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USUALSUSPECTS
SWAPAN DASGUPTA

Everyone whistling in dark on Covid

Looking at two different parts of the world, it is sometimes difficult to believe that the whole world is engaged in a relentless but common battle against a deadly — and often lethal — viral illness that has been dubbed Covid-19.

First, there is the case of the United Kingdom. Prime Minister Boris Johnson — otherwise a smooth-talking charmer — is confronted with a rebellion within his own party and a wave of public resentment over draconian steps his Government has taken to lessen the impact of a "second wave" of Covid-19. Among the steps just announced are restrictions in lockdown areas on people meeting those who don't live in the same household. In other areas, there are strict instructions against more than six people assembling under the same roof. There are expectations that these restrictions will persist until the New Year. Consequently, Johnson is fearful that he will be the first ruler after Oliver Cromwell to prevent Britons from celebrating Christmas.

The second example is nearer home and centres on the anti-Covid-19 strategies of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, a feisty lady who had once proclaimed her intention of transforming Kolkata into another London. On Mahalaya, the beginning of the auspicious season — this year's almanack deems it to be nearly a month, unlike the traditional 10 days — that culminates in the immersion of the Goddess Durga on Vijaya Dashami, she made a momentous announcement. Dispelling Bengali fears that this year's Durga Puja celebrations will be extremely low key and, in some cases, non-existent, she tweeted that life will be festive during the five-days when the whole of West Bengal turns into a carnival.

> The awkward reality is that at present there is no science behind the public health strategies. Everyone seems to be whistling in the dark, evolving strategies and hoping that things will keep ticking until the wonder drug — whether discovered in the laboratories of Putin's Russia or Johnson's alma mater Oxford — rescues everyone from this uncertainty

The two examples, drawn from two different parts of the world, reveal something that is becoming increasingly clear: there are no established, universal norms in the global battle against Covid-19. There may well be a shared hope, cutting across national borders, that the miracle vaccine involving fierce competition among different groups of scientists, will rescue the world and usher the return of normalcy. But apart from this common wait for science to deliver us from this Wuhan virus, there is nothing else in common.

Even within countries, there is no civic consensus. Just look at the campaigning styles in the US presidential election. The Democratic Party and its candidate Jo Biden is treading cautiously, trying to maintain a semblance of social distancing and advising its campaigners to wear masks. The rival Republican camp and incumbent President Donald Trump is not similarly inhibited. He is proceeding with mass rallies and large numbers of his supporters don't seem to bother with either masks or social distancing.

Meanwhile, the US retains the top slot in the Covid-19 infection league. It is also a control that has dispelled with the idea of a national strategy against the pandemic. The country's celebration of fierce individualism appears to have spilled over into the realms of public health. All attempts to curb individual freedom at the time of a pandemic is being seen as intrusive and, consequently, un-American.

India, thankfully, doesn't have a Constitution that celebrates 1.3 billion people doing their own thing, although it is not China where 1.4 billion people are expected to do only one thing. Our Constitution advises citizens to acquire a "scientific temper". In everyday understanding this implies that, confronted with a serious public health challenge, we are expected to follow specialist, scientific advice and not leave things to individual flights of whimsy. Unfortunately, that's easier said than done.

At the national level, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has advised utmost caution. Despite the country being in the so-called un-lockdown stage, he has repeatedly emphasised the importance of social distancing and the fanatical use of the face mask. The ongoing session of Parliament has seen staggered sittings of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and MPs are seated in different sections of Parliament House. In Bihar, where campaigning for the Assembly election has begun hesitantly, the ruling National Democratic Alliance is focussing on virtual rallies, despite the uneven nature of internet connectivity.

In West Bengal, where the number of daily cases is around 3,200 and the public health infrastructure is not exactly fit for purpose, there have been random lockdowns whose dates are chosen as if it is a game of Russian roulette. In Parliament, MPs from the Trinamool Congress boasted that the State Government is being guided by a Global Advisory Council headed by a Nobel Prize winner in economics. Presumably they suggested to the Chief Minister that random lockdowns would confuse the virus totally. Presumably they must have also suggested that while it was a danger to young students to sit for the Joint Entrance Examinations, it was safe to go out and boisterously celebrate Durga Puja. It's all very confusing.

The awkward reality is that at present there is no science behind the public health strategies. Everyone seems to be whistling in the dark, evolving strategies and hoping that things will keep ticking until the wonder drug — whether discovered in the laboratories of Putin's Russia or Johnson's alma mater Oxford — rescues everyone from this uncertainty. Like the mathematical modelling by epidemiologists that suggest nearly 70 per cent of India is bound to get infected or those who couldn't care less because cow's urine is the deadly virus killer, it is all a game of chance.

In this lottery of life there is no science, just plain luck.

Amend farm Bills, BKS asks Centre

RSS-affiliated Kisan Sangh wants Bills to be cleared by House panel

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The RSS affiliated Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS) has joined hands with critics of the three farm sector-related Bills that will come up for passage in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday. This could put up added pressure on the Government to bring in some changes in the Bills to allay the fear of the farmers about continuation of the minimum support price (MSP) regime in future. The Lok Sabha passed the Bill on Friday.

After Akali Deal leader Harsimrat Kaur walked out of the Modi Government to protest against the Bills, the BKS stand shows that the BJP stands completely isolated on introducing these radical measures. Amid rising apprehensions that farm sector Bills passed in the Lok Sabha may not protect the interest of the agriculturists, the BKS has demanded that the Bills must be sent to the Standing Committee for wider consultations and changes.

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi blamed the Opposition for misleading the farmers, the BKS said the Bill is "tilted heavily towards the corporate" and would not improve the lives of farmers and should be whetted by the Standing Committee on Agriculture headed by BJP's PC Gaddigoudar for the benefit of small farmers before turning into a law.

Members of various farmers' organisations block Sangrur road during a protest against the Central Government over agriculture related Bills, in Patiala on Saturday PTI

Opposing the Bills in their current form, the organisation has also written to Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, demanding pro-farmer provisions that do not benefit the big firms and corporates.

On Thursday, the Lok Sabha passed two agriculture-related Bills — Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020 — by voice vote. On Tuesday, the House passed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which seeks to deregulate food items, including cereals, pulses and onions.

As famers in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh hit the streets against three farm Bills and Harsimrat quit the Modi Government in protest, the Opposition described the move as "corporatisation" of the agriculture and in favour of big farmers. The Opposition unity will be tested in the Rajya Sabha on Sunday when the Bills come up for passage. As many as 10 MPs have tested positive for Covid-19 and have been isolated at home.

Session to end week earlier as Covid cases up

To end on Sept 23; final decision to be taken by Cabinet Committee

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The rising number of Covid-19 infection among the Members of Parliament has compelled the authorities to cut short the duration of the ongoing Monsoon Session.

The session is now expected to be terminated on September 23 instead of its scheduled October 1 closure.

The decision was taken on Saturday at the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) chaired by Speaker Om Birla, said officials, adding that final decision will be taken by the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.

The meeting was appraised that more than 264 people were found positive in the mandatory test. They included 30 MPs and staffers and media persons.

The present RT-PCR Test has to be taken 72 hours before arrival in the House. Already three sitting MPs have succumbed to Covid-19 and currently 30 MPs are found positive in the test.

Apart from staffers and media persons, security personnel are also subjected to the mandatory testing. Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Prahlad Patel have tested positive in the tests. Three MPs have already died of Covid-19.

Government officials accompanying their respective Ministers during Bill discussions also have to show a negative report of RT-PCR test taken within the last 72 hours of their visit to the complex.

"Since the commencement of the Session the number of positive cases has gone up, so the Government is thinking of cutting short the session. Next week also many have to undergo mandatory tests and the number of positive cases is rising," said an official.

Before ending the session, the Government wants to get 11 ordinances passed as laws by Parliament, sources said.

At Lok Sabha's business advisory committee meeting several Opposition parties said that they are in the favour of the decision, asserting that conducting the full 18-day session could be a risky affair.

The meeting also appraised that among the 264 total cases including MPs, the majority are from the staffers.

NIA averts terror attacks with arrest of 9 al-Qaeda terrorists

6 arrested from Bengal, 3 from Kerala in early morning raids

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted simultaneous raids at several locations at Ernakulam (Kerala) and Murshidabad (West Bengal) and arrested nine terrorists associated with Pakistan-sponsored module of the UN-banned global terror outfit al-Qaeda.

"The group was planning to undertake terrorist attacks at vital installations in India with an aim to kill innocent people and strike terror in their minds," the NIA said.

The search operation followed registration of a case (No. RC-31/2020/NIA/DLI) by NIA on September 11 and subsequent investigation into the matter. This led the NIA to learn about an inter-State module of al-Qaeda operatives at various locations in India, including West Bengal and Kerala.

Switches, batteries and other items used to assemble an IED by al-Qaeda terrorist Abu Sufiyan's house, recovered by NIA, in Murshidabad district on Saturday PTI

"The NIA has arrested six terrorists from West Bengal and three terrorists from Kerala in the early morning raids. Large quantity of incriminating materials including digital devices, documents, jehadi literature, sharp weapons, country-made firearms, a locally fabricated body armour, articles and literature used for making home-made explosive devices have been seized from their possession," the agency said.

As per preliminary investigation, the arrested accused were radicalised by Pakistan-based al-Qaeda terrorists on social media and were motivated to undertake attacks at multiple places, including the National Capital Region. For this purpose, the module was actively indulging in fund raising and a few members of the gang were planning to travel to New Delhi to procure arms and ammunition. These arrests have pre-empted possible terrorist attacks in various parts of the country, it said.

Chopper scam: CBI chargesheet names Rajeev Saxena, Agusta former MD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Saturday filed a supplementary chargesheet in the AgustaWestland chopper scam case against controversial businessman Rajeev Saxena and then Managing Director of AgustaWestland International Ltd Giacomino Saponaro.

In its final report filed before Special Judge Arvind Kumar, the CBI has named 15 accused persons, which includes Saponaro and Saxena among others. The court is likely to take up the matter for consideration of the chargesheet on Monday.

The investigation report filed on Friday details the alleged role played by Saponaro and Saxena among others in delivering bribes to politicians, bureaucrats and Indian Air Force (IAF) officials for swinging the deal for supply of the VVIP copters.

Dubai-based businessman Saxena was the director of Interstellar Technologies Ltd, Mauritius.

Govt should admit it is community spread, says Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid surge in coronavirus cases across India, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Saturday took a jibe at the Centre as he said, "We're stuck in technical terms" and the Government should have admitted India is in the "community spread" stage.

"There has been a downward trend in Covid-19 positivity rate in the national Capital and it will lead to good results by next week. The positivity rate was 6.76 per cent on Friday. It has remained below seven per cent in the last two-three days. Last week, it was around 8 per cent," he said.

Jain said that the cumulative positivity rate has also dropped below 10 per cent for the first time. "Due to the increased testing over the last 10 to 12 days, Delhi has been witnessing a "downward trend" in the Covid-19 positivity rate over the past two to three days. It should lead to good results by next week," he said," he added.

The national Capital reported 4,127 new cases and 30 deaths on Friday.

CAPSULE

'ARRESTED SCRIBE WAS PASSING INFO TO CHINA'

New Delhi: Delhi Police on Saturday said arrested freelance journalist Rajeev Sharma was allegedly passing sensitive information about India's border strategy and Army deployment to Chinese intelligence. At a press conference, Special Cell DCP Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said Sharma was writing on defence-related issues for some Indian media organisations, as well as China's Global Times.

INDIA HANDS OVER TWO MODERN TRAINS TO NEPAL

Kathmandu: India has handed over two modern trains to Nepal that would run between Jaynagar in Bihar and Kurtha in Dhanusa district from mid-December, marking the beginning of the first broad-gauge railway service in the Himalayan nation, officials said on Saturday.

VETERAN RABINDRA SANGEET EXPONENT PURBA DAM DIES

Kolkata: Veteran Rabindra Sangeet Exponent Purba Dam died at her residence in the city on Saturday, family sources said. She was 85. Dam died of cardiac arrest at her Dhakuria residence in south Kolkata this morning, they said.

MS Dhoni of Chennai Superkings (CSK) appeals unsuccessfully during match 1 of season 13 of the Dream 11 Indian Premier League (IPL) between Mumbai Indians (MI) and Chennai Superkings held at Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates on Saturday IPL

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL
CASES: 53,92,666
DEATHS: 86,699
RECOVERED: 42,95,755
ACTIVE: 10,09,455

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	11,88,015	32,216	8,57,933
Andhra Pradesh	6,17,776	5,302	5,30,711
Tamil Nadu	5,36,477	8,751	4,81,273
Karnataka	5,11,346	7,922	4,04,841
Uttar Pradesh	3,48,517	4,953	2,76,690
Delhi	2,42,899	**4,945**	2,05,890
West Bengal	2,21,960	4,298	1,93,014
Odisha	1,75,550	744	1,41,657
Telangana	1,69,169	1,025	1,37,508
Bihar	1,66,987	861	1,52,956
Assam	1,55,453	548	1,25,540
Kerala	1,31,027	520	92,947
Gujarat	1,21,930	3,303	1,02,671
Rajasthan	1,13,124	1,322	93,805
Haryana	1,08,952	1,120	86,150
Madhya Pradesh	1,03,065	1,943	79,158

INDIA OVERTAKES US TO BAG TOP SPOT IN TERMS OF COVID-19 RECOVERIES

New Delhi: "In a landmark global achievement", India has overtaken the US and become the top country in terms of Covid-19 recoveries, the Health Ministry said on Saturday. The country has reported the highest number of recoveries with 42,08,431 Covid-19 patients having recovered from the disease so far, pushing the national recovery rate to nearly 80 per cent. P5

INDIA'S SINGLE-DAY RECOVERY MORE THAN FRESH CASES

New Delhi: India's single-day recovery outstripped the number of new infections as nearly 96,000 people recuperated from the novel coronavirus, even as the total number of cases went past 53 lakh, according to the Union Health Ministry data on Saturday.

HOME THEATRE

Laugh the American way

OUR CARTOON PRESIDENT
Disney+Hotstar
Season 3, Episodes 10
Animation
Rated: 6/10

Trump roasts Trump with his own signature brand of stupidity, outrage and elan. Season 3 takes off with the Impeachment sham that Trump survived with flying colours. As he puts it: "I can do anything and get away with it as I have been chosen by the people of America."

The self-deprecating humour, the audacity of impunity that Trump wears brings in a lot of laughter into this very American series much like *The Simpsons*. It will appeal to the people who are in the knowledge of America's domestic politics, policy blunders and the demeanour that the President sports.

Trump is undoubtedly a globally recognised political clown so situations around him are insanely funny and the scriptwriter has done well to catch all the nuances to present Trump roasting himself, more specifically roasting the citizens of America for voting him in.

Ticklish subjects like foreign affairs, economy and the upcoming Presidential elections are issues some of the episodes touch upon and that includes the Clintons coming into the picture from their living room television viewing and keeping their hyper candidate in the race who is on a personal high of anxiety, aspiration, scepticism of her prospects and yet compelling optimism in dreaming to be the possible first-ever native American woman President!

Entirely up to you whether you are in a mood to connect to this sort of very American comedy. One thing is there though, Season 3 shows no fatigue whatsoever in pressing the funny bone button.

Sleep over this one

HOLLY SLEPT OVER
Amazon Prime
***ing: Josh Lawson, Nathalie Emmanuel, Britt Lower, Erinn Hayes, Ron Livingston**
Rated: 3/10

Some movies are made out of nothing, conveying nothing and thinking nothing about the amount of waste they produce. *Holly Slept Over* tops in that segment. A thoughtless, disastrous comedy-drama propelling sexual adventurism to save a sagging marriage where sex has become boring and a tool to somehow have babies, it is a romp in the bed by a committed couple and the wife's lesbian girlfriend who stops over for a night after 12 years of a breakup.

Other than the protagonists being extremely pretty, the house where the action takes place being sexy, the neighbours having their own between the sheets issues with yucky outcomes, there is nothing in the movie that will keep you interested, or let me say not get you irritated.

Holly (girlfriend) breezes into the couple's home with not even a blink, sleeps straight seven hours, gets up all decked up and her friend's husband proposing a threesome! They agree and do it without wasting any time or sparing a thought to even their viewers. And then it is all over, Holly leaves, the couple rocks and the neighbours too learn to live, well, between the sheets once in a while.

Who, how, what, why? Don't look for answers in this one which much too casually degrades the entire institution of marriage, fidelity and the works.

Can be totally ignored even on a very idle week day or week-end.

Watch it for Holland & Pattinson

THE DEVIL ALL THE TIME
Netflix
***ing: Tom Holland, Robert Pattinson, Bill Skarsgård, Jason Clarke, Eliza Scanlen**
Rated: 6/10

Almost all of us find it difficult to see a character that we have followed over the years and identify with, see playing another role — definitely not the fault of the actor. But the truth is that the characters that they have played leave such an impact that it becomes impossible to break the mould in which we are used to seeing them. This probably makes the task of the director and the actor tough but the end result is worth it and *The Devil All The Time* is a prime example how actors step out of the mould that viewers put them in and show that at the end of the day, it is job and a role that they stepped into even if it was for a few years.

The psychological thriller based on the novel of the same name by Donald Ray Pollock is directed and co-written by Antonio Campos and produced by Jake Gyllenhaal and Randall Poster. The story is simple enough. But there are many characters and while it does, at times, become difficult to follow the thread of each character's journey, they tend to collide with each other from time to time. The way it all comes together is interesting.

What is even more brilliant about this movie is the performance that Tom Holland and Robert Pattinson have given. Holland as a young man trying to protect his family from all the evil gives a stellar performance. However, it is Pattinson who stands out here even though he doesn't have as meaty a role as Holland. He may have a total screen presence of 30-35 minutes but the way he manages to break away from Edward Cullen is stunning. As the preacher in this one and a high-pitched Southern drawl, he is a surprise.

A report says that the actor had crafted the accent in his room for days and didn't let anyone hear it — not even Campos. It is riveting to watch him deliver the dialogues in this accent, so different from the extremely polished Cullen.

While the movie itself doesn't have much to say apart from the good versus evil, God versus the devil, what makes this 138-minute film worth a watch are Holland and Pattinson's acting.

— Shalini Saksena

Smashes patriarchy

DOLLY KITTY AUR WOH CHAMAKTE SITARE
Netflix
***ing: Konkona Sen Sharma, Bhumi Pednekar, Amol Parashar, Aamir Bashir, Kubra Sait, Vikrant Massey, Neelima Azmi**
Rated: 5.5/10

Off late, Bollywood has started making movies that are beyond glam women and having them be an arm candy for the hero and do a song and dance. Not that there is anything wrong with such films, the only problem is that few realise that what they see on the screen is a make-belief world and there is more to life, especially for women — they have aspirations, ambitions and needs.

Dolly Kitty Aur Woh Chamakte Sitare by director Alankrita Shrivastava and produced by Ekta Kapoor and Shobha Kapoor under their banner Balaji Telefilms is one such film. Shrivastava is known to make films that explore gender roles and the judgement on how women in our society should behave without questioning the moral values of the men. The film tries to bring out complexities of relationships, questions what is right and wrong as the story progresses.

The good part is that it doesn't pass any judgement on the choices the women make. In fact, it goes on as far as saying that it was the choice that they made because there is more to them that needs to be explored. The two-hour running time may appear to be a bit longer than what we are used to, but the story keeps the viewer engrossed.

Konkana Sen as Radha *aka* Dolly gives a great performance as she explores her relationship — with her husband, with her younger son, with her sister, with her a delivery boy and her mother. Bhumi Pednekar as Kaajal *aka* Kitty too gives a brilliant performance. Amol Parashar, Vikrant Massey and Aamir Bashir do justice to their performances.

— Shalini Saksena

Plan Your Day

Catch your favourite musicians live in an all-star virtual fundraiser event 'Together, Louder, Stronger' on September 26, 2020 at 6:30 pm, helping and supporting the performance industry workers and folk artists during the ongoing pandemic crisis.

Hosted by Anahad Foundation and produced by Believe Entertainment, the digital event will be live on Facebook and YouTube and will see a stellar line-up of 20 mainstream, independent and talented artists like Shaan, Mame Khan, Jonita Gandhi, Benny Dayal, Mamta Sharma, Bhuvan Bam, Nithyasree Mahadevan and many more supporting the cause and raising funds during this critical time.

Tune in to this exclusive digital event and provide your support to the entertainment industry — Together, Louder, Stronger!

Log on to *https://www.facebook.com/anahad.ngo/*.

TELLY TALE

MEET THE NEW KOMOLIKA

Nowadays actor Paritosh Tripathi is making the audience love him more by playing various Bollywood actors in the

show *Filmistaan* on Star Sharat. Everyone is already loving the comic tuning between Sunil Grover and Paritosh Tripathi. People are appreciating their work. Paritosh has not stopped here, the actor cum writer is all ready to play the most loved vamp in the *saas-bahu* series, none other than Komolika, this will be a site to watch. He is gathering much popularity in the orange shimmer *saree* draped in Bengali style with perfectly curled hair and make up that is making him look more like the character.

On this new look Paritosh comments: "Initially when my show maker Preeti Simoes, came to me with this idea of playing a popular female antagonist character, I was not very sure about it. But she convinced me, and I was ready to do it. Till date I have played many characters in the show, most of them have been male. I was not very sure that my audience would accept me in this new *avatar*? Will I do justice to the Komolika character. I did my best, and when the pictures were out on social media. I was blown after receiving so much love and comments like; cute, beautiful and charming which I am still receiving. I am loving it."

We will watch Paritosh doing this fascinating act soon in the show.

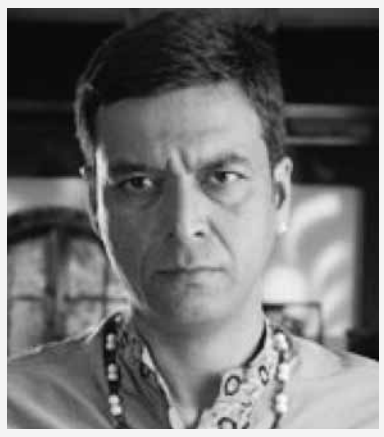
SATYAJIT SHARMA'S NEW OUTING

Impressing the television viewers with his power-packed roles, renowned actor Satyajit Sharma is all set to venture into the digital space with ALTBalaji and ZEE5 Club's upcoming web series *Bicchoo Ka Khel*. The stellar actor will be seen essaying the role of Anil Chaubey, an overconfident lawyer who brags about being the best criminal and civil lawyer in the state. Alongside him, the crime drama will see other talented actors like Divyenndu Sharma, Anshul Chauhan, Mukul Chadda, Gagan Anand, Zeishan Quadri, amongst others.

The popular TV actor is a known face amongst the masses, having starred in a host of daily Hindi soaps. *With Bicchoo Ka Khel*, he will be playing the role of a lawyer with top connections to the mafia and the cops who help him to create his empire.

Speaking about the series, Satyajit Sharma quipped: "It feels great to be a part of a crime thriller like *Bicchoo Ka Khel*. I play the character of Anil Chaubey, an overconfident lawyer who's been a jugaadu since childhood. It has been extremely interesting to act in the series with a talented cast and a great crew, an amazing storyline. I hope the audiences enjoy and shower their love for my character and the series."

