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READY FOR TAKE-OFF

The first batch of five Rafale jets at the Dassault aviation facility in Merignac, France, ahead of their flight to India. After air-to-air refuelling and a single stop enroute, the multi-role fighter aircraft are scheduled to arrive at the Ambala Air Force Station on Wednesday. **PTI**

‘Hindus resentful’: HC seeks copy of officer’s note to riot probe teams

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

THE DELHI High Court Monday directed Delhi Police to file a copy of an order passed by its Special Commissioner of Police to chiefs of teams probing the Northeast Delhi riots, which has been challenged by families of two persons who were killed in the February violence.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait issued the direction on a plea by Sahil Parvez, whose father was shot dead near his home, and Mohd Saeed Salmani, whose mother was lynched inside her house.

The petitioners have cited a report ‘Resentment in Hindus on arrests, take care: Special CP to probe teams’, published in *The Indian Express* on July 15.

As reported by *The Indian Express*, the July 8 order, signed by Special CP (Crime & Economic Offences Wing) Praveer Ranjan, stated that the arrest of “some Hindu youth” from riot-hit areas in Northeast Delhi had led to a “degree of resentment among the Hindu community” and “due care and precaution” must be taken while making arrests. The order was addressed to senior officers heading probe teams, and asked them to “suitably” guide the investigating officers.

Responding to *The Indian Express* report, Delhi Police PRO Mandeep S Randhawa wrote the next day: “The letter was written only to inform the investigating officers about the representations being received from both the communities and to sensitise and guide them through the

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I will fight, will not engineer protests to score a point: Omar

Won’t stand up for them tomorrow, says NC Vice president, on Opposition ‘betrayal’ over Centre’s August 5 move

NAVEEDIQBAL, BASHAARAT MASOOD & P VAIDYANATHAN IYER
SRINAGAR, JULY 27

VOWING to fight, “politically, democratically and legally,” the abrogation of special status and downgrade of Jammu and Kashmir to two Union Territories, Omar Abdullah, Vice President, J&K National Conference, suggested the need for an “honest” recalibration of his party’s slogan on autonomy and finding a new “political plank.”

In an interview to *The Indian Express* on Saturday, his first since August 5, 2019, and his release on March 24 this year, Abdullah said the time for street protests to force a rethink had

passed and that he was not a leader who would “engineer street protests”. (*Full text of interview, see indianexpress.com*).

“I’m sorry, that is not me. It is not my politics, it is not my party’s politics. I will not engineer a protest to score a point. Particularly in Kashmir, where I know that an engineered protest will, in all likelihood, end very badly for poor youngsters who will get sucked into it,” he said.

“I’ve said this before, if I am not willing to put a stone or a gun into my own kids’ hands, I have no business doing the same to any young Kashmiri. I am very clear on that...So if the people of Jammu and Kashmir are looking towards me as some sort of person who will rally them out into

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‘FINDING A POLITICAL PLANK IS THE CHALLENGE’

OMAR ABDULLAH
FORMER CM, JAMMU & KASHMIR

INTERVIEW ON
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RAJASTHAN CRISIS

Governor stalls call for House session: ‘Why the silence on trust vote’

Says confidence motion should be telecast live, asks what Covid steps in place for House

HAMZAKHAN
JAIPUR, JULY 27

WHILE HE returned the Ashok Gehlot government’s recommendation for an Assembly session from July 31 — the second time in five days — Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra said on Monday that “if the government wants to seek a trust vote, then this can be a reasonable basis for calling a session on short notice”.

But, he said, while the Gehlot government’s comments, as reported in print and electronic media, make it clear that it wants a trust vote, it had not mentioned this in its recommendation for an Assembly session. Citing the Covid pandemic, Mishra also said that a session cannot be called “without any special urgency”.

Saying that “Raj Bhavan has no intention of not calling an Assembly session”, Mishra, according to a statement released by his office, asked the government to act on three points and send a fresh proposal addressing these:

■ Reiterating his earlier statement, he said “a clear 21-day notice” should be given for calling an Assembly session. He also pointed out that a healthy debate on important social and political issues can be held online.

■ Mishra also issued directions in case of a trust vote: it should be conducted in the presence of the principal secretary of the parliamentary affairs department, be decided only through

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Fairmont Hotel in Jaipur. Holed up there, Gehlot, loyalists held a ‘Save Democracy, Save Constitution’ protest Monday. **PTI**

Speaker withdraws plea in SC against initial order of HC

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

THE SUPREME Court Monday allowed Rajasthan Assembly Speaker CP Joshi to withdraw his petition challenging the Rajasthan High Court order of July 21.

The High Court had extended until July 24 the time given by the Speaker to 19 Congress rebel MLAs, seeking their response to the disqualification notices he had served.

The bench of Justices Arun Mishra, B R Gavai and Krishna Murari allowed the Speaker to withdraw his petition after senior advocate Kapil Sibal said the HC had subsequently passed a detailed order on July 24 in view of which the petitioner wanted to withdraw the challenge to the earlier order and take appropriate

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



ate legal recourse against the later order.

“Mr. Kapil Sibal, learned senior counsel, has submitted that the High Court has passed a detailed order and the ad interim

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Parekh, Kotak push for one-time restructuring of corporate loans

GEORGE MATHEW/ SUNNY VERMA
MUMBAI/ NEW DELHI, JULY 27

WITH ALMOST 50 per cent of borrowers and outstanding loan amounts coming under moratorium, financial sector bigwigs including HDFC Chairman Deepak Parekh and Kotak Mahindra Bank Vice Chairman and MD Uday Kotak on Monday pushed for a one-time loan restructuring scheme to tackle the rising banking stress due to Covid-19 pandemic.

After listening to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das’s address to the CII national council on the dynamic shifts underway in the Indian economy, Parekh advised him against extending the moratorium on loan repayments since it would hurt banks and institutions. The total non-food credit as on July 3, 2020, stood at Rs 102.05 lakh crore, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Raise demand at CII meet addressed by RBI Governor

EXPLAINED
E Demands for succour

HALF THE loan outstanding is under moratorium, even as banks stare at higher NPAs by March 2021. Given the demands for succour, RBI is weighing between extending the moratorium beyond August and allowing a one-time loan restructuring programme.

TRACKING INDIA’S COVID CURVE

147 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 14,35,452
RECOVERED: 9,17,567
DEATHS: 32,771
TESTS: 1,68,06,803
DOUBLING RATE: 19.81**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING RATE**
■ Maharashtra	3,75,799	9,431	2.77%	26.03
■ Delhi	1,30,606	1,075	0.89%	81.35
■ Tamil Nadu	2,13,723	6,986	3.26%	22.06
■ Karnataka	96,141	5,199	6.04%	11.92
■ Andhra Pradesh	96,298	7,624	9.93%	7.25

* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days ** Calculated over 7-day growth

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: 2.46	7 DAYS EARLIER: 7.96	DETECTED TODAY: 49,931
NOW: 2.28	NOW: 8.54	RECOVERED TODAY: 31,991
Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); Indicator of progress in averting deaths	Positives against number tested (in %); Indicator of the spread of disease	Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Data as on July 24, released by Union Ministry of Health, ICMR and states. Often daily numbers include data from previous days. As such, trends based on daily numbers are indicative, not definitive

Amidst race for vaccine, Govt readies trial sites, detailed data on volunteers

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

THE GOVERNMENT has at least five sites ready across four states for late-stage human clinical trials expected by the end of this year for several Covid-19 vaccine candidates, including those developed by the University of Oxford, Zydus Cadila and Bharat Biotech. An



A couple of thousand volunteers at each site: DBT Secy

additional six sites are being set up to ensure ready availability of healthy participants. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Department of Biotechnology

Secretary Dr Renu Swarup said that with trial sites ready, companies would have a handy and large database of volunteers, “a couple of thousands” at each site, as well as trained personnel, at a time when efforts are being fast-tracked to find a vaccine against rising cases.

Locating the right volunteers — who have not been infected with Covid-19 earlier, are not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Class 12 star performer from Kerala Dalit colony, family says hardships could not stop his dream

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 27

WHEN OFFICIALS from the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan took him to Kochi Friday morning, 18-year-old Vinayak M Malil was told that he would get a call from a “top person”. It was only when the call came that they finally

broke the suspense — it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling during the recording of Mann Ki Baat, which was aired Sunday.

The teenager, hailing from an SC family in Manjallur village of Kerala’s Ernakulam district, is among the top scorers in the CBSE Commerce stream in the Class 12 board exams. And the Prime Minister was speaking to him during his interaction with



Vinayak (second from left) with his family. *Express*

four star performers who braved the odds to score high marks in this year’s exams.

The son of daily wage worker Manoj and Thankamma, Vinayak studied at the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) at Neriamangalam in Ernakulam, and bagged 493 marks out of 500 in the exam.

“When officials from the

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THE WORLD



WORLD’S BIGGEST COVID VACCINE STUDY UNDERWAY AS U.S.-MADE SHOTS PUT TO FINAL TEST

CHINA SEIZES U.S. CONSULATE IN CHENGDU
PAGE 15

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SRINATH RAO
MUMBAI, JULY 27

BETTER the battlefields of Yemen or the trap he fell into in India, Muhammad Gibran Saleh Gibran has only one name for those responsible: “Bad men”. One of them fired the bullet that shattered a part of his face two years ago, and two others “ran away” with his passport and money in Mumbai.

The 26-year-old is among several soldiers who were flown over in January for specialised treatment by Yemen’s exiled government after they were in-

jured in the civil war that erupted in 2015 between a coalition led by Saudi Arabia and Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

Today, the soldiers are confined to their hotel rooms, awaiting surgeries stalled by the Covid lockdown, nursing landmine injuries, gunshot wounds and shattered bones. And, Gibran has as much disdain for his compatriots fighting for the Houthis as for the two Yemeni nationals who allegedly scammed him and have since been arrested.

“In Yemen we are fighting Iran, and in India we are troubled by cheats... our own people,” says Gibran, an Inspector in the Yemen

Army, who has been put up at a hotel in Vashi with five colleagues.

The UN has termed the Yemen war as the world’s worst humanitarian disaster with over an estimated 100,000 people killed, more than 3 million displaced and nearly 3.2 million facing starvation. And the governments of Saudi Arabia and Yemen have an agreement with Fortis Group of Hospitals to treat wounded soldiers at their centres in Delhi, Mumbai and Pune.

The soldiers say that before the pandemic struck, when tests and surgeries were underway at Fortis Hospital in Mulund, a fellow soldier being treated in Pune



(From left) Abdel Fattah Ismail Omar Al-Rajhi, Khaled Abbad Mohamed Saleh, Abdullah Khaled Al-Shagdari, Muhammad Gibran Saleh Gibran in Vashi, Mumbai. *Amit Chakravarty*

lured the group with the promise of better treatment at another hospital in Navi Mumbai in February.

They say that the soldier connected them to two Yemeni translators, Fahad Razwan Al-Maktari and Abdulgani Ali Al-Guzi. Taken in by promises of quick treatment and return — Al-Guzi falsely claimed to be working with the Yemen Embassy in Delhi — the soldiers say they were admitted to another hospital in violation of the agreement with Fortis and tricked into surrendering their passports.

The two accused allegedly used the passports to withdraw

11,500 Saudi Arabian Riyals (Rs 2.05 lakh) that the Yemen government had wired for the soldiers. Gibran then lodged a police complaint following which the duo was arrested in Powai last month-end.

“Al-Guzi and Al-Maktari were arrested and booked last month by the Powai police on charges of cheating and forgery. They were released on bail last week,” says Ankit Goyal, Deputy Commissioner of Police. “We have seized the passports from the custody of the accused. Once the complainant writes to the court, and the court passes an

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EXPRESS AUDIO

The worry about the rise of NPAs in India

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode of the 3 Things podcast, we talk about why the threat of a rising number of non-performing assets is worrying economists

INDIA'S FIRST SOLAR-POWERED FERRY ADITYA WINS GLOBAL HONOUR

Aditya, India's first solar-powered ferry that commenced operations in 2017 in Kerala's Vembanad backwaters, has won the prestigious Gustave Trousseau Award for Excellence in Electric Boats and Boating.

TECH REVIEW

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EXPRESS EXPLAINED

A LOOK AT J&K POLITICS NOW

Why Omar Abdullah will not contest J&K Assembly elections

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FROM PAGE ONE

Governor

'yes' and 'no' buttons, telecast live, and recorded on video.

■ Citing the pandemic, Mishra said: "It is the constitutional responsibility of the Governor, that in such adverse circumstances, without any special urgency, (why should) an Assembly session be called and the lives of 1,200 persons (including 1,000 employees) be put at risk."

"From what I know, there is no seating plan to accommodate all the 200 MLAs while maintaining social distancing, while, to check infection..." he said.

Meanwhile, at a 'Save Democracy, Save Constitution' meeting at Fairmont Hotel, where the Congress is keeping its MLAs, Gehlot said he had received a "six-page love letter" from the Governor and would respond. He said this was the first time that such questions were being raised, adding that Assembly sessions have been called with just 2-3 days notice in the past. He said he had spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Governor's conduct.

At the meeting, the party's Rajasthan in-charge Avinash Pande also read out a letter sent to President Ram Nath Kovind. The letter, sent by MLAs sup-

porting the Gehlot government, says that Governors in several states are violating the Constitution on instructions from the ruling party. It asks the President to intervene.

Sources said Raj Bhavan was particularly unhappy with the government saying, in its recommendation sent on July 25, that as per Article 174 of the Constitution, the Governor is "bound" to follow the cabinet's recommendation and cannot take a decision as per his own "vivek" (discretion).

Mishra has said that while under Article 174 (1), the Governor will indeed act as per the Cabinet's recommendation

under normal circumstances, "but if the circumstances are special, the Governor will ensure that an Assembly session is called as per the spirit of Constitution", wherein it shall be ensured that apt time and protection are extended to the MLAs, apart from their "independence", "free movement."

Speaker

order passed has merged into the final interim order that has been passed by the High Court. Thus, he wants to withdraw this petition with liberty to avail appropriate remedy as against the

subsequent order," the bench said.

Hearing the Speaker's appeal on July 23, the bench had refused to stay the HC order and said it needed to hear the matter in detail. Sibal had argued that as per the 1992 judgment of the Constitution Bench in *Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu & Others*, courts had no jurisdiction to interfere in disqualification proceedings by the Speaker, before a final decision has been made.

Vaccine race

asymptomatic and are healthy — has been a problem in conducting clinical trials.

Swarup said the five sites had been established by the National Biopharma Mission and Grand Challenges India Programme — a partnership between the government and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to encourage innovative health and development research. A common protocol has been established to initiate Covid epidemiology studies.

The five sites are at INCLIN Trust International in Palwal, Haryana; KEM in Pune; the Society for Health Allied Research in Hyderabad; the National Institute of Epidemiology in Chennai; and

Christian Medical College in Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

"Having trained and equipped sites for field trials in healthy populations has been a challenge for vaccine manufacturers. These five sites will meet this challenge," Swarup said, adding that the five, as well as additional ones (including the existing Demographic Surveillance Sites that are being upgraded), would meet global regulatory requirements and would be available to any group conducting phase-III human trials. She called this among the government's "top-most" priorities at this time.

While the Oxford vaccine seems the most likely for phase-III stage now, Swarup added that, "irrespective of the candidate, our aim remains to strengthen manufacturing capacities so as to have equitable distribution of the vaccine to all citizens".

Outlining how the sites would shorten timelines for vaccine developers, the DBT Secretary said, "There are a lot of ethical guidelines that need to be followed. So if you keep all that ready, you get (the volunteer's) consent, then the trials can start immediately." Also in place would be engagement with the

community as well as information on comorbidities regarding the volunteers, data on sero surveillance, and access to the Central Immunoassay Laboratory.

