

OPINION 6
MUMBAI BELONGS
TO INDIA**WORLD 8**
TRUMP WARNS NO TIKTOK DEAL IF
CHINA'S BYTEDANCE KEEPS ANY 'CONTROL'**SPORT 12**
HALEP WINS
ITALIAN OPEN

RAIPUR, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

KAREENA
TURNS 40,
WISHES POUR IN
11 VIVACITYPublished From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA*Late City Vol. 9 Issue 261
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

8 Opp MPs suspended for Session

Naidu rejects no-confidence motion against Harivansh; suspended MPs sit on dharna on Parliament premises

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu on Monday suspended eight Opposition members from the House for the rest of the Monsoon Session over the unprecedented chaos in the Upper House during the passing of the controversial farm Bills on Sunday. Naidu also rejected a no-confidence motion moved by the Opposition parties against Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narain Singh.

The suspended members refused to leave the House and sat on a protest dharna in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Parliament premises.

The suspended members were joined by almost all the Opposition leaders, including former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah, Samajwadi Party leaders Ram Gopal Yadav, Jaya Bachchan, and leaders from the Shiv Sena.

Meanwhile, 18 Opposition parties have written to the President of India, requesting him not to give his approval to the farm sector Bills passed by both Houses.

The protest will continue overnight and the suspended members will again attempt to



TMC MPs Derek O'Brien and Dola Sen, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference MP Farooq Abdullah and others stage a protest over the suspension of 8 Rajya Sabha members, in New Delhi on Monday

PTI

enter the Upper House. If they are stopped, the protest will continue on the Parliament lawns. A similar protest overnight had happened on the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill when members remained in the Lok Sabha till wee hours.

The suspended members — TMC's Derek O'Brien and Dola Banerjee, AAP's Sanjay Singh, Congress's Rajeev Satav, Sayid Nasir Hussain, Ripun Bora; CPI(M)'s KK Ragesh and Elamaram Kareem — were told by the Chairman that they had displayed "unruly behaviour especially with the Chair and gross disorderly conduct".

"I am pained at what happened yesterday. It defies logic.

It is a bad day for the Rajya Sabha," Naidu said.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs V

Muraleedharan moved the motion for the suspension of the eight MPs.

Naidu also rejected the no-confidence motion moved by 12 Opposition parties against his Deputy Harivansh, saying a notice period of 14 days is required. The suspended members were asked to leave the House, but when they refused to do so, the session was adjourned until 10 am and then for a hour again.

After the House reconvened at 10.30 am, Deputy Chairman Harivansh said he will ask the Leader of the Opposition to speak before any Bills are discussed, but said that those who have been named by the Chairman cannot participate.

PM: Farm reform Bills need of 21st century

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of continuing protest over the passage of the farm Bills passed by Parliament on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asserted that the Bills were the need of 21st century India and reassured farmers that the Government "Mandis", the Government purchase of their produce, and the Minimum Support Price (MSP) mechanism will continue.

Opposition parties and some RSS-affiliated organisations have maintained that the Bills were tilted towards corporates vis-à-vis the small and marginal farmers, constituting over 85 per cent of the farmers in the country.

The PM, however, said that changes will help small farmers organise and get better price for their produce.

Attacking those opposing the Bills, the Prime Minister said a "clique" of people exploited farmers for long as

they remained in shackles of rules regulating the sale of their produce and stated that this needed to change, which his Government has done.

"After these historical changes in the agricultural sector, some people are losing their control of it. So now these people are trying to mislead farmers on MSP. They are the same people who sat for years on the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee on MSP," Modi said striking at the Congress without naming it.

Describing the legislations as "very historic", the Prime Minister said if somebody says that Government-regulated agriculture markets will be finished after these reforms, then he is "blatantly lying".

Noting that his Government had brought the farm Ordinances, which these legislations will replace, in June, he said farmers are already getting a better price by 15 to 20 per cent for their produce in several States.

MSP for rabi crops hiked

Tomar announces Cabinet decision for 2021-22 in LS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to placate agitating farmers from Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra and other States, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Monday hiked minimum support prices for rabi crops, including wheat, chana, gram, lentil, mustard, safflower among others, for the season 2021-22.

The MSP for wheat has been hiked from ₹1,925 to ₹1,975 per quintal, an increase of ₹50 while MSP for chana (gram) has been hiked by 8.3 per cent from ₹4,875 to ₹5,100 a quintal, an increase of ₹225.

As per the CCEA decision, MSP for masoor (lentil) dal has been hiked from ₹4,800 to ₹5,100 per quintal, an increase of ₹300. MSP of rapeseed and mustard has been hiked by 7 per cent, from ₹4,425 to ₹4,650 per quintal, an increase of ₹225. MSP for barley has been increased by 5.7 per cent, from ₹1,525 to ₹1,600, a hike of ₹75. The MSP of safflower has been



increased to ₹112, from ₹5,215 to ₹5,327 per quintal.

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar announced the Cabinet decision to hike MSP of rabi crops for the season 2021-22 in the Lok Sabha. Hundreds of farmer unions across Punjab and Haryana have called for multiple protests in the coming days, including a total shutdown on September 25, against the two agriculture Bills.

Meanwhile, buoyed over good monsoon and higher acreage during the ongoing kharif crops, the Ministry of Agriculture has revised foodgrains production target for 2020-21 to a record 301 million tonnes, an increase of 1.5 per cent from 298.3 million tonnes fixed earlier in April 2020. Earlier at the national conference for rabi campaign 2020, the Ministry has fixed the target of 119.60, 108.00, 5.00, 9.57, 29.00 and 47.80 million tonnes of rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize and coarse cereals, respectively.

In a first, Navy deploys women on warships



Sub Lt Riti Singh and Sub Lt Kumudini Tyagi, the first women airborne tacticians who will operate from deck of warships, pose for pictures after they passed out of Indian Navy's Observer Course, at Southern Naval Command, Kochi on Monday PTI

IAF training woman pilot to fly Rafale

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a historic move to provide equal opportunity to women officers, for the first time the Indian Navy has allowed deployment of women officers on warships. Till now, women were not given duties on sea-bound ships due to a variety of reasons, including lack of privacy and separate washrooms.

In another development, the IAF has started training a woman pilot for flying the newly-inducted five Rafale

jets. The force has already inducted ten women officers as fighter pilots to fly various planes like the Mig-21s.

As regards the Navy, Sub Lieutenant Kumudini Tyagi and Sub Lieutenant Riti Singh will be the first women officers deployed on Navy warships as part of the ship's crew.

These two officers are training to operate a host of sensors onboard multi-role helicopters, including sonar consoles and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) payloads. Earlier, entry of women was restricted to the fixed wing aircraft that took off and landed ashore.

12 killed in Bhiwandi building collapse

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

At least 12 people, including seven children, were killed and 10 others injured when a three-storey building collapsed while they were sleeping at their homes at Narpoli in the powerloom town of Bhiwandi in the adjoining Thane district in the early hours of Monday.

Six children were rescued from under the debris by the National Disaster Response



Force (NDRF) and local fire brigade teams during the rescue and relief operations carried out by them for the better part of the day.

Detailed report on P5

CAPSULE

4-SEATER AIRCRAFT CRASHES, PILOT DEAD

Azamgarh: A four-seater aircraft crashed in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh on Monday, leaving a 21-year-old trainee pilot dead, officials said, as they suspected that bad weather led to the incident.

CURBS NEEDED: SC ON ANTI-CAA BLOCKADE

New Delhi: There cannot be a "universal policy" on right to protest and possible curbs as also balancing it with acts like blocking of roads are needed because the situation may "vary" from case-to-case, the Supreme Court said on Monday. The top court's observation came while reserving the verdict on a batch of pleas against the anti-CAA protests which had led to blocking of a road in Shaheen Bagh in the national capital last December.

1,000-ACRE FOR FILM CITY NEAR NOIDA IDENTIFIED

Noida: The Yamuna Expressway authority has sent a proposal to the Uttar Pradesh Government for setting up a film city in Gautam Buddh Nagar, officials said on Monday. Land has been identified for the proposed film city, which would be spread over an area of 1,000 acres, officials of the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority said.

NIA: MORE PEOPLE IN WB WORKING FOR QAEDA

Kolkata: The NIA, which has arrested six al-Qaeda terrorists from Murshidabad district of West Bengal, has found that more people in the State are working for the terror outfit, an official of the investigating agency said.

Mineral-rich backward Bastar gets flight service



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday did an e-inauguration of a 72-seat regular flight linking Jagdalpur in Bastar region with Raipur and Hyderabad, greatly shortening the time now taken by road journey.

Ministers, MPs and others attended the event via video conferencing while the Chief Minister did the inauguration from his residence in Raipur as the first flight landed from Hyderabad at the Jagdalpur-based Maa Dantewashwari Airport.

Baghel said in his address that the air services will unleash major opportunities for the

development of Bastar division.

Alliance Air Bastar, an associate company of Air India, started the services on Monday.

The Chief Minister said it would take only one hour to fly from Bastar to Raipur and Hyderabad, from where one can travel anywhere in the world. Presently, it takes six hours to reach from Bastar to Raipur by road and nearly 12 hours to reach Hyderabad.

The flights will promote tourism and play a key role in medical emergencies, he said. They will also help in the development of banking and telecom sector in Bastar.

An 'Amcho Bastar Canteen' was opened at the airport terminal. It will be run by families affected by Naxalite vio-

lence.

The Jagdalpur airport has been developed over 57.6 hectares of area. The air strip here is 1,704 meters long and 30 meters wide.

Passenger flights will take off from Hyderabad at 9 am and reach Raipur at 12 noon, via Jagdalpur. On return, this flight will take off from Raipur at 12.30, reach Jagdalpur by 1.35 pm and land in Hyderabad around 3.40 pm.

These flights will be operated daily. Fare for Hyderabad to Jagdalpur flight is ₹1,405 and for Jagdalpur to Raipur flight is ₹1,270.

The foundation of Jagdalpur airport was laid in 1939 during British rule, before the Second World War.

Make your right move... *again*

LIMITED PERIOD OFFER

SEIZE THIS CONCESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY!

REVIVE YOUR LAPSED POLICIES

Period - 10/8/2020 to 9/10/2020

Total Receivable Premium	% Late Fee Concession	Maximum Concession Limit
Up to ₹ 1,00,000	20%	₹ 1500
From ₹ 1,00,001 to ₹ 3,00,000	25%	₹ 2000
From ₹ 3,00,001 and above	30%	₹ 2500

*Not applicable for high risk plans like Term Assurance, Health Insurance, Multiple Risk Policies etc.
**Policies can be revived within 5 years from the date of First Unpaid Premium.

Call Centre Service
(022) 6827 6827

Download LIC Mobile App "MyLIC"

Visit: licindia.in

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint.

Follow us: [f](#) [y](#) [t](#) [i](#) [g](#) LIC India Forever

IRDAI Regn No.: 512

भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

LICPR2021/08ENG

As the work is being carried out in parts, only one carriageway of the flyover is available for traffic going towards Rajghat. This has resulted in congestion, the statement said.

₹108 cr sanctioned to upgrade three C'garh airports: Puri

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Central government has sanctioned ₹48 crores for Jagdalpur, ₹27 crores for Ambikapur and ₹33 crores for Bilaspur under the UDAN scheme to upgrade and develop three airports in Chhattisgarh, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday.

He was speaking at the inauguration of flight operations by Alliance Air from Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh) to Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Hyderabad (Telangana) under UDAN scheme on Monday.

Puri said this air connectivity will fulfil the aspirations of people of the region and provide impetus to the local economy.

He said the Airports Authority of India has planned to invest about ₹900 crores to develop and expand the Raipur airport including the terminal building.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation



had approved the bid of Alliance Air to operate RCS Flight from Bilaspur to Bhopal under UDAN 4.0 which is expected to commence shortly.

With the start of the Jagdalpur-Raipur-Hyderabad route, the Civil Aviation Ministry has operationalized a total of 285 routes under RCS-UDAN.

Dean CIMS, Bilaspur CS removed

RAIPUR: The Dean of CIMS Bilaspur and the Civil Surgeon of Bilaspur were removed on Monday on charges of carelessness, serious negligence in following the Covid control protocols and mismanagement.

They were removed following a directive of Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, a press release said.

Earlier, following serious complaints against both the officers, a team of five senior officials was formed to investigate the allegations. The removal followed a report from the team, the press release said.

The Chief Minister has directed the Commissioner of Bilaspur to swiftly take action on the report and improve the situation within 15 days.

The five-member committee found serious mismanagement in the functioning of the Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS).

The report suggested putting CIMS under a group headed by a competent officer.

Medical workers must return to work or face action: Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

On the third day of a statewide strike by contractual medical workers, the Chhattisgarh Health Department on Monday warned that they could be sacked if they don't return to work.

Dr Priyanka Shukla, Mission Director of the National Health Mission (NHM), issued the warning while terming the strike as "completely wrong".

"The indefinite strike of contractual employees working under NHM during the corona pandemic is completely wrong. Currently the Chhattisgarh Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA) 1979 is in force according to which not willing to work for health services is barred," Dr Shukla said in a communication.

Also, under the Disaster Management Act 2005, for any officer or employee deployed in disaster management not to do



their duty is a crime, the Director said.

She appealed to the contractual workers to end their strike or else face termination

and other action.

On Sunday, about 13,000 NHM workers went on an indefinite strike demanding their regularization. Chhattisgarh is

facing a critical phase of Covid infection. By September 20, more than 85,000 people had been infected by the virus in the state.

Minimum Support Price regime to continue: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Minimum Support Price (MSP) regime will continue and in future it will be further hiked, Chhattisgarh BJP President Vishnudeo Sai said on Monday.

The contract farming will be an agreement between the farmer and purchaser, and land will remain with the farmers, he said.

Addressing the media virtually, Sai was allaying the fears created by the opposition parties on The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farmer Services Bill, 2020 passed by Parliament.

He urged the farmers not to fall in the trap of the Congress



party, which he said had not helped the farming community for the last 60 years.

The BJP leader pointed out that the same tactic was adopted by Congress on the Citizen (Amendment) Act (CAA) and earlier during the Rafale deal.

Sai said: "Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel spoke about approaching the court against the bill. We are ready to reply in court. Like in Rafale, they will face the same experience."

Ending APMC is anti-farmer: Cong

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Abolishing the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) is anti-farmer and also encroaches on the Constitutional rights granted to state governments, said Chhattisgarh Pradesh Congress Committee President Mohan Markam on Monday.

In a statement issued to the media, he said the decision to end the stock limit under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 will open avenues for exploitation of not only the farmers but also the common man.

It will promote black marketing of paddy, wheat, oilseeds, potato, onion and other commodities, he said.

Markam said that few capitalists will procure the essential commodities in large quantities with the intention to earn profit. Supporting it, the Modi government in the last budget had permitted 100 percent foreign direct investment (FDI) in retail sector.

The Congress leader said the system has failed across the globe due to which the 91 percent farmers in Europe and America have gone bankrupt.

In 2006, in Bihar, the Nitish Kumar government implemented it but failed as it did not benefit farmers. The farmers were unable to sell the paddy and wheat at more than ₹1,200-1,300 per quintal. The same situation will be faced by farmers across the country.

Raipur Collector asks people to strictly follow Covid protocols

RAIPUR: Collector Raipur Dr S. Bharati Dasan on Monday appealed to the people to maintain discipline and strictly follow the Covid protocols.

A seven-day lockdown has been imposed in Raipur starting from September 21 at 9:00 pm till September 28 midnight. Section 144 has been imposed and the entire district has been declared a containment zone.

"We can defeat this disease only through caution. Before leaving the house wear mask, follow social distancing, regularly wash hands, comply with social distancing and use Ayurvedic remedies," the Collector said in a press release.

Early detection of Covid can prevent a patient from getting serious. A delay can put lives at risk, he said, while appealing to the citizens to get themselves tested if they feel any Covid symptom.

Carelessness can ruin a family. So, make the Covid protection measures a part of your life, Dr Dasan said.

Five shops sealed in Raipur for black marketing



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Acting against traders indulging in black marketing of essential goods, the Raipur district administration on Monday sealed five shops in the Chhattisgarh capital.

All the stock in the shops have been seized by the Food Department to ensure availability of essential commodities to the public, Food Officer Anurag Bhadauria said.

Fifty gunny bags of potatoes were seized from Shri Pradeep & Company, 420 gunny bags weighing 50 kg

potato each, 13 gunny bags of onion and six gunny bags of garlic were seized from Shri Traders while 471 gunny bags of potatoes were seized from Sheetal Agency, the official added.

All three wholesale dealers were making a profit of ₹300 to ₹500 in selling each gunny bag of potatoes (50 kg) at ₹1,800-2,000, the official said.

Due to overpricing, the distribution of potatoes was brought under the control of the government at a rate of ₹30 per kg for the convenience of the public.

New posting to 11 IAS officers

A 2003 batch IAS officer and a member of the Revenue Board in Bilaspur, A. Kulbhushan Toppo has been appointed Director of the Chhattisgarh Academy of Administration.

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

In a bureaucratic reshuffle, the Chhattisgarh government on Monday issued new posting orders for 11 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers.

A 2003 batch IAS officer and a member of the Revenue Board in Bilaspur, A. Kulbhushan Toppo has been appointed Director of the Chhattisgarh Academy of Administration.

The Secretary in Urban Administration Department and a 2004 batch official, Alarmelmangai D has been given the additional responsibility of Secretary of Finance Department.

The Secretary of the Department of Home, Umesh Kumar Agrawal (2004 batch), has been given additional charge of Secretary in the Energy Department.

A 2004 batch IAS officer and Secretary of in the Agriculture Department, Dhananjay Dewangan has been given additional responsibility of Secretary in Skill Development, Technical Education and Employment

Department.

The Special Secretary in the Department of Housing and Environment, Neelam Namdev Ekka (2005 batch), has posted as Special Secretary in the Department of Primitive Castes, Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Minorities Development.

He has also been given additional charge as Director in the Directorate of Aviation.

A 2007 batch IAS officer and Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Him Shikhar Gupta, has been given additional charge as Managing Director of the Chhattisgarh State Agricultural Marketing Board.

Bhoskar Vilas Sandeepan (IAS 2011) has been posted as Managing Director of Chhattisgarh Road Development Corporation. He has been given additional charge of Joint Secretary in the Agriculture Department.

Kabirdham Additional Collector and 2011 batch IAS officer Jeevan Kishor Dhruv has been appointed as Secretary in the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission.

A 2012 batch IAS officer, Pushpa Sahu has been appointed as Deputy Secretary in the Mineral Resource Department. She has been given additional charges of Deputy Secretary in the Culture and Tourism Department of Chhattisgarh.

Korba Additional Collector and 2012 batch IAS officer Sanjay Agrawal has been appointed the Deputy Secretary in the General Administration Department.

A 2015 batch IAS officer, Prabhakar Malik has been appointed as Director of Institutional Finance. He has also been given charge of Additional Managing Director of Raipur Smart City Limited (RSCIL).



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel dedicated the 150-bed Maharaja Agrasen Covid Centre run by Shri Agrawal Sabha, Raipur, situated at Shri Agrasen Dham, near Salasar temple, GE Road, Raipur, on Monday virtually from his official residence. The Centre will provide all facilities free of cost to members of the Agrawal community. *Pioneer Photo*

Bastar and UNICEF to create volunteers to fight Covid-19

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Bastar district administration will join hands with UNICEF to create a cadre of 6,000 youth volunteers under 'Yuvodaya' initiative to fight Covid-19 and its impact on people.

A MoU will be signed between the Bastar administration and UNICEF on September 23 in Jagdalpur. The MoU will be for two years. Rajat Bansal, District

Collector of Bastar, said in a statement: "Yuvodaya" (Rise of Youth) initiative will be led by the district with the support of UNICEF, volunteers and NGOs. Nodal officers will be appointed at district, block and gram panchayat levels to monitor and guide Yuvodaya."

He added: "Volunteers under the initiative will provide training for skill development and the experience gained by volunteers from this initiative will improve their employability. All volunteers will be given certificates for community services."

The Yuvodaya initiative will have its logo, theme song and uniform for volunteers. Job Zachariah, Chief of UNICEF in Chhattisgarh, said in a statement that the adverse impact of Covid could wipe out all the gains achieved in various sectors in the last 50 years, especially in education, health, nutrition and protection of children.

"We cannot permit the adverse impact of Covid to fall on children and the marginalized people. Youth are powerful social change catalysts and their energy could be used for social and economic development in this hour of crisis" he added.

The scheme aims to channelize the power of youth to support government programmes in villages to improve livelihood, health, nutrition, education, sanitation and agriculture.

Three police officers transferred

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh government on Monday announced new posting to three police officers.

Narendra Verma, Additional Superintendent of Police in the Special Branch in Surguja, has been posted as the Deputy Commandant of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force in Bilaspur.

Rakesh Patanwar, who was posted as Sub Divisional Officer of Police in Pratappur, has been posted as Deputy Superintendent of Police in Surguja.

Raipur City Superintendent of Police Devcharan Patel has been appointed in-charge as Zonal Superintendent of Police in Raipur.

