

OPINION 6

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MUST LEARN

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PAK 'EPICENTRE OF
TERRORISM': INDIA

SPORT 12

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SPURS RETURN

RAIPUR, THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

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10 VIVACITY

China stalling bid to defuse tension at LAC

Beijing yet to confirm date of upgraded military-level talks planned for this week

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After agreeing to hold upgraded military-level talks this week, China is yet to confirm the date, stalling attempt to defuse the volatile situation prevailing at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. The situation is so grim that the border saw at least four incidents of firing by the Indian and Chinese armies in the last 15 days.

Tension cooled down after extensive talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on September 10. It was agreed there to continue the military and diplomatic-level talks.

Sources said China was yet to inform India about the next date though they had agreed in principle to have the next round sometime this week.

With the Opposition seeking to know from the Government if China occupied any part of our land during repeated attempted transgression since May, the Defence Minister will make a statement on India-China issue in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

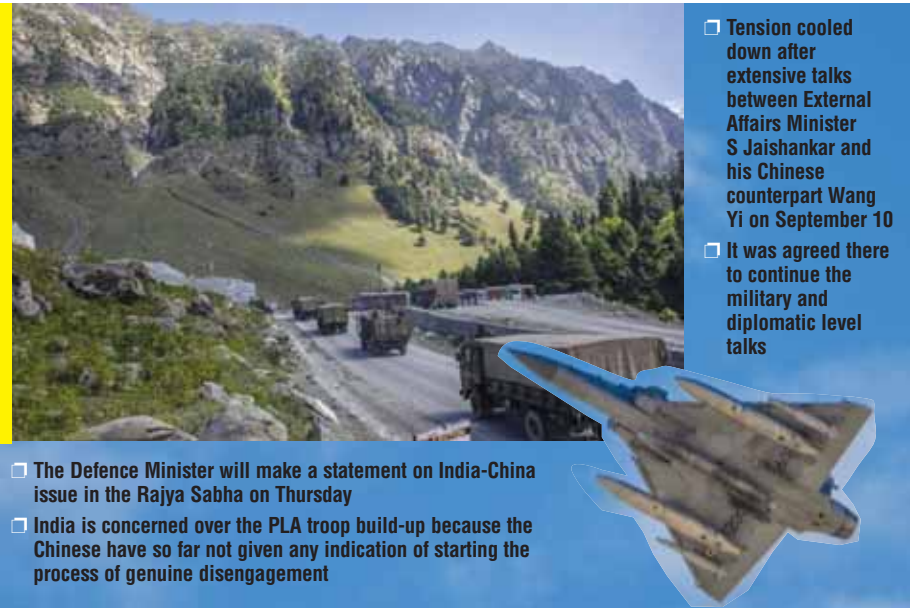
This announcement came after a meeting chaired by the Defence Minister resolved that the Government will allow dis-

cussions on issues like the China crisis, GST, Covid and National Education Policy.

During the meeting, Rajnath agreed to take one or two questions on the LAC situation after his speech in the Rajya Sabha.

India is concerned over the PLA troops build-up because the Chinese have so far not given any indication of starting the process of genuine disengagement. So far Lt General Harinder Singh and his Chinese counterpart Liu Lin have held five rounds of talks since June but could not achieve any breakthrough. In the last round of talks on August 2, both sides agreed to withdraw their troops from the friction points and pull back additional troops from the depth areas as a confidence-building measure. However, China later refused to do so and the stalemate continues.

Holding a bilateral meeting at the political level in Moscow for the first time since the stand-off on the LAC in Eastern Ladakh started in May, the two Foreign Ministers agreed on a five-point plan to disengage and de-escalate at the border. Since then relative peace prevailed with both the armies staying put at their positions on all the friction points.



- The Defence Minister will make a statement on India-China issue in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday
- India is concerned over the PLA troop build-up because the Chinese have so far not given any indication of starting the process of genuine disengagement

As regards incidents of firing, sources said here on Wednesday the border witnessed four such episodes. This revelation came even as both the sides so far maintained that one incident had taken place on September 7. While China had blamed India of opening fire, India flatly denied the accusation and held responsible Chinese troops for breaching the 45-year-old peace.

Giving the chronology of events, sources in the security establishment said the first two incidents took place on August 29 and 30 when the Indian troops thwarted a Chinese provocative action to advance into south bank of the Pangong Tso (lake).

The third incident also

took place there on September 7 when the belligerent Chinese troops fired warning shots in the air but the Indian Army maintained calm. This

provocative act by the Chinese was part of a failed attempt to dislodge the Indian Army troops now positioned on the strategically important hill tops

Withdrawal of Army's purported statement on readiness to take on China creates confusion

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A purported statement from the Indian Army about its operational preparedness to take on China in a war has created a lot of confusion after the "statement" was cancelled on Wednesday evening.

The source of the confusion was an email sent by the

PRO of Udhampur (Defence) to Jammu-based reporters of all major TV channels and print media. The statement attributed to a spokesman of the Northern Command said, "The Indian Army is fully prepared and more than capable of fighting a full-fledged war even in winters in Eastern Ladakh."

in the area.

This firing incident was just four days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart held more than two hour-long bilateral meetings in Moscow during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet on September 4.

The fourth episode of both sides firing in the air as a warning was reported from the northern bank of the Pangong Tso (lake) on September 9. It was a day before Jaishankar was to hold parleys with Wang Yi.

The Indian Army in a pre-emptive move readjusted its troop deployment and occupied heights on the north bank in the first week of this month. The Chinese have intruded more than five km here and have deployed a large number of troops.

However, the surprise move by the Indian Army now has placed it in an advantageous position as it now overlooks the Chinese posts at

The spokesman said the Indian soldiers have experience of winter warfare and are psychologically tuned to operate at short notice.

He said, "The Indian Army has experience in Siachen where conditions are much more demanding than the frontiers with China."

most points in the zone. This rattled them and the Chinese tried to dislodge the Indian troops on September 7 and 10 leading to firing, sources said.

Since then, the Indian Army is now deployed on key hills, including Black Top

besides Rezang La and Rechin La. Mountain passes are known as La in the Tibetan language. The latest attempt by the PLA to remove the Indian soldiers was in the area between these two mountain passes at Mukhpari, sources said.

No infiltration reported along India-China border in last 6 months, RS told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the massive troop buildup along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh and several skirmishes between China's PLA and the Indian Army since May, the Centre on Wednesday informed the Rajya Sabha that "no infiltration has been reported along the India-China border during the last six months."

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in a written reply that since February there had been 47 cases of attempted infiltration along the India-Pakistan border and added that "no infiltration has been reported along India-China border during the last six months."

BJP MP Anil Agarwal asked the Upper House in a written question whether it was a fact that cases of infiltration from Pakistan and China had increased in the last six months.

On Tuesday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh informed the Lok Sabha that China had mobilised a large number of troops and armament along the LAC as well as in the "depth areas." He said the LAC was not commonly delineated.

Singh said that in early May, the Chinese side took action to hinder the normal, traditional patrolling pattern of Indian troops in the Galwan valley area, causing a face-off.

However, MHA officials said the answer by Nityanand Rai is not in conflict with what Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said. "Infiltration as terminology is associated with terrorists or action where a hostile element sneaks into our territory and moves to the hinterland," a senior official said.

MHA officials added that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had also spoken about attempted transgressions by Chinese troops in his address to the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Babri demolition verdict on Sept 30

Advani, Joshi, Kalyan and Uma asked to be present in court

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The special CBI court hearing the Babri mosque demolition case of December 6, 1992, in which senior BJP leaders LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi, Kalyan Singh and Uma Bharti are among the 32 accused, will pronounce its judgment on September 30.

Special judge SK Yadav has completed all the arguments and reserved his judgment on September 2 last.

The special court has directed all the 32 accused, including former Deputy Prime Minister Advani, former Union Minister Joshi and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh, to be present in the court on the day of the judgment.

The hearing of the trial was completed on August 30 but the written submission was



made on September 2, after which the verdict was reserved.

The special judge SK Yadav, who has retired but was on extension by the orders of the Supreme Court, has been asked by the SC to complete the formalities by September 30.

Advani, who recorded his statement on July 24, 2020 through video conferencing, had denied all charges of the CBI made against him on the conspiracy to demolish the Babri mosque structure.

18K-page chargesheet filed against 15 for Delhi riots

Anti-CAA WhatsApp groups used to trigger violence, says chargesheet

SHEKHAR SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The Special Cell of Delhi Police on Wednesday filed a 17,500-page chargesheet against 15 people at Karkardooma court in a "larger conspiracy" case under the stringent anti terror law — Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act - related to the communal violence that broke out in February in the national Capital.

Police have so far arrested 21 people and 15 names mentioned in the chargesheet are based on scientific, documentary and testimonial evidence gathered during investigation. Police said the chargesheet against the remaining six names will be filed after collecting sufficient evidence and completing statutory and pro-



cedural requirements.

Among those named in the chargesheet are Pinjra Tod members and JNU students Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha, former Congress Councillor Ishrat Jahan,

Meeran Haider, Jamia Coordination Committee members Safoora Zargar, expelled Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Councillor Tahir Hussain and activist Khalid Saifi. Apart from these, the names of Mohammad Pervez Ahmed, Mohammad Illas, Shahdab Ahmad, Taslim Ahmad, Salim Malik, Mohammad Salim Khan and Athar Khan appear in the chargesheet as key conspirators.

According to police, the chargesheet includes accounts of over 700 witnesses, technical evidences WhatsApp chats and call data records (CDRs).

"Police teams have specifically mentioned about the WhatsApp chats on February 24 as evidence in the chargesheet. That was the time when riots were happening in the city. At that point, the key conspirators were guiding their foot shoulders about violence in the Northeast area. They were directly in touch with rioters," said the sources.

Provide slum dwellers along rly tracks pucca houses: Jain to Centre

Delhi Minister says if needed, they can be accommodated in 40K available flats

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Urban Development Minister Satyedar Jain has requested the Centre to provide pucca houses to thousands of slum dwellers residing across the railway tracks.

Jain said, "Jahan jhuggi, wahan makaan" was the promise made by both the AAP and the BJP. "Not only that, on the orders of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal but the Delhi Government has also made it a legal right of these poor families by formulating a policy to provide them pucca houses near their slums."

The Central Government has also accepted this policy of the Delhi Government by filing



an affidavit in another case in the Delhi High Court.

"The Delhi Government has over 40,000 flats, of which some are ready and some will be ready soon. These flats can also be used if needed, and the Delhi Government had also written a letter to the railways last week in this regard. But, these flats are located on the outskirts of Delhi. These flats can be given to slum dwellers who live in areas that do not have vacant land around and who cannot be provided houses under 'Jahan jhuggi, wahan makaan' policy," he said.

CAPSULE

PM TO OPEN HISTORIC KOSHI RAIL BRIDGE

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation the "historic" Kosi rail mega bridge through video-conference on Friday and also inaugurate 12 rail projects related to passenger facilities in Bihar, his office said.

DU COLLEGES DIVERTED SALARY FUND: SISODIA

New Delhi: Delhi University teachers on Wednesday held a strike to protest against the alleged non-payment of salaries to employees of 12 varsity colleges fully funded by the city Government for the last five months. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, in a press conference, said there is huge misappropriation found in audit of Delhi University colleges. The colleges have enough funds in their FD and other existing accounts yet the administration is not paying salaries to its staff, Sisodia, who also holds the Education portfolio, said. "The Delhi Government has provided sufficient funds to the colleges for their projected salary needs under the pattern of assistance," he said.

Pay ₹1,600 for Covid RT-PCR test at pvt labs

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Government on Wednesday fixed the rates of RT-PCR and antigen testing for private labs and hospitals.

"For RT-PCR test, private labs will charge Rs 1,600 and in case of home visit it will be Rs 1,800," an official press release said. If samples are sent to labs out of the state, then it will be Rs 2,000 while sample collection and home visit for the same will be charged Rs 2,200. The charges will cover sample collection, transport, consumable items and PPE kit, it said.

Antigen testing at private labs will cost Rs 900 which will include PPE kit and consumable charged, it added. These rates have come into effect immediately.

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL	
CASES: 51,12,428	
DEATHS: 83,208	
RECOVERED: 40,17,766	
ACTIVE: 10,10,724	



Serum Institute of India gets DCGI nod to resume Oxford vaccine trial

New Delhi: Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr V G Somani has given permission to Serum Institute of India to resume clinical trial of the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine candidate in the country while revoking its earlier order of suspending any new recruitment for phase two and three trial, but with certain safety conditions.

Russia to give India 10 cr doses of Sputnik-V by Dec

New Delhi: Russia on Wednesday said Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which is leading the Covid-19 vaccine project in India, will supply 10 crore doses to Dr Reddy's by December end. It is in partnership with Dr Reddy's Laboratories for clinical trials and distribution of its Covid-19 vaccine "Sputnik V" in India.

Gadkari tests Covid positive

New Delhi: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said he has tested positive for the coronavirus and has isolated himself. Taking to Twitter, Gadkari said, "Yesterday, I was feeling weak and consulted my doctor. I have been tested Covid-19 positive. I have isolated myself."

Centre delayed Covid lockdown for 'Namaste Trump', alleges Opp

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Wednesday alleged that the imposition of the nationwide lockdown in the wake of Covid pandemic situation was delayed because of the "Namaste Trump" event and to bring down the elected Government in Madhya Pradesh.

Participating in the first ever discussion in the Rajya Sabha on the Covid-19 situation, DMK MP Tiruchi Siva said that the Government deliberately delayed the lockdown and the reason was Donald Trump.

"Was the lockdown announcement delayed because of US President Donald Trump's February visit? The delay was because of Donald Trump. You had a gala

event planned," Siva said.

US President Donald Trump made a two-day State visit to India beginning February 23. The events planned for his trip included a massive "Namaste Trump" rally in Ahmedabad.

Responding to Health Minister Harshvardhan's statement, the Opposition was of the view that the lockdown was unplanned and the people suffered as a result.

Congress leader Anand Sharma initiated the discussion on the statement of Health Minister and targeted the Government over the "sudden lockdown". He said the Government is claiming it prevented nearly 14 to 29 lakh Covid-19 infections and now the Centre is saying it does not have the data for migrant labourers.

Tata wins bid for new Parliament building construction contract

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Projects Ltd has emerged as lowest bidder for the project to construct and maintain the new Parliament building for five years.

After the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) opened financial bids, on Wednesday, Tata Projects Ltd quoted a bid worth ₹861.90 crore, while Larsen and Toubro Ltd quoted ₹865 crore. The bid document estimated the cost of the project at roughly ₹889 crore. Work on the building is likely to begin after the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament comes to an end.

According to the CPWD, three bidders had qualified in the technical round but only two firms ended up submitting their financial bids. Shapoorji



Pallonji & Company Private Limited was the third firms which qualified for financial bids for this project.

"The contract is likely to be awarded to the lowest bidder. In infrastructure projects the firm is finalised only after getting the letter of award for the project," the officials added.

The proposed work is of very prestigious nature and is required to be completed within the prescribed 21 months with the highest standards of quality and workmanship, the bid document said.

Corruption in 12 DU colleges: Sisodia

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has said that 12 colleges of Delhi University accused of not paying the salaries of teachers, are engaged in criminal activities by hiding funds provided by the Delhi Government.

Sisodia who also holds the portfolio of Education in the Delhi Cabinet alleged some colleges were spending money in lakhs of donations but not paying salaries to teachers.

Addressing virtual conference with media, Sisodia said the Delhi Government did a special audit for these colleges. Yesterday (Tuesday) we received an initial report from the auditors. It was revealed that the colleges that were screaming about Delhi Government not providing funds to them, have kept these funds under fixed deposits (FDs)." Sisodia said the colleges have enough funds in their FDs and other existing accounts yet the administration is not paying salaries to its staff. CAG empanelled auditors have find it out in their initial observation report. This is almost criminal and totally unacceptable, he added.

Citing documents of fund grants to 12 Delhi government aided colleges under Delhi University administration, Sisodia said his government has provided sufficient funds to the colleges for their projected salary needs under the pattern of assistance. "College administration should not become a



pawn of their political masters in BJP and should stop playing with the lives of their staff and students in these difficult times."

Sisodia pointed out a huge misappropriation in the accounts of the six DU colleges where Delhi government had initiated an independent audit.

"AAP government stands together with the teachers in this time of difficulty and it is important for everyone to understand how the DU administration has mismanaged funds given by Delhi Government. The Delhi Government has provided enough funds to these colleges for paying the salaries but in their initial observation report, the auditors have found that those funds are being directed elsewhere rather than paying the salaries to the teachers. Projected salaries for this academic year is 300 crores and Delhi government has provided sufficient funds to the colleges under the pattern of assistance," he said.

Sisodia said that both BJP and DU are playing politics on this matter. "Teachers are not getting their salaries despite the Delhi government providing timely grants. Few teachers came to meet me and shared their concerns about salary payment. They shared that there is a need of proper audit of the college funds and suspected that funds are diverted towards non-salary expenses. We wanted to get at the bottom of this, as there could be a case of fund misappropriation. Therefore, the Delhi government started a special audit of these colleges. We asked the names of the auditors from CAG and started the process of auditing these colleges from CAG empanelled auditors. In the first week of September, six colleges were audited by them. Yesterday, we received an initial observation report from the auditors and some shocking revelations have come out," he said.

Sisodia said, when I took up this issue of non-payment of

salaries, I found that the salary grants for these colleges were progressively increased over the past few years. In the last five years, the grants to these colleges have almost been doubled."

He pointed out that Keshav Mahavidyalaya has 10.52 crores INR as fixed deposit. He questioned that if they have so much money, why are they not paying salaries to their teachers.

"The salary grant paid by Delhi government to Keshav Mahavidyalaya was 10.92 crores INR in the year 2014-15 and last year the government paid 27.9 crores INR. Within five years, their salary grants have almost tripled. Even after receiving so much amount, they are not paying salaries to their teachers"

Sisodia further added, "The closing balance of Bhagini Nivedita college shows that currently they have around 2.5 crores INR as fixed deposits in their accounts.

The salary grant paid to Bhagini Nivedita in the year 2014-15 was around 8.4 crores INR and last year it was increased to 18 crores INR. It is surprising that they are claiming lack of funds and at the same time, not cooperating with the auditors also."

He said, "Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies didn't even provide their audited balance sheets to the auditors. However, it was found that they had around 3.5 crores INR in their balance sheet in year 2018-19. On top

of that, they have 10.45 crores INR in fixed deposits. Even after having close to 14 crores INR with them, Delhi university and college administration is blaming Delhi government for not providing funds. This is highly unacceptable"

As the auditors started asking more questions around the fund utilisation and fixed deposits, the college administration stopped co-operating with the auditors. It was also found that there is no audit done on the fees collected by the students under different heads.

Different college administrations are inappropriately spending the amount collected by students. In one case, the college administration donated an amount of 25 lakhs INR without following the due process.

The 12 colleges which are affiliated with the Delhi University and are fully funded by the Delhi government are Acharya Narendra Dev College, Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, Bhagini Nivedita College, DeenDayal Upadhyaya College, Aditi Mahavidyalaya Women's College, Indira Gandhi Institute of Physical Education & Sports Sciences, Keshav Mahavidyalaya, Maharaja Agrasen College (DU), Maharshi Valmiki College of Education, Shaheed Raiguru College of Applied Sciences for Women and Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies.

Decomposing can solve stubble burning, says Rai



Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai during demonstration of bio-decomposer technique to solve pollution related issues due to stubble burning in the winters, at Pusa Agricultural Institute in New Delhi on Wednesday
Ranjan Dimaril Pioneer

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With an aim to save the people from the health hazards caused by deteriorated air quality due to stubble burning in the neighboring States, the Delhi Government will speak to the Centre and neighboring States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana regarding implementing the initiative to decompose stubble and using it in the farming fields, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said on Wednesday.

The cost of spraying of compost in Delhi will be borne by the Delhi Government to ease the burden on the farmers, Rai said, adding that the Delhi Government is committed to develop a sustainable and effective solution to the issue of stubble burning which causes major pollution in Delhi especially during the winter season.

"The process of decomposing stubble and using it in the farming fields will be a great initiative. The Delhi government will speak to the Centre

and states to implement this initiative and the cost of spraying of this compost in Delhi will be borne by the Delhi government which will ease the burden on the farmers," he added.

Addressing the media following his visit to Pusa Agriculture Institute, Gopal Rai said that the air quality in Delhi becomes very dangerous during the winter season.

"Last year, the stubble burning comprised 44 per cent of Delhi's pollution apart from Delhi's own share of pollutants. In Punjab, around 20 million tonnes of stubble is produced, and last year around nine million tonnes of stubble was burned in Punjab.

In Haryana, around seven million tonnes of stubble is produced, out of which 1.23 million tonnes of stubble was burned last year, due to which people of Delhi had to suffer from major pollution last year," he said.

Rai said that the central government has devised a

scheme in which aid is provided to the farmers for stubble. "The farmers have to pay half of the money and the rest of the half will be paid by the government for a machine that is required for the process," he said.

The environment minister said, "I met the director of Pusa Agricultural Institute, who said that they have developed a recomposing technology which can turn stubble into manure, which can be used in the fields itself."

"I believe that the same amount of money that is spent on the purchase of machines and on subsidy can be used for the decomposing of the stubble in those states. This will be a very successful initiative by the governments," he said.

