanted to stay out and do a banker but they said come in and get new tyres and then the red flag came out. It was a risk, we got through but I am starting on softs which is not good."

"Undoubtedly I am likely to get dragged past tomorrow, it will make it hard to win the race."

Once Q2 eventually resumed Hamilton managed to put in the fourth quickest time to get through to the top 10 shoot-out but missing from it were both Ferraris with Vettel's teammate Charles Leclerc knocked out in 11th place.

In fifth place on Sunday's Sochi grid is Daniel Ricciardo for Renault, Carlos Sainz was sixth for McLaren, ahead of Esteban Ocon in the second Renault, Lando Norris in the second McLaren, Pierre Gasly of Alpha Tauri and Alex Albon in the second Red Bull.

Sunday's race is due to be watched by the biggest sporting crowd in the Covid-19 era with 30,000 fans allowed to attend.

BVB suffer shock defeat

AP ■ BERLIN

One week after its young attacking stars impressed in the Bundesliga, Borussia Dortmund slumped to a 2-0 defeat at Augsburg.

Gio Reyna, Jadon Sancho, Erling Haaland and Jude Bellingham grabbed the headlines in beating Borussia Mönchengladbach 3-0 in the opening round, but were frustrated by a stubborn defense marshaled by Augsburg goalkeeper Rafal Gikiewicz on Saturday.

Dortmund dominated the first half with eight efforts on target, but Felix Uduokhai scored with Augsburg's only chance of the half, heading home a free kick from close range in the 40th minute.

Former Schalke player Daniel Caligiuri doubled the lead in the 54th, holding off Thomas Meunier's

challenge before shooting past Dortmund 'keeper Roman Bürki.

Dortmund coach Lucien Favre sent on Marco Reus and Julian Brandt with half an hour to play, to little effect. The 18-year-old Brazilian Reinier followed for his Bundesliga debut in the 69th, but he couldn't lift the side either.

Gikiewicz denied Mats Hummels, then Haaland late on, as Augsburg claimed its second win in two games.

Gikiewicz's former side, Union Berlin, salvaged a 1-1 draw at Gladbach thanks to Nico Schlotterbeck's late equalizer. Marcus Thuram scored with a deflected header for Gladbach in the 56th.

Bayer Leverkusen and Leipzig drew 1-1, and promoted sides Arminia Bielefeld and Stuttgart enjoyed wins over Cologne and Mainz, respectively.

Jhingan joins ATK Mohun Bagan

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Defending Indian Super League champions ATK Mohun Bagan on Saturday announced the signing of high-profile defender Sandesh Jhingan.

The 27-year-old Arjuna awardee is said to be the highest-valued footballer in India but the club did not reveal the signing amount.

"I am delighted to have joined ATKMB. I had a detailed chat with the coach and the owners and I admire their vision and I am very happy that they felt that I could be a part of the family," Jhingan said in a release.

The former Kerala Blasters defender was keen to ply his trade in Europe, preferably Portugal but because of the pandemic he changed his plans and joined the club, will compete in the AFC Cup 2021.

Jhingan will form a trioka with his India teammate Pritam Kotal and Spaniard recruit Tiri and he will have a chance to prove his mettle at International level.

Atalanta off the mark

Turin: Serie A's leading scorer last season with 98 goals, Atalanta began its new campaign in the same carefree, entertaining style as it came from behind to win 4-2 at Torino.

The host, thumped 7-0 in the same fixture last season, started strongly but in the end had little response to Atalanta's relentless attacks.

Simone Zaza fired against the bar in an early Torino attack and the Bulls went ahead in the 11th minute with the goal coming almost inevitably from their captain Andrea Belotti, who scored with an angled shot off Tomas Rincon's pass.

Atalanta was behind for just two minutes before captain Alejandro Gomez scored with a long-range shot. Gomez also set up a second for Luis Muriel eight minutes later with a looping pass over the Torino defence and the Colombian provided a spectacular finish with a low shot into the far corner of the net.

The goals continued to flow as Hans Hateboer scored a third for Atalanta from a Gomez



cross in the 42nd minute before Belotti struck again to pull one back a minute later for Torino.

The second half began in the same vein with Torino's Alex Berenguer forcing a save from Marco Sportiello before Hateboer headed over from a good position at the other end.

Atalanta kept pouring forward and added a fourth in the 54th minute.

Muriel broke down the right and laid the ball into the path of De Roon who side-footed the ball into the corner of the goal to hand Torino its second straight defeat under new coach Marco Giampaolo following its 1-0 loss to Fiorentina. **AFP**



■ **What was the attraction of being part of the virtual concert?**

To be honest, as you are aware due to the pandemic, we have not done any performances. Just the thought of coming together and playing was a wonderful experience. I am glad we got this opportunity.

■ **How tough/easy to put it all together?**

Talktime

RAHUL RAM

He is a bass guitarist, who performed virtually for HCL's Soundscapes with his band. He speaks with Shalini Saksena about why he agreed to this virtual concert and how the profile of his fans has changed

er? We had become a little rustic. We needed to brush up and did a couple of rehearsals because we had not played in the last six months. The tough part was that there was no audience and one had to imagine them. While it was okay to get the feedback virtually with hearts and balloons but the feel and energy of a live performance couldn't be replaced. Having said this, virtual concerts are the way forward. Even after things are back to normal, these kind concerts will continue.

■ **You have been there for three decades, changes in music seen?**

I have seen changes and I will see more changes in the coming years. When we started, there were very few venues. The only places where we played were at college festivals. Today, there are many venues that make it possible for us to reach out to different people. Also, the kind of music has changed and it goes through waves. There were Punjabi song waves, then there was the remix wave. A bunch of indie pop artists came up. Things come and go. Now, there is electronica and DJs.

■ **Did playing for a virtual audience affect the band's energy?**

Well, it was not as if we had to get up at 4:30 am to catch a flight, reach the venue

We had become a little rustic. We needed to brush up. We did a couple of rehearsals because we had not played in the last six months. The tough part was that there was no audience and one had to imagine them. While it was okay to get the feedback virtually with hearts and balloons, the feel and energy of a live performance couldn't be replaced

and set up the stage to perform. We were far more rested and hence the energy level was high. But yes, we didn't get to hear the live audience shout and scream. Also, when one is on the live stage, the conversation one has with the audience is highly dependent on the response. Here it was a bit different.

■ **Has the profile of your fans changed?**

The age spectrum is broader. There are people who grew up listening to our music. Then there is the whole audience who are in their 30s-40s. At the big festivals, there are a lot of young professionals since students can't afford the cost of the ticket. Students are at the college festivals. There are people who are now bringing their children. I have played for the bikers as well in Goa.

■ **Do you think that the concept of being part of a band is finally here?**

When during our time, there were bands because there were college festivals. I remember when I was in school, I would go to IIT Delhi to listen to bands come from all over the country and watch them perform — young college students who were part of the band. For professional nights, there were bands coming from outside. *Indian Ocean* was not the first band nor would it be the last. However, the numbers have increased and music has become more Indianised.

■ **Has technology helped promote**

music for you?

Yes and no. Yes, because we have more equipment, we don't have to go to a studio and pay big money to play. The record company doesn't have a big hold over you. Today, sitting at home, I can create music. No, because due to the Internet, everyone wants free music. Nowadays, people watch music. When you don't sell, you don't get any royalty. Ten cents a download won't get you anywhere. Take an example. All our music is on iTunes and the total annual income we get is \$100. This is true globally.

■ **Over the years, some members left and new joined. Did it affect the dynamics when new members joined?**

When we began, there were four of us from 1994 till 2009 and then Asheem (Chakravarty) died and it was like the left side of the stage was empty. We had to bring in two people to replace him since he could sing and play the table. Then our guitar player left and we brought in a new person. But each new person brings something new since we don't want clones.

■ **What are your future plans?**

We have a bunch of songs recorded and ready for release. Since people watch rather than listen to music, we were planning to do some form of video. But they were put on hold but since going out of town is clearly not going to happen, we are going to work on new material.

On this World Tourism Day, MUSBA HASHMI chats up with stakeholders to bring you a report on how hard the tourism industry has been hit by the pandemic and what can be done to get it back on track



LET'S GET PACKING

It was not long ago when people prepared their travel bucket lists on the New Year's eve for a happy 2020 and were waiting passionately to tick off the boxes. However, they ended up agonising about the pandemic and the lockdown that followed and many might have even torn off the lists.