IN THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

CAVEAT APPLICATION W.P.(S) NO. /2020	
CAVEATOR Proposed Respondent	: Mission Director, National Health Mission, Chhattisgarh, Fourth Floor, Chhattisgarh Housing Board Commercial Complex, Sector-27, Naya Raipur, Through Dr. S.K. Pambhoi S/o Shri R.R. Pambhoi, aged about 58 years, Working as Deputy Director, National Health Mission, Raipur (C.G.).
VERSUS	
NON-CAVEATOR Proposed:	Public at Large.
Petitioner	
CAVEAT APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 148-A OF CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE.	
The caveator/proposed respondent above named respectfully beg to submit as under:-	
1. That, the caveator/proposed respondent issued an advertisement for "6 months certificate course in community health for nurses" on 21.09.2020. The copy of the advertisement dated 21.09.2020 is filed herewith as Annexure C/1 .	
2. That, the caveator/proposed respondent apprehends that the non caveator/proposed petitioner may file a writ petition challenging the above advertisement dated 21.09.2020.	
3. That, the caveator/proposed respondent has published the above Caveat Notice in the Daily News Paper of Chhattisgarh and a copy of Paper Cutting is marked as Annexure C/2 .	
4. That, accordingly the caveator/proposed respondent prays that before filing any petition against the advertisement dated 21.09.2020 issued by Mission Director, National Health Mission, a copy of writ petition may kindly be supply to the proposed caveator and opportunity of hearing may kindly be provided, in the interest of justice.	
5. That, the address for notice to the caveator is being given here below for service of advance copy to his counsel.	
C.Jayant K.Rao, Advocate High Court Bar, High Court of Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur	
PRAYER	
It is, therefore, most humbly prayed that no order what so ever, whether interim or stay be passed without affording an opportunity of being heard to the caveator, in the interest of justice.	
Bilaspur: Dated: 21.09.2020	(C.Jayant K.Rao) Counsel for the Caveator
Samvad- 26514/5	

Opp behaviour in Rajya Sabha ‘very shameful’: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that it had a clear majority in the Rajya Sabha during the passage of the farm Bills, the Government on Monday described the behaviour of Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha as “very shameful and irresponsible” as also their refusal to leave the house despite the Chairman’s order to suspend them on Monday. The Government also pointed out that there is enough visual evidence that the Deputy Chairman would have been nearly physically assaulted had the Marshals not protected him.

Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the conduct of leaders of opposition parties was “illegal” and violative of all parliamentary norms and rules and accused the Congress of double standards on the issues including contract farming.

“The Government had a clear majority yesterday, 110 present members were supporting the Agriculture Bills and only 72 were opposing. We had a decisive majority...their agenda was to stop the House (Rajya Sabha) from passing the Bills,” Prasad maintained.

On the Opposition’s claim that the bills were passed without voting on Sunday, Prasad

said the deputy chairman had asked the members of Parliament (MPs), who went to the well of the house, to return to their seats 13 times. He said discussion went on peacefully from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm and after that the deputy-speaker said “you want it to go to select committee, I have to put it to motion and please, go back on the house despite the Chairman’s order to suspend them on Monday. The Government also pointed out that there is enough visual evidence that the Deputy Chairman would have been nearly physically assaulted had the Marshals not protected him.

Pointing to the possibility of the chairman being physically attacked, the Union minister said, “Yesterday was a shameful day in parliament history. Mic was broken, a leader of a party tore a rule book” and the chair came “very close to being physically hurt”. “But for Marshalls, some physical hurt was possible”, he sought to say adding there is enough visual evidence if Marshalls would have not protected the Deputy Chairperson , he would have been nearly physically assaulted.

He said following their suspension the opposition members had no right to stay back in the house which they did on Sunday. He said once suspension is ordered there is no discussion allowed and members have to exit the house.

LS clears changes in FCRA, Aadhaar must for NGOs now

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 that seek to make Aadhaar mandatory for NGOs to receive foreign funds. The amendments aim to streamline the provisions of the FCRA by strengthening the compliance mechanism and enhancing transparency and accountability in the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution worth thousands of crores of rupees every year, said MoS Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

The amendments will limit the use of foreign funds received under FCRA for administrative purposes from the current limit of 50% to 20%. Also, Aadhaar card will be mandatory for all office bearers of NGOs and other organisations which are seeking funds from foreign sources.

“The annual inflow of foreign contribution has almost doubled between the years 2010 and 2019, but many recipients of foreign contribution have not utilised the same for the purpose for which they were registered or granted prior permission under the said Act. Many of them were also found wanting in ensuring basic statutory compliances such as submission of annual returns and maintenance of proper accounts,” the proposed

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Bill passed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Monday passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Bill providing reliefs to companies facing insolvency due to the lockdown. Rajya Sabha had already passed the Bill. Finance Minister told Lok Sabha while replying to the debate on IBC (Second Amendment Bill) that the Government passed Ordinance to protect the companies facing insolvency cases due to the Lockdown. “Many countries changed rules due to the Lockdown to protect the companies who were facing insolvency cases and recovery cases .

These amendments were mainly to stop the recoveries and extension of time limit due to Lockdown,” she said, explaining why Government brought Ordinance and needed to accommodate the amendments.

amendment States.

“This has led to a situation where the Central Government had to cancel certificates of registration of more than 19,000 recipient organisations, including non-governmental organisations,

Bill to shield docs, healthcare workers from attack OK’d

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament on Monday passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill 2020 to include Covid-19 pandemic in the list of epidemic diseases and also include the stringent punishments to those attack doctors and healthcare workers. Rajya Sabha had passed the Bill earlier. During the pandemic, the Government had issued an Ordinance to protect doctors and healthcare workers after a series of reports of attacks against them. Health Minister Harsh Vardhan thanked the Lok Sabha MPs for passing the Bill unanimously and said society must observe zero-tolerance to any form of violence against healthcare service personnel and damage to property. As per its provisions, the commission or abetment of such acts of violence will be punishable with an imprisonment for a term of three months to five years, and with a fine of ₹50,000 to ₹2,00,000.

during the period between 2011 and 2019,” it added.

Dementia education, brain boosting games may reduce Alzheimer’s risk

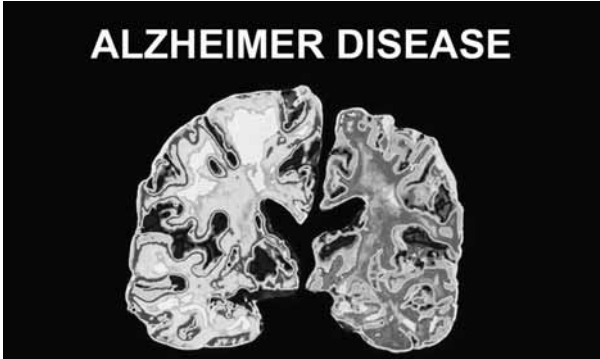
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

An eight-week programme combining dementia education with lifestyle changes to diet, physical activity and cognitive engagement through brain boosting games can significantly improve cognitive performance and reduce the risk of Alzheimer’s disease among seniors with pre-dementia conditions, researchers have found.

Alzheimer’s disease is a neurological disorder which causes problems with memory, thinking skills, and behaviour and is the most common form of dementia.

The study used the BrainHQ app from Posit Science for its brain exercise component. Published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, the randomised trial assigned 119 participants over the age of 65 to either an active control group or an intervention group.

The research team found that the intervention group had a significantly larger reduction in Alzheimer’s risk — using the Australian National University Alzheimer’s Disease Risk Index — than the control group over the duration of the study. The size of the risk reduction was clinically significant, similar to the difference in Alzheimer’s risk between a person who has diabetes and one who doesn’t. Memory loss is one of the



earliest symptoms, along with a gradual decline of other intellectual and cognitive functions leading to change of behavior, RK Dhamija (Director Professor and HOD), Department of Neurology at Delhi-based Lady Hardinge Medical College said. He added that as there is no cure, it is important that one should take up reading, play brain challenging games like crosswords and Sudoku, connecting with people to keep the mind active. “Lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure should be strictly controlled.

“Since it is a neuro-degenerative disease, it is therefore important to recognise the symptoms early. Timely and regular follow-up with a neurologist along with good supportive care can minimise the suffering of these patients,” Dr Dhamija said.

Initial symptoms are memory impairment, word-

finding difficulties during conversation, patients may forget their recent conversation, where they had kept their wallets, they may even forget whether they had food or not or forget bank/ATM passwords or their way to home. Around 5 crore people are suffering with dementia and it is estimated that every year one crore people with dementia are added , said Dr Dhamija. In India, 40 lakh people are afflicted with the neurodegenerative disease.

“The Government isn’t currently prioritising their needs, since the medical system is already burdened with the responsibility of providing basic care for infectious illnesses, cardiac ailments, oncology problems etc. But the Government needs to look into this gap in geriatric care on an urgent basis,” said Joy Desai, Director of the Neurology Department at Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre, Mumbai.

SC agrees to hear plea seeking re-opening of anganwadi centres



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear a plea which has sought directions to the Centre, all States and Union Territories to forthwith re-open all Anganwadi centres in the country which were closed amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The apex court issued notices to the Centre, states and UTs and sought their responses on the plea which has claimed that functioning of all Anganwadi centres in the country came to a “sudden halt” and poor pregnant and lactating women and children were “left in the lurch”.

“Issue notice, returnable in four weeks. Counsel for the petitioner is permitted to serve a copy of this petition to the office of Solicitor General of India,” a bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, R S Reddy and M R Shah said.

The bench was hearing a plea filed by Maharashtra-based Dipika Jagatram

Sahani who has sought a direction to the Centre, all states and UTs to “conduct growth monitoring of children to document growth in the wake of the after effects of the pandemic more particularly malnourishment among children and anaemia in girl children and initiate corrective steps forthwith”.

The petition has said that the Centre, states and UTs should forthwith re-open all Anganwadi centres and provide Anganwadi services in accordance with the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013.

“This public interest petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution of India, relates to the closure of the integrated child development services all across the country, which provided supplementary nutrition to pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and children up to the age of 6 years,” it said.

“The Anganwadi centres which were running under this scheme for decades was closed down using COVID as an excuse,” it claimed, adding,

“As a result, the most vulnerable sections of the Indian population suffered malnutrition nation-wide. This petition seeks the re-starting of the Anganwadi centres immediately.”

It has also sought a direction to the Centre, states and UTs to provide hot cooked meals, take home rations in consonance with the provisions of the National Food Security Act, 2013 as well as The Supplementary Nutrition (under the Integrated Child development Services Scheme) Rules, 2020.

Computerised over 16K lower courts; more than 51L cases pending in HCs: Law Minister

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has completed computerisation of 16,845 district and subordinate courts, Parliament was informed on Monday.

Union Minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad also said 51,52,921 cases were pending in high courts across the country.

In a written reply to a query in Lok Sabha, the minister said the Government has released ₹1,459.52 crore to

various organisations involved in implementation of the project.

This includes ₹1,077.76 crore released to all high courts, out of which ₹790.04 crore has been utilized till August 31, he said.

In the 2020-21 fiscal, funds have been released for eSewa Kendras in high courts and district court complexes, equipment for VC cabins and connectivity in court complexes and creating help desk counters

Pakistan trying to target Indians working in Afghanistan, Parl told

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday informed the Parliament that Pakistan is trying to target Indians working in Afghanistan.

The Government in a written reply in Lok Sabha said that several Indians working in development projects in Afghanistan have been attacked or kidnapped in the last 12 years.

Pakistan under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1267 has also tried to designate four Indians working in Afghanistan as terrorists, the Government

reportedly said adding that the request was not approved.

“Pakistan has been targeting Indian professionals working in Afghanistan through a variety of ways. Several Indians working in Afghanistan on various development projects have been attacked and kidnapped over the past 12 years, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said.

“With the assistance of [the] Government of Afghanistan, India has been able to secure [the] release of many Indians from captivity. In addition, [the] Indian

embassy and its consulates have also been attacked,” he said.

The Government also informed Monday that it has adopted a multi-pronged approach to strengthen protection along the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan. In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, the Government informed that improved technological surveillance, weapons and equipment for security forces, improved intelligence and operational coordination are also being carried out, reported a news agency.

CCMB scientists analyse 2,000 SARS-CoV-2 genomes from India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Scientists at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad have analysed more than 2,000 SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19 genomes from India available in the public domain to understand the various strains in circulation.

The clade or genetic group circulating in India has 70 per cent similarity with the major strain around the world, hence , one vaccine or drug is sufficient to fight it, they said.

Earlier in June, the team had revealed the presence of a distinct virus population among Indians. This was named the clade I/A3i, and is recognised by the presence of 4 specific variations in their genetic makeup (genomes).

At that time, 41 per cent of all Indian SARS-CoV-2

genomes belonged to this clade.

However, the current analysis showed that the proportion of the A3i clade dropped to 18 per cent, it said. The findings of the study done with scientists from CSIR-Institute of Integrative Biology as collaborators, are now peer-reviewed and published in the journal Open Forum Infectious Diseases published by the Oxford University Press.

The decrease in the proportion of A3i clade is accompanied by an increase of the A2a clade, also referred to as the G clade or the 20A/B/C clades in other nomenclatures.

Viruses of the A2a or the G clade carry the D614G mutation in their spike protein which is shown to be associated with an increased infectivity.

At present, approximately 70 per cent of all Indian as well

as global SARS-CoV-2 genomes fall into this clade. “As expected for a strain which is more infectious, A2a clade quickly became the dominant clade in India just like everywhere else. There is no evidence to state that this mutation is clinically a more difficult one,” Dr Rakesh K Mishra, Director, CCMB and a co-author of the study said.

“The similarity in viral genome globally should be considered a positive news, because a vaccine or a drug targeting this mutation will work with the same effectiveness all over the world,” he added.

It is, however, important to note that no clade at present has been conclusively shown to be associated with a more severe form of COVID-9, or an increased risk of death, said the scientists.

There can’t be universal policy on right to protest: SC in anti-CAA blockade case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There cannot be a “universal policy” on right to protest and possible curbs as also balancing it with acts like blocking of roads are needed because the situation may “vary” from case-to-case, the Supreme Court said on Monday.

The top court’s observation came while reserving the verdict on a batch of pleas against the anti-CAA protests which had led to blocking of a road in Shaheen Bagh in the national capital last December.

The situation normalized later due to COVID-19

pandemic fear and subsequent observance of protocol.

“There were some supervening circumstances which came into play and it was no one’s hand. God almighty itself intervened,” said a bench comprising Justices S K Kaul, Aniruddha Bose and Krishna Murari.

Taking note of the submissions of lawyers including Shashank Deo Sudhi, the bench said: “We have to balance right to protest and the blocking of roads. We have to deal with the issue. Their cannot be universal policy as the situation may vary on case to case basis.

“In parliamentary

democracy protest can happen in Parliament and on roads but on road it has to be peaceful”.

Amit Sahni, one of the lawyers who had filed the plea in the case, said that this kind of protests should not have been allowed in the larger public interest.

“This was allowed to have continued for more than 100 days and people faced difficulty. This kind of incident should not have happened.

Yesterday in Haryana there was ‘Chakka Jam’ in Haryana. They have also called Bharat Bandh on September 24-25,” he said.

MoHUA gets metro rail proposals from 6 States

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA) has received proposals of 392 km metro rail from six States with an estimated cost of ₹1,27,825 crore so far. The proposals have been received from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, remaining three corridors of Delhi metro phase 4 and Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the ministry data, the remaining three corridors of Delhi Metro Phase IV –Inderlok-Indraprastha, Rithala-Bawana-Narela, and Lajpat Nagar-Saket G Block corridors would be 44 kms long

and it would cost Rs 12,635 crore. The deadline of the project is December 2024.

Bangalore Metro Rail Project (Phase 2A and 2B) will be 58 kms long and it would cost ₹14,844 crore. The project is expected to be completed within 45 months from the date of sanction.

Chennai Metro Rail Project Phase –II is 119 kms long and it would cost ₹63,246 crore. The deadline of this project is June,2026.

Maharashtra’s metro rail projects include Nagpur, Thane, Pune and Nashik. The total length of these four cities’ metro will be 119 kms and it would cost ₹22,961 crore.

Only 4% patients got Covid-19 ICU beds via proper channel: Survey

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the number of coronavirus cases in India mounts and demand for medical facilities increases, a survey by LocalCircles said that only four per cent patients were able to get a Covid-19 ICU bed through the routine process, while 78 per cent had to use connections and clout. Another four per cent said they did not get an ICU bed at all.

After receiving many complaints from citizens from across the country about their family friends or associates not being able to find an ICU bed at a government or private hospital, LocalCircles conducted a survey to get citizen’s pulse on the issue and received over 17,000 responses from



citizens located in over 211 districts of the country.

On experiences of people in their social network with regard to getting a COVID-19 ICU bed, 55 per cent citizens said that they did not have any person in their network who needed it.

Thirty eight per cent respondents said they had to use clout to secure an ICU bed while seven per cent said they had to follow up extensively to secure the ICU bed.

UAE-based defence firm renews commitment to supply over 93K carbines to Indian Army

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The UAE-based arms manufacturer Caracal on Monday renewed its commitment to supply 93,895 carbines to the Indian Army under a deal which has been pending since 2018.

The Caracal in a statement stressed that it is committed to the ‘Make in India’ initiative and referred to its selection for the deal to supply the carbines.

“Caracal has already identified the required land, facility and local partners to be able to commence production immediately.

Over 20 per cent of the components fitted on the CAR 816 are already made in India, with Caracal now making commitment to fully manufacture the rifles in (the) country, in alignment with the ‘Make in India’ initiative,” the company said in a statement.

CBI files case against Delhi-based firm for causing loss to banks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a case against Delhi-based private firm Kwaliti Ltd and its directors for causing an alleged loss of over ₹1,400 crore to a consortium of banks led by Bank of India.

Following registration of the case on September 10, the agency on Monday conducted searches at the premises of the accused firm and its directors.

The CBI registered the case on a complaint from Bank of India against Kwaliti Ltd and others including its Directors, and other unknown persons for causing an alleged loss of ₹1,400.62 crore to Bank of India and other consortium banks, the agency said.

“It was alleged in the complaint that the said accused had cheated the Bank of India-led consortium comprising BOI (lead bank), Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank, IDBI, Central Bank of India, Dhanlaxmi Bank and Syndicate Bank to the tune of ₹1,400.62 core by way of diversion of bank funds, sham transactions with related parties, fabricated documents/receipts, falsified books of accounts, created false assets and liabilities among others,” it said.

The searches were conducted at eight locations including Delhi, Saharanpur, Bulandshahr (Uttar Pradesh), Ajmer (Rajasthan) and Palwal (Haryana) at the premises of the private company and other accused persons in the case. Further investigation is continuing, it further said.

Those named as accused in the case include Kwaliti Ltd, Sanjay Dhingra, Siddhant Gupta, Arun Srivastava and other unknown persons.

According to the FIR, diversion/misappropriation of public money by the accused firm and individuals was done during the period 2010-2017.

SC stays ex-UP Min’s interim bail

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Monday stayed former Uttar Pradesh minister Gayatri Prasad Prajapati’s interim bail, granted for two months on medical grounds by the Allahabad High Court, in a gang rape case.

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on September 3 had granted the interim bail to Prajapati who was a minister in the erstwhile Samajwadi Party Government.

AGRICULTURE BILLS

Didi calls Opp to unite against ‘Hitler Raj’

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has reacted to the alleged “forced passing” of the farmers’ Bills by comparing the BJP Government with “Hitler Raj” and said that her party Trinamool Congress will start an indefinite agitation demanding a rollback of the “draconian law.”

Saying that “yesterday will be remembered as a Black Sunday” in the history of parliamentary democracy in India Banerjee on Monday said, “the forced passage of the Bills in Rajya Sabha now reminds one of the Hitler Raj ... it is dictatorship at its peak,” adding her party would however not take

things lying down and begin a prolonged movement against the “draconian law.”

Even as two TMC MPs Derek O’ Brien and Dola Sen were suspended from attending this session of the Rajya Sabha Banerjee said “no amount of coercion will deter us. We will not bow our head before this dictatorial Government,” adding “the way the Bills were passed in the Upper House by sheer physical force has made our heads hang in shame. We feel disturbed and ashamed.

“I condemn the yesterday’s incident in the Rajya Sabha ... the way the Bills were forcibly passed without following the norms. Now it is clear that this Government is not only attack-

ing the opponents but also the farmers and daily wagers ... The farmers’ independence is being hijacked they are being made powerless... The day is not far when we will face a food crisis, India is now staring at a famine.”

Apprehending that the proposed labour reforms could bring untold hardship for the country’s work force Banerjee said the Government’s proposals for labour reforms would come as a bolt on the work force.

Calling for a broad-based opposition unity, Banerjee said, “a time has come when all the parties should unite against this dictatorial government which systematically destroying all the democratic institutions of the country ... if need be the

Trinamool Congress will remain at the rear of the movement but the parties should come forward to join hands against this Government.”

Attacking the Centre for

destroying democracy Banerjee said “the situation is such that all the voices of decent are ruthlessly suppressed. If you raise your voice they will implicate youu in false cases.