Bicchoo Ka Khel is a crime thriller that revolves around the story of Akhil, a



budding writer whose life is nothing less than a roller-coaster ride with twists and turns to keep you at the edge of your seat.

SAMBHAVNA ALL SET TO PLAY MAHUA

Bollywood sensation, performer, and vlogger, Sambhavna Seth has made her mark in the entertainment industry. The actor will be making her comeback to television and is all set to make heads turn as she enters &TV's *Gudiya Humari Sabhi Pe Bhari*. Portraying the role of Radhe's (Ravi Mahashabde) first wife Mahua, Sambhavna is all set to wreak comical havoc in the lives of the close-knitted Gupta family.

Adding an extra dose of entertainment and humour to the chaos, Mahua comes with her son that leads to creating an unsettlement in the family to the extent that Sarla (Samta Sagar) goes to stay in the Haveli. The most fun part, however, is that Radhe has no memory of ever getting married to anyone besides Sarla, forget having a child. What unfolds is a comical situation that develops between these three characters.

Expressing her excitement, Mahua *aka* Sambhavna Seth says: "I am excited to back on television to portray the role of Mahua in a light-hearted show on &TV, *Gudiya Humari Sabhi Pe Bhari*. This is the first time I will be exploring a light-hearted genre. As Mahua now enters the show, the audience will now be privy to a higher notch of comical chaos and entertainment. I am sure the audience will enjoy this new role of mine and continue to shower me with their love and support. I am eagerly looking forward to work with everyone in the show."

DISNEY BRINGS IMAGINE THAT

Disney Channel is all set to treat its young viewers and families with an all new DIY show *Imagine That*. Helmed by every child's favourite art mentor and friend Rob, the show brings imagination alive through DIY with upcycling as the key theme. One of the pioneering faces of DIY art, Rob promises to take the Imagine That experience to a whole new level for young fans and their families.

The show will focus on a child's natural creative palette through experiential initiatives, all centred around repurposing. The show will see Rob engage with children as their mentor and friend who encourages their imaginative minds through fun and innovative DIY. It aims at inspiring the young ones to create top quality art out of materials that are usually discarded at home. Be it robots from bottle caps, monsters from egg shells, gorillas from kitchen cutlery, fish out of cables and other home e-waste; *Imagine That* will focus on upcycling everyday items and much more.

"A child's mind is filled with curiosity and imagination and with Imagine That, we are encouraging kids to push the boundaries of their creativity. The show, will take DIY a step further by making innovative and fun artsy products out of simple and easily available day-to-day things. I believe that imagination and creativity together can make a change the world we live in and this show will help kids and their families have lots of fun with DIY while understanding the process of repurposing," said Rob.

Disney Channel has been consistently bringing fun and wholesome entertainment for kids and families. Post a successful summer with new series such as *Bapu*, *Guddu* and *Gadget Guru Ganesha*, the channel now extends a new treat filled with imagination and creativity with *Imagine That*.

'I love playing Kalyani'

SHEETAL MAULIK, who plays Kalyani in Pyar Ki Luka Chhupi, speaks with SHALINI SAKSENA about how she ended up playing a negative character, her first break and challenges in shooting under the new normal

■ **You play a negative character in Pyar Ki Luka Chhupi for the first time. How is it going?**

I am thoroughly enjoying it and the same can be seen on screen. It depends on how far you are willing to take the role and how you play it out. You know your limitations and playing such a character is tougher since you are not playing just one role. Earlier, I have been part of comedy shows and done lead roles that have been positive. Doing a show where you are playing a negative role, it gives you an opportunity to explore yourself and do something that you would not do in real life. You are portraying something that is opposite to what you are, be negative and yet be funny.

■ **Were there apprehensions in taking up the role?**

I have always wanted to explore my acting abilities. When I got an opportunity to be part of this show, I had no reason to turn it down. There were two things playing. First, I have been waiting to work with the makers of Pyar Ki Luka Chhupi. Second, since I had already done lead roles and comedy, I wanted to take up this project. The only challenge was to train myself for the accent. Kalyani is a totally Kanpuriya woman.

■ **You also had to perfect a new language. What was the preparation?**

When I gave the auditions, I knew that I didn't have the accent correct. The only reason why I got the role was because they felt that I could act. But after that the team really helped me. The script comes in the language that I am supposed to speak. The only thing that I had to perfect the accent correctly for the dialogues. For this, I heard a number of jokes from the region. An assistant, Prem, who is from the area, would tell me how to speak certain words. This helped.

■ **How did you get interested in acting?**

I am a trained Bharatanatyam dancer. I have been dancing since I was three. I still practice it and Kuchipudi. There was a contest but I couldn't participate. The organisers asked me to open the contest. I performed. Sachin Pilgaonkar, who was there, told me to take up acting. I told him, I couldn't act. He said not to worry and took me for a role in an episodic show of his. Once the make-up is on, it has been on. I have done Hindi and Marathi theatre. I have worked with the likes of Bhavana Balsavar and Shubha Khote. My journey has been that of a learner. I have not taken any acting lessons. I am able to emote and understand the character because I have done theatre.

■ **How did you get your first break with Akkad Bakkad Bambey Bo?**

Actually, I did *Hello Dolly* before this. I had played a kleptomaniac for production house Sagar Films Pvt Ltd. When they came up with *Akkad Bakkad Bambey Bo*, they knew I could act and that is how I came on board for this project as a lead. It was a different role. I played a student.

■ **You have now been in the industry for over a decade. How has the journey been thus far?**

It has been good. One has to go with the flow. Yes, there have been changes. But if we don't move forward, we won't be able to move past the negatives. The good is that we are paid better. Then, there were actors, today we have stars. It is important to understand that change is a reality. To accept it is necessary. When I was young, I played roles according to my age. Now I am doing roles that fit my age.

■ **What is the toughest thing about being an actor?**

Everything that comes your way is tough. Even with Kalyani's role, I still get butterflies when I am on camera. There is always the fear that I may not be able to remain the skin of the character. The good is that it makes me more determined to do my work better.

■ **How tough is it to shoot under the new normal?**

When we first started, I was afraid. I have a four-year-old daughter. My father lives with me. The fear was very high. I was not sure whether I should get back to work or not. But the makers have been thorough with precautions and I am doing the same.

■ **What next?**

I am concentrating on this show. I work 25 days a month. The rest of the days I want to spend with my family and catch up spending time with my daughter.

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Week-long Raipur lockdown from Sep 21

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

With 900 to 1,000 Covid cases detected daily in the Chhattisgarh capital, the administration has announced a crippling lockdown in the entire Raipur district from September 21.

"The lockdown will come into effect on September 21 (at) 9:00 pm and conclude on September 28 at 12 in the night. Entire Raipur district is hereby declared a containment zone," District Collector S. Bharti Dasan said in his order.

By September 19, more than 26,000 Covid-19 cases had been detected in Raipur. Every day about 900 to 1,000 cases are being detected. Under these circumstances, it is imperative to break the Covid chain, the Collector said.

Therefore, it is necessary to declare the entire Raipur a containment zone, the order said.

During the lockdown, petrol pumps will provide fuel only to government vehicles, private vehicles engaged in medical emergency and ambulances. Other vehicles will not get fuel.

Grocery and vegetable shops will be also closed. Inter-district border will be shut, the order said.

Industrial houses and construction units will have to make onsite residential arrangements for their laborers to run their units. Liquor shops will be suspended. All government and private offices will be shut.

Those who need to move out of the district will require an e-pass, the order said, adding that emergency services and government offices related to them will function.

Lockdown in Surguja, Bilaspur

RAIPUR: Surguja and Bilaspur district administrations in Chhattisgarh on Saturday declared week-long lockdowns beginning from September 21 and 22 respectively.

The lockdown in Bilaspur will start at 5:00 am on September 22 and conclude on September 28 at 12 midnight. Emergency services will remain unaffected, said an order by Collector Dr Saransh Mittar.

By September 19, Bilaspur had recorded 5,834 Covid cases. Daily, 250 to 300 people are becoming Covid positive in the district, the order said.

In Surguja district, the lockdown will begin at 9:00 pm on September 21 and end on September 28 at midnight, said an order issued by Collector Sanjeev Jha.

By September 19, 1,386 persons had been found Covid positive in the district. About 50 to 70 cases are detected every day in Surguja, the order said.

Former CM Raman Singh detected Covid positive

Former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh was detected Covid positive on Saturday.

"Following initial Covid symptoms, I got myself tested and was diagnosed Covid positive. I request those who came in contact with me in the past few days to go into isolation and get themselves tested," Raman Singh tweeted.

Impose lockdown sternly, and across C'garh: BJP

RAIPUR: The BJP said on Saturday that the declaration of a week-long lockdown in the Chhattisgarh capital to beat Covid-19 has come too late but nevertheless asked the government to impose it with a stern hand.

BJP state President Vishnudeo Sai said his party has been drawing the attention of the government on the need for a lockdown to bring down the cases.

He said in a statement that the lockdown should be implemented sternly and ruling party leaders should not be involved in any type of violation.

On the week-long strike by 13,000 contract health employees, he said the government should regularize them to prevent the health services from going into a 'coma'. Earlier, junior doctors and sanitation staff had gone on strike.

The Leader of the Opposition in state Assembly, Dharamlal Kaushik, said the lockdown should be imposed across the state after discussions with all stakeholders. The period can be for two weeks to stem the further spread of Covid-19.

BJP MLA and spokesperson Shivratan Sharma said it has become crystal clear that the state government has totally failed to control the pandemic. As the situation has gone out of hand, the realization has dawned on the importance of the Central government's decisions, he said.

Contractual health workers go on strike

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Defying a Minister's appeal, a union representing the contractual health workers on Saturday staged a state-wide strike in Chhattisgarh demanding their regularization.

The Friday night plea by Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo to prevent the strike proved ineffective.

"The first day of our strike was quite successful. Of the 13,000 contractual health workers in the state, 95 percent staged protests at district level hospitals," Hemant Sinha, President of Contractual Health Workers Association, told The Pioneer over phone.

"We have stopped working across the state and will not back down until our demands are met," he said.

In districts, the Chief Medical and Health Officers (CMHO) were handed over memorandum by the protesting workers.

Earlier, Singh Deo, citing the emergency health situation in Chhattisgarh, appealed to them not to go on strike.

"Today when we are facing a serious challenge like Covid and Chhattisgarh is in a critical phase, I feel this was not the time to go on strike. We promised regularization of all contractual workers in every department and we are committed to it. But this is not the time to compromise with the health and lives of people," Singh Deo said in a video message.

The erstwhile BJP regime also faced massive protests by health workers and were promised their posts will be regularized. But this did not happen. The Congress party too before the 2018 elections promised their regularization.

Experts reach Jagdalpur for flights service

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

With the first flight from Jagdalpur to roll out on September 21, a five-member Airports Authority of India (AAI) team will camp there ahead of the start of regular flights services to the Chhattisgarh capital and Hyderabad.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will launch the service.

Rakesh Sahay, Director of Swami Vivekananda Airport in Raipur, said in a statement on Saturday that four members of the team had reached Jagdalpur while the fifth is expected to reach on Sunday afternoon.

Three of the members will look after the Air Traffic Control (ATC), one will take care of the communication and navigation systems while the fifth member will operate the Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) to guide the plane to land.

Sahay named the ATC team members as Rajesh Uraon, Assistant Deputy General Manager from Nagpur, Prince Chandrakar, Assistant Manager from Raipur, and Dhruve, Junior Executive from Kolkata.

Vishwajeet Das, Manager in Raipur, has been sent for communication navigation. He hails from Jagdalpur. All will be stationed at Jagdalpur for the next 45 days.

Prashant Salmari, Assistant Deputy General Manager (Electrical) in Raipur, has been sent for two days. He will impart training to technicians appointed by the Collector for daily maintenance and maintaining the standard operation of PAPI.

Jagdalpur Airport was inaugurated on June 4, 2018 and the first flight of Air Odisha was operated. The service ended on October 8, 2018. An Alliance Air (ATR-72) was tested on March 6, 2020.

Sheer Violation: As the lockdown in the Rajnandgaon Municipal Corporation limits was lifted, residents poured into the market area as shops opened on Saturday, violating all norms aimed at stemming the spread of Covid-19. *Pioneer Photo*

Two-day training for Assembly by-poll in Marwahi

RAIPUR: The office of Chhattisgarh Chief Electoral Officer will hold a two-day training on September 20-21 for the smooth conduct of the Assembly by-election to be held from the Marwahi (ST) seat, it was announced on Saturday.

The training will be attended by the District Collector, the District Election Officer, the Returning and Assistant Returning Officer and seven other officers, a press release said.

The training was earlier to be held from September 21 but was brought forward due to the lockdown

Govt to conduct physical test soon to recruit constables

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government is soon set to conduct the physical efficiency test to recruit police constables for 2,259 posts.

The preparations for the test have started at the Police Headquarters and the date will be announced within a week, said Chhattisgarh Director General of Police (DGP) D.M. Awasthi.

The candidates who have qualified the written examination need not worry, he said.

Amid the Covid-19 epidemic, the physical efficiency test could not be conducted on the previously announced date.

In December 2017, the previous BJP government issued an advertisement to recruit 2,259 police constables in the state's 27 districts.

The physical test lasted from April 26 to June 12 in 2018 in which 61,511 candidates passed. In the written test on September 31, 2018, a total of 48,761 candidates passed. The candidates were waiting for the interview call.

On September 27, 2019, the Chhattisgarh government cancelled the recruitment process for 2,259 police constables.

Some of the qualified candidates moved the High Court, which ordered the government to conduct again only the physical test. The results of written examination will be unchanged.

Police chase truck, seize illicit liquor

STAFF REPORTER ■
MAHASAMUND

In Bollywood-style, Chhattisgarh Police on Saturday chased and intercepted a truck in Mahasamund district and seized a huge cache of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and moonshine valued at ₹30 lakh. Two persons were arrested.

Mahasamund Additional Superintendent of Police Megha Tembhurkar told The Pioneer that the seizure included 504 cartoons of IMFL besides country made liquor.

The accused were identified as Mohan Lal (60) and Devi Singh Rajput (48). Mohan Lal is from Madhya Pradesh and Devi Singh from Rajasthan.

Acting on a tip, the police and a cyber cell team spotted a truck on the Saraipali-Mahasamund route.

When it did not stop, it was chased and intercepted near a dhaba on National Highway NH-53.The truck (RJ-27, GB-2317) was also seized.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.-33004/99 REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY, Bilaspur)
NOTIFICATION
Bilaspur, the 12th September, 2020
NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 20E of THE RAILWAY ACT 1989

S.O. 3124(E)- Whereas by the notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) Notification Number S.O. 2384, dated **17th July 2020,** published in the Gazette of India Extra Ordinary, Part-II, section 3, sub-section (ii), (hereinafter referred to as the said notification) under sub-section (1) of 20A of the Railway Act-1989(24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act),the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the schedule annexed to the said notification for execution of Special Railway Project- BILASPUR to USLAPUR Railway Flyover (10.40 km.) in Bilaspur district in the state of Chhattisgarh.

And, whereas the substance of notification No.2384 under subsection (4) of section 20A of the said Act was published in the daily Newspapers, Nai Dunia/Hari bhumi Bilaspur (Hindi Edition) on **24th July 2020** and The Times Of India, Raipur (English Edition) on **24th July 2020,** whereas Tifra Village land looser objections received and has been sorted out by competent authority, and whereas, in pursuance of subsection (1) of section 20E of the said act, the Competent Authority has submitted his report to the Central Government. Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the Competent Authority, and in exercise of the powers conferred by subsection(1) of the section 20E of the Railway Act-1989, the Central Government hereby declares that the lands specified in the schedule annexed hereto shall be acquired for the aforesaid purpose; and, further, in pursuance of subsection (2) of section 20E of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the official Gazette, the land specified in the Schedule annexed hereto shall vest absolutely with the Central Government free from all Encumbrances.

Name of Village: -Tifra, Tehsil: -Bilaspur, Dist: -Bilaspur (C.G.)

Sl. No.	Khasra No.	Area of Acquired Landin (Hact)	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Name of Land Owner
1	918/2	0.100	Private	Diverted	Sindhu trade links, Virsensindhu S/o Chaudhary Mitrsen Sindhu
2	828	0.015	Private	Diverted	Sindhu trade links, Virsensindhu S/o Chaudhary Mitrsen Sindhu
3	785	0.068	Private	Diverted	Sindhu trade links, Virsensindhu S/o Chaudhary Mitrsen Sindhu
4	734	0.011	Private	Diverted	Sindhu trade links, Virsensindhu S/o Chaudhary Mitrsen Sindhu
5	962	0.03	Private	Diverted	Virsen Sindhu S/o Chaudhary Mitrsen Sindhu
6	847/11	0.012	Private	Diverted	Bisroo S/o Mangloo Ram Nirmalkar
7	847/8	0.012	Private	Diverted	Lachhan Ram S/o Ranjan Singh
8	847/10	0.032	Private	Padat	S.K Aka Sahnoo Das S/o Aagardas
	847/12		Private	Padat	
9	847/13	0.024	Private	Padat	Bodhan S/o Shivprasad
10	847/9	0.016	Private	Diverted	Shivprasad S/o Kunjeelal
11	735/2	0.131	Private	Padat	Aaditya S/o Marshal kumar Heeradhar
12	736/5	0.006	Private	Diverted	RohiniAnchal W/O Shivkumar
13	736/10	0.007	Private	Diverted	Ranjanabai W/O Chandraprakash
14	736/19	0.008	Private	Padat	Kusum W/o Eeshwar, Lata W/o Mahesh
15	736/24	0.039	Private	Padat	Ahmad Hussain S/o Najeer Ahmad
16	1038/1	0.08	Private	Diverted	Sindhu trade links,By manger D.S. Thakur S/o Sher Singh
17	866/1-2	0.069	Private	Diverted	Sindhu trade links, Pvt. Ltd Vritpaal Singh S/o.Chaudhary Mitrsen Sindhu
	867/1-2		Private	Diverted	
18	829	0.06	Private	Diverted	
19	963	0.004	Private	Diverted	
Total		0.724			

Total land: - 0.724 Hectare
[File No: Dy.CE/Con/Sur/BSP/BSP-USL Flyover]
R.N. SUNKAR, Chief Administrative Officer/Construction, Bilaspur

J&K LG's mega package to boost business in State

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Fulfilling his commitment made with the business community, Lt Governor, Manoj Kumar Sinha on Saturday announced a mega relief and revival package of ₹1,350 crore to help the J&K business sector to tide over their problems.

Addressing a press conference in the Raj Bhawan auditorium in Srinagar Lt Governor announced a package of measures, both financial and non-financial, aimed at helping business and entrepreneurs.

In his opening remarks Lt Governor also stated that the first part of overall economic package came from Government of India in terms of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Elaborating on the details, he said that so far ₹1,400 crore has already been provided through JK Bank and other banks under this Abhiyan. He added that it has many components which seek to help business entities in multiple ways such as provision of liquidity and other financial supports. He said that many welfare measures such as free rations and support to the most needy were also being provided.

The Lt Governor said that the main component of today's package is 5 % interest subvention to all borrowers irrespective of their sizes, which would cost about ₹950 crore. The interest subvention will be available for six months in the current financial year and it will be a huge relief in the current scenario.

Lt Governor went on to say that government has also decided to provide 50 % waiver of fixed charges for one year with respect to electricity and water which would cost ₹105 crore. He said that they have also decided to assist bus drivers/conductors, auto/taxi drivers etc who may have lost their livelihood by providing for an appropriate mechanism.

Further 50% or ₹5.00 lakh subsidy whichever is lower shall provided to the transporters for replacement of old buses and the insurance premium shall be borne by the Government subject to maximum of ₹5,000 per vehicle for Buses/Mini Buses, ₹3,000 for taxes/sumos and ₹2,000 for three wheelers.

For Tourism Sector, subsidy for installation of Bio-digesters in the houseboats has been announced.

Assistance shall also be extended out of 'JK Relief Fund' to some 19914 Shikara/House Boat owners/Tourist Guides/Pithuwalas/Dandiwalas/Sledge Walas/Pony/Camel Riders and cash assistance of ₹1,000 to all of them given from last 3 months shall be extended for further 06 months ending 31st December, 2020.

There are more than 3100 artists who have lost their livelihood during the pandemic. The artists associated with the cultural academy shall be paid Rs 1000 per month out of 'JK Relief Fund' for a period of 09 months w.e.f 1st April, 2020.

For agriculture sector, district level bankers committee shall be constituted to ensure loan coverage for agriculture and allied non-farm activities under Mudra loans. Meetings will be organised every month to overcome difficulties faced by the borrowers.

Moreover J&K Bank shall frame customised "Help Tourism" scheme for financial assistance to persons associated with the Tourism Sector with attractive pricing and repayment features. All stake holders shall be taken on board for any modifications.

As far as tax concessions are concerned, the filing of the GST reimbursement claims has also been extended till 31st December, 2020. Handholding to remove difficulties in filing returns and mechanism to avoid delays in reimbursement claims shall be instituted. The accumulated interest shall be converted into funded interest term loan.

UP: 40 docs leave in last 2 months

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The Health Department is not getting doctors even during the Corona pandemic. During the last two months, 40 doctors left the health department after selection. Not only this, no private doctor is ready despite offering five thousand rupees per day. There is already a huge shortage of doctors in the health department. After the corona virus infection spread, the demand for doctors rises. JN Medical College, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Joint Hospital, 100 Bed Hospital Atrauli, CHC Harduaganj, Jeevan Jyothi Ayurvedic Medical college, Government Homoeopathic Medical College at Chherat were converted into Covid-19 Hospital.

Three LeT terrorists arrested in Rajouri: DGP

PNS ■ JAMMU

A joint team of security forces have arrested three Lashkar-e- Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists from the forest area of Gurdan in Rajouri. These three terrorists were spotted in the area by the security personnel during a cordon and search operations.

Director General of Police, Dilbagh Singh while sharing details of the operation told reporters on saturday, "Rajouri Police along with Army's 38 RR had launched a cordon and search operation in the general area of Gurdan where three suspected persons carrying a bag each were spotted".

Dilbagh Singh said, "the trio attempted to flee after throwing a grenade on the search party but the grenade did not explode and the brave personnel of police and army managed to nab all of them along with huge cache of arms/ammunition which were dropped by drone from Pakistan".

He said the arrested terrorists have been identified and all hail from South Kashmir. The DGP said that drones are being used by the Pakistani agencies and its sponsored terror outfits to supply arms/ammunition and drugs inside our territory.

The DGP said that few days back Poonch police along with army arrested two terrorist operatives and seized arms & ammunition from them.

He also said that Rajouri Police with the assistance of Poonch police busted a narco-terrorism module by recovering 11Kg of heroin during the past few days. "

This is a huge catch cost of which runs into crores of rupees and the sale proceeds of this were to be used by Hizbul Mujahideen outfit to finance terrorist activities in J&K",DGP added.

4,644 afflicted in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Giving a scare to the entire population of the State, 4,644 new patients were diagnosed with Covid-19 in Kerala on Saturday.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in his media briefing that 18 persons succumbed to the pandemic during the last 24 hours and this took the death tally in the state till date to 519.

Except in Wayanadu (95) and Idukki (47), the remaining 12 districts diagnosed more than 200 patients each. Thiruvananthapuram had the highest number of new cases on Saturday (824).