"We are confident this will be a world-class clinical trial network," Swarup said, adding that scientists will be able to follow up on the volunteers over a long duration.

Welcoming the initiative, a clinical trial practitioner involved in the development of a Covid-19 vaccine said, "Depending on the phase of the trial, the volunteers range from those without any comorbidities to those with comorbidities, but none of them should have had the infection earlier... We may screen several people but experience a high failure rate."

Parekh, Kotak

half of it is under moratorium.

"Please do not extend the moratorium because we see that even people who have the ability to pay, whether individuals or corporates, are taking advantage and deferring payment," Parekh told the Governor in an online CII session. "There is some talk that there will be another extension... this is going to hurt us, particularly the smaller NBFCs," he said.

The RBI had announced a three-month moratorium on repayments in March to help borrowers tackle the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. This was extended by another three months, scheduled to get over on August 31. As much as 67.9 per cent of the loan outstanding, and 80 per cent of individual customers, of PSU banks have opted for moratorium. In case of private banks, 31.1 per cent of loan outstanding is under moratorium, according to RBI data.

"If restructuring is not given, the amount of NPAs in your own report is 12.5 per cent in March 2021, or it could even be 14.7 per cent," Parekh said.

The RBI's Financial Stability Report released last Friday projected gross NPAs to rise to 12.5 per cent of advances in the baseline scenario and 14.7 per cent in the worst-case scenario. This means NPAs are likely to go up by Rs 4 lakh-Rs 6.2 lakh crore from around Rs 8.5 lakh crore (8.5 per cent of total outstanding) in March 2020.

Earlier, welcoming the RBI Governor at the CII session, Kotak said, "There's growing view across CII membership of the need for a one-time restructuring."

The RBI Governor did not express any view on the moratorium or loan restructuring demand, but said he has "noted it".

A section of India Inc, however, wants the moratorium to continue. "Given the stress in the economy, I believe there will be more companies joining the NPAs list, and the moratorium extension should be seriously looked at and considered," said Bharti Enterprises' Vice Chairman Rakesh Bharti Mittal.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had last month said the government was in active discussion with the RBI to offer a one-time loan restructuring plan for companies. Many banks too had taken up such restructuring proposals with RBI.

At a banking and economics conclave in June, the country's largest bank SBI had said an extension of the loan moratorium or a one-time restructuring may not be necessary across the board. "Some sectors may need relief, that's a call the RBI will have to make," SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar had said.

The RBI allows interest waivers, reduction in rates, rollover of repayment and increase in instalments during restructuring. Such accounts do not become NPAs.

Hinting that it may not be keen on extending the morato-

rium, the RBI on Friday said pandemic-induced regulatory dispensations in terms of the moratorium on loan instalments and deferment of interest payments may have implications for the health of commercial banks.

Based on the disclosures made by NBFCs and HFCs, the assets under moratorium are dominated by wholesale customers and real-estate developers.

Riot probe teams

investigation of these cases." But there was no such mention in the Special CP's order which specifically highlighted "resentment among Hindu community" over arrests of "some Hindu youth".

The two petitioners, through their counsel Mehmood Pracha, sought quashing of the July 8 order. To this, the court orally observed that no action can be taken based on a news report, on which the petition was filed, unless some authenticity to the claims is provided. It said that instead of filing this petition, the petitioners could have accessed the July 8 letter through the RTI.

"The counsel representing Delhi Police seek time to place on record July 8 order. Let needful be done within two days with an advance copy to the other side," Justice Kait said.

Making his submission through video conferencing, Pracha sought direction to police to produce the July 8 order as well as any other such order issued by authorities which, he said, amounts to interference in the performance of investigative functions by police officers.

"Clearly under pressure from these efforts, respondent number 4 (Special CP) issued an order dated July 8 observing that there was a degree of resentment in the Hindu community against the arrest of certain Hindu persons, and directing investigating officers that they should be careful in the future when making arrests, and that arrests of persons should be made only after discussion of the evidence with special public prosecutors who have been illegally appointed to represent the police in these cases," the plea claimed.

It sought quashing of the order so that investigation is conducted only as per the mandate of law.

The plea stated that "issuance of such orders, and the general manner in which the police are investigating the murders of the family members of the petitioners, is not only in direct violation of the basic principles of criminal law, but also frustrates the process of the criminal justice system".

"Under the influence of such illegal orders, the investigating officers have refrained from taking full and free action as per law against several individuals, not only in the cases which pertain to the petitioners, but also other cases relating to the carnage that had rendered Northeast Delhi a warzone for several days in February 2020," the plea stated.

Yemen

order, we will release the passports."

Fortis Hospital declined comment. Yahya Yahya Ghobar, Consul General of Yemen in Mumbai, called for "greater protection" of Yemeni nationals being treated in Indian hospitals. "India has a very good reputation in Yemen. We know that India has good hospitals and the best treatment, but such cases of cheating will affect this reputation," he told *The Indian Express*.

In Vashi, housed in "comfortable" air-conditioned rooms and back in the care of Fortis, Gibran's colleague, Abdel Fattah Ismail Omar Al-Rajhi (30), says he is afraid to even travel to the nearest branch of Western

Union to withdraw money sent by a charity in Yemen. "Because of corona we cannot go anywhere. And I fear being caught outside without any documents," he says.

The soldiers are hesitant to talk about the war beyond saying that they were hurt in exchange of fire. But the injuries are visible. Ismail has a wounded shoulder, Abdullah Khaled Al-Shagdari has a bullet wound on his left wrist, and Anis Ali Najji Al-Thamdi's left leg is broken and wrapped in bandages.

Of the six, Gibran's roommate Khaled Abbas Mohamed Saleh is the most severely injured. Fighting in the Yemeni city of Sa'dah, Saleh says he stepped on a landmine a year-and-a-half ago, losing his right leg below the knee and carrying deep scars on his left arm.

Gibran himself has only barely been able to speak coherently after undergoing extensive plastic surgery to repair his face. "I was lying on a bed for nearly two years before I came to India. It is only here that I have recovered," he says.

Before the lockdown and once his shoulder had started healing, Ismail was keen to step outside. "We carry a love for Mumbai and India in our hearts. And when we finally go back home, we want to have something good to say to our family and friends. But so far, there is nothing," he says.

Class 12 star

Kendriya Vidyalaya regional office came home on July 23, they told me that a top person would call the next day and that they would come in the morning to take me. They did not give any indication that it would be the Prime Minister," says Vinayak.

For 17 years, Vinayak's family has been living in a two-room house erected on a small parcel of land allotted under a government scheme for the landless. His father works in pineapple farms and his elder brother Vishnu Prasad is a sales employee with an automobile firm.

According to Vinayak's mother, the family is still repaying the bank loan availed to construct the house in the Dalit colony. "But the hardships did not stop my son from dreaming of a better life," she says.

"My dream is to enter the Civil Service. I want to pursue a degree course in the Commerce stream, preferably in Delhi University, and attend Civil Service coaching," says Vinayak, speaking to *The Indian Express* soon after returning from an Internet cafe in Muvattupuzha town nearby where he had mailed a bunch of applications.

"I haven't really travelled outside Kerala, except for visits to the temples in Madurai and Palani (in neighbouring Tamil Nadu)," he says.

On Friday, the Prime Minister also spoke with Kritika Nanda from Panipat in Haryana, Usman Saifi from Amroha in UP, and Kaniga from Namakkal in Tamil Nadu.

When Modi asked whether he had a message for those who will appear for the board exams in future, Vinayak said: "Hard work and proper utilisation of time." Responding to another question, on social media, he said that his school did not allow students to use electronic gadgets. The Prime Minister quipped: "So, you are lucky."

Omar Abdullah

the streets and God forbid get some of them killed, then I am not that person, I will not do that. I will raise my voice against what has happened. I will fight against what has happened but I will not give somebody wearing a uniform with a gun an excuse or a reason to kill one of us. That's not me," Abdullah said.

New Delhi, Abdullah said, had

reduced the political mainstream into an "element of ridicule" and he felt betrayed by the way political leaders, across the spectrum, had reacted to the Centre's decision. He said he will "happily lose his voice" when the freedoms of those leaders are curbed.

To a question on the future of mainstream politics in J&K, Abdullah said, "This is a question I do not have an answer to. I don't know how much political space today actually exists for mainstream political parties. It's something that I have been asking myself and deliberating over all the way since August 5."

"We went against sentiment...

New Delhi's actions reduced us to elements of ridicule. I'm not a fool that I'm living in denial that all Kashmiris were deeply distressed by my detention, they weren't. I will honestly tell you there were enough Kashmiris happy to see us detained... who turned around and said, 'This is what Farooq Abdullah gets for saying *Bharat Mata Ki Jai*. Serves him right. Keep him as long as you like. This is what you get for contesting elections. This is what you get for putting down protests in 2010/2016,' he said.

Asked if JKNC would change its autonomy slogan, Abdullah said: "I can't speak for the party, but I will not support a slogan that is mere lip-service or hoodwinking. I think we need to be honest with people, even if it means that in the short term we will be less attractive. I will admit this much that finding a political plank at this point is not going to be the easiest thing. But it's a challenge," he said.

Abdullah did not hide his anger against what he called was the "betrayal" by a range of political leaders including Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao and TDP's N Chandrababu Naidu, and parties from across the board.

"Again, such a great degree of disappointment... I'm less resentful of their support to BJP on 35A and 370 but I'm deeply resentful about their support on the UT and the dismemberment, because they did not need to support the BJP on that. It was never part of the BJP's agenda. It was done purely to punish J&K. To punish the people to humiliate them," he said.

"And then the way the detentions were handled. Token lip service... They were happy to take our support when they needed it for their own causes but they didn't find common cause with us and honestly, I will not stand up for a single one of them tomorrow. Not one of them. God forbid any of them get taken off to jail, I will not utter a word for them... God forbid, anything like this happens to them, I will lose my voice as well. I have no cause with them. That's it. I will speak for the people of J&K. I don't speak for anybody else," he said.

Saying there was nothing left to fear, Abdullah warned that the possibility of demographic change can't be ignored although it wasn't something immediate. "I take some solace from the fact some of the changes that have been made can be undone. I am not getting into details now, because that is a post-Assembly, post-statehood scenario," he said.

"Do I fear this whole thing about altering the character of J&K as a Muslim majority state? I don't think it's something that we should ignore but it's not something that's going to change immediately. I think it's also less of a threat to Kashmir than it is to Jammu. Which is why today, you find Jammu more agitated. Part of me takes a great degree of satisfaction, in part perverse satisfaction, from seeing the people in Leh so agitated about domicile because they were so happy to celebrate the end of 370 and 35A and now they're screaming for the same protections," he said.

Education and examinations in the times of Covid: what is at stake?



with

Professor V Ramgopal Rao

Director, IIT-Delhi

The Covid-19 pandemic has wrecked academic calendars and thrown teaching processes in schools and colleges completely off-track. Over 37 million students across India stare at the prospect of a truncated education this year. The gap in the development of knowledge may take years to be bridged, especially for students from poorer economic backgrounds. For students of higher and technical education, job prospects and professional futures are at stake.

To be part of a discussion around this topic, join us at a session of E-xplained with Professor V Ramgopal Rao, Director, IIT-Delhi

in conversation with

Ritika Chopra

Senior Assistant Editor, The Indian Express

29 JULY 2020

07:00 PM

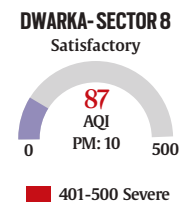
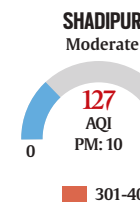
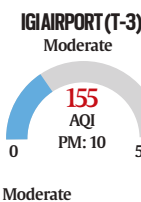
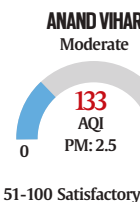
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Confirmation SMS will be your registration.

The Indian EXPRESS
— JOURNALISM OF COURAGE —



0-50 Good



51-100 Satisfactory

101-200 Moderate

201-300 Poor

301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

‘JOB LOSSES DURING LOCKDOWN PUSHED MANY TO BRINK OF STARVATION’

Day 1: 50,000 sign up on govt job portal

Site launched to match people who lost jobs with traders, contractors not getting hands to reopen shops, factories: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

WITHIN HOURS of its launch on Monday, a Delhi government portal meant to connect job seekers and job providers recorded over 50,000 registrations for jobs, while 1,071 employers had posted as many as 18,585 vacancies, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's office said.

While launching the portal at noon, Kejriwal spoke about the extent of job losses during the lockdown, which he said had pushed many people to the brink of starvation despite government assistance in terms of arranging cooked meals at makeshift centres and ration for workers not holding PDS cards.

"Many migrants had left Delhi in recent months. Now, they have started returning in large numbers. Many traders and contractors are not getting hands to reopen shops, resume construction work, reopen factories. On the other hand, people who lost their jobs are not getting hired. To match them, we are launching the portal," Kejriwal said.

Registration figures, released around 6 pm, was an indication of the magnitude of the unemployment crisis, senior government officials said. Most vacancies available were in the category of "back office/data entry" (17,527), said the official statement.



CM Arvind Kejriwal with Employment Minister Gopal Rai

Vacancies are available under 32 categories on the website, jobs.delhi.gov.in, ranging from construction labourers to web designers. There are categories for cooks, drivers, network engineers, interior designers and several other professionals to apply. "As per data from the Employment department, the Rozgar Bazaar site has attracted massive response in the first six hours. 51,403 job-seekers had registered, whereas 1,071 employers posted 18,585 vacancies. The portal provides for job seekers to connect with employers via phone or WhatsApp. In the first six hours, 26,722 connections had been initiated," the statement said.

Employment Minister Gopal Rai appealed to people to assist those who may not be able to handle the online registration process, which requires signing up with a mobile phone number. Rai also appealed to industry bodies to get employers to register on the portal in large num-

bers. He said even government contractors are struggling to engage workers to resume construction work at various sites.

In 2017, the government had launched a portal, which it said would act as a common platform for employers and job seekers. That portal was disbanded last night.

Over the years, employment exchanges, similar to a job portal, under the Delhi government have lost relevance — between 2013 and 2016, the number of employers registered at the 12 exchanges dropped from 438 to 289.

Earlier this month, the Delhi government had set up a committee to accelerate economic recovery in the city.

The head of the committee Jasmine Shah, who is also heading the Dialogue and Development Commission, has been meeting business owners from different sectors to discuss ways to help businesses that have been hit by the pandemic.

Rozgar Bazaar: Logging in

HOW DOES ONE LOG IN? Type jobs.delhi.gov.in on any browser — phone or laptop. The home screen of the bilingual portal, in Hindi and English, has two self-explanatory options — I want a job and I want to hire.

HOW DOES A JOB SEEKER REGISTER?

On clicking 'I want a job', one has to enter their mobile number and then enter an OTP to log in. The next page has 32 categories of jobs to choose from — from accountant to event management. The next step is to create a profile by entering details such as name, qualification, work experience.

HOW IS ONE CONNECTED TO EMPLOYERS?

An individual will be introduced to a range of jobs depending on their qualifications. Once a person applies for a job, they will be connected with employers over WhatsApp or voice call.

WHAT PROMPTED THE GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH SUCH A PORTAL?

According to the CM, the



Over 18,500 vacancies have been posted on the site

pandemic wrecked the economy with people losing jobs in large numbers, factories shutting down, resulting in widespread distress. "People need jobs, businesses, income. We need to focus on the economy now," he said. He suggested that with migrants returning in large numbers, labour crunch should not act as an obstacle for traders looking to lift shutters. More than a demand-supply gap, the issue was about connecting job seekers with job givers. This portal is meant to bridge

that divide.