Rai further said that the environment ministry of the Central Government has a very important role to play in this initiative. "We will draft a proper strategy after discussion with the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal," he added.

Modi Govt took ₹9,202 cr loan from China, says Saurabh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Chief Spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj on Wednesday accused the Prime Minister Narendra Modi of taking massive loans from China in the name of various schemes days after Indian soldiers killed by China.

Bhardwaj said that China killed our soldiers on June 15 but on June 19, Narendra Modi's Government took a loan of Rs 5,521 crore from China, followed by another loan of Rs 3,681 crore, till now it has taken a total loan of Rs 9,202 crore.

He also said that China's diplomacy is known as debt-trap diplomacy where they give huge loans to small countries and when they fail to repay then China takes control over those countries.

Bhardwaj said "India signed a loan agreement with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). In this bank, China is a key stakeholder. China wanted to set up this bank in 2013 and in 2016 India approved this bank. In January 2016 this bank was constituted".

"China has already declared that by this bank and some other banks they want to give loans of nearly three billion dollars.

China is investing in projects like roads, railway, Chennai peripheral road project, and Delhi-Meerut rapid rail project, Mumbai metro, Haryana bypass lane and others," he said. Bhardwaj further said that there are many other countries like Sri Lanka where China followed the same model of capturing. "China gave loans to Sri Lanka for making airports and ports.

To prevent spread of Covid Ministry of Railways discontinued trains: Goyal

❖ **Keeping in view the requirement of movement of stranded persons, Shramik specials were organised in a mission mode**

❖ **Trains were sanitized, accompanied by Railway Protection Force (RPF), food and water were provided during the journey**

❖ **Indian Railways also ran parcel train services to deliver agricultural produce, medicine and other essential items during the lockdown period**

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha said that the Ministry of Railways discontinued all passenger services immediately after introduction of the national lockdown to prevent the spread Covid-19 pandemic.

Keeping in view the requirement of movement of stranded persons, Shramik specials were organised in a mission mode, he said.

"These Shramik specials were operated as "trains on demand" as and when State Governments requisitioned these trains in accordance with the protocol and guidelines issued by the Government.

Starting from May 1 up to 31st August, 4621 Shramik Specials have been operated as per demands of the State Government," he said.

Goyal further said that trains were sanitized, accompanied by Railway Protection Force (RPF), food and water

were provided during the journey. Indian Railways also ran parcel train services to deliver agricultural produce, medicine and other essential items during the lockdown period.

"Railways also ensured adequate supplies of essential commodities such as coal for the power sector, food grains, fertilizer etc., throughout the lock down to meet the needs of citizens in various ways," he said.

In its efforts to gradually resume its passenger's services, Indian Railways resumed passenger trains operation by operating 15 pairs of Special trains May 12 and by operating 100 pairs of trains June 6, he informed.

"An additional 43 pairs of Special trains have been introduced September 12.

At present, only Special trains with limited stoppages are being operated,

keeping in view the concerns of the State Governments in order to facilitate the management of the COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

Increasing OLX fraud major issue for Gurugram Police

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

A number of frauds related to OLX, the online platform for buying and selling used goods, is an increasing concern for the Gurugram Police. The city police have also identified three areas that have seen a hike in cyber frauds originating on the platform.

According to a survey conducted by police, most of these frauds have been traced to Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, Bharatpur in Rajasthan and Nuh in Haryana.

The city police have registered 17 FIRs after receiving 435 complaints related to OLX fraud till August this year.

To deal with this menace, the police suggested some measures to OLX officials to take necessary steps to combat such incidents.

According to the police, the fraudsters adopt several techniques to dupe their targets, like fraud money is routed through multiple gateways, thus further complicating the probe.

Nitika Gahlaut, DCP (headquarters), Gurugram Police, said that the police have received multiple complaints related to online frauds.

"To curb such frauds, we have given valuable suggestions to OLX and have also pointed out some loopholes on the website which fraudsters are using to dupe people.

We have suggested the company officials cross-check their users' details. The company has to ensure that a user can create only one account using one mobile number," the DCP said.

The officer further said that the fraudsters keep com-

ing up with new ways to cheat people. During the probe, the officer said fraudsters usually pose as Army Men, doctors and teachers while offering to buy a product. Their profile often helps them gain trust among sellers.

"We have also suggested the company to implement verified user tags in case any user uploads any product or ad on the website. It is the responsibility of the company, they have to collect entire information about the user before verifying them on the platform.

The DCP also asserted that such incidents will be strictly curbed in the future.

"We have also given strict directions to the company management. If we find lapses on behalf of the company, stern actions will be initiated as per the law," she said.

OLX also claimed to have a threefold strategy to deal with online fraud.

"Users will have to share their GPS location. Consent will be taken from while downloading the app.

A user will be authenticated with his/her mobile phone number. Only one OLX account can be accessed from a mobile number, awareness videos educating users on how to transact safely on the platform,

safety tips on homepage of our app, safety tips notifications in different languages and helpline to resolve the grievances of the users," said Juhi Singh, the legal counsel for OLX India Private Ltd.

"We have been collaborating closely with the police's cyber cells agencies across the country and giving them all possible support to help nab the fraudsters," she added.

48K jhuggis on railway tracks facing demolition, says Cong leader Kumar



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar accused the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of indulging in blame game regarding the relocation of the JJ clusters along the 140-km long Railway track in Delhi.

Kumar said that around 48,000 jhuggis on railway tracks were facing the hammer of demolition. "The BJP which rules the municipal Corporations of Delhi and the Kejriwal Government in Delhi were playing cheap politics as they used the jhuggi dwellers only as their vote-banks," he said. Addressing the media, Kumar said that it was due to the relentless effort by the Congress that the Supreme Court stayed the execution of its own order for the demolition of the jhuggis till the next

hearing of the petition filed by the Congress. "On the one hand, the BJP and the AAP were aiding and abetting the demolition of the JJ clusters and on the other hand, they were masking their real face to tell blatant lies to the poor jhuggi dwellers," he said.

Meanwhile, Delhi Congress leaders held a demonstration at the Rohini Zone headquarters of the Municipal Corporation and burnt effigies of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and conveyed their demands to the governments.

Party vice-president Jai Kishan accused the Delhi Government and the BJP-ruled municipal Corporations for setting aside the interest of the Corporation employees and dalits. "Both the Delhi government and the centre are anti-dalit and harassing them as well.

All political parties in Punjab on same page against Centre's agricultural ordinances

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

Political forces in Punjab have come together on a common platform against the Centre on the issue of agriculture ordinances while indulging in a war of words with each other.

Against the three farm ordinances, the ruling Congress, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are indulging in blame-game, while making all out efforts to woo the farming community.

Up in arms against the Centre, the Congress-led Punjab Government on Wednesday expressed its solidarity towards the farmers by withdrawing the cases registered against them during agitations, while ensuring that no fresh cases will be registered against them for violating Section 144.

The Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh led a Congress party's delegation to meet Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore in the morning to air concerns over the law and order situation following the enactment of farm ordinances.

Also stepping in the battle, SAD decided to oppose its own alliance partner, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), at the Centre on the issue by deciding to oppose the three agriculture-related Bills in the Parliament.

The decision came a day after the Akali Dal claimed that it was "not consulted" before introducing the three contentious farm ordinances.

Man held for duping 2,500 for getting them phones on EMI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



The Delhi Police has arrested a 32-year-old man from Ghaziabad for allegedly duping over 2,500 people on the pretext of getting them mobile phones on EMI through fake websites.

Police said that the accused identified as Jitender Singh disclosed to the police that he along with his associates -- Praveen Kumar and Rajat Shukla -- indulged in defrauding people by offering them to provide mobile phones on easy monthly installments.

However, after taking a small amount as down pay-

when a probe was initiated on January 9 on the complaint of one Irfan Pathan, who alleged that in December last year, he wanted to buy a mobile phone and came across a website -- www.mobilityworld.in -- which offered them on EMIs at cheap rates. "In order to make a purchase, he was asked to deposit Rs 1,499 by Virtual Private Address (VPA) "paymobile@upi". He was then contacted by the executives of the website who asked him to deposit further money for getting the mobile phone delivered. He deposited Rs. 5,998 in three transactions on VPA provided by the executive of the website. But he neither got

any mobile phone nor did they return his the money," said the DCP. "During investigation, call details of the mobile numbers mentioned on the website and those provided by the complainant were obtained. On analysis of the Call Detail Record, it was found that one of the mobile numbers used by the accused was registered on the name of Rajat Shukla," said the DCP.

"On analysing the details of VPA paymobile@upi, it was found that it was linked to a bank account of Rajat Shukla. However, the money from the said bank account used to be immediately credited into Singh's account," said the DCP.

"Singh was arrested later from his home in Ghaziabad on Tuesday and two mobile phones used by him in commission of crime were seized. During interrogation, Singh disclosed that in last two years, he along with his associates have duped people through three fake websites created by them," said the DCP.

"The accused shifted their setup and domain name of the websites to avoid detection and took money through Virtual Private address to make detection difficult. They often took small amounts of Rs 1,999 to Rs 7,999 so that the victim would not approach the police," the DCP said.

Delhi BJP president Adesh test +ve for corona

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Adesh Gupta has tested positive for coronavirus. "Last week I had a Covid test done after having a mild fever, the report of which was negative.

Due to continuing to feel uncomfortable, I went for a corona test again which came out positive.

Though, I have quarantined myself for the last one week but still anyone who came in contact with me, should be tested," Gupta tweeted in Hindi. Deputy Chief

Minister of Delhi Manish Sisodia and eight other MLAs on Monday had tested Covid positive. Besides Sisodia, eight Delhi MLAs have also tested positive.

They include Rajesh Gupta, Rituraj Govind, Virender Singh Kadian, Ajay Mahawar, Surender Kumar, Girish Soni, Vishesh Ravi and Pramila Dheeraj Tokas. Delhi on Wednesday recorded 4473 fresh Covid-19 cases, taking the total tally to over 230269 lakh, according to?Delhi government's health bulletin.

The death toll climbed to 4839 with 33 new fatalities reported in the last 24 hours.



**ISO:9001-2015
TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from eligible Service Providers for "Handling, Storage and Operation of Master Stockyard at Raipur for Aluminium products". The estimated cost of the service is Rs 48 Crores (for 5years). Tender documents is being issued from 15-09-2020 and last date of submission of tender is 05-10-2020 (11:00 hrs). For further details please visit at: www.nsic.co.in, www.eprocure.gov.in or contact:

Sr. Branch Manager, The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., 204, A-Block, Crystal Arcade, Near Lodhipara Chowk, Shankar Nagar, Raipur-492007, Chhattisgarh. Telephone- 00. 0771-4035388 / 4060070

CM hails Jain community as its Covid Centre opens

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Wednesday praised the Jain community after opening a 200-bed Jain International Trade Organization (JITO) Covid-19 Centre near the Raipur airport.

The Jains have always been at the forefront of service to the society at large, he said, adding that they have further enriched their record of public service and cooperation by opening the JITO Covid-19 Centre near the Swami Vivekananda Airport.

Baghel virtually inaugurated the Centre from his official residence. An official communication issued on the event states that the Centre



has specialist doctors and paramedical staff. Food will be provided. All the facilities are free of cost.

The Chief Minister hoped that other communities would also come forward to take the fight against the global epidemic to a step further, taking a cue from Jain community.

With the cooperation from all communities, the people of the state will overcome the present crisis, he said.

Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo and Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey also addressed the event. JITO national President Ganpat Rai Choudhary stated that all patients will be taken care of and the food and treatment will be free of cost. The Raipur Centre is the 11th in a series.

Books of Class 11, 12 can be bought online: CTBC



RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh Text Book Corporation (CTBC) is all set to provide textbooks of Class 11 and 12 an online platform, the government said on Wednesday. A discount of 15 percent will be given to all the principals, teachers and students of Class 11 and 12 from the Faculty of Arts, Commerce and Science for buying directly from the book stores of the CTBC, an official press release said.

These books can be obtained from CTBC stores in Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Jagdalpur, Bilaspur, Ambikapur and Raigarh.

For this, books can be obtained online by ordering online on the corporation's website, the statement said.

The CTBC Managing Director said the service is being provided to all principals, teachers and students on its official website www.tbc.cg.nic.in.

Give correct mobile number to beat Covid

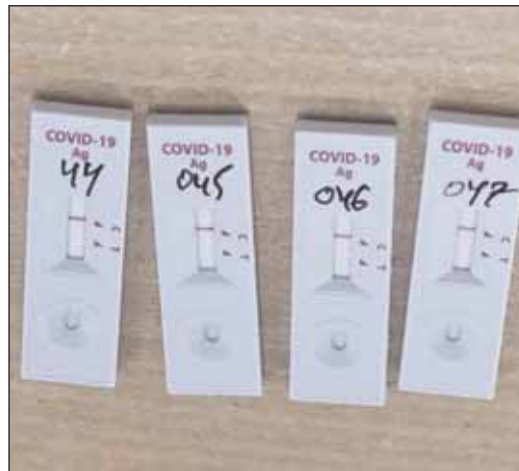
STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh's Health Department on Wednesday appealed to people going for Covid-19 test to register their correct mobile number and address.

"Due to wrong mobile numbers or incorrect/half addresses it becomes hard to contact the patient. Also, people cannot get the report or message if their phones are switched off," an official press release said.

People going for Covid test must keep their mobile phone on, it said.

If their mobile phones are off or the numbers given are wrong, then the patients cannot get directions for home isolation or getting



admitted in the hospital, the press release said.

The Department urged people showing any Covid symptoms to immediately visit the nearest Covid Centre to get tested.

There is no need to worry if a person has

Covid symptoms. With early detection and treatment, the infection can be cured, it said.

The Health department has suggested regular exercise, yoga and pranayama along with consuming 'kadha' to boost immunity.

14,580 teachers to be appointed in C'garh

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh is going to get 14,580 school teachers soon.

The School Education Department has issued the necessary orders following Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's instructions and the Finance Department's approval, an official release said on Wednesday.

But the appointment orders will be issued only after the government orders the opening of schools in the state now shut due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Baghel has told the School Education Department to pace up the process of teachers' recruitment and submit reports within a week.

The order issued by the



Department states that the appointment will be subject to the order passed by the

Court in any case pending or filed in future. The appointment orders will be

issued separately for each selected candidate.

The seniority of teachers

in the appointment will be in accordance with the merit list issued by Vyapam. The teachers will have a three-year probation period.

Vyapam (PEB) had conducted examinations to appoint teachers of various cadres for recruitment on 14,580 vacant posts of teachers of different cadres. The results were declared in September and November 2019.

After the corona lockdown in March, the Finance Department's consent was sought.

Before issuing the appointment orders, document verification of the candidates shortlisted in the provisional selection list will be done. This will be followed by a medical fitness certificate and police verification.

Three held for duping man of ₹9.28 lakh

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Police on Wednesday arrested three persons in Uttar Pradesh and brought them to Raipur after accusing them of cheating a man of ₹9.28 lakh on the pretext of doubling the amount.

The three were identified as Dheeraj Kumar (32) from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh as well as Mohammad Ilyas (28) and Mohamamd Aslam (27) of Delhi, Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar Yadav told The Pioneer.

Complainant Tilak Ram Sahu of Raipur was duped of ₹9.28 lakh between November 2019 and March 2020 on the pretext of doubling the maturity amount.



Realizing he had been cheated, he complained to the police.

Based on technical analysis of mobile phones, a police team was sent to Uttar Pradesh where the three were arrested in Loni town after searching for them in

many cities.

Police recovered 15 ATM cards, 14 mobile phones, a computer, a printer, a Debit Card, an Aadhaar Card, a PAN card, a cheque book and fake insurance policies from them.

ACB nabs RES Deputy Engineer, middleman for taking bribe

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in Chhattisgarh on Wednesday arrested a Rural Engineering Services (RES) Deputy Engineer and his middleman after the latter was caught red-handed taking a bribe of ₹20,000 in Bilaspur district.

ACB Superintendent of Police Pankaj Chandra told The Pioneer that Sumeet Rajput (37), posted at Akaltara Janpad Panchayat, demanded ₹40,000 from a Rajesh Kumar Dhosle to give an evaluation report of development works done



in Mudpar village.

If this money was not paid, Rajput threatened not to pass Dhosle's application.

Dhosle complained to the ACB while Rajput sent his middleman, Rajkumar Rathe (57), to take the first

instalment of ₹20,000. ACB sleuths caught him in the act and recovered the bribe money.

The man confessed that he took the bribe money at the behest of Rajput, who too was arrested later.

5 IAS officials in C'garh get fresh postings

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh government on Wednesday issued fresh posting orders for five Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers.

According to the order issued by Secretary of General Administration Department, Chandrakant Verma, a 2017 batch officer, will be the Assistant Collector of Raigarh. Earlier he was the Sarangarh SDM.

A 2018 batch officer, Devesh Kumar Dhruv, has been made SDM of Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara district. He was posted as Assistant Collector of Bilaspur.

Abhishek Sharma (2018 batch) has been posted as SDM in Katghora. He was earlier the Assistant Collector in Surguja.

Abinash Mishra (2018 batch), the Bastar Assistant Collector, will be the Dantewada SDM.

Sambit Mishra, also from the 2018 batch, has made SDM in Dharamjaigarh. Earlier, he was Assistant Collector in Raigarh district.



Chhattisgarh School Education Minister Dr Premsai Singh Tekam on Wednesday inspected the 'Mohalla Classes' in Raipur city and outer limits. The offline classes are being held after permission from parents in villages and urban areas due to closure of regular schools due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pioneer Photo

Hypertension most common comorbidity among Covid patients

■ IANS

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, recorded underlying health conditions or comorbidities in 98.5 per cent of coronavirus patients admitted to the hospital for treatment in September with hypertension being the most common form.

There is a grave interlink between comorbidities and coronavirus infection. Patients with hypertension, diabetes, coronary heart disease, chronic obstructive lung, carcinoma or chronic kidney disease have higher chance of succumbing to the disease, according to public health experts.

According to Animesh Ray, Assistant Professor in



the Department of Medicine at AIIMS, "In September, 137 patients were admitted to AIIMS, and comorbidities were present in 98.5 per cent

of them. There was presence of comorbidities in almost all the patients, barring two."

Ray said that hypertension was the most common

Hypertension is defined as blood pressure above 140/90, and is considered severe if the pressure is above 180/120. High blood pressure often has no symptoms

form of ailment in the patients, followed by diabetes and malignancy.

"One in four patients had multiple comorbidities.

Out of 137, 128 were discharged while nine succumbed to the disease, out of which six were asymptomatic or had mild

infection, while three were severely ill," Ray said during the AIIMS National Combined Grand Rounds on Covid-19.

Hypertension is defined as blood pressure above 140/90, and is considered severe if the pressure is above 180/120. High blood pressure often has no symptoms. Over time, if untreated, it can cause health conditions, such as heart disease and stroke.

AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria, who is also the part of a core team monitoring the pandemic, also said that comorbidities not only lead to a poor prognosis in terms of morbidity and mortality, but sometimes they also get aggravated because of underline Covid-19.

"Diabetes has emerged as an important comorbidity. It can lead to poor prognosis in terms of morbidity and mortality, especially where diabetes is not well-controlled. It has been well said that a collision of two pandemics -- Covid-19 pandemic and diabetes pandemic -- has led to worse outcomes in these patients."

Guleria added that there is a bi-directional flow as far as diabetes and Covid-19 is concerned. Individuals who have diabetes have more severe Covid-19 infection.

"There are some data which suggest that it may aggravate to lead to the development of Type-1 diabetes. Anyone who has diabetes, infection control becomes an issue for him/her."

CRPF ASI commits suicide

SUKMA: An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Wednesday committed suicide by shooting himself in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district where Naxalites are active, a senior official said.

K. Shivanand (49), belonging to 2nd battalion of the CRPF, shot himself with his AK-47 rifle around 7.15 am at his unit's camp in Gadiras police station premises, around 500 km from Raipur, Inspector General of Police (Bastar) P. Sundarraj said.

When Shivanand's colleagues heard the gunshot, they rushed to his barrack and found him dead, the official said.

No suicide note was found, he said, adding the exact reason behind the extreme step was yet to be ascertained. Shivanand hailed from Karnataka.

His family members have been informed about the incident.

The CRPF is extensively deployed in southern Chhattisgarh, including Sukma, for anti-Naxalite operations.

JAYA BACHCHAN REMARKS IN SUPPORT OF BOLLYWOOD

Mumbai Police ramps up security outside ‘Jalsa’

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After actress-turned Samajwadi MP Jaya Bachchan spoke vociferously in Rajya Sabha against the attempts being made by certain people to “vilify” Bollywood, the Mumbai Police on Wednesday beefed up security outside the outside Bachchans’ bungalow “Jalsa” at Juhu in north-west Mumbai.

Taking serious cognisance of intense trolling that Jaya has come under after remarks in Rajya Sabha made in response to BJP MP and Bhojpuri actor Ravi Kishan and Bhojpuri actor Ravi Kishan had hit back saying that some attempts were being made to “vilify” Bollywood.

Simultaneously, the Mumbai Police Cyber Cell is looking into trolling and virulent social media posts that have targeted the Bachchans during the last two days. Talking to media persons here, Mumbai Guardian Minister Aslam Shaikh said: “I have told the Mumbai police to increase security for the Bachchan family which is being trolled and targeted viciously in the social media after her remarks in support of Bollywood in Parliament”

It may be recalled that actor Ravi Kishan said that there was a drug problem in Bollywood, Jaya Bachchan had hit back saying that some attempts were being made to “vilify” Bollywood.