3,781 persons contracted the pandemic through social contacts while 498 persons could not find out the source from where they were infected. The State also detected on Saturday 86 health workers who got infected through social contact/local transmission.

There are 37,488 active cases admitted to hospitals in Kerala. The State administration found itself in an awkward position as it was reported widely that the an exclusive Covid hospital built by the Tata Group in Kasaragod district was yet to commence its operations as the Government of Kerala failed to appoint even a single doctor in this 550-bed hospital built by the business conglomerate at a cost of Rs 60 crore. Though the keys of the hospital were handed over to the State administration on September 9, the Covid-19 hospital remains closed.

Kasaragod district diagnosed 191 new patients with Covid-19 . Though there is a medical college in the district head quarters, it also remains without adequate staff, said a senior doctor in the general hospital.

Suspended SO reinstated in case of assault on BJP MLA

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Suspended SO Anuj Saini accused of assault on BJP MLA last month in Iglas of Gonda police station has been reinstated but he did not receive any clean chit. A departmental inquiry from the SP city level is underway against the suspension and allegations against him. This investigation will determine the future of Anuj Saini. Currently, he was posted to the police line.

Anuj Saini was suspended after last month's incident at the police station and the concerned SP was transferred from here. The entire case was summoned from IG.

However, so far, no ATR has been sent to the district from the IG at the government level.

Fraud in Prime Minister's housing scheme in UP

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Multi-story building owners, tractors, and four-wheeler owners have also been selected for the Prime Minister's housing scheme in the district. When the Central Government again issued an order to investigate the beneficiaries, then this fraud came to the light.

The investigation teams have found 1952 beneficiaries in the district who are ineligible. The Center has launched the Prime Minister's housing scheme to provide housing to the homeless.

Under this scheme, in the urban area, 2.5 lakh rupees are granted for house construction and ₹1.2 lakh in the village along with ₹12000 for the construction of toilets and 100 days MGNREGA wages.

The government had selected the beneficiaries according to the 2011 Economic and Social Census. There were many people whose names were not on this list. Two years ago, the central government conducted a re-survey in the district.

Block-level teams surveyed homeless people across the district, in which 6737 needy were found.

The district administration stamped their names and sent the list to the state government from where it was finally sent to the center and the Central Government published the list of all the beneficiaries on the housing portal. Recently, the government received some complaints about the selection of ineligible beneficiaries.

Veteran communist leader, former LS member Roza Deshpande dies

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Veteran communist leader and former Lok Sabha member Roza Deshpande died of old age and prolonged chronic illness at her residence here on Saturday afternoon.

She was 91 and is survived by a son, daughter and grandchildren. She was the daughter of one of founders of the Communist Party of India Shripad Amrit Dange.

Roza, who was born a month after her father Dange was arrested in the Meerut conspiracy case and sentenced to life imprisonment, entered political movements through the All India Students' Federation (AISF) and Trade Unions. She also took part in the Samyukta Maharashtra movement (for the creation of the state of Maharashtra) and the Goa liberation struggle as an AISF member.

In 1964, she organised a massive demonstration of women from walks of life and submitted a charter of demands to the government. It was the first demonstration of its kind in the history of Bombay's labour movement, which forced the private firms to withdraw an objectionable clause of forcing women workers to resign after marriage.

Having organised the workers in drug, chemicals and pharmaceutical industry into one trade union, Roza went onto form an All India Pharmaceutical Employees' Union and got it affiliated to the Chemical and Oil International of the World Federation of Trade Unions at Praha.

In 1974, Roza was elected to Lok Sabha from Bombay South-Central Constituency as a candidate of the Community Party of India. As an MP, she worked on the various committees associated with labour problems and women issues.

She was subsequently elected to the National Council of Communist Party of India.

During the Emergency, her father Dange and Roza stood firmly by late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, for which she was and her group was expelled from the CPI. Dange was also subsequently expelled from the CPI. This led to the formation of All India Communist Party of India, of which she was the general secretary. She was associated with the All India Communist Party of India from 1980 to 1987.

Ahead of the 1980 Lok Sabha polls, late Mrs Gandhi wanted her to explain her stand on certain issues to Mr Breznev, the then President of the erstwhile USSR. She specially sent Roza carrying her letter and had delivered it to Mr Breznev personally.

After she won the 1980 Lok Sabha elections with absolute majority, Mrs Gandhi offered Dange, Roza and her husband Bani Deshpande to contest the election with the support of the Congress (I) but they refused in protest, as the CPI disallowed Dange to contest the elections with Congress(I)'s support. However, Mrs Gandhi appointed Bani Deshpande on the manifesto committee of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress (I)

Later in 1990, the Maharashtra government appointed Roza as the head of the committee to study "Avenues for Women's Employment" under the Equal Remuneration Act. After a detailed study, she submitted a report to the Maharashtra government.

Apart from trade union activities, Roza was a student of Marathi literature and history. One of her lesser known aspects of her was love for poetry.

Tripura reports 535 new cases, 7 fresh fatalities

Agartala: To 21,507 on Saturday as 535 more people tested positive for the infection, a health official said.

Seven fresh fatalities pushed the northeastern state's coronavirus death toll to 235, he said. West Tripura district, under which Agartala falls, has accounted for 130 of the 235 COVID-19 deaths reported in the state so far, the official said.Tripura now has 7,107 active coronavirus cases, while 14,142 people have recovered from the disease so far, and 23 patients have migrated to other states, he said. The state has tested 3,52,007 samples for COVID-19 so far, the official added. ***PTI***

SUSHANT DEATH- LINKED DRUG PROBE

NCB arrests crucial man, seizes 670 grams of cocaine

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a crucial arrest and consequent seizure of drugs that may help break celebrity-drug nexus in Mumbai and the national capital, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) arrested a man linked to a network of DJs and drug party organisers from neighbouring Palghar district, and seized 670 grams of Cocaine sourced from Ethiopia, at a location in New Delhi.

Close on the heels of the arrest of six more alleged drug peddlers and seized 1.433 kg. of Charas and Ganja in connection with the ongoing Sushant Singh Rajput death-related drug case, the NCB arrested a man Vasai, who is linked to a network of DJs and party organizers and supply of cocaine to them.

The NCB seized 670 grams of Cocaine from New Delhi, sourced from Ethiopia. As part of 'Controlled delivery operation launched by it, the NCB arrested the man linked to a network of DJs and drug party organizers.

Identifying the arrested man as S. Ghangale, the NCB officials said that he would be produced before a Delhi court.

"The seizure took place in Delhi and the arrest of the accused person was carried out from Mumbai. The contraband was sourced from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The distribution network in Mumbai was under probe, which has possible linkages with high profile users. The contraband was concealed in a parcel containing tailoring material (thread roll)," NCB's Deputy Director (Ops) K P S Malhotra said.

Malhotra said that the identified network had the involvement of DJs and other party organizers, who are connected to the party circles of Mumbai.

The "Controlled delivery operation" is a technique of allowing illicit or suspect consignments of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, controlled substances or substances substituted for them to pass out of, or through or into the territory of India with the knowledge and under the supervision of an officer empowered in this behalf or duly authorised under section 50A with a view to identifying the persons involved in the commission of an offence under the NDPS Act.

High level meet to review corona situation in J&K

PNS ■ JAMMU

Amid spike in the Covid-19 cases especially across Jammu region, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Saturday rushed a high level central team headed by Director National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Dr SK Singh to Jammu to take stock of the ground situation and suggest measures to contain the spread of the virus and improve health care facilities.

In the last one week, Jammu region has recorded 80 Covid-19 deaths and over 5000 residents have tested positive for coronavirus.

The total number of active positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir Saturday stood at 21281. Out of these, Jammu has so far recorded 12318 active positive cases while Kashmir valley has reported 8963 active cases. The death toll has reached 987 in J&k.

For almost two weeks the health care infrastructure was struggling to cope with the huge rush of patients leading to chaotic situation in the dedicated Covid hospitals and isolated wards across other health centres.

According to the official sources, soon after their arrival here in Jammu a team of doctors headed by Dr Vijay Hadda, Associate Professor, Department of Pulmonary Critical care, AIIMS, New Delhi visited Government Medical college hospital, Jammu and interacted with the senior faculty along with Principal of the college Dr Nisab Chand Digra. He was accompanied by a senior epidemiologist.

The team members took comprehensive feedback on reasons behind sudden spike in cases of coronavirus, total number of deaths, treatment facilities, challenges and shortage of trained manpower and infrastructure facilities.

The team members also visited few other places where patients were admitted in Jammu.

Another team headed by Dr. S.K Singh, Director NCDC New Delhi along with Dr Tanzin Joint Director NCDC New Delhi visited Udhampur and took feedback from the ground zero. A separate meeting was chaired by the central team along with Financial commissioner, Health Atal Dulloo here in the civil secretariat.

SALE NOTICE UNDER IBC, 2016
M/s. TURBOMACHINERY ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES LIMITED - IN LIQUIDATION
Liquidator Address: Plot No:6-3-663/C, Officer's colony, Punjagutta, Hyderabad, Telangana 500 082

The following assets and properties of **M/s. TURBOMACHINERY ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES LIMITEDIN LIQUIDATION** forming part of Liquidation Estate are for sale by the Liquidator. The sale will be done by the undersigned through the E-Auction platform: **https://www.bankauctions.in/** (with unlimited extension of 5 minutes each)

S. No	Asset Description	Reserve Price in INR
I	Company as a whole - On going concern basis**(GST as applicable for the transaction will be extra)**	6,20,00,000
II	**A. All of the Industrial land** (admeasuring approx 1.17 acre), building / shed at Plot 141/3 & 150 Part, Sy.No.172/AA, 172/E, 172/B & 172/C, S.V. Co-op Industrial Estate, IDA Bollaram, Jinnaram (Mandal), Sanga Reddy (Dist), Telangana, India and **B. The plant and machinery** pre-existing in this address **C. The plant and machinery**dismantled and shifted to above address from 309, IDA Bachupalli, Miyapur-Bollaram Road, Hyderabad 500 072. **(GST as applicable for the machinery will be extra for B and C)**	5,25,00,000
III	**A. The plant and machinery**pre-exisitng at Plot 141/3 & 150 Part, Sy.No.172/AA, 172/E, 172/B & 172/C, S.V. Co-op Industrial Estate, IDA Bollaram, Jinnaram (Mandal), Sanga Reddy (Dist), Telangana, India **B. The plant and machinery**dismantled and shifted to above address from 309, IDA Bachupalli, Miyapur-Bollaram Road, Hyderabad 500 072. **(GST as applicable for the machinery will be extra)**	1,20,00,000
IV	All the **LEASE HOLD Industrial Land** (admeasuring about 3 Acre) at Plot 23 and 24 Part, Siltara Phase I (Mouza Gram Siltara, R.N.M Dharsiwa -1), Raipur. (Industrial Area Siltara Raipur) **(GST if applicable will be extra)**	95,00,000

E-auction timings on 09th October, 2020

Item I: 10 to 11	Item II: 11:10 to 12:10	Item III: 12:20 to 13:20	Item IV: 13:30 to 14:30

(1) Interested applicants may **REFER TO** the **COMPLETE E-AUCTION PROCESS INFORMATION DOCUMENT** containing terms and conditions of online E-Auction, E-Auction Bid Form, Eligibility criteria, Declaration and affidavit by Bidders, EMD requirement etc., available in service provider M/s 4closure's website **https://www.bankauctions.in/**or through mail to **turboliquidator@gmail.com**.
(2) E-Auction will be conducted on **"AS IS WHERE IS"," AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"** only**without any obligation whatsoever on the liquidator subsequent to sale**.
(3) The Liquidator has right to accept or cancel or extend or modify etc. any terms and conditions of E-Auction at any time. He has right to reject any of the bid without giving any reasons.
(4) **EMD** & Documents Submission deadline is **5:00PM IST on 3rd October,2020** and E Auction will be conducted from **10amtill 14:30pmIST on 9th October, 2020.** Last date for site visit / inspection is **3rd October, 2020.**

Date: 20-Sept-2020
Place: Hyderabad
Sd/-
Shankar Raman Seetharaman, Liquidator,
Phone: 9246537502
IBBI Regn No. IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00405/2017-18/10722

FARM BILL

BKU to protest in Haryana today; CM urges farmers to defer agitation, invites them to hold talks

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Even as the Bharatiya Kisan Union's Haryana unit will hold a statewide protest against the Centre'' farm bills on Sunday during which they will block roads for three hours, chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar has urged them to defer the agitation and invited them to talks.

In an appeal issued here, Khattar said that while one hand everyone in a democracy has the right to express their views, on the other maintaining peace in the state is also the utmost duty of any Government.

Khattar said that the three Farm Ordinances are in the interest of farmers and it is unfortunate to see that the opposition parties are blatantly politicizing the issue so as to achieve their vested interests by misleading the farmers. Khattar urged the farmers to remember the appeal made by Deenbandhu Chaudhary Chhotu Ram in which he had said that they should recognize their enemies.

Haryana BKU chief Gurnam Singh said the Centre did not withdraw the three agriculture-related ordinances and presented them as bills during the ongoing session of Parliament, which have been passed in the Lok Sabha. "We had warned the government not to go ahead with these "anti-farmer" legislation.

We will be holding a protest across the state during which we will block roads for three hours. However, the GT road (national highway) will not be blocked," he said on Saturday, adding that they have support from other farmer outfits.

He also said that farmers from Haryana and Punjab will start a movement against the "anti-farmer" measures which will later intensify into pan-India protests. On September 10, the BKU along with some other farmer outfits had held a protest in Kurukshetra's Pipli against the farm ordinances.

Haryana Chief Minister Khattar, said that at this time those who are spreading confusion about Ordinances promulgated by the Central Government are the ones who are the real enemies of farmers and are trying just to serve their own political interests rather than having any concern about farmers.

He requested the farmers associations that while holding a Statewide road blockade they should ensure that least inconvenience is caused to citizens and passengers.

He said special care should be taken to ensure no obstruction in the way is caused for any patients going to hospital, pregnant women and vehicles supplying essential commodities.

Cautioning farmers about the fact that at times under the guise of any protest, many anti-social elements try to spread violence just to fulfill their vested interests, the Chief Minister said that it is very important to remain vigilant against such anti-social elements.

Reacting to the protest call, Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij said all arrangements have been made to ensure that vehicular movement on highways is not disrupted during the agitation. The minister added that the opposition was "misleading" the farmers and that they should realise that the farm reforms were for their benefit.

Hry govt asks all officials to be alert ahead of farmers protest today

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Ahead of the Statewide road blockade call given by the Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) and some other organizations to be held between 12 pm to 3 pm on Sunday, Haryana Government on Saturday issued directions to ensure law and order and minimize inconvenience to the people.

An official spokesman said that Deputy Commissioners, and Senior Superintendent of Police and Superintendent of Police have been directed to hold talks with the organizers and ensure a peaceful protest. He said that organizers have been advised to register their protest in a peaceful and lawful manner and desist from blocking the National or State highways.

All Executive Magistrates and Police officers have been asked to remain present in the districts and they should not proceed on leave. The Executive Magistrates have been directed to remain stationed along with their police counterparts at all such places where congregation of protestors is anticipated.

ALL EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATES AND POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO REMAIN PRESENT IN THE DISTRICTS AND THEY SHOULD NOT PROCEED ON LEAVE

The spokesman said the protestors should be dealt with tact and patience. However they should not be allowed to take law in their hands. The spokesman said that the Director General of Police, Divisional Commissioners, Inspectors General of Police, Police Ranges, Deputy Commissioners, District Magistrates, Commissioners of Police Panchkula, Faridabad and Gurugram and SSP's/SP's of the districts have been directed to ensure its compliance.

Covid cases cross 11,500 in East Singhbhum

PNS ■ JAMSHEDPUR

Despite concerted efforts from the administration, coronavirus positive cases continue to rise with figures crossing the 11500 mark in East Singhbhum district. In the last 24 hours alone more than 200 fresh cases were reported. The district health department has focussed on rapid antigen tests for COVID across the district but still the impact of the virus is refusing to slow down.

The recovery rate of COVID-19 patients at Tata Main Hospital has improved from 80.57 per cent to 81.12. The senior management of the hospital there is a marginal improvement in the admissions of the COVID-19 patients too. While last week 258 patients were admitted this week the numbers reduced to 243.During a telephonic media interaction, Dr Rajan Choudhry, COVID advisor of TMH and former general manager, medical services, Tata Steel said that there is a marginal improvement in the number of COVID patients being admitted at the hospital.

India overtakes US in Covid-19 recoveries

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has overtaken the US to register the highest number of Covid-19 recoveries in the world.

It has reported the highest number of recoveries with 42,08,431 infected patients recuperating from the viral disease. About 60 per cent of the new recoveries were reported from five States — Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. Incidentally, these are the States that have reported high caseload also.

Recovery-wise, Maharashtra accounted for over 22,000 (23 per cent), followed by Andhra Pradesh with more than 11,000 (12.3 per cent) of the new recoveries.

"The country has reported the highest number of recoveries with 42,08,431 COVID-19 patients having recovered from the disease so far, pushing the national recovery rate to nearly 80 per cent, while the case fatality rate has further dropped to 1.61 per cent, " the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday.

"India now accounts for close to 19 per cent of the total global recoveries. This has strongly pushed the national recovery rate to 79.28 per cent," it underlined.

The Centre-led focussed, calibrated, responsive and effective measures of early identification through high and aggressive testing, a prompt surveillance and tracking, coupled with standardised high-quality clinical care, have together resulted in this global achievement, the ministry said.

A record 95,880 patients recuperated from COVID-19 in a span of 24 hours, with 90 per cent of the new recoveries reported from 16 States and Union territories, the ministry's data said.

According to the ministry, 90 per cent of the recoveries were reported from 15 States and Union territories.

The five states with the maximum caseload — Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh — have also accounted for a majority of the recoveries, the ministry highlighted.

"India has maintained a sustained path of reporting a very high number of recoveries. This is the result of focussed strategies leading to coordinated effective actions in the states and Union territories," it said.

India's COVID-19 tally mounted to 53,08,014 on Saturday with 93,337 cases reported in a day, while the death toll due to the disease climbed to 85,619 with 1,247 more people succumbing to it in a span of 24 hours, the ministry said.

Homemade masks helpful in checking Covid spread

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Homemade masks help in fighting the spread of viruses like Covid-19 when combined with frequent handwashing and physical distancing, researchers have said after testing the breathability and droplet-blocking ability of 11 common household fabrics, using a medical mask as a benchmark. The study has been published in the journal Extreme Mechanics Letters.

RS passes Epidemic Diseases Amendment Bill to protect health workers

Earlier, the House passed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Saturday passed two legislations, The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill 2020 and The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

The Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill provides for up to five years in jail for those attacking doctors and healthcare workers fighting the COVID-19 outbreak or during any situation akin to the current pandemic.

Speaking on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said that the bill was required to prevent offences against healthcare professionals.

"Many healthcare workers including doctors, paramedics were insulted in some form or the other, due to stigma attached to COVID-19. Centre government acted on this situation found that there was a need for a law, a prohibitory mechanism against such incidents," Dr Harsh Vardhan said.

However, Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Derek O'Brien termed the Bill an attempt to encroach states' constitutionally assigned functioning.

Speaking while the discussions on the bill were underway, the TMC MP said that Bengal already had laws to deal with prevention of violence against doctors and healthcare workers.

"You thought of healthcare workers now? Bengal has Medicare Service Prevention of Violence and Damage to Property Act 2009. What happens to it? Bill is an attempt to encroach states' constitutionally assigned functioning," O'Brien said.

The Upper House had earlier passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Second Amendment) Bill.

Moving the IBC Bill in Rajya Sabha Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, "IBC is such a critical part of business now. On the NPAs of scheduled commercial banks, I just want to highlight how IBC is actually serving the purpose. The priority is to keep companies to be a going concern rather than liquidate them."

The Bill mandates that a default on repayments from March 25, the day when a nationwide lockdown began to curb the spread of coronavirus, would not be considered for initiating insolvency proceedings for at least six months.

The upper house which saw minimal disruptions during the last two days passed four Bills together with the controversial Farmers bill and Homeopathy bill in Friday.

NEP tailored to meet 21st century edu needs: Kovind

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Saturday said the new National Education Policy (NEP) aims to reorient the education system towards meeting the needs of the 21st century by achieving the twin objectives of inclusion and excellence and will also restore India's glory as a learning centre.

Speaking at the inaugural address of Visitors' Conference on 'Implementation of NEP in Higher Education', Kovind said the policy sets the vision of developing an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing quality education to all.

Vice Chancellors of all Central Universities and Directors of IITs, NITs, SPAs etc were present on the occasion besides the Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and top Ministry officials.

He drew inspiration from Bhagvad Gita and the Krishna-Arjun dialogue while reiterating the concept of free communication and discussion between the teacher and the student. "Effective implementation of the NEP 2020 is likely to restore India's glory as a great centre of learning as during the times of Takshashila and Nalanda," Kovind added.

The President said according to the All India Survey of Higher Education for 2018-19, GER for females is slightly higher than that for males. However, the share of female students is extremely low in Institutions of National Importance and particularly low in technical education. Emphasising that NEP has focus on equity and inclusion, he said that such gender disparity in higher education should be corrected.

Union Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said the NEP has given access to foreign universities to open campuses in India and vice-versa which will be instrumental in the process of making India a soft power, the Minister added.

India should talk to Pakistan to defuse border row: Farooq

Former JK CM also demands restoration of 4G services in UT

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Saturday sought talks with Pakistan, saying if India can talk to China to defuse their border row, it can also speak to its other neighbour to deal with the situation at the Union Territory's borders. He also demanded a restoration of 4-G internet services in the UT.

"Border skirmishes have been rising and people are dying… A way has to be found to deal with this. Except for talks… As you are talking to China to attempt that it withdraws (from Ladakh border), we should also talk to our (other) neighbour to find a way to get out of this situation," he said in Lok Sabha during the Zero Hour amid shouting from treasury benches.

Abulllah was speaking in the Parliament for the first time after his release from the detention following the change in the Union Territory status and bifurcation of the erstwhile state in the wake of abrogation of article 370, last year. He was released in March this year.

The MP expressed his happiness at the findings of an Army inquiry into the killings of three men in Shopian in an encounter.

"I am happy that the Army has admitted that three Shopian men were killed mistakenly. I hope the government gives a hefty compensation," he said.

Flipkart, Amazon, Snapdeal to remove 160 fake Khadi products from platforms

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

E-commerce portals like Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal and others have been forced to remove over 160 web links selling products in the brand name of "Khadi" after the Khadi and Village Industries Commission's (KVIC) served legal notices on over 1000 firms for misusing its brand name to sell their products.

After KVIC served legal notice, Khadi Global has also discontinued using its website www.khadiglobalstore.com and also removed its social media pages on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. It has sought 10-day time to remove all such contents and product using the brand name "Khadi". KVIC action has also resulted in shutting down of a number of stores across the country that were selling fake Khadi products.

These e-commerce portals were selling products like Khadi masks, herbals soaps, shampoos, cosmetics, herbal mehandi, jackets, kurta and many such products through different sellers using the brand name "Khadi". This created a false impression among online buyers that these commodities were genuine "Khadi" products. A majority of the products that have been removed were being sold by one Ayush E-Traders. This firm has confirmed to KVIC that it has removed 140 links for various products that were being sold as "Vagad's Khadi Products".