WHAT ELSE IS BEING DONE TO REVIVE DELHI'S ECONOMY?

The Delhi government has been vocal in pushing for resumption of Metro services. However, a decision on this can only be taken by the Union government. Among other steps, the government has allowed street vendors and hawkers to restart businesses. A slew of other measures are expected over the course of the week.

Street vendors can resume work: Govt

ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

THE DELHI government Monday passed an order to allow street vendors and hawkers to restart businesses. While street vendors had been allowed to operate in some markets earlier this month, because of lack of clear orders, many were not allowed to restart work.

"Due to some confusion, street hawkers were not allowed to work. The Delhi government is now taking out special orders, under which street vendors and hawkers will be allowed to operate their businesses," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said.

As per an order issued by the DDMA, vendors will be allowed to operate between 10 am and 8 pm for a week initially and will have to ensure social distancing. Weekly markets, however, have not been allowed to function.

Only a few vendors have returned to markets such as those at Karol Bagh and Jama Masjid, while many have resumed work at the Sarojini Nagar and Janpath markets.

At the Jama Masjid vendor market, only 20 of the 360 vendors under a vendor association have returned. Saira Banu (35), who sells clothes and earns Rs 300-400 on a regular day, returned two days ago: "What shall we do at home? We need to earn." With four children and no income for the past few months, the family has been taking loans from people they know, eating at schools and shelters, and availing free ration.

To help vendors restart businesses, the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (SVANidhi) scheme was rolled out by the Ministry of Urban and Housing Affairs on June 1. It provides Rs 10,000 loan with interest to vendors. Registration is on.



At Sarojini Nagar market on Monday. Praveen Khanna

BRIEFLY

Dyal Singh (E) principal gets one-month extension

New Delhi: Delhi University has overruled the decision of the Governing Body of Dyal Singh (Evening) College to not grant interim extension to Principal Pawan Sharma, whose term ended Sunday, as he was found guilty of plagiarism by a panel. DU wrote to the GB to "follow" the university directives and grant him a one-month extension.

Teen Age Police: Pubs, bars to be roped in

Faridabad: Five days after Faridabad Police announced it would be creating a 'Teen Age Police' (TAP) to protect teenagers between 13 and 19 from bullying, drugs, and alcohol dependency, the Commissioner Monday said it will also coordinate with coaching centres, pubs and bars, apart from schools and parents. "A campaign will be conducted by TAP wherein they will visit pubs, bars, hookah bars and other such outlets to discourage owners from serving these items to teenagers," said Commissioner OP Singh.

DU's mock OBE faces glitches again

New Delhi: The first day of mock online open-book exams conducted by Delhi University, as per its revised datesheet, once again saw complaints of technical glitches, server errors and problems in question papers. DU had held one round of mock OBE starting July 4, when the actual OBE for final-year students was supposed to begin on July 10. However, exams were rescheduled to begin on August 10. Dean Examinations Vinay Gupta did not respond to calls and texts for a comment. **ENS**



BEYOND BORDERS

Pakistani refugees near Majnu Ka Tila make rakhis for soldiers posted on the border, Monday. Praveen Khanna

HC restrains Delhi Police from issuing statement on Pinjra Tod activist's case

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

THE DELHI High Court Monday restrained the Delhi Police from issuing any communication related to Pinjra Tod activist Devangana Kalita in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots case until the charges, if any, are framed and the trial commences.

As per the petition, Kalita is accused in four FIRs, including one for allegedly participating in protests at Darya Ganj on December 20 last year and two for her alleged role in the anti-CAA Jafraabad sit-in protest in February.

Justice Vibhu Bakhrui's order read: "The cases concerning communal riots are undoubtedly sensitive cases. This court is also in-



Devangana Kalita is accused in four FIRs

formed that FIRs filed in such cases are not being publicly disclosed. In the circumstances, this court considers it apposite to direct the respondent not to issue any further communication naming any accused or any witness till the charges, if any, are framed and the trial is commenced."

Justice Bakhrui passed the order on Kalita's petition, seeking directions to the Delhi Police not to leak allegations about her to

the media while investigation was pending. The court had on June 10 restrained Delhi Police from "issuing any statements or circulating information regarding allegations and evidence allegedly collected" against Kalita to any person, including the media or on social media.

She had in her plea also sought directions to the police to "forthwith withdraw all allegations" contained in a June 2 "brief note" circulated to the media.

Justice Bakhrui, observed, "... this court is unable to accept that the said police communication violates the fundamental rights of the petitioner (Kalita) or provisions of any law. The question whether the respondent (Delhi Police) is eventually able to establish their allegations beyond

any reasonable doubt is a matter for the trial court to consider after a due trial."

It further observed that "the petitioner had also prayed that respondent be refrained from issuing any further statements till the pendency of the trial".

"Mr Lekhi (ASG Aman Lekhi) had submitted that the response of the police has been measured and, therefore, they have only issued one note in respect of this case, and this would also establish that they are not running a campaign to malign the petitioner. The impugned note has been justified as having been issued at the time of filing of the chargesheet. Thus, in normal course, there would be no necessity of issuing any further communication till the final outcome of the case," it observed.



Radhey Shyam, the patient

waiting for his Covid result," said Dr (Prof) Samir K Kalra,

senior neurosurgeon, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

As the doctors removed the bone flap, they found hundreds of fragments of gunmetal and pellets. "Multiple pellets had penetrated the skull at various depths and had crushed the left part of his brain, which was under severe pressure and had started bulging out. There were also multiple clots that needed removal... safe control of bleeding was the aim in this situation," said Dr Kalra.

Following the surgery, the patient was gradually weaned off the ventilator and discharged

For revenue boost, South MCD to levy professional tax

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

SELF-EMPLOYED professionals such as doctors, lawyers, chartered accountants and architects, those employed by private firms in South Delhi, and those with office spaces that fall under the South MCD's jurisdiction, will now have to pay professional tax.

On Monday, the civic body passed a proposal to levy the tax. It would also be charged from companies registered in the jurisdiction of South MCD, said a spokesperson. In case of those working in private firms, the office will deduct pay from salary of employees. The MCD will earn Rs 150 crore a year from the proposal.

As per the proposal those earning less than Rs 50,000 a month will not be charged anything; those earning Rs 50,001-Rs 75,000 will be charged Rs 100 per month; those earning Rs 75,001-Rs 1 lakh per month will have to pay Rs 150; and those earning above Rs 1 lakh will be charged Rs 200 a month.

Narender Chawla, leader of the house in South MCD, said, "This is a very nominal amount, only from people who are earn-

PROFESSIONAL TAX SLAB

(per month)	TAX
FOR THOSE EARNING:	
₹ 50,001 to ₹ 75,000	₹ 100
₹ 75,001 to ₹ 1 lakh	₹ 150
₹ 1 lakh and above	₹ 200

ing. The same tax is levied in Maharashtra, West Bengal. We provide all kinds of sanitation services for a person when they work in our jurisdiction; in return, we are asking for a nominal amount." Chawla said the proposal to introduce professional tax will be sent to Delhi government for notification.

The SDMC also approved a proposal to waive house tax of around 10 years for residents of unauthorised colonies, if they pay tax for 2019-20 and 2020-21. Chawla said, "We already carry out sanitation work in unauthorised colonies... we are giving them relief for so many years."

The new tax was criticised by

the AAP, which called the decision "inhuman and unacceptable". Party leader Durgesh Pathak said: "We will fight against it inside the SDMC house and on the streets... and inform everyone of how the BJP is looting poor people. Volunteers, AAP leaders and councillors will oppose this decision at every level." The BJP has been in power at all three MCD since 2007.

"Delhi has two governance models — one is the AAP government under CM Arvind Kejriwal and the second is the corrupt BJP-ruled MCDs. The AAP government has not increased a single tax in the last six years but doubled the budget for citizens of Delhi," he said.

The South MCD also approved recommendations of the municipal valuation committee to double tax on commercial properties on rent. "These taxes have not been increased from 2004... The Delhi government has decreased grants, and funds from internal sources are also down due to Covid. If we do not increase taxes, we will not be able to pay our employees, like the North MCD," said Chawla. These decisions are expected to add Rs 450 crore to the MCD's coffers annually.

High ammonia levels in Yamuna water, teams sent for inspection

New Delhi: The Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) sent teams for inspection to Panipat and Sonapat districts Monday, following complaints of high ammonia levels in raw Yamuna water in Delhi.

HSPCB member secretary S Narayanan said the teams will collect samples from the river

from various locations in the two districts and also look for violations in terms of industrial and sewage discharge. "Sample test results will be available in a day or two... If any violation is found, we will take necessary action against the violator," he said.

The Delhi Jal Board Monday morning reduced water produc-

tion capacity by 25% after reporting high levels of ammonia in raw Yamuna water received from Haryana for the second time in a week. Ammonia levels touched 2 ppm Monday, less than 3 ppm recorded Friday. The DJB has a capacity to treat 0.9 ppm of ammonia, and safe levels are considered to be 0.5 ppm. **ENS**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)

ADMISSION TO THE POSTGRADUATE COURSES-2020 SESSION

Stray Vacancy Round for the eligible candidates listed for Central & Deemed University for Stray vacancy (Medical) available on MCC website (www.mcc.nic.in) will be held in the Teaching Block of CIP, Ranchi at 2.00 p.m. on 30.07.2020 for admission to the following postgraduate degree course. Eligible NEET candidates who have registered for MOP-UP and stray vacancy round ONLY need to apply.

1. MD (Psychiatry) : 03 Seats (01-UR, 01-OBC, 01-SC)

All the candidates who desire to join the course are directed to report on 30.07.2020 at 10.00 a.m. to attend the Stray Vacancy Round counselling along with AIPGMEE, 2020 Rank letter and all original documents. The number of seats may vary at the time of counselling. For more information kindly visit www.cipranchi.nic.in.

Sd/-
Director

HC asks: Why more antigen than RT-PCR?

that RT-PCR, which is the gold standard test, be replaced with RAT.” The High Court also asked

He told the bench that ICMR only said that persons showing ILI and testing negative in RAT

During the probe, it was revealed the victims would then visit a farmhouse in Delhi hired by the accused. Police said they "set up in a way that it looked like a high-risk category person lived there". Randhawa said, "The victims would see several guards in Mufti and civvies, high-end cars parked inside." After going through paperwork, Tiwari and his associates would allegedly convey their loans had been sanctioned. After asking them to pay 'stamp duty', they would stop communicating with them, Randhawa said. **ENS**

The DEO Sunday directed all block education officers to prepare a list of schools in their areas, categorising them into those having loudspeakers, those who can arrange loudspeakers, and those located close to religious places.

While this strategy is being adopted for students of Classes IX-XII, the DEO said that for younger students in Classes I-VIII, the department will continue the concept of 'mohalla paathshala', through which it has been teaching children throughout the lockdown. Under this, officials said students from a neighbourhood gather in one place where an older person – a teacher or some educated person, including those who have completed their MA or BEd – hold classes free of cost.

Police have obtained CCTV footage close to the spot to trace the accused.



A man selling children's attire ahead of Eid, at Old Delhi's Meena Bazar on Monday. *Tashi Tobgyal*

Availability of Bid Document and mode of Submission: The Bid document is available online and bidder should be submitted in online mode on website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPWPD may obtain the same from the website: <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender

3. Key Dates:

1. Date of On-line Publication	29.07.2020, 1000 HRS.
2. Document Download and End Date	29.07.2020 at 1000 HRS to 11.08.2020 upto 1000 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	29.07.2020 at 1000 HRS to 11.08.2020 upto 1000 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	11.08.2020 upto 1100 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid following Opening of Financial Bid.	11.08.2020 at 1130 HRS

4. TENDER DETAILS:

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded On-line in 2 covers.

i) **Cover 1** shall contain Scanned Copies of all "**Technical Documents/Eligibility Information**".

ii) **Cover 2** shall contain "**BOQ/Financial Bids**" where Contractor will quote his offer for each item.

5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in **O/o Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, HPWPD, Mandi** as specified in Key Dates Sr. No. 3 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on **11.08.2020 at 1130 HRS** in the office Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, HPWPD, Mandi by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than **120 days** after the deadline date for Bid Submission.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

9. The clauses related to Arbitration in SBD may be read as deleted.

The department has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons thereof.

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh.
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
1st Circle, HPWPD, Mandi, Distt Mandi H.P.

1869/HP

<p align="center">DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV O.H.T.O. I. A. Ph-II: OPPOSITE GOVIND PURI: NEW DELHI-20. e-mail: eesouthiv498@gmail.com/Tel. 011-26388976 Press N.I.T. NO: 11 S-IV (2020-21)</p>				
S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Providing laying internal D.I. water distribution system in Abul Fazal Enclave Part-I, block A to D in Okhla Constituency AC-54 under EE(South) IV	1,84,38,163/-	2020_DJB_1929899_4 24.07.2020	17.08.2020 up to 3.00 pm

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

(A)	1.	20/GM/SM(WC-2)/2020-21 , Name of Work:- M/o Drain (Providing, placing of precast slab of main nala drain in No.-2 infront D&I Block, A, B & C Block Sector-27), Noida. Cost- Rs. 58.80 Lacs
	2.	23/GM/SM(WC-2)/2020-21 , Name of Work:- M/o Drain (C/o RCC Box culvert in different location in Film City Sector-16A), Noida. Cost- Rs. 47.88 Lacs
	3.	06/GM/SM(WC-3)/2020-21 , Name of Work:- M/o Road (P/F Interlocking tiles in VZ-1, VZ-2, VZ-3, VZ-4 and VZ-5 in area Work Circle-3), Noida. Cost- Rs. 54.98 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 12.08.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 13.08.2020 at 11.00 AM

(B)	1.	03/GM(R)/SM(WC-3)/2020-21 , Name of Work: C/o Building (Construction of Site Store/Rest Room in Various location in PH (Health), Noida. Cost- Rs. 63.29 Lacs
	2.	16/GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2020-21 , Name of Work:- M/o Building (Renovation/Maintenance of Entrance area for NMRC office in Block-2, Ganga Shopping Complex Sector-29), Noida. Cost- Rs. 30.25 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 04.08.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 05.08.2020 at 11.00 AM

**General Manager
NOIDA**

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA		TENDER NOTICE				
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / BMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	ANIMAL NUTRITION (UNIVAS)	PURCHASE OF MUSTARD CAKE	26.07.2020 11.00.2020	31.50 LACS	www.unvas.edu.in	01562-256118
2	GMDA GURUGRAM	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, COMMISSIONING AND OPERATION & MAINTENANCE SERVICES OF REAL TIME WATER QUALITY MONITORING STATION/SYSTEMS (RTWMS) WITH DATA CONNECTIVITY AND ANALYTICAL DASHBOARD SOFTWARE WITH GSM AND SECURITY FOR 3 YEARS.	23.07.2020 13.00.2020	1.82 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0124-2748623 xeni.gmda@gov.in
3	MAHARISHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY, ROHTAK	STRENGTHENING OF DAMAGED RCC KASIA, CHADA ETC. IN VARIOUS BUILDINGS -- (RE-INVENT) + 1 OTHER WORK	23.07.2020 12.00.2020	19.20 LACS	https://mduunihk.etenders.hry.nic.in	01262-293175 sen.dv@mdunrohak.ac.in
4	HSIDC (ELECTRICAL), PANCHKULA	COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF AC PLANT AT HSIDC HEAD OFFICE SECTOR-6, PANCHKULA	27.07.2020 12.00.2020	INR 13400/-	http://www.hsidc.org.in	hsidc.electrical@gmail.com
5	GMDA GURUGRAM	IMPROVEMENT OF BAPATNAWAL AND MAYA-BELD GARDEN SHOW: (RE-CALL 2ND TIME)	26.07.2020 10.00.2020	123.67 LACS	https://www.gmda.gov.in/	8851038554 engnobi.gmda@gov.in
6	HSIDC	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND INCIDENT MANAGEMENT OF MANESAR PALWAL SECTION OF KMP EXPRESSWAY IN THE STATE OF HARYANA	24.07.2020 05.00.2020	35.95 LACS	www.hsidc.org.in	9696812172 hsidcmngurgam@gmail.com

BIDDING BY: **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in**



Urban Mining through proper e-Waste Recycling is critical for nature and environment conservation



Abhimanyu Ajay Mehra
Co- Founder

“With truckloads of e-Waste generated every year in India, a synergy is required between the informal and formal e-Waste management sectors to ensure smooth collection of hazardous waste to dispose them in an environmental-friendly manner. Further, at Adate, our philosophy is to provide end-to-end e-Waste management services, with specialisation in metal recovery from Printed Circuit Boards,” say the duo Co- Founders
Abhimanyu Ajay Mehra and Praveen Kumar Sundararaju
of Adate E-Waste Management Pvt. Ltd.