“Just because of a few people, you cannot vilify the whole

industry... I was really embarrassed and ashamed that yesterday one of our members in the Lok Sabha, who is from the industry, spoke against the film industry. Jis thaali mein khaate hain usi mein chhed karte hain (they are biting the hand that feeds them),” Jaya had said in Rajya Sabha, without naming Kishan.

“At a time when the financial situation is in a depressing state and employment rate at the worst levels, in order to divert the attention of people, we are being flogged on social media and there is no support from the government.... the entertainment industry in the country provides direct employment to 5 lakh people daily and indirect employment to 5 million people,” Jaya had said.

After 6-month, Mamata to resume administrative meetings soon

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After almost a six-month Agap Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has decided to visit the districts to hold administrative meetings. Her district tour will begin with visits to North Bengal towns where the Chief Minister will take stock of situations, officials at State Secretariat Nabanna said.

The resumption of Banerjee’s administrative meetings amid corona crisis comes in the backdrop intensified movements on the part of principal Opposition party BJP.

The Chief Minister will reach Siliguri on September 21 where she will stay for a night before holding meetings with district officials of Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri districts at

“Uttarkanya” building which is the second secretariat of the State.

After meeting officials there she would the district authorities of Darjeeling, Coochbehar and Kalimpong before returning to Kolkata on September 24, sources said.

Soon after coming to power Banerjee had started regular administrative trips to district headquarters taking along with him respective ministers, and secretaries. During administrative meetings she would confront local authorities and evaluate their progress report on various pending projects. Besides she would also meet local people to take feedbacks from them.

The formula had yielded results with the effect that projects were speedily completed.

State BJP to stage Nabanna march on Oct 6

Banerjee had held an administrative meeting out of Kolkata for the last time in the month of March when she visited Malda. Subsequently with the outbreak of corona pandemic the programmes had to be halted.

On whether corona protocols would be compromised in the crowded meetings in the district a senior official said “all precautions are being taken.”

Meanwhile, pooh-pooing the resumption of administrative meeting State BJP leader Sayantan Basu said “such eyewashes would hardly yield any result because the people have already made up their minds to throw out this Government...”

We had said that in 2019 we will make them half and we have done that by reducing the TMC to 22 out of 42 seats ...

BJP: Vijayan direct beneficiary of gold scam, LIFE

Mission corruption

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

For the first time in the history of Kerala, leader of a political party stood in front of the main gate of the Kerala Secretariat on Wednesday and shouted that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was the direct beneficiary of the gold smuggling scam, LIFE Mission corruption and even the drug trafficking cases in the State.

“Pinarayi Vijayan is the direct beneficiary of gold smuggling scam, LIFE Mission corruption and drug trafficking. That’s the reason behind his over enthusiasm in saving and protecting K T Jaleel, the minister for higher education who has been questioned by the Enforcement Directorate,” declared K Surendran, president of the Kerala BJP on Wednesday.

Surendran, who was addressing hundreds of party workers including activists of Mahila Morchcha, said that Vijayan was afraid of his own shadow. “It is because of his sense of guilt. We want the investigating agencies to question Vijayan’s daughter and son-in-law in these cases,” said the BJP leader.

The BJP president was referring to Vijayan’s press briefing on Tuesday evening when he shouted at the former describing him as a person who lost his mental balance. “ A sense of fear is haunting Vijayan and it is because of his involvement in the criminal deeds,” charged Surendran.

Earlier VV Rajesh, senior BJP leader, alleged that the CPI(M) was conspiring with the Police in sabotaging the rallies and demonstrations organized by the saffron brigade all over Kerala.

Kerala Cong braces up to celebrate Chandy’s golden jubilee

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Though the Congress presence is not felt in the State-wide agitation against the CPI(M)-led Kerala Government over the gold smuggling scam and LIFE Mission corruption charges, the Grand Old Party is busy with warming up for a two-day mega event to be held at Kottayam and Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday and Saturday respectively. The fact that Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are addressing the virtual rallies live from New Delhi shows the importance of being Oommen Chandi, the face of the party in Kerala.

Congressmen and cadre in the State are getting ready to

celebrate the Golden Jubilee of former Chief Minister Oommen Chandi’s membership of the Kerala Legislative Assembly. Chandi (75) is the only law maker in the Kerala who has been elected to the assembly in all elections he had contested since 1970. Though he was playing a subdued role in politics after the 2016 election in which the Congress-led UDF was defeated by a huge margin by the CPI(M)-led Left Front, the Congress staged an impressive return in the 2019 Lok Sabha election from Kerala.

The Congress High Command in a major reorganization of the party, inducted Oommen Chandi as a member of the Congress Working Committee making it clear

that who would be the chief ministerial candidate of the party in the 2021 election. It has its own explanations. “Chandi is always the man of the hour to whom the High Command turns to in emergency times. He has the capability to disarm even hardcore critics of the party with that disarming smile. Moreover he has only obsession and that is Kerala politics,” said Sam Rajappa, a long time observer of Kerala’s politics.

Though belonging to the Christian community, Chandi is acceptable to all including Hindus in the State and that makes him the frontrunner for the chief minister’s post. “All allegations levelled against him by the CPI(M) prior to the 2016 have fallen flat. The

Hindus have understood that had the Government of Kerala followed the affidavit filed by his Government in the Sabarimala Case, the unpleasant events that took place in the holy shrine would not have been there. The CPI(M) government took back that affidavit and filed another one which earned it the wrath of the people,” said P Rajan, former editor of Mathrubhumi and venerated commentator.

In a politically surcharged State like Kerala, it is impossible to any person to win successfully and successively from a single constituency all elections. But Oommen Chandi, popularly known as Kunjoonju is different and he is here to stay for some more years, say friends and foes alike.

UP Defence Corridor: Search on for land in Khyamai, Barakalan and Jalalpur

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Along with progressing the work of setting up the Defence Industrial Corridor in Andla, the UPEIDA team is also actively looking for land in Khyamai, Barakalan and Jalalpur in Gabhana. Today, two UPEIDA land officers OP Pathak and Sanjay Chawla also visited Khyamai, Barakalan and Jalalpur.

60 hectares of government land is being found in Khyamai, 20 hectares in Jalalpur and 50 hectares in Barakalan. ADM DV Pal told that land is being searched for setting up an explosive making factory. Therefore, the land is being searched in a safe and

secluded place.

He further stated that these three locations are good for expansion for the Defense Corridor. The land is also cheaper because it belongs to the government, so these lands are a better option for expansion. Recently, in the video conference of CM, Home Secretary Avnish Awasthi had instructed the investors to transfer the land of Andla at the earliest under their firm’s name. After this, the local administration has started the process of transferring the land. The forest department has been asked to clear the land in Andla by cutting down trees.

The current circle rate of land in Khyamai is around Rs

32 lakh per hectare while the land is being sold for Rs 26 to 27 lakh per hectare. If the land is taken for the defense corridor, the farmers will get double the circle rate, that is, around Rs 64 lakh per hectare. Therefore, farmers are also excited to sell their land.

Along with UPEIDA officials, Navneet Varshney, Mukesh Jain and Mohit Kumar of the Federation of Innovative Manufacturers also inspected the land and talked to the farmers. The total land of Khyamai can come up to 60 hectares in this project. Therefore, all the connectivity routes from Andla to Khyamai are being looked at, so that the connectivity can be improved.

Prof Habib: Raja Mahendra Pratap not mentioned giving land to AMU

PNS ■ ALIGARH

In the preparations to give back the land leased by Aligarh Muslim University to the descendants of King Mahendra Pratap, the famous historian Professor Irfan Habib has said that despite being close to him, Raja Mahendra Pratap never told him that he had given any land to Aligarh Muslim University. This matter is between the taker and the giver.

A 90-year-old Professor Irfan Habib has said that in 1962, he helped Raja Mahendra Pratap in contesting Parliament election. He and his father Prof Habib had good relations with Raja Saheb, but he never mentioned anything like giving land to the university. He said that as far as taking and giving land is concerned, there must be some documents of a lease. Those who have given should be having some papers.

Aligarh admin braces up for panchayat poll preparation

PNS ■ ALIGARH

As soon as the information about the voter list revision campaign was released from the State Election Commission for the Panchayat elections, stir started in the villages and towns. The administration also has tightened up. From 1st, BLO will start door to door visit.

DM Chandra Bhushan Singh told that orders have been issued regarding the Panchayat elections from. In this, door to door survey will start from 1st October, while inspection of online application will be done from 6th to 12th November.

Claims and objections will be sought on the list from 6th to 12th December and will be cleared in 4 days. Last list will be made available on 29th December.

‘Govt should study time capsule before burial in AMU’

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

On the completion of 100 years of establishment, Aligarh Muslim University is preparing to bury the time capsule. Hathras MP and AMU court member Rajveer Diler in his written letter to the Union Education Minister Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, has demanded from a government to study a time capsule before its burial so that the next generation can know correct history.

On the completion of 100 years of AMU, it has been decided by the university administration to bury the time capsule in the ground. MP Rajveer Diler says that the time capsule will be preserved in the ground for thousands of years.

To avoid any wrong facts in this time capsule, the government must have complete information about the capsule and permission from the Central Government and what is being buried in it.

Higher Covid-19 cases in East & West Godavari dists, 8,835 cases in AP

Amaravati: The two Godavari districts, East and West, continued to witness a virulent spread of coronavirus while most other districts in Andhra Pradesh seemed to be gradually lowering their numbers as the state reported 8,835 fresh cases on Wednesday.

The latest COVID-19 bulletin said 10,845 patients had fully recovered in 24 hours ending 9 AM on Wednesday, while 64 more succumbed.

The states COVID-19 table now showed a total of 5,92,760 positive cases, 4,97,376 recoveries and 5,105 deaths.

The active cases came down further to 90,279, according to the bulletin. After 48.06 lakh sample tests, the infection positivity rate stood at 12.33 per cent, as against the national average of 8.44 per cent.

The tests per million

increased to a record 90,016.

East Godavari district, which revealed one of the lowest antibody levels of 14.4 per cent in the Sero prevalence study, continued to add its regulation 1,400 daily cases.

It has now touched a total of 81,064 cases, with 12,036 of them being active.

The neighbouring West Godavari, which too had a lowest Sero prevalence of 12.3 per cent, added 1,051 in the last 24 hours, pushing its overall tally to 53,571.

The district currently has 8,710 active cases.

Chittoor reported nine more COVID-19 deaths in 24 hours, followed by SPS Nellore seven, Guntur and Prakasam six each.

Kadapa, Krishna, Srikakulam and West Godavari saw five new fatalities each, according to the bulletin. **PTI**

NCB seizes 2 kgs of charas, arrests 2 peddlers from Palghar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Mounting its crackdown on the drug peddlers in and around the metropolis, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officials on Wednesday seized 2.04 kg of Charas (weed) and arrested two peddlers from the neighbouring Palghar district.

Identifying the arrested alleged drug peddlers as Avinash Arun Singh (24) Shraavan L. Gupta (38), the NCB officials said that both Avinash and Gupta were residents of Nalasopara in Palghar district.

Acting on a tip-off, a Mumbai Zonal NCB team apprehended Avinash and found the narcotics hidden in a backpack on his person. Immediately afterwards, the team arrested Gupta near his Nalasopara residence.

Gupta had been in touch with Avinash earlier for delivery of a bag containing Charas received from an alleged supplier Baliram alias Balli, a resident of Bhayander (east) in Thane district.

The NCB officials said that the seized contraband was found in eight taped packets sewn in cloth bags. The bags were concealed in Avinash’s backpack.

The NCB officials are investigating the antecedents of the arrested accused, the source and destination of the seized drugs and the supply chain involved.

Wednesday’s operation involving the drug seizure and arrest of two alleged peddlers was independent of the ongoing investigations into the much-discussed drug case related to actor Sushant Singh Rajput’s death.

Tirupati Lok Sabha MP Balli Durga Prasad dead

PTI ■ TIRUPATI (AP)

Tirupati Lok Sabha MP Balli Durga Prasad Rao, who was undergoing treatment for COVID-19, died at a hospital in Chennai on Wednesday, family members said here.

The 65-year old ruling YSR Congress MP was admitted to the hospital in Chennai, about 140 km from here, three weeks ago after he tested positive for the coronavirus, they said.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, his Deputy K Narayana Swamy, Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy and several MLAs from Chittoor District expressed shock and condoled the death of Prasad.

Bihar reports more recoveries than new coronavirus cases

Patna: Single-day recoveries outnumbered new COVID-19 cases in Bihar on Wednesday as 1,724 people were cured of the disease and 1,531 tested positive for the infection, health department bulletin said.

The recovery rate in the state has increased to 91.16 per cent on Wednesday which is 13 per cent more than the national average, Information and Public Relations Department Secretary Anupam Kumar said.

The number of recoveries has shown a steady increase in the state since August 17, except on September 3 and 4.

Out of the total 1,62,631 COVID-19 cases, the number of people who have recovered from the contagion increased to 1,48,257.

Twelve fatalities have been reported in the past 24 hours taking the death toll to 848, the bulletin said.

Four deaths were reported

from Patna district, two each from Aurangabad and Bhojpur, and one each from Buxar, East Champaran, Samastipur and Vaishali.

There are 13,526 active cases in the state.

As many as 1,07,970 samples were tested for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours while 52.02 lakh samples have been examined for coronavirus infection across Bihar so far, it said. **PTI**



Migrants from various States arrive at Thane Railway Station to reach their workplaces, amid the coronavirus pandemic, in Thane on Wednesday

PTI

Pak renews map war

Despite Russia’s protests, it circulates fictitious map showing parts of India at SCO. Is China behind this adventurism?

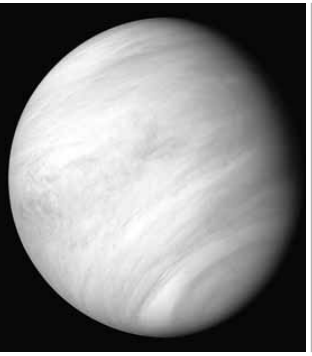


Pakistan is playing a dangerous geo-political game, needling India from the other end as China’s serf State, without realising that all of it could boomerang on itself. Having failed to internationalise the Kashmir issue despite the abrogation of Article 370, it has now taken its territorial aggression to redrawing its maps and appropriating what it fancifully feels is owed to it. So in August it released a new map, incorporating Kashmir, parts of Ladakh and Junagadh in Gujarat. India had rightly called this vacuous and unilateral declaration, which is not backed by any credible reasoning, support groups, historical reasoning or legal validity, as a “political absurdity.” So Pakistan, in a bid to legitimise its claims, circulated this map at a virtual meeting of the national security advisors of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries, despite host Russia’s resistance. India rightly walked out of the meeting, saying Pakistan’s move violated SCO norms, which mandated that no bilateral issue would be discussed and that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member-states would be respected. The Russia-India-China axis dominates the SCO, which, as a counterweight to the US-dominated NATO, has emerged as one of the largest trans-regional international organisations accounting for almost 44 per cent of the world population, stretching from the Arctic Ocean to the Indian Ocean and from the Pacific Ocean to the Baltic Sea. China is seeking to use it in its global domination against the US and while it has sufficiently debt-trapped Central Asian republics and other regional players to do its bidding, it is trying to neutralise Russia by becoming its biggest investor and is now needling India. Considering that India is intransigent on yielding to China’s terms on the Ladakh standoff, regardless of the meetings of the Foreign and Defence Ministers of both nations on the sidelines of the SCO, it just wanted to embarrass India, making it look like an “occupier” at a public forum. And for this it used its proxy, Pakistan. China has also been trying to convince Russia to scale down its defence deals with India following the border stand-off and the map fiasco, which undoubtedly has left Moscow red-faced, was about strong-arming it as well. True, Russia is pragmatic enough about keeping both China and India on its side to establish its relevance in a multi-polar world and even front India to counter Chinese heft. But China certainly doesn’t want India, which has won brownie points at international fora for being decorous and respecting the rule of law, to prevail at SCO. In fact, it was what Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said recently that shows this cartographic offensive to be a part of a larger pattern and not just Pakistan’s independent move. “The new map shows Kashmir shares a clear border with China,” a clear indication that like Nepal, this attempt to redraw boundaries was made at China’s behest and underlines our eastern neighbour’s desire for strategic contiguity in the region than Pakistan’s any real concern for Kashmir. While India is firm on Chinese withdrawal from eastern Ladakh that seems to have driven a wedge in their greater plan to control the Karakoram by squeezing us with salami-slicing, Pakistan’s map claims are clearly intended to warn us of a two-front offensive. Pakistan is heating up the Line of Control (LoC), having moved almost 20,000 soldiers recently to match Chinese deployment on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Its ceasefire violations and infiltration bids have gone up by about 60 per cent this year, something which didn’t happen even after the Balakot airstrikes. If recent reports are to be believed, then the Chinese are no longer shadow-boxing. Just like in Nepal, their officials have had a series of meetings with their Pakistani counterparts in Gilgit-Baltistan and have been aiding them clandestinely to revive old terror networks against India. Debt-trapped by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), with its economy in the doldrums and heavily dependent on borrowings and bailouts, Pakistan is but a pawn in China’s gameplan.

Yet Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan forgets that such unilateralism will beget unilateralism from the Indian side as well. And hurt its interests. The new map is nothing but an adventurist version of its 1947-48 map and in one blow scythes through all bilateral agreements that came after it, primarily the 1972 Shimla Agreement. If Khan wants to negate the understanding that bilateral disputes will be resolved bilaterally, is he also prepared for the negation of all other bilateral treaties we have regarding water-sharing? And if he has taken the liberty of depicting territories under Indian control as Pakistani territory, then how would he counter other valid land claims from our side? In that sense, Pakistan’s latest offensive is nothing short of playing with fire. Realising that the US is now more an ally of India and is humouring it, Pakistan is desperately coopting the Kashmir issue under the banner of pan-Islamism. So it is involving Turkey, which wants to be a leader of the neo-Islamic world, in its criticism of India and seeking Chinese endorsement. Only Pakistan doesn’t realise that its Kashmir strategy is still not quite exportable. And that China, while using it for posturing, will continue to engage with India for geo-strategic reasons.

Life on Venus

There’s proof of life in the unlikelyest of planets, also known for being one of the least explored



For years, the search for extraterrestrial life inside our solar system has always concentrated on the “red” planet Mars. That is because Mars is similar in size to Earth. There is now clear evidence that there was once water on its surface and most importantly, like Earth, it is also in the so-called “habitable” zone, close enough to its star for enough radiation but not so much that life wouldn’t take off. Mars is, therefore, considered to either have life or to have once harboured life and capable of supporting a human expedition. As a result, we are constantly sending probes to Mars and even to its tiny moons.

Probes that circle the planet as well as robotic vehicles that have roamed its surface. We actually have a greater grasp of the surface of Mars than we do of the bottom of our oceans. Even now, the aim for mankind, both in real and reel life, is to make Mars the first step on our eventual voyage to the stars.

Venus, the second rock from the Sun, is, however, given as an example of where global warming will take us. A planet benign on the outside but one where every probe sent since the start of space exploration has been dissolved in acid in the atmosphere or fried by the extreme heat that the greenhouse effect has caused. Even though the Soviet Venera programme did land several probes on Venus and many survived a few hours, there was a succession of lens cap failures. As a result, Venus is one of the least explored planets of the solar system, lacking the romanticism of Mars and the grandeur of Jupiter and Saturn, which have both seen billion-dollar spacecraft visit them in the past decade. Yet, the discovery of phosphine in the Venusian atmosphere is an intriguing prospect because the only way for this gas, with three hydrogen molecules attached to one phosphorus molecule, to occur naturally is as a byproduct of biological processes. While the gas can be made industrially by man, that isn’t clearly a possibility on Venus. So, have we been barking up the wrong tree for decades? After all, as the old adage goes, “Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus” and as we all know, women have all the answers. Maybe some strange process creates phosphine on Venus that we are unaware of and we should send a probe or two to the planet we never thought could harbour life. But as we know from Earth herself, life can survive in some really extreme conditions. This time though, let us make sure that the lens caps work.

Teachers too must learn

The NEP expects every teacher to develop a comprehensive perspective on life and living and follow an application-based module



JS RAJPUT

For over six decades, one has never witnessed such a strong projection of the national resolve to implement a policy. This rare privilege goes to the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. The President of India addresses the nation, the Prime Minister addresses twice within a week, the Union Education Minister and his team seem busy 24x7, conducting and guiding national-level webinars on specific topics that would require new initiatives and action at the implementation stage. It’s evident that the nation has realised that for equitable growth, progress and development, it has to be “education, education, and education.” India is now determined to create a pool of teachers who would not only be degree-holders but possess “personalities.” These would be people imbued with a comprehensive multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional perspective.

In fact, the new approach to teacher preparation would expect every instructor to develop a comprehensive perspective on life and living. They would internalise the higher goals of education. The focus, henceforth, would be on them believing in *Sarva Bhut Hite Ratah*. And as was the ancient tradition, they would be life-long learners, *yavadjeevait adhiyate viprah*. It is, in a sense, a revolutionary recommendation that by 2030 all teachers would be prepared in multi-faculty colleges and universities through four-year integrated programmes. As one goes through the various sections of the NEP, this expectation becomes evident to everyone.