There has been a steep rise in violation of Khadi trademark as the popularity of Khadi grew manifold in recent years after the Hon'ble Prime Minister's appeal to buy Khadi products. Exploiting this opportunity, a number of online sellers began selling random products in the name of Khadi.

Also hundreds of stores mushroomed in different cities that were selling fake Khadi products. In recent months, particularly during the Covid-19 lockdown, there was a huge proliferation of such fraudulent online sellers. However, to enable online customers to buy genuine Khadi products, KVIC has launched its e-portal selling a range of 300 products online a t www.kviconline.gov.in/khadimask.

KVIC Chairman Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena said the KVIC has given violators the option of either stop selling products in the name of Khadi or legal action will be initiated for recovery of heavy damages. "Legal notices have been issued to various firms essentially to safeguard the interest of Khadi artisans.

This trademark violation has a direct bearing on the livelihood of our artisans who are making genuine handcrafted products," Saxena said.

ECI to set up national database to track status of ex-gratia payments

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking note of the delay in giving compensation, the Election commission (EC) is planning to set up a database to track the status of ex-gratia payments to those who got injured or lost their lives while polling or poll-related duty. In a letter to chief electoral officers of all states and union territories, the EC has asked to track all such claims. At present, the poll watchdog pays ₹10 lakh to the next of kin of those who died in poll duties through cheques.

"A stern view has been taken of the institutional failure and lack of sensitivity, bordering on apathy, on part of the administrative machinery, which failed to respect the memory of the departed," EC said in the letter. The letter asked CEOs to create a digital database to track the settlement of such legacy claims and all future claims. A national level database will also be created by the commission.

EC is also working out the modalities of how payments will be expedited to reduce any kind of inconvenience to the families.

Last month, Pramila Devi, the wife of late Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan Ramesh Kumar, 31, wrote to chief election commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora, highlighting the delay in such payments. Kumar died in a grenade attack during the 2002 Jammu and Kashmir elections. In her letter dated August 10, Devi said she had not received the payment; she was entitled to ₹5 lakh as per the allotment 18 years ago. Following her letter, the Commission acted immediately to get the sum remitted to her without any further delay and later also transferred ₹15 lakhs to her account.

Manage oxygen availability effectively, States told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following reports of shortage of oxygen in some States threatening the management of patients suffering from Covid-19, the Centre has asked the States to focus on analysing district level and health facility level status and effectively plan and manage logistical issues related with oxygen availability.

The suggestion came in the wake of an increasing number of cases across the country which is likely to push up the demand for oxygen as well.

At a high-level meeting held here under the chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary, Rajiv Gauba , special instructions were issued for oxygen availability to the 12 States/UT including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Chandigarh, Telangana, Kerala, Delhi, Punjab and West Bengal where about 80 per cent of the Covid caseload in the country is concentrated.

The Cabinet Secretary while complementing the States for significantly ramping up testing, expressed concern that the case fatality rates of several States are still higher than that of the national average.

He urged the States to analyse mortalities district and hospital wise for identification of critical areas of intervention.

A day ago, Union home secretary Ajay Bhalla had asked all the States to ensure free movement of vehicles carrying oxygen "as it is an essential public health commodity and an important prerequisite for managing moderate and severe Covid-19 cases."

Oxford Covid-19 vaccine: Serum Institute to start final phase of trial from Monday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) is likely to start from Monday the final stage of the clinical trial of University of Oxford and AstraZeneca Plc.'s experimental vaccine. The late-stage trial will take place at the Sassoon General Hospital in Pune.

In the third phase of the clinical trial, around 150-200 volunteers will administer a dose of Covishield. "Some volunteers have already come forward for the trial," a senior official from the company said. The Sassoon General Hospital in Pune has started enrolling volunteers from Saturday. "Those who are willing to volunteer for the vaccination should contact the hospital," he said.

The phase II trial of Covishield was conducted at Bharti Vidyapeeth Medical College and King Edward Memorial (KEM) Hospital in Pune.

SII has inked a pact with British-Swedish company AstraZeneca to manufacture COVID-19 vaccine candidate, developed by the University of Oxford.

The vaccine maker earlier shortlisted 17 sites in India for the Phase II clinical trial of Covid-19 vaccine. At least 1,600 candidates aged between 18 to 55, participated in the Phase II clinical trial.

On September 10, the drug maker had paused the clinical trials of the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine candidate in India in the wake of AstraZeneca suspending the clinical trials in other countries. On September 15 the DCGI granted permission to SII to resume trial, while revoking its earlier order of suspending any new recruitment for phase II and III trial.

MNCs responsbile for 20% carbon dioxide emission

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid ongoing blame-game between the developed and developing nations on who should pay for increasing carbon footprints, a study has pointed out that a fifth of carbon dioxide emissions come from multinational companies' global supply chains which in effect outsourced to poorer parts of the world.

The study, which is published in Nature Climate Change, mapped the emissions generated by multinationals' assets and suppliers abroad and found that the flow of investment is typically from developed countries to developing ones . "Hence emissions be assigned to countries where the investment comes from, rather than countries where the emissions are generated," said the study.

Mapping the global flow of investment, researchers from UCL and Tianjin University found steady increases in investment from developed to developing countries. For instance, between 2011 and 2016 emissions generated through investment from the US to India increased by nearly half (from 48.3 million tons to 70.7 million tons), while in the same years emissions generated through investment from China to south-east Asia increased tenfold (from 0.7 million tons to 8.2 million tons).

In contrast, the study found that carbon emissions from multinationals' foreign investment fell from a peak of 22 per cent of all emissions in 2011 to 18.7 per cent in 2016. Researchers said this was a result of a trend of "de-globalisation", with the volume of foreign direct investment shrinking, as well as new technologies and processes making industries more carbon efficient.

The findings by UCL and Tianjin University holds immense importance amid the ongoing blamegame between the developed and developing nations on the increasing climate change threat owing to the green house gas emission.

The research shows the impact that multinationals can have by encouraging greater energy efficiency among suppliers or by choosing suppliers that are more carbon efficient.

Professor Dabo Guan (UCL Bartlett School of Construction & Project Management) said: "Multinational companies have enormous influence stretching far beyond national borders. If the world's leading companies exercised leadership on climate change - for instance, by requiring energy efficiency in their supply chains - they could have a transformative effect on global efforts to reduce emissions.

"However, companies' climate change policies often have little effect when it comes to big investment decisions such as where to build supply chains.

"Assigning emissions to the investor country means multinationals are more accountable for the emissions they generate as a result of these decisions."

Lead author Dr Zengkai Zhang, of Tianjin University, said: "Multinationals are increasingly transferring investment from developed to developing countries.

This has the effect of reducing developed countries' emissions while placing a greater emissions burden on poorer countries. At the same time it is likely to create higher emissions overall, as investment is moved to more 'carbon intense' regions."

Govt plans environment-friendly scrapping of vehicles, RS told

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Saturday said a Cabinet note has been formulated for the vehicle scrapping policy.

In reply to a question, Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) VK Singh informed the Rajya Sabha that the Government has formulated a Cabinet note on creation of an ecosystem for voluntary and environment friendly phasing out of unfit and old polluting vehicles.

The proposed policy, once approved, will be applicable on all vehicles, the government had said earlier.

A MoRTH official said that cabinet note on Vehicle Scrapping Policy- is preparing to implement the vehicle scrap policy for the old four wheelers (car) and two wheelers (scooter bike) from next month.

The policy was sent for a fresh round of consultation with stakeholders on the direction of the PMO.

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadakri had earlier this year said once the policy is approved, India could emerge as a hub for automobile manufacturing as key raw material available from scrapping steel, aluminium and plastic are bound to be recycled, bringing down automobile prices by "20-30%t".

On July 26, 2019, the Government had proposed amendments to motor vehicle rules to allow scrapping of vehicles older than 15 years in a bid to spur adoption of electrical vehicles.

In a draft notification, the government proposed renewal of fitness certificates for vehicles older than 15 years every six months instead of the current time-frame of one year.

When come into force, the automobile sector will gain momentum as demand for new vehicles increases. As per a report in the MoRTH, customers will get new vehicles up to 30 percent cheaper while older vehicles will reduce air pollution by 25 percent.

US-TAIWAN MEET

China sends more warplanes on day 2

AP ■ TAIPEI

China sent more warplanes toward Taiwan for the second day on Saturday as the island's leader, senior Government officials and a high-level US envoy paid tribute to the man who led Taiwan's transition to democracy, former President Lee Teng-hui.

Keith Krach, the US undersecretary for state, kept a low profile at the service.

His presence at the event and on the island has drawn a strong rebuke from China, which sent 18 warplanes across the midline of the Taiwan Strait Friday in an unusually large display of force.

On Saturday, Beijing dispatched 19 more warplanes, two of which were bombers, according to Taiwan's Defense Ministry. The island's air force scrambled their own and deployed an air defense missile system to monitor China's activities, according to a statement.

The service was held at the Aletheia University in Taipei on a balmy Saturday morning, with President Tsai Ing-wen honouring Lee for bringing a peaceful political transition to the island democracy.

Lee had built a separate Taiwanese political identity, distinct from mainland China, which claims Taiwan as part of its own territory to be reunited by force if necessary.

Lee's carving out of a non-Chinese identity and insistence that the island be treated as an equal country brought him into direct conflict with Beijing. He died on July 30 at age 97.

"We have a responsibility to continue his endeavours, allowing the will of the people to reshape Taiwan, further defining Taiwan's identity and deepening and bolstering democracy and freedom," Tsai said.

Former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the Dalai Lama also paid tribute from afar.

"We Buddhists believe in life after life, so most probably he will be reborn in Taiwan," the Dalai Lama said in a video message.

"His rebirth will carry his spirit continuously." The guests included another former Japanese prime minister, Yoshiro Mori. They wore masks and sat spaced out in pews.

Lee, an agricultural economist and politician, devoted his career toward building democracy on the island through direct elections and other changes.

He was the first government official to speak out and formally apologise for the so-called 228 incident, named after February 28, 1947, when soldiers under the Kuomingtang, or the sole ruling Nationalist Party, shot and killed thousands of civilians in an anti-government uprising.

The bloodshed marked the beginning of a decades-long period known as the White Terror in which the island was ruled by martial law.

TikTok files lawsuit against Trump admin to fight US ban

Washington: TikTok asked a federal judge in Washington to block the Trump administration from enacting a ban on the fast-growing social-media network.

TikTok and its parent company, ByteDance Ltd., filed a complaint late Friday night challenging the Trump administration's recent moves to prevent the app from operating in the U.S. The lawsuit marks the second time TikTok has challenged President Donald Trump's actions in court, bringing a high-stakes geopolitical fight over technology and trade into the U.S. legal system.

Trump exceeded his authority, the company said, and did so for political reasons rather than to stop an "unusual and extraordinary threat" to the U.S., as the law requires. TikTok also said the ban violates its First Amendment free-speech rights.

The White House didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump's actions would "destroy an online community where millions of Americans have come together to express themselves," according to the complaint. The company claimed that the U.S. government has "ignored evidence" showing TikTok's commitment to the privacy and security of its American users.

On August 6, Trump issued an executive order saying he would ban transactions with the app within 45 days, arguing that the social network's Chinese ownership made it a national security threat. TikTok sued to block that order in federal court in Californa in August. But on Friday, the Commerce Dept, moving to implement Trump's order, said TikTok would be banned in the U.S. starting on Nov. 12 unless it could complete a takeover deal that assuages the government's concerns.

Trump's order followed an investigation by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., which reviews proposed acquisitions of domestic businesses by overseas investors for national security concerns. And it set off a flurry of attempted deal-making, pushing ByteDance to seek a sale of TikTok's American operations to a U.S. company. TikTok is currently in talks with Oracle Corp. about a possible deal. *AFP*

Iran vows 'hit' on all involved in US killing of top general

Tehran: The chief of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard threatened on Saturday to go after everyone who had a role in a top general's January killing during a US drone strike in Iraq.

The guard's website quoted Gen. Hossein Salami as saying, "Mr. Trump! Our revenge for martyrdom of our great general is obvious, serious and real."

US President Donald Trump warned this week that Washington would harshly respond to any Iranian attempts to take revenge for the death of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, tweeting that "if they hit us in any way, any form, written instructions already done we're going to hit them 1000 times harder."

The president's warning came in response to a report that Iran was plotting to assassinate the US ambassador to South Africa in retaliation for Soleimani's killing at Baghdad's airport at the beginning of the year.

"We took out the world's number one terrorist and the mass murderer of American troops and many, many troops and many people all over the world," Trump said. "Qasem Soleimani is dead. He's dead. Bad guy. Bad guy. Very bad guy."

Salami rejected the report of an Iranian plot to assassinate Ambassador Lana Marks, but made clear that Iran intends to avenge the general's death.

"Do you think we hit a female ambassador in return to our martyred brother?' the general said. "We will hit those who had direct and indirect roles. You should know that everybody who had role in the event will be hit, and this is a serious message. We do prove everything in practice."

In January, Iran launched a ballistic missile attack targeting US soldiers in Iraq in response to the fatal drone strike.

Trump has stepped up economic pressure on Iran with sanctions since he pulled the United States out of Iran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018.

Tehran has continued to expand its stockpile of enriched uranium and pressured other nations to offset the harm of US sanctions, while insisting it does not want to develop a nuclear weapon. *AP*

Thai protesters hold ambitious rally for democratic reforms

Bangkok: Protesters gathered on Saturday in Bangkok for the most ambitious rally so far in a pro-democracy campaign that has shaken up the government and Thailand's conservative establishment.

Organisers predicted that as many as 50,000 will march over two days in an area of the capital historically associated with political protests, after an estimated 10,000 people turned out for the last major rally on Aug. 16. But the early turnout was modest Saturday as a steady light rain fell.

Demonstrators wore face masks, but ignored a Thursday night plea from Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha to cancel the event, which he said risked spreading the coronavirus and derailing recovery of Thailand's battered economy.

The core demands declared by the protesters in July were the dissolution of parliament with fresh elections, a new constitution and an end to intimidation of political activists. *AP*

Moroccans protest Arab nations normalising ties with Israel

Rabat: Despite a government ban on large gatherings to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, scores of demonstrators protested outside the Moroccan Parliament to denounce Arab countries agreeing to normalise ties with Israel.

Israel on Tuesday signed historic diplomatic pacts with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in a U.S.-brokered deal. Morocco was reported to be among other Arab countries considering a similar move, though the prime minister rejected the idea last month.

Protesters in Morocco's capital of Rabat Friday waved Palestinian flags, decrying the deals as "treason" and chanting "Palestine is not for sale." The Palestinians view the pacts as a stab in the back from their fellow Arabs in the Gulf and a betrayal of their cause for a Palestinian state. Israel and Bahrain's agreements have been condemned by many across the Arab world.

The protesters in Rabat also burned a mock Israeli flag. Dozens of police officers watched the scene from a distance.

Organisers interrupted the chanting occasionally to urge participants to wear masks and to respect social distancing rules. "The normalisation deals are an attack on the Palestinian people and their cause," human rights activist Abdelhamid Amine told The Associated Press.

"We are calling on the Moroccan government not to follow suit and we urge it not to surrender to the Zionist and imperialist pressure like other Arab countries," said Amine, former president of the Moroccan Association of Human Rights and one of the rally organisers. *AP*

Pak's Sharif mulling political comeback after year-long gap

Islamabad: Pakistan's deposed premier Nawaz Sharif is set to make a comeback in active politics following a year-long absence after PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari invited him to virtually attend the Opposition-led multiparty conference aimed at launching a protest movement against the Imran Khan-led government on Sunday.

Sharif, 70, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo, has been living in London since November last year after the Lahore High Court granted him permission to go abroad for four weeks for treatment.

The three-time premier, his daughter Maryam and son-in-law Muhammad Safdar were convicted in the Avenfield properties case on July 6, 2018.

Sharif, who was deposed in 2017, was also sentenced to seven years in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills case in December 2018. But, he was bailed out in both cases and also allowed to go to London for medical treatment.

He was given eight weeks to return but failed to come back due to health complications, according to his lawyer. *PTI*

Pro-democracy protesters wave a flag and hold up lights during a protest at Sanam Luang in Bangkok on Saturday AP

China slams Pompeo for 'spreading rumours' during S America trip

AFP ■ PARAMARIBO, SURINAME/GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

China's embassies to Suriname and Guyana on Friday accused U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo of "spreading rumors" and "smearing" Beijing, after Washington's top diplomat criticized Chinese companies during a four-stop South America tour.

In a joint appearance with newly elected Surinamese President Chan Santokhi on Thursday, Pompeo said Chinese companies often do not compete on a "fair and equitable basis."

"We've watched the Chinese Communist Party invest in countries, and it all seems great at the front end and then it all comes falling down when the political costs connected to that becomes clear," Pompeo said.

George Floyd protesters 'bunch of thugs' who didn't even spare Mahatma Gandhi, says Trump

Washington: US President Donald Trump has said that the protesters, who went violent in the aftermath of the death of African-American George Floyd, did not even spare the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Washington DC, describing the demonstrators as a "bunch of thugs".

George Floyd died in Minneapolis on May 25 after white police officer Derek Chauvin handcuffed and pinned him to the ground, and knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes while the 46-year-old from Houston gasped for breath.

The footage, which went viral, showed Floyd pleading with the officer, saying he can't breathe. His death sparked nationwide violent protests with some protesters resorting to vandalism, looting and rioting across the country, leaving behind a trail of destruction.

"You know, they started ripping down Abraham Lincoln. When they hit Lincoln, I said wait a minute. This is the man and you can do - then they hit George Washington, Thomas Jefferson. They had everybody," Trump said at a well-attended election rally in Minnesota, a State that he lost by a little over 44,000 votes in 2016, on Friday.

He also mentioned about the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Washington DC that was vandalised by unknown protesters at the peak of the nationwide protests.

"They even had (Mahatma) Gandhi. All Gandhi wanted was one thing, peace. Right? We have peace. Rip down his statue. We don't like him. I don't think they have any idea what they're doing," President Trump said.

"I think they're just a bunch of thugs, okay, you want to know the truth. I think they're a bunch of thugs," he added.

The US President told his cheering audience that he had signed an executive order that would put such vandals in jail for 10 years. *AFP*

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/21/2020 Date 17/09/2020

S.N.	Short Description of Item	Quantity	T.O.D.
573	Horizontal Cyl. High Pressure Steam Sterilizer for COVID	1 No.	02/10/2020
574	CVTS Instruments	51 Items	02/10/2020
575	X-ray Machine	1 No.	05/10/2020
576	C.R. System	1 No.	05/10/2020
577	Cable Gland	64 Nos.	06/10/2020
578	Thin Walled Electron Beam Single Core Size: 25 Sq.mm.	10800 Mtrs.	07/10/2020
579	Foot Support Insulator for Pantograph	241 Nos.	08/10/2020
580	Power Supply Gate Unit (GUSP)	2 Nos.	08/10/2020
581	16 Teeth Pinion	138 Nos.	09/10/2020
582	Axle Box Housing Finish Machined	344 Nos.	10/10/2020

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

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

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राजस्थान राज्य पथ परिवहन निगम

कार्यालय मुख्य प्रबन्धक, सी.बी.एस आगार, जयपुर।

केन्टीन/स्टॉल/वाहन ठहराव स्थल देने बाबत।

केन्द्रीय बस स्टैण्ड, सिन्धी केम्प, जयपुर पर विभिन्न स्टॉल/कन्टीनो, सुलभ कॉम्पलेक्स के लिए लाइसेन्सधारी नियुक्त किये जाने है। प्रस्ताव देने की अन्तिम तिथि 22.09.2020 को दोपहर 2:00 बजे तक है। इस सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत जानकारी निगम वेबसाईट **www.rsrtc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर एवम् राज्य लोक उपापन पोर्टल (SPPP) पर (UBN is RTC2021SLOB00155) भी देखी जा सकती है।

राज.संवाद/सी/4673/2020–2021 मुख्य प्रबंधक

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL, SKIMS MC&H, BEMINA & SKIMS, SOURA, SRINAGAR
Tel: 0194-2402617 Ext: 2159, email: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

Notice Inviting E-tenders
Gist of NIT NO. 34 OF 2020-21 Dated. 18.09.2020

For and on behalf of the **Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, MC&H Bemina Srinagar,** invites online e-bids in **two (02) cover system** from Original Lift Manufactures or their Authorized Dealers/authorized Representatives/ registered and reputed firms having experience in installation of lifts in Govt. Institutions/ departments, detailed in the tender documents for the following works:

Sr#	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lacs)
1.	**Design, supply, Installation, Testing, Inspecting and Commissioning of various types lifts along with CMC for 03-years at New Maternity Hospital, SKIMS.**	**175.00**

The complete tender document is available at website **http://jktenders.gov.in.** Interested bidders/tenders may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities, & Terms and conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

i.	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date)	21.09.2020 from 11:00 Hours
ii.	Date and time of Bidding Queries/ clarification/pre-bid meet	25.09.2020 at 11:00 Hours
iii.	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	12.10.2020 up to 16:00 Hours
iv.	Date of submission of hard copies. (Only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee	13.10.2020 up to 14:00 Hours
v.	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	14.10.2020 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day)
vi.	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-IInd) Opening of the qualifying Bidders	Shall be intimated separately
vii.	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs. 8700/- (Rupees eight thousand & seven hundred only)
viii.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/FDR)	Rs. 350000/- (Rupees three lacs & fifty thound only)
ix.	Completion Time	Six (06) months from the date of issue of LOI or Allotment Order.
x.	Budget Head	Ongoing works for the year 2020-21

No: SIMS 139 RX/MECH/-2020-21/512/20-2128-2137-5309-12
Dated: 18.09.2020
Sd/- Executive Engineer Mechanical, SKIMS

E TENDER NOTICE
YEAR 2020/21
Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd.
GANDHANAGAR MUNCIPAL CORPORATION
Multi Storied Building, B-Block. First Floor, Sector-11, Gandhainagar

Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd , is inviting tenders for the work given below Bids are invited for the e-tendering rates from the reputable agencies

Tender No.	Name of Work	Tender Fee	E.M.D.
GSCDL-ICT -14- 2020	"Selection of Service Provider for Supply, Installation, Operation and maintenance of Public Bike Sharing System (PBS) for G-bike in Gandhinagar City "	12,000/-	5,00,000/-

The Re-tender form can be filled online by downloading from website **www.nprocure.com** from Dt 19/09/2020 to Dt 19/10/2020 up to 17.00 hours Pre Bid Meeting will be Scheduled on date Dt 01/10/2020
Any documents for the necessary support of tender bid must be scanned in the electronic format and submitted online on **www.nprocure.com**
The technical bids and the amount of tender fees and the Demand Draft of EMD shall be submitted in hard copy in name of CEO,
Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd. upto Dt 26/10/2020 by registered post or speed post till 17.00 hours Only those offers will be opened
Online Technical Bid Opening Dt 27/10/2020 at 15.00 hrs

Sd/
Municipal Commissioner, Gandhinagar and Chairman Gandhinagar Smart City Development Ltd.
Plac:-Gandhinagar
Date:- 20/09/2020
No/INF/VPN/2020/G/920

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that my client Mr. Surender Kumar (is purchasing House No. 173, Pocket No. 4-5 Sector-23, Rohini, Delhi, By virtue of Conveyance Deed document No. 885, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 2295 on pages 69 to 71, dated 15.05.2001 executed by DDA in favour of Praveen Kumar. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim (s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property then contact us within 15 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by any one.
Arun Kumar, Advocate
F-211 (Basement & Ground Floor, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact: 7428409748

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Akshay Ghai is owner of Entire Second Floor without roof rights & Left side half portion of Lower Ground Floor of Property No. 36/8, area measuring 200 Sq.Yds., situated at East Patel Nagar, New Delhi by virtue of Sale Deed dated 14.11.2019 having registration No. 13081, but SMC Certificate stating legal heirs of Mr. Chander Pal Kakkar is not available with him. All persons including surviving members & Legal heirs of Late Mr. Chander Pal Kakkar are hereby informed if anyone has any objection with respect of Title / ownership of Mr. Akshay Ghai with respect of the said floor, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, IInd Flr, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N.Delhi-15
Ph. 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates.advocate@gmail.com

Public Notice

To be known to all that **I Krishna** Devi W/o Late Sh Ram Kumar Panwar **R/o 290C, Block-BG-6 Paschim Vihar, N.D-63, Possession Letter** of the above Flat has been lost. FIR against this effect has been lodged. Any person claiming any right, interest, having any objection/found of documents, may contact with above named person at 9911771205 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.The person claiming any objection with respect to this property inform to Dy. Director(LAB-(Res),Vikas Sadan,I NA, N.D

US Top Court Justice Ginsburg dies at 87

Washington: US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the history-making jurist, feminist icon and a champion of women's rights and social justice, has died of cancer at the age of 87.