RJD to kick off agitation from Sept 25

Patna: After the contentious agriculture Bills were passed in Parliament, the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in Bihar has decided to start its agitation from September 25. Jagadanand Singh, the State president of RJD in Bihar, said that members of RJD will protest against the Bills in each of the 38 district headquarters in Bihar. The Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) was dissolved

in 2006 by the NDA Government in Bihar and its consequences were such that the state government was unable to stock any foodgrains, he said.

“How could they claim that after removing APMC it would help farmers? We have not seen any of the farmers being benefitted by it. It has adversely affected farmers,” Singh said, adding that a large numbers of farmers migrated from different parts of Bihar. **IANs**

AMU anti-CAA protester Sharjeel under lens

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Former AMU student Sharjeel Usmani, who was among the main accused in connection with the ruckus in AMU regarding the CAA-NRC, is once again on the radar of the district police and agencies. After objection to the post made on social media recently, its investigation is being conducted from the SP city level. At the same time, legal opinion has been sought from

SPO on whether this comes under the crime or not? The decision will be taken only after getting a legal opinion for filing the case. Meanwhile, other agencies including ATS are monitoring his activities.

Shamil Usmani, an alumnus of AMU, who was the main accused of inciting the ruckus on 15th December night in AMU campus, was arrested from Azamgarh. He was sent to jail in two main cases of AMU ruckus.

After this, Sharjeel was released from prison on bail. After his release from prison, he tweeted one post from his Twitter account last week in which he has asked people to come out on the streets and protesting and finished his tweet with poetry. This post was objected by the former student of AMU and former district spokesperson of BJP, Nishit Sharma, and tagged the tweeter account of the UP Police for action.

Aligarh: 86 new corona cases including 17 from district jail

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

The corona is now active in district jail as well. 86 new cases have been found including 17 from the district jail. After several days, the number of infected people today is less than 100. 165 people recovered and returned home. The number of corona infected patients has now reached 7430 in the district.

86 people have been found infected in JN Medical College, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Joint Hospital, Private Lab, and Antigen Test. 17 people

were found from the district jail alone. District Magistrate Chandra Bhushan Singh said that based on symptoms, the infected patients are being admitted either to the covid-19 hospital or home isolation. Samples have been taken for family members and they are kept in home-quarantine. People in contact are also being sampled.

Meanwhile, a corona patient has run away from the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay joint hospital today. Police have been informed by the hospital administration.

10 Kerala districts under security scanner post al-Qaeda arrests

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Ten out of 14 districts in Kerala have come under the scanner of various intelligence agencies of the Centre, according to sources in National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The caution by the Centre has come as a follow up to Saturday morning’s arrest in Ernakulam district of three persons with allege link to Al Qaeda. The three were taken to Delhi where they are being questioned about their activities in Kerala.

“Ten districts in the State have sleeper cells of various terrorist organisations and they are under observation. We are also in the process of finding out their associates in the State Police,” said an official who did not want his name to be quoted. The presence of thousands of migrant workers across the State have become a serious issue in Kerala.

Jamaat-e Islami questions legality of arrests by NIA

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Welfare Party of India, the political outfit launched by the Jamaat e Islami, came out on Monday questioning the legality of the arrests of three migrant workers from Ernakulam district by the NIA on Saturday.

“We cannot believe the version of the NIA that the three were arrested because of their links with Al Qaeda. These arrests smack of a conspiracy,” said Hameed Vaniyambalam, WPI, president, in a statement released to the media.

According to Hameed, the news being spread by the investigation agency is with the objective to create Islamophobia and also to help the Sangh Parivar elements.

“Their intention is to create ethnic hatred for the migrant laborers among the local population. These innocent workers are being portrayed as terrorists,” said Hameed.

The Chief Executive Officer, Melaghar Municipal Council Melaghar Sepahijala Tripura invites e-tender against press NIT No 01/SBM/MMC/DEV/2020-21, Dated- 14-09-2020

For Construction of Tertiary Waste Treatment Centre with composting Pits at Melaghar Municipal Council under Swachch Bharat Mission-Urban during the year 2020-2021.

With

Estimated Cost: **Rs. 149, 35,855.00**

Earnest Money: **Rs. 298717.00**

Time Of Completion - **180 (One hundred Eighty) days**

Last Date of bidding for bids - **upto 3.00 PM ON 14-10-2020**

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

Note:-

NO NEGOTIATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE LOWEST BIDDER

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Melaghar Municipal Council
Melaghar Sepahijala Tripura

ICA/C-1658/2020-21

महाराष्ट्र शासन

सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग, विपळूण

ई-कार्यप्रणाली अंतर्गत ई-निविदा सुचना क्र.०३ (ई-निविदा) सन २०२०-२१

(मजुर सहकारी संस्था मर्यादित)

सार्वजनिक बांधकाम (सा.बां.) विभाग, विपळूण हे (दुरुध्वनी क्र ०२३५५-२५२८०६) महाराष्ट्र शासनाच्या सार्वजनिक बांधकाम खात्याकडं योग्य त्या मजूर सहकारी संस्था मर्यादित खालील कामांकरिता ब-९ नमुन्यातील निविदा प्रणालीव्दारे (ऑनलाईन) मार्गवणेत येत आहे, सदरची ऑनलाईन ई-निविदा सुचना **www.mahapwd.com** and **www.mahatenders.gov.in** पॉर्टलवरती उपलब्ध आहे,

टिप:- या निविदेमध्ये एकुण ९ ते २८ काम समाविष्ट असुन ऑनलाईन निविदा विक्री व बोड विप्रेरशन दिनांक २२-०९-२०२० सकाळी १०-०० ते दि ०६-१०-२०२० रोजी सांयकाणी २८-३०- पयेत संकेतरथणवर उपलब्ध आहे, या निविदेमधील संपुर्ण माहिती खालील संकेतरथ्यावर उपलब्ध करुन देणेत आलेली आहे. **www.mahatenders.gov.in**

जा.क्र. सीएचडी/एबी/टीसी/ ८०८७

कार्यकारी अभियंता, यांचे कार्यालय,

विपळूण सा.बां. विभाग, विपळूण

रत्नगिरी ४९५००५ (०२३५५) २५२८०६

दिनांक :-१५-०९-२०२०

कार्यकारी अभियंता

विपण सा.बां. विभाग विपळूण

DGIPR/2020-2021/758

SUSPECTED PERSON

General public is hereby informed that one male person (depicted in the photo) **Namely: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown, Age: about 35-40 years, Height: about 5'7" Feet, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Oval, Built: Medium, Hairs: Black, Small Beard & Mustaches, Wearing: Unknown, is wanted in a Case vide FIR No. 43/20 u/s 379 IPC, Dated 24.07.2020, lodged at P.S. Tilak Marg, New Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about that person, but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information/clue about these persons, may inform SHO, Tilak Marg, New Delhi the following telephone numbers.

S.H.O
P.S. Tilak Marg, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-23342100

DP/117/NDD/2020.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the partnership between Rohit S/o Satbir Singh Yadav and Rohit Bansal & Kush Kumar Kwatra, carrying on business of rading medicines, etc. under the name and style of "M/s Moksh Meditech" at CW-252, Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar, Delhi-110042 is dissolved as from 20th September, 2020. Hereforth, Mr. Kush Kumar Kwatra shall not liable/responsible for any act/conduct done by any of the partners.

SAHIL MUNJAL (Advocate)
Ch. No. 127, Delhi High Court, New Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE (QC&PD) Division, HMT, Srinagar

Phone:- 0194- 2496307, E-Mail:- xenmandp@gmail.com

Addendum-01

Subject: Supply of Alumina Ferric Grade-IV conforming to IS 299: 2012 with upto date Amendments.

Ref: This office e-NIT No: **PHE/M&P/11 of 2020-21/** e-Tender Dated: **19-09-2020** issued under endorsement vide No: **PHE/M&P/2018-67** dated: **19-09-2020.**

It is for the inform of all the bidders who had participated in the previous e-NIT No: **PHE/M&P/07 of 2020-21/e-Tender Dated: 28-08-2020,** their EMD shall remain valid for their participation in this e-NIT, as the e-NIT No: **PHE/M&P/07 of 2020-21/e-Tender** Dated: **28-08-2020** stands cancelled.

Rest all the terms and conditions, dates etc shall remain unchanged. Sd/- Executive Engineer, QC&PD Jal Shakti HMT Srinagar

No. DIPK-6056/20 Dated: 21.09.2020

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL

General public is here by informed that one girl **Name: Antim @ Yogendri, D/o Pappu R/o** Ho. No. 211, Gali No. 3, C Block Saboli Extn., Delhi **Age: 16 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Firozi Colour Suit,Chitdar Salwar and Cream & Blue Colour Chappal**

Feet has been kidnapped since 23.04.2017 from her house. In this regard a FIR No.116/17 dated 24.04.2017 has been lodged at P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi
Ph. 011-22800215, 22800216
DP/85/NE/2020

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

12 killed, 10 others hurt as Thane building collapses

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI



National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Fire Brigade carry an injured person from the site after a three-storey building collapsed at Bhiwandi in Thane district on Monday

Those injured have been admitted to the local hospitals at Bhiwandi and some shifted to the Thane hospitals the officials said.

Thane’s Guardian Minister Eknath Shinde today visited the crash site and inspected the rescue and relief operations. He also visited the hospital and enquired about the health of the injured.

Shinde announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of those killed in the mishap. The minister also ordered an inquiry as to why no repairs had been carried out in the building despite the fact that the Bhiwandi Nizampur Municipal Corporation

(BNMC) had served to that effect in February this year.

Meanwhile, BNMC’s Municipal Commissioner Dr. Pankaj Ashiya has suspended the then Assistant Municipal Commissioner Sudham Jadhav and Engineer and Verification officer Dudhnath Yadav, pending the inquiry.

The BNMC chief said that the collapsed building figured on the list of dilapidated and dangerous structures and a vacate notice had been issued to the residents in February this year.President R. N. Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi mourned the death of the people in the Thane building crash.

1,036 new Covid cases, 23 die in J&K

PNS ■ JAMMU

Twenty three Covid-19 patients died in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Monday while the total number of recoveries reported a slight jump in comparison to total number of fresh positive cases.

According to the media bulletin, 1,158 patients recovered and discharged from different hospitals while 1036 new cases were detected taking the tally of active positive cases of Coronavirus to 21887 while the death toll reached 1024.

Out of these 1036 fresh cases, Jammu division reported 536 and Kashmir division

reported 473 cases. On the other hand, out of 23 deaths, 14 deaths were reported from Jammu region and nine patients died across Kashmir valley on Monday.

Out of a total number fo 65026 positive cases, 42115 patients have recovered so far while 21887 are active positive. Out of these 12643 cases are active in Jammu and 9244 in Kashmir region.

On the other hand, the team of doctors headed by Principal Government Medical College,Jammu Dr NC Digma Monday claimed the premier Health Institution is catering well to all sick patients amid the Covid-19 Pandemic.

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is here by informed that one person **Name: Gagan Deep Bhatiya, S/o Jitender Pal Singh Bhatiya, R/o** H. No. 200, Gujranwala, Part-II, Model Town, Delhi. **Age: 36 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Normal, Wearing: Blue Patka, Blue Jeans and White Blue Shirt,** has been missing since 14.03.2018.

In this regard a FIR No. 95/18 U/s 365 IPC, dated 14.03.2018 has been lodged at P.S. Model Town, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

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

PS. Model Town, Delhi
Ph. 011-27459202, 8750870232
DP/364/NW/2020

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tendering)

Name of work with is location	Provision of 04 Nos LED Screens (Kiosk) and 01 LED TV to display of meeting schedule at Conference Hall, Committee Room, Disaster management Room, Entry Gate no 2 & 4 in Rail Bhawan.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	₹ 7,57,297.10/- only
Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	₹ 15,200/- only
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender	Tender uploading/closing date & time - 14.10.2020 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi- 110055.
Tender No: 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-921	Date: 21.09.2020 2049/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY

General public is hereby informed that one lady namely **Seema with her daughter Sangeeta, age 6 year W/o Amar Singh R/o House-1213, Baba Haridas Colony, Tikri Kalan, Delhi** **Age: 30 yrs, Height: 5'1", complexion shallow, face round. Wearing yellow saree and blouse has been missing/ kidnapped since 20.11.2014** from the area of PS Mundka, Delhi .

In this regard a case **FIR No. 569/14 dated: 21.11.2014 U/s 363 IPC** has been registered at PS Mundka, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady & her daughter, but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing lady & her daughter may kindly inform to the following.

ACP
DIU Outer Distt., Delhi
Ph.: 011-27017805

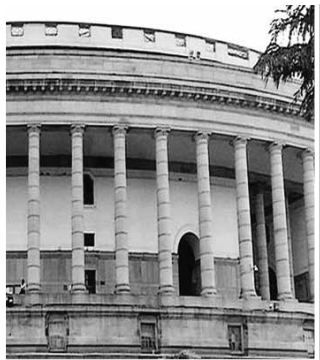
Seema

Sangeeta

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638
011-24368641
DP/355/OD/20

Mockery of House

The Govt’s steamrolling of farm Bills in Rajya Sabha erodes parliamentary procedure. Worse, it sets a precedent



It would not like to show that it has been taken aback on the farm Bills but it certainly is trying to undo the damage. Clearly the Government has become over-confident about subverting parliamentary fairplay and justifying its authoritative weight. That it has been forced to consider a hike in the minimum support price (MSP) of Rabi crops and repeatedly assure that *kisaan haats* would continue are an admission of its somewhat dodgy understanding of Indian farmers and their concerns. The latter are not only a volatile political constituency; they are aware stakeholders and not a silent majority. So while the Government is in a rush to push big bang farm reforms, steamrolling three Bills that began as ordinances and would have lapsed otherwise, it has ignored their questions and dishonoured the democratic convention of dialogue, consultation and careful consideration. Worse, it has even made Parliament a tool in its exercise of ticking off the boxes in its manifesto, trampling any opposing view as redundant, even if well-argued. Controversial Bills in this country have always been open for discussion in the House, often moved to relevant parliamentary committees for in-depth appraisal and closing deficiencies. By skipping the rulebook, the Government has stretched its political adventurism a bit much. While it insists that the new laws will remove trade barriers so that the smallest farmers can sell their produce outside monopolised markets and get a higher price, the reality is that such farmers are still unprotected against the corporatisation implicit in these Bills. Architecture-wise, the Bills look reformist, dismantling the heavily cartelised Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandis* and middlemen, but growers need gestational and transitional time to come out of a regulatory framework and take charge of their individual fortunes. For one, the smaller and marginal farmers are not literate or educated enough and entering into one-on-one contracts with corporations would give the latter negotiating rights and greater control over price fixing. In that sense, they could still end up being exploited as before. The middleman would simply get replaced by a food major or a retail giant, which, as a “sponsor,” can control inputs in the “farm to fork” chain. Besides, farmers, knowing their limitations, have never been into direct dealing but operated through commission agents, some of whom are a trusted link in their eco-system. The farmers fear that in an open, competitive market, they would not get the MSP that the Government promises to continue and given the diversity and multiplicity of markets, the guaranteed official procurement would be hit over time. They would, therefore, still be in a crisis. The bigger market players would also affect their cropping patterns. Besides, the proposed laws are still vague on definition of mechanisms that would replace the regulated economy. Considering that farmers form 60 per cent of the country’s population, any sweeping change concerning them merits some thought and actionable plans than a blanket and summary imposition.

Politically, this was the Government’s worst move in the House. As the Opposition protested, demanding that there be a discussion and possibly a referral to a committee, the live telecast was muted so that the nation did not hear the counter-arguments. Frustrated and agitated, the Opposition stormed the Well of the House. Procedure says that no Bill can be passed amid such din. But the Deputy Chairman, Harivansh Narayan Singh, precisely used this noise, knowing full well that the Government did not have the numbers in the Upper House to afford a division of votes, to his advantage. He called a voice vote, a highly subjective assessment method based on decibel power of members, and saw through the Bills. A voice vote is allowed only in Bills that have majority support. For a Bill that is split down the middle in terms of support, a division of votes is the only way out to decide the outcome. Especially when even the BJP’s House collaborators from the Opposition — regional parties like the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), the YSR Congress and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) — opposed the farm Bills. How did Singh assess through all that commotion that ruling party MPs were louder? Will serious business in the House be henceforth transacted on the basis of a shouting match or subjected to the discretion of the Chair than the rulebook? Also, if any Opposition member challenges a voice vote, the rulebook provides for a division of votes. Opposition MPs claim they asked for a division but were ignored. Clearly, the Government’s brief to the Deputy Chairman was clear, the Bills had to be passed at any cost. The Government may claim a pyrrhic victory but what of the farmers’ protests that are spreading like wildfire? The Opposition parties may be inconsequential to it but they represent the voice of the people, too. More importantly, after small farmers, what would happen to the small workers, as another Bill that allows firms with up to 300 workers to fire them without Government nod, is pending? Can the Government then shed the capitalist tag? Time and again Prime Minister Narendra Modi wishes there was a responsible and aggressive Opposition to push him harder but conversation is a two-way traffic that depends on his Government’s willingness to listen in the first place. By taking away the mikes, podiums and cameras, parliamentary proceedings look like a silent era film. Only a drone-like narration can be heard. Accepted for its stupor-inducing repetition and rant than as a matter of faith.

Going rural

Forcing post-graduate medical students to spend three months in rural areas will be beneficial for the doctors too



In an answer to Parliament in 2019, Ashwini Choubey, Minister of State for Health, had stated that assuming an availability of 80 per cent, there was only one doctor per 1,445 people in India. Of course, if one added up alternative systems of medication, the number would be closer to the World Health Organisation’s mandated one doctor per thousand population but over the past few months, we have seen many alternative medical practices wither away in the face of the pandemic. What these statistics do not reveal is just how skewed India’s medical system is towards large metropolitan areas. It is only when you see thousands of patients from across India crowding the entrances at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi that you realise just how bad things must be for families to transport critically ill patients hundreds of kilometers for proper care. The fact is that cities like Delhi and Mumbai, while suffering immensely from the pandemic, have enough beds and facilities. There was a joke, not one of any laughing matter though, that there were more intensive care beds and ventilators in Delhi’s Saket area alone than in some other Indian states.

Part of the reason for the deficiency of healthcare in upcountry India is that young specialist doctors want to work, for rather obvious reasons, in big city hospitals. And it is unfair, given the poor facilities in even smaller towns, let alone rural areas, to expect young doctors to work there for extended periods of time. However, if young medical specialists did spend time in rural areas, they would possibly understand the gravity of the medical scenario a lot better than they currently do and suggest innovations in existing infrastructure. Operating in cities, they are often insulated from the realities of India just as much as “expert commentators” on news television channels. The Government’s mandate that post-graduate medical students spend three months in rural areas is understandable and while some of them might be disappointed, this is a practice that should ideally be spread across disciplines. If we talk about “two Indias,” then the only way to redress that is to ensure that young people from urban India see the problems of rural India and understand why they behave — with their votes and their money — the way that they do. Being a warrior on social media isn’t quite the same thing.

Mumbai belongs to India

The Constitution gives its citizens the right ‘to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India’ and no political power should try to redefine it



A SURYA PRAKASH

The crass attempt by Shiv Sena to intimidate the national award-winning actor, Kangana Ranaut, and to demolish her property without adequate notice, must be condemned by all those who cherish democracy and rule of law in the country. It is also time to tell the Shiv Sena that it does not own Mumbai and no Indian will grant it the power to issue entry visas for the city. Mumbai belongs to India.

The demolition of the actor’s property in Pali Hill area on September 9 for alleged violations was preceded by repeated threats by party leaders and some goons, who warned her not to return to her home in Mumbai from Himachal Pradesh. Among those who adopted such a threatening tone was the State’s Home Minister. In addition, party leaders have hurled filthy abuses at her. Somebody should tell these worthies to read Article 19(1)(d) and (e) of the Constitution of India which says all citizens shall have the right “to move freely throughout the territory of India” and “to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India”. The Shiv Sena must also be told that “we the people” are not going to give up these rights ever and give in to *goon-da raj*.

The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Jairam Thakur, has rightly taken up the cudgels on behalf of Ranaut and said that the attitude of the Maharashtra Government is “condemnable” and smacks of vendetta politics. This disrespect to “Himachal’s daughter” is intolerable, he said while ensuring “Y Plus” security for her. This should alert the Maharashtra Chief Minister to what lies ahead because nobody will tolerate this kind of behaviour by Shiv Sainiks towards citizens hailing from other States.

The Bombay High Court has rightly rapped the municipal corporation on the knuckles and said the demolition “smacks of malafide” and is “deplorable”. The court noted that what the corporation terms as “unauthorised” construction did not come up overnight. However, the corporation had suddenly woken up from its slumber, issued a notice to Ranaut when she was out of the city and proceeded with the demolition 24 hours later. Further, the court wondered whether the municipal corporation would act with “similar swiftness” in respect of



other numerous unauthorised constructions. In its order of September 9, the court has recorded in detail the attempts made by the municipal corporation to stall the hearing and to prevent it from taking cognisance of the petition until it had completed the demolition. This is indicative of the arrogance of the executive and disrespect for the judiciary.

The Shiv Sena has to be told that it does not own Mumbai. Sainiks have lived in this delusion for too long. In fact, seven decades ago, there was a strong argument in favour of making Bombay a Union Territory in view of its cosmopolitan outlook and strategic location.