The objective of achieving *scharyatwa* would require a strong support system that must emerge from the establishment and society. There are clear indications to ensure that: “In order to improve and reach the levels of integrity and credibility required to restore the prestige of the teaching profession, the regulatory system shall be empowered to take stringent action against sub-standard and dysfunctional Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) that do not meet the basic educational criterion, after giving one year for the remedy of breaches. By 2030, only educationally sound, multi-disciplinary and integrated teacher education programmes shall be in force.” This objective of restoring the credibility



of TEIs is achievable. The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) had, during 1998-99, successfully exercised this authority, and certain well-known but sub-standard teacher preparation programmes were closed down. Once teacher educators accept this responsibility, they could transform the entire system. Let them never forget that the recommendations on teacher education arise from the expectations and aspirations of the young. But somewhere besides these is also the hidden pain and anguish which was recorded –

with a heavy heart – by late Justice JS Verma: “A majority of stand-alone TEIs – over 10,000 in number – are not even attempting serious teacher education but are essentially selling degrees for a price.” One could mention it only with immense pain, as the first chairperson of the NCTE said, that all these 10,000 institutions selling degrees were certified by senior teachers, teacher educators, professors and other academics. The policy has done its part, no more stand-alone colleges. Now it is the responsibility of teachers, teacher educators and professionals in the field to ensure that in future regulatory mechanisms are not trivialised.

This policy suggests alternative regulatory structures, which would transform the manner in which future multi-disciplinary

teacher preparations institutions and universities would emerge. The responsibility of teachers at every stage would grow multi-fold as autonomy would be the in-thing.

When one goes through the various general recommendations in the policy, one finds serious concern for drastic change in teacher education in content and pedagogy, and the need to achieve an attitudinal transformation among aspiring teachers. It is now learning, learning and more learning. Examinations shall no more be days of nationwide anxiety and widespread tension. The focus of assessment in schools shifts to application of knowledge gained and internalised.

The present pattern of examinations was transplanted in this country by alien rulers. It had been discarded in Britain much earlier but we still adhere to it in India. Teachers, and teacher educators, have a tremendous task ahead in implementing curriculum load reduction, to ensure that textbooks and textual materials are neither deficient on new knowledge nor too overloaded with obsolescence content.

Teaching and learning shall become more interactive, and much would transpire outside the closed classroom. Skill development and bringing in vocational education elements early in

schools would require TEIs absorbing them in their own curricula. Those who know the story of Richard Feynman would find it much easier to visualise its great transformative and inspiring impact on the system as a whole. It would be possible only when the promises to ensure the assured recruitment process are put to practice, and the assurances on the professionally acceptable teacher-student ratio is implemented without any aberrations. One must not ignore considerable dilution in the quality of education and decline in the acceptability and credibility of schools funded by the public. The policy realises this.

The ancient Indian tradition of knowledge quest spreads over four stages: *adhyayan*, *manan*, *chintan* and *upayog*. And its relevance is eternal. It is the essence of the process of transfer of knowledge to generations ahead. Every teacher, henceforth, would be expected to comprehend the essence of Indian philosophy of education that finds reflection throughout this policy.

Let me recall three sentences of Sri Aurobindo; first being that the process must begin with “from near, to far”; and hence the mother tongue medium and other aspects. His second principle was that “nothing can be taught.” Every active, alert and vibrant teacher shall

have to grasp its essence. It is “learning the treasure within.” It is the perfection within that the child is discovering, and teachers are assisting, supporting, guiding, and much more.

When Sri Aurobindo states that the “mind must be consulted in its growth,” he is emphasising how pertinent it is to “know the child.” It is the comprehension of these basic principles that has led to the restricting of the school education system to 5+3+3+4. The most significant is the addition of initial three years, after the age of 3. India would need very specialised teachers for this age group.

A couple of years ago, India had anticipated the importance of open and distance learning. That experience comes very handy as the global attention diverts to online learning. Creation of digital platforms and e-content had already begun in full swing and has come handy during the corona crisis, as children are confined to their homes. The pedagogy is undergoing unprecedented change, teachers associated with schools will have to gear up to learn new skills. While tools and techniques shall change – sometimes beyond recognition – the pedagogical principles would remain the same.

(The writer works in education and social cohesion)

SOUNDBITE

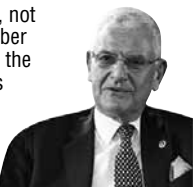
I call on the Palestinian leadership to recognise reality and show responsibility as did the UAE leaders, by returning to negotiating table.

Israeli Minister
—Gabi Ashkenazi



Security Council reform is very important, not only for the member states but also to the United Nations as a whole.

Turkish diplomat
—Volkan Bozkir



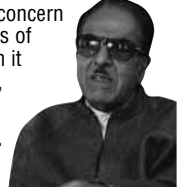
We will be taking action to counter the unjust tariffs put on Canadian aluminum by the United States. We will always be there to defend Canadian workers, defend our aluminum sector.

Canadian PM
—Justin Trudeau



If J&K UT government is of the view that it has no concern and duty for the feelings of Kashmir’s masses, then it must take that position, categorically.

Former Union Minister
—Saifuddin Soz



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Medical education

Sir — The Tamil Nadu Assembly has unanimously passed a Bill to provide 7.5 per cent horizontal reservation in medical admissions for State Government students who clear the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). The provisions of the new law are applicable to all government and private medical, dental, Indian medicine and homeopathy streams. The reservation will benefit 300 underprivileged scholars annually and will be implemented from this year onwards.

Amit Singh Kushwaha
Madihya Pradesh

No arrest warrant

Sir — The Uttar Pradesh Government has issued a notification for setting up a Special Security Force (SSF). It will be given responsibility of important Government buildings, industrial establishments, major sites, airports, metros and other important places. Empowered to make “arrests” and conduct “searches” without any prior

MPLADS should be permanently scrapped

In the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak, the Government has decided to reallocate the funds from the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). Amounting to ₹5 crore a year per Member of Parliament (MP), the money will now be allocated by the Centre for relief packages. Rather than just suspending the scheme, it should be permanently scrapped.

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Parliament and Planning Commission termed MPLADS useless and as encouraging corruption. A sting operation caught few parliamentarians accepting bribes to approve schemes to be funded through MPLADS. The then Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee had argued for scrapping the scheme. Many members of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly have been over-generous by funding their favourite organisations through this scheme even though such funding may have had nothing to do with public welfare. It may be recalled that trusts floated by the then Chief Election Commissioner

Bhupendra Singh Ranga
Haryana



Navin Chawla were generously funded by parliamentarians cutting across party-lines from MPLADS. Already, the Bihar government has abolished such a programme. All such suggested reforms should be implemented both at the Centre and in States.

Madhu Agrawal
Chandni Chowk

Inflation a concern

Sir — Inflation is primarily driven by food prices, which account for 39 per cent of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket, and a sharp spiral in prices of transport and communication services, which amount

to 8.6 per cent. The sub category of petrol and diesel for vehicles and telephone charges for mobiles account for around 50 per cent of transport and communication charges, which have been growing in double digits in July and August. Prices of basic food items such as pulses, vegetables, edible oil, meat, fish and

eggs have doubled. Even fruits are extremely costly. While the CPI in August is lower than that of July by 0.04 per cent, it is still higher than the upper limit of the RBI’s comfort level of six per cent for the fifth consecutive month. The data is not at all encouraging.

CK Ramanathan
Ghaziabad

A proud moment

Sir — India got elected as Member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the principal global body focussed on gender equality and women empowerment, beating China in a hotly-contested election. India garnered 38 votes of the 54 ballots cast.

India and Afghanistan will join Argentina, Austria, Dominican Republic, Israel, Latvia, Nigeria, Turkey and Zambia, which were elected by acclamation, to the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term between 2021 and 2025. This is a proud moment for us indeed.

Vihaan Gupta
Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Mitigate data intrusion worries

Instead of thinking of security as a prevention tool, firms must incorporate it into product design from the start so that the architect systems are impenetrable



RIPU **BAJWA**

In the new digital era, where data is growing at an unprecedented rate by the second and where organisations are quickly becoming data-first, one thing has become crystal clear. That the “this is good enough” approach by businesses, across the globe and in India, is no more acceptable when it comes to safeguarding the most precious capital, i.e. data, from an external intrusion. Ever since businesses have become increasingly dependent on their data to fuel innovation, drive new revenue streams and so on, Information Technology decision-makers have not just been evaluating their current data protection preparedness but have also been ramping up their investments in this regard.

However, over the past few months, since organisations have been fixated on quickly transitioning towards remote working due to the Coronavirus pandemic, they might have missed out on something vital that they should have been focussing on and that is the threats that come along with this work culture. As a result, the world and India with it, has been witnessing a steady uptick in the instances of cyber attacks.

For example, as per a recent report, India witnessed a 37 per cent increase in cyber attacks in the first quarter of this year as compared to the last quarter of 2019. The data also show that India now ranks 27th globally in the number of web-threats detected in the first quarter of this year as compared to when it ranked on the 32nd position globally in the fourth quarter of 2019. India also ranks 11th worldwide in the number of attacks caused by servers that were hosted in the country, which accounts for 22,99,682 incidents in the first quarter of this year as compared to 8,54,782 incidents detected in the fourth quarter of 2019, says the Kaspersky Security Network report.

Another report claims that data of over 21,000 Indian students, including their Aadhaar cards, photos and so on, have been put on sale on the Dark Web. Another instance of data being leaked on the Dark Web came to light in June, with a massive data packet — nearly 100 gigabytes in size — being put up for sale. The data comprises scanned identity documents of over one lakh Indians, including passports, PAN cards, Aadhaar cards, voter IDs and driver’s licences. Thus, given the rising data security concerns and incidents, chief technology officers (CTOs) need to look for a holistic approach towards data protection and management. Now, they need to be cognisant about how to respond, recover and learn in case a cyber intrusion occurs. Here are a few tips for CTOs that will help them redefine their data protection strategy.

Drift away from security to resilience: With the evolving nature of cyber attacks, it’s time for businesses to stop reacting and start anticipating. Loss of critical data has the power to not just cripple a company in no time but also damage its reputation for the long-term. Hence, instead of relying on traditional methods of data security i.e. identify, protect, detect, respond and then recover, organisations must imbibe state-of-the-art resilience strategies i.e. learn, respond, monitor and anticipate.

Adopt a security strategy ingrained in product mindset: Businesses must not only think about making security intrinsic to technology infrastructure but also aim at enabling security professionals become intrinsic to future product development. They need to transform into a data-first and product-first mindset organisation in order to be able to remain competitive in the future. Thus, instead of thinking of security as a prevention tool, the need of the hour is to incorporate it into the product design from the beginning so that it will make the architect systems and processes impenetrable.

The key to a winning strike is the right digital partner: In the past, businesses have been using a hit and trial method with regard to choosing their digital partner and this approach has brought in more vulnerability to their sensitive data assets. As per a report by Vanson Bourne, organisations in the Asia Pacific and Japan, which were relying on more than one data protection solution provider, were almost four times more vulnerable to a cyber incident that prevents access to their data. Hence, in order to combat the external threats, businesses must choose a single technology partner that delivers multi-platform security.

While it is critical to invest in the right technologies, it has also become utmost important for businesses to ramp up their education and awareness levels to stay abreast with new security threats. Therefore, to end the constant tussle between finding the right data protection architecture and keeping up with the modern security approaches, CTOs must focus on strategies that redefine their data protection ecosystems from time to time.

(The writer is Director and General Manager, Data Protection Solutions, Dell Technologies)

WE WANT TO WORK WITH YOU TO REALLY RECOGNISE THE CHANGE IN CLIMATE AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR OUR FORESTS. WE CAN'T BURY OUR HEAD IN THE SAND. —CALIFORNIA SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES WADE CROWFOOT

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



IT WILL ALL START GETTING COOLER SOON, YOU JUST WATCH. I DON'T THINK SCIENCE KNOWS, ACTUALLY —US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

The pleasures of victimhood

If impersonating was Jessica Krug’s way of legitimising herself as an academic, mobilising the disenfranchised and then representing them as perpetual victims is another



JYOTIRMAYA **TRIPATHY**

The recent confession of Professor Jessica Krug about her true identity may have outraged many. However, it offers an opportunity to re-evaluate what academics given to consciousness-raising often do. Krug, a historian teaching African history at George Washington University, admitted in a blog that she is a Jew born of White parents and has nothing to do with African-American Blackness, something which she had been claiming for a long time. She regretted that her action was “the very epitome of violence, of thievery and appropriation, of the myriad ways in which non-Black people continue to use and abuse Black identities and cultures.” In the same breath, Krug declared that she is no culture vulture but a culture leech. Her actions though have proved otherwise. Prior to her outing of herself in the blog, Krug had used a more African-sounding name (Jessica La Bombalera) in her activist avatar, and during a demonstration had questioned the gentrification of New York by calling out the “White New Yorkers” for having failed to spare a thought for Black and Brown New Yorkers. We don’t know what prompted her to come out as White though it is said that there were increasing murmurs about her identity that forced her to do so.

The knowledge market: On the face of it, a situation such as this is not representative of the academic environment in the US or India. This is where the present intervention marks its departure. Krug’s admission, no doubt, betrays her inability to fake it any longer, but more importantly, it reveals the malaise of contemporary academic knowledge production. The difference between usurping the voice of the weak (what academics do) and pretending to be the weak (what Krug did) is perhaps one of degree and not of kind. When Krug claimed to be a culture leech rather than a vulture, she was highlighting that subtle difference. We can be reasonably sure that Krug is not the first one and won’t be the last, at least until the academic market stops converting experience of marginality to elitist knowledge and suspends placing a premium on the dish of victimhood.

Those who see Krug’s problem as an individual transgression are either oblivious of what goes in the name of knowledge or are beneficiaries of such methods. Academic scholarship has often been obsessed with not just representing cultural difference but also in producing, controlling and owning it. Few questions are raised about the moral foundation of such knowledge. It is taken for granted that if cultural difference does not exist, it is to be invented and if academic knowledge has to sustain itself, “savage slots” are to be continuously filled. Krug took it one step further. Instead of being content with immersion or academic self-othering, or sponging on cultural difference of the Blacks like a leech, she chose to become indistinguishable from what she was writing about.

A few years ago, Harvard University had gone to the market advertising its culture of diversity by projecting Elizabeth Warren, a law professor who claimed to be a Cherokee Indian (and went on to have a thriving political career). The difference between birth identity and assumed identity may appear as academically adventurous and a cool way of moving beyond fixed identities, but in reality, and for the people whose identity is thus stolen, it is an act of violence. In a post-modern academic world, race is increasingly seen as a political invention rather

“KRUG CONVERTED THE BLACK EXPERIENCE TO SOME BARE CODES DEFINING BLACK AUTHENTICITY: ANGRY, VIOLENT, ABUSIVE. THAT IS WHAT SHE WAS DOING WHILE APPEARING AS JESSICA LA BOMBALERA. THE RESONANCE OF THIS MENTALITY IN INDIA IS NOT DIFFICULT TO FIND. DALITS AND MUSLIMS ARE OFTEN PROJECTED IN THE MEDIA AS ANGRY AND VIOLENT BECAUSE THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO BE WEAK AND A MINORITY. BEING HELPLESS AND BEING VIOLENT ARE THE EXPRESSIONS OF THE SAME AUTHENTIC CORE”



than a frozen identity, thus creating a pathway for becoming someone else, or belonging without believing. That way, what Krug did was chic because she was making herself a trans-individual. But we all understand that Blackness as knowledge and Blackness as experience (not just individual but collective and communal) are different things. One is of romanticisation, appropriation, exoticisation, even silencing, and the other of everyday-ness and its struggle.

Though living the marginal life involves costs in real life — humiliation, powerlessness, sub-human life and so on — the academic world knows the benefits of being Black or minority, at least in the latter’s potential for being objects of knowledge. In the market of scholarship, victimhood sells and is safely monetised: Black or Coloured in America and Muslim or Dalit in India. Cultural difference and victimhood are a minefield of fame and money.

That said, the demonstrations over the death of George Floyd or over atrocities against Dalits reveal a mindset of remembering the victim only when they can be used as a medium of accumulating symbolic capital. It is not just about dehumanising and instrumentalising them for advancing one’s career but also the belief that being a victim pays. The willingness to barter away one’s identity, as Krug did, springs from the conviction that academic benefit from such impersonation outweighs the losses.

Imaginary victims: What Krug did not acknowledge in her confession is that her violence was not only directed as genuine Black experience but also at White experience. While faking to be Black, she was creating a template in which Whiteness is antagonistic to Blackness and so was perpetuating a race binary. She was reducing her own race by making it appear inflexible, intolerant, exclusivist and the negation of Black experience. Her impersonation implied that sincere appreciation

of Black history is not possible while being White. She also pandered to those radical elements who believe that genuine understanding of the other is possible only by denying one’s own authenticity. Her pretension perpetuated the academic world of make-believe that being majority is a matter of shame and its disavowal or degradation is necessary to speak for the weak.

Krug converted the Black experience to some bare codes defining Black authenticity: Angry, violent, abusive. That is what she was doing while appearing as Jessica La Bombalera. The resonance of this mentality in India is not difficult to find. Dalits and Muslims are often projected in the media as angry and violent because that is the only way to be weak and a minority. Being helpless and being violent are the expressions of the same authentic core. Academics like Krug not only stereotype or steal identity, they also create norms which guide victimhood. As long as the Black man is anti-police or a Muslim is anti-State or a Dalit is anti-Brahmin, they are authentic; a republican African-American is beyond this template as is a nationalist Indian Muslim.

An academic from Hunter College named Yariamir Bonilla said something very revealing about Krug, that the latter not only fooled others about being a woman of colour, but also into thinking that they are actually inferior, intellectually and politically. Krug was denying them their being, their worth outside her own writings and activism. What it reveals is that being a victim of violence has more moral, academic and perhaps political worth than being normal and majority.

So behind minority identity, its production and circulation, there is a political economy of cultural difference and of diversity that can be a passport to capital — economic or symbolic. Becoming the other involves a life-time of dedication to live another life. Krug must have internalised the new identity. In the acknowl-

edgment section of her book *Fugitive Modernities*, she thanked her “ancestors, unknown, unnamed, who bled life into a future they had no reason to believe could or should exist. ... Those whose names I cannot say for their own safety, whether in my barrio, in Angola, or in Brazil.” It may be mentioned here that Krug had received financial assistance for writing this book from Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

It is not important to know whether being White or feigning Blackness is better for being a scholar of African history. What is important is the knowledge itself — of victims and minority. As long as we are getting ethnic food in Delhi *haat* (market), it does not matter if the cook is White or Brown. There may be many service providers but the good/service is the same.

Impersonation as passport: If impersonating was Krug’s way of legitimising herself as an academic, making common cause with a supposedly discriminating law or mobilising the disenfranchised and then representing them as perpetual victims is another. The latter is much more rampant and a fairly common practice governing funding agencies that guide research on minority cultures. Though such politically engaged research may appear as a fight for an inclusive polity, it also betrays the desire to be the source of all cultural politics.

That partly explains Brahmin academics monopolising Dalit experiences. At a poetry reading session, a very fair-skinned Brahmin poet advocated “our own” Dravidian cause and how her Dravidian skin will always be a marker of her identity. She spoke with a flair even as her complexion struggled to adjust itself to the victim narrative. Playing around this politics of “we” and trying too hard to be someone else in order to be legitimised is an effort complementary to Krug’s.

(The writer is Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras and a cultural critic.)

Why the double standards on demolition of holy places?

Will the global Muslim community raise its voice for the restoration of the holiest of Islam’s revered sites that were destroyed by the Wahhabis?



HASAN **KHURSHID**

The five centuries-old Babri Masjid in Ayodhya was demolished on December 6, 1992 by a Hindu mob, mostly comprising diehard *Kar Sevaks* (volunteers) of the Vishva Hindu Parishad led by Sangh Parivar leaders. Intellectuals across the globe, irrespective of caste, creed and religion condemned the demolition, as did the Supreme Court (SC). No sane person will justify the demolition of the Babri Masjid but the bigger heinous crimes of massacres, multiple demolitions and destruction of the holiest of religious and heritage sites, shrines, relics have taken place in Saudi Arabia. This was done at the behest of its Wahhabis/Salafi rulers of Zionist ancestry who, wearing the cloak of Islam, in the middle of the

18th century introduced a new and distorted version of the faith based on terrorism. The demolished and desecrated holiest of Islamic religious places included the birth place of Prophet Mohammad.

Wahhabism, the new, distorted version of Islam, aimed to capture worldwide political power using terrorism. The dreaded terrorist, Abu Bakr Baghdadi, is one such example of this diabolical plan. This negative ideology was created by one Sheikh Najdi ibn Abd-al-Wahhab, in association with a Bedouin tribal leader Muhammad-ibn-Saud. Wahhabi ideology should not be mistaken as Islam’s tenets, although its practitioners shrewdly camouflage their real identity under the cover of Sunni Islam and associate the names of their terror groups with typical Islamic names, such as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and so on.