The raging fury of the virus has led to many businesses to draw their shutters, while others are left struggling. One such sector that is on the receiving end is the tourism industry. With many flights still suspended and travelling being the least favourite thing to do in the current time, the industry is definitely going through major losses.

"There have been a lot of estimations that predict the recovery of the overall industry, which has been hit hard by this pandemic. We believe that it may take anywhere between 12-18 months for us to recover from the current situation and come back to the pre-covid levels of travel demand, also depending upon how other countries resume their international operations. Moreover, the demand will largely depend on the fact that how different countries are placed in terms of COVID-19. We expect the aviation industry to slowly and steadily rise even stronger after this pandemic. In India, we are expecting a good economic growth on the back of a strong consumer demand, interest in travel and

festive season," Willy Boulter, Chief Commercial Officer, IndiGo, tells you. He adds that the aviation industry is slowly getting back on track and that the travel demand has shown consistent growth.

"Travel demand has shown consistent growth after the opening of the domestic markets since May 25, 2020. We have seen a positive trend over the first 100 days of resumption of operations post the lockdown including the steadily rising PLE, unit revenue and future bookings on the back of increasing customer confidence in air travel. We are bullish that our passenger loads will grow with the increase in capacity across our network. In addition, if the regulation around the various states becomes consistent and more liberal in terms of rules and regulations, we should see much faster growth in passenger numbers. IndiGo has established more than mandated procedures and guidelines to provide a safe and hassle-free travel experience onboard a lean clean flying machine," Boulter asserts.

While the airlines are doing their best to increase the capacity and demand and give a push to the tourism industry, the positive is that the festive season is waiting right ahead.

"We have analysed the traffic every few days and the trends are up and it is encouraging that the demand is sustaining now, with the travel trend



Travel demand has shown consistent growth after the opening of the domestic markets since May 25, 2020. We have seen a positive trend over the first 100 days of resumption of operations post the lockdown. We are bullish that our passenger demands will grow
— Willy Boulter
Chief Commercial Officer, IndiGo

going up in terms of unit revenue and future bookings. The demand has certainly picked up after July and we are bullish that it will further augment during the festive season. Also, the relaxation in State Government restrictions and the allowance of 60% capacity by Central Government will further help in increasing capacity as well as demand. We are hoping to increase our domestic capacity as per our approved summer schedule for 2020 to 60% by Diwali. We recently celebrated the operation of 50,000th flight post lockdown," he tells you.

Not only this, but contrary to the belief that air travel is not a good option during Corona, Boulter tells you that they have witnessed a shift from rail to air travel. "We have witnessed a shift of rail traffic to air travel, with even migrant labourers travelling in flights to ensure safety from COVID-19. Annually over a billion Indians travel by trains and even if 10% of that traffic shifts to air travel, it will drive a strong recovery for the aviation sector. Not to mention that the consistent growth is because of the returning consumer confidence," he tells you.

Vipul Prakash, Chief Operating Officer, MakeMyTrip, too agrees with Boulter and tells you that more and more people are now travelling after months of being cooped up in their homes.

"The demand is likely to stay uneven as the pandemic situation is live and evolving but it is clear that more and more people are travelling and even more are willing to travel as we look at our search and booking data," Prakash says.

He adds that the industry holds a bright future ahead as people have started pre-booking their trips for the winter season.

"In the intermediate future, people will start prioritising and planning hyperlocal and micro-getaways to unexplored and lesser-known destinations or places with lesser coronavirus caseloads. While road-trips or self-drive holidays are increasingly being considered and booked, travellers are already showing signs of optimism by pre-booking trips for the winter season to Kerala and Andaman. A trend that can be largely attributed to the availability of exclusive future travel deals and vouchers on the platform — that promise more choices, flexibility in booking along with heavy-discounts. At MakeMyTrip, we are ensuring that our travellers can plan and book with greater flexibility and ease as the uncertainty continues to linger on. Almost 95% of our hotel bookings are happening on flexible fares as we are working with hotel partners to come up with flexible tariff options till the day of check-in," Prakash explains.

'Even smallest change can make difference'

GRACE MOORE, executive producer of *Kiss The Ground* and an environmental activist, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA how she got involved with the project, the challenges that come with making such films and the urgent need to start making a difference in our lives

■ **How did you get associated with *Kiss The Ground*?**

It is a bit of a long story. I was working on a previous project — *Life After Carbon* which was about how we can make cities more sustainable. That is when I heard about Josh Tickell who had gone to college in my hometown in Florida. I heard that he wanted advice on the film and did a bit of background research on him and his documentary film *Pump*. I was completely blown away with it and it touched something in my heart and knew that this is what I wanted to do with my life. I called him and requested him to come back to his hometown and give a talk in the college that he went to. For the next nine months I was trying to learn as much as I could about the environment, about story telling and about production. A few weeks later, I joined the team and have been here since February this year.

■ **What are the difficulties associated with making such films?**

There are several. Take this film for example. It took us seven years to put it out. There were over a hundred scientists who we approached and talked and collaborated with to corroborate what we are saying in this film.

■ **Has the present pandemic made people sit up and take notice of the documentary?**

In some ways it is. The studio that I work with, when the pandemic started, we went to a store and stocked up on things because we knew we would be on our own and didn't know what would happen. A lot of people realised that they needed to be in touch with food supply and have food security.

■ **Do you think that the movie can be a catalyst to creating a balance between environment and man?**

Definitely, they are absolutely a catalyst. One thing that I have seen with such films when I went to college of Environmental Studies is there is one thing missing in the environmental movement is communication. The only people involved here are the one who study it and there is a large gap between the people who study it and the rest of the world. What movies do is bridge this gap especially those like *Kiss The Ground* which bring regular people together and celebs and show a unified movement to make the world a better place.

■ **How necessary is to facilitate a conversation about the environment?**

It is extremely important to bring everyone on one platform. But it is very difficult to do this. What we try to do is tell people that they can be part of this movement from the comforts of their homes and day to day tasks.

■ **Is the world prepared to make the change/transition?**

I feel that people are ready to make changes in their lives. The present pandemic has opened eyes of the people. Everyone is now going back home; they are not congregating. At least in the US, food supply has been disrupted. What we are seeing is a resurgence in the local food economy. This means communities growing their own food. What this film is about is empowering the local farmer to feed his family and the local community. I am not sure we are ready to make a huge change but the world is pushing us in that direction.

■ **How bleak will the future be with no changes?**

It would be very bleak. At the rate at which we are going, the film shows that in 15 years, we will not be able to harvest food from the soil and we will be completely reliant on pesticides and fertilisers. Hundreds of thousands of people are being forced out of their homes due to climate change. This is really the moment that we are taking action now.

■ **How important is it to teach importance of environment and Nature at school level?**

All changes happen at the grassroots. It is the people who make things happen. Everyone has the capacity to learn and change but it is the young people who are most likely to do it. It is important to teach children these regenerative ways of life. Taking care of the planet is the most important thing for us to do today. It is not the science of it but to teach them to love the planet; the connection we have with it.

■ **One lesson that people should take away from the film?**

Know where your food comes from, meet your farmer and talk with him and just to know that everyone can be a part of this movement. Even the smallest decision can make a decision.

■ **What next?**

We have a few projects that we are working on. We are currently working on a short documentary series for our TV on the pesticides being sprayed on our food in our hometown and how the town can shift to regenerative agriculture. It will be a model on how communities can come together to bring a change. We are making another film — *Revolution Generation*, it is about how millennials are coming to power and taking over and creating a more democratic equitable system.

The International Coffee Day is celebrated on October 1. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with BHARAT SETHI, founder of Rage Coffee, about the vegan coffee that is infused with natural vitamins

Having the first sip of your favourite coffee, first thing in the morning is a feeling every coffee lover would relate to. But with this unexplained feeling comes a guilt of drinking too much of coffee and not be able to do without it.

Here is an answer to all your woes — an award-winning vegan coffee infused with six natural vitamins.

A brainchild of Bharat Sethi, Rage coffee was launched in 2018. "The brand was born out of my passion for coffee. Unfortunately, we are always served poor quality products and so is the case with coffee. After an extensive research, we found out that most of the coffees in the market are artificial. That's when I thought of coming up

with something that has quality and is not too expensive. This is how Rage was born," Sethi explains.

The brand till date has five exotic flavours — Original, Irish Hazelnut, Crème Caramel, Sparky Orange, and Dark Chocolate. "The coffee tastes like freshly ground and gives a distinctive kick of caffeine. Unlike others, it doesn't taste bland or bitter," he tells you.