Ginsburg became only the second woman ever to serve as a justice on the nation's highest court. A lifelong advocate of gender equality, she acquired the reputation of a cautious or moderate judge and will be remembered as a legal colossus.

"Our nation has lost a justice of historic stature. We at the Supreme Court have lost a cherished colleague. Today we mourn but with confidence that future generations will remember Ruth Bader Ginsburg as we knew her — a tried and resolute champion of justice," Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts said in a statement. Ginsburg's death on Friday could open up another battlefront between President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival and former vice president Joe Biden. *AFP*

US sends additional military assets to Syria

Washington: The US military said that it has deployed additional assets, including radar systems and armoured vehicles, to northeastern Syria, weeks after a collision incident between the American and Russian army vehicles in the region.

"The US has deployed Sentinel radar, increased the frequency of US fighter patrols over US forces, and deployed Bradley Fighting Vehicles to augment US forces in the Eastern Syria Security Area (ESSA)," US Central Command Spokesman Bill Urban said in a statement on Friday.

"These actions are a clear demonstration of US resolve to defend Coalition forces in the ESSA, and to ensure that they are able to continue their Defeat-ISIS mission without interference," Xinhua news agency quoted Urban as saying.

US media reported that the latest deployment included six Bradley vehicles and fewer than 100 troops.

The deployment was believed as a response to the collision between the vehicles that occurred in northern Syria in late August.

The US and Russia blamed each other for the incident, which left seven American soldiers injured.

Kenneth Ekman, deputy commander of Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve, said in July that US troops in Syria interact with Russians almost daily.

About 500 US troops are deployed in the northeastern part of Syria to fight against the Islamic State terror group and secure the oil fields operated by Kurdish forces. *IANS*

COLLEGE OF ART
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
(Affiliated to The University of Delhi)
20-22, TILAK MARG, NEW DELHI- 110001
Phone Nos.: 23383612, 23070397 & 23387485
Website:- http://colart.delhigovt.nic.in E Mail:- prcoa.delhi@nic.in

ADMISSION NOTICE - MFA
Academic Session, 2020-21

The Prospectus data for the admission to Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) and Post Diploma for Hearing & Speech impaired (PDFA) will be available on the College Website **http://colart.delhigovt.nic.in** The Application Form for admisson will be available through a URL on the Website.

The Application Form for Masters of Fine Arts **(MFA)** will be available from **Monday 21st September, 2020 to Thusday 01st October,2020. The filled-up Application Form for MFA, along with requisite Fees and relevant/ compulsory documents, duly completed; should be uploaded through the same URL as mentioned/accessible on the College Website - Admission Portal, latest by Thursday 01st October, 2020**

Details regarding **Qualifications, Intake of Seats for all specializations, Fees, Courses and Reservations are all included in the MFA Prospectus Data**,which is available on the College Website **http://colart.delhigovt.nic.in**

Note:- Only for the Academic Session 2020-21 due to the prevailing conditions of COVID-19 and for the safety and security of the applicants:

1. The admission to post graduate (MFA) courses are merit-based that is, based on marks scored in **Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree (BFA - Regular Mode) Final year (Total of semester VII and VIII)/ in the relevant Specialization.**
   No examination (interview/viva) will be conducted in the campus (college Premises) for any specialization.
2. **Post Diploma Courses For (H&SI-Hearing & Speech impaird candidates)** No examination (interview/viva) will be conducted in the campus (College Premises) for any specialization, Hence in respect of the Post Diploma for Hearing and Speeech impaired (PDFA), the duly completed Application Form with documents of DFA (Diploma of Fine Arts- for the Hearing and Speech impaired) Final year (Total of Semester VII & VIII) in the relevant specialization has to be uploaded on the dates as mentioned above through a URL on the College Website, **http://colart.delhigovt.nic.in** The admission to this course will also be merit based in all specialization.
3. **The Applicants are advised to regularly check the College Website - Admissoion Portal for the Academic Year 2020-2021, for details/ contents on the online Admission Procedure and uploading of the Application form along with relevant/compulsory documents.**
4. **All reservations shall be as per the Delhi Government Policy and will be subject to any change/ amendment made by the Delhi Government (GNCTD).**

Sd/-
Prof. B.S.Chauhan
Principal (Officiating)
DIP/Shabdarth/0280/20-21

RS approves amendments to insolvency law

Decision on extending the suspension of relevant provisions will be taken next week: Fin Min

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha on Saturday passed amendments to the insolvency law for suspension of fresh insolvency proceedings for at least six months starting March 25 amid the coronavirus pandemic, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying a decision on extending the suspension of relevant provisions will be taken next week.

In the wake of the COVID-19 situation, the government decided to suspend the provisions starting from March 25 for six months by promulgating an ordinance in June.

Default on repayments from March 25, the day when the nationwide lockdown began to curb coronavirus infections, would not be considered for initiating insolvency proceedings for at least six months.

The six-month period is ending next week.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020, seeks to replace the ordinance issued in June, was passed by a voice vote after a brief discussion.

Replying to the debate, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the suspension of provisions will end next week.

"At the moment, amendment to the Code gives me a provision to only extend till one year. If at all, because it is coming to an end on September 25 this year, September 24 itself we have to make an announcement about what is going to happen. But even if I do, it means by March it should be ending...," the minister said.

The minister also clarified that insolvency proceedings against corporates defaulting on loans prior to March 25 will continue and the amendment will not stall those cases.

A majority of the opposition parties also supported the bill but urged the government to provide interest waiver on loans to farmers and poor people suffering due to the COVID-19 crisis.

During the debate on the bill, many members expressed fears over its possible misuse by corporates even as they hoped that it will help in reviving the economy.

On members' queries regarding liability of personal guarantors in the IBC, Sitharaman said the corporate debtor often has guarantors.

"So, for comprehensive corporate insolvency resolution and liquidation we felt it was necessary that the insolvency of the corporate debtor as well as its guarantors are considered together to whatever extent it is possible," Sitharaman said.

On queries about the urgency to bring the ordinance in the first place, Sitharaman said that "between sessions if there is a need for ordinance because the ground situation demands it, I would think a responsive government's duty is to at least use the ordinance to show that we are there with the people of India."

"So to that extent, I am sure the House will appreciate that as and when the government decides for ordinance it is because of that, and whenever the next session happens we come back," she said.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the minister said, businesses faced trouble.

So it was decided "that it was better to suspend Sections 7, 9 and 10 of IBC so that we can prevent corporate persons, which are experiencing distress on account of the unprecedented situation, being pushed into insolvency proceedings".

Sections 7, 9 and 10 deal with initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process by financial creditor, operational creditor and corporate debtor, respectively. The minister further said the IBC is a critical part of business now, and cited data to show how the code had performed.

Citing data for NPAs of commercial banks during 2018-19, she informed the House that Lok Adalats recovered 5.3 per cent, Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) recovered 3.5 per cent and SARFAESI recovered 14.5 per cent.

On the other hand, IBC ensured 42.5 per cent of recovery.

Sitharaman further said that most of the resolutions are happening to make the company to be a going concern only.

"Priority is to keep the company to be a going concern rather than to liquidate them at the earliest," she said adding that 258 companies were saved from going bankrupt through the IBC process, while 965 firms went for liquidation.

"... 258 companies were rescued which means employment is back again with them. Companies which have been liquidated in total, three-fourths of them were defunct and were also given liquidation solution and therefore at least loss of employment was reduced," she said.

According to her, 258 companies rescued had assets of Rs 96,000 crore and the 965 companies sent for liquidation had assets of Rs 38,000 crore.

Govt allows cos with not less than 300 workers to fire staff without its nod

New Delhi: Companies having not less than 300 workers will soon be allowed to hire and fire workers without seeking prior government permission, with the labour ministry proposing changes to rules in a bill introduced in Lok Sabha on Saturday.

The proposal, which was the bone of contention between the ministry and trade unions, is part of the Industrial Relation Code Bill 2020.

Currently, only those industrial establishments with less than 100 employees are permitted to hire and fire their staff without permission of the government.

The bill was introduced by Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar amid opposition from Congress and few other parties.

The Industrial Relation Code Bill 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha last year and subsequently sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour. This bill was withdrawn on Saturday.

An earlier draft bill circulated by the labour ministry for discussion had also proposed the criteria that companies having not less than 300 employees can hire and fire without the government's permission. However, this provision faced stiff opposition from trade unions and was not included in the 2019 bill.

Earlier this year, the Parliamentary committee also made a case of allowing companies having less than 300 workers to go for retrenchment of staff or closure without government permission.

States like Rajasthan have already increased the threshold to 300 workers, which according to the labour ministry has resulted in an increase in employment and a decrease in retrenchment, the committee had pointed out in its report.

With regard to the threshold, the government has proposed Section 77(1) in the The Industrial Relation Code 2020.

According to the Section, the provisions of "this Chapter (lay-off, retrenchment and closure in certain establishment) shall apply to an industrial establishment (not being an establishment of a seasonal

The proposal, which was the bone of contention between the ministry and trade unions, is part of the Industrial Relation Code Bill 2020

character or in which work is performed only intermittently) in which not less than three hundred workers, or such higher number of workers as may be notified by the appropriate Government, were employed on an average per working day in the preceding twelve months".

Apart from this code, two others -- Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions Code, 2020 and the Code On Social Security, 2020 -- were also introduced by the minister in Lok Sabha.

Among others, Congress leaders -- Manish Tewari and Shashi Tharoor -- opposed the introduction of the three bills.

Tewari noted these three bills are fundamentally changed versions of their earlier forms and urged the minister to withdraw them and hold wider consultations before introducing them.

These bills are also a blow to the rights of workers, he added.

With respect to the industrial relations code, Tharoor said it severely restricts the right of workers to strike and also allows state or central governments to amend the threshold for applicability relating to layoffs and retrenchment.

In Lok Sabha, Gangwar said that over 29 labour laws have been merged into four codes and that one of them has already been passed.

The Code on Wages Bill, 2019 was passed by Parliament last year.

Gangwar noted that the government engaged in wider consultations over these bills with various stakeholders and that more than 6,000 comments were received online on the bills.

These bills were later sent to a standing committee and 174 of its 233 recommendations have been accepted, the minister said. *PTI*

India's external debt up nearly 3 pc to USD 559 bn at March-end

New Delhi: India's total external debt increased by 2.8 per cent to USD 558.5 billion at the end of March mainly on account of a rise in commercial borrowings, according to a report released by the Finance Ministry.The external debt stood at USD 543 billion at end-March 2019.

The ratio of foreign currency reserves to external debt stood at 85.5 per cent as at end-March 2020, as compared to 76.0 per cent a year ago, the report said.

External debt as a ratio to GDP rose marginally to 20.6 per cent as at end-March 2020 from 19.8 per cent a year ago, 'India's External Debt: A Status Report: 2019-2020' showed.

Compared to end-March 2019, sovereign debt shrank 3 per cent to reach USD 100.9 billion, it said, adding, this decrease was primarily due to a fall in FII investment in G-Sec – the second largest constituent – by 23.3 per cent to USD 21.6 billion from USD 28.3 billion a year ago.

Loans from multilateral and bilateral sources under external assistance– the largest constituent of the sovereign debt – grew 4.9 per cent to USD 87.2 billion, it said.

Non-sovereign debt, on the other hand, it said, rose 4.2 per cent to USD 457.7 billion mainly due to an increase in commercial borrowings. *PTI*

Govt examining next version of PMKVY: Minister

New Delhi: The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 2.0 (2016-20) will come to an end on March 31 next year and the government is examining the next version, Parliament was informed on Saturday.

Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship R K Singh said there is no proposal under examination for setting up a National Institute of Skill Development.The government launched Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) in 2015 and revamped it in 2016 to impart skills to one crore persons by 2020.

"The PMKVY 2.0 (2016-20) is coming to an end on 31st March, 2021, and the government is examining the next version of PMKVY taking into account the lessons learnt during the implementation of PMKVY 2.0," he said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. *PTI*

MSME units from Maharashtra availed maximum loans under ECLGS: Minister

New Delhi: The government on Saturday said MSME units from Maharashtra availed maximum loans under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) as on September 16.

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for MSMEs Pratap Chandra Sarangi said loans worth Rs 14,364.30 crore were disbursed to MSME units in Maharashtra as on September 16.

It was followed by Tamil Nadu (Rs 12,445.58 crore), Gujarat (Rs 12,005.92 crore) and Uttar Pradesh (Rs 8,907.38 crore).The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the Rs 20-lakh crore Self-Reliant India Mission package announced by the government.

In a separate reply, he said the Department of Financial Services has reported that as on September 9, an amount of Rs 1,63,103 crore was sanctioned to 42,01,060 borrowers under the scheme. *PTI*

Net direct tax collection dips 31% in Apr-Aug

New Delhi:The net direct tax collection during April-August was Rs 1.92 lakh crore, down 31 per cent over the same period of the last fiscal.

The net indirect tax collection during the five-month period till August fell 11 per cent year-on-year to Rs 3.42 lakh crore.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said net direct tax collection was Rs 2,79,711 crore in April-August 2019, compared to Rs 1,92,718 crore in April-August 2020.

The net indirect tax collection in April-August 2019 was Rs 3,85,949 crore, as against Rs 3,42,591 crore in April-August 2020.

During April-August, the Centre's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection stood at over Rs 1.81 lakh crore. The Budget had estimated Centre's GST collection for full fiscal at Rs 6,90,500 crore. *PTI*

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Lubna,** W/o **Abdul Javed, R/o:** H.No. 1093, 1st Floor, Sheesh Mahal, Chandni Mahal, Delhi, **Age:** 25 years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, wearing unknown colour Suit & Salwar and Black colour designer Burkha, has been missing from the area of P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi since 10.09.2020. In this regard a **DD No. 58-A, dated 11.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi.**

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

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

SHO
P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-23271751, 23279338

DP/358/CD/2020

Lok Sabha OK's ammendments in Taxation Laws

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha on Saturday passed amendments in the Taxation Laws with heated debate on the PM Cares Fund, leading to mudslinging between the Congress and the BJP. The Taxation amendments were aimed to give changes in the tax filing dates including GST filings due to Covid-19 pandemic. It also included the tax concessions to the PM Cares Fund.

The face-off started with Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur resuming his Friday's controversial speech attacking the fund flow to Rajiv Gandhi Foundation from PMNRF, where Congress President Sonia Gandhi is also a Trustee.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi countered it charging the Government with accepting money from Chinese companies and challenged it to give details of the donors. Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury objected to Thakur's allegations against Sonia Gandhi, and the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and Thakur took potshots on Chowdhury for calling him "Himachal ke Chokra (boy)."

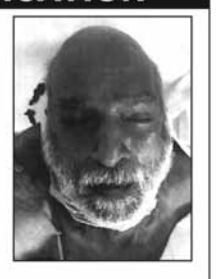
"You have the habit of calling names and later apologise. Yesterday you called me Chokra and I took credit for it. I come from Himachal and i am proud of being called as Chokra," said Thakur.

Chowdhury said he meant Balak (small boy). "You yesterday adopted an aggressive line. You are just a Balak and should not do that by commenting on great people like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru," he said.

Replying to the debate, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also took objection to Chowdhury ridiculing Thakur. "He is young. But he is fourth time MP. Adhir ji, you are leader of the Opposition party and should not use such words."

The Finance Minister also objected to opposition terming the PM Cares Fund as "non-transparent".

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one male was found in unconscious condition at Gate No. 6, Pant Hospital, Delhi on 15.09.2020. After checking the doctors vide MLC No. 484228/20 declare him dead. this regard a case vide **DD No. 48A, Dated 15.09.2020** has been Registered **at P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi.** The Dead body has been preserved in Mortuary of MAMC, Delhi for 72 Hrs for identification. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, **S/o**: Unknown **R/o**: Unknown **Age**: About 65 Yrs, **Height:** 5'6" Feet, **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing**: Sky Blue Colour Shirt and Brown Colour Pant.

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

S.H.O
P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23370928, 23370999

DP/372/CD/2020

Govt focussing on lowering road transport costs: VK Singh

New Delhi: The government is taking various steps to reduce road transport costs which in turn will make goods and services cheaper for common man, Union minister V K Singh said on Saturday. Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways Singh was addressing a global virtual summit, organised by Assocham. "The government is working on several initiatives that would reduce the cost of road transport", he said. *PTI*

WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

To **E-Tender Notice No. Dy. CE/C/II/BRC/MYG-DB-SMLA/22 (R2).** The following particulars of the tender uploaded on website for E-Tender have been changed as under: **E-Tender No.: Dy.CE/C/II/BRC/MYG-DB-SMLA/22 (R2)** published in News paper dated **17/09/2020. 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, tamping of track, dismantling of existing BG/NG track & Points & Crossing, flesh 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". **Availability of Online Tender for Bidding: As per Published Notice:** From 05/09/2020 at 10.00 Hrs. To 19/10/2020 up to 15.00 hrs. **Now be Read as: From 25/09/2020 at 10.00 hrs. To 09/10/2020 up to 15.00 hrs.** Other particulars of the tender Notice will remain unchanged.

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly 10

No decision to discontinue printing of ₹2000 note: Fin Min

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry on Saturday informed the Lok Sabha that no decision has been taken to discontinue the printing of ₹2,000 denomination currency notes.

In a written reply, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur said printing of bank notes of particular denomination is decided by the government in consultation with the RBI to maintain desired denomination mix for facilitating transactional demand of public.

During the year 2019-20 and 2020-21, no indent was placed with the presses for printing of ₹2,000 denomination notes.

"However, there is no decision to discontinue the printing of ₹2,000 denomination bank notes by the government," the minister said.

Thakur also informed that as on March 31, 2020, there were 27,398 lakh pieces of ₹2,000 notes in circulation compared to 32,910 lakh pieces on March 31, 2019.

He further said the RBI has informed that in view of nation-wide lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic, printing of notes stopped temporarily.

However, the note printing presses resumed production in a phased manner, as per the guidelines issued by Central/State Government, he added.

The production activities at Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) presses were suspended from March 23, 2020, to May 3, 2020. Printing of bank notes at BRBNMPL presses resumed with effect May 4, 2020.

Thakur further said Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) has informed that printing of bank notes at their presses was also affected due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Both, Bank Note Presses of SPMCIL -- Currency Note Press, Nashik and Bank Note Press, Dewas were closed down from March 23, 2020 due to lockdown.

Currency Note Press, Nashik and Bank Note Press, Dewas resumed full-fledged production activities from June 8, 2020 and June 1, 2020, respectively.

During the period of lockdown, note printing presses have uninterruptedly supplied notes to RBI offices/currency chests from stock of notes available with them through Indian Railway Treasury Wagons, Thakur added. *PTI*

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the general public that Ms. Sharda Khanna D/o Late Shri Kulwant Khanna, Member of the Pharmaceutical Employees CGHS Ltd. (Membership No. 521) having address at namely Flat No. B-19/237, Pharma Appts., Plot No. 88, I.P. Extn., Delhi – 110 092 died on 09.04.2020 without making any nomination. The Society hereby invites claims or objections from her or legal heirs or other claimants/ objectors to transfer of the said shares and interest of the deceased Member in the Capital property, of the Society within a period of 14 days from the publication of this notice. If no claims / objections are received within the prescribed above, the Society shall be free to deal with the Shares and the interest of the deceased member in the Capital/Property of the Society in such manner as is provided under the bye-laws of the Society.

For Pharmaceutical Employees Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd.
President/Secretary

The Project Director, Implementation Unit (PIU), ADB Projects, Office of the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Public Works Development (R&B), Udaipur-799120, Gomati District, Tripura, India, **Telephone: 03821-222378. Fax No.03821223533.** E-mail:- **se3rdpwd@gmail.com.** invites sealed bids under single stage two envelope system, from eligible and qualified bidders vide No-02/PD (SE-III)/ADB/ R/2020-21.

For title of the proposal Project:- NORTH EASTERN STATE ROADS INVESTMENT PROGRAM (NESRIP)-TRANCHE-2 ROADS.

Date:- 21st September, 2020.

Contract No. and Title: Procurement of Civil Works:- Country: INDIA, ADB Loan No.3073, Completion of balance work of Improvement and Up gradation of road section of Udaipur to Melaghar (TR02) (Tranche- 2 road in the State of Tripura) (ADB Loan No. 3073)

Deadline for Submission of Bid: **20th October, 2020 on IST 1.00 P.M.**

The detailed documents shall be available for sale between IST 10:30 AM on 21st September 2020 to IST 3:30 PM 12th October 2020. The detailed documents may be seen in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, Public Works Development (R&B), Udaipur-799120, Gomati District, Tripura, India. The complete set of Bidding Documents can also be obtained by the interested bidders by free downloading on line from the web sites at **https://tripura.gov.in.**

For and on behalf of Governor of Tripura
(Er. Madhab Lal Banik)
Project Director (ADB Project)

ICA/C-1637/2020-21

'Power PSUs have made India a power surplus nation'

Shri R.K. Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, New and Renewable Energy and Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, today, inaugurated various developmental projects and facilities in Bihar. As a responsible corporate, NTPC, country's largest power producer, is fulfilling its corporate social responsibility by creating an infrastructure for the benefit of the people of Bihar.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Singh appreciated NTPC, REC and Power Grid for their contribution to the state of Bihar in its path of progress.

He said, "These companies which are among the largest in the world, belonging to Ministry of Power, are one of the most professional and efficient organisations. The companies from the Power PSUs are well known for their exemplary performances, are also focussed on working towards societal development which extends to villages across the country. These companies have contributed extensively during the pandemic and have taken complete care of their workers. Further, NTPC is developing an ITI and constructing a ward in AIIMS, Bihar which will immensely benefit the people of Bihar. NTPC has played an instrumental role in the development of Bihar with an installed capacity of 6150 MW in the state. In addition, 3800 MW capacity is in pipeline."