Wahhabi ideology manifestly declares, “Follow my ideology, else get ready to be killed.” According to renowned British historian and writer Charles Allen, all dreaded terrorist organisations like the ISIS, the

Taliban, the Al-Qaeda, the Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Boko Haram, and so on, follow Wahhabi ideology. And, Abu Bakr Baghdadi’s ISIS, following the Wahhabi ideology alone, murdered more than 20 lakh people. A majority of them were Muslim youth in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

On December 6, 2019, the day marking the 27th anniversary of the demolition of Babri Masjid, several review petitions were filed in the SC by individuals who were party to the case. The pleas were supported by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. Earlier, the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind had also filed a review petition against the order saying justice can be done only by ordering the Centre and the UP Government to build the mosque at the disputed site.

Surprisingly, the entire Muslim community across the globe, including the intellectuals, remained silent spectators when Saudi ruler Abd-al-Aziz, the son of Muhammad ibn Saud, who was also the son-in-law of Sheikh Muhammad Najdi ibn Abd-al-Wahab, the founder of Wahhabism, in 1802 attacked

Karbala in Iraq. He allowed the desecration of the shrine of Hazrat Imam Husain (grandson of Prophet Mohammad).

Giving the details of the attack, Charles Allen in his book, *God’s Terrorists: The Wahhabi Cult and the Hidden Roots of Modern Jihad*, has quoted Lieutenant Francis Warden who wrote, “They pillaged the whole of it and plundered the tomb of Hazrat Imam Husain, slaying in the course of the day, with circumstances of peculiar cruelty, about 5,000 of the inhabitants. A huge amount of booty was seized.”

In 1803, Abd-al Aziz ibn Saud obtained a visit permit from the Shareef of Mecca on the pretext of performing Haj, whereupon his Wahhabi fighters laid waste Islam’s holiest shrine the *Kaaba*, wherein Muslims across the globe perform the ritual of Haj. Abd-al Aziz ibn Saud followed in the footprints of Yazid who had earlier desecrated *Kaaba* in 682 AD.

According to TE Ravenshaw, author of *A Memorandum on the Sect of Wahhabees*, “They robbed the splendid tombs of the Mahomedan

saints, who were interred there and their fanatical zeal did not even spare the Prophet’s Mosque (in Medina), which they robbed of the immense treasures and costly furniture to which each Mahomedan Prince of Europe, Asia and Africa had contributed his share.”

In 1804, a Wahhabi gang crossed the great desert in the Hijaz and destroyed tombs of Prophet Mohammad’s family members at Jannat-ul-Baqi, the ancient cemetery of Medina, and even despoiled the grave of the prophet. After this, the Wahhabi gang reached Mecca and demolished another heritage site, the cemetery of Jannat-ul-Mualla, where the ancestors and other close relatives of Prophet Mohammad are interred. Again on April 21, 1925, Wahhabis demolished the shrine of Prophet Mohammad’s daughter Hazrat Fatima Zehra as well as those of his grandsons, namely Imam Hasan, Imam Zain ul Abideen and Imam Mohammad Baqir. The shrines are still lying demolished and the Saudi Government does not repair them or allow pilgrims to offer prayers at the revered sites.

Again in 2014, a leading Saudi academic had proposed to destroy the tomb of the Prophet Mohammad in Medina with the mala fide intention of removing the remains of the Prophet from there and burying them anonymously in the Jannat-ul-Baqi cemetery. However, the nefarious plan to destroy the tomb under the custody of Saudi monarch Abdullah was exposed by another academic, hence it could not be executed. Had it been executed, the motionless Muslims would have remained calm as the perpetrators were Wahhabis in Muslim attire and not people from any other religion.

In India, those who demolished the Babri Masjid are still facing trial in the Special CBI Court at Lucknow, under various sections of the Indian Penal Code. In all, there are 32 accused and the apex court has directed the Special CBI Court to conclude the hearing by September 30 this year. Till now the CBI has presented 351 witnesses before the court.

What legal action has the Saudi Government or the groups of

Muslim countries taken against the perpetrators of mass destruction and demolition of heritage and revered sites and massacres committed by Wahhabis feasting on Saudi petro dollars and spreading terrorism in the name of Islam? There is a deafening silence on that account.

The cacophony created by the Muslim leadership and millions of their followers on the matter of Babri Masjid may be based on the presumption that its perpetrators were Hindu bigots and the thugs behind the demolition of the holiest of Islamic sites, like the Jannat-ul-Baqi in Medina and the Jannat-ul-Mualla in Mecca, were Muslims. It matters little to them that the perpetrators of the crimes against Islam are Muslims just in name.

Will the global Muslim community raise its voice and take a conscious decision for the restoration of the holiest of Islam’s revered sites of religious and heritage importance that were systematically destroyed by the Wahhabis? If they don’t it will smack of hypocrisy and bigotry.

(The writer is a legal journalist and author)

PAK ‘EPICENTRE OF TERRORISM’: INDIA

Persecutes Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, says India at Geneva; slams OIC, Turkey, Pakistan over Kashmir

PTI ■ GENEVA

Describing Pakistan as an “epicenter of terrorism”, India has said that no one deserves an unsolicited lecture on human rights from Islamabad that has consistently persecuted its ethnic and religious minorities including Hindus, Sikhs and Christians.

Exercising the Right of Reply to the statements made by Pakistan at the 45th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) here, the Indian representative on Tuesday said that it has become habitual for Pakistan to malign India with false and fabricated narratives for its self-serving malicious purposes.

“Neither India nor others deserve this unsolicited lecture on human rights from a country that has consistently persecuted its ethnic and religious minorities, is an epicenter of terrorism, has the distinction of providing pensions to individuals on UN Sanctions list and has a Prime Minister who proudly admits training tens of thousands of terrorists to fight in Jammu & Kashmir,” the Indian diplomat said.

It was not surprising that other relevant multilateral institutions have been raising serious concerns on Pakistan’s failure to stop terror financing and lack of effective actions against all terror entities in Pakistan, India said.

Highlighting the nefarious designs of Pakistan in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), it said, “the mass influx of outsiders has whittled down the number of Kashmiris to an insignificant number in Pakistan occupied parts of Indian Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh”.

“In its zeal to reassert its theocratic ideology, it (Pakistan) has ensured that ethnic and religious minorities have no future through systematic persecution, blasphemy laws, forced conversions,

targeted killings, sectarian violence and faith-based discrimination,” India said. Thousands of Sikh, Hindu and Christian minority women and girls have been subjected to abductions, forced marriages and conversions in Pakistan, it said.

On the plight of people in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh, India said, “Not a single day has gone by when a family in Balochistan doesn’t find its members picked up or kidnapped by the security forces of Pakistan.”

“Pakistan does well when it comes to intimidation and attacks against journalists, human rights defenders and political dissidents in particular by its state machinery. It is not without a reason that Pakistan has been highlighted by international organisations as a country where journalists are slain and their killers go scot free,” India said.

India also slammed Pakistan for “abusing various HRC mechanisms and platforms for raising issues, which are extraneous to the mandate of the HRC and which relate to the internal affairs of India, with a view to distract the attention of the international community from serious human rights violations committed by it against its own people, including in Indian territories occupied by it”

India also rejected the reference made by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to Jammu & Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. “The OIC has no locus standi to comment on internal affairs of India. The OIC has allowed itself to be misused by Pakistan to subvert its own Agenda. It’s for the members of the OIC to decide if it is in their interests to allow Pakistan to do so,” it said.

India also advised Turkey to refrain from commenting on its internal affairs and develop a better understanding of the democratic practices.

He’s taking something: Trump accuses Biden of using drugs

AFF ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump, in his latest shredding of political niceties, suggested Tuesday that his Democratic opponent Joe Biden has taken drugs to improve his performance in debates. The Republican, who is well behind in national polls, initially insinuated during a Fox News interview that “something was strange” with what he saw as Biden’s improvement during the Democratic primary season debates.

Early on, when there were multiple Democratic candidates lined up on stage, Biden was “a disaster” and

“grossly incompetent,” Trump said. But at a later debate where Biden was one-on-one with leftist rival Bernie Sanders, “he was OK.”

Trump told Fox he didn’t want to say what he thought was the reason for the improvement. Seconds later, he did. “He’s taking something (that) you know, gives him some clarity, or whatever,” he said.

Trump repeated his demand that Biden should undergo a drug test before their first of three presidential debates scheduled for September 29.

“I would take one too,” he said.

Biden responded by telling a Florida radio station “I’m looking forward to the debate and he’s a fool. The comments are just foolish.”

Trump, 74, has for months tried to persuade voters that Biden, 77, is suffering from mental decline.

The former businessman cites Biden’s penchant for gaffes — which some believe to be linked to the Democrat’s lifelong struggle with stuttering — and his reluctance to face unscripted questioning from reporters. Trump — who takes questions from reporters almost daily but is known for his own frequently garbled and baffling statements — said, “Joe is lost. We can’t have a president that is mentally lost.”

German think tank closes Hong Kong office over new law

Berlin: A German think tank said on Wednesday it is closing its Hong Kong office following China’s imposition of a sweeping new national security law on the territory. The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, which is linked to Germany’s opposition Free Democratic Party, said it could no longer ensure the safety of its employees as a result of the new law.

It said it is freezing its activities in the former British colony, giving up its office and parting company with its four remaining staff members there. One employee already had left because of concerns over his personal safety, it added. “A climate of fear and permanent danger prevails in Hong Kong today,” foundation chief Karl-Heinz Paque said in a statement. “Those who stand up for democracy and freedom in Hong Kong today put themselves in danger. We cannot expose our employees and partners to this risk.”

Pak court indicts 4 close aides of Hafiz Saeed in terror financing cases

Lahore: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Wednesday indicted four top leaders of the banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JUD), including the brother-in-law of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, in four more cases of terror financing. “Terror financing charges were framed on Hafiz Abdul Rehman Makki (brother-in-law of Saeed), Yahya Mujahid (JUD spokesperson), Zafar Iqbal and Muhammad Ashraf in four more cases,” a court official told PTI after the hearing. The suspects were brought to the ATC-III amid high security from the Kot Lakhpat Jail. The official said judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttar directed the prosecution to present witnesses on next hearing on Thursday. PTI

Trump making dent in Indian-American vote bank: Survey

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has made inroads into the Indian-American vote bank, the biggest ever by a Republican president, according to a survey which has sent worrying signals to the Democrats that the support of this influential ethnic community can no longer be taken for granted.

The survey by Indiaspora and Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPPI) Data on Tuesday showed that a majority of Indian-Americans still favour former vice president Biden, the Democratic Party’s nominee in the November 3 US presidential election.

It found that 74-year-old Trump, seeking re-election, is making a big dent into the Indian-American vote bank despite the fact that Biden has a strong relationship with the community and played a key role in bilateral ties over the past few decades. Biden, 77, also scripted history last month by selecting Senator Kamala Harris, 55, as his running mate.

According to the survey, 66 per cent Indian-Americans

currently favour Biden and 28 per cent favour Trump while six per cent were undecided.

Notably in the 2016 presidential election, 77 per cent voted for former US secretary Hillary Clinton, and 16 per cent for Trump. In 2012, as many as 84 per cent Indian-Americans voted for Barack Obama. Dr Karthick Ramakrishnan, professor of public policy and political science at University of California, Riverside and founder of AAPPI Data who is author of the survey, said that the Indian-Americans’ support to Trump, in case of a swing of the undecided Indian-Americans, would probably reach the 30 per cent mark.

“Democrats absolutely should be concerned about making sure that they conduct sufficient outreach to the Indian-Americans,” Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said. “The Democrats should conduct sufficient outreach to the different groups that comprise Indian-Americans, because every vote is going to count, especially in those battleground states as the survey result indicated,” he said.

Report: Biden holds lead over Trump among Indian-American voters

AGENCIES ■ SAN FRANCISCO/ WASHINGTON

Sixty-six per cent of Indian Americans currently favour Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden for the 2020 presidential election as compared to only 28 per cent who prefer President Donald Trump, according to a survey released on Tuesday.

Indiaspora, a nonprofit member organisation of global Indian diaspora leaders, and Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPPI) Data on Tuesday released their joint report on Indian American voters’ attitudes in the upcoming 2020 US presidential election.

“66 per cent of Indian Americans currently favour Vice President Biden, 28 per cent favour President Donald Trump, and 6 percent were undecided. In the 2016 presidential election, 77percent voted for Secretary Hillary Clinton, and 16 per cent voted for President Trump. If the remaining undecided voters broke in the same pattern as those who have madeup their mind, Joe Biden would secure 70 per cent of the vote, when compared to 30 per cent for Trump,” the report read.

Election experts project that Democrats should be worried about Indian American voters attrition considering the overall percentage number may have dropped down for the Democrats from the 84 per cent that supported Obama in 2012 and the 77 per cent who supported Hillary Clinton 2016

as compared to the 66 per cent supporting former Vice President Joe Biden. Meanwhile, President Trump’s vote share has gone up from 16 percent in 2016 to 28 per cent.

“I think Democrats absolutely should be concerned about making sure that they conduct sufficient outreach to Indian Americans that they conduct sufficient outreach to the different groups that comprise bases and Indian Americans because every vote is going to count especially in those battleground states,” said Raja Krishnamoorthi, a Democrat congressman.

An Indian American himself and representative from state of Illinois, Raja Krishnamoorthi further said that the states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Florida and North Carolina could be a part of tipping factor this election. “And because of that I think the Joe Biden campaign has to be especially attentive,” Raja Krishnamoorthi further asserted. The survey report also documents the strengthening political power of the Indian American electorate in the U.S. due to factors such as their rapidly growing population and increased political participation. “With increased attention being paid to the Indian American vote given our growing numbers, increasing political contributions and overall political engagement, we wanted to shine a spotlight on the issues that really matter to Indian American voters,” said MR Rangaswami, founder of Indiaspora.

China sends 9 satellites into space in first sea-based commercial launch

Beijing: China has successfully sent nine satellites into orbit in its first commercial launch of a rocket from a platform at sea, state media reported on Wednesday.

The satellites, one of which belonged to video-sharing platform Bilibili, were deployed by a Long March 11 rocket from the Yellow Sea on Tuesday, media reported.

The Long March 11, designed to be deployed quickly and from mobile launch sites such as a ship, is mainly used to carry small satellites. The rocket made its first sea launch in June last year.

“Sea launch platforms will

increase the number of China’s launch areas, improve launch efficiency, and make launches safer and more flexible,” the official People’s Daily cited Li Zongli, director of the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center, as saying. China has three inland space launch centres, where used rocket stages return to earth and sometimes pose a danger to inhabited areas. Sea launches would reduce that risk.

China has made its space programme a top priority in recent years as it races to catch up with the United States and become a major space power by 2030.

Agencies



YOSHIIHIDE SUGA NAMED JAPAN’S PRIME MINISTER, SUCCEEDING ABE: Japan’s Parliament elected Yoshihide Suga as Prime Minister on Wednesday, replacing long-serving leader Shinzo Abe with his right-hand man. Suga, who was chief Cabinet secretary in Abe’s Government, is to launch his own Cabinet later Wednesday. (In pic) Yoshihide Suga, second from right, being appointed Japan’s new Prime Minister by Emperor Naruhito, left, during attestation ceremony at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, on Wednesday AP

Israel strikes Gaza after rocket fire during US ceremony

Jerusalem: The Israeli military struck Hamas militant sites in the Gaza Strip early on Wednesday in response to rocket fire toward Israel the previous night that coincided with the signing of normalisation agreements between Israel and two Arab countries at the White House.

The barrage against Israel began on Tuesday night just as the ceremony in Washington was getting underway to formalize the new agreements with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Two Israelis were lightly wounded.

The rocket fire continued overnight, with sirens sounding across southern Israel. The military said five projectiles landed in open areas with the rest intercepted by Israel’s rocket defense system.

In response, the military said it struck about 10 sites belonging to Gaza’s militant Hamas rulers, including a weapons and explosives manufacturing factory, underground infrastructure and a military training compound. AP

Just monkeying around: Primate takes phone, then selfies!

Kuala Lumpur: A Malaysian student whose cellphone was stolen while he was sleeping has tracked down the culprit: a monkey who took photo and video selfies with the device before abandoning it.

Zackrydz Rodzi, 20, said his phone was missing from his bedroom when he woke up Saturday. He found the phone’s casing under his bed but there was no sign of robbery in his house in southern Johor state. When his father saw a monkey the next day, he launched a search in the jungle behind his house. Using his brother’s phone to call the device, he found it covered in mud under a palm tree. But a bigger surprise came when he checked his phone and found a series of monkey selfies and videos recorded in the phone.

“My uncle was joking that maybe the monkey took some selfies with the phone... So when I checked my phone picture gallery, I was shocked. The suspect’s face was plastered on the screen. It was hilarious,” Zackrydz said. AP

GLOBE TROTTER

UK TO RATION COVID TESTING AMID FAILURES

London: The British Government plans to ration coronavirus testing, giving priority to health workers and care home staff after widespread reports that people around the country were unable to schedule tests. Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday will face questions about his handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in the House of Commons and before a key committee amid the outcry over the shortage of testing.

BARBADOS TO REMOVE UK QUEEN AS STATE HEAD

London: Barbados wants to remove Britain’s Queen Elizabeth as its head of state and become a republic, the Caribbean nation’s government has said. A former British colony that gained independence in 1966, Barbados has maintained a formal link with the British monarchy as have some other countries that were once part of the British empire.

N KOREA MAY CONDUCT MISSILE TEST: SEOUL

Seoul: North Korea may soon conduct its first underwater-launched ballistic missile test in about a year, a top South Korean military official said amid long-stalled nuclear talks between the North and the US.

‘EU SANCTIONS TO HALT TURKEY’S GAS SEARCH’

Nicosia: The European Union shouldn’t discard imposing tougher sanctions to get Turkey to give up an “unlawful” hydrocarbons search in the eastern Mediterranean that has ratcheted up tensions, the president of Cyprus said.

SMOKE FROM US FIRES REACHES EUROPE

Paris: Smoke from the fires devastating swathes of the US West Coast has reached as far as Europe, the European Union’s climate monitoring service said Wednesday in its assessment of the “unprecedented” blazes.

TRUMP: VACCINE COULD BE READY IN A MONTH

Philadelphia: President Donald Trump said a coronavirus vaccine may be available within a month — an acceleration of even his own surprisingly optimistic predictions — but added that the pandemic could go away by itself. “We’re very close to having a vaccine,” he told a town hall question-and-answer session with voters in Pennsylvania aired on ABC News.

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location	30-Elect-24-T-2020-21-E3 Electrical work in connection with replacement of over head with underground cable & augmentation of power supply arrangement with other allied works at S.P. Marg.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 72.98 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 146000.00
Date & time of submission of tender	12.10.2020, 13.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	12.10.2020, 13.00 Hrs
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/ General, New Delhi.
2010/20	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	


**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A)	1.	28/GM/SM(WC-2)/2020-21, Name of Work:- M/o Drain (Construction of RCC drain and culvert in F-Block Sector-27) Noida Cost-Rs. 45.39 Lacs
	2.	34/GM/SM(WC-10)/2020-21, Name of Work:- Annual Maintenance of Road in Work Circle-10, Area, Noida Cost-Rs. 28.97 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date **05.10.2020** upto **5.00 P.M.**
Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date **06.10.2020** at **11.00 AM.** **General Manager NOIDA**

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

**J&K PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD.**
(A J&K Govt. Undertaking)

e-NIT No: 33/E/J of 2020-21 Dt. 07.09.2020
On behalf of Managing Director, Jammu & Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation Ltd., the **Deputy General Manager, Unit Electrical, JKPCCLtd.** Jammu invites e-tenders from approved and eligible electric contractors registered with JKPCCLtd./J&K Govt./CPWD/Railways and other State/Central Govt. undertaking for the following work:
S.No 1. Name of Work :- Internal Electrification work for Workshop Block, Polytechnic College at Udhampur.
Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs) :- Rs. 13.50 Lacs, Cost of document :- Rs. 1,000/-, Earnest Money (Rs) :- Rs. 27,000/-, Time of completion :- In tandem with civil works, Class of Contractor :- "A"
Qualification criteria, scope of work, tender documents, BOQ and all other terms & conditions can be seen and downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in.
Critical Dates:
1. Period of downloading of NIT :- 09.09.2020. to 30.09.2020 upto 1400 Hrs.
2. Pre-Bid Meeting :- 16.09.2020 at 1230 Hrs. in Office of Deputy General Manager, Unit- Electrical, JKPCCLtd., Rail Head Complex, Jammu
3. Bid submission dates along with proof of cost of Tender Document and EMD :- 09.09.2020 to 30.09.2020 upto 1400 Hrs
4. Date of opening of Technical Bid :- 01.10.2020 at 1230 Hrs. in Office of Deputy General Manager, Unit- Electrical, JKPCCLtd., Rail Head Complex, Jammu
5. Hard Copies of Technical Bid will be invited from L1 only
Any other information regarding e-tendering process can be had from the office of undersigned or e-tendering Cell, Jammu.