Although India is majorly a tea drinking nation, but the coffee lovers are witnessing a slow growth. Not to mention that the market has been taken over several big players.



of life and our USP is that we give quality coffee at best prices. That is the reason that our target audience are accepting us

with open hearts and the response has been overwhelming," Sethi says.

To add to its products, the



Krishna's manifests in icons
Iconography has an important place in India's cultural tradition, since it has religion and philosophy as its integral part

2



4

Seeds of future are in present
You have to own up to the consequences of the choices you make. Seeded in the present is the way future is expected to unfold

We all keep dreaming, and luckily, dreams come true
— Katie Holmes



Office politics is a reality that exists in every organisation, big or small, writes BHAVNA DALAL as she shares a few tricks on how to deal with corporate politics

POLITICS IN THE WORKPLACE

Picture this: Jay worked as a technical consultant for a financial software company's taxation product team. For a new project, his team was forced to interact with the financial services team due to political pressure from senior management. As expected, the initial interactions were a bit contentious. The technical lead for the taxation team, Abhay, saw this as an opportunity to shine and mandated that he would be the point of contact for interacting with the financial serviced team. All communications were now required to be funneled through him.

This created a precarious situation for Jay. All his emails and documents were presented to the other team as if Abhay had produced them. Abhay was taking credit for everything Jay did. Abhay would edit out major chunks of essential technical advice beyond his level of competence, and he would keep coming back to Jay for more inputs on how to answer questions coming from the other team. This entire episode left Jay feeling angry, frustrated, and unmotivated.

The above is a classic example of office politics. Office politics is a reality that exists in every organisation, big or small: the larger the firm, the more complex the politics. There is more of everything — players, competition, agendas, information, and more to gain and lose. If you have enjoyed a good number of years of work experience, I'm sure you have experienced politicking in the workplace.

Companies with a great culture know how to create systems to minimise or mitigate politics. Indeed, productivity, employee engagement, and a company's growth depend on how much politics exists. Leaders have a huge responsibility to recognise what causes politics and which systems, processes, or people initiate or encourage it in their company environment. Alternatively, employees must also understand their workplace's political machinery to bring about success for themselves and their team members.

As a leadership coach, I work with people managers from mid-level managers up to CXOs and board members from diverse industries. These folks are all brilliant, intelligent, and accomplished individuals. When I work with them on their leadership goals and challenges, I get to hear the real-life situations they have encountered. The only thing setting them back is their collective belief in office politics. I listen to statements like, "I don't like office politics, and I don't want to go there at all." "I cannot get to this position because it requires me to be political, and I am not a political person," etc. They hold themselves back from greatness because of their limited perception of office politics. In their minds, office politics is a dirty word that they are better off not handling. Understanding and cruising through an organisation's power dynamics is the key differentiator between successful and extremely successful people.

WHAT IS OFFICE POLITICS, AFTER ALL?
It is all about power, influence, and relationships, the power entanglements between coworkers trying to get ahead. These struggles for advancement are usually based on what you are after and whom you form alliances with. Some people are drawn into it intentionally, many accidentally and most unknowingly.

Definitely, through years of work experience, people do learn to deal with this beast more effectively. But why leave such a critical skill to chance? Why not address it head-on by understanding the power dynamics early

on in your career and moving ahead victoriously in your leadership journey.

SMELLING POLITICS

There are a few tell-tale signs of environments being intensely political. If you encounter these signs, often you know the chances of getting stuck in the dirty swamp of politics are high. Beware when you encounter the following patterns:

- There is a lack of transparency in communications. People are not direct and don't mean what they say. There exists an unspoken system within the organisation that needs to be worked.
- Often poor performers are neither fired nor reprimanded. Superstar employees quit because they don't want to play the game and don't see any future growth.
- The majority of the people are unwilling to acknowledge and celebrate their team member's successes. Other's growth invokes negative emotions such as discomfort, resentment, or jealousy! They view it as being left behind.
- Fear and limitations of opportunities drive most conversations, decisions, and behaviours.
- There is a constant underlying sense of competition amongst individuals for roles, visibility, or growth.
- Trust in leadership is weak.
- Most individual performance rewards are not in alignment with those of the organisation's wins.
- People's need for opportunity or recognition makes them nervous and fearful of making mistakes and taking risks.
- Most employees have little knowledge of and visibility into the company's decision-making. There is a significant distance between junior-level employees and executives; too many closed-door meetings with exclusive information are not shared with the rest of the organisation.
- There is a lack of ownership amongst people. The general tendency is to shirk responsibility when possible. Instead of stepping up and taking on tasks outside their area, people can quickly assign blame to someone else.

TIPS AND TRICKS

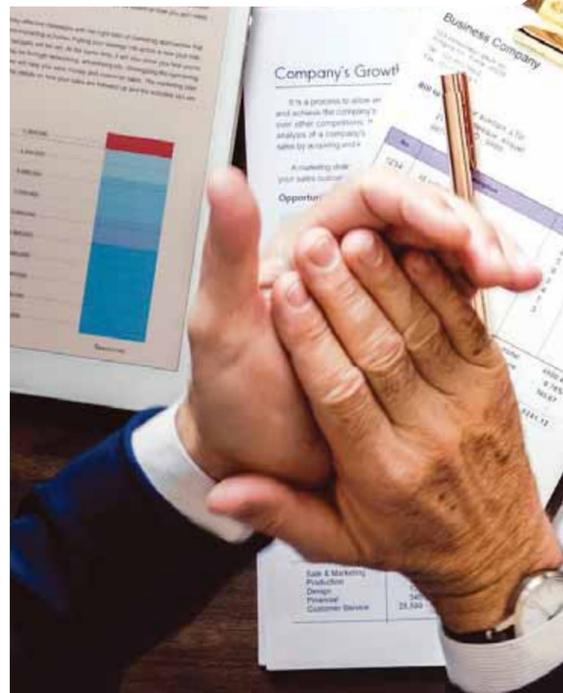
Below are a few tricks on dealing with corporate politics:

Observe and listen: Most people jump into things from the intention of action and contribution. Whether it is a meeting, a project, or a new role, everyone wants to perform well, and so they start doing things. Instead, be in an observation and listening mode before you choose to take action. This will help you identify the influencers — they are the stakeholders that hold power to move things in the organisation. Understand their needs and mindsets.

Do you know how the power distribution in your organisation works? Who are the key decision-makers? What are their motivations?

Trust but not blindly: It is wonderful to find good friends in your colleagues; after all, you are spending many waking hours with them. Research proves that it can be extremely healthy to have friendships at work. Personal bonds at work are essential; however, there is a difference between personal and professional relationships. Knowing the limits and boundaries of these relationships is crucial.

It requires one to walk that tightrope between sharing and oversharing. Practices such as socialising outside of work are helping to advance careers and build networks and bonds. Be mindful — a drink too many can expose you and give people something to talk about or lead to even more severe consequences. The same rules apply to social media interactions with colleagues.



AS INDIVIDUALS WORKING IN THE BUSINESS WORLD, WHEN YOU FEEL POWERLESS AND OUT OF CONTROL IN SITUATIONS WHERE YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE AT THE RECEIVING END OF POLITICAL MANOEUVERS OF COWORKERS, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO REMEMBER THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL TECHNIQUES YOU CAN APPLY TO SUCCEED. YOU HAVE A CHOICE. THE CHOICE MAY NOT ALWAYS BE AN EASY ONE

Be clear of your vision: We all have a vision for our lives, spoken or unspoken, explicit or implicit. A vision is how one commits to living their life, demonstrated by their choices, actions, words, and behaviors. What separates great leaders from the average one is their ability to crystallise their vision and then execute goals towards it. Being clear of your desired reality helps you stay out of the unnecessary messes and face with courage and conviction, the paths essential to actualise your dreams.

Communicate your vision: Once you know and own your vision, communicate it intelligently and smartly with your manager and team members. This may or may not mean sharing everything. Your vision may be to become the CFO of an organisation in a few years, identify the skills and experiences you need to get there, and communicate only those.

Stay informed, but avoid gossip: Keep in mind, no matter how tempting it might seem, hear gossip but don't generate or propagate it. Being aware of what is going on around you is prudent, but make sure not to get sucked into it. Being viewed as a gossip undermines the trust people will have in you. Loose talk can get you in trouble or make you seem immature.

There is a significant difference between gossiping and staying informed. The former projects you as immature while the latter is a skill one must develop to succeed at work.