A memorandum submitted on behalf of the Gujarat Research Society in 1948 to the Linguistic Provinces Commission argued for Bombay’s independence. It said “Bombay has been an all Indian city with an international outlook and a distinctive non-provincial culture in which people from all provinces of India and even foreigners play their part...It would, therefore, be unfair to transfer an international port like Bombay to the province of Maharashtra ... created on the narrow ground of a provincial language.”

The Commission saw merit in this argument and said: “Nationalism and sub-nationalism are two emotional experiences which grow at the expense of each other.” It said Bombay “should receive special treatment and be disposed of in the best interests of India as a whole” and in its own interest.

“THE SHIV SENA HAS TO BE TOLD THAT IT DOES NOT OWN MUMBAI. SAINIKS HAVE LIVED IN THIS DELUSION FOR TOO LONG. IN FACT, SEVEN DECADES AGO THERE WAS A STRONG ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR OF MAKING BOMBAY A UNION TERRITORY IN VIEW OF ITS COSMOPOLITAN OUTLOOK AND STRATEGIC LOCATION”

The States Reorganisation Commission, which submitted its report in September, 1955, also warned of the pitfalls of regional chauvinism. “The Constitution of India guarantees common citizenship to all Indian people. There can, therefore, be only one nationality in India”, it said.

All this eventually convinced the Centre that Bombay should be a Union Territory and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru made the announcement on January 16, 1956. SK Patil, the president of the Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee, said “the city would be an oasis in the desert of regionalism in India” and “a shining example of cosmopolitanism and liberal nationalism”. It is, therefore, strange that India’s grand old party — Nehru’s Congress — which professed such liberal values, now shares power with the Sena but has no influence over it.

The Shiv Sena is trying to portray Ranaut as a person who is ill-disposed towards Mumbai, Maharashtra and Marathi people. This does not appear to be true although there can be issues in regard to her choice of words. Ranaut has not attacked any of these entities. Her attack is on the Shiv Sena for converting liberal Mumbai into a garrison of hate. Nor is the Sena the sole repository of Chhatrapati Shivaji’s legacy. Indians across the world adore him for his valour, his nationalism and for his invaluable contribution towards preserving India’s civilisational values. The attempts by the Shiv Sena to appropriate him and reduce him to an icon of Marathi pride

must, therefore, be resisted.

Shiv Sena leaders are also talking about what Mumbai has given to different professionals, including actors, directors and others in the cine and television world. They seem to forget what these individuals have given to Mumbai. The city became what it is because the best of entrepreneurs and talented persons in business, trade, manufacturing, entertainment and hospitality gravitated towards this city, invested billions of rupees and generated employment for millions. People from different States — Gujarat, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir and Kerala to name a few — arrived in this city chasing their dreams and made Mumbai what it is today. For example, what would Mumbai business and industry be if the Gujaratis and Marwaris had not made it their home? Or, what would Bollywood be without the Punjabis? Or what would eateries be without the Irani and Udupi restaurants?

It is indeed tragic that the Shiv Sena, which stood so firmly for Indian nationalism causes during the life of its firebrand founder, Balasaheb Thackeray, should now become a caricature of itself and metamorphose into a “Sonia Sena”. If it fails to appreciate and respect our constitutional *dharma*, many more States and Chief Ministers will call it out. Bharat Mata will never allow Mumbai, a jewel in her crown, to fall into unworthy hands.

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal)

SOUNDBITE

Without swift and immediate action, at an unprecedented pace and scale, we will miss the window of opportunity to ‘reset’ for...a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Prince of Wales
—Charles Philip Arthur George



I appeal to those Senate Republicans – please follow your conscience, let the people speak, cool the flames that have been engulfing our country.

Democratic leader
—Joe Biden



Suspension of the eight MPs who fought to protect farmers’ interests is unfortunate and reflective of this autocratic Government’s mindset.

West Bengal CM
—Mamata Banerjee



It pained me a lot because what happened yesterday in the House is unfortunate, unacceptable and condemnable.

Rajya Sabha Chairman
—M Venkaiah Naidu



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public indifference

Sir — It is due to the complete disregard for COVID-19 protocols that Mumbai has become the worst-hit State in the country. It was recently observed that walkers on Marine Drive had been openly flouting the guidelines under which both wearing a face mask and following social distance is mandatory. They not only risked their lives but also put others in danger. Despite BMC’s attempt to keep law and order, the officials have been facing resistance from the people who are unwilling to pay fines for non-compliance. CSMT, Crawford Market and Bora Bazaar are other areas where such irresponsible attitude is on public display. It’s high time that people realise their responsibility in helping the State Government stop the spread of the virus.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

Time to adapt

Sir — The mega sporting extravaganza, Indian Premier League, that started last week, was eager-

The politics of religious hate-mongering

The Supreme Court made some pertinent and instructive observations while hearing a plea alleging that *Sudarshan News’ Bindas Bol* show makes communal remarks about the entry of members of the Muslim community into the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The court made it amply clear that the media cannot target or malign a religious community in the name of journalistic freedom. It is a sad reality that sections of the media sometimes use national security for justifying violations of constitutionally guaranteed rights.

The programme tried to link civil service aspirants from the Muslim community to “illegal funding” and “overseas terror organisations” and showed green T-shirts, skull caps and flames with the intent of portraying Indian Muslims as the fifth column.

The very phrases like “love jihad” and “enticement of wives and daughters” were coined to show the community in a bad light. It is a bare-faced calumny to say that the Muslim youth join the civil services as part of



a “deep-seated conspiracy.”

The TV programme is not an aberration but a part of a wider project of spreading religious hatred for political gains. A secular democracy like ours cannot tolerate masses being pigeonholed as “us-and-them” on the basis of religion.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Aid for farmers

Sir — Appropriate policy response and sustainable alternatives are needed to further the argument around the current agricultural methods practised in India. According to the latest data released by National Crime Records Bureau on accidental deaths and suicides, 10,281 farmers committed suicide in 2019,

down from 10,357 in 2018, whereas the figure for daily wagers rose to 32,559 from 30,132. The total number of suicides in the country went up to 1,39,123 in 2019 from 1,34,516 in 2018. These worrying statistics call for an urgent response from the Government to assist the food producers of this nation.

Noor Ahmad
Hyderabad

Suicidal behaviour

Sir — The spike in self-harm, suicidal ideation and behaviour amid COVID-19 pandemic is a major concern. Anxiety, job loss, stress, loneliness and financial insecurity top the list of concerns during this time. Help-seeking was highest among individuals aged 25 to 40 years, followed by those between 18 and 25 years and between 40 and 60 years, as reported. Given the gravity of the issue, the Government needs to increase socio-economic safety nets and devise ways to support those in need.

Khushbu Ved
Ujjain

MLALADF released

Sir — The Himachal Pradesh Government has announced the release of the MLAs Local Area Development Fund (MLALADF), stating that the first instalment would be available in October. Other States, too, should release funds for development.


Yash Pal Ralhan
Jalandhar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

New weapons in doctors’ tool box

The healthcare sector is improving efficiencies due to the surge in usage of robotics and AI in medical processes and other operations



AMIT KUMAR

Mobile robots are becoming increasingly popular across different business sectors as they are used to assist work processes and even accomplish tasks that are impossible or dangerous for humans. Due to their advanced technological systems, mobile robots can be used for surveillance, planetary exploration, patrolling, emergency and rescue operations, reconnaissance, petrochemical applications, industrial automation, construction, entertainment, as museum guides, for personal services and intervention in extreme environment, transportation, medical care as well as many other industrial and non-industrial applications.

Hence, mobile robotics is one of the fastest-expanding fields of scientific research. And now, more than ever, the Coronavirus crisis has highlighted the way we can optimise the use of mobile robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to successfully fight any pandemic. Given the highly infectious nature of the Coronavirus and the consequential need for social distancing, companies, both large and small, have realised that robots can provide contact-free alternatives to healthcare workers. Hospitals are devising ways to use robots to minimise the presence of healthcare staff in the Covid-care facilities. Hence, a large number of hospitals across the globe are currently using robots for rendering services such as automated testing, supporting public safety and public works, decontaminating hospitals and public spaces, ensuring delivery services, maintaining patient database and diagnosing diseases.

Multi-purpose robots are also used for temperature checking, as dispensers, for patient registration entry, delivering medication, food and so on. The aim is to quickly deploy telehealth technology during the current outbreak to allow for curbside screening of patients as enabling remote screening will reduce the contact time between patients and frontline healthcare workers, who are critical in the fight against the pandemic.

Applications of robotics are playing a major role in laboratory diagnostics services, too. However, apart from automation of laboratory and testing services, robots can also automate manual operations that are labour-intensive, time-consuming and repetitive in order to reduce the burden on frontline healthcare workers. They can play an important role in high-tech applications, too, such as performing complex surgeries like the latest Elon Musk’s Neuralink chip implantation surgery, other neuro surgeries, cutting bones and so on.

AI is transforming our lifestyles by mimicking human intelligence for solving various issues. With technological advancement, AI is getting increasingly sophisticated at doing what humans do, but more efficiently, rapidly and at a lower cost. AI in healthcare provides an upper hand undoubtedly over traditional analysing and clinical decision-making techniques.

A few of the roles played by AI during the pandemic relate to early warnings and alerts, prediction and detection of outbreak of diseases, real-time disease monitoring worldwide, analysis and visualisation of spreading trends, prediction of infection rate and infection trend, rapid decision-making to identify effective treatments, study and analysis of the pathogens and drug discovery. During this time, AI diagnostic tools are used to distinguish COVID-19 from other types of pneumonia within seconds by analysing the patients’ chest CT scan images.

Newer models hold great potential to relieve the pressure of frontline radiologists, improve early diagnosis, isolation and treatment, and thus contribute to the control of the epidemic. Medical robotics can be considered as the application of robotics technology to healthcare to diagnose and treat diseases, or to correct, restore or modify a body function or a body part. With the help of medical robotics, surgeons can carry out operations more precisely and in a less invasive way. Surgical robotics segment dominated the medical robotics market in terms of revenue in 2019 and rehabilitation robots are gaining popularity due to the rising ageing population subject to increasing physical disabilities. It is predicted that hospital and pharmacy robots will contribute around 12 per cent to the global medical robotics market by 2025.

Due to the major use of automation processes, the robotics industry is reaching major heights by contributing to every sector of the economy and working as a lever to reduce human efforts. The healthcare sector has improved efficiencies because of it.

(The writer is Co-Founder, Addverb Technologies)

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offers accreditation to institutions for running open distance learning and online programmes. This is a unique opportunity for Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) to enhance the courses being offered, improve access, increase enrolment and provide opportunities for lifelong learning. Even before the lockdown, online learning platforms like NPTEL and MOOCs were being utilised in Uttar Pradesh (UP) for technical education. However, these were considered largely experimental and the reliance on e-learning in higher education was minimal. The pandemic, however, decreed teach-from-home and learn-from-home. The PM e-Vidya scheme was launched and HEIs in UP embraced online education. Around 15,000 teachers adopted online pedagogy and over nine lakh students

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

THESE BILLS REFLECT MODI JI’S UNWAVERING RESOLVE TOWARDS THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF OUR FARMERS AND STRENGTHENING OF THE FARM SECTOR. —UNION HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH



DEMOCRACY HAS BEEN SHAMED BY THE MANNER IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT PASSED DEATH WARRANTS AGAINST FARMERS IN THE FORM OF THE FARM BILLS. —CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

Don’t bank on banks

There’s no pressing need for a firm hit by the crisis to rush to banks for relief. To enjoy the fruits when the going is good and come to the bank or Govt for help when in crisis is unacceptable



UTTAM GUPTA

On March 27 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Shaktikanta Das, announced a comprehensive action plan to resuscitate the economy devastated by the Coronavirus. Apart from measures to increase availability of credit and reduction in the cost of capital, the plan sought to ease the stress of loan repayments on businesses and individuals. Among others, this included a three-month moratorium on payment of instalments in respect of all term loans outstanding on March 31. On May 22, Das announced extension of the moratorium for three months till August 31. To ease the burden of payment on those who availed of working capital facilities, the Governor allowed them to convert accumulated interest for the deferment period into a funded interest term loan (FITL) which can be paid by March 31, 2021.

The RBI eased asset classification norms for all accounts coming under moratorium, too. These accounts will be treated as non-performing assets (NPA) from 270 days overdue instead of 90 days overdue as per extant rule. It has also extended the 210-day resolution period for all large stressed accounts under its June 7, 2019 circular (on its expiry, if banks are not ready with a resolution plan, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code [IBC] comes into play) by a further 180 days. To address the situation after the moratorium ends, on August 6, the RBI announced a scheme for one-time restructuring of the debt for large companies, besides extending till March 31, an existing restructuring scheme for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) with relaxed norms. It also set up an expert committee under KV Kamath to recommend the required financial parameters, along with the sector-specific benchmarks for this special window.

Meanwhile, one Gajendra Sharma had filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court (SC) demanding waiver on interest charged by a private bank, citing relief given by the RBI on payment of Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs) during March and August 31, due to the pandemic. During the last three months or so, the SC has heard the matter thrice. It has made the following observations: On June 4 it said, “On one hand, you are granting moratorium (on loans) but continuing with interest. It is more detrimental.” On June 17 it observed, “There is no merit in burdening customers, who have opted for the RBI-approved loan moratorium, with additional interest. Once you fix a moratorium it should serve the purpose desired. We see no merit in charging interest on interest.”

On September 10, 2020, it said, “We are keen to waive interest on interest” for borrowers who availed the moratorium and asked the Government and the RBI to come up with a “concrete plan” with regard to the vexed issue. It posted the matter for hearing on September 28, when it is likely to give its final order.

From the above, it is abundantly clear that the SC does not want banks to charge interest on interest for the moratorium period. Whether or not this will get reflected in its order, one can only wait and watch. Meanwhile, it may be worthwhile to look at the desirability or otherwise of such a move in particular, its impact on the viability and financial stability of the banking system.

At the outset, by granting moratorium to all and sundry, the RBI gave a signal that almost everyone

“IMAGINE A SITUATION WHERE A BANK DEFERS PAYMENT OF THE INTEREST PORTION SAY BY SIX MONTHS (BECAUSE IT IS UNDER STRESS FOR THAT LONG). THEN, IT WILL NECESSARILY HAVE TO PAY ‘INTEREST ON THE UNPAID INTEREST AMOUNT.’ THE DEPOSITOR WON’T FOREGO THIS JUST BECAUSE THE BANK WAS UNDER STRESS. THIS LOGIC HOLDS WITH EQUAL FORCE WHEN IT COMES TO THE BORROWER DISCHARGING HIS/HER LIABILITIES TO THE BANK. IF, THE FORMER DELAYS PAYMENT OF INTEREST (COURTESY, MORATORIUM MANDATED BY RBI) THEN, IT MUST PAY ‘INTEREST ON UNPAID INTEREST AMOUNT’ TO THE LATTER”

would be devastated by the pandemic.

The SC has gone a step further by aligning itself with a plea that the banks should also not be charging “interest on unpaid interest amount during the moratorium period.” Such a sweeping and broad-based generalisation is totally divorced from the reality. No doubt, the Coronavirus has caused unprecedented damage but this can’t be pushed to a point of arguing that almost everyone has been incapacitated and hence unable to service the loans. After all, even during the lockdown, a number of activities, especially health related, all essential goods and services besides firms in several other sectors permitting work from home (WFH) continued their business. Look at the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). During April-June 2020 it was about 23 per cent less than during April-June 2019 but it was not reduced to zero.

Businesses which contributed to this GDP (about ₹2,550,000 crore during April-June 2020) can’t be termed as not being in a position to service their loan. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. A large number of borrowers have not availed of the moratorium. For instance, in case of the State Bank of India (SBI), over 80 per cent of its retail borrowers did not avail of the moratorium for two out of the first three months (March-May) initially allowed by the RBI. Further, 90 per cent of such borrowers did not avail of the moratorium for one month. In other words, they continued to pay their EMI.

Yet, in retrospect, the SC allows waiver of “interest on unpaid interest amount” for all and sundry, this will be unfair to and discriminate against such borrowers who decided not to avail of the moratorium and continued to service their loans. A business by nature has ups and downs. Every enterprise has a phase of buoyancy when it gets to reap extraordi-



latter. Yet, if the top court forces banks to forego it, this will dent their ability to service the depositors. It will strike at the root of architecture of the financial system and pose a serious threat to the viability of bank.

Businesses can always approach banks for support by way of additional funding and negotiate for changes in the terms of payment. This is precisely what the RBI is facilitating by way of one-time restructuring scheme (as 26 sectors have been identified by the Kamath Committee for a customised package). But to expect banks to bear a portion of the cost in a broadside and high-handed manner is an abhorrent idea.

On the other hand, to expect the Government to pick up the cost tag would also be illogical and unfair. Apart from COVID-related expenses on medical facilities and health infrastructure (besides increasing expenditure on defence in the current security environment), the Union’s scarce resources need to be preserved only for addressing basic needs of the poor whose survival depends on daily wages and who — unlike firms — had neither any savings from the past nor any hope of having any windfall gain in the future.

To conclude, if SC orders what it has alluded to, this will affect the viability of banks or further bloat fiscal deficit (in case, the Government foots the bill), thereby jeopardising the country’s macro-economic fundamentals. This should be avoided and businesses need to remain focussed on making best use of the RBI’s package. Even so, the most crucial requirement at this juncture is to “flatten” the COVID curve at the fastest pace so that economic activities get back to normal. Sans this, any relief, however generous, won’t be of much help.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

Internet of Things and Machine Learning, creative and liberal arts or yoga and meditation, online. Students can attend these even during their vacations, thus freeing up time for regular courses. The increased flexibility in timings may be used to maximise the pay-off from physical college hours.

However, the biggest challenge in UP is equity and inclusion. The NITI Aayog, in its *Strategy for New India @75* report, highlighted the quality and reliability of the internet as a major bottleneck. Only about 25 per cent of students have access to smartphones, laptops and the internet. Universities will have to develop mechanisms with in-built functionalities to overcome these deficiencies.

They can develop tabs preloaded with e-content and devise a system for issuing such tabs for a fixed time, like books issued from library. Students can use them at home, even without internet connectivity. The local industry can be motivated to use their Corporate Social Responsibility funds (CSR) to provide hardware and software to colleges. The National Broadband Mission, aiming to provide internet access in all villages by 2022, will be a great help. The Government can establish e-Learning Parks in schools in remote areas with computers and internet connectivity.

Get a healthy mix of online, classroom learning

Just 25 per cent students have access to smartphones, laptops and the net. HEIs must develop mechanisms with in-built functionalities to overcome this



MONIKA S GARG

benefitted from it during the first two phases of the lockdown.

However, like any technological revolution, online education brings with it both opportunities for unparalleled growth and threats in the form of newly vulnerable populations. To get maximum dividends, we need to construct a structured environment for online education with the twin targets of inclusion and personalisation.

Content preparation, delivery and assessment will need to be optimised differentially to match the needs of varied target groups. High calibre e-content is the foundation of any such programme. A wealth of course content is available in English on various open source platforms. This may be integrated into the curriculum to maximise delivery at the earliest. Meanwhile, efforts have to be made to prepare content in regional languages. The course material needs to be engaging and interactive, with liberal use of audio, video, visuals and other features tailored to the course.

For instance, a course in zoology would be more visual while a course in language will require an interface equipped with grammar and spellcheck. Online learning is self-paced and self-motivated. Students can learn at their own speed, going back and re-

reading, skipping or accelerating through concepts as they choose. However, it relies heavily on the learner’s inclinations. Laid-back students may fall behind the rest of the class. Thus, a time bound-schedule with frequent evaluation is necessary. Special attention must be paid to students not doing well, as to why their grades are slipping.

This scenario again points to the need of a robust system of content delivery and assessment. Discussion forums and Breakout rooms (Google Classroom, Moodle, Zoom and so on) allow small-sized groups to be formed, with the instructor being able to visit each of these and share his notes. With whiteboard integration, science teachers find mini gadgets like tabs with pens convenient for performing mathematical derivations and solving numerical problems. Cross-institutional collaborative learning is also possible on platforms such as MS teams, WebEx, Skype and Google Hangouts which allow learners to discuss problems in real time. Simulation software and virtual labs help in imparting practical knowledge to the students. This needs to be supplemented by tutorials and remedial classes, which should be personalised and customised further.

Classroom interactions are also

essential for learning from peer groups and acquiring networking skills and civic sense. The challenge is to arrive at an optimal blend of online and classroom teaching. Topics that require introspection and debate should be taken up in traditional settings. For example, philosophy requires the ability to analyse a given set of hypotheses and synthesise new postulates. It may be difficult to acquire this proficiency virtually. Assessment of the students is both during and at the end of a course has always been a challenge for distance learning programmes. Using e-platforms, a combination of online and offline evaluations may be used. Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled verification, face movement recognition, screen locking and remote invigilator are some techniques that can minimise chances of use of unfair means during online tests.