Praveen Kumar Sundararaju
Co- Founder



WHY IS E-WASTE MANAGEMENT IMPORTANT IN TODAY'S LIFE?

In today's life, electronics have become an integral part of our life. We have Smartphones, TV, Music system, household appliances such as fridge, washing machine, AC, etc. On a global scale, in 2019, 53.6 Million Metric tons of e-waste was generated. Of these, only 17.4% has been documented as collected and properly recycled. The remaining were either dumped or traded or recycled in a non-environmental-friendly manner.

As an emerging economy and the second most populated country in the world, our consumption has increased. We are the second-biggest market for smartphones. As you know, every product has its lifespan. The lifespan varies depending on the usage, consumer's personal choice, technology growth, repairability, etc.

Our country is the third-largest generator of e-waste in the world, and the formal sector recycles only 10% of this waste. The informal sector handles the rest. The informal sector plays a vital role in our economy and has a vast network across India. Any waste that's generated at home is usually disposed of through scrap dealers or kabadiwallas. It's convenient and they pay a hefty price. Considering the unethical disposal and recycling of waste by the informal sector, e-Waste Management was deemed necessary.

e-Waste in its complete form is not hazardous in nature; only the improper recycling/processing of e-Waste is dangerous and harmful to the environment. The improper recycling has had tremendous health and environmental impact in certain parts of India, and so does even now. However, proper recycling can reduce carbon footprint drastically and make our country cleaner and greener.

In a nutshell, proper e-Waste Management enables

- For proper disposal of e-Waste by consumers and companies
- To create awareness on how to dispose of, handle and recycle e-waste
- To set the responsibilities of different stakeholders, including the consumers.
- To conserve natural resources by proper recycling for recovery of the material, which attributes towards the circular economy.

WHAT KIND OF TECHNOLOGIES DO YOU USE FOR E-WASTE MANAGEMENT?

There are various processes involving various technologies available in the market to process e-Waste. In general, there are three necessary steps involved in the processing - Dismantling and Segregation (1st stage of recycling), and Material Recovery (2nd stage of recycling).

Dismantling is the first step, which is done on a semi-automated line. The dismantled material is then segregated to separate metals such as Iron, Aluminium and copper, non-metals such as plastics, ceramics, etc. and further recyclable material such as Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs), Copper wires, Batteries, etc.

The core of e-Waste management is

efficient material recovery from the waste, especially the metals and the precious metals in PCBs. At Adate, apart from the 1st stage recycling, we specialize in metal recovery from PCBs. As part of metal recovery from PCBs, we separate the components using an automated process. The components and board then undergo different physical and chemical processes to recover the precious metals.

We are among the few players in the industry providing end-to-end e-Waste management service and metal recovery from PCBs.

HOW DO YOU ENSURE A SAFER AND GREENER RECYCLING PROCESS?

Our recycling process is fairly automated, with human involvement only required for material handling. We use chemicals that are safe and approved for industrial use. Our state-of-the-art plant has an advanced air and water treatment system. Our plant has dust collectors to capture the dust generated during the dismantling and segregation process. There is an advanced air purification system to treat the fumes generated during the metal recovery process. Our air system is integrated with the process, so it prevents any emission of fumes in the work area. We leverage different wet scrubbers, UV treatment system, and dust collector that varies in size and treatment process to treat the air further before it's released in the environment.

In contrast, the informal sector's recycling process involves direct exposure to e-Waste PPEs. The open burning of e-Waste without any mask or air pollution treatment system is very hazardous due to the presence of carcinogenic gases in it. They use dangerous chemicals for metal recovery, which are dumped into water bodies without treatment, and that has resulted in severe health impacts on people living in the areas where this kind of processing is done.

We are committed to the principle of zero liquid discharge. We have an Effluent treatment plant (ETP) for the treatment of wastewater followed by an evaporator. Our recycling process enables maximum recovery to contribute towards the circular economy.



lar economy. We help to reduce the carbon footprint through greener recycling. Compared with traditional mining, the metal recovery process reduces the carbon footprint of copper by 3 x, of Aluminium by 11 x, of precious metals by 24 x. Water and energy consumption are also significantly less. In general, urban mining (metal mining from e-Waste) is much greener and safer compared to traditional mining.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE HAZARDOUS WASTE?

e-Waste, as such, is not hazardous in nature. Specific components such as PCBs, wires, CFL/Mercury lights (now obsolete), Batteries, etc. can be hazardous if not handled correctly.

Our recycling unit can process the entire e-Waste, including PCBs and wires. We generate less than 5% as process residue from our process, which is further disposed of responsibly through Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs). For batteries, which is the other significant hazardous component, we have agreements with downstream recyclers.

WHAT TYPES OF SERVICES DO YOU PROVIDE?

We offer end-to-end e-Waste management services. As an authorized recycler, we offer

- Pan India Collection (Business)
- Dismantling of all e-Waste
- Printed Circuit Board Recycling
- On-site and off-site Data Destruction
- Compliance Documentation
- EPR fulfilment
- Green Certificate for Dismantling and Recycling.

If you have recycling and data destruction requirements, we are always there as your e-Waste Management partner. We offer a pan India service for Businesses and



Corporates. You no more need to worry about data compliance. We provide both on-site and off-site data destruction.

As brands and corporates are more committed towards sustainability and proper recycling, we go a step forward to work with them as a recycling partner. We offer proof of recycling via video and time-stamped photos as per customer requirement as the commitment to transparency.

We offer customized services as per client needs with quick turnaround time.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FACED IN THE INDUSTRY TODAY?

There are three significant challenges that the industry faces today.

Lack of awareness - What is E-Waste, how it has to be disposed of, the environmental and health impacts of improper disposal, and whom to contact in order to dispose of the waste responsibly. Any e-Waste, even the smallest ones such as charger, TV remote, AA/AAA batteries, wires, cartridges, etc. have to be disposed of properly, and must not be mixed with regular household waste. There are misconceptions between recycling and refurbishment. Not all products can be refurbished or sold as second hand. The product must be in good condition, and there must be a demand for such a product at present. Even if the product is in good condition and the technology is outdated, the product is a scrap to be recycled.

Processing of Waste by Informal Sector - At present, most of the e-Waste in India flows through the informal sector. The informal sector is vital to our economy and plays a significant role in e-Waste collection. The informal sector haphazardly handles, dismantles, and recycles the e-Waste using processes that have a substantial environmental impact. Also, since the informal sector has minimal costs, it

can offer better prices to the customers, especially individuals, who, at the moment, don't have any legal obligation to dispose of the waste responsibly.

Emotional attachment to the products - A smartphone today can have a hefty price tag on it. A consumer who spent thousands on a product does not want to accept a heavily discounted price after a few years so that the product can be responsibly disposed of. What users have to understand is that the hefty price tag is majorly because of the Brand name, R&D involved, product development costs, marketing etc., and not because of the hardware. The hardware is only of marginal value. With today's advanced technologies, electronic products have become compact and light, which means lighter hardware with lesser material constituents. The emotional attachment to the product and scrap value of the product play a primary role in keeping the obsolete waste at home for years or disposing it to the highest payer. If held at home for years, the product that can be recycled and put into use in the circular economy is no longer there for use, or when disposed to the highest payer, the material undergoes dangerous recycling with substantial environmental impact.

HOW DO YOU MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF THE USEFULNESS OF E-WASTE MANAGEMENT?

Awareness cannot be created by one person or one company alone. There has to be collective effort by the Recyclers, Producers, NGOs, and the Government. The government plays a major role here. Through the producers, the government can create awareness regarding the recycling of the product, right when the consumer buys the product, which is the first step in E-Waste generation. This can be done through a simple flyer along with the product, buy-back programs etc.

Various stakeholders in the waste management industry such as Recyclers, NGOs, PROs etc. have been spreading the word through campaigns in educational institutions, housing societies, and companies, and also through articles like this one. Again, this strategy can also be adopted by the government and produc-

ers to reach a larger audience.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT?

The government has taken various measures to tackle e-Waste menace. Since the introduction of the E-Waste Management Guidelines, in 2016, there has been a lot of traction towards formal e-Waste management. However, the government has to take further steps to bridge the gap between formal and informal sector. The government has to take necessary steps in order to ensure that there is a smooth flow of material (especially hazardous components) from the informal to the formal sector, because as of today the informal sector is the biggest collector.

The e-Waste recycling industry in India is considered as a negative-return industry by Financial Institutions due to lack of synergy between various stakeholders and government support. The government has to support authorized recyclers through financial subsidies, Start-up India program, and ease of material availability.

FINALLY, PLEASE SHARE YOUR SUCCESS JOURNEY WITH US.

Before 2016, I didn't have much idea about e-Waste. I personally had a lot of used mobile phones and other electronic gadgets at home for years without disposing of. During my MBA at Essec Business School, France, me and my partner Mr. Praveen Kumar, who was also a part of the MBA program, participated in the Mai Bangkok Business Competition. We got introduced to the world of e-Waste by our Professor, who had close contact with a French recycling company. We learnt about the danger of improper e-Waste handling and the lack of infrastructure in India. Our business proposal at the business competition was much appreciated, and the feedback was overwhelming.

We realised that there was a huge gap between generation and formal recycling of e-Waste in India, and hence we returned from France to India in 2017, and registered Adate E-Waste Management Pvt. Ltd. Many have asked us about the word "Adate" and have confusion in pronouncing it. It's a Sanskrit word for "reclaim".

We had to undergo the traditional hurdle of establishing a business in India. We have started small with an initial capacity of 1,825 Tons per annum with our forte in the niche segment of material recovery from PCBs. We had our initial struggle and delays, but now we are reaching towards a steady state. We have catered our service to a lot of business clients, producers and individual consumers. We have conducted awareness program in schools, colleges and through social media.

Our commitment is to offer a haven for e-Waste through responsible recycling and help our clients to achieve sustainability. In the ongoing geopolitics between nations, natural resources play a critical role in the nation's development. I am confident with the metals that are extracted through proper recycling of e-Waste, our nation's growth can be supported to a certain extent.

www.adatte.in



THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020

6 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI **CONFIDENTIAL**

INVITE FOR INVITE

BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Anil Baluni seems to have used an invitation for tea from Congress leader Priyanka Vadra Gandhi to be 'vocal about local'. In response to Priyanka's letter, Baluni, allotted her former residence at 35-Lodhi Estate, thanked her but said he is not going out due to the Covid pandemic and his illness — Baluni has had a successful cancer treatment. But he promised Priyanka that he would invite her to enjoy Uttarakhand's traditional food at his new residence.

FAREWELL TIME

AFTER SERVING as Secretary of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation for more than four years, senior IAS officer Parameswaran Iyer will demit office next month. The government has accepted his resignation with effect from August 21. Iyer, a 1981-batch Uttar Pradesh cadre officer, had taken voluntary retirement in 2009 and joined the World Bank. But he joined the government again in early 2016 and steered the Centre's ambitious Swachh Bharat Mission.

No POSITIVE, THIS

AFTER BJP leaders in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, an NDA ally in Rajasthan has now tested positive for Covid-19. Lok Sabha MP from Nagaur, Rashtriya Loktantrik Party convenor Hanuman Beniwal, has announced that he had gone for a test after symptoms showed up, and the results came positive. Beniwal, one of the most outspoken NDA leaders, requested all those who came in contact with him to get tested. Incidentally, Beniwal had earlier triggered an uproar that had led to adjournment in Lok Sabha during the Budget Session. He had said there should be a probe on whether coronavirus was being spread from the residence of Congress president Sonia Gandhi, as a large number of people found infected were from Italy.

UP: Council chairman rejects Cong plea for MLC's disqualification

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JULY 27

THE UTTAR Pradesh Legislative Council Chairman Ramesh Yadav on Monday rejected the Congress's application, seeking the disqualification of MLC Dinesh Pratap Singh from the Upper House. He said the application was not "posharniya" (sustainable) under the anti-defection laws.

As a BJP candidate, Dinesh Singh had unsuccessfully contested the 2019 Lok Sabha election against then UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi from Rae Bareilly. Earlier in the Congress, he was elected to the Upper House in 2016. He was suspended by the Congress in 2017. The application was moved by Congress MLC Deepak Singh as the party's "chief whip" in the Legislative Council in May 2018 after Dinesh shared a dais with then BJP national president Amit Shah.

"We will approach the court tomorrow as there was a clear ground to cancel his membership. He had said that he gave up the Congress membership. He

not only stood on the dais with then BJP national president Amit Shah but later contested an election on the BJP symbol from Rae Bareilly," Deepak Singh told *The Indian Express*.

"The membership of Naseemuddin Siddiqui was recently rejected, but a different approach has been shown towards our application," he said.

Congress leader Naseemuddin Siddiqui recently lost membership of the Upper House after the BSP moved a petition in the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court.

According to sources, Dinesh, in his reply to the disqualification application, argued that Deepak cannot be considered the "chief whip" as he was the only Congress MLC. He further contended that newspaper clippings, which were part of the Congress application, cannot determine whether he attended the Shah meeting and that Deepak was not present at the event to substantiate his claim.

Dinesh has reportedly mentioned that he was suspended by the Congress, and therefore, the clause of having left the party on his own was untenable.

HARISH DAMODARAN
AMROHA (UP), JULY 27

INDIA'S FESTIVAL season takes off next month. It is also the prime season for the calving of buffaloes, whose high-fat milk provides the base ingredients — ghee, khoya, chenna and paneer — in most indigenous sweets consumed during this period.

But for Sanjeev Kumar Cheema, the upcoming festivals don't promise hope.

"I saw milk prices fall for the first time this summer, when buffaloes produce less. From August, their *biyana* (calving) will begin and production will go up, peaking in the winter. What will happen then, if festival demand isn't also going to be good?," asks this farmer from Sirsa Mohan in Amroha district of western Uttar Pradesh.

Cheema is among the 31 members of his village's cooperative society supplying to the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation's (better known as Amul) Banaskantha dairy union, which procured 4.17 lakh litres per day (LLPD) out of its total average 59.92 LLPD of milk in 2019-20 from UP. Since May 21, the union has reduced its purchase price for buffalo milk — with 6.5% fat and 9% solids-not-fat (SNF) content — from Rs 43.88 to Rs 39 per litre.