Information is powerful: Most successful politicians spend their energy managing up, down and sideways. They hustle and work their chain of command. Such people base their career on building alliances with the power brokers. They are astute enough to be present at all the right meetings, jump in, and take personal credit for

other's work and are information hoarders. Information is power, and power is politics. The one who has knowledge holds power. The clear sign of a political person is that they rarely share information.

Learn to read people: So many times, I have come across leaders misjudging situations and the intentions of people. The outspoken ones are edged to speak up the politically incorrect things like complaining about the health benefits or a new policy. People don't flinch before showing enthusiasm for ideas and activities that may harm your career. As part of building Executive Presence, I often help leaders get educated on sensing and reading body language in others and utilising power stances for themselves. Reading people and situations is the number one talent to get ahead without getting in trouble.

Integrity and ethics always win: The general impression is that people that rise quickly often have to do unethical things to get there. The negative consequences of acting out of your value system or integrity will catch up with you. There is no escaping that. Sometimes things may take a little longer but stay the course and don't succumb to wrongdoings and temptations.

GOOD POLITICS VERSUS BAD POLITICS

My book *Checkmate Office Politics* discusses the distinction between good politics and bad politics. Practicing good or healthy politics enables people to further personal and team interests fairly and justly. Staying alert and aware of the 'bad' politics helps to avoid needless suffering and being taken advantage of. To look at politics through a positive lens, one must first understand the difference between good and bad politics or healthy and unhealthy politics.

Healthy Politics: Healthy politics always attempts to empower

individuals. An effective politician builds a strong network at all levels inside and outside of an organisation. They are familiar with the pulse of employees at all levels. They have a crisp and clear understanding of the success parameters in their organisation. Healthy politics requires sharing information and encouraging others to do the same. Good politics believes unity is Strength. Good politicking fuels the promotion of innovation and problem-solving. It advocates respect and inclusiveness for all, irrespective of their role and position. There is a goal of improving systems instituting permanent solutions to problems. In the above example of Jay and Abhay, Abhay was doing a good thing by streamlining the communication through a narrow channel to avoid confusion, however he could have given credit to Jay highlighting his contributions in his interactions to avoid the bad politics.

Unhealthy Politics: The most significant sign of harmful politics is the personal gains of a handful of people. Unhealthy politics leads to a divide and rule philosophy. It promotes authority and compliance and creates a distance among people based on these differences. Bad politics deviate attention away from the real issues.

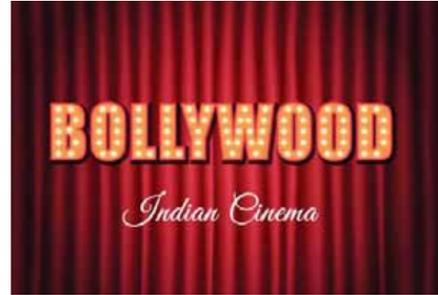
As individuals working in the business world, when you feel powerless and out of control in situations where you believe you are at the receiving end of political manoeuvres of coworkers, it is essential to remember that there are several techniques you can apply to succeed. You have a choice. The choice may not always be an easy one. However, it is usually a choice between staying in your comfort zone or getting uncomfortable but evolving into a better leader.

The writer is a leadership coach and an author. She has just published *Checkmate Office Politics: Build a Positive Power Equation at Work* with SAGE India



HIDDEN SOULS
PRAMOD PATHAK

Stand up Bollywood



Bollywood is in the eye of a storm. The industry that did yeoman service for the masses by entertaining them has suddenly become a cesspool, a term Big B used for politics. Nevertheless, Bollywood has been providing three hours of power-packed action, fantasy, joy and romance — all for the price of peanuts. It made people laugh, cry, filled them with rage, and made them partake in the world of make-believe. It aroused and awakened too, at times. All that has been pushed to the backburner. But before blaming Bollywood for all that is bad in the society we need to pause and ponder. In more than a century of its history, the Mumbai film industry has served the society in a way few industries have done. It has researched like no institution could do, it has taught like no teacher would have done. It de-stressed the masses, at a price that the common man could afford. It provided an outlet for the pent up feelings of the people, made them rejoice and giggle, filled them with ecstasy, made them forget their sorrows casting a magical spell. There was a salutary hangover too. People would talk and discuss even after they had seen the film. No mean service to a huge majority that was starved for pleasure and joy. It advocated the right lessons too. That it's the good that triumphs over the evil in the end. Or as you sow so you reap. All of a sudden, everything is being painted black. So black that it reeks of a design. Reasons are not far to seek. Francis Bacon once said that if you go deep into any problem you will find people. Only, replace people with politics. Man, after all, is a political animal. So if you go deep into a problem, you will find politics. Dirty politics. Forget those blame games. Forget those ideas of cronyism and syndicate, lobbies and pressure groups. They are everywhere. Even in the noblest of institutions. We must go back to the basics. And that reminds of the class four English language idiom — A bad workman blames his tools. There is a hindi equivalent, too, and in Bollywood lingo: "If you don't know how to dance, you find fault with the dancing floor". Films and the film world are of a different genre and for a different purpose. To be objective, films don't create society, they reflect society. And on this count they are more real than many news channels which pollute the society more than the films. Films are market driven and showcase the society. There is no formula for a hit film nor a lobby. It is the film goer who decides and he is highly erratic. Interestingly, he himself doesn't know why. Same happens in the case of film stars. Or else meagre budget and no star film like *Jai Santoshi Maa* would not have been a bigger hit than the mega budget multi-starrer *Sholay* in the same year. Coming to stars making it big, examples galore prove that it's God given merit and not Godfather. From Dev Anand, Dilip Kumar and Rajkumar to Amitabh Bachchan, Shatrughan Sinha and the like prove that it is only merit. And failure of star sons confirms this. One last take. And a crucial one. While many news channels try selling lies as truth, films are doing it the other way round. Bollywood must stand and the show must go on.

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KRISHNA'S MANIFESTS IN ICONS

Iconography has an important place in India's cultural tradition, since it has religion and philosophy as its integral part, writes DR ASHA GOSWAMI



heavy in weight, light weight icons are further of four types known as *Vautaka* (those worshipped daily); *utsava* (worshipped on particular occasion); *Bali* (worshipped each day with offering of *Prasad*); *Snapan* (sprinkled with holy water).

Where as the *Achala* icons are made of stone and are of types such as, *mula vigraha* and *Dhruva*. The *Dhruva* icon is further of these types like standing (*sthanak*), *asan* (sitting) and *shayan* (lying), with regard to the determination of dress ornaments symbols which are to be applied the people of those regions according to their cultural standards and trends. Apart from these types of Krishna's icons other types of icons are mentioned by Krishna himself to Uddhava in a dialogue in *Bhagavatapurana*, where he says that his icons can be made of clay, sandal wood, stone, metal, sand, crystal, and of mental imagery (*manomaya*).

Generally, in the literary tradition on Krishna, the icons of Krishna are made on the basis of the symbols which serve as key notes for making icons individually and distinguishing these form the other. The framework of icons is contemplated according to some symbols in the abstract form and then is expressed in material abstract form of specific symbol. Amongst all the Gods, it is Krishna who has mostly impressed the temple art form of the medieval age, where-by he is shown in multiple form such as Venugopal, alone or accompanying Radha and other gopis during *Rasa*, holding *govardhana* mountain; as *Yogi* in Narada's vision, as young cowherd boy in the company of Balarama and Subhadra, as warrior killing Kansa and his wrestlers Jarasandha and Shishupala, driving Arjuna's chariot.

In the icons, Krishna is either endowed with two or four arms. Two armed Krishna is in *abhayadana* pose. While, four armed Krishna is endowed with conch, mace, *chakra* and lotus in hands. That various cults have added to varied manifestations of Krishna in iconic forms. For instance, the cult of lotus and of conch, of mace associated with *Yaksha* (he always holds mace) be mentioned. Besides, mythology has also its role in the framework of the icons where he is depicted along with his family members.

Finally to conclude, let us assume that the iconic representation of Krishna provides us the true translation in lithic form of the texts of the *puranas* and the epic and thus supplements the same.

The writer is a noted Indologist and authority on Krishnaitic Studies

Krishna, the theme did not confine itself to the literary works alone, but also has manifested itself elaborately in the art forms of India which include, sculptural representations, icons, images, paintings, murals, miniatures and archaeology (which has its subparts seals — epigraphy, coins and monuments etc). This article aims at providing an idea as to how Shri Krishna has deeply expressed himself through this varied art tradition of India.