Simultaneously, stringent quality control measures need to be put in place to evaluate teachers. Of course, the end-term performance of the students is an absolute parameter for making such assessments. But concurrent evaluations are essential to check time lags and protect the students’ interests. The Learning Management System (LMS) is a good solution that can be indigenised and adapted by institutes. It can review per-

formance and learn about the impact of teaching with dashboards and reports. Institutions can modify the existing features of LMS to identify a user’s learning abilities, articulate accordingly and extract meta-data to make suitable recommendations for helping them.

External reviews of content delivery by subject experts and industry doyens will be vital to upgrading the standards of education. Peer review is a necessary part of any academic endeavour and will become easier through e-platforms. The NEP paves the way for multi-disciplinary institutes through course flexibility and transfer of credits. Online education will be a cornerstone in this. A Computer Science major student wanting to create a start-up can do courses not being offered in his/her college, like an Economics or Commerce minor, from a university specialising in it, through an e-platform. This way, students can get a well-rounded education encompassing all their diverse interests.

Basic compulsory courses like ethics, health and hygiene, digital awareness and communication skills can also be offered by universities online. Some HEIs can strive to become centres of excellence for providing specialised courses, like AI,

Students enrolled in higher education programmes can use these to access digital platforms after school hours.

The benefits of online learning extend to beyond just students. Online education opens up avenues for lifelong learning. Once people get habituated to learning and absorbing content through e-platforms, they can continue to read and learn beyond the years of formal training. The NEP has called for a complete revamping of the higher education sector. Colleges will have to re-imagine their mission and work together towards reforming education. Coordination and collaboration will be key to future growth. To jump start the process, the UP Department of Higher Education has developed a portal for uploading of e-content by HEIs. This is available to students across the country free of cost. Called the UP Higher Education Digital Library, this bilingual portal was started on Teacher’s Day. UP has declared September and October as *Vidyadaan Maah* and urged teachers to contribute to this library, in keeping with our culture of charity. More than 3,000 pieces have been uploaded by HEI faculty voluntarily on the library till date.

(The author is Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education Department, UP)

SOUTH CHINA SEA WATCH

Timeline of recent developments

Beijing: A look at recent developments in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbours in multiple territorial disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons. The waters are a major shipping route for global commerce and are rich in fish and possible oil and gas reserves.

CHINA SEND WARPLANES OVER TAIWAN

China flooded the Taiwan Strait at the northern end of the South China Sea with warplanes over two days last week in an apparent attempt to intimidate the self-governing island democracy it claims as its own territory.

The drills were timed to coincide with the visit to Taiwan by a high-ranking US envoy for talks and to attend a memorial service for former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui, who led the island's transition to full democracy in the face of Chinese threats.

China's defence ministry said the planes, including 32 fighters of various types, four bombers and one anti-subma-



rine warfare aircraft, crossed into Taiwan's air defense identification zone on Friday and Saturday.

Taiwan responded by activating its ground-based air defence systems and scrambling fighters, who ordered the Chinese planes to leave, saying they would "bear all the consequences" if they did not.

The Taiwan Strait is a busy transit route to and from the South China Sea which is roughly divided between China to the west and Taiwan to the east.

CHINA COAST GUARD LEAVES INDONESIA WATERS

An Indonesian patrol ship confronted a Chinese coast guard vessel that spent almost three days in waters where Indonesia claims economic rights and are near the southernmost part of China's disputed South China Sea claims.

"We asked them to move out as it was Indonesia's EEZ. But they insisted that it is China's nine-dash-line territory. Our officers at the vessel argued with them until they moved out," said Aan Kurnia, chief of the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency.

"The Chinese coast guard vessel finally left the North Natuna Sea on Monday at 11:20 am," he said.

China's "nine-dash line" delineates its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea. A 2016 international arbitration ruling involving the Philippines invalidated most of China's sweeping claims in the sea, but China has ignored the ruling.

US OFFICIAL: CHINA INSINCERE TOWARD SOUTHEAST ASIA

A US official accused China last week of bullying and insincerity in its dealings with Southeast Asian nations.

US Assistant Secretary of State David Stilwell said Tuesday that Chinese insincerity is best illustrated in its aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea, where it has turned disputed reefs into weaponised artificial island outposts despite a commitment not to militarise the region.

In later testimony before the Senate, Stilwell said it was now clear to the US and others that China "seeks to disrupt and reshape the international environment around the narrow self-centered interests and authoritarian values of a single beneficiary, the Chinese Communist Party."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi lashed back at the US in last week's ASEAN meetings, saying Washington was the "biggest driver of militarisation" and the "most dangerous factor damaging peace" in the region.

AP

Woman suspected of sending package containing poison to Trump arrested

Washington: Authorities have arrested a person suspected of sending the deadly poison ricin in an envelope addressed to the White House but intercepted before it could be delivered there, a law enforcement source said on Sunday.

In response to a Reuters query seeking confirmation of media reports that a woman accused of mailing the ricin-tainted letter had been taken into custody at the US-Canadian border, the FBI field office in Washington issued a statement saying: "An arrest was made of an individual allegedly responsible for sending a suspicious letter."

The statement added: "The investigation is ongoing."

The law enforcement source, familiar with the case but speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters the "suspicious letter" referred to in the FBI statement was the same as the envelope found to have contained ricin.

The source also said the person arrested was a woman

of Canadian citizenship.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said on Saturday that it had received a request for assistance from the FBI in the investigation and that the suspicious letter in question appeared to have been sent from Canada.

The RCMP further stated that an FBI analysis of a substance inside the envelope detected "the presence of ricin," a highly toxic agent derived from castor beans.

While naturally occurring, the toxin requires a deliberate act to convert it into a biological weapon, with exposure to an amount as small as a pinhead capable of causing death within 36 to 72 hours. No known antidote exists.

Initially asked about the incident on Saturday, the FBI said it had joined the US Secret Service and the US Postal Inspection Service in the investigation of "a suspicious letter received at a U.S. government mail facility."

AFP

Trump warns no TikTok deal if China's ByteDance keeps any 'control'

Washington: President Donald Trump on Monday threw into doubt a deal to restructure ownership of the popular video app TikTok, vowing to block any deal that allows its Chinese parent firm to retain any control.

The comments raised fresh concerns over a weekend deal that appeared to avert a US-ordered ban of TikTok, which the Trump administration has called a national security risk.

The deal would make Silicon Valley giant Oracle the data partner for TikTok with retail giant Walmart also taking a stake in a new entity to be called TikTok Global.

But details of the plan remained unclear, amid differing accounts on the American and Chinese shares of the new firm, and who would be in control of the data and algorithms.

Trump on Monday told Fox News that TikTok's Chinese parent firm ByteDance "will have nothing to do with it and if they do, then we just won't make the deal."

He added Oracle and Walmart "are going to have total control over it. They're going to own the controlling interest... If we find they don't have total control, then we're not going to approve the deal."

ByteDance, under pressure in China not to give in to US demands, said it would hold an 80 per cent stake in TikTok Global after a public share offering. The Chinese firm said the current plan "does not involve the transfer of any algorithms and technologies" and that reports to the contrary were "rumors."

A separate statement from Oracle offered a different view of the transaction.

"Upon creation of TikTok Global, Oracle/Walmart will make their investment and the TikTok Global shares will be distributed to their owners, Americans will be the majority and ByteDance will have no ownership in TikTok Global," Oracle vice president Ken Glueck said.

AFP

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, HANSI	RESTORATION OF ROAD CUT ON BARWALA DAULATPUR UKLANA ROAD IN KM 16.20 TO 17.05 &17.428 TO 17.600 IN HISAR DISTT (ROAD ID 5130) + 1 OTHER WORK	17.09.2020 12.10.2020	34.40 LACS	pwd-eeepd-hansi@hry.nic.in	01663-259688
2	PWD B&R, BHIWANI	SPECIAL REPAIR BY WD.G. & ST.G. OF HBB ROAD TO DHANANA VIA LOHARIATTUPUR ROAD FROM KM. 0.00 TO 8.51 IN BHIWANI DISTRICT (ROAD ID NO.2019, 2011 & 2015) UNDER NABARD SCHEME (RIDF-XXVI) REPT. + 1 OTHER WORK	18.09.2020 08.10.2020	914.43 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664-242436 <p>pwd-eeepd-bhiwani@hry.nic.in</p>
3	PWD B&R SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF E.V.M WARE HOUSE (4000 UNIT) AT DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE AND JUDICIAL COMPLEX IN SONIPAT DISTT. (RE-INVITE).	17.09.2020 07.10.2020	332.22 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2200575 <p>pwd-eeepd2-sonapat@hry.nic.in</p>
4	PWD B&R, SONEPAT	IMPROVEMENT BY PROVIDING STRENGTHENING & RE-CONSTRUCTION OF SILANA TO CHOLKA ROAD (ROAD ID-6248 & 9665 HSAMB ROADS) IN SONEPAT DISTT. UNDER NABARD SCHEME RIDF-XXVI + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 07.10.2020	629.59 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0130-2244690 <p>pwd-eeepd1-sonapat@hry.nic.in</p>
5	PWD B&R YAMUNA NAGAR	UP-GRADATION OF KHARWAN TO CHHOLI UPTO BLOCK BOUNDARY VIA CHHACHRAULI (T-05) IN YAMUNA NAGAR DISTRICT (PMGSY-III) + 5 OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 09.10.2020	1210.34 LACS	www.pmsgytendershry.nic.in	pwd-eeepd-yamunanagar@hry.nic.in01732-237834
6	PWD B&R, NUH	UP-GRADATION OF BHADAS GHAGAS ROAD (GHAGAS) TO RANIYALA PATAKPUR UPTO USB ROAD VIA NOTKI NAGINA SANTHAWARI MANDIKHERA BASSAR KHANDJA KHANPUR GHATTI UNDER PMGSY-III BATCH-I (T-01). + 10 OTHER WORKS	22.09.2020 12.10.2020	3755.53 LACS	http://pmsgytendershry.nic.in	01267-271237
7	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICER,CHARKHI DADRI	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK & DISTT-CHARKHI DADRI	CLOSING DATE 12.10.2020	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9992221460
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ,BLOCK LEVEL E- TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK GURUGRAM,	SUPPLY OF INTERLOCK PAVER BLOCK VARIOUS SIZE + 11 OTHER WORKS	28.09.2020 11.10.2020	937.58 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9991234050 <p>nk.grewann@gmail.com</p>
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ,BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICER, PIPLI	RE-TENDER CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY SANITARY COMPLEX	18.09.2020 25.09.2020	5.80 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	89300-02020 <p>bdpo.pipli@yahoo.com</p>
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONIPAT	1 CONSTRUCTION OF SLWM PROJECT VILLAGE BIDHAN & 9 NO.'S OTHER WORKS DISTT.-SONIPAT (RE-TENDER)	18.09.2020 28.09.2020	384.06 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
11	PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONIPAT	1 CONSTRUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE CENTRE AT VILLAGE MOHANA & 4NO.'S OTHER WORKS DISTT.-SONIPAT (RE-INVITING)	18.09.2020 28.09.2020	98.20 LAKHS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer
12	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYAT OFFICER, JIHOJU KALAN	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK JIHOJU KALAN & DISTT-CHARKHI DADRI	CLOSING DATE 12.10.2020		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9992221460
13	PANCHAYATI RAJ, B.D&P.O, KANINA DISTT MAHENDERGARH	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK KANINA IN DISTT. MAHENDERGARH	25.09.2020 09.10.2020	489.00 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416693956 <p>Sdo.kanina@gmail.com</p>
14	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E- TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK BAWAL DISTT. REWARI.	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK DHARUHERA IN DISTT. REWARI.	25.09.2020 13.10.2020	731.45 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416451687 <p>bdpohdharuhera@gmail.com</p>
15	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E- TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK BAWAL DISTT. REWARI.	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK NAHAR IN DISTT. REWARI.	24.09.2020 12.10.2020	488.34 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9466222262 <p>bdponahar@gmail.com</p>
16	PANCHAYATI RAJ,BLOCK LEVEL E- TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK F/NAGAR DISTT. GURUGRAM	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK F/NAGAR IN DISTT. GURUGRAM. (GROUP A TO GROUP M)	28.09.2020 11.10.2020	728.14 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	7206390240 <p>yadavpawan072@gmail.com</p>
17	PANCHAYATI RAJ,BLOCK LEVEL E- TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK DAHINA DISTT. REWARI.	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK DAHINA IN DISTT. REWARI. (GROUP A TO GROUP M)	24.09.2020 09.10.2020	461.80 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416092951 <p>bdpodahina@gmail.com</p>
18	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E- TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK KHOL DISTT. REWARI.	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK KHOL IN DISTT. REWARI. (GROUP A TO GROUP L)	24.09.2020 09.10.2020	418.68 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416704536 <p>bdpokol@gmail.com</p>
19	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E- TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK KHOL DISTT. REWARI.	SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK REWARI IN DISTT. REWARI. (GROUP A TO GROUP M)	28.09.2020 11.10.2020	564.96 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416347466 <p>bdporewari@gmail.com</p>
20	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA GOHANA	CONSTRUCTION OF I-L BARODA SUB MINOR FROM RD 0 TO 14650 (PIPE CHANNEL)-OFF-TAKING AT RD 10300/L BARODA MINOR.	19.09.2020 28.09.2020	262 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Engineer.
21	IRRIGATION & WR DEPARTMENT HARYANA FARIDABAD.	SUPPLY, TESTING, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 01 NO. NEW ELECTRICAL PANEL AT HARCHANDPUR PUMP HOUSE IN W.S. MECH. SUB DIVISION FARIDABAD. + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 28.09.2020	8.45 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	xen-wsmfdd.ir@gov.in
22	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION , CHARKHI DADRI	UPGRADATION AND COMMISSIONING OF EXISTING 5 MLD CAPACITY SEWAGE TREATMENT BASED ON MOVING BED BIOFILM REACTOR TECHNOLOGY (ATTACHED GROWTH PROCESS) TO COMBINED ACTIVATED SLUDGE PROCESS IN CONJUNCTION WITH MBBR BIO FILM PROCESS AT CHIRIYA ROAD, CHARKHI DADRI TOWN, DISTT. CHARKHI DADRI.	17.09.2020 28.09.2020	5 LACS	etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY-142507_2	Executive Engineer
23	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AMBALA	FOR CONTRACT FOR OUT SOURCING OF SERVICE/ ACTIVE FOR DRIVING OF CAR/ JEeps IN OFFICE OF ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, HARYANA PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, SEC-4, PANCHKULA. (FROM 01-10-2020 TO 31-03-2021 FOR 6 MONTHS) EMD AMT. RS.64160/-	18.09.2020 28.09.2020	32.08 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2631402 <p>eemambala@phedharyana.gov.in</p>
24	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, HARYANA BAWAL	(TENDERNO. 2020_HRY_140452_1) BAWAL -MODIFICATION OF EXISTING STP WITH TERTIARY TREATMENT EFFLUENT DISPOSAL FROM STP BAWAL TO BAWAL LINK DRAIN "UP GRADATION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) OF 3.00 MLD CAPACITY BASED ON MOVING BED BIO RECTOR (MBBR) TECHNOLOGY LOCATED AT NANGLI PARSAPUR, ROAD BAWAL TOWN.	20.09.2020 09.10.2020	3 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01282-260062 <p>eeabawal@phedharyana.gov.in</p>
25	PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE BLOCK ADAMPUR DISTT HISAR	SUPPLY OF VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS IN ALL VILLAGES OF BLOCK ADAMPUR DISTT HISAR. (GROUP-1 TO GROUP-12)	18.09.2020 05.10.2020	11.69 CRORE	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	9991953789 <p>bdpo.adampur@hry.nic.in</p>
26	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA CHARKHI DADRI.	AUCTION ON LEASE OF ESCAPE RESERVOIR AT RD 86000 LOHARU FEEDER, VILLAGE RAWALDHI, DISTRICT CHARKHI DADRI	CLOSING DATE 30.09.2020	10 LACS PER ANNUM	etenders.hry.nic.in	01250-297003 <p>xen-lwscdr.ir@gov.in</p>
27	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION REWARI	KALUWAS-PROVIDING FHTC IN GRAM PANCHAYAT UNDER JIM IN DISTRICT REWARI, PROVIDING AND FIXING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION IN EACH HOUSEHOLD INCLUDING ALL EQUIPMENTS AND LAYING OF PIPE 100MM DI PIPELINE = 200 MTR AND MATERIAL IN VILLAGE AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO. + 5 OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 28.09.2020	5.46 CRORE	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER No. 2020_HRY_144442. + 5 OTHER	01274-260317 <p>ee1rewari@phedharyana.gov.in</p>
28	IRRIGATION & W R DEPTT. HARYANA (GWS DIVISION GURUGRAM)	SPECIAL REPAIRING OF GATES AND GEARING OF NCR AT KM. 61.640 AND 70.700	CLOSING DATE 12.10.2020	6.62 LAKH	hid.gov.in	xen-gwsgrg.irr@hry.gov.in
29	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG. DIVN., SIWANI	"UP GRADATION OF SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) OF 4.00 MLD CAPACITY BASED ON MOVING BED BIO REACTOR (MBBR) TECHNOLOGY LOCATED AT TOSHAM ROAD- SIWANI TOWN." + 2 OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 08.10.2020	EMD 7.62 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender ID 2020_HRY_144786_1 + 2 OTHER	01255-277066 <p>eesiwani@phedharyana.gov.in</p>
30	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING GOHANA	NIZAMPUR FOR WATER SUPPLY SCHEME NIZAMPUR - " PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOSEHOLD TAP CONNECTION WITH BALANCE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO." + 9 OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 29.09.2020	471.43 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in Tender No. 2020_HRY_144823_1 + 9 OTHER	01263-258417 <p>/ee1gohana@gmail.com / ee1gohana@phedharyana.gov.in</p>
31	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, HARYANA BAWAL	(TENDER NO. 2020_HRY_143467_1) DETAIL ESTIMATE FOR ESTATE WATER SUPPLY (PHA) ARRANGEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SDO COMPLEX AT BAWAL TOWN, DISTRICT REWARI. CONSTRUCTION OF BOOSTING STATION, BOUNDARY WALL, PUMP CHAMBER, LAYING OF DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND RISING MAIN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERE TO. + 1 OTHER WORK	21.09.2020 29.09.2020	39.92 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	01282-260062 <p>eeabawal@gmail.com</p>
32	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION TOHANA	DNIT FOR LAYING 4" & 6" I/D D.I. WATER SUPPLY PIPE LINES AND PROVIDING & FIXING 1.5HM I/D C.I. PIPE FUNCTIONAL HOUSE HOLD TAP CONNECTION (FHTC) INCLUDING G.I SPECIALS, DISMANTLING OF STREETS, EXCAVATION OF EARTH AND MAKING GOOD STREET AFTER MAKING OF FHTC AT VILLAGE MUNSHIWALI TEHSIL RATIA & DISTRICT FATEHABAD (UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION) AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGNET THERETO.APP AMOUNT RS. 9.49 LACS + 2 OTHER WORKS	18.09.2020 25.09.2020	23.84 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01692-230023 <p>/eetohana@gmail.com</p>
33	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	WORK FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 30 NOS. RECHARGE BORE (SR. NO. 1-30) IN SIWAN BLOCK (RE-CALL) + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 28.09.2020	157.72 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-222384 <p>xenktl@gmail.com</p>
34	RAO ABHEY SINGH GOVT. ITI SAHARANWAS	CLEANING OF PREMISES AND HORTICULTURE WORK	18.09.2020 28.09.2020	45000.00 per month	www.rasgltisahanwas.org TENDER NO 2020_HRY_144713_1	01274221566 / saharanwas.giti@gmail.com
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in				RO NO. 82914		

Greece says talks with Turkey on East Med could restart soon

Athens: Greece and Turkey are close to reviving talks on a tense dispute over rights to exploit potential offshore natural gas deposits in the eastern Mediterranean, a Greek official said on Monday.

"We are close to restarting the exploratory talks. ... There will be an announcement when this is finalised but the atmosphere is good," Greek government spokesman Stelios Petsas told reporters.

Petsas also confirmed local media reports that US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is expected to visit Greece for a meeting with Greek Prime Minister

Kyriakos Mitsotakis to discuss the crisis, but added that the schedule is still being worked out.

The two neighbouring NATO members have been at odds for decades over maritime boundaries for commercial exploitation in an area between Turkey's southern coast, several Greek islands and the war-divided island of Cyprus.

Under international pressure, Turkey pulled back a research vessel in the area while both countries have also eased their naval presence and halted military exercises.

Greek-Turkish talks on the issue were last held in 2016. In recent years, the dispute that has been fueled by soured relations between the EU and Turkey and well as the discoveries of large natural gas fields in other parts of the eastern Mediterranean.

Turkey argues that Greek islands near its coastline should be excluded from the calculation of commercial maritime boundaries that far exceed the limits of territorial waters.

Athens calls the Turkish position a violation of international law but says it is willing to settle the dispute at an international court.

AP

Opp in Pakistan launches alliance to oust PM Imran

Islamabad: Demanding Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's immediate resignation, the country's major Opposition parties have launched an alliance to hold a countrywide protest movement to oust his government.

A 26-point joint resolution was adopted on Sunday by the All Parties Conference (APC), which was hosted by the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and attended by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) and several other parties.