He further added, "The power PSUs together have connected India in its length and breadth. The endeavour of the power PSUs have made India a power surplus nation with almost 1.25 lakh MW capacity of electricity being added in the past five years. Under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, we have brought a revolution in the power sector inching towards the target of making electricity available in every Indian household."

Speaking during the inauguration function, Shri Asit Kumar Mukherjee, RED (ER1), NTPC said "We are committed towards our social responsibilities and we strive to fulfil our commitment towards the people of Bihar. With six projects in the state, we are extremely happy in contributing to electricity requirement of the state. We are constantly working towards brightening up every citizen's face in Bihar."

The projects would benefit the public by providing them access to infrastructure built for family and community functions like celebrating festivals and social occassions.

Dwarka branch of CSB bank inaugurated

New Delhi: VK Shukla, General Manager and Zonal Manager of Northern Zonal Office, New Delhi of CSB Bank Limited formerly known as The Catholic Syrian Bank Limited has Inaugurated Dwarka branch of CSB Bank and Mr. Narendra Chawla, Mayor, South Delhi Muncipal Corporation, inagrurated Janakpuri branch of CSB Bank on 18.09.2020. While Inaugurating these branches Mr. VK Shukla has informed that three more branches at Rohini Sector 3, Okhla and Shalimar Bagh will be inaugurated by 12st October 2020. The proposed branches are identified at areas where there is good demand for Gold Loans, MSME, Corporate Loans and to extend support to other needy customers. Gold loan is the unique selling product of CSB Bank Limited with its attractive interest rate, higher LTV upto 90%, low turnaround time and easy takeover facility from other financial institutions.

CSB Bank Limited is one of the oldest private sector banks and celebrating the centenary year. The Bank has a strong base in Kerala along with significant presence in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra. It offers a wide range of products and services to their overall customer base of 1.35 billion. The Bank has been listed in the year 2019 and launched IPO on 22.11.2019. M/s Fairfax has infused capital of Rs. 1400.00 Cr in the year 2019 and the bank is well set to grow faster. Bank has further expansion plan in Northern & Eastern India.

Public Notice

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **Bhartiya Panchayati Raj Party (Loktantrik)**. The office of the party is located at **B-247 3rd Floor, Priyadarshini Vihar, Delhi - 110092**. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as **Political Party under Section 29A** of the **Representation of People Act, 1951** - Names/Address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows :

President/Chairman:
Rajeev Kumar Ranjan
General Secretary / Secretary :
Satish Parakh
Treasurer: Anilendra Pandey

If any one has any objection to the registration of **Bhartiya Panchayati Raj Party (Loktantrik)** they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001 within 30 days of the publication of their notice.

Being a gentleman's game you don't think about revenge (against MI). You think about the mistakes you made
— MS DHONI

IPL 2020

Saurabh Tiwary | 42 runs

Lungi Ngidi | 3 wickets

SUPER COMEBACK

MI lose 7 for 64 after a sparkling start in IPL opener

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's astute captaincy backed by some brilliant bowling at the back end saw Chennai Super Kings restrict Mumbai Indians to 162 for 9 despite some good start by their star-studded batting line-up in the opening IPL game here on Saturday.

CSK's new recruits leg-spinner Piyush Chawla (1/21 in 4 overs) and left-arm seamer Sam Curran (1/28 in 4 overs) made fantastic first impression while Lungi Ngidi (3/38 in 4 overs) and Deepak Chahar (2/32 in 4 overs) came back brilliantly during death overs.

For Mumbai Indians, Quinton de Kock (33 off 20 balls, 5x4) and Saurabh Tiwary (42 off 31 balls, 3x4, 1x6) played well but couldn't convert their starts as the defending champions got only 76 runs in their back-10.

De Kock started in a blazing fashion as he launched straight into Chahar and Ngidi as 45 came off the first four overs.

The shrewd Dhoni then introduced Chawla into the attack and he right away dismissed Rohit Sharma (12) who always have had a problem with wrist spinners. It was a straight delivery that Rohit trying to hit inside out couldn't get past Curran stationed at the mid-off circle.

The seamer then was back in action as he got rid of De Kock with a well dosguised off-cutter which he straight hit to Shane Watson at mid-wicket.

Suryakumar Yadav (17) and the giant Saurabh Tiwary (42 off 31 balls, 3x4, 1x6) added 44 to steady the ship but some good outfielding in the back-10 from the likes of Curran and Faf du Plessis had MI slump to 124 for 5 from 92 for two.

Tiwary as an anchor proved to be a decent choice as he hit the first six off this year's IPL off Ravindra Jadeja. Someone who promised a lot was Hardik Pandya (14 off 10 balls) with a couple of lusty sixes off Jadeja but then Chawla bowled an ideal length to keep him quiet.

The patience went off and Jadeja reaped the reward when Hardik tried to hit a third six instead of rotating the strike and was holed out at the boundary line by Faf du Plessis.

Chennai Super Kings players Lungi Ngidi, skipper MS Dhoni celebrate with other teammates after SA pacer takes wicket IPLT20.com

Suresh Raina, who pulled out from the IPL, extended his best wishes to Chennai Super Kings ahead of their tournament opener against Mumbai Indians on Saturday, adding that it was "unimaginable" that he is not with the team

There is 'competition' for middle-order slots: Ponting

SUNDAY BLOCKBUSTER

PTI ■ DUBAI

Delhi Capitals coach Ricky Ponting believes that senior batsman Ajinkya Rahane's inclusion adds "more depth" to the side but there will be a healthy competition for middle-order slots during this IPL season.

MATCHES:	24
KINGS XI PUNJAB WON:	14
DELHI CAPITALS WON:	10

The Capitals, which finished third last year, will start their campaign against Kings XI Punjab on Sunday and both Ponting and skipper Shreyas Iyer agreed that R Ashwin and Rahane have been great additions to the young side with their experience they brought in.

STAR SPORTS 1 7:30 PM

While the coach didn't give away much but there is a possibility that India's Test vice-captain may have to wait for his chance in the playing XI considering the explosive top five (Shikhar Dhawan, Prithvi Shaw, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant, Shimron Hetmyer) that DC possesses. There is in-form Alex Carey also in the mix.

"We really have a balanced side. There is a lot of competition for middle-order slots. Rahane gives us more depth to our batting," the Australian legend said on Saturday during his team's pre-season virtual media conference sitting, alongside skipper Iyer.

"Shikhar had as good a last season as anybody. Prithvi has been training very well. Shreyas has had his best 12 months for the Indian team. We have Pant, Hetmyer and Alex Carey (both left-handers), which gives us a good mix of left-right combination. We have our bases covered," Ponting said, giving a subtle hint about Rahane's immediate future.

Iyer, on his part, said that Ashwin and Rahane have mixed well within the group and never gave a sense that they are senior players.

"They give that extra sense of confidence. You don't feel that they are seniors and are willing to help every individual," said Iyer, who believes that Ashwin will be beneficial for the team, given his idea of the KXIP core team (Chris Gayle, KL Rahul and Mayank Agarwal) and the slowish nature of the Dubai track.

Ponting also felt that wicketkeeper batsman Rishabh Pant has been shaping up well since last week and he is expecting another good season from the burly southpaw.

"Pant, during the last week, has really turned the corner well and I would expect him to perform as well as he did last year.

"In DC, we as a coaching group don't put added pressure on the players. We like to take as much as possible pressure off them. We never expect any such thing from them which they don't expect from themselves," the coach said.

Stadium near empty but not quite enveloped in eerie silence

Abu Dhabi: The IPL is back but the atmosphere isn't.

The 20,000-seater Sheikh Zayed Stadium was nearly empty, apart from the 22 men in the middle, officials, staff, security and a smattering of others, as the IPL unlike any other began here on Saturday.

But, contrary to the expectations, it was not too quiet and not too placid, either. The pre-recorded cheers by the franchises ensured the stadium was not enveloped in eerie silence.

Organised amid the Covid-19 pandemic after several twists and turns, delays and discussions, the start of the 13th Indian Premier League was still definitely out of the ordinary, slightly odd and even a bit weird.

It was different in many ways.

Inaudible under normal circumstances because of the roaring cheers and chants raining down from the stands packed to the rafters with passionate fans, the thud of Rohit Sharma and Quinton de Kock's bats hitting the ball could be heard across the world, breaking through the TV sets of millions of viewers.

In this case, the pre-recorded cheers could quite swallow up the sounds of the bat hitting the ball, like it would happen in the pre-COVID world.

In the VIP box, top officials of the BCCI, including president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah, as well as the office-bearers of the Emirates Cricket Board, were spaced several seats apart to maintain social distancing.

The celebration was far from being over the top after Chennai Super Kings made it 48 for two with the dismissal of De Kock in the sixth over of the innings. And it was the same after they sent back the dangerous Rohit, who started the proceedings with a cracking drive through the offside in the very first ball of the tournament off Deepak Chahar, who recovered in time for the game after contracting the dreaded virus.

Rohit did not look like he was coming off a long break from the sport. Though the Mumbai Indians captain and every other player have been training for days, it is the first match they were playing in months, something they have never experienced in the last many years.

Truly in sync with the extraordinary times, CSK's talismanic skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, in a lighter vein, asked at the toss if he could "have a slip" in place owing to the social distancing guidelines. **PTI**

Staying in isolation for first six days was very difficult: Dhoni

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Staying in self isolation for the first six days after spending five months with family was the hardest phase, according to Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who spoke for the first time in months ahead of the IPL opener against Mumbai Indians.

In the run-up to 13th IPL, Chennai Super Kings were rocked by 13 Covid-19 cases, including two players, and pullouts by the senior duo of Suresh Raina and Harbhajan Singh due to personal reasons.

As per the protocols, teams had to quarantine for six days in Dubai and 14-days in Abu Dhabi.

However, CSK had to stretch their self-isolation period to September 1 due to positive cases in the camp including players Deepak Chahar and Ruturaj Gaikwad.

"First six days in quarantine is very difficult. You are with your family and suddenly you have to stay in a separate room... Felt each individual used that time well and nobody was disappointed or frustrated," the former India skipper said after winning the toss.

"After the first 14 days it was nice to get out. The practice facilities were very good."

Back in action after a long gap, Dhoni, who had retired from international cricket a little over a month ago, said he worked on his fitness during the coronavirus-induced lockdown in India.

His bulging biceps were there for everyone to see.

"Have the liberty during lockdown to spend time on yourself to keep fit. Have to applaud every member of the squad for utilising the time well."

Chennai had lost the finals to Mumbai Indians in the last edition.

Asked if revenge is on his mind, Dhoni said: "Being a gentleman's game you don't think about revenge (against MI). You think about the mistakes you made."

Four-time champions Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma said adapting to the conditions in UAE will be the key.

"We have been here for few weeks, so understand conditions better. Before coming here, we had a camp in Mumbai. Also had quality practice out here in Abu Dhabi. Key here will be to understand conditions," he said.

"Pitches for the practice matches will be similar to what we'll get here. So ready to go."

The last time the IPL was held in UAE, Mumbai Indians had returned home empty handed. Asked if it plays on the mind in any way, Rohit said: "We just have two members from that squad, so it is a new set up now. The way we've been playing cricket for the last couple of years, it has been good. All in all we've had good preparation. Now all about execution."

Smith, Archer, Buttler clear Covid-19 tests

Dubai: Captain Steve Smith along with star players Jofra Archer and Jos Buttler have cleared the mandatory Covid-19 test on arrival and are available to play Rajasthan Royal's IPL opener against Chennai Super Kings at the Sharjah Cricket ground on September 22.

The trio were part of the 21-strong contingent of Australia and England players, who arrived in the UAE from UK by a special chartered flight on September 17.

"Smith, Buttler and Archer underwent Covid-19 tests on Friday and results are negative. So they are available for selection with quarantine duration being reduced to 36 hours," an IPL source said.

Former Australia skipper Smith has had concussion problems and missed all three ODIs against England and his participation in the opening game is subject to clearance from both franchise and Cricket Australia's medical team.

If Smith misses the first game, Buttler could lead the side as he is one of the seniormost players in the team.

As of now, the franchise is hopeful that Smith will clear the mandatory concussion tests and be available from the first game itself. **PTI**

KL looking to play good brand of cricket

PTI ■ DUBAI

Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul on Saturday said the side is motivated to making this IPL season a memorable one by playing a good brand of cricket.

"The team has been fantastic, we've been getting along great and are looking forward to playing a good brand of cricket and making this season a memorable one," Rahul said.

"We're confident, we're motivated and we are really excited to be a part of this edition of the Indian Premier League," he added.

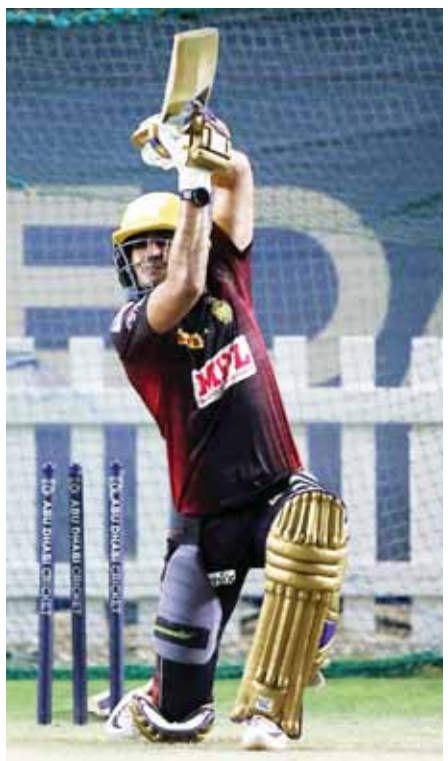
Rahul, who has been handed the Kings XI Punjab captaincy after two stellar seasons with the bat at the top of the order, said it will be a challenging experience playing in the UAE without the fans but the team is ready for it.

"It is going to be a different experience this year, but we as a team are up to the challenge and are playing for all the fans who continue to support us," Rahul said.

KXIP, who have never won the IPL, are aiming to go all the way this time with a strong squad at their disposal with the likes of Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Mohammad Shami and overseas recruits Chris Gayle, Glenn Maxwell, Sheldon Cottrell, Jimmy Neesham, the in-form Nicholas Pooran and Mujeeb Zadran.

"The team looks great and we have a top-notch line up this season. The boys have been working really hard and we have a nice balance of youth and experience in our squad," head Coach Anil Kumble said.

"We are all looking forward to having a good season this year. I truly believe that Kings XI Punjab have the necessary squad to go all the way in this IPL," he added.



Shubman will bat at top order: McCullum

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

Kolkata Knight Riders head coach Brendon McCullum on Saturday made it clear that Shubman Gill will open for them throughout the IPL to give the team some solidity at the top in tricky UAE conditions.

The rising top-order batsman was tried out at different positions last season without the desired result and it was considered to be one of the reasons why KKR missed out on a play-off berth.

"They're (wickets) gonna be quite fresh, I think they could be quite helpful for seam bowling. If the wickets are going to be a little bit tricky early on against fast bowling, I think you want your players who have the best techniques and the best batsmanship and craft," said McCullum.

"... He's (Shubman) certainly one of those guys... I see him batting at the top of the order throughout the campaign," added the newly-appointed KKR coach in a media interaction.

Impressed with the way, the 21-year-old Shubman carries himself, the Kiwi great said he wants to give the Indian youngster his own space and groom the other junior members in the team.

"I think he's got a bit of a presence about him, even at this young age, very respectful as well. I know DK (captain Dinesh Karthik) really respects him as a person as a cricket brain as well. And I think he's going to be another wonderful resource for DK both on and off the field," McCullum said.

"I want to see the most out of him is just to grow on his own time, his own space but also take those around him, who are still reasonably inexperienced and grow at the same rate that he's growing in his own career.

"If we can do that, then the experience we can get into these guys at a young age, and pressure moments is going to be a very, very good thing for KKR this season. He's got a very big role."

KKR started off well winning four of their first five matches, but they lost six matches on the trot in the business end to miss the qualifiers by a whisker.

The team looked really dependent on Andre Russell, but this time reigning World Cup winning captain Eoin Morgan will lend solidity in the middle-order.

Hailing the Englishman as the best middle-over batsman in limited overs cricket, McCullum said: "He's probably the best middle-order batsman in the shorter version, over the last couple of years. So we're very lucky to have him. His relationship with DK throughout this campaign will give us a good opportunity."

The England limited-overs skipper, who had a stint with KKR from 2011-2013, was bought at the auction for ₹5.25 crore.

The 34-year-old Morgan will be joining the side after leading England to their maiden World Cup glory in 2019.

"He was a guy who we were desperate to get batting (at the auction) in the middle order around Russell and Karthik... He provides us with a really, really strong middle-order."

KKR chief mentor David Hussey had earlier said Russell is best suited at No 3 but McCullum was of the opinion that the star Jamaican is an ideal finisher in the T20 format and the team will have a 'horses-for-courses' approach.

"I think his game is definitely suited to probably the last 10 overs of a T20 game. But there may be times where the matchups are right we can get in Andre a little bit earlier, up the order.

"That will be a horses for courses type approach but the good thing is we've got lots of resources to be able to choose from."

Clearly indicating that Russell, Morgan, Sunil Narine and Pat Cummins will be the four overseas players that he will mainly depend on during the tournament, McCullum said the team can really shock the oppositions if the wickets aid seamers in the initial few matches.

"Cummins has the ability to take early wickets and if we can do that, we know we've got some quality spinners. When you couple them all together, I'm really content with the unit that we've got, particularly on these wickets because they might have a little bit more in them than what most people are anticipating," he said.

"If the wickets play as we expect, then I think we could shock a few really with the pace and speeds with which our bowlers can operate," he said.

With the overseas combination already set for KKR, Tom Banton may have to wait for his chances.

"He probably won't start for us in this campaign because we will go with a slightly different balance but what he gives you so many different options. He has already made a bit of a splash in International cricket," he said.

"He's a guy who even against various bowling attacks of the world, can still shock them, and dominate them. And when he gets his opportunity, I'm sure he will entertain the fans all around the world."

sunday magazine
September 20, 2020

the pioneer
agenda

If I look at the message I'm portraying, I think it definitely is be who you are, but be your best you
— Kim Kardashian

FROM THE INSIDE

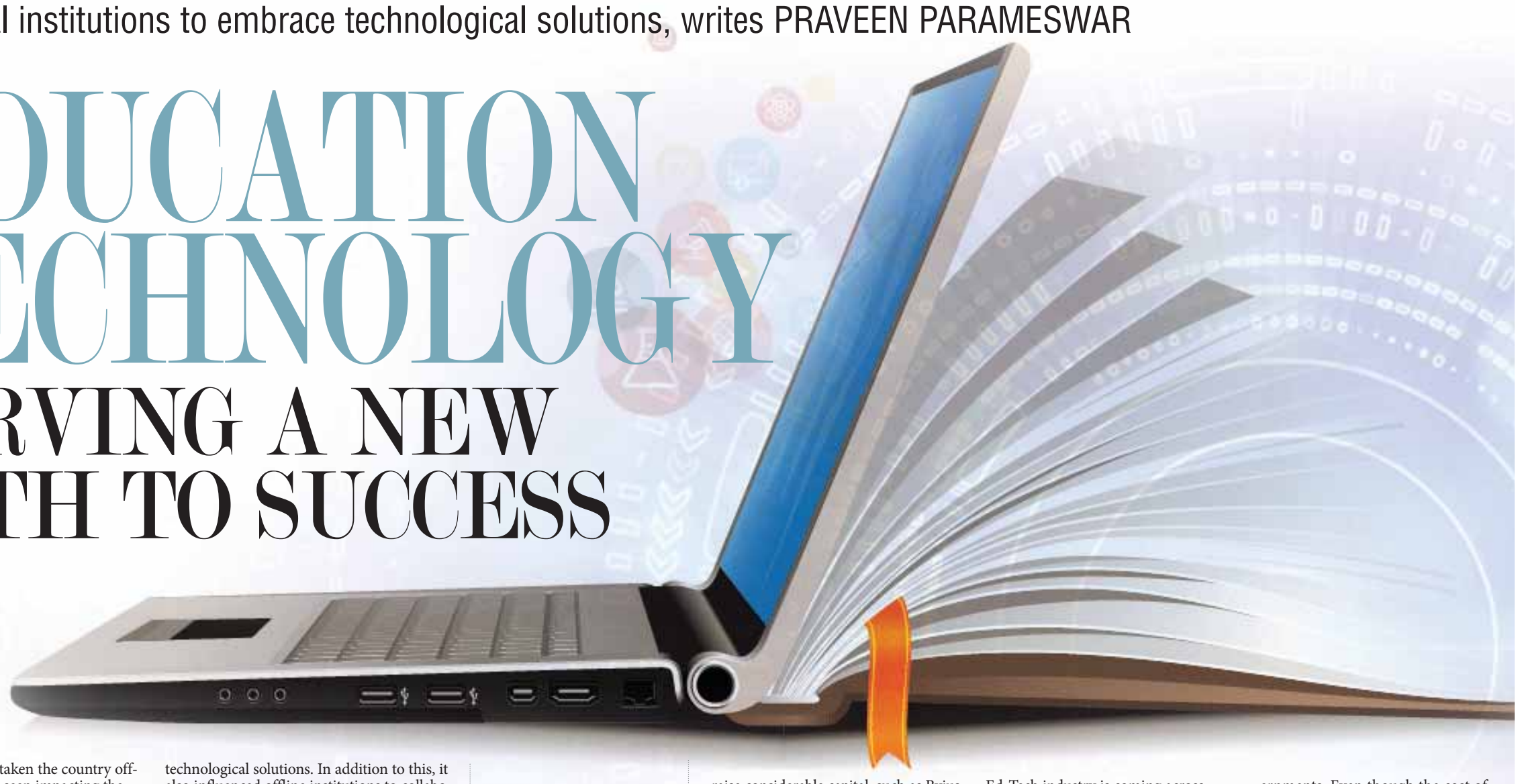
A man extraordinaire
An Extraordinary Life stands out because of the main protagonist, Manohar Parrikar 2

4 **Living in a giving mode**
Once you start living in a giving mode, you will care for each other's concerns and sensibilities

The Ed-Tech industry in India has been going through three major push backs including resistance from schools, the lack of trust in online education and the reach of internet and communication devices such as computers, tablets and mobile phones. Covid-19 served as a catalyst in resolving these concerns. The outbreak encouraged schools and other educational institutions to embrace technological solutions, writes PRAVEEN PARAMESWAR

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

CARVING A NEW PATH TO SUCCESS



Covid-19 has taken the country off-guard and is seen impacting the Indian economy. As per the Moody's report published in June 2020, India's GDP is expected to shrink by 3.1%. Going one step further, the Dun and Bradstreet Report released in August 2020 predicted that the GDP would contract by 4.5% this fiscal year. Amidst these daunting numbers, one industry that is still reflecting a ray of hope while showing unprecedented growth in India is the Education Technology, that is, the Ed-Tech sector. RS Components, analysing the Crunchbase data, observes that other than the USA, India is the second country that hosts the most number of Ed-Tech companies in the world.