Generally, the icons are named as Krishna's *archa-avatars*. Sanskrit term for icon is *archa-vigraha*. Besides, term icon has its parallel in the word, *pratima*, which means an image. In the form of the science of images or *pratimas*, iconography has a long history in India, which dates back to the Vedic age. As one of the Rigvedic *mantra* mentions, one best icon (*paramaapratima*). After the Mauryan period, elaborate temple iconography developed in India and it continued till the Muslim invasions.

Iconography has an important place in India's cultural tradition, since the same has religion and philosophy as its integral parts and as the image worship constitutes the very

basis of its religion. Since, the religious and philosophical trends originate from people's mind and thus prove major role in their lives, the icons thus serving as effective modes of expressing this ideals and imparts regarding the favorite icons of Krishna and other gods were also engraved in sculptures along side in the temples.

This art tradition on Krishna was developed on the basis of the *Puranas* and the *Mahabharata*. Its main aim was to depict concepts-imageries themes, which are associated with Krishna from time to time. It also aims to delineate new theological themes — or trends and symbols associated with Krishna in the later *Puranas*. With the result, his icons were engrafted with murals depicting new meanings and dimensions of his concept. Although, the scriptures in this way have provided much fundamental frame-work to his icons and have played a major role in the development of iconography of Krishna, yet differences of treatment of Krishna concept by both these sources (scriptural and icon — Art) is vividly visible.

As any tradition in India has never ceased to grow and further develop, the same trend applies to the Art tradition relating to Krishna's iconic

THE ICONIC REPRESENTATION OF KRISHNA PROVIDES US THE TRUE TRANSLATION IN LITHIC FORM OF THE TEXTS OF THE PURANAS AND THE EPIC AND THUS SUPPLEMENTS THE SAME

manifestations. It has developed itself unto a new form to meet the challenges of time and circumstances. It also had developed within its range new theological details from the *puranas*, and the icons thus made served as very important mediums of worship in the religious scenario of the Indians. Hence, during these times, the iconography of Krishna attained the mega position in the cultural art of India.

Now, to define icon, it is found that generally icon of God or Krishna implies his imitation. Reference to the art tradition of iconography in India be cited in the *Vedas* and *upnishads*, in the form of *pratikriti*. Besides, it is also held that the vedic concept of the Gods has inspired the framework of the icons of Gods, as in the *Vedas* and the subsequent works Gods are spoken 'men of the sky' or *Divo-naras* and also having forms like those of the human beings or *Nri-peshas*.

As far as Krishna's iconography is concerned it has developed on the basis of the scriptures like *Agamas* and the *Puranas*. These works provide much authentic material on Krishna's icons, which are said to be of such type like *Chala*, *Achula*, meaning those which are very light in weight and

Ways to stay productive

While some people have looked at this pandemic as a difficult situation to be dealt with, there are some significant advantages as well, says DR BINAY SINGH

Past few months have been really difficult for anyone trying to cope up with the current times of pandemic, but it has also brought opportunities for people to explore. Time at home where most of the adults and all of the kids no longer have the responsibilities of rushing off to work and school every day. It's an amazing gift that this pandemic has bestowed upon us, and around the world we're seeing people enjoying it in ways they never thought possible. Individuals could invest their time in the right thing by staying at home and by being productive. These are a few ways to stay optimistic and that will help you become useful and productive during the Pandemic:

- **Read the Classics:** The local libraries might be off-limits, but there are a number of devices you can use to read as many books, magazines, comics, or graphic novels as you want, many for a substantially reduced price. There are great book websites all over with bucket lists of books everyone should read at least once in their lifetime. Make a goal of reading one per week and see how far you get and what wonderful new worlds you can discover.
- **Planting & Gardening:** Your home is your castle. Time to upgrade it! If your working hours are reduced or gone completely for a while, turn your energy towards improving the condition of your home and yard. Surely somewhere in your home, there are projects to take on that you are handy enough to handle. It might mean patching a hole in your fence, re-painting a room, replacing the weather stripping on the door, or planting new flower beds to add some color to your life. Most home repair stores are still open as they count as essential businesses. Pretty much every project under the sun you might want to take on has an instructional video available online at YouTube or another site, so survey your home and yard and find a project that



you have been itching to scratch.

- **If you can't learn, teach!** There is something inherent to human nature that prevents us from shutting ourselves off completely from one other. We still seek to bring our contributions to the fight against the virus by whatever means we can. People everywhere have taken to the Internet to make their presence known in a helpful way. Some offer psychological support, others provide inventive ways of killing time by teaching classes and Do-It-Yourself (DIY) courses. A few gentle souls are even there to offer a conversation partner to those who are stuck alone in isolation.

If you've got a device that records video, you're qualified to teach people how to do something. If you've got an audio recorder and a voice, you're set to record a podcast about anything you want — your expertise in your job field, your favorite music or movie, your own brand of humour, whatever you think people will enjoy listening to.

The Internet is not only a way for us to come together, but also to share positive messages and stories in this time of distress.

- **Team Building exercises:** Spread the knowledge. People have slowly adapted to the new normal of "Working from home". It must have probably been a while since the peers must have even spoke to each other on the calls other than work, coming up with sessions where team can speak about their experiences of working from home, share some good ideas and play some games can help the rejuvenate the thought process of the employees and they feel fresh and start working with a positive attitude.
- **Analyse your budget:** Even though, the economy has re-opened, it will somehow still take time for it to be back to normal and boost and hence it becomes very important to reassess our current budget and our expenditures. One should highlight and spend where it is important at least during this time of pandemic because it can help you get a gist of where the money is going and will also be beneficial in a longer run.

The writer is the author of *Coronavirus: Opportunity through Adversity* and CEO, Singh Marine Management Ltd

When we accept God...

Life takes a perfect direction with unimaginable advantages accruing, when God guide us through our lives, writes AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Then, we accept His creation. This has a huge implication on our lives. We will begin to seek God's guidance and help, because this is the cosmic design. We, souls, are parts of God. (*Bhagavad Gita 15.7*) Our existence, independent of God, is very troublesome as those who don't have a connection do realise sooner or later. And God will guide and help; we just need to approach Him in all humility. Therefore, humility is the first quality we inculcate in ourselves. Imagine a world where people are humble and treat others with respect. This brings us to the next quality — becoming better. The way the creation is, there is only one big entity, that is God. We humans are small and will remain so. However, there is no bar on becoming better.

This leads us to the third quality — to be able to coexist with others. Our relationships improve greatly. We realise that no one is perfect, only God is, therefore, we need to accept faults of others as others accept ours. We also realise that we depend upon a whole lot of people for our existence. Slowly, the mode of goodness begins to gain ascendancy. We speak better, we behave better, etc. This mode has an enormous influence over our senses and the mind. It prods us to eat what is useful to us, see what is illuminating, hear what benefits, and so on.

Gradually, we enter the spiritual realm. We understand that there is a thing like the *Karmaphala* principle. This is in short — what we sow, we reap. This is as simple as that. Some fruits are instant, like if we appreciate someone we get excellent vibrations from that person. Some take long like studying to become financially self-supporting.



We begin to watch all our actions in order to create a better future for ourselves. This is the beginning of spiritual intelligence. The wise ones turn to the book eternal wisdom — *The Gita*. One then progresses to become either a medium of God or an instrument. God uses us to deliver benefits to other people. For example, someone is to get a donation, the Lord inspires one of us to do this noble deed, for which the Lord rewards handsomely. Then, God uses advanced devotees to deliver His instructions to other devotees, that is He uses one of His own to do this very important job. Advancing this way, a soul begins to enjoy the company of God — the highest achievement prior to qualifying for liberation after a few lives.

This is about those who accept God. The story is quite different for those who don't. They believe in the chance theory, that is anything can happen anytime, though this is absurd. One time a person was arguing with me about this; he said that he believed in chance. I asked him whether he sends

his children to school. He said yes. I, then, advised him to avoid this pain; they may get educated by chance. Ego of such persons is quite dominant; they don't listen to reason. They are guided by material intelligence even though there is cause and effect there also. They are mostly in the modes of passion and darkness, and suffer on account of them. Their senses and minds are mostly uncontrolled. They wish to become bigger — a miracle.

Most of their lives such persons try to compete with others or feel that others are after them. They are mostly alone, at least this is how they feel. Life is mostly rudderless, jumping from one matter to another; there is hardly much focus. After all, without God consciousness, one will be whimsical only.