Sd/- Deputy General Manager, Unit -Electrical, JKPCCLtd. Jammu.
No.DIP/J-1638-P/20
Dated: 15.09.2020

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED							
Corporate Office: No.2, Dare House, 1st Floor, NSC Bose Road, Chennai 600 001. Branch Office: 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005.							
DEMAND NOTICES ISSUED TO THE FOLLOWING BORROWERS UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION & RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002							
S. No.	Date of Loan	Account No.	Name of The Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Address	Secured Asset	Date of Demand Notice	Loan Amount
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1.	23/06/2008	XOHEDE 0000347428	1. Dayanand Besoya 2. Jaspal Besoya	85, Pakash Mohalla East of Kailash Delhi 110 065.	Property Bearing Municipal No.226-B/5a, Measuring 194 Sq Yds., (Said Portion) Of The Property Measuring 300 Sq.Yds., Out Of Khassa No. 182/150 Min, Situated At Prakash Mohalla, East Of Kailash, Village Garhi (Jharia Maria), Delhi.	31.07.2020	Rs. 50,00,000/- Rs.56,52,848.57 as on 28.02.2020 with further interest thereon
2.	03/05/2018 & 23/05/2018	XOHEDE00002408723 & XOHEDE00002432125	1. Faruk Malik 2. Parveen Begam 3. M/s V R Enterprises 4. Shahid V	H.No-B-58-59, Shalimar Garden, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh- 201005. F-71, BLK-F, Seelampur Shahdara New Delhi-110 053.	Portion of Plot No. B-58 & 59 area measuring 100 sq. Yds., i.e. 83.61 sq. mtr., "Said Portion" out of entire land 200 sq.yds, situated in the residential colony Known as Shalimar Garden main, Village Pasonda, Pargana Loni Teh. & Dist. Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh.	20.03.2020	Rs. 50,00,000/- Rs.48,32,624.14 as on 28.02.2020 with further interest thereon
3.	31/12/2014 & 27/10/2016	XOHEDE000001337410 & XOHEDE000001816966	1. Jaideep Singh 2. Kuldeep Kumar 3. Sheetal Devi 4. M/s Gautam Hardware And Paints	RZ-701, Palam Village, Gali No-8, Raj Nagar-1, Palam Colony, Delhi - 110 045.	Property 1: Plot No. RZ-691/A1, area measuring 50 sq.yds, out of Khassa No.64/12/1 & 13/4 & 18/2, Situated in Village Palam, Known as Raj Nagar Part-I Palam Colony New Delhi. Property 2: Plot No. RZ-698, area measuring 31.5 sq.mtrs (37.1/2 sq.yds.) out of Khassa No.64/12/1, Situated in Village Palam, Known as Raj Nagar Part-I Palam Colony New Delhi.	20.03.2020	Rs. 62,00,554/- Rs.22,24,917.14 as on 28.02.2020 with further interest thereon
4.	31/01/2014 & 16/03/2015	XOHEDE00001135654 & XOHEDE00001331160	1. Manoj Mendirata 2. Bhoja Ram 3. Deepika Mendirata	H.No.2 N 3, NIT Ward No.8, Block- N, Faridabad, Haryana 121 001.	Back side portion of property bearing No.2-N/3 area measuring 240 sq.yds. NIT Faridabad. Haryana.	20.03.2020	Rs. 78,72,680/- Rs.56,32,710.18 as on 28.02.2020 with further interest thereon
5.	29/04/2014 & 28/04/2018	XOHEDE00001191981 & XOHEDE00001238622	1. Ramesh Chand 2. Sunita M 3. M/s Vansh Enterprises	2053, Sec-3, Ballab Garh, Market Faridabad, Haryana 121 003.	Property No.2053, HIG on Ground Floor, area Admeasuring 140.69 sq yds., in Sector-3 Housing Board Colony, Faridabad, Haryana,	20.03.2020	Rs. 75,00,000/- Rs.30,58,569.66 as on 28.02.2020 with further interest thereon
6.	31/05/2013	XOHEDE 0000095592	1. Ravi Kumar Bansal 2. Sneh Lata Bansal	AM-141, S/F, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi 110 088.	Property No. 167, Entire First Floor, Block AB, Admeasuring 68.75 Sq.Mtr., Shalimar Bagh, Delhi.	31.07.2020	Rs. 70,00,000/- Rs.98,69,516.05 as on 28.02.2020 with further interest thereon
7.	30/03/2018, 30/01/2019 & 31/07/2019	XOHEDEF0002358923, XOHEDEF0002784543 & XOHEDEF0002783152	1. Vimla Sharma 2. Nikunj Kumar Sharma 3. M/s Sharma General Store 4. M/s Yaksh Cosmetics	H.No-5/79, Gajju Katra Bada Bazar, S.o. Shahdara New Delhi 110 032. Shop No-452 A, Anaj Mandi Shahdara New Delhi 110 032. Shop No. 453, Bara Bazar, Shahdara New Delhi 110 032.	Property Bearing No.V/78 & V/79 area measuring 33.61 sq.yds, out of Khassa No.642 situated in the area of village Chandrawali alias Shahdara in the abadi of Gajju Katra Illaga Shahdara Delhi. Bounded as East- Property of others, West- Property No.79, North-Property of others, South- Gali and Property of others.	20.03.2020	Rs.76,34,316.94 as on 28.02.2020 with further interest thereon
The Under signed is the Authorised Officer of Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limitedhereinafter called the secured creditor, under Rule 2[a] of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules framed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. In pursuant to loan agreement on the dates mentioned in column [A] the above named borrowers in column [C] residing at the address in column [D] were sanctioned loans indicated in column [G] in loan account number indicated in column [B]. Towards the due repayment of loan, equitable mortgage by deposit of title deeds of the assets in column [E] was created by the borrowers. On persistent default in repayment of the loan amount the loan accounts of the borrowers have been classified by the secured creditor as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directions and guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India. Consequently notice under Sec. 13(2) of the Act was also issued to each of the borrowers on the dates mentioned in column [F], which have been returned undelivered. I state that under section 13 [B] of the Securitisation Act, you can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale. In view of the above, the above named borrowers are called upon to discharge in full their liabilities towards the Secured Creditor by making the payment of the entire outstanding indicated in Column [H] above including up to date interest, costs, and charges within 60 days from the date of notice, failing which, the secured creditor shall be entitled to take possession of the Secured Asset and shall also take such other actions as is available to the Secured Creditor in law. In the absence of full discharge of dues even after the transfer of secured assets the secured creditor reserves its right to proceed against the borrowers before a Sole Arbitrator, in terms of the Loan Agreement In addition the above named borrowers shall not alienate by way of transfer, sale, lease or otherwise or create third party interest or dealing with the Secured Asset in column [E] mentioned against the name of the each borrowers in any manner except with specific prior written permission of the Secured creditor.							
Date : 17.09.2020 Place : Delhi				Sd/- Authorized Officer Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited			

Economic recovery still not well entrenched: RBI Guv

New Delhi: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said economic recovery is still not well entrenched and that the central bank is "battle ready" to take appropriate measures to support growth.

Addressing a virtual conference organised by industry body Ficci, Das said that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data released by the government was a "reflection of the ravages of the COVID-19".

The economy contracted 23.9 per cent during the April-June quarter on account of the strict lockdown imposed by the government towards end of March to check the spread of coronavirus infections.

"Nevertheless, high frequency indicators of agricultural activity, the purchasing managers' index that is PMI for manufacturing and certain private estimates on unemployment point to some stabilisation of economic activity in the second quarter of the current year, while of course contractions in several other sectors are also simultaneously easing," he said.

However, Das said that the economic recovery was not yet fully entrenched and also that the recovery is likely to be gradual.

"The recovery is, however, not yet fully entrenched and moreover, in some sectors, the uptick, which was noticed in June and July they appear to have

levelled off. By all indications the recovery is likely to be gradual as efforts towards the reopening of the economy are confronted with rising infections," he said.

At the same time, Das assured the industry that the RBI stands "battle ready" and whatever measures are required will be taken to support liquidity, growth and control price rise.

According to him, the immediate policy response to COVID-19 in the country has been to prioritise the stabilisation of the economy and support quick recovery policies for durable and sustainable high growth in the medium term post the coronavirus. **PTI**

Banking regulation Bill taking Urban Co-Operative banks under RBI passed in Lok Sabha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill bringing the Urban Co-Operative Banks under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India to protect the interest of depositors. The Bill was supported by many opposition parties including Shiv Sena while the Congress and the Trinamool Congress objected that the Bill intended to usurp the State's power in the co-operative sector.

Replying to opposition, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the bill is only intended to protect the depositors and only apply to

the banking operation of the Co-operative Banks and not applicable to primary agricultural credit societies.

"This is not the first time RBI intervening into the banking operations co-operative banks. From 1965, RBI issued many circulars on this regard. Many urban co-operative banks are facing serious problems like NPA and many wound up losing money of the depositors. Those functioning as Banks must work as Commercial Banks and RBI rules must apply on them," she said.

She also clarified that co-operative banks engaged in land mortgage will come under the RBI supervision since it is a banking activity.

Govt working on setting up single window system for clearances: Goyal

New Delhi: The Government is working on setting up a single window system for clearances and approvals of industry, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said despite the presence of several IT platforms for investing in India such as in departments of the central government, and state single window clearances, investors have to visit multiple platforms to gather information and obtain clearances from different stakeholders.

To address this, he said, the creation of a centralised investment clearance cell which would provide end-to-end facilitation

support, including pre-investment advisory, information related to land banks and facilitating clearances at central and state level, was proposed.

"The government is working on setting up a Single Window System for clearances and approvals of industry in the country," he said.

He also said the cell is being planned as a one-stop digital platform to obtain all requisite central and state clearances/approvals to start business operations in India.

The investment clearance cell will be a national portal that integrates the existing clearance systems of various ministries/departments of the government and of states. **PTI**

5G services relying on equipment, eco, telcos' economic consideration: Govt

New Delhi:The Government on Wednesday informed Parliament that introduction of 5G services in the country will depend on equipment, device ecosystem and economic considerations by telecom operators.

The Government also said that State-owned BSNL and MTNL have not planned introducing 5G services yet on their networks.

Minister of State for Telecommunications Sanjay Dhotre, in a written reply to a question on the 5G rollout, said, "5G services depends on 5G equipment and device ecosystem, and economic considerations by the telecom service providers." **PTI**

94 phishing incidents reported during Jan-Aug 2020: Dhotre

New Delhi:A total of 194 phishing incidents and two financial fraud incidents affecting ATMs, cards, point-of-sale (PoS) systems and Unified Payment Interface (UPI) were reported between January-August this year, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

As per the information reported to and tracked by Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a total of 454, 472 and 194 phishing incidents were observed during the year 2018, 2019 and 2020 (till August) respectively, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Sanjay Dhotre said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

"Further, a total of 6, 4 and 2 financial fraud incidents affect-

ing ATMs, Cards, Point-of-Sale (PoS) systems and Unified Payment Interface (UPI) have been reported during the year 2018, 2019 and 2020 (till August) respectively," he added.

Dhotre said cyber space is a complex environment of people, software, hardware and services on the Internet.

"With a borderless cyberspace coupled with the possibility of instant communication and anonymity, the potential for misuse of cyberspace including identity theft, creation of fake e-mails and websites is a global issue," he added.

He noted that the Government has taken several steps to prevent such cyber security incidents. **PTI**

SBI, Titan launch contactless payment watches

Mumbai: State Bank of India (SBI) and Titan Company have partnered to introduce a range of Titan Pay watches powered by YONO, the lender's mobile banking app.

These watches will have contactless payment functions. With this launch, account holders of the bank can tap their Titan Pay watch on contactless payment point-of-sale (POS) machines without the need of swiping or inserting their debit card, the bank said in a statement.

"We believe this innovative offering will redefine the shopping experience for our customers with tap and pay technology.

India's GDP to contract by 8.6 pc in FY21, fiscal stimulus needed soon: UBS Securities

Mumbai:Swiss brokerage UBS Securities said it forecasts a GDP contraction of 8.6 per cent in FY21 as against its earlier prediction of 5.8 per cent, citing factors including the "modest" government response to the crisis for its estimate.

It said the country's potential rate of growth has also come down to 5.75-6.25 per cent as per its estimate as against 7.1 per cent, driven by factors including the weak government response to arrest the growth slide.

Some improvement is being observed in the high frequency data, but much of it is pent-up demand and economic recovery will be "gradual" after the September quarter, its chief economist Tanvee Gupta Jain told reporters.

It can be noted that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) shrunk by nearly a fourth in the June quarter as the COVID-19 pandemic fuelled lockdowns chilled all economic activity. The infections continued to increase, making India the second most affected country.

Jain said the modest recovery which we are seeing right now cannot be sustained because of the rising infections and also income uncertainty, which is holding back people from consumption in the economy that relies 60 per cent on consumption."We are a little bearish as against the consensus and feel that the GDP will contract by 8.6 per cent in FY21 before growing by 10 per cent in FY22," she said.

Markets build on gains ahead of Fed decision; Nifty reclaims 11,600

Mumbai:Equity benchmarks darted up for the second straight session on Wednesday as banking, auto and IT stocks saw robust buying amid mixed global cues. A strengthening rupee and supportive comments by the RBI Governor also bolstered investor sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 258.50 points or 0.66 per cent to close at 39,302.85. The broader NSE Nifty rose 82.75 points or 0.72 per cent to finish at 11,604.55.

M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 4.24 per cent, followed by Bajaj Auto, Sun Pharma, HDFC Bank, Infosys, L&T and UltraTech Cement.

On the other hand,

IndusInd Bank, NTPC, SBI, ONGC, Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank were among the laggards, skidding up to 1.80 per cent.

According to traders, stock-specific action and sustained foreign fund inflows drove domestic equities higher, despite mixed cues from global markets ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy outcome. Foreign institutional investors bought equities worth Rs 1,170.89 crore on a net basis on Tuesday, exchange data showed.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said economic recovery is still not well entrenched and that the central bank is "battle ready" to take appropriate measures for liquidity and growth. **PTI**

Rupee gains 12 paise to 73.52 on weak dollar, firm equities

Mumbai:The rupee strengthened by 12 paise to settle at 73.52 against the US dollar on Wednesday supported by positive domestic equities and weak American currency. At the interbank forex market, the local unit witnessed high volatility against the US dollar ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy statement that will be released later in the day. During the session, the domestic unit touched an intra-day high of 73.48 and a low of 73.78 against the greenback. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.12 per cent to 92.94. **PTI**

₹1.06 lakh cr tax refunds issued to 30.92L taxpayers till Sept 15: CBDT

New Delhi: The income tax department on Wednesday said it has issued refunds of over Rs 1.06 lakh crore to more than 30 lakh taxpayers between April 1 to September 15. This includes personal income tax (PIT) refunds amounting to Rs 31,741 crore issued to 29.17 lakh taxpayers and corporate tax refunds worth Rs 74,729 crore to over 1.74 lakh taxpayers.

"CBDT issues refunds of over Rs 1,06,470 crore to more than 30.92 lakh taxpayers between 1st April, 2020 to 15th September, 2020.

"Income tax refunds of Rs 31,741 crore have been issued in 29,17,169 cases & corporate tax refunds of Rs 74,729 crore have been issued in 1,74,633 cases," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) tweeted.The government has emphasised on providing tax-related services to taxpayers without any hassles and has been clearing up pending tax refunds. **PTI**

Economic activities revived with phased unlocking since June 1, says Govt

New Delhi: The Government on Wednesday said with the phased unlocking of the Indian economy, high frequency economic indicators like PMI manufacturing, index of eight core industries, kharif sowing and power consumption have recovered since June 1.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in the Rajya Sabha that the strict lockdown, first announced on March 24, was effective in containing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

"With the phased unlocking of the Indian economy since June 1, 2020, high frequency economic indicators like PMI Manufacturing, index of eight core industries, E-way bills, Kharif sowing, power consumption, railway freight, cargo traffic and

passenger vehicle sales have recovered and indicate growing convergence with previous year's activity levels," he said in a written reply to a question.

Rai said the lockdown helped the country in bringing down the growth rate of the infection and reduced transmission of the contagious disease. This had a direct impact on reduction in case load, morbidity and mortality. In addition, the slowing down of the pandemic helped the country in augmenting its health infrastructure, he said. **PTI**

Govt to bring out strategy paper on boosting industrial growth: Goyal

New Delhi: The Government is in the process of bringing out a strategy paper on boosting industrial growth which will be a road map for all businesses in the country, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the government is in the process of rationalising the existing central labour laws into four labour codes -- on wages; industrial relations; occupational safety, health and working conditions; and social security by simplifying, amalgamating and rationalising the relevant provisions of the existing central labour laws.

The Code on Wages has been

India's exports of PPE Kits, masks, sanitisers during April-August 2020 stood at USD 632.23 million

approved and notified, he added.

"The government is in the process of bringing out a strategy paper on boosting industrial growth which will be a road map for all businesses in the country," he said.

In a separate reply, he said an EFC (Expenditure Finance Committee) note on startup India seed fund scheme, with a total proposed corpus of Rs 945 crore, has been formulated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

(DPIIT).

"The EFC note was circulated for inter-ministerial consultations to the concerned departments/ ministries," he said, adding that the note has been finalised.

He also said that since the launch of Startup India initiative on January 16, 2016, a total of 36,106 startups have been recognised by DPIIT in 586 districts, as on September 6.

"A total number of 4,22,986 employment has been reported by 34,267 DPIIT recognised startups as on September 6," he added.

In a separate reply, the minister said India's exports of PPE Kits, masks, sanitisers during April-August 2020 stood at USD 632.23 million. **PTI**

Beyond fundraising, tariff hike-led ARPU improvement must for VIL: Report

New Delhi: Vodafone Idea will need a rise in ARPU to meet its obligations in the long run, and without undertaking tariff hike, its cash from current fundraising will sustain operations till the end of the financial year 2022-23, according to a report.

Tariff hike is imminent to fund Voda Idea's financial obligations and capex (capital expenditure) plans, Axis Capital has said in its latest report.

"We think that despite the fund raise, Vi (Vodafone Idea) will require ARPU (average revenue per user) increase to meet its cash flow obligations in the long run," it said and added that in absence of tariff hike, cash from current fund raise will sustain operations till end of FY23. **PTI**

ADB to fund 58-km-long airport metroline in Bangalore

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to partially fund the 58-km-long airport metro line in Bangalore from Central Silk Board Junction to Kempegowda International Airport. The Karnataka government has asked the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for early approval of the proposal along with Detailed Project Report (DPR) for implementation of Phase 2A (18.236 kms) and 2B (36.511 km) of Bangalore Metro Rail Project. According to Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation (BMRC), financial bids for phase 2A are yet to be opened while the last date to submit bids for phase 2B has been recently extended upto October 16.

In a written reply to Rajya

KVIC to begin online booking of Lakshmi-Ganesh idols, earthen lamps

Varanasi:The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will soon start online booking for delivering idols of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Ganesh as well as earthen lamps for Diwali celebrations. This is a step towards promoting local products and replacing Chinese items.

Potters, mainly from Varanasi region, will play a key role in KVIC's venture, which entered the e-commerce industry in July, with handmade paper packaging materials to prevent plastic pollution. **IANS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sh. Sukhbir Singh Verma S/o Late. Sh. Tej Singh Verma R/o House No. G-63, Sector-56, Noida, District-Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. Died On 14/02/2020. As per his last will and testament dated 05/11/2014 duly registered with the office of Sub Registrar-1 Noida on 05/11/2014 Vide Book No. II, Volume No 477 On Pages 181 to 192 At Document Serial No 2201 property residential plot/house No. G-63, Sector-56, Noida, District-Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh is being transferred to Mr. Lalit Verma S/o SH. Sukhbir Singh Verma R/o House No. G-63, Sector-56, Noida, District-Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. Anyone having any objection may inform to Residential Plots Division, New Okhla Industrial Development Authority, Sector-06, Noida within 30 Days of publication of this notice with relevant valid legal documents in support of his/her their objection.



False Declaration/ Document or perjury is a criminal offence and may attract legal action against the defaulter/guilty.

Lalit Verma

WESTERN RAILWAY

LAYING & LINKING OF LOOPLINES & VARIOUS OTHER WORKS

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction) II, Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodra - 390 004 invites e-tenders for the following works as follows: **Tender No. Dy.CE/CI/II/ BRG/MYG-DB-SMLA/22 (R2). Name of Work:** Laying and linking of BG/NG for main & loop lines including points & crossing at various yards, Transportation of P-way materials, spreading of ballast,amping of track, dismantling of existing BG/NG track & Points & Crossing, Flash butt / SKV welding and other incidental miscellaneous works between Miyagam (including Yard) and Dabhoi (Including Yard) in connection with "Gauge Conversion of existing NG track to BG track between Miyagam - Dabhoi - Samlaya Section. **Approximate Cost of Work:** ₹ 883.85 Lakhs. **Availability of Online Tender for Bidding:** From 05/09/2020 at 10.00 hrs. to 19/10/2020 up to 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening:** 19/10/2020 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non-refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, Similar Nature of Work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.irfps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered.

Follow us on  twitter.com/WesternRly 

Total tax collection falls 22.5% till Sept 15: Source

Mumbai: Total tax collection of the Centre, including advance tax collection for the second quarter, fell 22.5 per cent to Rs 2,53,532.3 crore till September 15 of the current fiscal as compared to the year-ago period, according to an income tax department source. The source shared some details about the provisional data. During the same period ended September 15, 2019, total tax collection stood at Rs 3,27,320.2 crore, the income tax department source from Mumbai zone told PTI over phone on Wednesday.

However, the source refused to share the advance tax numbers separately for the current quarter. The numbers are provisional as banks will be able to update the final data by the end of the day, the source said. During the first quarter ended June, gross tax collections fell 31 per cent driven down by a massive 76 per cent plunge in advance tax mop-up, as the country was in a full lockdown due to the pandemic.