In 2020, Ed-Tech stands as the most funded business sector in India. Only between January and July $998 Mn has been invested across 31 deals. Furthermore, the ed-tech sector, according to the Omidyar, Redseer report, 2020, is expected to touch a size of $3.5 Bn by 2022.

To understand the inner working of this sector and map its growth, let us delve deeper and analyse the current scenario along with the latest trends, impact, opportunities, possible pitfalls and the way ahead for the Ed-Tech industry.

INDIAN ED-TECH INDUSTRY; GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

The umbrella term of 'Ed-Tech' largely consists of five segments, which include Online Teaching and Test Preparation; Assessment, Guidance and Mentoring; Skill Development and Certification; Professional Development Programmes, Infrastructural and Administrative Solutions. Amongst these segments, Online Teaching and Test Preparation leads the market with a 64% share and further anticipating size of $515 Mn by 2021. The sector is lately experiencing a boom as it alchemises with artificial intelligence and neuroscience

The growth of Ed-Tech in India started around 2004-05 when ventures such as Everonn, NIIT and Educomp made their mark through digital course content, smart classrooms and skill development programs. The industry has been reaching new heights with 3000 companies, including Byju's, Unacademy etc. along with various investors like Tiger Global, General Atlantic, Steadview Capital, GGV Capital, Foundation Holding, Aarin Capital, Simplilearn and Blume Ventures venturing into this landscape.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

The Ed-Tech industry in India has been going through three major push backs including resistance from schools, the lack of trust on online education and the reach of internet and communication devices such as computers, tablets and mobile phones. Covid-19 served as a catalyst in resolving these concerns. The outbreak encouraged schools and other educational institutions to embrace technological solutions. In addition to this, it also influenced offline institutions to collaborate with companies such as Embibe and Simplilearn.

Not just this, parents are also trying to adapt to the new normal and subscribing to educational help platforms such as Byjus or Toppr or Global Shiksha, Khan Academy and others. People are going an extra mile to adapt to the Ed-Tech culture and connecting internet, mobile phones, TV, computers and tablets more to learning.

THE BENEFIT COMMON PEOPLE ENJOY FROM THE GROWTH OF ED-TECH

The growth of technology in the education sector is, in fact, impacting lives of millions majorly in five different ways:

- Many of the top-notch teachers, courses and institutions were only accessible for people who live in the city. But technology dilutes the geographical borders. Today, a person sitting 200 kilometres away from a city like Bangalore or Mumbai or Thiruvananthapuram or Lucknow would get easy access to high-class lectures and tutorials.
- Platforms such as Unacademy and Upgrad are helping people to learn/get certified/professionally qualified even along with the job they do. This helps more people to up-skill them without moving out of jobs.
- Technology in the coming years shall make education accessible for more people who are not able to afford fees at schools or colleges. This would also help the government to provide education to children and adults without much capital investment in high rise buildings and infrastructure, leading to the real democratisation of education in India.
- Assessments, guidance and mentoring are some of the areas that have to consider multiple data points at the same point. Most of the time these aspects go wrong in education as it is humanly impossible to consider multiple variables together. High profile technology is, in fact, solving this problem to a large extent. This would make assessments, guidance and mentoring people easier and more accurate, thus the right people would reach the right places in life.
- Another major impact of Ed-Tech in the life of common people is that education becomes more effective through visual aids, augmented reality, virtual reality and videos with meaningful graphics. This will help children and adults to comprehend the conceptual level of knowledge rather than mugging up as used to happen during the early days.

CURRENT TRENDS IN THE ED-TECH INDUSTRY

The current trends in the Ed-Tech industry in Indian can be presented through the following four points:

- The growth of Ed-Tech in India is not a linear or organised graph. It becomes extremely dynamic in nature. Thus only companies who are really agile, open to change and vibrant can sustain in the market.
- Early entrants to the market who could raise considerable capital, such as Byjus, increased the quality of content, visual treatment and sophistication of technology to a very high level. This demands any new entrant to match the high standards of their products, in order to satisfy the customers.
- Ed-Tech being a very large and broad industry with too many areas to address, a collaboration between non-competing players is becoming a new norm. Assessment companies joining hands with content providers or infrastructure agencies partnering with skill development companies are a few endeavours taking place all across the globe. Organisations have understood the power of co-creation of success.
- The New Education Policy (NEP-2020) sets the tone perfectly for the intervention of technology in education. This would enable the Ed-Tech industry to make India globally competitive.

> WE SHOULD AIM AT MAKING INDIA THE HUB OF EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY, WITH THE MOST NUMBER OF COMPANIES, MAXIMUM INVESTMENT AND HIGH MARKET SIZE. THIS NOT ONLY ENHANCES BUSINESS IN THE COUNTRY BUT ALSO TAKES INDIA TO THE NEXT TRAJECTORY OF GROWTH. THIS WOULD BE THE RIGHT TIME TO DEVELOP 'MAKE IN INDIA' AS THE MOST POWERFUL BRAND IN THE GLOBAL ED-TECH SPACE

FUTURE AVENUES FOR START-UPS

The significant areas where new startups can work on and create new horizons of growth will include the following:

- **Vernacular Languages:** 80% of India speaks vernacular languages. The New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP), also emphasises on education through regional languages. In every vertical, ranging right from online tutoring to skills development to assessments, vernacular content is yet to be well addressed. To understand its nature, it is important to note that even a unicorn such as Byjus has not started venturing into the vernacular market yet. Addressing the education requirements through all 22 officials in India would be a great space for start-ups to play.
- **Technological reforms of the 21st century:** Even though many companies claim that they use the technologies of the 4th industrial revolution such as artificial intelligence, augmented reality, big data analytics etc., very few companies use them productively, that too on a very small scale. Majority of the brands attempting to amalgamate artificial intelligence in their modules/approach are yet to tap into its true potential. On the other hand, some companies use augmented and virtual realities mostly to enhance marketability than to manifest its real power. This is where the start-ups can work on and develop cutting edge technology solutions that can power any or all of the 5 segments in the ed-tech industry.
- **Research to blend Technology and Behavior Science:** This is an area where research-based startups can pitch their ideas. Currently, a gap that the Ed-Tech industry is coming across includes not having alchemists who can blend technology and behavioural sciences seamlessly. Insightful research is one factor that could help in bridging this gap. Multifunctional teams consisting of technologists, psychologists, sociologists and neurobiologists can identify hundreds of areas that require in-depth attention in the ed-tech domain.
- **Assessments, Guidance and Mentoring:** Right people reaching the wrong places causes huge loss. In addition to this, financial loss, lack of happiness, fulfilment, purpose are some vital elements that people largely lack. This can be resolved through addressing assessment, guidance and mentoring techniques in the most appropriate manner. Startups who tap this nerve of the market can become the game changers of the sector while rightly using the modern-day technology and immersive solutions to one's benefit.
- **Skill Development:** National Skill Development Council (NSDC), various Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) and different State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs) are on a mission to bridge India's skill gap. The speed of change in technology is expected to make more than 48% of jobs obsolete in the next ten years, as observed by the Oxford Martin School study. This makes it inevitable to train every student with the best skillset, thus requiring more players to step forward and up-skill a large proportion of our workforce.

POSSIBLE PITFALLS FOR STARTUPS

Considering that the Ed-Tech industry is hardly 14 to 15 years old in India, its infancy stage does not enable the newcomers to learn from a plethora of successful cases. Thus, there are a lot of chances that lack of understanding of the market or misjudgment might make startups err. Some of the possible mistakes are listed below.

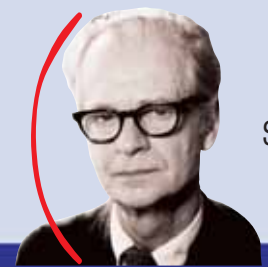
- Online tutoring and test preparation through video content would be a business with fewer obstacles here and there. Thus many people may just take a deep dive, considering the growth of ed-tech experiences. It is a fact that the market still has space for newcomers. But the incumbents have raised the bar of quality very high. Therefore any person who gets into the market with a couple of lakhs investment on a camera, microphone, a bunch of amateur teachers and a website created out of a template in Envato would not be growing further. If the newcomers overcome the current quality players in the market, it will get easier for the sector to grow.
- Many of the start-ups see a captive market inside schools and with governments. Even though the cost of acquiring customers would be lesser, compared with the direct to customer strategy, time to close a deal would be very long in the B2B or B2G segment. Time and money would be lost if the newcomers wait to close large businesses with governments or large school chains. Thus it is ideal to start with direct access to students and keep B2B or B2G as a parallel track.
- Education is a vertical where human behaviour and mindset carries a lot of significance. Only if technology solutions can consider the behavioural aspects as well, companies can sustain the market. Many players only develop a team consisting of technical experts or some content developers, but miss out on collaborating with behaviour experts. This could serve as one of the common mistakes and should be avoided.
- The pandemic might be serving as a catalyst but it is imperative for us to remember that this scenario would last forever. Education will not travel backwards from the current affinity that it's built with technology. It's essential for one to have a plan when thinking about the road ahead for their venture.

THE WAY FORWARD

In India, the education sector is considered as one of the most stable, robust fields with low-income elasticity. According to the Economic Survey (2018), the income elasticity towards the healthcare sector was 1.95, whereas it was 0.93 for products in the education sector.

This scenario, along with the wide acceptance of ed-tech during Covid-19 would certainly lure more investments in this industry. In this case, the intervention of policymakers, influencers, launchpads and mentoring bodies should be focusing on channelising this growth to the right direction by ensuring entry of companies to the appropriate areas, channelising investment to the organisations attending the right requirement and helping ventures with proper hand-holding. We should aim at making India the hub of Education Technology, with the most number of companies, maximum investment and high market size. This not only enhances business in the country but also takes India to the next trajectory of growth. This would be the right time to develop 'Make in India' as the most powerful brand in the global ed-tech space.

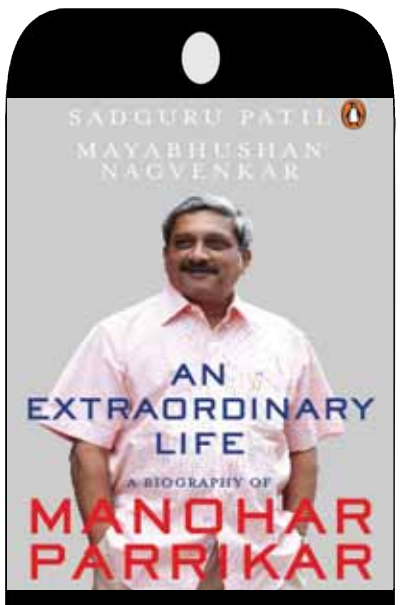
The writer is CEO, Lifology. Lifology is India's first career eco-system for parents



WE SHOULDN'T TEACH GREAT BOOKS; WE SHOULD TEACH A LOVE OF READING
— BF SKINNER

An Extraordinary Life stands out because of the main protagonist, Manohar Parrikar. He reminds the readers of a super-hero character from the Hindi movies, writes KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Parrikar: A man extraordinaire



AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE: A BIOGRAPHY OF MANOHAR PARRIKAR
Penguin, ₹499

It was on a Friday (to be precise, on November 13, 2015) that I met Manohar Parrikar, the country's defence minister for the first and last time. He flew into the Indian Naval Station Rajali, around 80 km south of Chennai by a Boeing Poseidon-8 India (Boeing P-80I) the country's newly acquired Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft, described as the country's eyes and ears up in the air.

As he strode into the auditorium, I could feel the powerful aura of elegance associated with him. It was for the induction into service of the eight aircraft, each procured at a cost of ₹1,500 crore he flew down to Rajali despite the heavy rains and winds that tormented northern Tamil Nadu on that Friday.

The induction ceremony was as simple as the chief guest. There was no big speech or show. The minister unveiled a plaque installed on the side of the 4.9 km long runway and he was presented with a memento by Admiral Dhowan, the then chief of naval staff.

Before embarking the aircraft for his onward journey to New Delhi, the minister was surrounded by journalists for some possible 'bytes'. All were asking him about the One Rank One Pension controversy generated by a section of ex-servicemen who had accused the government with going back on the promise. Some of them had threatened to return the medals they received from the Government for their meritorious services to the nation. And some had even burnt the medals and ribbons!

"Returning the medals and burning the medals are like insulting the nation. Medals are a recognition of bravery, for the service to the nation. It has nothing to do with service conditions whereas OROP is with service conditions. It does not say you are entitled for medals," Parrikar replied. He declined to comment when asked whether the continuing agitation has some political motives. "It is for those who are agitating to prove that it is not politically motivated. Let them prove it themselves," said the minister. When he was about to leave, I asked him about his two hour long journey in the Poseidon 80-I from Andamans to Arkkonam and also about the possibilities of the revival of Durand Cup Football Championship hosted by the Indian Army .

The word football literally 'threw him out of balance'. "Well, I'll answer your question on football first. I'll definitely and seriously look into how to promote Durand Cup Football tournament. It is Asia's oldest and world's third oldest championship and it is our responsibility to revive it," he said.

To convince me about his seriousness, Parrikar told me that he was passionate about football. "Do you know that I myself was a football player and have played in all levels of the games. Goans are passionate about the game. It was during my first tenure as chief minister I declared football as Goa's official game. We have village level tournaments as well as league matches featuring big time clubs. I had played the game even while I was pursing my studies in IIT Bombay. It was because of an injury, I had to hang my boots so early," he opened up. The enthusiasm and energy when he spoke of football had to be seen to believe. And that too from the country's defence minister.

It was another thing that politics took the front seat as he had to return to Panaji as chief minister of Goa. Manohar Parrikar looked so healthy and energetic on that Friday in 2015 and nobody would have imagined even in their wildest dreams he had some medical issues which would snuff out that life so soon.

Manohar Parrikar was the first BJP chief minister of Goa and also the tenth chief minister of the State. Pramod Sawant, the present Chief Minister is the 13th to occupy the *gaddi*. Nobody has bothered to write the biographies of the other 12 chief ministers while two young journalists, Sadguru Patil and Mayabhushan Nagvenkar selected Manohar Parrikar as their subject speaks volumes about the greatness and uniqueness of the man.

For people from Goa, Parrikar is a *swayamsevak* (volunteer) of the RSS, a B Tech graduate from IIT Bombay in metallurgical engineering (an important and tough branch of technology) and a BJP worker. The authors, who have interviewed or interacted with Parrikar more than 20 times during his tenure as leader of the opposition and chief minister, had to walk a tight rope to convince the world about their neutrality and impartiality while writing about the life and times of a Sangh Parivar man. They have succeeded in it because they have left no stones unturned while writing about Parrikar.

The authors while introducing Parrikar to the readers said that he had to settle for metallurgy engineering in IIT, 'ranked low in the elite institution's flaunting order compared to other branches of engineering'. Metallurgy engineering was a topic very much in demand in those days because the country's nuclear and space programmes and the flourishing metal industries were on the prowl for graduates in metallurgy.

How Parrikar single-handedly built the BJP into a powerful force in Goa politics is interesting. A small state dominated by the Maharashtravadi Gomantak Party and the Congress had to yield space to the Hindutwa politics only because of the kind of work done by Parrikar and associates. In a democracy, all political parties should have space to grow, grow fairly. Parrikar has succeeded in developing his political party into a major entity like the manager/coach a soccer team builds a team from scratch to that of a winning combination.

Parrikar as leader of opposition and then as Chief Minister were two different personalities, charge the authors. Since I am not familiar with Goan politics, let me stay away from that controversy. But how many politicians are there in India who fight corruption with the same dedication with which they fight the system while in the Opposition? What happened to the 2G Spectrum, Coal Gate, Commonwealth Games scam, National Herald scam, Bofors scam and a host of other such cases? The prime suspects are still seen in TV channels and parliamentary debates cocking a snook at the millions. This is India that is Bharat.

But why didn't Goans take up violation of court orders, if any, in the mining licence and casino issues have been left untold. It definitely would have added to the value of the book. These instances are also parts of the folklore associated with Goa and Parrikar. Similarly, the authors' criticism in Parrikar surrounding himself with persons from the GSB community to which he belonged sounded out of place. I have seen how ministers belonging to the Dravidian parties appoint only members from their caste in their personal staff. Same is the case with Muslim League, Kerala Congress leaders in my home state! The only difference is that casteism in Kerala is not severe as it is in TN!

"An Extraordinary Life" stands out only because of the main protagonist, Manohar Parrikar. He reminds the readers about characters in Hindi movies, who succumb to fate which claims their lives in the form of cancer or villains' gun shots. This Parrikar was a *Manohar* person.

NEW ARRIVALS

THE CROCODILE WHO ATE BUTTER CHICKEN FOR BREAKFAST AND OTHER STORIES
Khyrunnisa A.
Red Panda, ₹249

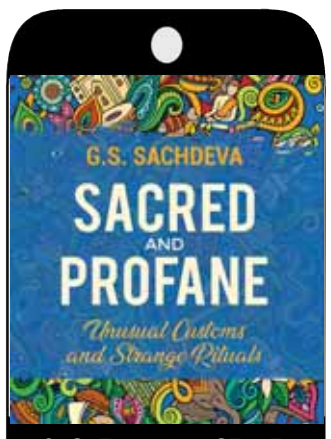
Arun wants a pet crocodile. Now imagine the fun when he ends up with a crocodile that eats butter chicken for breakfast.
Karthik loves big, dull-coloured birds of prey and can't contain his excitement at the thought of receiving a kite for his birthday.
The hunt for the professor's glasses leads to a chance encounter with a big monkey and a volley of eggs being thrown at everybody.
Animals and humans of all shapes and sizes gather together on the pages of this delightful anthology of stories by bestselling children's author Khyrunnisa A. *The Crocodile Who Ate Butter Chicken for Breakfast and Other Stories* is a charming collection of stories of animals and people, their exciting lives and funny antics. Humorous and at times touching, this collection of short stories is perfect for all readers, including animal lovers.

WOOF!: ADVENTURES BY THE SEA
Aparna Karthikeyan
Red Panda, ₹250

It's just before the Mumbai monsoon when the Don and her gang chance upon a mysterious package on the beach. It pops open, and a little puppy wriggles out. The Don's annoyed, her gang is upset. A new puppy spells trouble. For the dogs on the beach, life can be tough. And the new arrival has broken their rhythm. But soon they discover Shingmo the Seventh is actually a sliver of sunshine on the beach. The pack weaves a circle of friendship and love that shelters them all through sun and storm. These unforgettable dogs and their world come to life with Sagar Kolwankar's beautiful black-and-white illustrations. An adventure with a heart, *Woof!* is a must-read for anyone who's exchanged a knowing look with a dog.

Sadasuhags: The cross-dressers...

Sacred and Profane by GS Sachdeva is a secular take on the world's most unorthodox and mystifying rituals, customs and traditions. An edited excerpt:



SACRED AND PROFANE: UNUSUAL CUSTOMS AND STRANGE RITUALS
GS Sachdeva
SAGE Select, ₹495

In the evolution of human society and community living, religion, however primitive, elemental or minimalistic, has always had a place in some form or manner. Even aboriginal and tribal denominations had pseudo-religious totemic faiths, which many of them still carry with staunch fervour. Religion, for them, had a different meaning and purpose in life. It was more relevant to mundane things in life like warding off adversity, ill-luck, illness, etc. For some, religion was a shield against natural calamities like droughts and floods, earthquakes or volcanic eruptions. Religion, to this effect, treated everything incomprehensible as a god and worshipped it to propitiate for benevolence. Later, religion came to be sought and followed for higher virtues, spiritual values, after-life treatment and salvation from rebirth.

Religion has evolved with time as few spiritually enlightened beings were blessed with unique reverential experiences and divine revelations, which were interpreted differently by different groups of people, with shifting of emphasis on traditional tenets and prevalent rituals. As a result, small groups tended to branch off as separate religious sects with differential beliefs and varied pronouncements on attendant rituals. Gradually, these break-away branches developed their own tenets and conspicuous identities with separate prayer systems and anomalized ritualistic practices that came to be recognized as distinct from the main religion, acquiring a different name and calling.

The same happened for Sadasuhags. This sect, though originally part of mainstream Hinduism, leaned in a different direction, highlighting a prominent belief that all living persons are the brides of the Eternal God, irrespective of their gender. Thus, they remain brides forever and never get widowed because God is immortal and eternal. With this cognition and motivation, they dress as women, embellish themselves in feminine ways and mentally pray to please God, imagining him as the groom. With passage of time and growing disapprobation of cross-dressing by the prudish society, this sect went into hiding and has gradually disappeared. These days, few Sadasuhags are seen, either near temples or seeking alms.

Besides, social customs, at times, acquire oddities and unusual practices and turn into superstitions that defy common logic, where optical physicality tends to be illusory or remains unexplained in rational terms; for example, the Koovagam festival of transgenders, the weeping statue, prejudice against the number thirteen or the Spanish festival of Devil's Jump. While some oddities may be backed by reason like exaltation of pigs for economic necessity or the seasonal facts related to the Lenten Moon or Montanna for social justice. […]

Koovagam Festival of Transgenders in Tamil Nadu

Koovagam is the time and place, when and where transgenders flaunt their uniqueness and sexuality in style without any fear of prejudice or stigma. Koovagam, a little-known village in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu, hosts the biggest festival for the third gender or eunuchs, called Aravanis in Tamil. This festival lasts for one week and is celebrated with big rallies, beauty pageants, sports events, gala feasts and other festivities. People from the transgender community also tie nuptial knots with a deity at the local Koothandavar temple and freely consummate their marriage in the open fields under a full moon sky. The final day of the week-long celebrations falls on a full moon night in April, every year.

Legend has it that Lord Krishna turned into Mohini, a beautiful woman, to marry a local boy, Aravan, for a night. This was because Aravan was to be sacrificed the next morning during the Kurukshetra war and no woman had come forward to tie the knot. Lord Krishna blessed him with this bliss of marital pleasure. The eunuchs, called Aravanis in Tamil Nadu, assume the role of Mohini every year and marry the legendary Aravan at the Koothandavar temple in a hallowed tradition.

The euphoric celebration has been accepted so far as an age-old practice, but has been condemned in the recent times, since the morning after the consummation of ritualistic marriage, the fields look like dump yard of condoms, which are often, in amusement, picked up by young children to the embarrassment of the parents and possibly constitute a bad influence on them. It has been seen lately that sex workers, homosexuals, bi-sexuals, bi-curious and even cross-dressers enter the fest and boldly mingle with their cognate peers.

Besides, many seem in unusual hurry to have multiple sex escapades during this licentious time. This has vitiated the solemn environment and local resistance to the festivities is growing. In any case, the present message being propagated is 'No sex around the temple'. This is how traditions are debased to attract a stigma.

An excerpt from Sacred and Profane: Unusual Customs and Strange Rituals *by G. S. Sachdeva, published by SAGE Publications India*

India a harbinger of hope for Green World Order

There has been much talk about the wishful shifting of power from the West to the East. The rise of China, along with India and Japan, was showcased as a precursor that the 21st Century is destined to be an Asian century. But there's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip. The moot point is whether China can become a superpower like the erstwhile Colonial Britain and the present day America to control the international system. And if Beijing can't, who can be. According to Richard Haass, one of the thinkers of world politics, a superpower needs to have, besides economic and military prowess, an ability to intervene politically in any part of the world and prove its unparalleled strength. Another qualification is to use nuclear weapons and its access to any entity across the globe. China flatly fails on both the parameters to become a superpower. The second problem for the rising China theory is that there are more than two powers emerging on the landscape of international system. The middle powers like India, Germany, Japan, South Africa are inching up to shape the world system together. Chinese aggressions in many parts of Asia have exposed Beijing's desperation to become the unparalleled power in the region.