Therefore, it is wise to accept God. Life will take a perfect direction with unimaginable advantages accruing, and God will help in piloting us through future lives till we qualify for liberation — the greatest boon.

Bishnoi is a spiritual writer and can be reached at spiritual@ajitbishnoi.com

Afghan peace depends on Taliban's acceptability

The intra-Afghan dialogue going on in Qatar is a concerted effort to chart a new course of peace and tranquility in Afghanistan, torn apart by decades of occupation and civil war.

As the Taliban have been waging war to regain power by brutal means, it is important in this situation to look at the critical roles played by Pakistan and America in this long-drawn Afghan quagmire.

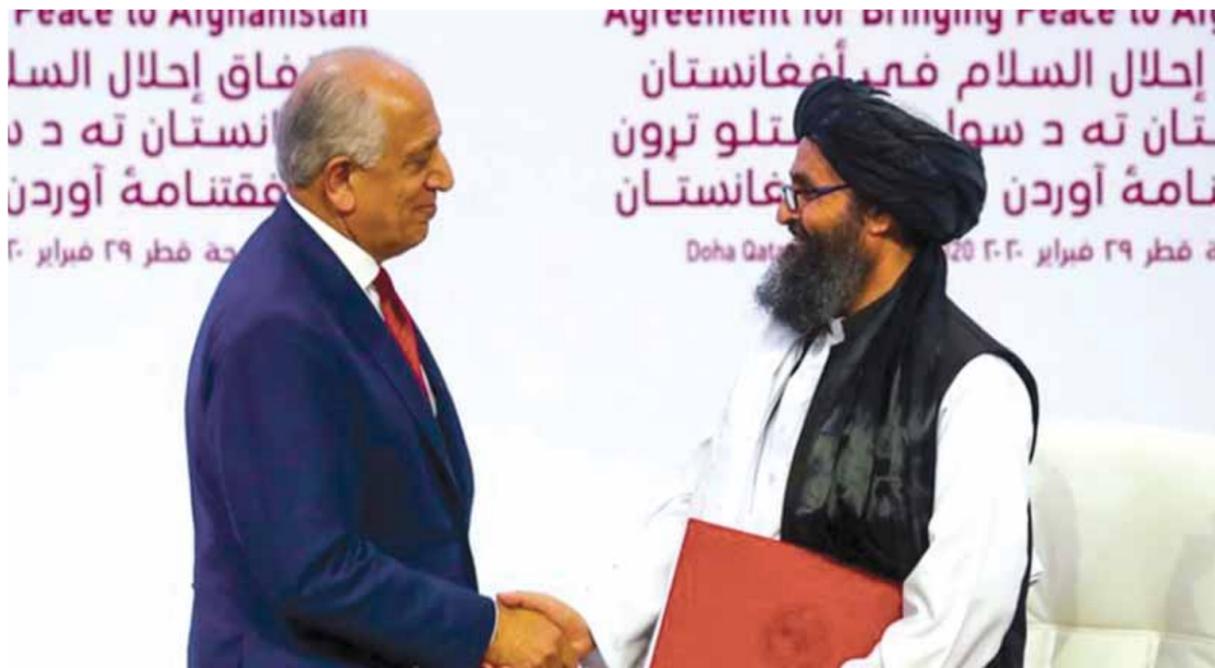
Interestingly, Pakistan a country that was reprimanded by US President Donald Trump in 2018 for its "lies and deceit" joined as the third key player in the historic US-Taliban peace talks. This has even despite Washington cutting security assistance to Islamabad.

Since the signing of the peace deal in February 2020 amid the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic, Pakistan's fortune has started changing. Some strategic experts say the Imran Khan Government is trying to shed its image of a state associated with terror and terror financing. Pakistan has been criticised by world leaders for not uprooting anti-India terror forces on its soil.

As Pakistan has involved itself in the Afghan peace talks, it is vital for New Delhi to approach the Afghan dilemma afresh. Taliban is now in a position of strength. New Delhi, Islamabad and Washington need to tackle the monster very cautiously. For the Ghani regime, the durability of peace depends on limiting Taliban's influence in small pockets. Allowing the Taliban to regroup for seeking a role larger than its usual strength would herald full-scale disaster to Kabul.

Further, the arrival of the Taliban cadre to the heart of Afghan politics once again might jeopardise the democratic institution building taken up by the previous Karzai regime and the current establishment in the country.

Is there any hope that there would be lasting peace in Afghanistan? It seems unlikely. Resting on the most unpredictable Taliban might be another misstep in the lexicon of peace building in Afghanistan. However, the resilience demonstrated by the



Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the leader of the Taliban delegation, and Zalmay Khalilzad, US envoy for peace in Afghanistan, shake hands after signing an agreement at a ceremony between members of Afghanistan's Taliban and the US in Doha, Qatar, on February 29, 2020

File photo

group this time is extraordinary. They are working hard to project themselves as a pan-Afghan identity. However, this expedient tactic would not offer sizeable dividends to them as their brutality and antipathy towards the Afghan minorities like the Hazras and Sikhs are entrenched in the memory of the persecuted.

Hence, the enormity of challenges faced by the current Ghani regime is more than a reality. Practically speaking, the US support in the form of aid, advice and supervision must continue. Whether Trump or Biden, whoever comes to Washington in January, without a second thought, America must back any democratic regime that comes to Kabul. Else the hope of building a civil society and grassroots democratic institutions would be completely destroyed.

It is unlikely that Pakistan will learn from its past mistakes of aiding and abetting terrorism. No one knows how long the Imran Government can

survive. As long as the Pakistan Army calls the shots, no democratic leader or regime would have a free hand in political affairs of the country. And for sure, a country like Pakistan can best be safeguarded only by the Army. It's a notion deeply entrenched in power corridors of the country and among the public.

Its people have rarely had the experience of governed by strong civilian leaders in the history, except one like late Benazir Bhutto. She ruled Pakistan during a tumultuous time. But then till her assassination in 2007, she was always regarded by the country's military a "security threat" simply because she was working hard to promote peace in South Asia and voicing for a broad-based Government in Afghanistan.

It is fair to say military in Pakistan is an omnipotent institution. Its influence in politics is here to stay. So whatever is convenient to it, accordingly, the future roadmap of Pakistan will be drawn. Afghanistan has always been viewed as a

playing ground and a zone of influence by the Pakistani Army. Thus its proxies, rather than Islamabad's, have a major say in Kabul for years. Whenever this equation does not match, such regimes in Kabul find it too difficult to sustain. Experience says Pakistan never wants a strong Indian presence in Afghanistan. Considering its traditional rivalry with India, Islamabad would not allow Delhi to be in good terms with Kabul. Though India's continued outreach to Afghanistan has mostly been received positively, the complex power structures in that country has hardly left any role for New Delhi, except as an aid partner.

The root cause for this dilemma is no other than Pakistan, and to some extent the US. Washington knows pretty well that without taking Islamabad into confidence, peace in Afghanistan would not last long.

Currently, the Modi Government is advocating that

the talks must be Afghan owned and Afghan led. This is fine. But then, will Delhi be ready to forge a deal with the Taliban if it comes back to power? This must be made clear to the world that Delhi would be forging a new normal with the Taliban if it forms a legitimate Government in Afghanistan. Can anyone think that Taliban will have trust in the democratic process? Will it be ready to contest elections in case it takes place?

What will happen if its candidates are outright rejected by the common people? The Taliban is an experienced player. Its Government from 2001 to 2006 led by Mullah Omar was barely recognised by one or two countries around the world. Afterwards, the Taliban regime tasted defeat from the powerful force led by the US and its allies.

Since then, Afghanistan is virtually under the occupation of NATO forces even though democratically elected Governments have reinforced a new sense of security and

peace in the country.

In the last two decades, the way the Taliban has intervened in several pockets of the country has demonstrated how brutal it could be. Its complete disregard for basic rights, particularly of the minorities, children and women, have only brought fear and darkness to the civilians in Afghanistan.

In such circumstances, the only possibility for the Taliban is to charter a new peace course to be acceptable as a Afghan government. It could be a smart power-sharing deal that may make the group a partner in the legitimate Government of the country. Then the question comes, will these radicals be accepted by the democratically elected leaders? Will there be a working relationship among them that could survive for some time? Will these warlords simply accept a rule-based order? It all looks topsyturvy.