"*Woh kya karenga jab aage doodh nahi bik raha hai* (What can they do if there is no consumer demand)? Others are paying Rs 33-36/litre. Also, the Banaskantha dairy and our society will give a bonus of up to 4% from their year-end profits, which is another Rs 1.56/litre," notes Cheema.

The Sirsa Mohan society members — all from an extended

5 Rafale jets on way, India ups diplomatic game against China

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

AS THE first five Rafale fighter aircraft are on their way to India, marking a new milestone in India-France defence cooperation, New Delhi has been in touch with all major arms suppliers — Russia, the US, France and Israel — at the political and diplomatic level amid the border standoff with China.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday spoke with Israel's Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi as the latest conversation.

Earlier, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had spoken with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Gantz, and both had "expressed satisfaction at the progress of strategic cooperation between the two countries and discussed possibilities of further strengthening the defence engagements".

Jaishankar has also spoken with US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo, and Singh with his US counterpart Mark T Esper, while National Security Adviser Ajit Doval has been in touch with his counterpart in the Trump administration, Robert C O'Brien. Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark A Milley, and Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, have had a conversation in the last few weeks.

The focus of the series of conversations was to advance military and intelligence cooperation.

Singh had travelled to Russia in June, where the Russian leadership had assured India of early delivery of weapon systems which were ordered and has responded positively to Indian acquisition proposals.

With France, too, the conversations have taken place between Jaishankar and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian, while that country's Defence Minister Florence Parly had written to Singh to condole the



The crew of the first batch of Rafale aircraft prepare to take off from Merignac on Monday. PTI

deaths of 20 soldiers in Galwan Valley in the June 15 clash with the Chinese army. Parly had recalled that India is France's "strategic partner in the region", and had "reiterated her country's deep solidarity".

"The delivery of the Rafale fighter jets is significant step in strengthening air power and defence preparedness with the first five Rafale fighter aircraft, built by Dassault, flying out from Merignac airbase in Bordeaux, France, to India today," a statement from the Indian embassy in France said on Monday.

India's Ambassador to France Jawed Ashraf, who saw off the Rafale aircraft and met the IAF pilots, said that the long-awaited and much-needed two squadrons of Rafale would add great strength to IAF and the country's defence capabilities.

"Our pilots tell us that they are extremely swift, nimble, versatile and very deadly aircraft. You might call them that they are both beauty and the beast," Ashraf, who was earlier joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office and has served as India's

envoy to Singapore, said in France.

In a statement, the IAF said the aircraft are likely to arrive at Ambala Air Force Station on Wednesday, "subject to weather", and that "No 17 Squadron, the 'Golden Arrows', is being raised at this base equipped with Rafale aircraft".

The jets took off from Merignac airbase near Bordeaux, France, and had successfully reached Al Dhafra French base near Abu Dhabi, UAE, by Monday evening after sortie of over seven hours, the IAF said.

The Golden Arrows, which will be resurrected with the new Rafale jets, were raised in 1951 and have been involved in many significant operations through their history, including the Kargil War, but was disbanded in 2016.

India had bought 36 twin-engine fighter planes from Dassault Rafale through an inter-governmental agreement signed in 2016. All 36 aircraft are scheduled to arrive by end of 2021.

WITH INPUTS FROM KRISHN KAUSHIK

IIT-D Director V Ramgopal Rao is guest at E-Xplained tomorrow



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

FROM RESEARCH and instruction to graduation ceremonies, the Covid-19 pandemic is changing the face of higher education.

In mid-March, the Union and state governments decided to order all educational institutions to close till further notice. The shutdown has disrupted the academic calendar and plunged 3.75 crore students and 14 lakh teachers into uncertainty.

With no clarity on reopening, higher education institutions are now faced with difficult questions. Can online classes be as effective and accessible as face-to-face classes? Will all universities and colleges have to adopt a hybrid model of teaching in future? How



V Ramgopal Rao

To register, sms IEEXP <space> PD <space> Your Name and Email id to 56161

should a teacher grade and evaluate students in a pandemic? How big a hit would campus placements take this year?

The Indian Express has invited IIT-Delhi Director Professor V Ramgopal Rao to answer some of

Delhi, Jakarta agree to enhance defence ties

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

India hosted Indonesian Defence Minister General Prabowo Subianto Monday, with the government saying in a statement that the visiting dignitary was in the country "for strengthening the ties between the two maritime neighbours".

Subianto met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for a Defence Ministers' dialogue in Delhi. According to the statement, Singh said the "defence cooperation between India and Indonesia has witnessed an upswing in the recent years, which is in consonance with the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two sides".

The ministers agreed to further enhance bilateral defence cooperation in mutually agreed areas, which can include defence industries and defence technology.

these critical questions about the future of higher education as it is being reshaped by the pandemic.

Apart from heading a globally ranked institution, Rao was the chairperson of the committee tasked by the government to draft a common minimum strategy for reopening the 23 IITs. He was also a member of the panel based on whose advice the HRD Ministry rescheduled major entrance tests like NEET, JEE (Main) and JEE (Advanced). IIT-Delhi is also the organising institute for JEE (Advanced) this year.

Rao will be the Expert Guest at the latest edition of E-Xplained, the unique series of explanatory conversations that *The Indian Express* hosts from time to time. Expert Guests at E-Xplained sessions since the lockdown began have included Kerala's Health Minister K K Shailaja, Public Health Foundation of India president Dr K Srinath Reddy, industrialist Dr Naushad Forbes, and capital markets expert Nilesh Shah.

RAJASTHAN POWERPLAY

Cong fields party's legal eagles to battle Governor's delay on calling House session

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

HAVING DECIDED to wage a political battle over the crisis in Rajasthan, the Congress on Monday fielded senior leader P Chidambaram and three former Union Law ministers — Salman Khurshid, Kapil Sibal and Ashwani Kumar — to take on Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra for his refusal to accept the Ashok Gehlot cabinet's recommendation for holding an Assembly session, ostensibly to prove his majority.

The party also took to the streets, holding demonstrations outside Raj Bhavans in all state capitals.

Chidambaram said that in his "personal view", Sachin Pilot, who is leading the rebellion against Gehlot, seems to be "entirely in the embrace of the BJP", and questioned the former deputy CM's silence on convening of the session.

He said: "...In fact, he should be the first to stand up and say, please call a session of the Assembly; then we will know which party he belongs to and what he will do. He has maintained that he belongs to the Congress... he maintains that Gehlot has lost his majority, so he should actually join the Congress in telling the Governor... (to) call a session." What Pilot will do in the session "is his decision, but why is he silent about calling a session", he asked.

Recalling court judgments in the context of Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Karnataka, which he said had come down heavily on Governors, Chidambaram said, "Despite these judgments and the statements of law, the Governor of Rajasthan has stalled... a perfectly valid request of the Council of Ministers of Rajasthan to convene a session of the Assembly."

He said the Governor has no discretion at all in the matter. In a letter to Governor Mishra,



(Clockwise from top) Chidambaram, Sibal, Khurshid, Ashwani Kumar

Khurshid, Sibal and Kumar wrote that the delay in convening the Assembly session has "resulted in an avoidable Constitutional impasse". "We believe that as per established conventions of the Constitution, principles of Parliamentary democracy, relevant Articles of the Constitution and authoritative pronouncements of the Supreme Court, the Governor is bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers in the matter of convening the State Assembly," they stated.

They said the Governor's office, as envisaged under the Constitutional scheme, is "above and beyond the constraints and compulsions of partisan politics so that its holder can act freely and fairly to uphold the Constitution". They wrote: "Having served as Union ministers of Law and Justice at different periods of time and as students of Constitutional law, we are of the clear view that established legal position obliges the Governor to call the Assembly session in accordance with the advice of the state cabinet."

"Any deviation from the established constitutional position in the present circumstances would be an avoidable negation of your oath of office and will create a constitutional crisis."

HC junks plea against BSP MLAs who joined Cong

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, JULY 27

THE RAJASTHAN High Court on Monday dismissed a petition by BJP MLA Madan Dilawar seeking disqualification of the six BSP legislators who had merged with the Congress in September last year.

The petition before Justice Mahendar Kumar Goyal had also questioned the Rajasthan Assembly Speaker's "inaction" over a plea submitted by Dilawar in March, requesting the Speaker to disqualify the six legislators.

Dilawar stated in the petition that while the Speaker was not taking action on his application in March, he was expeditiously deciding the matter of rebel Congress MLAs loyal to former deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot.

The court dismissed the petition since the Speaker had passed the order on Dilawar's complaint.

Advocate Ashish Sharma, representing Dilawar, said, "...During pendency of the petition, we were

communicated through email by the Assembly secretary that our petition has been dismissed by the Speaker. In view of this development, our petition became infructuous." Before the petition was dismissed, BSP had requested the court to let it become a party to the case. The BSP has issued a whip to the six MLAs to vote against the Congress in any no-confidence motion, or other proceedings held during the Assembly session.

"The merger of BSP MLAs with the Congress is illegal," BSP's Rajasthan unit president Bhagwan Singh Baba said.

But Lakhna Singh, one of the six MLAs, told the media: "For nine months the BSP didn't think about us and now it is remembering us. This is not BSP... this whip has been issued on instructions of BJP. All six of us have already merged with the Congress. We have merged after following the law."

He said all six MLAs are supporting the Congress.

Milk demand down, festival season offers no hope in UP's buffalo belt



At a collection point in Kailsa village of Amroha. Tashi Tobgyal

of kitchen expenses)," adds Sirohi. But it's not only farmers like him. Bharat Singh's two buffaloes will calve within a month. A land-

less Jatav Dalit farm labourer, he also has three calves aged 1-2 years. "I sell 10 litres daily to the Kailsa society during September-

March and hope to touch 25 litres once the calves get into production," says the 50-year-old, who feeds his animals the sugarcane tops and wheat straw he receives as part wages in kind.

For all of them, the overnight closure of hotels and sweetshops, plus no weddings and other public functions, meant a sharp fall in demand. Before the lockdown, Subhash Singh Mahali earned a commission of Rs 140/ litre on the 240-odd litres that he collected daily from 40-50 farmers in Amroha's Siwora village for Gopaljee Dairy Foods Pvt. Ltd. He has since shut down the collection centre.

"Private dairies were buying buffalo milk at Rs 45-46/ litre in February-March. Post-lockdown, they stopped procuring or reduced their rates to Rs 30-31. If there was no lockdown, prices would have crossed Rs 50," says

Mahali. Even the UP government's Pradeshi Cooperative Dairy Federation slashed its procurement price to Rs 32/ litre by May 9, before raising it marginally to Rs 36 on June 12.

UP is largely a buffalo belt. Out of its estimated 30.52 million tonnes (mt) milk output in 2018-19, 19.46 mt (63.8%) was from buffaloes. The 2019 Livestock Census showed the state's buffalo population, at 330.17 lakh, exceeding the 190.20 lakh of cattle.

The present demand crisis — ex-factory prices of skimmed milk powder and butter have crashed to Rs 150-160 and Rs 200-220 per kg, respectively, from Rs 300-320 and Rs 340-350 pre-lockdown — could particularly impact buffalo milk. One reason for this is that buffaloes mostly conceive after October when temperatures drop, leading to their calving and producing more milk from August. Milk

supplies in UP — and other buffalo belts like East Rajasthan or Guntur-Prakasam-Nellore in Andhra Pradesh — will, thus, increase significantly in the coming months.

Secondly, cow milk typically contains 3.5% fat and 8.5% SNF. In buffalo milk, the SNF is slightly higher, but the fat content can go to 10-11%. "While unsold skimmed milk powder stocks with dairies have mounted, there will still be some buyers such as biscuit companies that are registering good consumption growth. The problem would be in fat," says D Sunil Reddy, managing director of the Hyderabad-based Dodla Dairy Ltd.

A surplus in milk fat is something India has rarely seen before. It would be rarer during the festival season that is synonymous with milk-based sweets.

FULL REPORT ON
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ADVERTORIAL

World Hepatitis Day

Hepatitis is a Life-threatening Disease

LIVER IS an important organ of the body which lies under the right ribcage in upper abdomen.

It performs many important functions which are essential like

- Bile production for proper digestion of food

- Breakdown of carbohydrates, fats and protein to turn them into chemicals in a way which the body can utilise

- Storage of glucose, vitamins A,D, E & K and synthesis of proteins

- Production of clotting factors

- Filtering toxins which is an immunological function and going by the sheer size of the organ it is very important

Due to such important functions it leads to maintainance of body milieu and any impairment leads to many signs and symptoms.

What is compromised liver and what causes it ?

Compromised liver is a self explanatory term meaning that there is dysfunction of the organ presentations of which are described later. Multiple conditions can cause it.

It may present as an acute condition which can be caused by viral infections like Hepatitis A, B & E, certain drugs, by sudden drop of blood pressure or gall stone disease.

Or it may manifest as a chronic condition which again may be due to viral infections (Hepatitis B & C), alcohol, obesity and diabetes. Later three are new lifestyle diseases and have become the most important cause of liver disease in present time and are replacing the viral infections which used to be the primary cause earlier.

Also the liver may be involved by deposits of cancers from elsewhere in body or due to cancer of gall bladder, bile duct and pancreas where the drainage of bile is blocked. Besides the cancer may occur in liver per se.

How can a person know his liver is not doing well or is compromised?

Common and classic symptoms include nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, pain in right side of upper abdomen, yellow discolouration of eyes (jaundice). Fatigue and weight loss may occur. With greater dysfunction or compromise of function -

- There can be abdominal pain and swelling

- Swelling in legs and ankles

- Itchy skin

- Whitish or pale coloured stools

- Tendency to bruise easily

- Vomiting of blood or black coloured stool

- Alteration of mentation like confusion, slowness, repetitiveness, forgetfulness

However liver disease does not always cause noticeable signs or symptoms and may be picked up on routine investigations like liver function tests or ultrasound of abdomen which are now done as part of annual check ups.

What is hepatitis? Why does it have so many types?

Hepatitis is inflammation of the liver. This is usually picked up in blood tests (Liver Function Tests) where the enzymes are increased. Besides this there are other tests like ultrasonography and Fibroscan to assess liver function.

Hepatitis has many types depending on cause of inflammation. Important ones are discussed here briefly.

Most commonly it is caused by hepatitis viruses. Other important causes are toxic substances like alcohol and certain drugs. Also there are some immune disorders where one's immune system acts against one's liver which we term as autoimmune hepatitis.

There are 5 main viruses A,B, C, D & E. Of these A&E are the most prevalent in our country and infection due to these is caused by ingestion of contaminated food and water. Vaccination is available for hepatitis A at present. These are preventable by good hygienic practices and proper sanitation and safe water supply. These lead to acute illness in which one may loose appetite, have vomiting, becomes jaundiced and has itching. The disease contributes to significant morbidity. The disease is usually self limited but in a small percentage can lead to acute liver failure which has almost 90% mortality.

Hepatitis B & C are the result of parenteral contact like blood transfusion, tattooing, invasive medical, surgical or dental procedures using improperly sterilised

ALCOHOLIC HEPATITIS CAN PROGRESS TO CIRRHOSIS AND LIVER FAILURE.

equipment. These viruses can also be transmitted from mother to baby and also by sexual contact. Hepatitis B can lead to both acute and chronic illness while C mainly leads to chronic illness. These two are important cause of liver cirrhosis which means that liver has become stiff and scarred which leads to findings earlier described in compromised liver. Liver cancer can also develop. Safe and effective vaccine is available for prevention of hepatitis B.