At a joint press conference after the end of the multi-party meeting, JUI-F chief Mualana Fazl ur Rehman read out the resolution and said that the

Opposition parties have agreed to launch an alliance named Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) to organise countrywide protests against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government from October.

The resolution alleged that the Khan government has been granted "fake stability by the same establishment" that interfered with the elections to bring the incumbent rulers to power.

In an obvious reference to the powerful Pakistan Army, the resolution expressed "extreme concern" over the increasing interference of the establishment in the internal affairs of the country and regarded it as a "danger to the nation's stability and institutions".

PTI

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS				
Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx Cost of work ₹	EMD ₹
1	BCT/20-21/192 dtd. 21-09-2020	Udhna - Jalgaon section: ZONE 14-A General repairs in the jurisdiction of SE(W) Nandurbar between Km 154.622 to Km 212.482 between Nandurbar (incl) to Sindkhkheda (incl).	1,00,00,000.00	2,00,000.00
2	BCT/20-21/193 dtd. 21-09-2020	Udhna - Jalgaon section: ZONE 15-A General repairs in the jurisdiction of SE(W) Amalner between Km 212.482 to Km 301.470 between Sindkhkheda(excl) to Jalgaon(excl).	60,00,000.00	1,20,000.00
3	BCT/20-21/194 dtd. 21-09-2020	Ukai Songhad - Jalgaon Section:- Maintenance to P.way for UP/DN line under SSE (P.way) Dharangaon for One Year (Total 40.867Kms)	2,29,59,228.41	2,64,800.00
4	BCT/20-21/195 dtd. 21-09-2020	Udhna - Jalgaon section: Reconditioning of CMS crossing in situ by RW-20 Translamic Robotic Welding in connection of reconditioning of built up crossing tongue rails. CMS crossing under ADEN-Vyara section	48,57,834.00	97,200.00

Date & Time of submission of above mentioned tenders will be **20.10.2020 at 15:00 hrs.** and Date & Time of opening of above mentioned tenders will be **20.10.2020 at 15:30 hrs.**

Regarding detailed nature of containing cost of tender document (Non Refundable), EMD, Eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender condition please visit website www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offer will not be considered.

Like us on: [f facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) • Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY CONSULTANCY SERVICES	
Name of Work & Tender No.: Consultancy service for providing device at the interface of superstructures or superstructures and substructure to mitigate the increased longitudinal force on the bridges resulting due to higher tractive efforts exerted by New Generation Locomotives. Date and time for submission & opening of e-advertisement: Date of receiving of Advertisement 12.10.2020 at 15.00 hrs. Date of opening of Advertisement 12.10.2020 at 15:30 hrs. Website particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen: Website @ www.ireps.gov.in	
Like us on: f facebook.com/WesternRly	

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
30-Elect-25-T-2020-21-E3 Electrical work in connection with i) construction of fob (pedertrain cum two wheeler) over railway tracks for connection Rama road and Prem Nagar colony near Patel nagar railway station. ii) Extension of platform no. 1 & 2 at both end of Bhodwal Majri Railway station on DJK section. iii) Provision of 6.0 Mtr wide FOB kat Bhodwal Majri Railway Station on DJK section.	
Name of work and its location	Rs. 25.70 lacs
Approx. Cost of the works in	Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Address of the office	Rs. 51,400/-
Earnest Money	19.10.2020, 12.00 hrs.
Date & time of submission of tender	19.10.2020, 12.00 hrs.
Opening of tender	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Website & notice board	2044/2020
Serving Customers with a Smile	

Sensex falls 800 points as Covid cases surge globally

FIANS ■ MUMBAI

The Indian stock market plunged on Monday, tracking a global selloff due to a fresh spurt of coronavirus cases across Europe.

The BSE Sensex plunged over 800 points and the Nifty50 closed below the 11,300 mark as the resurgence in Covid cases has also given fuel to anticipation of renewed lockdown restrictions across countries in Europe, including the UK and France.

The BSE Sensex closed at 38,034.14, lower by 811.68 points, or 2.09 per cent, from the previous close of 38,845.82. The Nifty50 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) settled at 11,222.20, lower by 282.75 point, or 2.46 per cent, from its previous close.

The across-the-board sell-off was led by auto, telecom, metal and FMCG stocks.

Manish Hathiramani, tech-

nical analyst with Deen Dayal Investments, said: “The markets have broken the support of 11,300 on a closing basis and this is definitely an alarming situation. We could drop to 10,950-11,000 levels as the fall today has been fierce and on the back of good volumes.”

“The resistance on the upside is at 11,550-11,600. Until then the markets look weak,” he added. Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Retail Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said that the global cues were negative at the start of the day with lofty valuations, fading US stimulus and fresh wave of coronavirus infections in Europe being major risks. “In the US, attention is turning back to negotiations on fresh stimulus and the forthcoming election. Further, European markets fell after a report on bank allegations and signs that London is heading for a second lockdown,” he added.

₹ rises by 7 paise to 73.38 in line with Asian peers

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee strengthened by 7 paise to close at 73.38 against the US dollar on Monday, extending its gains for the second day on the back of firm Asian currencies and weak crude oil prices.

Forex dealers said inflows into Indian equities and firming Asian currencies against the dollar lent support to the local currency.

At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened at 73.43 and later rose to a high of 73.26 in the day trade.

2-year wait for States not opting for GST compensation formula

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

States which failed to submit their options before the GST Council meeting in October will have to wait for at least two years to get compensation on Goods and Services Tax collection shortfall expected during the transition period, Finance Ministry sources said on Monday.

The sources said that such states will have to wait till June 2022 to get compensation dues, subject to the condition that the GST Council extends the cess collection period beyond 2022.

This is so because the Council is expected to adopt one of the two options given by the Centre to meet the GST compensation needs of the states this year.

The states which decide against operationalisation of the new GST compensation formula will get their dues only to the extent of compensation cess collected in FY21

and distributed in proportion among all states and union territories.

The balance shortfall will only be met from the collection of GST compensation cess beyond the five-year transition period that ends in June 2022. This will be subject to GST Council approval to the extension of compensation cess.

The GST Council, in its 41st meeting on August 27, 2020, had decided to give its member-states two borrowing options to meet their compensation shortfall and a response time of 7 working days from the formal receipt of the detailed proposal on the options by email. Almost 15 states had submitted their options by September 15 and more have joined since.

Option-1 on GST compensation brought before the Council last month allows states to borrow, under a special dispensation from the Reserve Bank of India, a sum of about Rs 97,000 crore short-

fall calculated by the Centre that is directly on account of GST implementation.

Option-2 allows states to borrow the entire projected GST compensation shortfall of Rs 2,35,000 crore (total shortfall of Rs 3 lakh crore minus Rs 65,000 crore collected as GST compensation cess) for FY21.

So far, 21 states/UTs have expressed preference for Borrowing Option-1 proposed by the Centre.

With GST Act requiring voting for any resolution regarding an option by at least 20 states, the move is expected to be adopted by the GST Council at its meeting next month.

If this option is indeed adopted, all states would be able to move ahead and borrow under the scheme suggested by the Centre to meet their shortfall arising due to GST switchover. If states still opt out, they will have to wait to get full compensation.

Privatise select PSU banks, dilute role of DFS: Rajan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan on Monday suggested the government to privatise select public sector banks, set up a bad bank to deal with NPAs and dilute the role of Department of Financial Services.

The reforms are necessary to ensure growth of the banking government without the periodic boom-bust cycles, said a paper titled ‘Indian Banks: A Time to Reform?’, co-authored by Rajan and former Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Viral Acharya.

“Re-privatization of select PSBs can then be undertaken as part of a carefully calibrated strategy, bringing in private investors who have both financial expertise as well as technological expertise; corporate houses must be kept from acquiring significant stakes,

given their natural conflicts of interest,” the paper said.

Noting that the government obtains enormous power from directing bank lending, it said sometimes this power is exercised to advance public goals such as financial inclusion or infrastructure finance, sometimes it is used to offer patronage to, or exercise control over, industrialists. “Winding down Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance is essential, both as an affirmative signal of the intent to grant bank boards and management independence and as a commitment not to engage in ‘mission creep’ when compulsions arise to use banks for serving costly social or political objectives,” the paper noted. Acc to the paper, private asset management and national asset management ‘bad banks’ should be encouraged in parallel to the online platform for distressed loan sales.

Kolkata Metro GM reviews service under present circumstances

Kolkata: Manoj Joshi, General Manager, Metro Railway has reviewed the Metro services under the present circumstances in a high level meeting held on Monday at Metro Rail Bhavan.

He laid special emphasis on sanitization of station premises, coaches, escalator hand rails, smart gates and all other surfaces which the commuters

are likely to touch during their journey.

He also said that the station staff should always be vigilant and refill the sanitizer bottles as and when required.

The RPF personnel were also told to carry out their duties and always remain alert and focused on the commuters to maintain social distancing.

Banks not risk averse, they are being prudent: SBI chairman

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that there is muted demand for loans, SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar on Monday said banks are not risk averse but they are being prudent in these trying times to avoid a repeat of the post-2008 scenario when there was “dilution” in credit underwriting

standards.

Data clearly shows that investment in the economy has come down, the head of the country’s biggest lender said.

“If the capex (capital expenditure) is not happening and investment in the economy is not happening at the same pace, then obviously this is a demand issue and the risk

aversion would be where there is a demand and banks are not lending,” he said at a virtual event organised by AIMA.

Non-food bank credit grew 6.7 per cent year-on-year in July as against a growth of 11.4 per cent in the same month of the last year, as per latest data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Govt sets foodgrain output target at record 301 mn tonnes for 2020-21

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has set foodgrain production target at a record 301 million tonnes for the 2020-21 crop year, up nearly 1.5 per cent from the previous year’s output, on the back of good monsoon rains and higher acreage in the kharif season.

The target for the 2020-21 crop year (July-June) was set at the National Conference for Rabi Campaign 2020, which was held on Mon to review the progress of the kharif (summer-sown) season and plan for the rabi crops. Addressing the event, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar congratulated farmers and state govts for

record foodgrain production of 296.65 million tonnes in the 2019-20 crop year. “The conference set a target of 301 million tonnes of food grains production for 2020-21...,” an official statement said. Rice production target has been fixed at 119.6 million tonnes in 2020-21 as against 118.43 MT output in the last year.

GM Northern Railway holds performance review meeting

New Delhi: Focus on Safety on tracks, Mobility Enhancement work, 160Kmph speed Enhancement, BDU and Freight Loading Rajiv Chaudhry, General Manager, Northern & North Central held a review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway through video conferencing. Deliberations were held on keeping focus on safety on tracks, enhancement of speed, Business Development Units and Freight loading. He said that, safety is the prime focus over Northern Railway. He reviewed the work done over the zone in improving the maintenance standard of track, welds and removal of scrap lying near the tracks. He instructed the divisions on conducting drives to enhance the safety and counsel the staff whenever necessary & required.

The pulse of the nation

If there is one lesson that this pandemic has taught us, it is the importance of being “Atma Nirbhar” in food. Imagine the scramble for food when every-thing including import is shut down. Most countries which had food grains declared an export embargo during the pandemic. India is a rare country which not only fed its citizens and did it for free, but also gave food as humanitarian aid and exported it to countries in need.

During the lockdown, in May, the Government announced free supply of rice/wheat and also provided a kg of pulses each to about 20 crore family. From a situation of acute scarcity in 2015-16 when the country witnessed skyrocketing prices due to two successive years of drought, to providing free pulses to most citizens of the country in a never-seen-before times certainly needs a closer study.

The pulses’ crisis during 2015-16 was not a wasted opportunity but it set the coun-

try on an ambitious and desirable path of self-sufficiency. The Government acted on supply, demand and regulatory fronts with equal emphasis. The twin factors critical to immediate increase in pulses production was determining the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and procurement from farmers directly at this rate. Through the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) launched in 2016-17 additional area was brought under pulses cultivation. The Government aimed at increasing productivity and production of pulses in the country by distribution of seed mini-kits, subsidy on production of quality seeds, creation of 150 pulses seed hubs, involving ICAR institutes and State Agriculture Universities for cluster frontline demonstrations.

The Government increased MSP of pulses by 8-16 per cent in 2016-17. Elaborate arrangements were made for procuring of pulses from farmers under the Price Support

Scheme . The Govt Guarantee for procurement operation was increased manifold. Foreseeing a need to have strategic buffer of pulses, 20 lakh MT buffer stock of pulses was created through the Price Stabilisation fund with a corpus of more than Rs 10,000 crore. The State Governments -- particularly those Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka which lead in pulses production -- worked in close coordination for procurement of pulses.

All these measures resulted in a 42 per cent increase in pulses production which is unheard of in any category of food articles and, certainly, such a jump has not been achieved in a span of one year in any country. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation Of India Ltd. (NAFED) played a pivotal role in procurement under PSS and PSF by procuring 8.7 lakh MT in 2016-17. This amount was equivalent to the last 15 years combined.

SBI raises ₹7,000 cr via Basel III compliant bonds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country’s largest lender State Bank of India on Monday said it has raised ₹7,000 crore by issuing Basel III compliant bonds. “The Committee of Directors for Capital Raising at its meeting of held today on September 21, 2020 accorded its approval to allot 70,000 Basel III compliant non-convertible, taxable, redeemable...Debt instruments in the nature of debentures aggregating to ₹7,000 crore, to bond subscribers,” SBI said in a regulatory filing.

The allotment of bonds to the subscribers took place on the same date i.e. September 21, 2020, it added. The bonds qualify as tier II capital of the bank, and has face value of ₹10 lakh each, bearing coupon rate

of 6.24 per cent per annum payable annually for a tenor of 10 years, it said. There is call option after 5 years and on anniversary thereafter, it added. Call option means the issuer of the bonds can call back the bonds before the maturity date by paying back the principal amount to investors. A month back, SBI had raised ₹8,931 crore by allotting 89,310 Basel III-compliant debt instruments to bond subscribers. Under the globally accepted Basel-III capital regulations, banks need to improve and strengthen their capital plan. SBI norms are being implemented in phases since 2013 by Indian banks to mitigate concerns on potential stresses on asset quality and consequential impact on performance and profitability of banks.



Unknown

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unknown person name & address unknown. Age: 45 Yrs (approx), Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, medium Build, Face round, White Beard & Hair, Wearing red T-shirt was admitted in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi & died during treatment on 04.09.2020.

In this regard a **FIR No. 365/20, dt. 04.09.2020 U/s 279/304-A IPC has been registered at PS Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.**

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

S.H.O.,
P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-24106346, 24106345, 9582558059

DP/299/SW/2020



Shakshi

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Shakshi, D/o Vinay Chaturvedi, R/o B-730 4th floor, Nai Basti, Nangloi Delhi.** Age 17 yrs., height 5', wheatish complexion, normal build, face round, wearing black suit salwar and red & black chappal in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 09.08.2020 from the area of **PS Nangloi Delhi.**

In this regard a **FIR No. 902/20 U/s 363 IPC Dt. 10.08.2020 has been registered at PS Nangloi Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph.: 011-23014046
011-23015218
DP/383/OD/2020

S.H.O.,
PS Nangloi Delhi
Ph.: 011-25947225, 25949470



Rishi Lal Sharma

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a man namely **Rishi Lal Sharma S/o Late Manphool, R/o GH-14/210, Paschim Vihar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 04.09.2020 near fire station from the area of Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. In this regard a **FIR No.729/20 u/s 365 IPC dated 05.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped man but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped man are as under:
Name: Rishi Lal Sharma, **Gender:** Male, **Age:** 70 years, **Height:** 5'10", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** White shirt-pant and leather shoes in his feet. If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped Man, kindly inform SHO/ Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.

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

SHO
P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-25268394, 25280980

DP/378/OD/2020



Pooja

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Pooja, D/o Vijender Singh, R/o H.No. 135, Docklan Pana, Village Tikari Kalan, Delhi, Age: 18 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval,** wearing Sky Blue Suit-Salwar and Golden Jutti in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from Madhu Buty Parlor, 40 Foota Road, Rajdhani Park, in the area of P.S. Nangloi since 01.09.2020. In this regard a **FIR No. 952/20 U/S 365 IPC, dated 05.09.2020** has been lodged at **P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

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

SHO
P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
Ph: 011-25947225, 25949470

DP/387/OD/2020



Anuradha

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely **Anuradha D/o Sh. Mukesh Kumar R/o H. No. 55/2, Rajpura Gurmandi, Model Town, Delhi Aged-23 Years** has been reported missing since 11.09.2020 at 2:00 PM from her house vide **DD No. 58 A Dated 13.09.2020** has been lodged at Police Station Model Town, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5'5", **Face:** Round, **Build:** Strong, **Wearing:** Blue coloured kurta and pajama, slipper in in feet and gold chain, earrings.

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

Sd/-
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Model Town, Delhi
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-27459202, 27120032, 27456072,
DP/387/NW/2020 27461963, Mob.: 8750870230



Pooja Kumari

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Pooja Kumari D/o Vakil Mehto R/o B-50, Jawala Puri Camp No. 4, Paschim Vihar, Delhi.** Age 17 years 11 months 24 days, Height 5'3", Complexion wheatish, Face oval, **ID mark: A mole under the right eye,** wearing Pink colour Suit-salwar and V-shape chappal in feet has been missing/kidnapped since 09.09.2020 from the area of **PS Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this girl, but no clue has come to light so far.

In this regard a case **FIR No. 737/20 dated 10.09.2020 U/s 363 IPC** has been registered at **PS Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-23011334
Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218
DP/141/OD/2020

SHO
PS Paschim Vihar West, Delhi
Ph. 011-25268394, 25280980



APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 35 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found unconscious near NDMC Parking, near Bharti Delhi Emporium, BKS Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi on 19.09.2020 at 21:46 hrs. The unidentified person was admitted to the Dr. RML hospital. During the treatment, he was declared dead by the doctors. In this regard, a vide has been registered with **DD No: 47-A dated 19.09.2020 at PS Connaught Place, District New Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under:
Sex: Male, **Age:** about 35 years, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Grey colour track pant. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Connaught Place, District New Delhi

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

SHO
P.S. Connaught Place, District New Delhi.
Ph. No. 011- 23747100,23363898

DP/123/NDD/2020



Ram Lal

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one man (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Ram Lal, S/o: Late Sh. Tara Lal, R/o: H.No. G-127, LIC Colony, Paschim Vihar, Delhi Aged: 71 years,** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi since 06.09.2020. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 91-A, Dated 07.09.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.** His physical description is as under:
Height: 5'3", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Clothing:** Sky Blue Colour Shirt, Black Colour Pant and Black Colour Shoes in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing man, may inform SHO, Paschim Vihar West, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.nic.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O
P.S. Paschim Vihar, West, Delhi.
Ph.: 011-25268394, 25280980

DP/404/OD/2020.

DOCYARD

DR BALBIR SINGH

Chairman — Cardiac Sciences

MAX HOSPITAL, SAKET, NEW DELHI





Stay young at heart

Cardiac ailments are considered to be one of the deadliest diseases and the leading cause of mortality in India. As per the reports of WHO, cardiac problems are estimated to kill at least one in every five men and one in every eight women. Progressive heart failure which is caused due to the plaque (fatty substance) build up in the arterial linings of the blood vessels are primarily attributed to lifestyle habits and conditions such as smoking, overweight, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and diabetes. Heart attacks were once only associated with old age. Recently, more people in their 20s, 30s and 40s have been suffering from heart ailments. Apart from a person's genetic disposition and family history which are the most common and uncontrollable risk factors, the Indian youth is now being succumbed to heart ailments due to poor lifestyle, stress, erratic sleep patterns. This in turn causes inflammation and raises the risk of cardiac ailments. Sedentary lifestyle clubbed with smoking are further risk factors that trigger the risk symptoms among the younger generation.

Cardiac Hospitals in India perform more than 2 lakh open heart surgeries and are increasing annually by 25 per cent but they are not able to control the numbers of heart attacks. The surgeries done are only palliative. Educating the essentials about Heart disease and its risk factors is important to eradicate the casualties from the root.

What are the symptoms?

Not every CHD patient has the same symptoms and angina chest pain as its most common feature. Symptoms may vary from nil to severe, some may have an uncomfortable feeling like indigestion and some cases may be experiencing severe pain, heaviness or tightness. The pain is usually felt in the centre of the chest, that spreads to the arms, neck, jaw and even to stomach, and is accompanied by palpitation and unusual breathlessness.

If arteries become completely blocked, it can cause a heart attack that can cause permanent damage to the heart muscle. The discomfort or pain of a heart attack is usually similar to that of angina, but is often more severe and may be associated with sweating, lightheadedness, nausea and breathlessness. This is more common in people with Diabetes. Heart

The discomfort or pain of a heart attack is usually similar to that of angina, but is often more severe and may be associated with sweating, lightheadedness, nausea and breathlessness. This is more common in people with Diabetes

attack if not treated straight away can be fatal. Assessment of a suspected CHD patient involves the medical and family history, assessing the lifestyle and taking blood tests. Further tests to confirm a diagnosis of CHD includes non-invasive tests like an electrocardiogram (ECG) to identify the structure, thickness and movement of each heart valve, X-ray to look at the heart, lungs and chest wall to rule out any other conditions that may be causing symptoms, Treadmill test (TMT) during exercise to know the effect of exercise on the heart, Cardiovascular cathography heart flow mapping, CT angiography and the invasive coronary angiography to identify whether the coronary arteries are narrowed and how severe the blockages are.