They may not be acceptable by either Ghani or any other popular leaders in the country. Accepting them is

simply a big blot on the fragile democratic set-up of the country. Neither would they accept a system that offers an order wherein one needs to be responsible and delivering goods to the people. So the road ahead in Afghanistan is murky.

To conclude, the Taliban is to be handled carefully. It's good that they are back to a peace table. Pakistan has finally realised that its willingness to back the peace process may mean a lot to the making of peace in its neighborhood. The US role is inseparable from a durable peace process in Afghanistan. Other critical players such as India, China and Russia need to see that they are all engaged in any peace deal that brings stability to a legitimate government in Kabul.

When the Taliban representatives and the delegates of the Ghani Government meet in Doha, they would find it hard to resolve many critical issues. The two parties are showing visions that could hardly meet at any point, particularly in regard to how Afghanistan would be governed in future. Many hardline Taliban commanders demand that Ghani be replaced and an interim government should come to Kabul.

Many of these militants are not ready to work with the Ghani Government. They even view the Ghani Government as not a legitimate representative of the Afghan people. They all have referred Ghani as a puppet. How will they work with such a leader now?

Way back in June, Ghani said during a virtual conference: "I serve at will of the Afghan people, not to the will of the Taliban." Such conflicting statements from both the Taliban and Ghani might put hurdle in the ongoing intra-Afghan talk. Ghani also said any discussion of an interim government is premature. He is absolutely right as there are many other critical issues to be sorted out with the Taliban. Only, time will tell us, what could unfold for the war-ravaged Afghanistan.

(The writer is an expert on international affairs)

Even before the peace talks began, the Taliban have been working hard to project themselves as a pan-Afghan identity. However, this expedient tactic is unlikely to offer sizeable dividends to them as their brutality and antipathy towards the Afghan minorities have been entrenched in the memory of the persecuted. Nevertheless, if they come to power, India should accept them as a legitimate Afghan Government



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE

Fairy Circles: A mystery surrounding Namib desert

Wonder and mystery surrounds the magnificent "Fairy Circles". They are one of the most beautiful creations of God. These unique "Fairy Circles" are found in the Namib Desert of Namibia in South-Western Africa. They are 10-65 feet in diameter. Usually, they are barren circles lined with patches of vegetation. They stretch for hundreds of kilometres. Surprisingly, these circles look other-worldly from images taken from various satellites. According to the local folklore, the "Fairy Circles" were once created by the God himself. Some say that they are no other than the footprints left behind by the God on the red soil of the Namib Desert. Another local tradition claims that these circles are patches of desert poisoned by the breath of dragons living beneath the Namibian Desert. This is mentioned in the folk tales of the Himba residents of Namibia.

Much beyond, it has always been popular in South-Western Africa that "Namibia is the land that God made in anger". This comes from the wide areas of Namibia that consists of rugged and deeply forbidding jungles. Indeed, rare records show that this series of expressions believe to derive from the local inhabitants who directly refer to the treacherous skeleton coast of the Namib Desert. Thus the tales of the Fairy Circles go on. They provide us clues to rediscover the strange patterns.

Some mathematicians say that the whole landscape that covers the Fairy Circles looks like polka dots dress. Interestingly, these dots are regularly spaced across the Namib Desert. From far and the sky, they look like islands in a sea of small grasslands. Even the biologists have found it difficult to unearth the existence of them. Tarnita, a theoretical

biologist and her team at the prestigious Princeton University in the US say that it is not possible to conduct close experiments about the Fairy Circles in an area like the Namib Desert. Therefore such vast areas pose real big hurdles to test multiple hypotheses.

However after decades of strenuous research, the environmental scientists and mathematicians have highlighted two primary hypotheses about these Circles. They are Plant Competition Hypothesis and Termite Colony Hypothesis. Firstly, the entire Namib Desert is an arid desert. And such arid deserts are normally found closer to the equator because of direct sunlight it gets. Water is very rare and the existing plants struggle to survive in areas like the Namib Desert. About the growth of strange patterns like the Fairy Circles, Tarnita says, "As vegetation expands, and thrives into a patch, smaller plants nearby cannot get the water necessary to survive. The amount of vegetation thins or disappears at the edges of the patch, forming regular distanced gaps."

Thus, all the Fairy Circles exhibit regular patterns across this desert. Secondly, the Termite Colony Hypothesis says that under each of these patches, there exists a termite colony. According to the ecologists, the eusocial insects where individuals are divided into specialised groups to support the overall survival of their colony make a large number of underground tunnels to transport food for the rest of the members. In this whole process, the termites seem to destroy the vegetation around their colonies. Further, scientists state that in case of encroachments of one colony by the other, they fight till their enemy is finished. In this long and underground war of



survival, a series of termite colonies develop in due course of time. But interestingly, these colonies are seemed to be of equal size and there is no "termite land" between two colonies. These are some of the novel revelations that open up scope for future research.

Thus the Namibian Fairy Circles represent a unique ecosystem so far till 2015. In the year 2016, such Fairy Circles were discovered outside Newman, in a small mining town called Pilbara region in Western Australia. This provides a new opportunity to the scientific community to once again uncover the origin and

growth of such phenomena. By now, the Australian Fairy Circles indicate that these circles are the reaction of the plants to scarce waters. Though both the Australian and Namibian Fairy Circles are more than almost thousands of kilometre apart, they are declared to be identical. Unlike Namibia, where a large number of insects of species like ants and termites are found in the Fairy Circles, the majority of the circles found in Pilbara do not have ant or termite colonies. Such nests or mounds of insects wherever discovered in Australia are also randomly distributed unlike the Namibian ones.

Besides their mysteries and scientific discoveries, the Fairy Circles add to the beauty of the biodiversity of Namibia and Australia. They attract numerous insects and animals such as ants, bees, geckons, spiders, wasps and small mammals like gold-eared moles, bat-eared foxes, black-backed jackals and aardvarks. Again, the Fairy Circles can be well-regarded as fine examples of allogenic ecosystem engineering. Such ecosystems refer to an environment that transforms the environment by mechanically changing materials from one form to another. Such land forms helps in restoring water, peren-

nial plant and termite biomass across the Namib Desert. As far as they are not a threat to human and natural environment, the Fairy Circles are to be preserved.

For years, though the scientists and researchers have suggested various theories about the Fairy Circles yet the mysteries have not come to an end about them. Hence, its very existence is highly debatable. They would remain enigmatic unless destroyed in the course of nature or through some man-made actions.

(The writer is a young environmental activist)

After decades of strenuous research, the environmental scientists and mathematicians have highlighted two primary hypotheses about these Circles. They are Plant Competition Hypothesis and Termite Colony Hypothesis, writes CHITRANGADA SAIKIA



WHOEVER IS WINNING AT THE MOMENT WILL ALWAYS SEEM TO BE INVINCIBLE — GEORGE ORWELL



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

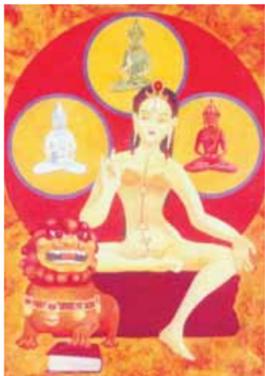
MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week your health will be good. If you are facing health challenges, be supportive of yourself and love your body. Listen to your body. Turn to women with strong feminine energy to help you heal at this time. Think positively and trust in the universe's healing energy. On the career front, things are looking good. You will be able to achieve quite a lot in a short time. You will be busy, active and sustain your creative vision even in the time of adversity. The best part is that you will be focused on your goals while being friendly and optimistic to those around you. On the personal front, this is an excellent time for you. Unpleasant times are over and there is great potential for happiness in the future.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Pastel colours
Lucky day Wednesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you need to pay very close attention to your emotions. You may be forced to consider a health plan which you are currently avoiding. It may be taking a test or getting that surgery or plain following a fitness plan. Whatever it is, seek opinions, feedback, and get to know the key information. Also, positive thinking and balanced behaviour are crucial now. On the work front, things will go well. If you are already employed, then there are chances for upward mobility. It all depends on whether you utilise your thoughts and conquer your fears to use them for your and everyone else's highest good. On the relationship front, you are well aware of issues that exist in your relationship. The good part is that you are not letting them affect you.