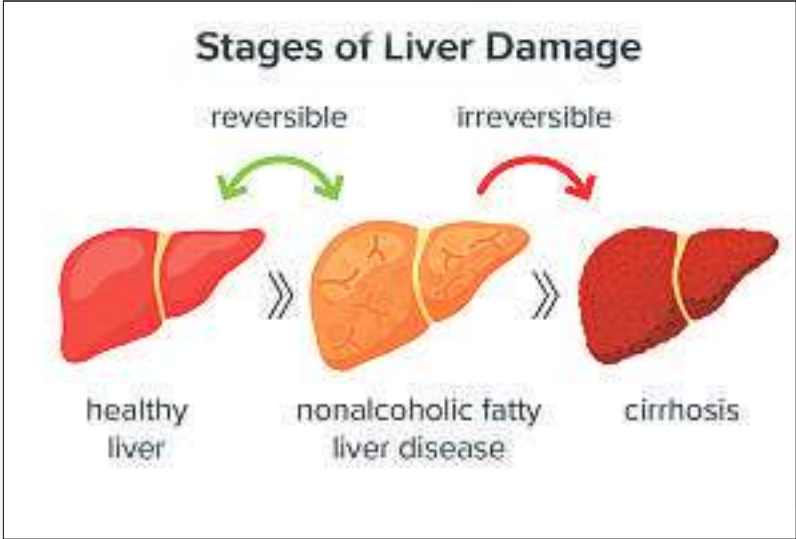
Besides these viruses most of the viral illness may involve the liver like Dengue. May involve the liver. Now Covid 19 has been seen to compromise liver functions. Infections like malaria can also infect liver.

Besides the viruses alcohol is an important toxin affecting the liver which if taken in long term over the years can cause inflammation and permanent damage to liver by progression into cirrhosis.

Uncontrolled diabetes and obesity emerging as important cause of liver disease which starts with fat deposition in the liver (fatty liver) and this may induce inflammation which is called NASH (Non alcoholic steatohepatitis). This also can progress to irreversible damage



*Speaking on the various facets of Hepatitis and its effects on liver, **Dr. Mandhir Kumar**, Co-Chairperson, Institute of Liver, Gastroenterology and Pancreaticobiliary Sciences, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, says “Liver is one organ in the body with multifarious functions and is vital to the body’s overall metabolic, detoxification, and immune system activities. Liver’s functions can be compromised by a number of reasons, including anything that causes inflammation of the liver, in the form of Hepatitis A-E, alcohol intake, junk food and high fat diets etc. Thus, my advice to people is to eat the right food and avoid alcohol, and if at all alcohol is taken it should be in safe limits.”*



Why is hepatitis considered to be dangerous?

As clearly answered in previous question that there is a possibility of Fulminant Hepatic Failure (or acute liver failure) with acute hepatitis A, B & E which though rare and unpredictable is associated with high around 90% mortality. It needs liver transplant for which also a short window is available and is out or reach of a common man due to high costs and lack of organ donation despite concerted efforts of both Governmental and non Governmental organizations. Moreover illness contributes significantly to economic loss both for the

individual and nation, even if not fulminant due to loss of man days.

As far as chronic hepatitis is considered (this means inflammation lasting for more than six months) we can broadly say that there are four stages of progression Stage 1- Inflammation or Hepatitis Stage 2- Fibrosis – Start of scarring of liver Stage 3- Cirrhosis – Liver is scarred Stage 4 - Liver failure

These are stages in continuum and may ultimately need a transplant or culminate in death. Not only this, liver cancer can also develop in cirrhosis and also in inflamed liver (especially in Hepatitis B)

Thus it is clearly evident that steps

HEPATITIS A&E ARE THE MOST PREVALENT IN OUR COUNTRY AND INFECTION DUE TO THESE IS CAUSED BY INGESTION OF CONTAMINATED FOOD AND WATER.

should be taken to prevent such eventually like vaccination of Hepatitis A & B. Fortunately effective treatment is now available for Hepatitis B & C infection.

Inflammation due to alcohol (Alcoholic Hepatitis) if severe has a very poor outcome especially if person continues to consume alcohol despite jaundice. Alcoholic hepatitis can progress to cirrhosis and liver failure. Looking at such poor prognosis it is advisable to avoid Alcohol and if at all taken it should be kept in safe limits.

Control of diabetes and obesity is essential to prevent progression from fatty liver to NASH

Measures like regular check-ups, screening strategies, healthy diet and exercise, vaccination, proper treatment in time go a long way in preventing hepatitis and its

CONTROL OF DIABETES AND OBESITY IS ESSENTIAL TO PREVENT PROGRESSION FROM FATTY LIVER TO NASH (NON ALCOHOLIC STEATOHEPATITIS).

progression. If it reaches a stage of cirrhosis and liver failure, treatment involves expensive medical measures and necessity of liver transplant to improve survival.

All these outcomes go to show that chronic hepatitis is dangerous because of its progressive nature.

If a person has underlying liver problems what can happen in Covid 19 infection ?

There are two ways to answer this question whether COVID 19 alters liver function and whether it harms those with underlying liver disease.

The virus has been shown to cause liver dysfunction in form of derangement in liver enzymes in 20-25% of patients suffering from Covid-19. This percentage increases in those suffering from severe Covid-19 to 30-40%. Also the drugs used to treat Covid like Azithromycin & Remdesivir affect liver. However the rise in enzymes settles down with time in those who recover.

However data shows that mortality due to Covid 19 is increased by overall 3 times in patients with underlying chronic liver disease and it increases substantially with the severity of liver disease. Also there is evidence of worsening of liver disease in those having previous disease after Covid 19 infection.

What are the precautions that need to taken and is there any specific diet that you would recommend at this point of time ?

Best way to avoid COVID-19 is to avoid exposure.

This means avoid going out and travel.

Wearing a mask, maintaining proper social/ physical distance of 6 feet and personal hygiene especially washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds repeatedly are the measures which in any case are to be followed during this pandemic and are no different for patients with liver disease.

As regards diet, eating healthy diet is important during COVID 19 pandemic not only for liver patients but for all as it affects our body's ability to prevent, fight and recover from infections.

No foods or dietary supplements can prevent or cure COVID-19 infection. Healthy diets are important for supporting immune systems.

It is recommended to have food comprising a mix of whole grains, lentils, beans, plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables, eggs, fish and milk. Salt content of food should be cut back. Moderate amount of fats and oils are allowed. The sugar intake should be limited.

Good hydration is crucial and water is the healthiest and cheapest drink.

Drinking alcohol does not protect against COVID -19 as people might confuse that alcohol as a sanitizer kills virus. Always keep it in safe limits. The permissible limits are different for different regions. It is usually 14 units (~25ml/unit of spirit 40%) per week for women and men. This is equivalent to drinking not more than 6 pints of 4% strength beer or 7 medium sized glasses of wine (175ml 12% strength) a week.

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- Liver is an important organ with essential functions of proper digestion and assimilation of nutrients in body and is one of the important organ for detoxification

- Hepatitis viruses, excessive alcohol and certain drugs can harm the liver and make it compromised

- Hepatitis can lead to cirrhosis, liver failure and liver cancer

- COVID-19 can affect liver and worsen the disease in pre-existent liver disease, hence the precautions are necessary

- Vaccination, healthy lifestyle, good diet, avoiding alcohol consumption, control of diabetes and obesity, regular health check ups are important in preventing liver disease and if ad all it does occurs to treat it in time.

8 THE OUTBREAK

Pune reports first documented case of vertical transmission from mother to child

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, JULY 27

THE STATE-RUN B J Medical College and Sassoon General Hospital in Pune has reported the country's first documented case of vertical transmission of Covid-19 from mother to child.

According to researchers at the medical college, this is the first proven case of transplacental transmission of SARS-COV-2 from a pregnant woman to the foetus in India.

So far, it is unclear whether and how SARS-COV-2 can be transmitted from the mother to the foetus and worldwide there are few cases that have been documented in international journals. In April, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said there was emerging evidence to suggest that a pregnant woman can transmit the infection to her unborn baby.

The Pune hospital's Department of Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Microbiology and Biochemistry has reported the case. According to Dr Aarti Kinikar, Professor and

Head of the Department of Paediatrics, it was extremely challenging as the baby had developed severe Covid disease.

"A 22-year-old pregnant woman from Hadapsar reported to Sassoon general hospital in the last week of May and had fever one day before the delivery. She tested negative for Covid via the RT-PCR test but an antibody test showed evidence of Covid infection by a strong antibody response," Dr Kinikar said.

The doctor added that after the baby was born, her nasopharyngeal swab, placenta and umbilical stump tested positive for Covid by RT-PCR. She developed symptoms within 24 to 48 hours and had fever, lethargy and signs of severe disease along with abnormal blood tests suggesting severe inflammation, the doctor added. "We were able to detect the infection in the umbilical cord and placenta. The mother had the infection earlier but was asymptomatic," Dr Kinikar added.

The baby required intensive care but recovered completely after three weeks and was discharged in June, said Dr Murlidhar Tambe, Dean of B J Medical College and Sassoon General Hospital.

Demanding better pay, 200 nurses boycott work at Pune hospital

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, JULY 27

THE WORK boycott by nurses at one of the city's best known hospitals took a turn for the worse on Monday, with hospital authorities refusing to agree to the demand of a salary hike, and warning that they will recruit new people.

About 200 nurses at the Jehangir Hospital have not been attending work since Sunday, complaining of low salaries and excessive workload. However, they are attending to emergency and critical care patients.

The hospital admitted that some nurses who were not part of the original agitation on Sunday had also joined the strike.

In a late night statement on Monday, the hospital said it was doing everything to take good care of the nurses, including timely payment of salaries and some special allowances, but that it was not in a position to increase the salaries at this point. "In addition, special care is taken about their diet, transport, accommo-

modation. Hostel accommodations, as well as the meals, are taken care of... treatment is offered free of cost not only to the staff but is also extended to their family members who are Covid-positive," it said in a statement.

But the nurses are not relenting. "Aren't our demands justified, especially after a daily 12-hour work schedule, with no cooling off period or even a Covid allowance. We have been working for a pittance, and nurses in some other hospitals are being paid double... This is just not fair," said a 50-year-old nurse.

The nurses said they were being paid a minimum of Rs 12,000 to Rs 14,000 in a month.

A group of agitating nurses today met District Collector Naval Kishore Ram to seek support.

One nursing association has thrown its weight behind the agitators and written to the hospital. "We have demanded that their duty hours should not exceed six hours with PPE, and adequate rest should be provided," Jibin TC, state president of the United Nurses Association, said.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

PM: Because right decisions taken at right time, India is in stable position

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

ANNOUNCING GOALS to conduct 10 lakh tests daily, almost double the current rate, in the coming weeks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three high throughput Covid-19 testing facilities in Kolkata, Mumbai and Noida. These facilities will be able to conduct 10,000 tests a day.

"Together we have to create new health infrastructure and make government and private dispensaries and clinics in every district and village more efficient. The fight against corona in our villages will not be weakened... And with this, we have to keep in mind that our corona warrior should not be a victim to any kind of fatigue. We will also have to work continuously to connect new and retired professionals to the health system," he



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the launch of three high throughput labs in Noida, Kolkata and Mumbai via video conferencing, in New Delhi on Monday. *ANI*

said in a virtual announcement.

The labs launched on Monday will conduct testing not just for Covid-19 but also Hepatitis B and C, HIV, dengue and other diseases.

Underlining the enhanced health infrastructure, the PM said Covid testing centres have been ramped up from one in January to 1,300 now. While the country did not have a single PPE

kit manufacturer before the pandemic, there are now 1,200 manufacturers producing 5 lakh kits a day, he said. Similarly, India used to be dependent on imports for N95 masks and ventilators, but now produces 3 lakh masks daily and has the capacity to manufacture 3 lakh ventilators a year. Production of medical oxygen cylinders was also scaled up, he said.

"Due to these collective efforts, not only are the lives of people being saved, but the country is going to be the exporter of the things we used to import."

India now has more than 11,000 Covid facilities and 11 lakh isolation beds, the PM said. The training of paramedics, ASHA workers, ANMs and anganwadi workers is also unprecedented.

"Because the right decisions were taken at the right time in the country, India is in a much

more stable position than other countries. Today, the death rate from corona in our country is much less than in big countries. At the same time, the recovery rate here is much higher than other countries and is improving day by day. Today, after being infected with corona in India, the number of cured people is about to reach 10 lakh."

Until a vaccine or medicine for Covid-19 is found, the use of masks, social distancing and hand sanitisation is important during upcoming festivals, he said. "We also have to make sure in this time that poor families do not have more difficulties."

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, ICMR DG Balram Bhargava, Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath also attended the launch.

India conducted 1.7 crore Covid-19 tests until July 26.

Tripura man says father died on hospital wheelchair while waiting for oxygen

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, JULY 27

AMITABHA BHOWMIK said that he saw his father Shyamalendu die, gasping for breath on a wheelchair at Tripura Sundari District Hospital in Tripura's Udaipur town on Sunday, minutes after he tested positive for the coronavirus. Amitabha has now claimed that the negligence of the hospital authorities led to the death.

Shyamalendu, 76, had to frequently visit hospitals as he suffered from kidney- and heart-related ailments. A few days ago, he developed a fever, and after he started experiencing respiratory problems, Amitabha took him to the district hospital,

where the two underwent mandatory rapid antigen tests.

After the test results came positive for both, Amitabha has claimed, the hospital authorities kept the two waiting on a wheelchair for over an hour while arranging for an oxygen cylinder and an ambulance to take them to Agartala.

Amitabha is now admitted at a Covid Care Centre in Chandrapur.

Gomati Chief Medical Officer Dr Niru Mohan Jamatia said Shyamalendu died within 15 minutes of testing positive. Jamatia admitted to some delay in processing the patient's body, but said it was due to Covid-19 related precautions as per government guidelines.



A testing camp at PMGP colony in Mankhurd area of Mumbai on Monday. *Amit Chakravarty*

Patient's body found 500 m from UP hospital, kin allege negligence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, JULY 27

PRAYAGRAJ POLICE found the body of a 60-year-old Covid patient around 500 metres away from Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital, where he was being treated since July 23, on Sunday night.

No external injury was found on the body, said Circle Officer, Prayagraj, Amit Kumar Srivastava. The cause of the death is not clear as the post-mortem report is awaited.

The patient's family alleged that he fled because of negligence

and harassment by the hospital staff. The hospital, however, denied the allegations and said doctors are putting in all efforts.

On Friday, a 27-year-old Covid patient had slit his wrist inside the bathroom of the hospital, where he was undergoing treatment since July 21.

The 60-year-old patient, a retired government employee, was admitted to the hospital with breathlessness and high fever. On Saturday afternoon, the hospital staff found him missing from his bed and informed the police and his family after failing to find him.

"My father was regularly being harassed by the hospital staff fol-

lowing which he got upset. They did not take care of his health by not giving proper food and medicines. He had told me about this over phone," said his daughter.

Swaroop Rani Hospital is affiliated to Moti Lal Nehru Medical College, located on the same campus.

Principal of Moti Lal Nehru Medical College, Dr SP Singh said, "We all are working in a critical conditions and hospital staff are ensuring that all patients get proper treatment. We have helped many patients recover. This patient was also showing signs of recovery, but we could not understand why he left..."

Aishwarya, daughter test negative, discharged

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, JULY 27

ACTOR AISHWARYA Rai Bachchan and her daughter Aaradhya on Monday tested negative for Covid-19 and were discharged from a city hospital here.

"Aishwarya and Aaradhya have thankfully tested negative and have been discharged from the hospital. They will now be at home," the 46-year-old actor's husband, Abhishek Bachchan, tweeted.



Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

Aishwarya and Aaradhya were shifted to the isolation ward of the Nanavati Hospital on July 17, almost a week after testing positive for Covid-19. Amitabh Bachchan, 77, and Abhishek were admitted to the hospital on July 11.