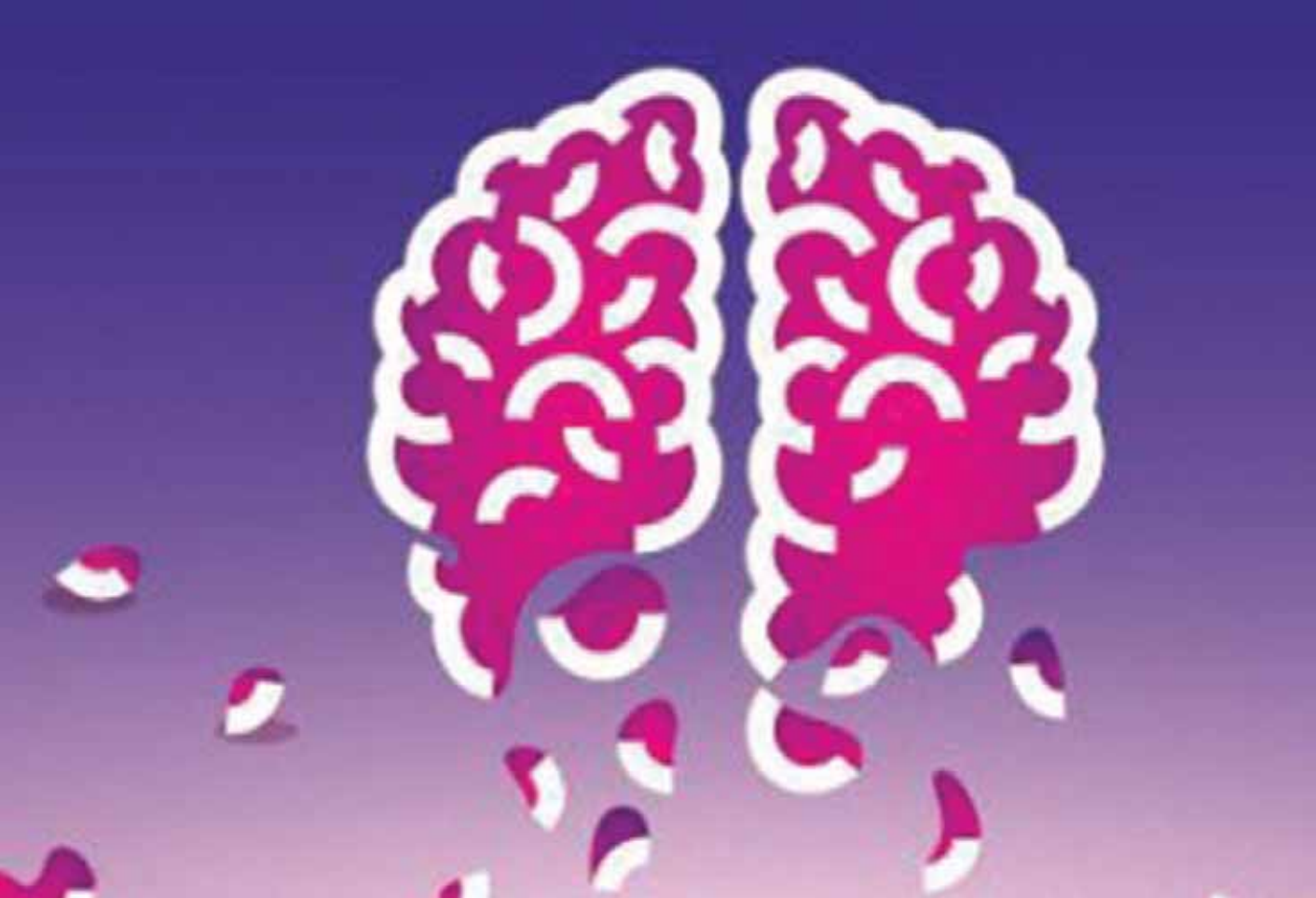
Although coronary heart disease cannot be cured, treatment can help manage the symptoms, improve the functioning of the heart and reduce the chances of problems such as heart attacks. Effective management includes a combination of lifestyle changes, medicines and non-invasive treatments. Invasive and surgical treatments are required in more severe cases and the outcomes are favourable in most of the cases, where the person is able to resume their normal life. Some simple lifestyle changes include eating a healthy balanced diet, doing regular exercise, no smoking and controlling blood cholesterol and sugar levels. These can reduce the risk of CHD, stroke and dementia.

SUMMER COOLERS

CINNAMON: If one is to sell something during the current time, all that is needed is to call it immunity booster and it will run out of the shelves at the speed of light. And rightly so, when immunity is your preliminary shield to keep the COVID-19 infection at bay. But one needs not look for such an ingredient in the markets, it is right in the kitchen. Cinnamon, widely used as a flavouring agent, is loaded with powerful antioxidants, such as polyphenols. It has anti-inflammatory properties.

Not only this, cinnamon as a spice is also known for its immunity boosting properties. Just add it in your *kadha* and you are good to go. It is also linked to a reduced risk of heart disease, the world's most common cause of premature death. It keeps cholesterol, triglycerides and blood pressure under check. Apart from the beneficial effects on insulin resistance, cinnamon can lower blood sugar by several other mechanisms. So now you have more than one reason to add it in your daily routine.





Create memories

It is estimated that at least 50 lakh people live with Alzheimer's in India and the number is expected to increase in the coming years.

DR AZAD IRANI tells you the early symptoms one should look out for

SEP 21 | WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY

Alzheimer's disease first described in 1906 by Alois Alzheimer (in Latin 'de', which means a deprivation or loss; 'ment', which means mind; and 'ia', is a state). Alzheimer's disease is presently the commonest cause of dementia having its onset most often after the age of 65 years. Presently, it is estimated that at least 50 lakh people live with Alzheimer's disease in India (that is 0.003 per cent of our entire population). However, as life span increases, it is estimated that this figure may double in the ensuing decades.

The term dementia includes symptoms not only of memory loss but may also include abnormalities of various other cognitive domains such as language functions, social and behavioural aspects, inability to navigate and directional confusion occurring in a person with previously intact such abilities.

Alzheimer's disease is characterised by gradually progressive memory loss as its core feature which also is the earliest feature. The memory loss is mainly for recent events and episodes (called episodic memory in medical terminology). The patients' memory for past events of life remains unaffected in

the early years. Early features of episodic memory loss include repeating the same questions again, misplacing personal items, forgetting to pay bills, keep appointments, difficulty retrieving names and also multi-tasking which was previously easily possible. A change in personality or development of late-life depression or anxiety also warrants an evaluation for onset of dementia.

Current studies believe that the brain abnormality leading to Alzheimer's disease starts at a much earlier age and may be strongly related to poor life-style habits namely bad sleeping habits, like late nights or lesser sleep hours, excessive stress, obesity, Diabetes, high cholesterol levels, physical inactivity, excessive tobacco or alcohol intake. Genetic factors certainly would be incriminated if there are multiple members from the same family developing memory loss or for the younger onset cases.

A common parlance among the young these days is that they suffer from poor memory. Encouraging for them would be to note that this generally is the result of lack of concentration arising out of poor sleeping habits, excessive stress and physical inactivity. However, if these poor lifestyle factors are not addressed in time they may sow the seeds for future dementia. Therapy for Alzheimer's unfortunately is not curative. As is known the dementia

AN ADEQUATE SLEEP SCHEDULE, A GOOD FITNESS REGIME, A HEALTHY DIET, REGULAR MEDITATION AND AVOIDANCE OF STRESS IN TODAY'S FAST LIFE WOULD HENCE BE OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO PREVENT THIS UNFORGIVING ILLNESS

slowly progresses to a point where in the later stages the patient loses most of the memory, mobility and sense of bladder-bowel control. Therapy mainly remains symptomatic with medications that help replace some chemicals in the brain to partially boost up the memory. Stimulating the mind with brain games, social interaction with family/friends, music therapy or any hobby that interests the patient helps slow down the symptom progress. Massive funds have been spent and even presently being invested all over the world on experimental studies for drugs still in the pipe-line.

So would knowing the early symptoms help us? Yes, changing one's life style habits for the better with strict control of contributory illnesses like Diabetes mellitus, hypertension, obesity, sleep apnea are the best ways thence, to fight this fiercely progressive condition which affects not only the patient but the entire family who has to cope with this illness which may run into years resulting in what is often known as caregiver burnout for family members. An adequate sleep schedule, a good fitness regime, a healthy diet, regular meditation and avoidance of stress in today's fast life would hence be of utmost importance to prevent this unforgiving illness.

The writer is Consultant Neurologist, Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre

SAY BYE TO STRAWBERRY LEGS

Strawberry legs can make you feel a little conscious of your appearance. However, this is not something that one should worry about.

RUKSHMANI THAKKAR shares tips that can help you get rid of it

Women have multiple hair removal options, if they choose to. From waxing to epilators to laser hair removal and shaving, are some of the easily available options for hair removal. Keratosis Pilaris is a non-contagious skin condition which can be cause due to shaving. Also known as a strawberry legs, this condition gives you small red bumps that have a seed like appearance.

Strawberry legs can make you feel a little conscious of your appearance if you're wearing shorts, skirts or dresses. However, this is not something that one should worry about. Its one of the most common skin conditions and has over 1 crore cases each year in India alone. It can be easily controlled and treated by selecting the right skin care routine and service.

Here are some insights into this problem and how one can deal with it. Characterised by the appearance dark spots, Strawberry legs can be caused due to unclogged pores, excessive keratin building up extra skin which blocks pores and hair follicles. These blocked pores and hair follicles can lead to ingrown hair, causing the skin to get patchy and dry. Frequent usage of razors can also cause a condition called Folliculitis, where hair follicles can become inflamed and infected.

You can prevent strawberry legs with the following:
■ Opt for dry brushing or exfoliation a day before shaving
■ Opt for waxing instead of shaving
■ Moisturise your skin to prevent dryness, patchiness and uneven skin
■ Use a loofah during shower
■ Shave once hair growth is enough

Home treatments for strawberry legs:
■ **Dry brushing:** Using this technique can help you in removing excessive skin build up. It also prevents ingrowths.
■ **Scrubbing/exfoliation:** Scrubbing and exfoliating on a daily basis can help in cleaning out clogged pores. It also makes skin soft and supple. One can use Human and Kind Body Scrub, it is vegan and gentle on the skin.

If you don't wish to buy one, you can also make a scrub at home with semolina, oil and honey. Baking soda and milk can also be used.

■ **Loofah:** Loofah also helps in exfoliating and removing dry skin. Ideally, a loofah should be used for every alternate shower.

■ **Doctor prescribed creams and ointment** can also help in curing the appearance of strawberry legs if the condition is aggravated.

■ **Chemical exfoliation:** Chemical peels are also a great option but should be used under the guidance of a professional aesthetician.

The writer is Technical Head — Skin, Enrich Salon

DadiKaKehna

Most women love long and silky hair but end up with dull and lifeless ones and hence prefer to keep them short. ROSHANI DEVI shares household tips that one can follow to keep long tresses



One of the most basic things that one must do for long hair is to oil them regularly. One can use coconut, almond or even olive oil. Massage it into the scalp and leave it overnight. Wash with a mild shampoo in the morning. However, if you have an oily skin, oil your hair and leave it for an hour and then wash off. One can wrap a hot towel around the head for 10 minutes to help in the better absorption of the oil.

If one reason why you don't want to sport long hair is because they fall, use aloe vera. It soothes the scalp and conditions hair. It reduces dandruff and unblock hair

follicles that may be blocked by excess oil. You can apply pure aloe vera gel to your scalp and hair a few times a week.

Apply a m mask made of egg; it is an excellent source of protein, which helps your hair grow longer. Just crack open two eggs, strain the yolks and use the egg white on your hair. Let it stay for 20 minutes and wash off.

Another reason why hair don't grow long could be split ends. Boil two-three cloves of garlic with an essential oil and massage this on hair roots. Garlic is known to reduce breakage and improve blood circulation, which leads to long hair.



TIPTOP

In a first-ever recorded medical procedure of its kind, doctors at BLK Hospital removed a ruptured Hydatid cyst from the right lung of Ruhi-Un-Nisa, a 45-year-old woman from Srinagar, without conducting an open chest surgery. The cyst, formed by the larvae of tapeworms, was excised piecemeal by freezing it using a cryoprobe.

The patient showed initial symptoms and discomfort in July this year when she spit blood while coughing. She underwent a CT scan of the chest which revealed 43 X 35mm cyst (equivalent to a size of tennis ball) in superior segment of lower lobe of right lung. The patient followed the CT scan with a bronchoscopy procedure thereafter in Srinagar. However, her condition deteriorated, and she went into respiratory distress. Ruhi-Un-Nisa was unable to lie down and had not slept for close to two months. She had severe difficulty in breathing; she went to hospital in Kashmir where

she was advised to rush to Delhi for emergency treatment.

The patient came with severe breathlessness and constantly felt a salty-bitter taste in her mouth. Doctors suspected the symptoms to be caused by a ruptured Hydatid cyst.

The team led by Dr Sandeep Nayar HOD, Chest & Respiratory Diseases, at BLK Hospital flushed out the spilled fluids/contents from both lungs. He then excised the ruptured membrane with the help of a Cryoprobe (a surgical probe to apply extreme cold to body tissues and freeze them). The membrane was frozen and extracted through the mouth and it gave immediate relief to the patient from her symptoms. Dr Nayar performed this procedure through bronchoscope under local anaesthesia. CT chest and bronchoscopy repeated after four days ensured that the lung was completely cleared of the cyst.

SLIMLINE

Long hours of digital exposure dehydrate the skin, damages our skin cells and the delicate skin around the eyes. Le Ritual has therefore launched the range to detoxify and repair the skin damage. The current range includes a face serum and eye serum apt for use in both morning and evening skincare regime.

Le Ritual Antioxidant Rich Face Serum builds a defense system for your skin and repairs the skin against digital exposure. It also hydrates, brightens, reduces wrinkles, dark spots and hyperpigmentation. It also

detoxifies, protects the skin collagen against UV, pollutants damage, glowing screens.

Le Ritual Omega Rich Under Eye is proven to work best for under-eye dark circles, fine lines, wrinkles and puffiness. Regular use of serum helps boost collagen around the eyes and increases elasticity, firmness and stimulates micro-circulation around the eyes

The digital detox duo set is available at ₹2090.

The duo is exclusively available at Amazon, Nykaa, Flipkart and Big Basket.

INBRIEF

In a rare case, 86 year old lady who herself was a doctor, became one of the oldest cadaveric donor in Delhi. A resident of South Delhi, the lady was declared brain dead on September 12 late at night, at a Delhi hospital, after suffering from an acute stroke post which the family expressed her wish of donating her liver and kidney at the time of her death.

Many hospitals were apprehensive of retrieving the organs from an 86 year old, undermining the health of those organs, but Indraprastha Apollo welcomed this liver donation as it would be life saving for a patient in need. A 42 year old man who was a patient of Hepatitis C, consequently, had suffered from liver failure and was in urgent need of a liver transplant. The liver transplant team headed by Dr Neerav Goyal carried out the process of extracting the liver from the lady, harvesting it to ensure it can be used for transplant in a healthy condition and successfully conducting the procedure of liver transplant. While the kidney was accepted by the hospital where she died, the donor's liver was transplanted at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, into the 42 year old man at midnight on September 13, within hours of the donation.

Dr Neerav Goyal, Senior Consultant, Liver Transplant, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, said: "The usual acceptable age for cadaver organ transplant is 65 years of age, people beyond that age are considered as marginal donors. When we got to know that there is a cadaver donor for liver, we decided to evaluate the organ to examine whether it will be suitable for donation. The liver biopsy revealed that the lady had a perfectly healthy liver, like that of a young person, hence we decided to go ahead with the procedure."

Trend Glazer

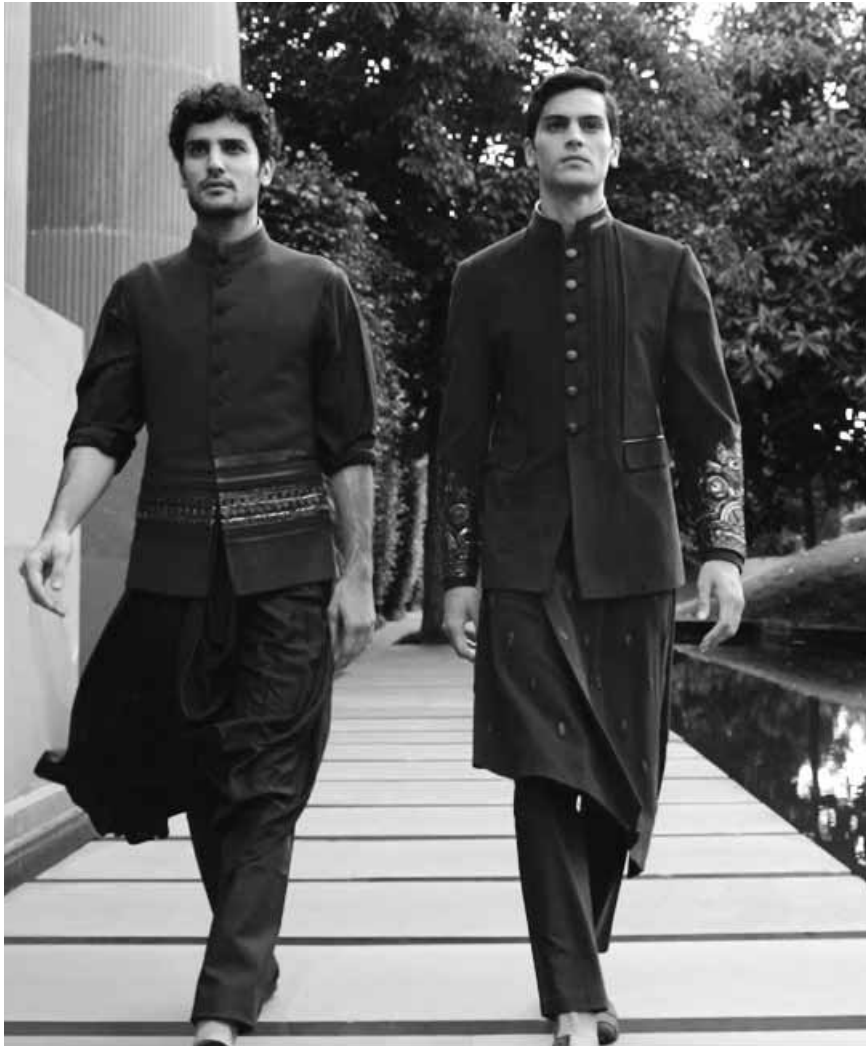
Kareena turns 40, wishes pour in

Actor **KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN** turned 40 on Monday, and several Bollywood personalities took to social media to wish her.

Sister and actor Karisma Kapoor wrote, “Will continue to protect you always. Happy 40th birthday to my lifeline! Love you the most.”

“Happy birthday and congratulations on the to be addition,” wrote Kajol, referring to the fact that Kareena is expecting her second child with Saif.

Alia Bhatt wrote, “Happy birthday, dearest Bebo. May every wish you make come true.” Katrina Kaif posted, “Happiest birthday to the most wonderful, there's no one like you, may u get back all the kindness & love.”



A hopeful rebound

SHANTANU & NIKHIL's collection, *The Resurgence*, is all about recreating the grandeur which brides dreamt of before the pandemic, simply because luxury is timeless and will continue to be prized by Indians.

By CHAHAK MITTAL

After days of uncertainty and nothingness due to the pandemic-induced lockdown, many are finding their own ways to rise to life again. For designers Shantanu and Nikhil, the spirit of this much-needed revival came with the FDCI India Couture Week 2020. What better than the duo's collection, *The Resurgence*, could explain this?

For them, it is an ode to hope, the spirit to resurface and recommence their duties for the universe. Said Shantanu, “With an almost spiritual connotation to the capabilities of cyclic existence, the collection celebrates a renewed strength and power to adapt and #RiseAgain.”

So how does a Shantanu-Nikhil bride look like this time? Taking inspiration from the central emotion of the duo's collection — “hope” — their bride celebrates her way towards a new, optimistic world of happiness, leaving the sorrow and uncertainty behind. Added Shantanu, “With hope, we're moving ahead of the

sorrow that has gripped the world. While we take baby steps towards normalcy, the collection reconstructs romance through fluidic drapes and godly architecture symbolic of the hope within. With this, we also celebrate a new world and our 20 years. We are reinterpreting our classics and bringing back the opulence of our journey with new sustainable practices put into place for our brides. We take pride in our artisans and their craftsmanship. This season we did revisit a lot of metallic embroidery, Goth applique and the classic zaradozi, all creat-



ing neo-luxe bridal looks.”

For Nikhil, newer times call for newer actions and with the blurring lines between technology and fashion in the new normal, it felt “fitting” to have showcased the duo's Ceremonial Couture '20 Collection, virtually. He added, “It is an exciting and unusual experience and feels great to be a part of an ecosystem that is constantly innovating and connecting with a larger audience every now and then.”