Lucky number 19
Lucky colour Black
Lucky day Saturday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week do not compromise on the health front as you tend to become inflexible in your approach. Analyse how you are dealing with health issues because chances are you are resistant to changing your ways for the good. You have established your way of living and are following the tried and tested ways. Don't be rigid in getting things done your way. At work, it is crucial that you have focus and determination to achieve your goals. Chances are that you will be faced with difficulties and others may try to limit you. Be confident and work hard to overcome any opposition. On the personal front, the potential for new beginnings in relationships or renewal is on the cards. If you are already committed then you will find a deeper spiritual meaning with your partner.

Lucky number 21
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week discipline and logic will be the mantra for your health. You will display self-control in managing your health. If you have still not started then this is the right time to do so. Those suffering from an ailment must layout a diet plan or an exercise regime that suits their body well. You are likely to bring comfort to those around you through your attitude. Professionally, this is an excellent time for you. You will learn to trust yourself and your abilities. You have a strong desire to make the necessary changes that will put you on the path to success. On the relationship front, you are likely to feel disconnected. It is important to let your partner know about this feeling. It may be helpful if you simply spend some time apart.

Lucky number 22
Lucky colour Blue
Lucky day Sunday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week you will feel exceptionally good. You will be filled with gratitude and humility. Share it with others, as you get back what you give out. You will be feeling upbeat about your future. Give thought to how you may support and continue this good health. Professionally, you will be happy as you reach the point of accomplishing the goals at the workplace or completing a certain project. However, on the downside, you might get weighed down by the responsibilities and commitments that come with it. Take time out for rest. On the relationship front, you are likely to question the existence of your relationship. The decision is sure to have consequences which will affect your present and your future.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week your health will be good. You have been through challenges and are feeling much stronger. With positive health comes happiness in other aspects of life. You will feel that you have come a full circle whether it is career or relationships. Professionally, you will be surprised at how well things are going for you. This period will be marked by the end of any problems that you have been experiencing, especially related to your interaction with others. A compromise will be found which will create a harmonious environment. On the personal front, it is time for a breakthrough moment in which you feel very inspired and motivated about your relationship with your partner. Ensure you express yourself and know how to use this creative energy.

Lucky number 15
Lucky colour Grey
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week you may neglect your health — physical as well as emotional. This is the time to change that pattern and look at more healthy lifestyle choices. You need to take out quality time for yourself — to rest and rebuild your physical, mental and spiritual energies. Career-wise, this period will be crucial. You will be offered a new project or venture. You will feel very enthusiastic about pursuing it. Just go for it and get it started. This is the time to use the creative energies and channelise your inspiration to get the desired results. On the personal front, keep your balance in every way that you can. Stay mindful of 'give-and-take' required for all relationships. Pay attention to both your partner and your ideas and share them.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Thursday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Being in control of your emotions will serve you well on the health front. Treat your body with care and compassion. Any news related to health will be good. If at all you face illness, take the doctor's care and trust medicine completely. Professionally, you may be presented with a dilemma at your workplace which demands action or decision. Analyse all the available information before you choose the right path. Your value system may be challenged, in that case, stay true to you and be as genuine and authentic as possible. There may be an easy choice available; you need to ask yourself whether it is the right choice for you in the long run. On the relationship front, you are likely to make a positive start. Do not hesitate to speak your mind to your partner.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Anxiety and stress are likely to affect your life this week. You will feel let down by some health challenges. It may be a minor illness or test results that you are waiting for. More than your external situation, it is the troubled psychological state that is bothering you. Stop worrying about what will happen in the future and think about what needs to be done. On the career front, you are on the verge of completing a project, but face a set back at the last minute. Know that you have the inner resources to overcome any difficulty or challenge. Be resilient as you will be opposed by hidden enemies. On the relationship front, you may be confused in deciding whether to stay with your beloved or move on. The decision will affect both your present and future.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Increasing the magnitude of a fitness plan is sure to bring excellent results. Any health challenges that you face at this time will be tackled well by you. Your mental energies are also well-directed and controlled. You must use this time well. On the professional front, things are not looking that great. Do not panic and take some time off to re-evaluate your situation and what you want out of your job. You must seek answers from within and should be open to taking help from a career counsellor. This will help you to see a fresh perspective on your current situation. Your romantic relationship is likely to go well. You must embrace change and take a long-term view of your future.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Monday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

On the health front, your biggest success will be based on how you conduct your everyday affairs. You need to start with the basics. Ensure that you are eating right, getting enough sleep and adequate exercise. Make gradual progress. On the career front, things will be going well for you. You are filled with inspiration and the universe is by your side. But to get actual results, you need to act as well. You may have been through setbacks and failures in the past but now there is a promise for a bright future. You have it in you to make positive career changes, so go for it. Relationship wise, this is a very good time for you. Those who are committed will move to the next level. You are likely to have a peaceful and happy love life.

Lucky number 14
Lucky colour Green
Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week you have all the positive energy to take good care of yourself and upgrade your health. However, it depends on how well you channelise this energy for your good. This is a period of self-transformation. On the work front, things are not very clear. It is a time when something is not what it appears to be. Practice active listening to make sure that you and your co-workers understand each other perfectly. Some of you may feel lost as you are unsure of your destination. Be calm and let your intuition guide you to success. On the personal front, this is the time to renew your love life. Express yourself to your partner and see how it works in deepening your relationship. You are ready to explore different aspects of your relationship.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Wednesday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Seeds of future are in present

One day, a group of self-acclaimed rationalists barged into my office unannounced to question me on the relevance of astrology. "Why do you mislead people with this unscientific discipline?" they asked. "Well, I have been a student of science, which is why I pursue this discipline with confidence," I responded. More than exposure to one or other discipline of science, it is the scientific temper that matters the most. Scientific temper calls for a thorough scrutiny before accepting or rejecting any view point, and with an open mind, free from any limitation whatsoever. You are expected to thoroughly explore a subject before challenging its relevance. Let me tell you, astrology is a discipline in its own right, having its own philosophy, premise, phraseology and working modalities. It doesn't need sanction of any other belief or discipline, including science, which itself is subject to continued change.

A decade back, a lady known to me came with a list of astrological terms, not in popular use. She wished to have a small note on all of them. She informed me that Khuswant Singh (then alive) wished to write critically on Astrology. A

week later, in his weekly column in a national daily, he wrote disparagingly on astrology, based on those few liners. How can such a serious discipline be commented upon through a look into few selective terms, which he did not understand?

Then came the next question: "How can you define anybody's destiny in finite terms? Does individual freewill not count in making one's destiny?" Well, it's your power of freewill that defines your destiny. Human beings enjoy the exclusive privilege to guide their actions by choice and discrimination. But whenever there is choice option in hand, the probability of its use and misuse remains equal.

And there is nothing like a free lunch in this world. You have to own up and bear with the consequences of the choices you make. It's again a mistaken perception that astrology straightaway looks into one's future space. Instead, it looks into your present, which is nothing but a culmination of doing in the past. And, seeded in the present is the way future is expected to unfold. If you know that you have the seed of a mango tree in hand, if you plant and nurse it,



following its natural chemistry (expected timeline), will first sprout and then grow into a full-fledged mango tree. It may not be out of place to mention here that should you self-reflect, through a dispassionate look into your thought-trends, you may figure the indwelling desire trends. And all actions on your part are driven by inlaid desire-trends, with related bearing on future course of life. So, astrology looks into your present, based on which future trends are anticipated with a fair amount of precision.

Then came a counter: "Agreed, one can watch out for own thought-trends through self-reflection. But how can you read it through planetary projections? Planet's gravitational pull can hardly have any bearing on us." First, let me tell you that it is not just the gravitational pull of the planets that matters. The planets are not to be seen just as physical objects moving in the cosmos. All of them are energy balls either exciting light in own right as Sun and other stellar bodies, or reflecting those drawn from other stellar bodies, or both.

Here a look into scientific principles deserves attention. Going by the perception of modern theoretical physics, all existences in this living world are actual-

ly manifestation of energy streams excited from a 'Singularity' following the Big-bang. And energy particles having common root, are in immediate and intimate connect with each other. Even in so far as human beings are concerned, what you see of a being with a form body with hard bones, are at subtle level nothing but an inseparable web of energy pattern, all primarily sourced to nature. So, at energy plane, there exists immediate connect between man and the cosmic world.

Now, thoughts playing through mind are again nothing but energy. Their flow can't be directly read. But planetary motions can be measured with a fair amount of precision. It is the correspondence between the movement of cosmic bodies and the man that helps decipher how one's mind would be flowing. So, planets are not doers, they are rather markers of what is going within our minds. To sum up, though the discipline of astrology doesn't claim scientific heritage, but its operating principles can't be termed unscientific either.

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com