Of the total collection till September 15, when taxpayers, both individuals and companies, are supposed to pay advance tax for the quarter, personal income tax at the national level stood at ₹1,47,004.6 crore and corporate tax at ₹99,126.2 crore, totalling the two major components of the tax revenue at ₹2,46,130.8 crore, the source said. **PTI**

Indo-China trade deficit dips to USD 5.48 bn in April-June

New Delhi:The trade deficit between India and China in April-June this fiscal year fell to USD 5.48 billion as compared to USD 13.1 billion in the same period last year, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

In a written reply, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the bilateral trade between the countries too dipped to USD 16.55 billion during the first three months of 2020-21 as against USD 21.42 billion in the same period last year.

"Government has consistently taken steps to balance our trade with China by increasing our exports to China and reducing our dependence on imports from China," he said. **PTI**

In a separate reply, the minister said at present, about 550 tariff lines (or products) are under the restricted/prohibited category for imports under the Foreign Trade Policy. Imports of these products are restricted from all countries, including China.

Replying to a separate question, he said merchandise exports from special economic zones (SEZs) dipped to Rs 81,481 crore during April-August, 2020 as against Rs 1,30,129 crore in the same period of 2019-20.

"However, services exports have shown a growth of 9 per cent during April to August 2020 in comparison to corresponding period of previous year," he added. **PTI**

**BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**

Registered Office: Mumbai-Pune Road, Akurdi, Pune, Maharashtra-411035.
Branch Office: 14th Floor, Aggarwal Metro heights, Netaji Subhash Palace, New Delhi, 110034

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the original 1. BUILDER BUYER AGREEMENT DATED 15TH APRIL 2013 EXECUTED BETWEEN BPTP LTD. & PINKY YADAV, 2. ALLOTMENT LETTER DATED 14 DECEMBER 2012 IN THE NAME OF PINKY YADAV FOR THE PROPERTY BEARING NUMBER T4-1204, PARK GENERATIONS, SECTOR-37 D, GURUGRAMHARYANA. 3. PAYMENT RECEIPTS FOR THE PAYMENTS MADE BY PINKY YADAV TO THE BPTP LTD 4. TRI-PARTIE AGREEMENT & PERMISSION TO MORTGAGE TRI-PARTIE AGREEMENT EXECUTED BETWEEN BPTP LTD., PINKY YADAV & BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LTD. & LETTER OF PERMISSION TO MORTGAGE THE PROPERTY, 5. NOC, NOC ISSUED TO PINKY YADAV TOWARDS THE LOAN CLOSURE & BALANCE TRANSFER BY ICICI BANK LTD, since been submitted as collateral security against loan to Bajaj Housing Finance Limited (BHFL) has been misplaced/lost from the custody of BHFL and duly reported vide LR No:536952/2020 dt. 02/09/2020 at CRIME BRANCH Police Station.

Any person having found the same or any bank, company, institution having the same deposited with them or anybody having any claim/object against the said property, please contact the undersigned with documents in proof thereof within 15 days from date of publication of this notice.

UDIT MEHRA,
S/D/W/O SUNIL MEHRA,
BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE LTD,
14TH FLR, AGGARWAL METRO HEIGHTS, NETAJI SUBHASH PLACE DELHI 110034

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Pooja Shukla W/o Sh. Sujeet Shukla** R/o Plot No.38, 1st Floor, Gali No. 12, C-Block Kamal Vihar, Kamalpur, Delhi, has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of P.S. Burari, Delhi since 25.08.2020. In this regard, a case **DD No. 155A dated 25.08.2020 has been registered at P.S. Burari, Delhi.** The description of the missing female is as under.

**POOJA SHUKLA**

Age: 28 Years, **Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 4' 10", **Face:** Round, **Build:** Strong, **Wearing:** Red and Black colour printed Saree and sleeper in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped female then please inform P.S. Burari, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O. P.S. Burari, Delhi Ph: 011-2761 6845

DP/516/N/2020

MY MONEY SECURITIES LIMITED						
REGD. OFF : 10-A, UNDERHILL LANE, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-110054						
CIN : L67120DL1992PLC047890;						
Website : www.mymoneyviews.com; E-mail id : mymoneyviews@outlook.com;						
Tel. No.: 011-23937870; Tel. No.: 011-23937870;						
Extract of the Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter ended 30th June, 2020 (Rs. In Lacs)						
S. NO.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 30.06.2020 Unaudited	Quarter Ended 31.03.2020 Audited	Quarter Ended 30.06.2019 Unaudited	Quarter Ended 31.03.2020 Audited	Year Ended 30.06.2020
1	Total Income from operations (net)	19.65	(42.93)	(13.80)	(27.51)	
2	Net Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities after tax	0.38	(84.94)	(36.77)	(147.18)	
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary items)	0.38	(84.94)	(36.77)	(147.18)	
4	Total comprehensive Income for the period (comprising profit/(loss) for the period after tax and other comprehensive income after tax	0.38	(84.94)	(36.77)	(147.18)	
5	Equity Share Capital	1000.03	1000.03	1000.03	1000.03	
6	Earning per share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)	Basic Diluted	0.004 0.004	(0.849) (0.849)	(0.368) (0.368)	(1.471) (1.471)
7	Earning per share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)	Basic Diluted	0.004 0.004	(0.849) (0.849)	(0.368) (0.368)	(1.471) (1.471)
Note : The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com) and company website www.mymoneyviews.com For and on behalf of the Board of Directors Sd/- Sanjay Seth Whole Time Director DIN : 00350518						
Place : Delhi Dated : 15/09/2020						

Trend Glazer

'Love the lockdown life'

Actor **SONAKSHI SINHA** says she is not fretting about getting back to work or how the industry will change in the COVID era.

The actor shared that she is loving the lockdown life for now.

"I am just going to admit that I am loving lockdown life. In the last 10 years, I haven't gotten a break for so long where I have been able to spend time with myself, understand what I want from life, do the things I like to do and just be one with yourself, sort your head out, contemplate and understand what's important and what's not," Sonakshi said.

"I am not worried about when work will start and how it will be," added she.



'In our younger years, the idea of a villain was rather limited. It was obviously by

virtue of how the stories played out, but villains were a little over the top in their tonality. With Mirzapur and Gurgaon or even Sacred Games, I have been able to explore the dark side of the human psyche in greater depth. I choose the negative characters wisely.'

—Pankaj Tripathi

Actor **KANGANA RANAUT** says only people with strong spiritual core can recognise the delusion that is showbiz.



"Show business is absolutely intoxicating. It makes one believe in an alternate reality, a little bubble of their own, it takes a very strong spiritual core to recognise this delusion," Kangana tweeted.

Earlier, she criticised Samajwadi Party MP and actor Jaya Bachchan for her remarks against people who are trying to tarnish the image of the film industry, and questioned whether her stance would change if her children were involved.

Kim freezes her Insta, FB account

Reality TV star **KIM KARDASHIAN WEST**, who has one of the biggest Instagram followings in the world — 188.8 million — decided to freeze her social media accounts to protest against the spread of 'hate, propaganda and misinformation'.

Kim wrote: "I love that I can connect directly with you through Instagram and Facebook, but I can't sit by and stay silent while these platforms continue to allow the spreading of hate, propaganda and misinformation."

Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence, Orlando Bloom, Kerry Washington and Sacha Baron Cohen are among those who took part in the protest.



VOCAL FOR LOCAL

From import subsidisation to vendor development, creation of green supply chains, minimising carbon footprints, the Indian hospitality sector uses more than 90 per cent local resources, making it an embodiment of an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. By **AYUSHI SHARMA**

The Indian tourism sector has had a long journey of growth and finding its place on the world map. The era after the economic liberalisation of the 90s in India sparked the growth of the sector and attained new heights. In 2018, tourism contributed more than nine per cent to India's GDP and accounted for eight per cent of the country's employment. As per the statistics, states like Sikkim, tourism helped increase its employment rate to 33 per cent. And the hospitality industry constitutes a majority share of the tourism sector. Hotels are a part of essential tourism infrastructure as providers of tourist accommodation in all categories. From providing basic facilities to a weary traveller who wants to break the journey to rest and refuel, wayside motels have come a long way and become centres for culinary delights, venues for events and destinations for leisure seekers.

PM Narendra Modi has advocated that the ongoing pandemic should be looked at as an opportunity and given a clarion call to the nation to build an *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (Self-reliant India). As per the Hotel Association of India (HAI), the hotel industry is proud to say that it is an embodiment of its cherished dream. Today, Indian hotels are among the best globally and have won accolades and awards for excellence in service by business and leisure tourists alike. And what is commendable is the fact that global recognition has come by practising the age-old Indian tradition of "*Atithi Devo*

Bhava" and by using local sources, be it money, material, machines or manpower. The Indian hospitality industry uses more than 90 per cent local resources.

Puneet Chhatwal, President of Hotel Association of India, explains that tourism is integral to any nation's prosperity as it creates jobs, drives exports, enhances foreign exchange earnings and creates sustainable livelihoods. He says, "We all know that tourism is much more than what meets the eye. It is one of the fastest growing sectors of Indian economy over the past decade at a CAGR of 8.5 per cent. The sector employs close to 10-12 per cent of all workforce in the country, thereby contributing to building livelihood with a multiplier effect. In addition, the sector contributes to over ₹10,000 crores to the exchequer every year. Hotels are significant employers of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled workers. The industry also promotes gender diversity and equal opportunity. From import subsidisation to vendor development, creation of green supply chains, minimising carbon footprints, the industry contributes richly to the economy."

BEING SELF RELIANT

The industry's endeavour has been to increase its focus on local sourcing of ingredients/components in its key pillars of food and beverage, infrastructure and engineering equipment. From about 65 per cent in the year 2000, there has been consistent efforts to increase the extent of local sourcing which rose to about 87



per cent in 2020.

Priya Paul, Chairperson of Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Limited and Executive Committee Member of Hotel Association of India, says, "THE Park Hotels as well as our social catalyst brand, Zone by THE Park, are a true reflection of contemporary India. Our DNA of creativity and innovation is expressed in distinctive ways. We work with numerous Indian designers, products as well as local artisans and even promote new Indian performing arts. For instance, at our Hyderabad branch, we worked with more than 25 designers for our various spaces. We commissioned local artisans and craftsmen to work on the dying art of *Kalamkari* and to recreate it in a con-

temporary way."

She adds, "We have been promoting farm-to-fork concept for the last many years. We work closely with the local organic farmers and have been promoting sustainable food practices. Before the lockdown, our hotels in New Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata used to have weekly organic farmer markets. Our menus are also designed in a way where information on the source of food is also shared. For us, this has been a practice for a very long time."

The industry aspires to increase this further to an overall 95 per cent and more by 2025. In certain value components such as DG sets, AC units, mechanical equipment and elevators, it would be closer to 100 per cent. However, the question is — despite seeing no guests at all for the past five months and currently not attracting many tourists due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, how does the self-reliant claim stand true? Puneet tells us, "The impact of the pandemic has definitely been severe. As per The Horwath HTL India Report, this is best reflected by the loss of demand and revenue. The aggregate loss for March to June 2020, compared to 2019, is ₹4,810 crore for the hospitality sector."

"Even in the given bleak scenario, the sector has been able to hold its ground and is working hard to weather this storm. It is adapting to the new normal with enhanced safety and hygiene practices, moving swiftly towards

increased digitisation and rolling out new products and alternative revenue streams like online food delivery. However, due to a lack of uniform regulations across states, hotels are continuing to bear the brunt. While the Indian hospitality sector is very much self-reliant, it requires a few extraordinary measures, including the support from its stakeholders and the government," adds he.

EXEMPLIFYING NATIONAL PRESTIGE

Indian hospitality has brought India on the world tourism map. From playing host to heads of states, celebrities, senior officials, industrialists and entrepreneurs, facilitating large and prestigious national as well as international conventions and events to providing a secure comfortable abode for people during disasters, Indian hotels have displayed their commitment to the nation.

"Hotels have always showcased India's rich culture and diversity. They support local artistes and artisans by giving them a platform to exhibit their craft. They are the centres for the promotion of Indian heritage, textiles, cuisines, handicrafts, culture, art and artists. They have also introduced the world to our ancient practices of yoga and Ayurveda. And they will continue to carry forward this tradition," shares Puneet.

The fact that some of the best hotels in the world are managed by Indians adds to the national pride.

PROVIDING LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Indian hospitality sector employs close to 4.5 crore people and livelihood to many more. It provides an opportunity for women and to the differently-abled. From the humble basic tourist accommodation tents and lodges, the industry has offerings also for the first-class traveller to those seeking ultra-luxury, thus, giving all Indians an opportunity to experience the country's rich touristic treasures, undertake pilgrimages and much more.

Christie's to sell Parton's jewels

Christie's announced an online-only charity auction — *NASHVILLE: An Auction to benefit ACM Lifting Lives COVID-19 Response Fund* — led by a Swarovski-crystal bedazzled four-string dulcimer, owned by Dolly Parton for 30 years. It's accompanied by its original stand and used by the artist as she celebrated her 50th anniversary performing at the Grand Ole Opry in 2019. The dulcimer is estimated at \$50,000-1,00,000 and leads a sale featuring items generously donated by country music's biggest names, including Reba McEntire, Tim McGraw, Marty Stuart, Bernie Taupin, and Trisha Yearwood.

The auction received a special mention during the live broadcast of the 55th Academy of Country Music Awards hosted by Keith Urban on Wednesday. ACM Lifting Lives is the philanthropic arm of the Academy of Country Music dedicated to improving lives through the power of music. The auction dates and additional lots will be announced at a later date.

Dolly Parton said, "Seeing my country music community suffer due to the pandemic has broken my heart. It was important to donate the dulcimer that was designed for my 50th Opry Anniversary so we can raise awareness and much needed funds to keep these folks on their feet before we can open the doors to our stages once again."

Lyndsay Cruz, Executive Director, ACM Lifting Lives, said, "We are immensely grateful to the artists in the Nashville community and beyond who have generously donated items for this auction in collaboration with Christie's. Every winning bid will go towards our COVID-19 Response Fund to support the workers of our country music community — the tour bus drivers, aspiring musicians, techs and venue workers — so many of whom have lost their livelihoods overnight during the course of this pandemic. So far, the fund has distributed \$1.5 million and we are hoping the sale of these iconic items will enable us to support more affected by this crisis."



"Christie's is honored to work with the music community in Nashville and partner with ACM Lifting Lives COVID-19 Response Fund to support the country music frontline workers who are in need at this time. We are particularly excited to be offering the first musical instrument ever to appear at a global auction from Dolly Parton," said Nancy Valentino, Strategic Business and Client Development, Christie's.

While the dulcimer is an ancient instrument, the Appalachian dulcimer is a cornerstone to the sound of country music, and one that Country Music Hall of Famer Dolly Parton has used throughout her career.



DISCOVERING INDIA

As a part of a new series — *Lost Essence of India* — singer, actor and avid photographer **MEIYANG CHANG** helps the audience uncover hidden gems that have been forgotten over time

As a part of the Discovery Channel's latest series — *Lost Essence of India* — singer, actor and an avid photographer, Meiyang Chang, who is also the host of the show, takes viewers on an enchanting journey and helps them uncover hidden gems that have been forgotten over time.

In the first episode of this four-part series, Chang explores the Rivona Caves in Goa known to be creation of Buddhist monks around the 6th century, entering some of the remotest parts of the country, with roads that are not well-trodden.

The second episode witness-

es Chang relishing the Saraswat Brahmin cuisine that not many have been fortunate to enjoy. Moving on to the third episode, he explores the lost heart of Kashmir, Choharnag, which is surrounded by meadows all around. In the finale episode, Chang goes on to unveil another gem, Naranag Temple in Kashmir, one of the important archaeological sites of the country.

"India boasts of an immensely rich culture and architecture, and we only know about the popular and promoted aspects of it. There are a million more places, stories and experiences that are

yet to be discovered. And that's what we set out to do with *Lost Essence of India*," said Chang.

"I have been to Goa and Kashmir before and yet I was unaware of the existence of these experiences. It was a breath-taking, mindset-changing journey through lesser taken paths to discover the lost essence of some magnificent places in the country. I pray you love this and get to experience it someday while being a responsible tourist. Respect nature and nature will love you back. Also, I can't wait to see where we head to next," he added.



JUST A CLICK AWAY

Chhattisgarh CM BHUPESH BAGHEL launches CG-COP mobile app through which citizens will have access to at least 14 services online

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel recently launched CG-COP mobile app of Chhattisgarh Police, at his residence office. On the occasion, Baghel said that the app developed by Chhattisgarh Police will help in developing mutual trust between common

people and the police, bringing them closer. It will be now more comfortable for people to seek help from the police. The app will act as a bridge between the citizens and the police in the direction of crime control. Through the app, citizens will be able to give information about crime

or the information related to different cases with a single click. Citizens will be able to avail 14 types of services without having to go to the police stations. It has features that helps file civil FIR, online complaint about theft, missing, seized vehicle, unknown body, seized mobile, miss-

ing person, to share clue with police, search case status, police telephone directory, help centre, share details of the arrested person, locate nearest police station and access helpline services. On this occasion, Home Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu, Chief

Secretary RP Mandal, Additional Chief Secretary Subrat Sahu, Director General of Police DM Awasthi, Director General of Police, Jail, Sanjay Pillay, Special Director General of Police RK Vij and Ashok Senja along with other senior officers of the police department were present.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project from Palwal to Sonipat via Sohna-Manesar-Kharkhauda. The total length of the project is 121.7 km. This will facilitate diversion of traffic not meant for Delhi and will help in developing multimodal logistics hubs in Haryana sub-region of NCR.

IMPLEMENTATION

The project will be implemented by Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (HRIDC), a joint venture company set up by Ministry of Railways with the Government of Haryana. The estimated completion cost of the project is ₹5,617 crore and it is proposed to be completed in five years. The line will start from Palwal and end at existing Harsana Kalan station (On Delhi-Ambala section). This will also give connectivity enroute to existing Patli Station (On Delhi-Rewari line), Sultanpur station (On Garhi Harsaru-Farukhnagar Line) and Asaudha Station (On Delhi Rohtak Line).

BENEFITS

The districts of Palwal, Nuh, Gurugram, Jhajjar and Sonipat districts of Haryana will be benefitted through this railway line. It will provide high-speed seam-

Diverting routes

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor Project from Palwal to Sonipat



faster commuter travel, long distance travel in different directions from Gurugram and the industrial regions of Manesar, Sohna, Farukhnagar, Kharkhauda and Sonipat.

Approximately 20,000 passengers each day will be travelling through this line and 50 Million Tonnes goods traffic would also be carried out every year.

BACKGROUND

The Orbital Rail Corridor from Palwal to Sonipat by passing Delhi is a crucial infrastructure project for sustainable development of the NCR and to de-congest existing Indian Railway network in Delhi area.

The alignment of this project is adjacent to the western peripheral (Kundli-Manesar-Palwal) Expressway and has been under consideration for some time. The project will have connectivity with all the existing railway routes originating from Delhi and passing through Haryana State as well as with the Dedicated Freight Corridor network.



WRWWO supports Corona warriors' widows

As a token of support, Tanuja Kansal, President of Western Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (WRWWO), recently distributed the 'Samvedna Rashi' to the widows of the Western Railway's 15 Corona Warriors of frontline staff.

According to Sumit Thakur, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, Kansal handed over an amount of ₹5,000 each to the 15 widows of the employees of frontline staff.

She said, "It is very disheartening and unfortunate that these employees lost their lives while performing their duty during the COVID-19 pandemic. These employees came from various fields like Ticket Checking, Ticket Booking, Loco Pilot, Guard, Fitter, Technician, Trackman etc."

The WRWWO salutes its sincere and dedicated employees. Kansal and the executive committee members encouraged railway employees to empower themselves and be confident to face adversities.

In her address on this occasion, Kansal said that be it during the COVID-19 pandemic, natural calamities or serious illness, WRWWO has always empathised with the employees and their families and is ready to reach out to them in difficult times. She said that our corona warriors without caring for their life have sincerely carried out their duty. "It is very unfortunate that while performing their duties, some of them got infected with the Coronavirus and lost their lives. There is no compensation to the lives lost. WRWWO and its members salute such brave employees and stand by their bereaved families," she added. Kansal said that the wives of these employees have always backed their husbands and stood by them with grit and determination.

The recipients of the amount were Sujata w/o Arun Tenbulkar — MCF, Lower Parel; Janki w/o Ramavadh Shastri — chief booking supervisor, Vasai Road; Jashuben w/o Jitendra Gamit, Chief Ticket Inspector, Ahmedabad; Mira Devi w/o Durga Lal Meena, Mail Guard, Surat; Devanti w/o Kapil Dev Bhagat, Fitter, Borivali; Namita w/o Nitin Gharat, Technician, Lower Parel; Shushma w/o Rajesh Mishra, ELE, Kandivali; Ruma w/o Ganeshchandra Mujkuri, Loco Pilot /Mail, Bandra Terminus; Nirmala w/o Vijay Bote, TCM, Mumbai Central; Sunita w/o Sunil Khandre, Chief Booking Supervisor, Santacruz; Leena w/o Vincent Fernandes, Head Constable, Kankariya; Chandrika w/o Tulsibhai Vaghela, HKA, Chirai; Gayatridevi w/o Narendra Gosai, Tech, Diesel Shed, Sabarmati; Devendramma w/o Nagappa Agasur, Trackman, Borivali and Prabha w/o R S Sharma, Dy Chief Ticket Inspector, Rajdhani Express.