Schools shut, children of Bastar village get lessons via loudspeakers

GARGI VERMA
JAGDALPUR, JULY 27

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Somu starts from his house just as the loudspeaker mounted near the village panchayat bhawan crackles to life. It's 8 am and the children of Bhatpal village in Chhattisgarh's Bastar gather in houses earmarked by the school teaching staff to begin their lessons. There are no teachers in front of them, though. They listen to a couple of voices on the loudspeaker teaching English through Halbi, the tribal language. Somu writes down 't-r-e-e', mouthing the word, as the voices explain that 'rut' in Halbi is 'tree' in English.

With the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in closure of schools, many students are studying online. However, with parts of the state lacking Internet connectivity and devices, a novel approach has been adopted in Bastar district.

"We have put up six loudspeakers for the village of around 300 families. The loudspeakers are used to teach English, and disseminate information on malnutrition and other community issues," said Nikhilesh Hari, a development assistant of the dis-



Officials say they have put up six loudspeakers in Bhatpal village, which has around 300 families. *Gargi Verma*

trict mineral fund, who spearheaded the idea.

In Bhatpal, 20 km from the district headquarters of Jagdalpur and 266 km from state capital Raipur, the sessions on the loudspeakers are being held twice a day since June 14. Each session runs for around 90 minutes, and includes storytelling and conversation.

While one of the speakers recites a story in Halbi, translating words and sentences, the other speaker asks questions. As the children hear folk stories, they learn to translate basic sentences

— "ye mocho machli aaye" to "this is my fish". The loudspeaker is operated from the panchayat bhawan, and the recordings are made at the district headquarters and transferred on pen drives by teachers to the village.

Shailendra Tiwari, one of the teachers, said, "Instead of taking classes in a school, we have earmarked houses with literate members, where children can gather in groups of 8-10. The teachers teach in the houses, and children do their homework under the supervision of adults."

Children are also allowed to

study in their houses, Tiwari said. "The loudspeakers are placed in a manner that they can be heard from every part of the village. So children can sit at home and follow the lesson."

Much work goes into generating these sessions. "Our English teachers write the script in Hindi and submit it to another team, which converts Hindi into Halbi. We have theatre artists working with us, who give voice to the script. It takes a day to make one session, and we do it non-stop," Hari said.

According to Rajat Bansal, the District Collector, the idea came while looking for alternatives to accessible distant learning. "We can't expect all parents to have access to connectivity, devices or the knowhow. Loudspeakers have been used for information dissemination for a long time... Currently, the programme is being run in seven blocks in the district," he said.

And it is not only the children who learn. According to Suresh Bhagat, a local resident, the lessons fall on their ears as they go about their work. "We learn English words for animals, tools, etc. It is fun to work like this," he said.

SANTOSH SINGH
NAYAGAON (BEGUSARAI), JULY 27

NISHU KUMARI, a Class IX student at a government-run school, is studying with her brother Nirbhay, a Class VII student and cousin Arpit, a Class I student. Their grandfather Bhagirath Singh is keeping a watch on them as the three have to finish their homework before private tutor Subodh Singh arrives.

Nishu's father Shivjiyoti Kumar, a farmer, says most parents at their village, Nayagaon in Bihar's Begusarai district, are now depending on private tutors for their wards' education as there are no signs of schools opening anytime soon and many are finding it difficult to follow online classes due to poor Internet connectivity. The classes being aired on Doordarshan too have found few takers in the region as many don't have television sets; the one-way nature of the lessons and outdated content has also failed to attract students, say local residents.

Shivjiyoti has 40 quintal of wheat from his land after sharecropping and he will give a part



Nishu studies with her brothers Nirbhay and Arpit, in Nayagaon, Begusarai. *Santosh Singh*

of it to Subodh Singh as payment.

"Wheat is our cash. Several farmers give wheat as tuition fee on most occasions. The teacher charges Rs 1,000 per month for teaching for an hour daily," says Shivjiyoti.

The age-old barter system seems to have returned to the riverine areas of Matihani and Begusarai, with most farmers saying they have not seen much cash in the past three months. Farmers in the region also cultivate maize, but there has been little sale of maize owing to the

low prices, making wheat their cash in times of Covid-19 and the lockdown.

Shivjiyoti says there are few takers for maize as every household has it stocked up as farmers wait for better prices.

Nayagaon, with a population of about 3,500, has nearly 1,000 schoolgoing children. While most of them are enrolled in government schools at the village, about 10 per cent go to private schools nearby.

Sudhir Singh is among 20-odd private tutors who teach students

Kept in the dark about his health: Varavara Rao's family writes to Deshmukh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JULY 27

THE FAMILY members of poet Varavara Rao on Monday wrote to Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, stating they were not provided any information about his health. Rao (80), who is behind bars since 2018 after being named as an accused in the Elgar Parishad case, had tested positive for Covid-19 on July 16 and is currently receiving treatment at Nanavati Hospital.

The letter written by his wife, P Hemalatha, and three daughters, Sahaja, Anala and Pavana, stated that they have been denied any information about his condition or the treatment being given to him at the hospital.

"We are extremely worried and anxious to know about his health. We are writing to you since he is lodged in a jail under your ministry as an undertrial prisoner and it is your bounden duty to look after his well-being. It is also your duty to inform his family in case of any problem to his health as per the Charter of Patient Rights prepared by the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry," the letter stated, adding that they have been "kept in the dark" for 12 days about his condition.

Rao had been shifted to state-run JJ Hospital earlier this month and made to undergo tests, including one for Covid-19. After testing positive, he was first shifted to a civic hospital before being transferred to Nanavati Hospital. The family has said that the only official information provided to them was that he had tested positive for the virus. The letter said that there was no proper response to repeated calls to Taloja Central Jail, where he was lodged.

Bihar appoints Pratyaya Amrit as health secy

Patna: Amid a surge in Covid cases and growing pressure on the Bihar government, the health department Monday appointed Pratyaya Amrit as the new Principal Health Secretary. Amrit, a senior IAS officer holding charge of the energy and disaster management departments, has replaced Uday Singh Kumawat — the second such appointment in two months.

The number of Covid cases has increased from 10,205 on July 1 to 41,111 on July 27.

CM Nitish Kumar was reportedly upset with Kumawat's work.

Amrit's immediate challenge is to increase testing and the number of beds with oxygen cylinders in the state. **ENS**

Low on cash, farmers shift to barter system to ensure kids' education

in and around the village and they have never been as busy as they have been in the last three months. Several of them are now teaching three to four batches of students, either at their homes of students or at the students' homes.

Sudhir Singh, who says he has been into teaching for about 35 years now, says he has no problem with getting wheat in return for his lessons as "everyone needs to buy wheat anyway".

Ashutosh Jha, SK Jha and AK Singh are among the other private tutors who have no problem with this system. "This is a temporary phase and will pass," says Ashutosh.

Sanjay Singh, the Special Project Director of Bihar Education Project Council, under the state education department, said, "We have been conducting online classes on Doordarshan between 9 am and 3 pm for Classes I to XII but we do not have a clear idea about how many students are actually following them. Our challenge is to reach out to village students. We are working on building a system that incorporates online and minimum physical presence of teachers."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

India hands over 10 broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

INDIA ON Monday handed over 10 broad-gauge (BG) locomotives to Bangladesh, aiming to help handle the increasing volume of passenger and freight train operations in the neighbouring country. The locomotives were flagged off virtually by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Railways Minister Piyush Goyal and were received by Bangladesh's Foreign Minister A K Abdul Momen and Railway Minister Nurul Islam Sujon. The 10 locomotives handed over on Monday are designed for a speed of 120 mph, and are suitable for hauling freight and passenger trains. The Indian Railways has modified them to suit the maximum height restrictions in Bangladesh. Jaishankar said, "The pandemic has also forced us to come up with innovative solutions aimed at minimising disruptions to our supply chain logistics. Thanks to our well-timed efforts, the business communities of the two countries have started utilising freight trains for transporting commodities and raw materials for manufacturing industries. The movement of freight via rail has also ensured that the supply of essential commodities... remains undisturbed... particularly in the holy month of Ramadan..." Bangladesh Foreign Minister Momen said, "We believe 'connectivity is productivity' and our visionary PM (Sheikh Hasina) has been trying to expand our connectivity with our neighbours... Robust railway connectivity is an enabler of economic growth, a platform for uniform development and a catalyst for national integration..." Momen said. Goyal underscored the significance of railway cooperation in enhancing bilateral trade and in further boosting the economic partnership between the two countries.



Workers clean Ram Ki Pauri ahead of the foundation laying ceremony of Ram temple, in Ayodhya, on Monday. PTI

Trust to place time capsule with message on Ayodhya, Ram in temple foundation

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, JULY 27

The Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust has decided to put a "Kaal Patra" — a time capsule — in the foundation of the Ram Temple to be built in Ayodhya. According to a member of the trust, the idea behind this move is to ensure that future generations are not caught up in legal disputes over Lord Ram's birthplace. The "Bhoomi Poojan" for the temple would be done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 5. Sharing details, Trust member Kameshwar Chaupal said it has been decided at a meeting that the time capsule would carry a message about Ayodhya, Lord Ram and his birthplace and it will be preserved so as to last for thousands of years. "Such ideas come with experience. During discussion, it emerged that during excavation of ancient sites, not just in India but also abroad, evidence of our

ages-old culture has come out. And, in a country and land which belongs to Ram and where Ram is present in every particle, such a long dispute went on over his birthplace," Chaupal told The Indian Express. Therefore, he said, it has been decided that in order to save future generations from any court case, a "time capsule" would be put in the foundation of the Ram Temple. However, he said, it would take time to prepare this capsule and it would be put after the layout of the temple is prepared. "For over 70 years, people were roaming in the court in a long dispute. People like me, who were children then, have grown old. People in the past left 'Shila Patta', which helped. So it was decided that we should also ensure that our future generations are not caught up in any court battle and the reality about Ayodhya and Ram is preserved for the next thousands of years," he added.

He said this time capsule would be kept at a depth of 200 feet when the ground would be dug to build the foundation of the temple. "Tam patra par likha hua ek kaal patra hoga... Jismein Ayodhya aur bhagwan ram ka vi-varan hoga taki aane wali peeri ko Court mein khara na hona pare..." (It would be a time capsule in which details about Ayodhya and Lord Ram would be written on a copper plate so that the future generation does not have to stand in court," Chaupal told The Indian Express. He said experts have been contacted for deciding the exact content in the "minimum possible words" and for preparation of the time capsule that can last for thousands of years. Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh government has prepared a phase-wise development plan for Ayodhya and the foundation stones for these projects would also be laid on August 5. Many other projects would be inaugurated the same day.

ADMISSIONS TO STATE-RUN MEDICAL SCHOOLS
Madras HC directs Centre to set up committee on OBC quota

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JULY 27

THE MADRAS High Court on Monday directed the Centre to set up a committee to examine the issue of OBC quota in admissions to state-run medical and dental colleges under the all-India quota. The court said the committee, comprising representatives from the Centre, state and the Medical Council of India (MCI), should be constituted within three months. The court was hearing pleas moved by the Tamil Nadu government and political parties, including DMK, AIADMK, PMK, besides a few other outfits, which challenged the Centre's decision to not provide 50% OBC reservation in state-run colleges under the all-India quota for under graduate, post graduate and dental courses in 2020-21. Every state reserves a certain percentage of seats in govern-

ment medical and dental colleges for students with domicile while surrendering the rest to the all-India quota. Tamil Nadu, which has surrendered around 15 per cent of its medical seats to the all-India quota, provides 69 per cent reservation under the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Schedules Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 1993, which is protected under Article 31-B and has been placed in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. The state's OBC quota of 50 per cent (30 per cent General OBCs and 20 per cent MBCs) is way above the 27 per cent Central OBC quota (in Central universities, AIIMS etc). The petitioners argued that while a 2010 notification of the Medical Council of India had said that all-India quota seats can be distributed as per the reservation policies of the respective

states, the Centre never implemented it. According to the All India Federation of Other Backward Classes Employees Welfare Associations, the alleged violation of the reservation policy had led to "not a single seat" being allotted to OBC candidates when there were nearly 8,000 MD/MS seats across states in 2020. "Since 2017 onwards, nearly 40,842 seats were given by the states to AIQ (all-India quota) but the allotment to OBCs was zero," said a statement from AIBOC. Asking for a committee to be set up, the first bench of Chief Justice A P Sahi and Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy said any decision it makes shall be applicable only from the next academic year and that the Centre can pass any legislation to provide OBC reservation in the all-India quota seats for medical admissions. The bench also said it was not passing a positive order to pro-

vide reservation in view of the settled law that courts cannot interfere in policy matters of the government unless fundamental rights are affected. "Reservation is not a legal and fundamental right," the court said. The Opposition DMK passed a resolution calling the court order a historic judgment and saying the order shows that Tamil Nadu will be at the forefront of implementing social justice. The DMK had earlier legally challenged the Centre's 10% quota for economically weaker sections, saying that reservations were not for poverty alleviation but more like social justice programmes. The PMK, an ally of the AIADMK-BJP alliance in the state and backed by a powerful OBC-Vanniyar community in northern Tamil Nadu, had in June said that the Centre's refusal to provide reservation for OBCs in AIQ seats was "unjust and rigorous".

MARATHA QUOTA IN JOBS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES

SC adjourns hearing on pleas against quota law, state keeps hiring on hold

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday adjourned a hearing on petitions challenging the Maharashtra law providing reservation to Marathas in jobs and admissions to September 1, with the state undertaking not to make any fresh recruitments till September 15, 2020. Senior Advocates Mukul Rohatgi and P S Patwalia, appearing for the state government, told a bench of Justices L N Rao, Hemant Gupta and S Ravindra Bhat that the state had already decided by way of a Government Resolution on May 4 that no fresh recruitment will

be made. The SC bench was hearing petitions challenging The Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act, 2018. The petitions have challenged the Bombay High Court order of June 2019 which, while upholding the law, had also held that 16 per cent reservation was not justifiable and added that the quota should not exceed 12 per cent in employment and 13 per cent in admissions to government-run educational institutes. "At the outset, Mr Mukul Rohatgi, learned senior counsel appearing for the State of Maharashtra, submitted that as per the Government Resolution which was passed by the State of

Maharashtra on 04.05.2020, except Public Health Department and Department of Medical Education and Research, all the other Departments shall not undertake any type of fresh recruitment process...Mr Mukul Rohatgi and Mr PS Patwalia, senior counsel, appearing on behalf of the State of Maharashtra, submitted that no regular appointments shall be made in terms of the GR (government resolution) dated May 4, 2020 till September 15, 2020," the bench noted. The court however declined to interfere with PG medical admissions as they are in the final stage. It also fixed August 25 to hear an application for referring the matter to a Constitution Bench.

SC notice to UGC on pleas against exam directive

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the University Grants Commission (UGC) to reply to petitions challenging its directive to universities and colleges to hold final-year examinations by September 30, 2020. A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah also directed that a copy of the petitions be served upon the Centre and sought replies in three days. The court fixed July 31 to hear it next. The petitions, including one filed by the Shiv Sena youth wing Yuva Sena, have highlighted the risks associated with holding exams at a time Covid-19 cases are rising and said many states have already cancelled or postponed exams. They also pointed to the floods in Assam and Bihar. **ENS**

DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES & ENTERPRISE PROMOTION KANPUR, UTTAR PRADESH

Expression of Interest (EoI)-Cum-Request for Proposal (RFP)

For
Appointment of consultants to select and recommend areas for setting up of industrial parks/ clusters; preparation of feasibility reports and transaction advisory for selection of developer for Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Agra, Kanpur, Moradabad & Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh

PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF TENDER, DATE & TIME OF BID SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BID ARE AS GIVEN BELOW

Availability of Tender	Pre-Bid Conference	Last Date & Time of Submission of Bids	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid	Earnest Money (INR)	Cost of Document/ Tender Fee+GST (INR)
29 th July 2020	10 th August 2020	26 th August, 2020 4:00 PM	27 th August, 2020 4:00 PM	10,00,000/-	11,800/-

Note: Directorate of Industries & Enterprise Promotion reserves the rights to make any changes in the terms of the document.