Shot at The Roseate Hotels and Resorts, Delhi Aerocity, its architectural design added to the collection's raw portrayal. The anti-trend aesthetics, the structure and the linearity as a signature were kept intact. For the duo, “this digital model of a showcase definitely democratised fashion and integrated with it a cutting-edge customer experience. We have tried to use this platform creatively to showcase a film-like presentation than just a blatant runway showing.”

So has it been pivoted around the wedding perspective only? Nikhil said, “In this pandemic, one thing is very clear that design will become a lot more precious, sustainable, valuable and yet, luxurious. We have always been strong advocates of anti-trend couture, where the focus is on neo-shapes, silhouettes, minimalism and of course, the wearer. The brides of today are looking at timeless and classic vintage with hints of contemporary lightness.”

To represent the strength we need to leave behind the melancholy and fight on, the collection was given a

metallic touch. The gold and sheen done in hand-woven silks and brocades represented a beacon of hope. The abundance of fluidic drapes created through light fabrics like georgette and chiffon worked in tandem to create a sense of positivity and ease, which is much needed at a time like this.

Talking about whether the festive market is outdoing the wedding market this year, Shantanu said, “India has always been a country of celebrations and there is nothing more celebratory than an Indian wedding. Hence, the demand for heavy and glorious couture will remain unchanged. With several weddings being postponed, the new wedding season has brought with it double excitement and the brides will not compromise on their wedding outfits now. The voluminous ball gowns, our signature drapes, anti-trend styles and cuts are still our brides' go-to apparel for their dream wedding.”

He added that their brides are looking for the same grandeur as it was earlier but they are now far more emotional about things they do in their lives. Hence, buying behaviour is now hedonistic in nature and design is paramount.

While the designers tweak their approaches a little to showcase couture, they feel going digital has made every fashionista their front row client. Nikhil said, “We have opted for digital launch in the past as well and it has helped us connect to a larger and newer audience. In the wake of the ongoing pandemic, when the entire world is relying on the digital platforms to keep themselves busy and run their businesses, there is no other medium bigger than this to present fashion to people. Hence, the challenge now at hand would be to translate the grandeur of the physical runway into a virtual one, making it as alive and experiential as the former where everyone will have a front row access.”

THE MODERN MASTER

Three works by VASUDEO S GAITONDE, an artist who captured the essence of Indian modernism, go on sale at the Christie's and the Sotheby's. By UMA NAIR

Bringing alive the timeless French song, *La Mer* by Charles Trenet, a painting by artist VS Gaitonde, in a suffusion of green, showcasing the softness and gentility of the sand, is reminiscent of the sea. This is a masterpiece created in 1983 and was bought at the Pundole Gallery. It is also one of the three works by the artist to go up on sale. It will be a part of the Christie's South Asian Modern + Contemporary Art Sale on September 23 in New York.

The other two works belong to the Sotheby's sale that will be held in London on September 29. Part of The Gunnar and Inger Hansen Collection, these two works celebrate Gaitonde as the ultimate abstract master.

The first is a 1954 amorphous-looking work that belongs to George Butcher, a British art critic for *The Guardian* and a stalwart supporter of the burgeoning Indian and South Asian modern art scene. He spent more than two years in India and befriended many artists, gallerists and critics. Using his knowledge and contacts, he curated several shows on South Asian art featuring artists from both home and abroad. Butcher was one of the first writers to assert the unique and remarkable contribution of South Asian artists to a global form of modernism. He has left an



indelible mark on the history of modern Indian and South Asian art.

The second comes from the Inger Hansen collection, a Danish couple who collected Indian art. The work hails from 1969, a smoky crimson and tangerine sunset that heralds the sounds and flats and sharps of a *raga*.

Following a 1964 trip to New York on the Rockefeller Fund Fellowship, where Gaitonde encountered several abstract expressionists' works and conceptual artists for the first time, his style began to evolve. His paintings began to explore the rela-

tionships between form, light and colour in a diligent and sophisticated manner. The work was all about how the “planes of paint spread over the canvas, a reminder of nothing other than self. An almost spiritual sublimation gets created from within paint rather than by reference to any school of thought.”

What makes Gaitonde stand apart in the Indian modern art tradition was the way he immersed into its shared language and a universal vocabulary. For many of his contemporaries, the language was just a tool to express something. For



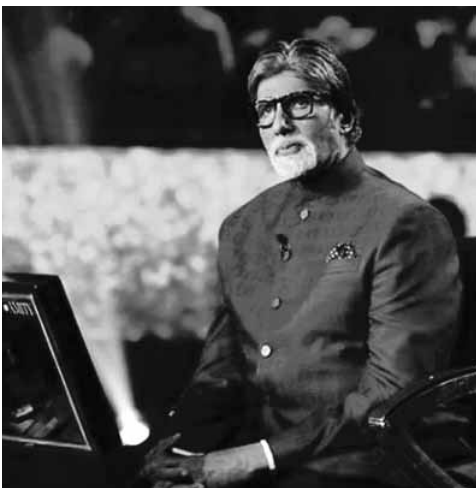
Gaitonde, the language became the subject. He did not attempt to use line and colour to create forms; his forte was the exploration of the relationship between line and colour. If he captured the essence of Indian modernism, it was by disengaging from its effusion, its gaiety and its materialism.

“The central characteristic of Gaitonde's artistic personality, it must be understood, is that he likes to stand alone. This independent-mindedness was accompanied by a firm belief in his identity as a painter,” wrote critic Dnyaneshwar

Nadkarni.

An uncompromising artist of integrity, Gaitonde distanced himself from anything he deemed superfluous to the contemplative rigour he believed his art required. After he shifted Delhi in the early 1970s, he was “very much the artist in a garret.” The few writers who visited him spoke about the dusty interiors and the immense reticence of the place.

Goan artist Theodore Mesquita, who met him in Delhi in 1991, described him as a “hermit,” who is impassive to the mundane world around him.



KBC returns

Deviyon aur sajjano, brace yourself for the 12th season of *Kaun Banega Crorepati* (KBC). This season, the show makes a comeback with a two-fold messaging that conveys not just a better return amid a pandemic but also a motivational nudge for participants and viewers to consider setbacks as a stepping stone. It is produced by StudioNEXT and hosted by actor Amitabh Bachchan.

The first ever digital audition of this season raised hope, dreams and aspirations among people from across the country.

While the core of the show remains the same, it comes with a few changes relevant to the current times. It will not host in-studio audiences keeping in line with the government mandated safety guidelines and protocols in response to COVID-19. The in-studio audience played a huge role as a lifeline – Audience Poll, to help the contestants on the hotseat move ahead in the game. This year, this lifeline will be replaced by another lifeline Video-A-Friend. The other three lifelines remain the same – 50:50, Ask The Expert and Flip The Question. The number of fastest finger first contestants who will compete to be on the hot seat per week, has been reduced from the usual 10 to 8.

With *KBC Play Along* on Sony LIV, viewers can enjoy the gameshow by participating and matching their knowledge with the contestants on the hot seat. (*The show premieres from September 28, Monday to Friday at 9 pm on Sony Entertainment Television.*)



‘I travelled enthusiastically during a pandemic, got quarantined and five COVID tests with a smile but that one ‘Short Run’ hit me hard. What’s technology for if it can’t be used? It’s time BCCI introduces new rules. I’ve always believed in being graceful in a win or loss but it’s also important to ask for policy changes that improve the game in future.’ —Preity Zinta

Director **ANDRIJ PAREKH**, the Indian connect in the Emmys 2020 winner roster, has dedicated his award to all people of colour.



Parekh, who is of Indian-Ukrainian descent, won an Emmy for directing his debut *Hunting* episode of drama series *Succession*, one of the big winners at the annual gala this year.

“I am deeply honoured and humbled by this award. This distinction has been bestowed upon me on my birthday. So, thank you for the gift,” Parekh said.

He dedicated the award to “all the kids whose names like mine are difficult to pronounce.”

A mini Friends reunion at Emmys



Actors **JENNIFER ANISTON**, **LISA KUDROW** and **COURTENAY COX** united for a mini reunion to celebrate their hugely popular sitcom, *Friends*, during a video call with host **Jimmy Kimmel** at the virtual Emmy award gala.

While Aniston was on video call with Kimmel, Cox joined in. “Of course I'm here. We live together,” she said.

“Yeah, we've been roommates since 1994, Jimmy,” Aniston added, referring to the year when the sitcom premiered.

Kudrow also entered the picture, following which Kimmel wondered if they don't live with their own families. “Where else would I live?,” Kudrow said.

The first *Friends* episode had aired on September 22, 1994, and the show lasted till 2004.

I was a bit nervous in the beginning, but it was more excitement than nervousness for me to make my debut. I just wanted to do well and help my team win

It was a weird game, sometimes the luck goes your way, but it's easy to become the villain from the hero. So it's important to enjoy the good days

Rohit is always open to take suggestions on the ground. I crunch situations he is very calm, cool and composed. He takes tough decisions during that time

If the team wants to go with six bowlers then you need an all-rounder and if Stoinis can contribute with both bat and ball it's really good for the team



Devdutt Paddikal chats with RCB teammate Aaron Finch during IPL game

IPL20.com

Dream debut for Devdutt

Padikkal makes 56 before AB's quick 51 lift RCB to 163

PTI ■ DUBAI

Devdutt Padikkal displayed his highly rated talent with a half-century on IPL debut before AB de Villiers provided the much needed final flourish to take Royal Challengers Bangalore to 163 for five in their tournament opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Monday.

The class and calmness Padikkal (56 off 42, 8 fours) showed in his first high-profile game was remarkable, so much so that Australian limited overs captain Aaron Finch (29 off 27) was happy to play second fiddle at the other end.

Sunrisers pulled things back in the middle overs following a 90-run opening stand between Padikkal and Finch. De Villiers (51 off 30) came up with crucial boundary hits towards the end to take the team score past 160.

The 20-year-old Padikkal, possessing a near perfect balance in the crease, played all around the ground, playing the pull and aerial cover drive with equal confidence.

Padikkal got going with three boundaries in an over off left-arm pacer T Natarajan.



Sunrisers Hyderabad players celebrate after taking wicket

IPL20.com

The left-handed opener brought up his half-century with a slog sweep over the fielder at deep square leg.

With the openers looking good, RCB cruised to 86 for no loss in 10 overs. However, both Padikkal and Finch fell off successive balls and that put the brakes on the scoring rate with RCB collecting only 30 runs from the next five overs.

Skipper Virat Kohli

departed after scoring 14 off 13, leaving de Villiers to provide the final flourish. The South African star delivered once again, smashing his 200th six for RCB in the process.

There was also an injury scare for Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, who limped off the field with an ankle injury after bowling four balls in his debut game for the Sunrisers.

Mitch Marsh suffers injury while bowling



PTI ■ DUBAI

Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh suffered an ankle injury while bowling during his side Sunrisers Hyderabad's IPL opener against Royal Challengers on Monday.

The 28-year-old Marsh twisted his ankle on the follow through during the fifth over of the RCB innings and he was seen hobbling out of the ground. Vijay Shankar completed the remaining two balls of the over and gave away nine runs.

Marsh, who bowled only four deliveries, has had a history of injuries in the past due to which he has missed number of editions of IPL. Marsh didn't come back to field during the rest of the RCB innings.

Royals start as underdogs against Super Kings

PTI ■ SHARJAH

Depleted Rajasthan Royals have an onerous task of stopping the mighty Chennai Super Kings on a Sharjah belter with no Ben Stokes in their line-up but skipper Steve Smith's availability after recovering from a concussion injury has lifted some gloom ahead of their IPL match on Tuesday.

The absence of Stokes would severely impact Royals' campaign at least in the first half of the tournament because of the balance he brings to the side but having Smith in the playing XI would mean that the contest will not be without a fight.

Smith, who missed the ODI series against England, has undergone various concussion test protocols and is ready to tee off.

Apart from premier all-rounder Stokes, also absent from the first match will be Jos Buttler, their impact player at the top-order. The England batsman will be missing the first game as he arrived separately with his family and

need to undergo mandatory 36-hour quarantine in Dubai.

Jofra Archer's presence will be important along with seasoned T20 stars like South African batsman David Miller, Australian pacer Andrew Tye and England all-rounder Tom Curran.

The Royals' main problem lies in their Indian core, which hasn't exactly been consistent. The likes of Sanju Samson, Robin Uthappa, Jaydev Unadkat

and Varun Aaron have failed to live up to the expectations over the years.

Sharjah pitch will be a different challenge for the bowlers both in terms of surface as well as the size of the ground.

CSK have once again showed how to work around with resources and Sam Curran coming good with an all-round show means that Dwayne Bravo would not be missed even if he misses a few more games due to injury.

Rayudu and Faf du Plessis perfectly maintained the CSK "run-chase template" of attacking in the back 10 by preserving wickets.

The addition of Piyush Chawla, a very successful IPL bowler, is also a big plus.

However it needs to be seen how Deepak Chahar is shaping up after sustaining a niggles in the final over of the MI innings. In case, Chahar can't make it, they have ready replacement in Shardul Thakur.

MATCHES	21
RAJASTHAN ROYALS	07
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS	14

Pirlo off to winning start



Turin: Andrea Pirlo got his coaching career off to a winning start as Juventus launched their bid for a 10th consecutive league title with a 3-0 win over Sampdoria on Sunday.

Swedish debutant Dejan Kulusevski opened the scoring after 13 minutes in Turin with Leonardo Bonucci adding a second on 78 minutes and Cristiano Ronaldo a late third.

The match was played in front of 1,000 spectators as Serie A stadiums reopened on Sunday to a limited number of fans after a seven-month coronavirus lockdown.

Pirlo could not have hoped for a better start to his coaching career having taken over

from Maurizio Sarri this summer.

The win against Sampdoria, coached by veteran Claudio Ranieri, came just days after the former Italy and Juventus star received his coaching diploma.

Juventus handed debuts to new signing Weston McKennie and Kulusevski, who joined from Atalanta in January before immediately returning to Parma on loan.

Kulusevski curled in the first goal in a move started by Ronaldo, who hit the bar minutes later. But it was not until the last quarter of an hour that the champions finally killed off the game they dominated. AP

Real toil in goalless draw

AFF ■ MADRID



It wasn't the best of starts for defending champion Real Madrid, which needed a good performance by goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois to salvage a 0-0 draw at Real Sociedad in La Liga opener.

With a squad mostly unchanged from last season, Madrid looked out of rhythm on Sunday and couldn't get more than a point in a lacklustre match at the Reale Arena in the Basque Country.

Zinedine Zidane's team struggled in attack and saw Sociedad create some of the most dangerous chances, including one by forward Alexander Isak just before halftime that forced Courtois to make a superb save with his legs as he charged out from the goal. "We were well organised," Courtois said.

"We didn't allow them many opportunities other than the save I made and another shot that went wide. The problem is that we couldn't score, but that will come with time."

David Silva made his La Liga return after a decade with Manchester City as he took the place of Alexander Isak for the final 25 minutes.



Halep finally wins Italian Open

AFF ■ ROME

Top seed Simona Halep won her first Italian Open title on Monday after defending champion Karolina Pliskova retired injured while trailing 6-0, 2-1 in the final.

World No 2 Halep was competing in her third Rome WTA final, having finished runner-up in 2017 and 2018 on the clay at the Foro Italico.

"Finally after two finals I could win this title," the Romanian said.

"I love this tournament and I'm really happy to have this beautiful trophy in my hand."

"In 2013 here I started to go in the top in world tennis. I really enjoyed and I really was happy on court that I could play the semi-finals back then. Since then I have started to play really well."

Pliskova, the second seed, was playing with her left thigh heavily bandaged.

The Czech struggled with her serve from the outset, falling behind to a double break, handing Halep a 3-0 advantage with a double fault.

Halep, 28, saved three break points against her on her next service game

before conquering a first one-sided round in 20 minutes.

Pliskova had treatment on her lower back and upper leg before the second set, but pushed on with a break for 1-1 after half an hour.



But the 28-year-old called time in the third game, heading towards Halep to signify the end of the match after 32 minutes.

In total, Halep converted five of seven break point opportunities for her eighth win in 13 meetings with Pliskova, who converted one of four.

Wimbledon champion Halep's 22nd career title comes just a week before the start of the French Open which she won in 2018.

Halep extended her winning streak this season to 14 consecutive victories.

She won the Dubai title in February, before the coronavirus lockdown, coming back to claim victory in Prague last month having skipped the US Open.

Former world No 1 Pliskova, now ranked four, had been having a successful week on clay after her disappointing second round exit in the US Open where she was the top seed.

In the men's final, world No 1 Novak Djokovic will bid for a record 36th Masters title later Monday against Argentine Diego Schwartzman.

The Serbian, a four-time winner, is currently tied on 35 Masters crowns with Rafael Nadal, who fell in the quarter-finals this week to Schwartzman.

DUGOUT

MOTION PICTURE



Ruturaj Gaikwad attends his first CSK training session on Sunday night after getting recovered from Covid-19 CSK/Twitter

RUTURAJ BACK IN TRAINING

CSK batsman Ruturaj Gaikwad is back in training ahead of Tuesday's IPL game against Rajasthan Royals after clearing the two mandatory Covid-19 tests. "The first thing you wanna see on a Monday morning. Look who's back! Smiling face with heart-shaped eyes #Ruturaj #WhistlePodu #Yellove," CSK posted on its Twitter handle on Monday along with a picture of the batsman.

DHONI PREFERS ALL ROUND PLAYERS

CSK pacer Deepak Chahar has revealed skipper MS Dhoni prefers players who can contribute in all departments, especially in the shortest format of the game. "I think Dhoni prefers those who are good in all departments. He likes those who can contribute in batting, bowling and fielding. A bowler can have a bad day but he can change a match by grabbing a good catch or can win the batch with a six or a four," Chahar told Aakash Chopra in his show *Aakash Vaani*. "If you look at our team, we have many players who are good in every department. T20 is a format that requires you to do everything. There are a lot of teams in the IPL which have a strong batting line-up or a strong bowling attack but they remain dependent on a few cricketers," he said.

BUMRAH ENJOYS FREEDOM UNDER RO

India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah said the freedom he enjoys playing under Rohit Sharma's captaincy in Mumbai Indians set-up has been a huge confidence booster for him in his career. "For me, he (Rohit) has always given me the freedom, he has always told me to express yourself (myself), be whatever you want, be it any situation, take ownership of your own bowling, so that gives me a lot of confidence and a responsibility that I'm responsible for whatever I'm doing," Bumrah said. "So that's a big thing for a captain because then he gives a bowler so much of confidence. He trusts you so much and he trusts the decisions that you will take and that's a very positive sign."

ASHWIN PAIN HAS SETTLED DOWN

Senior India off-spinner R Ashwin is hopeful of recovering from his shoulder injury as his pain has subsided considerably and the scan reports have been "encouraging" after a nasty fall during Delhi Capitals' IPL opener against KXIP. Ashwin endured dream and nightmare in a space of six deliveries as he scalped two KXIP batsmen and then suffered a jerk on his left shoulder trying to dive and stop a run. "I was in pain as I left the field last night, but the pain has settled down and the scan reports are pretty encouraging too. Thanks for all your love and support," Ashwin tweeted.

FLEMING HAILS SAM'S ATTITUDE

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming is impressed with debutant Sam Curran's attitude and said his contribution in the IPL opener went a long way in covering the absence of star all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who is recovering from an injury. Sam played an instrumental role in CSK's five-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians. After an economical spell with the ball, the 22-year-old scored a quick-fire 18 off just six balls to help his side start the campaign on a positive note. "Losing Dwayne (Bravo) was a big loss and Sam went a long way in filling that," Fleming told the CSK website. "The things that impressed us with Sam is his attitude first and foremost, almost the harder it gets the better he gets, his all-round skill component and the fact that the captain was able to trust him straightaway to go in at a crucial time and hit the way he did."

HOPEFULLY WILL PULL UP WELL: SMITH

Delhi Capitals captain Shreyas Iyer said it was difficult to comprehend the ebbs and flows of a roller coaster IPL match against KXIP which ended in a Super Over win for his side. "It was difficult to see the game turning in different directions. We are used to this. Even last season we faced these. KG is the winning performer, and the way Stoinis batted was game-changing," Iyer said.

Prajnesh advances, Nagal exits from French Open Qualifiers

PTI ■ PARIS

Indian tennis player Prajnesh Gunneswaran overcame a sluggish start to advance to the second round of the French Open men's singles qualifying event but country's top player Sumit Nagal bowed out after a close defeat on Monday.

Seeded 16th, Nagal — who became the first Indian in seven years to win a singles match at a Grand Slam with his opening round victory at the US Open — lost 6-7 (4), 5-7 to Germany's seasoned player Dustin Brown in one hour and 47 minutes.

Nagal had his chances in the second set as he was leading 3-0 but Brown did not let him continue with the momentum.

Prajnesh, India's second-highest ranked singles player, got the better of Turkey's Cem Ilkel 6-3, 6-1 after losing his service early in his opening qualifier of the clay court Grand Slam.

Another Indian featuring in the qualifying draw is Ramkumar Ramanathan, who is up against local wildcard Tristan Lamasine.