BHEL signs MoU with SwissRapide AG

To expand its footprint in the Urban Transportation Sector as a part of its diversification initiatives, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SwissRapide AG for Maglev Train projects in India.

To this effect, an MoU was signed

by SV Srinivasan, GM and Head (Transportation Business Group), BHEL and Niklaus H Koenig, President and CEO, SwissRapide AG.

Significantly, the agreement has been signed in the backdrop of the Prime Minister's 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives, and will enable BHEL to bring the latest,

world-class technology to India and manufacture state-of-the-art Maglev Trains indigenously.

The MoU sets out the foundation to cooperate and explore mutually beneficial business opportunities, and utilise both the companies' inherent capabilities, skills, knowledge and assets.

Notably, the Maglev Rail system hovers in the air instead of rolling, due to magnetic levitation, thus the vehicles have no physical contact with the guideway. This enables the system to be highly energy efficient, allow operating speeds of 500 km/h easily and significantly reduce the total cost of system ownership.

Port Blair airport to have a new terminal building

Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair is soon going to have a new terminal building. The airport currently handles 18 lakh passengers annually. Considering the surge in the passenger traffic, Airports Authority of India has undertaken the construction of integrated terminal building there at ₹700 crore.

With total built up area of 40,837 sqm, the building will be capable to handle 1,200 passengers during peak hours and about 50 lakh passengers annually. The new passenger terminal building will have three levels comprising of lower ground, upper ground and first floor. The lower ground floor will be used as



remote arrival, departure and service area, the upper ground floor will have entry and exit gates and the first floor as awaiting lounge for interna-

tional passengers.

The building will be equipped with modern passenger's facilities with 28 check-in counters, three pas-

senger boarding bridges, five conveyor belts with in-line scan system and state-of-the-art firefighting and fire alarm system. City side area of the

Airport will also be developed with adequate parking facilities for car, taxi and buses along with the landscaping.

Inspired from nature, the design of the terminal is a shell shaped structure depicting sea and islands. It is a structural steel framed building provided with aluminum sheet roofing and cable net glazing all around. The entire terminal will also have 100 per cent natural lighting through skylights provided at roof level.

Curved shaped Cable Net Glazing will be provided all around the building. More than 65 per cent of the project is completed and the building is scheduled to be ready by mid-2021.

ALERT FOR PENSIONERS

In view of the ongoing pandemic and the vulnerability of elderly population to Coronavirus, the Government has relaxed the existing timeline for submission of Life Certificate. This year, all Central Government pensioners can submit Life Certificate from November 1 to December 31. The pensioners in the age group of 80 years and above, can submit their certificate from October 1. Earlier, this used to be only for the month of November.

During this extended period, the pension will be continued to be paid by the Pension Disbursing Authorities (PDAs) uninterrupted.

In addition to above, in the line of RBI notification no. RBI/2019-20/138, dated January 9 which permits Video based Customer Identification Process

(V-CIP) as a consent based alternate method of establishing the customer's identity, Pension Disbursing Banks have been also asked to explore the said methodology for obtaining a Life Certificate from the pensioner, to the extent permitted by RBI guidelines, in order to avoid rush at the branch-

es and maintain social distancing, while obtaining Life Certificates.

Pensioners can submit life certificate by visiting the bank branches. However, the department has been promoting the Digital Life Certificate which can be given from the comfort of one's home also.

ASHA schools go solar

Government-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC), India's leading NBFC, has installed a stand-alone solar rooftop system at ASHA School, run by Indian Army Wives Welfare Association in the Delhi Cantonment area. The installation has been carried out as part of PFC's CSR initiative.

Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Chairman and Managing Director, PFC along with Lt General R K Anand inaugurated the stand alone solar



rooftop system of 5kWp capacity.

PK Singh, Director Commercial, R

Murahari, Executive Director-CSR and M Prabhakar Das, Chief General Manager

(CSR & SD), PFC also graced the occasion along with other Indian Army officials and school staff.

Under the CSR initiative, PFC is providing 5kWp standalone solar rooftop systems with battery backup in 37 Asha schools across the country.

PFC is also providing solar lanterns to Indian Army under its CSR initiative. Around 5,000 solar lanterns have already been supplied to Indian Army which is helping them in tough terrains and forward posts.

Kolkata metro resumes



Metro services in Kolkata have resumed. A total of 110 services are being run on North-South Metro corridor and 72 services are being run on East-West Metro corridor from 8 am to 8 pm.

It's being made sure that the commuters maintain social distancing and all other COVID-19 safety protocols inside Metro premises have been ensured. Metro staff at different stations are helping commuters to follow safety guidelines like sanitisation,

maintaining social distancing, wearing masks, etc. RPF staff checks e-pass of each commuter as well as screen his/her body temperature with thermal gun.

Frequent announcements are made inside the Metro premises requesting all to maintain distancing norms. Short-film on Do's and Don'ts is also being shown on Platform TVs to educate commuters how to stay secure and help others too.

DJB celebrates Engineer's Day

In remembrance of M Visvesvaraya, recipient of Bharat Ratna, Delhi Jal Board celebrated Engineer's Day on Tuesday. Every year the day is celebrated at large scale, commemorating the contribution made by the eminent personalities in engineering parlance.

Keeping social distancing and the current crisis in mind, DJB cherished the essence of this day by naming the Andrews Ganj building as DJB Engineers Bhawan by Chairman (DJB), Satyendar Jain in presence of Vice Chairman (DJB), Raghav Chadha, Kasturba Nagar MLA Madanlal, CEO(DJB) Nikhil Kumar, Member (Water), Member (Drainage), Member (Administration), Member (Finance) and other officers.

India celebrates this day every year to mark the birth anniversary of Visvesvaraya, the engineering pioneer of India. Fondly known as Sir MV or the Builder of India, Visvesvaraya was born in 1860 in Chikkaballapura district of Karnataka. DJB Engineers

Bhawan is a four storied building situated at Andrews Ganj and shall be used as public grievance redressal office regarding water, wastewater, etc. for the residents of South Delhi. The knowledge dissemination regarding RWH and various other DJB schemes for the benefit of the residents can also be availed from there.

On the occasion, Jain said, "We are equipped with engineers, who work round the clock to make Delhi a better place by bringing it into the ambit of water and wastewater services and providing state-of-the-art technology. In future DJB will provide consultancy services to other states and countries. Creativity and innovation are two important aspects that should be kept in mind with every project."

On closing the event, Shalabh Kumar, President of The Engineers Association, DJB Delhi and Member (Water) DJB assured Jain that their resolution to work in the interest of the people will always be intact along with striving for betterment.

I N S H O R T



Metro Railway has upgraded several passenger amenities at different Metro stations maintaining social distancing and other COVID-19 protocols. A new escalator was commissioned at Chandni Chowk station on Monday by replacing the old one. With smooth co-operation of civil and electrical departments, the escalator has been commissioned in record time. Metro commuters will get the benefits.



From left to Right: Upender Pandey, Poet and Manjari Mishra, Poetess playing the role of Judges in MSME Hindi Poetry Competition held in Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi on Monday. Assistant Director (OL), Pankaj, is at extreme right.



As per the instructions from the Railway Board, the Swachhta Pakhwara is being organised at various locations at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), which will continue till September 30. All the necessary precautions have been ensured, keeping in mind the Coronavirus pandemic. Each day, Pakhwara will be associated with a particular theme related to cleanliness and sanitation. There will be workshops, online drawing competitions on the theme of Swachhta, Swachh Ahar to develop awareness and communication around better hygiene conditions. CLW staff, officers and volunteers of Bharat Scout & Guide are participating.



DDA is set to e-auction 25 functional sites for hosting marriages and other ceremonies. The 10th phase of Mega e-auction is scheduled to be launched soon by Delhi Development Authority which will also include 25 functional sites across Delhi. The allotment will be on License fee basis subject to compliances with all the clean, green protocols and Swatch Bharat Mission norms. DDA is also planning to e-auction Kiosks at various locations in addition to various other types of plots including industrial, institutional, commercial, residential, Expandable Housing Scheme plots, shops, etc., are also part of the forthcoming Mega e-auction.

General Manager, Northern & North Central Railways, Rajiv Chaudhry has released a booklet *Initiatives Taken by Northern Railway to Enhance Safety Standards During Lockdown*. It is a compilation of work done by the various departments and divisions of the zone focussing on safety during the lockdown period of COVID-19. It highlights the efforts put in by the Railway men to deep check, maintain and repair the track system and the rolling stock assets to meet all laid safety standards. The Northern Railway has been ceaselessly working throughout the lockdown period to support the nation fight the pandemic. The time was effectively utilised by the zone for inspecting, maintaining and repairing its assets. The efforts have resulted in no consequential train accident during the period April to August 2020. Releasing the book, Chaudhry called upon the employees to keep up their good work. He added that as the nation's prime transporter, the Railways has a greater responsibility post-lockdown and it will leave no effort in contributing towards India's growth and development.



Eng nose ahead in series decider

AP ■ MANCHESTER

Jonny Bairstow struck 112 and underpinned another innings rebuild with Sam Billings as England recovered from losing two wickets from the first two balls to set Australia a target of 303 in the deciding one-day international on Wednesday.

Mitchell Starc removed Jason Roy and Joe Root off successive deliveries to leave England in early turmoil on a glorious afternoon at Old Trafford, and both Eoin Morgan (23) and Jos Buttler (8) also departed cheaply.

From 96-4, Bairstow and Billings (57) put on 114 runs for the fifth wicket to bring England right back into the match — just as they did in the first ODI on Friday when sharing a stand of 113 in defeat.

Bairstow reached his 10th ODI century before some lusty hits by Chris Woakes (53 off 39 balls) lifted the hosts to 302-7, leaving Australia needing a record run chase at the Manchester venue. Fifty-three runs came from the last five overs.

The series is tied at 1-1.

England is looking to preserve its five-year unbeaten record in bilateral ODI series, and finish its international summer — during which all of its games have been played without fans — unbeaten in all formats against the West Indies, Ireland, Pakistan and Australia.

It is Australia's final match of its white-ball tour, with the team having already lost the Twenty20 series 2-1.

Steve Smith was again missing for the Australians after failing to fully recover from being hit on the head from a throwdown in the nets before the first match of the series. Australia captain Aaron Finch said Smith had a hit in the nets on Tuesday but “just did not pull up well” and felt “a bit groggy.”

Boult’s inclusion gives edge to MI: Gambhir



New Delhi: Former India opener Gautam Gambhir feels New Zealand pacer Trent Boult forms a formidable pair with Jasprit Bumrah, giving Mumbai Indians an edge over Chennai Super Kings in this IPL.

With Mumbai Indians taking on Chennai Super Kings in the tournament opener on Saturday in Abu Dhabi, Gambhir said he is waiting to see how Boult and Bumrah go about their business.

“I am really excited to watch how Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah will bowl with the new ball, because we all know Bumrah and Boult are world class bowlers, and in the T20 format both are wicket-taking options,” Gambhir said on *Star Sports* show *Cricket Connected*.

“A left-arm seamer, who will bring the ball inside for a right hand batsman while Jasprit Bumrah believes in an unorthodox style of bowling.”

“There will be a challenge

for Chennai Super Kings considering they do not have Suresh Raina batting at No 3. Shane Watson has not played international cricket for a long time, so we would want to know who will open with him and how will these batsmen face these bowlers,” the former Kolkata Knight Riders skipper said.

Gambhir, a two-time IPL-winning skipper, believes four-time champions Mumbai Indians in the lung-opener of the cash-rich T20 league on September 19.

“The way I’m hitting the ball right now, the shape I’m in, the men-

tal space I’m in, it is just a matter of time that I go and spend some time on the ground and I think things will come out pretty well,” Pandya said in a video posted by Mumbai Indians’ official Twitter handle.

“No matter how far I go from the game, no matter how long I stay out, when I come back, it has to be worth it, I have prepared very well and I think, great things are coming ahead,” the 26-year-old flamboyant all-rounder added.

Last year in November, Pandya had undergone a back surgery in London. He came back in the DY

Patil T20 tournament held in early March.

He was even selected for the ODI series against South Africa, but the Covid-19 pandemic, which forced the rubber to be abandoned, delayed his return. He is now looking forward to the IPL.

“IPL is something that I have enjoyed a lot and I would like to make a comeback very strong and I’m just looking forward to it,” said Pandya. He also conceded that injuries would be a part of his crick-

eting journey and motivate him to do better.

Novak remains perfect

Djokovic extends unbeaten run on court, behaves better in 1st match since US Open default

AP ■ ROME

Novak Djokovic expressed his relief there was no “mental or emotional blockages or drama” as he swept past Italian wild card entry Salvatore Caruso into the Italian Open third round on Wednesday in his first match since his US Open default.

“I was actually looking forward to get the official match as soon as possible after what happened in New York,” said the world No 1.

The Serb was on his best behaviour after his dramatic last 16 disqualification on September 6 after he accidentally struck a line judge with a ball hit in frustration.

“I didn’t feel that I had any mental or emotional blockages or any dramas playing a match today,” he said.

Djokovic, who had said he had learned a “big lesson” from his first ever disqualification, was keen to move on in Rome.

The 33-year-old playfully greeted an imaginary crowd in an empty Central Court at the Foro Italico because of strict coronavirus measures.

Only some noisy workers managed to unnerve the 17-time Grand Slam winner after missing break points.

“It was very, very quiet, which is very unusual to what we are used to here in Rome, which has one of the loudest and most energetic crowd atmospheres on the tour.

Djokovic continued where he left off before his US Open exit, having won the Cincinnati Masters on the same Flushing Meadows courts.

“It was a very good test for me. I’m very pleased with the way I handled myself in important moments,” said Djokovic, who was unbeaten in 2020 before his US Open default.

“I was in control of the match.”

Djokovic, who has played nine finals



Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Salvatore Caruso, at the Italian Open tourney in Rome on Wednesday

in Rome, and won four titles, will meet either 29th-ranked compatriot Filip Krajinovic or Italian qualifier Marco Cecchinato, ranked 113th, for a place in the quarter-finals.

Nine-time Rome winner Rafael Nadal will make his return to competi-

tion later on Wednesday after a six-month hiatus linked to the coronavirus pandemic.

The number two seed plays fellow Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta, a recent semi-finalist at the US Open, for a place in the third round.



US Open champion Naomi Osaka took a direct swipe at critics of her recent activism saying the people who told her that sportspersons should stay out of politics inspired her to win her third Grand Slam title

Third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas fell to Italian teenager Jannik Sinner 6-1, 6-7 (9/11), 6-2, with sixth seeded Belgian David Goffin also exiting 6-2, 6-2 to Croatia’s Marin Cilic.

HALEP, AZARENKA ADVANCE

Top women’s seed Simona Halep returned a month after winning in Prague to ease past 99th-ranked Italian Jasmine Paolini 6-3, 6-4.

“It was a little bit difficult to get the rhythm and to get relaxed,” said the 28-year-old Romanian, who skipped the US Open but is warming up for a bid for a second French Open title later this month.

The world No 2, a two-time Rome finalist, next meets either American Amanda Anisimova or Dayana Yastremska of Ukraine.

US Open finalist Victoria Azarenka shrugged off the move from hard court to the clay surface to beat American Venus Williams 7-6 (9/7), 6-2, in their first round match.

Belarusian Azarenka will play third seeded American Sofia Kenin, the reigning Australian Open champion, for a place in the third round.

Swiss sixth seed Belinda Bencic fell 6-3, 6-1 in her second round match to Montenegro’s 86th-ranked Danka Kovinic.

Hardik looking to make strong comeback

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Back from a lengthy injury layoff, Mumbai Indians’ star all-rounder Hardik Pandya said the set-back motivated him to work harder and he is now in good shape both physically and mentally for the IPL.

Pandya’s form will be crucial for defending champions Mumbai Indians, who will take on Chennai Super Kings in the lung-opener of the cash-rich T20 league on September 19.

“The way I’m hitting the ball right now, the shape I’m in, the men-



‘Russell currently is world’s best all-rounder’



PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Kolkata Knight Riders batsman Rinku Singh feels no one can match the big-hitting prowess of explosive all-rounder Andre Russell and he remains the World’s best all-rounder at the moment.

The Jamaican allrounder, who joined KKR in 2014, has been in sensational form in the last two seasons and remains

the talk of the town ahead of the 13th edition which will get underway on Saturday.

“There is no one who can hit the ball better than him. He has a lot of life and strength in him,” Singh said in an interview in KKR’s website.

“His sizes are massive and I just don’t see any batsman as a competition to him. He is the best all-rounder in the world at this moment,” Singh added.

South African star AB de Villiers believes the biggest challenge for all teams in the upcoming Indian Premier League will be adjusting to the prevailing hot and humid conditions in the UAE.

Most games will be played in the night but the conditions would still be challenging.

“I am not really used to these kind of conditions to be honest. It’s very hot, it reminds

me of a Test match we played in July in Chennai once where Viru (Virender Sehwa)

scored 300. It was one of the hottest weather conditions I have experience in my life,” he said in an interview posted on RCB’s Twitter handle.

“The humidity is similar to that, even at 10 at night.

Adjusting to UAE heat biggest challenge: ABD

PTI ■ DUBAI



me of a Test match we played in July in Chennai once where Viru (Virender Sehwa) scored 300. It was one of the hottest weather conditions I have experience in my life,” he said in an interview posted on RCB’s Twitter handle.

“The humidity is similar to that, even at 10 at night.

When I arrived here I checked the weather conditions of a few months and it seems to be getting better. It is definitely going to play a part and you have to make sure you have the energy for the backend of the innings or last 5 overs of your bowling spell.”

De Villiers said he would also miss playing in front of packed crowds in India with the event to be played behind closed doors in UAE due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

“I think obviously all are used to playing in front of crowds in big stage, there is certainly an amount of adrenaline that pumped into you when it gets really loud, especially in Chinnaswamy when the RCB crowd gets going, its difficult to stop the RCB team. So, well miss that there is no doubt about it.”

“But I won’t say I am not used to it, I have played a lot of cricket in empty stadiums. I grew up like that. It’s only in my international career that I have played in front of crowd,” he said.

Bale close to Spurs return

AFP ■ LONDON

Gareth Bale’s agent says the Real Madrid forward is “close” to a move back to Tottenham but admitted it is a complicated deal to thrash out.

The Wales international has been frozen out by Real manager Zinedine Zidane and said earlier this month that he was open to returning to the Premier League.

It has been reported that Spurs and Manchester United are interested in signing Bale but Jose Mourinho appears to be leading the race to land the 31-year-old.

“It’s close but not done,” Bale’s agent Jonathan Barnett told *AFP*. “It’s a complicated



Bale has two years left on a contract that pays him a reported salary of about £600,000 (\$775,000) a week at

Real.

It has been reported the Spanish club would be willing to pay some of that salary to finally move on from their troubled relationship with the forward.

Bale left Tottenham for Real in 2013 for a then world-record fee of £85 million.

He has won four Champions League titles and two La Liga crowns during his time in Spain, but his turbulent relationship with Zidane has left him a peripheral player.

The winger still has an emotional attachment to Tottenham after joining the club from Southampton as a teenager and developing into one of the world’s most exciting forwards.

Brazilian Govt backs Neymar in racism row

AFP ■ SAO PAULO

Brazil’s Government sent its support to Neymar on Tuesday after he was red-carded for a fight in a Ligue 1 match in France, condemning the “racism” that triggered the brawl.

The Paris Saint-Germain star is facing punishment by the French league’s disciplinary commission after slapping defender Alvaro Gonzalez near the end of PSG’s 1-0 loss to Marseille, accusing the Spaniard of calling him a “monkey.”

Gonzalez denies the accusation. But in Neymar’s native Brazil, the ministry responsible for human rights issues said it stood behind the world’s most expensive foot-



Neymar reacts after receiving red card

baller.

“In the face of yet another case of racism that has

come to the surface in sport, the ministry of women, the family and human rights publicly voices its solidarity with the player Neymar Jr,” the ministry said in a statement.

“Racism is a crime.”

The statement came after Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Monday retweeted Neymar’s own version of events.

The Brazilian striker slapped Gonzalez on the back of the head near the end of Sunday’s match, sparking a mass brawl that ended with five players sent off, including Neymar.

He now faces a potential multi-match suspension, as does Gonzalez, if league officials find Neymar’s accusation is true.

Emiliano joins Villa

London: Aston Villa announced the signing of Arsenal goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez on Wednesday for a reported fee of £20 million (\$26 million).

The 28-year-old Argentine, who has signed a four-year deal, helped Arsenal to FA Cup victory last season and Community Shield glory last month but

faced playing second fiddle to Bernd Leno.

Villa boss Dean Smith said: “We are really pleased with the signing of our new goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez.” “We know how highly Arsenal rated him and we watched his outstanding performances last season in a trophy-winning top side. AP

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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The General Manager/EXPOTECH, RITES Ltd. invites online bids in single packet system from the approved vendor of Indian Railways Production Units (PUs) for the following.

Item & Quantity: Supply, Installation, commissioning and testing of complete interior furnishing items including electricals for 60 (Sixty) nos. of Cape Gauge Passenger Coaches. **Tender Reference:** RITES/EXPO/05/MOZ/COACH FUR/01. **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):** Rs. 25,00,000/- (Indian Rupees Twenty Five Lakh only). **Completion Period:** 24 weeks. **Last date & time of submission of bid:** 29.09.2020 upto 11:00 hrs. IST

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