In these situation if there is a world order which could be developed beyond the conventional theory of world system, it can be a Green World Order that creates a pitch for non-fossil free energy system which can preclude catastrophic situations. This looks more promising for a sustainable world order. The world is sitting on the brink of catastrophe. Neither the US nor China is keen to safeguard the world through its roadmap for the Green World Order.

We have heard of a Panchtantra story: In the extreme exigencies of flood, a tree becomes a shelter for a tiger, a human, a serpent and a peacock. None of them harm each other; they hang on calmly. The reason for this unthinkable habitation in the peculiar condition is the existential threat for each. The disruptions in climate have pushed countries in the same situation: to shelter on the same tree. The corona pandemic is a harsh reminder of the undergoing change. The beginning of industrial revolutions in the early nineteenth century in Europe, along with the political ideology of an unchallenged charter of individualism, created a world order which was based on more consumption, better development and highly racial and geographical superiority. One after another geopolitical theorists from Henry Mackinder to TH Mahan, Heartland theory to Rim Land postulated to justify the western interventions and shaping the world system that keeps the western interests intact. This is how the two hundred years of history of the world is with us which has created a threat of existence not merely for Asians and Africans but for Europeans and Americans as well.

Now the larger question is which country has the ability to shelter like a tree in the universal flood. America is absolutely odd man out. It has been the biggest disrupter of the Green World. It did not sign the Kyoto Protocol and withdrew from the Paris Climate. China is developing huge infrastructure of green energy, especially wind and solar. China produced almost 170 GW of solar energy in 2018, but China has a dubious character. Dragon wants to keep its house clean but litters other parts of the world with fossil fuels. The Chinese system does not think magnanimously to safeguard the planet with an inclusive approach.

The Covid-19 pandemic has completely eclipsed the Chinese credentials in the international system. The way China manipulated the World Health Organization which led to an exponential spread of pandemic in the globe, its anti-green and anti-humanitarian face has been unmasked. The Climate Action Tracker gives China a very poor grade because of its continued reliance on coal. China has failed to stop the building of the new coal-based plants. China is financing coal-fired power plants outside the country, and increasing emissions elsewhere. China remains the world's largest producer of carbon emissions. It is planning to finance and build roads, railways, bridges, ports, and industrial parks abroad, beginning with China's neighbours in Central, South, and Southeast Asia and eventually reaching Western Europe and across the Pacific to Latin America. While China has imposed a cap on coal consumption at home, its coal and energy companies are on a building spree overseas. Chinese companies are involved in at least 240 coal projects in 25 of the Belt and Road countries, including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Serbia, Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. It has a particular eye on the coal resources of South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, the West Asia, and the Russian Far East. Secondly, Chinese political system is not transparent. Its next move is unpredictable. Third, China is very keen to settle the historical scores after becoming the largest economy. Therefore, its intentions are based on self-interests which would generate more conflicts in the international system.

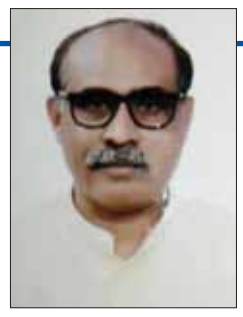
So far world politics was driven by the greed for oil and gas. Churchill after the end of the First World War ventured to use imported oil in place of coal for British fleets, since then the oil became the driving force of world politics. Geopolitics of oil embargos are common. Oil and gas have not only been used as sticks to hurt or deter foes, but also as carrots to reward allies and ensure their allegiance. The climate conferences of the UN have been consistently reminding the world to switch over from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy. But things are not moving. American President Donald Trump, in meeting with CEOs of the companies during the pandemic, assured them of carbon-led economic development in future. The impact of fossil-fuel economy is visible. The trade war between America and China is pitching for carbon-led energy system. The climate disruption has reached the tipping point. The whole world is severely under its grip. But certain parts of the world are more prone to climatic change. Like Southeast Asia and South Asia will face more severe consequences of climate change than other parts of the world.

The only country which shines out in the crisis is India. It will have the largest world population of the world by 2024. It has tested democratic credentials and strong constitutional framework. The ancient Indian wisdom is based on "Vashudhaiv Kutumbakam" which encapsulates each country in its fold. India has displayed its commitment for the resolutions of Paris Commitment. The 8 folds jump in solar energy in the last six years proved a point. India is going to generate more than 450 GW of energy through renewable sources by 2030. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the "Champion of Earth" by the UN Secretary General in 2018. He started to lead the International Solar Alliance. India has made important progress towards meeting the United Nations Sustainable Developmental Goals, notably Goal-7 on delivering energy access. India's per capita emissions today are 1.6 tonnes of CO_2, well below the global average of 4.4 tonnes.

Inequality and climate change are parts of the same coin. Therefore, climate change is also related to lifestyle. Western economist Thorestein Veblen, who coined the terms "invidious consumption" pointed out how individuals use luxury goods to show off their status. The US top ten per cent emits six times more than 50 per cent of the bottom at the household level. Adam Smith, the father of economics, explained in his path-breaking book "the Wealth of Nations": It is the industry which is going to make the country rich. But ancient Indian wisdom is contrary to the views of Adam Smith. Mahatma Gandhi once said that India cannot afford to follow the British economic policy of greed. If two-thirds of planet failed to satisfy the greed of Britain, India had four times the population of Britain, so it would need four planets like earth to fulfil the greed. Unfortunately during the early decades after Independence, India became a copy cat of western pattern of development. That is why the Modi Government is working on to reintroduce the ancient wisdom. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has also said that Climate Change is not merely a fuel issue but it has a larger context. Unsustainable consumption is the fundamental cause of pollution and ecological destruction. India has increased its solar-energy capacity more than twelve fold since 2014. The Indian stand is not contradictory. It says what it does. The democratic credentials are well respected. This Government has prepared a blue print of Green World Order. According to PM Modi it is secure, sure and pure.

(The writer is a professor of political science)

The international system till now has been shaped by greed of the powerful, which hardly plans for an inclusive healthy global order. The only country which deserves to be the superpower for a sustainable world is India whose ancient wisdom is based on 'Vashudhaiv Kutumbakam' (the world is the family)



SATISH KUMAR

PERSPECTIVE

Killing minorities in name of blasphemy in Pak

In Pakistan, the majority community has licence to kill anyone, particularly persons from minority communities, in the name of blasphemy without waiting for court trials. The ugliest part is that the murderer is hailed as a "ghazi" or "martyr" to the nation.

It's time the world wakes up to the medieval treatment of religious minorities in Pakistan. The blasphemy law was first introduced in 1860 by the colonial administration. The law stipulated ten years of imprisonment or fine or both. Later the law was amended in 1927. In 1953, when anti-Ahmadiyya riots erupted, Jamaat-e-Islami demanded amendments to the law but the Government of Pakistan did not entertain its requests. However, when anti-Ahmadiyya riots erupted again in 1974, the second Amendment was introduced in the Constitution of Pakistan and all Islamist parties came together under the banner of Tehreek-e-Tahaffuz-e-Khatam-e-Nabuwwat (movement for the protection of the finality of the Prophethood). Later in 1984, the Zia-Ul-Haq regime passed an anti-Ahmadiyya ordinance, which decreed that "Ahmadis cannot call themselves Muslims" or "pose as Muslim", and those who defied the law faced three years in prison.

Cases of extortion from minorities in Pakistan are frequent but rarely reported to authorities for the fear of reprisals. Victims pay huge ransoms as protection money to mosques and madrassas to save their lives. Otherwise they have to leave their business and properties.

A Hindu friend of mine narrated one such incident to me: "Due to coronavirus, our temple is closed so I am performing my early morning prayers (bhajans) at home only. One day my neighbour knocked at my door and threatened our family. 'You Hindus should go to India and sing your bhajans there. If you want to live in Pakistan, live quietly, don't chant Krishna nonsense early morning.'"

He added, "Believe me I was not chanting loudly. My neighbour always look for an opportunity to browbeat us so that under pressure we should sell our apartment to them and leave this place, while they always listen Indian music loudly all the time. Even there is a mosque-madrasa in our apartments where loudspeakers keep on blaring out."

In 2009, Aasya Noreen, better known as Asia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian, was accused of blasphemy. "Why you used my cup for drinking water? You are non-Muslim, a 'kafir.'" Argument over this led to Noreen's arrest in 2010. She was convicted of blasphemy by a Pakistani court and sentenced to death. Minorities Minister Shahbaz Bhatti and Punjab Governor Salman Taseer both were assassinated for advocating on behalf of Asia Bibi and opposing the blasphemy laws.

Under global pressure, in 2018, the Supreme Court of Pakistan acquitted Asia Bibi on grounds that there was insufficient evidence. But she was not released from custody because of safety concerns. A Muslim cleric Maulana Yousaf Qureshi announced a bounty of 500,000 Pakistani Rupees to anyone who would kill Asia Bibi. In 2019, she finally got a safe passage and arrived in Canada, but she continues to receive threat to her life.

Mishal Khan, a student of mass communication of Abdul Wali Khan University, was killed in 2017 on the premises of the university by a mob on allegation of posting blasphemous content online. He was in the hostel of the university when he was stripped naked and severely beaten up by a group of students and then shot. He succumbed to his injuries. The mob was kicking his lifeless body and beating it with wooden planks. His body was then thrown from the second floor of the building. The mob even tried to burn his body while chanting "Allah-o-Akbar". At least 25 law enforcement officers were present there, but no action was taken. Later investigations found that the content Mishal posted had only secular views and references to books on democracy and equality of humanity. But before this realisation came out, Pakistan had already lost a beautiful soul.

Recently, on July 29, Tahir Naseem, an American, was shot dead inside a Pakistani courtroom where he had gone for a trial for alleged blasphemy. He was an Ahmadiyya but one of my sources told me that he was having mental issues. His murderer justified the killing, "A light appeared in my dream last night and ordered me to kill this enemy of Allah so that I can be awarded with gift of heaven."

The murderer was praised by a majority of people in Pakistan and even Government officials and politicians used his picture as their display picture (DP) on their social media profiles.

When I reported this case and announced a campaign on social media against the blasphemy laws, forced conversions and enforced disappearances in Pakistan and organised a protest at the Consulate General of Pakistan in Houston, I received many life threats and was targeted by unknown profiles on the social media.

Blasphemy Law (Clause , 295C) of Pakistan panel court reads: "Whoever by words, either spoken or written or by visible representation or by any imputation, innuendo or insinuation, directly or indirectly, defiles the sacred name of the Holy prophet Muhammad (PBUH) shall be punished with death or imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine."

The law prescribes the death penalty for those who are found guilty of blasphemy. The option of life imprisonment has been defunct since a 1991 Federal Shariat Court judgment.

Blasphemy laws in Pakistan are derived from the Holy Quran and Hadiths, but there are differences between different Islamic schools of jurisprudence in this regard. Several Islamic scholars believe that Quranic verses are misinterpreted by dominant Muslim groups in Pakistan with the support of establishment that allows them to use blasphemy laws as a tool to achieve their narrow sectarian interests and agendas. A Quranic verse, which directly mentions blasphemy, calls on Muslims to not blaspheme deities of other religions, lest people of those religions retaliate by blaspheming against Allah.

"And do not insult (wa la tasubbu) those they invoke other than Allah, lest they insult (fa-yasubbu) Allah in enmity without knowledge. Thus, we have made pleasing to every community their deeds. Then to their Lord is their return and He will inform them about what they used to do." — Qur'an, 6:108

However, a few Hadiths justify severe punishments for blasphemy. But not everyone agrees. Secular Muslims in Pakistan have always demanded abolition of the blasphemy laws but didn't succeed because of the interest groups. Whipping up religious sentiments is a powerful tool in Pakistan that has always been used by rulers to control people, and create pressure groups of religious parties to perpetuate fear. Minorities, especially wealthy Hindus, are easy prey in Pakistan.

(The writer, an exiled political leader from Sindh, is vice president of Jeay Sindh Thinkers Forum. He is currently living in the US)

Whipping up religious sentiments is a powerful tool in Pakistan and it has always been used by rulers to control people and create pressure groups of religious parties to bolster their reign. Minorities, especially wealthy Hindus, are easy prey in Pakistan

ZAFAR SAHITO

IT'S NOT HOW MUCH WE GIVE BUT HOW MUCH LOVE WE PUT INTO GIVING
— MOTHER TERESA

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA

ARIES March 21-April 19

This week some challenges are foreseen on the health front. Problems may come up at the same time and make you restless. Indigestion, gastric, BP and depression issues may crop up. Your emotions and sensitivity are badly affected. You must relax. On the career front, your work graph will take a new turn this week, as your potentials will be duly recognised. The finance part will also improve. You will feel the positive vibrations at the workplace. This is a week of attainment, accumulation and finding inner satisfaction. On the personal front, be cautious in your relationships. You may be marked as arrogant or incompatible. Married couples may not be in harmony and want their own space to escape any conflict and tension.

Lucky number 10
Lucky colour Off-White
Lucky day Monday

LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week you will be balancing five elements in life and have harmony between body, mind, and soul. Those with an ongoing health issue may benefit greatly from an alternative therapy like nutritional counselling, massage, dietary restriction etc. Professionally, you need to sharpen your skills. Career counselling from someone experienced would be a good idea. Attending short courses, workshops, or lectures etc will help you in your goals. Work should be going very well if you can be organised and work as per the rules. Relationship wise you are lucky as the people around you listen to you with respect and value your ideas. At professional and personal fronts, you live life king size. In love, you make an impression on your partner with your positive and honest approach.

Lucky number 16
Lucky colour White
Lucky day Sunday

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This is a great week for your creativity and optimism, and you believe that everything will turn out in your favour. You are generous and willing to share. You have learnt to accept your flaws and to accommodate others. It gives you the strength to be what you want to be. Health will be fine, and you will enjoy it. On the work front, a feel-good factor will bring a smile on your face. This week you find the support of colleagues and seniors, and there is a chance that your name may be recommended for promotion. Make the best use of this time. On the love front, you may have your eye on someone who you feel is not treating you the way they should. The best solution would be that you stop fantasising about this person entirely.

Lucky number 9
Lucky colour Red
Lucky day Tuesday

TAURUS April 20-May 20

You have overcome the challenges you were facing and are now feeling on top of the world. Appreciation for a job well done on the domestic front will be encouraging. You have the blessings of elders and it radiates your personality. You have inner satisfaction, with positive energy after easing a difficult situation. On the career front, a good message is on the cards. Some of you will be promoted and assigned an important task which will give a boost to your career. You might attend a virtual seminar or training session to enhance your skill. The stars are with you and you enjoy the results of your hard work. Relationship wise, if you like someone goes ahead and express yourself. Avoid the loose talk as this may spoil your relationship.

Lucky number 1
Lucky colour Indigo
Lucky day Friday

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Your efforts towards good health will pay you well this week. You feel energetic, creative, and versatile. There is a sense of purpose in life, and you are charged. Practices such as yoga, Pranayam and healing exercises help you keep fit and rejuvenated. Spiritualism will help you to restore your confidence and add a spark in life. On the career front, all of a sudden, you may find things working out much better. A powerful person is likely to support you. This is a good time to ask for a raise or to seek employment that pays more if you are so inclined. Overall, your career front is looking up. In the context of love, it's important to remember that no relationship can stand up to constant analysis. Try to give your beloved some breathing space.

Lucky number 20
Lucky colour Golden
Lucky day Sunday

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

The week starts with never-ending activities such as meeting, attending to guests etc. This will give you no time for yourself. You are working hard. There are chances that you may get bruises or hurt yourself. Stay focused while you drive and take all safety measures to avoid any unpleasant situation. On the work front, you feel at ease as things are going in your favour. Great things come in a small package and this is what going to happen with you. There will be new opportunities in a job, and those who are unemployed will get that job in their desired field. On the personal front, your partner may put things in some challenging situations and give you excuses of not accepting your relationships by parents.

Lucky number 8
Lucky colour Camel Brown
Lucky day Friday

GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week positive energy flows in your veins. You must use this energy in some creative pursuits. This can be a very creative time for you, and a good time for you to dream, play and be inventive as a child. On the professional front, things are likely to go your way. This seems to be an excellent time career-wise. A raise or promotion is certain for those who work in the private sector. Stay focused. Approach of a senior official will help make your work easy. On the relationship front, action holds the key. You need to talk to your partner face to face to sort out the mess which has been created knowingly or unknowingly between you two. Take out some time and plan a romantic endeavour to boost up your love life.

Lucky number 12
Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Wednesday

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week you will be filled with confidence and be in the best of your health. Your health efforts are likely to bear fruit. Do not hesitate to consider alternative ways to treat or deal with health challenges. Professionally, the way your career graph is going at present, you need a break and professional counselling. Seek some advice from your senior for better results. To maintain control over your domain and to achieve mastering in your trade, someone's guideline will give a boost to your career. Join a virtual professional course/seminar or workshop to enhance your skills. On the love front, there will be tension. A rejection or break up might be faced. The singletons will remain single. This is the time to make thoughtful bonding whether in love or marriage.

Lucky number 11
Lucky colour Pastel Blue
Lucky day Thursday

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week, avoid anger and aggression. Listen to your body and treat it accordingly. Seek the advice of an elderly person in the family, maybe your mother or aunt. Her homemade remedies will give you relief in your current health problems. Workwise, you are filled with the guts and try your level best to achieve what you want in life. Those who are waiting for final verdict in court in legal hassle will be pleased to have the case turned in their favour. Those in media, opposition, and justice etc fields will do well this week. On the personal front, love is not happening, neither do you have time to think about the matters of the heart. The existing relationships too may suffer due to the lack of understanding and busy schedule.

Lucky number 7
Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Thursday

CANCER June 21-July 22

This week you are confused and contemplating a change in your life. Health is fluctuating and affecting the quality of life. You need guidelines, a session of counselling to gain the results of your past behaviour. It is never too late to improve. Sow the seeds today for better tomorrow. On the work front, there will be challenges. With your determination and will power you are likely to take hold of the situations and emerge a winner. Electrical, technical gadgets may create problems and take most of your time. On the personal front, this week is likely to bring love to the centre stage of your life. This is either a new relationship or a powerful re-bonding of an old one. You share your joy with those around you who need it.

Lucky number 17
Lucky colour Silver
Lucky day Saturday

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week as well as in general, you need to let go of the past wounds to move forward. This is a time that you must look within yourself thoroughly to analyse the areas of fears, trying to hold onto things. Non-attachment is also freedom. Learn about the energy centres in the body and meditate on how you are functioning. Be open to changes as it is the only constant in life. This week professionally, the need of the hour is to give your time and attention to your work. You need to be sure that your work balance is where it needs to be. Make sure you do justice to your work. Avoid confrontations and conflicts with the people at work area as that will only tarnish your image. You will find success in love and rejoice this week.

Lucky number 13
Lucky colour Rose Gold
Lucky day Tuesday

PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Health looks promising this week. Some of you may gradually regain your health and feel a new spark of creativity. This is a great time to try a new health care approach, especially preventative care. Exercise, eating well, and making sure that you get enough sleep are all common approaches that you can consider. On the work front, a change of place, relocation; posting or transfer is on the cards. You are filled with new hopes and aspirations as it is your desired post for which you have been aspiring for a long time. The new avenues of progress will be opened, and you get a chance to prove your worth and potentials. On the personal front, you are demanding and very strict in your relationships, and this attitude will not go in married couples' favour.

Lucky number 3
Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Saturday

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ASTROTURF
BHARAT BHUSHAN PADMADEO

Living in a giving mode

One day, sense of reasons dawned upon a feuding couple, when they came together seeking guidance on how to improve their relationship. Their common urge was: "Suggest some *puja* or such remedial measure as would help improve our relationship."

Well, caught up on the plane where the problem exists — both of you stuck to own perceptions — you can't find a way out. Unless you change your perception, things won't improve. No belief driven *puja* can invade your mind space to make necessary correction. You need to first explore the premise on which the institution of marriage stands. You may then be able to understand where you are going wrong. Following which, you may become keen to redo your perceptions.

Both of them then countered in chorus: "Sir our expectations from each other are not being met, which remains the bone of contention. Is it not natural to carry expectations?" Well, there is nothing wrong in having expectations. But before that you need to appreciate that every being is born unique. Each would thus, reflect varying desire and mind-trends, coming as they may as Karmic carryover from the past. So, differences of opinion is natural. C oming to marital relationship, it is not simply meeting of two unique characters, but sporting different psyche as well. And it needs no elaboration that convergence of two corresponding opposites prove productive and fulfilling. When there is discord, it becomes painful. The choice is yours. Now, how to go about? It simply calls for a lesson in the art of living, which may help you be in accord, overriding individual limitations. Here, exposure to some fundamental truths of life becomes imperative.

All existences in the cosmos — planets, stars and other astral bodies — have been serving the larger existence in a giving mode, not expecting anything in return thereof. Such a humongous crowd of cosmic bodies are in perfect harmony and balance, because they are bound by the design underlying them, with no scope for making any exception. Look at the beauty of cosmic design. All planets in the immediate galaxy, while going round the Sun, traverse their exclusive path, each respectively moving at their own speed. Each, thus, enjoys its own independent space, simultaneously maintaining relativity amongst them. It is, as if

a family discharging their individual and collective obligations in service of the larger existence. Even on earth plane, trees, plants, animals, birds and micro-organism are bound by their predefined nature, and therefore, continue serving the larger existence in a giving mode. They are not bothered who benefits, nor do they have any expectation from us. If we attend to them, it is to serve our own interest. Trivial looking termites for example, feed themselves by creating hole deep inside the soil structure. That facilitate entry of oxygen to augments earth-mass's dynamic potential. They have to, however, meet their end before the crop comes up, but not before servicing the cause of larger existence.

Human beings enjoy the exclusive privilege to guide their actions by choice and discrimination. This, coupled with the sense of ego, make them live in a demanding mode. What we forget that being an inseparable part of a unified organism, necessarily framed into an interdependent setup, we all have a shared destiny. No individual is capable of meeting one's bare existential needs all by oneself. That makes complementing and supplementing each other's efforts imperative, to carry on the cycle of life.

The problem with the two is that, bound by individualistic whims and fancies, the two are living in a demanding mode, trying to impose one's will on the other, which creates conflict. Look at your astrological pointers. Whereas one is born in Sagittarius *laguna*, with Moon there itself and placed adverse to Uranus, which implies being tactless, undiplomatic, and erratic. Mars placed adverse to Jupiter is indicative of inflated ego. Moon again ill-disposed to Neptune, implies being stuck to one's own delusional perceptions not open to look beyond for a reality check. In the other case, the *laguna* and Moon both, occupy fixed sign, which indicates fixated one track mind. Sun placed adverse to Jupiter speaks of swaggering ego. Moon placed adverse to Neptune is indicative of being stuck to one's own delusional perception. The result is there to see. Once, you start living in a giving mode, you will care for each other's concerns and sensibilities. In the process, you will be particular about servicing each other's expectations. Your life will turn into a beautiful experience.

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