- Detailed document can be downloaded from our website <http://updi.in/> or <https://etender.up.nic.in>
- Corrigendum/ Clarification, if any, will be uploaded on website <http://updi.in/> and <https://etender.up.nic.in>
- The Bidder shall submit bid online on **e-Tender portal**
- For any queries related to EoI-CUM-RFP, please contact - Mr. Sarveshwar Shukla, Joint Commissioner Industries, Directorate of Industries & Enterprise Promotion, Uttar Pradesh. **Address: G. T. Road, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh - 208005, Contact No.: 9415054007, Email ID: dikanpur@gmail.com, dikanpur@nic.in**

DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES & ENTERPRISE PROMOTION

Address: Directorate of Industries, Grand Trunk Road, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
Phone No.: +91(512) 2218401, 2234956 | Email ID: dikanpur@nic.in, dikanpur@gmail.com

World Nature Conservation Day

Dr Vivek Saxena,
Country Representative
IUCN India

BACK TO 'NATURE' TO SECURE OUR 'FUTURE'

"Nature is essential for human existence and good quality of life". Failure to recognise this fact not only results in a model of economic growth that significantly contributes to the loss of biodiversity, it also misses the opportunity to effectively deploy nature in helping resolve major societal challenges such as climate change, food security and disaster risk reduction. The sustainable deployment of natural capital, that is the world's stocks of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things, has an important role in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. For decades, IUCN has carried out innovative conservation initiatives that have simultaneously helped protect, manage and restore the environment while delivering tangible and sustainable benefits for people. This type of approach is now widely known as Nature-based Solutions (NbS). IUCN launched the Global Standards for NbS on 23 July 2020 as a user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of NbS.

Nature-based Solutions is: *actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits."*

Research highlights that NbS could provide around 30% of the cost-effective mitigation needed by 2030 to stabilise warming to below 2°C. They can also provide a powerful defence against the impacts and long-term hazards of climate change, which is the biggest threat to biodiversity. Using nature to green cities can also result in significant energy savings and health benefits. NbS such as Sustainable Land Management provide an array of approaches for sustaining food production while safeguarding the ecosystem services upon which agriculture depends.

In India, drought and desertification leads to a loss of 23 hectares of dryland per minute, resulting further in a loss of 20 million tonnes of potential food grain production and with a billion plus of population to feed, long-term solutions to food security is a national a priority. IUCN and ITC are working on a project "Sustainable Agriscapes for the Future". In Phase I, the 'Agriscape approach' was piloted in Munger, Bihar, to map the linkages and design interventions to enhance/restore the ecosystem services flows from surrounding ecosystems to the production landscape (eg, ground water recharge, micro climate, soil fertility, pollination) using nature based solutions, thus reducing input costs and improving farmer's income. Phase II of I focused on carrying out capacity building of ITC partners and stakeholders on 'Agriscape methodology' and 'Monitoring tools' towards upscaling agriscape solutions.

As the world strives to emerge from the current pandemic and move towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals, we need to ensure that future investments in nature reach their potential by contributing to the health and well-being of people and the planet.

For more information please contact : Raeesha Rahman, Project Associate, raeesha.rahman@iucn.org

Duties require access to data: Home, agencies to House panel

New Delhi

NDRF, PM CARES: SC reserves order as Centre says both funds can exist

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

THE SUPREME Court reserved its order Monday on a petition seeking transfer of money received in the PM CARES Fund to the National Disaster Response Fund, a plea opposed by the Centre. The petitioner alleged it was created to circumvent the National Disaster Management Act.

"It's a public charitable trust and any private individual who wants to contribute can contribute to it," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told a bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, R Subhash Reddy and M R Shah, adding that "all government contributions will go to NDRF only".

Appearing for the petitioner, NGO Centre for Public Interest Litigation, senior advocate Dushyant Dave said "nobody is

doubting the bona fides of anybody. Our argument is you are circumventing the Act which mandates the executive to first exhaust the National Disaster Response Fund".

The NDRF, said Dave, has to be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) while "PM CARES is audited by some private auditor". He said, "this government believes in transparency", and that PM CARES Fund should at least have been audited by the CAG.

"Our case is this is to circumvent NDMA. This is a fraud on the Constitution. All we are saying it's subject to public scrutiny.. It's entitled to Income Tax exemption," Dave said, adding "our argument is this could never have been done under the Act".

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who was appearing in a connected matter related to drawing

Reserving its order, the bench gave Dave and Mehta three more days to file additional arguments, if any

up a national disaster management plan, said contributions to PM CARES are eligible for CSR benefits and wondered why then will corporates and others donate to the NDRF.

Mehta pointed out that CSR benefits are also available for donations to NDRF.

Reserving its order, the bench gave Dave and Mehta three more days to file additional written arguments, if any, on this.

The Centre, in its affidavit filed in the matter, defended the creation of the PM CARES Fund which accepts funds for Covid re-

lief operations and opposed the transfer of these funds to the NDRF. The government said "there does exist a National Disaster Response Fund as stipulated under Section 46 of Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005 which so far consisted of the fund in the form of budgetary provisions made by the Central Government in NDRF and State Governments and Central Government in State Disaster Response Funds without any private contribution".

It said "there are several funds which are either established earlier or now for carrying out various relief works. PM CARES is one such fund with voluntary donations" and that "mere existence of a statutory fund would not prohibit creation of a different fund like PM CARES Fund which provides for voluntary donations".

The bench also heard argu-

ments on the response to the problems caused to migrant labour because of the lockdown and the plea for drawing up a disaster management plan.

Mehta submitted that transport facilities have already resumed across the country and that there has been no demand for special trains in the last 20 days.

The bench, however, referred to some applications pointing out that there is still migrant labour stuck in Maharashtra.

"There may be people who don't have money," observed Justice Shah.

The bench said if there is anyone left stranded, they should be sent home and that it will pass necessary orders.

Mehta said the "difficulty is some organisations give names. When we go for personal verification, they say they don't even know their names are included".

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

CALLING The Supreme Court's decision to initiate suo motu contempt proceedings against lawyer Prashant Bhushan an "attempt at stifling criticism", a group of 131 prominent citizens, including former Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur and former Delhi High Court Chief Justice A P Shah, released a statement of solidarity on Monday.

Arguing that Bhushan only articulated some of the concerns raised about the functioning of the apex court, the statement urged the court to withdraw its case "in the interest of justice and fairness and to maintain the dignity of the Supreme Court of India".

"An institution as important as the Supreme Court of a country must be open to public discussion without the fear of retribution or action of criminal

contempt," the statement reads.

Bhushan was issued a notice by SC last week after the court initiated fresh contempt proceedings against him for two tweets he posted. A bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra said Bhushan's tweets had brought the administration of justice in "disrepute".

The complaint was registered over a June 29 tweet by Bhushan involving a picture of CJI S A Bobde on a Harley Davidson motorcycle in Nagpur, and one on June 27 regarding the judiciary, which the court said was subsequently published in *The Times of India*.

The statement noted: "In the past few years, serious questions have been raised against the reluctance of the Supreme Court to play its constitutionally mandated role as a check on govern-

ment excesses and violation of fundamental rights of people by the state. These questions have been raised by all sections of the society — media, academic, civil society organisations, members of the legal fraternity, and even by sitting and retired judges of the Supreme Court itself. More recently, the Supreme Court's reluctance to intervene in a timely manner to avert the migrant crisis during the lockdown came under immense public scrutiny."

Besides Justices Lokur and Shah, senior advocates Anand Grover, C U Singh, Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sanjay Hegde, historian Ramachandra Guha, former CJC Wajahat Habibullah, author Arundhati Roy, and Yogendra Yadav of Swaraj India are among the signatories.

NIA files charges against six people for 'providing logistical support to JeM militants'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 27

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday filed a chargesheet in a special court in Jammu against six people for allegedly providing logistical support to three Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) militants who had infiltrated into the country in January.

The six accused — all residents of Kashmir — were stated to be part of JeM's "infiltration-transportation" module. They have been identified as Sameer Ahmed Dar, Asif Ahmed Malik, Sartaj Ahmed Mantoo, Suhail Manzoor, Zahoor Ahmed Khan and Suheel Javid alias Suhail Lone. All have been charged under IPC Sections 120B, 121, 121A, 122 and 307 IPC, besides provisions of the UAPA, the Arms Act, the Explosive Substances Act and the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act.

As per the chargesheet, a truck carrying three Pakistani militants was stopped on January 31 at the Ban Toll Plaza near Nagrota on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway. While Sameer Ahmed Dar, Asif Ahmed Malik and Sartaj Mantoo managed to escape, heavily armed militants hiding inside the truck opened fire at the police party, before fleeing.

In the ensuing searches, the security forces killed all three Pakistani militants and arrested the truck driver and his two associates. The other three accused were JeM overground workers (OGWs) and they had provided to the militants shelter, logistics and communications. They had also purchased 'pherans' for the militants to make them look like Kashmiris, and to help them hide their weapons.

Maoists kill CAF constable in Chhattisgarh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, JULY 27

A CONSTABLE of the Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) deployed for security at a camp in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district was killed in targeted firing by Maoists on Monday, police said.

The deceased has been identified as constable Jitendra Bagde of the CAF's 22nd battalion. He was a resident of Bijapur district.

The killing comes a day ahead of 'Shaheed' week — organised by Maoists as a mourning for cadres who have been killed. According to the police, Monday's attack took place at the Kademeta camp in Narayanpur. "Two rounds of an SLR (rifle) were fired, targeting Bagde, killing him immediately. The troops from the camp went on a search operation in nearby areas, but didn't find anyone," Bastar IG, P Sundarraj, said, adding, "Prima facie, it appears a small action team were involved."

Ahead of 'Shaheed' week, Maoist cadres have been throwing posters and stringing up banners in other LWE-affected districts of the Bastar region, according to the police. On Sunday, IG Sundarraj visited several villages with district officials to speak to local residents.

In fresh letter to Javadekar, Ramesh explains his objections to draft EIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

CONGRESS LEADER and former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh on Monday wrote to Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar, explaining his objections to the draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

This is the latest in the exchange of letters between the former and the incumbent environment ministers on the draft EIA. The Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has called for suggestions and objections to the draft by August 10, after which it is to be notified.

Ramesh first wrote to Javadekar on July 25, "strongly objecting" to the draft. He had said the draft reflects "a mindset that sees environmental regulation as unnecessary regulatory burden and not as an essential obligation to be met for the health and wel-



Prakash Javadekar; (right) Jairam Ramesh



misinterpreting the Provisions of the Notification. Please allow me to respond in some detail correlating my stated objections with the specific provisions contained in the notification."

One of the objections Ramesh has raised is that it allows for post facto approvals which, he said, go against the principle of assessment and public participation prior to environmental clearance and "has provisions which will routinely legitimize illegality".

He has also objected to the reduction of public participation "in all steps of the environmental clearance process by lessening the notice period for public hearings", and doing away with them altogether for large category projects.

The draft also increases validity of environmental clearances allowing projects to "secure" land for long durations even when they are not constructed. "This promotes land grab, not development," Ramesh has said.

BIHAR FLOOD

12 dists hit, displaced take shelter along highways

Patna: Over 25,000 people have taken shelter along the National Highway-57 between Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga while another 15,000 have been living in tents on the East-West Corridor between Gopalganj and Motihari because of incessant rain and extra discharge of water in Gandak, Bagmati and Kosi rivers causing floods in 12 districts of Bihar with Gopalganj, East Champaran, Saharsa, Darbhanga and parts of Muzaffarpur worst-affected.

So far, over 15 lakh people have been affected by the floods.

Ramchandrudu, Additional Secretary (Disaster Management), said, "Overall, 625 panchayats of 86 blocks in 12 districts have been affected. NDRF and SDRF boats are deployed to evacuate people. A total of 463 community kitchens are being run to provide food to about 1.8 lakh displaced people." **ENS**

State Project Implementation Unit, UKWD Project
Govt. ITI (Women) Campus 26-EC Road, Dehradun-248001.
Email: spuiukwdp@gmail.com

NOTICE FOR ESTABLISHING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE- WELDING
The Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Uttaranchal Workforce Development Project (UKWDP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the following:

SUPPLY AND RELATED SERVICES REQUIRED	DURATION	BID SECURITY
Supply, installation, commissioning of welding equipment and providing complete solutions for establishing COE (Welding) at GITI Boys, Dehradun (Sahaspur)	24 months	11.0 lakhs

Bids are invited from reputed firms vide National Competitive Bidding (NCB) method. A complete set of bidding documents is available on the website <https://kendergates.gov.in> & www.ukwdp.org from 28.07.2020; 1100 hrs. to 31.08.2020; 1100 Hrs. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled on 10.08.2020 at 1500 Hrs. Bids must be submitted online on the website <https://ukwdtenders.gov.in> on or before 1100 Hrs. 31.08.2020. The technical bids will be opened on 31.08.2020 at 1600 hrs.

Project Director

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH
An Institution of National Importance listed in the Schedule VII of the Constitution of India

NOTICE

The last date of submission of application forms for teaching positions advertised vide advertisement No. 02/2020(T) dated 11.06.2020 including Corrigendums/Addendums is hereby extended till **31.08.2020**, in view of problems due to COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. The candidates can also make payment of employment fee through online mode as per procedure given in the Circular No. D-490/FO/AC/2020 dated 16.07.2020, which is also available on the University website <www.amuregistrar.com/misc/CIRCULAR.pdf>. No further extension will be given.

(Abdul Hamid, IPS)
Registrar

Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances
PRIME MINISTER'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TO BE PRESENTED ON 31.10.2020

Applications are invited for **District Performance Indicators Programmes of Government of India and Innovations in Public Administration.**

(A). The District Performance Indicators Programmes are:

(i). Inclusive Development through Credit Flow to the Priority Sector,
(ii). Promoting People's movements —"Jan Bhagidari" in the district
(iii). Improving service delivery and redressal of public grievances

Eligibility
Districts are eligible to compete for the Awards for the above **District Performance Indicators Programmes**

(B) Awards for Innovation in Public Administration will be considered in the following fields:
"Environment conservation, disaster management, water conservation, energy education, health, women and child centric initiatives etc".

Eligibility:- Organisations of Central/State Governments/Districts are eligible to apply for the Awards in Innovations.

(C) Aspiration District Programme
Eligibility:- All Aspiration Districts

(D) Namami Gange Programme
Eligibility:- 57 District Ganga Committees

Online Applications may be submitted on the designated portal from 01.08.2020
Last date for filling applications online on PM Awards' portal will be 15.08.2020
Modalities and other details of the scheme are available on PM's Awards Portal (pmawards.gov.in) and the link of which is also available on website of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (<http://darpg.gov.in>).
Contact person for further clarification
Director (AR)
Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances,
5th Floor, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Parliament Street,
New Delhi — 110001 Tele Fax : 011-23743030
Email: satish.kj@nic. in

Sd/-
(Kamal Kumar Thakur)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
011-23401428

davp 32101/11/0001/2021

HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED
Registered Office: 17, Jamshedji Tata Road, Mumbai - 400 020
Tel : 022 - 22863900 Fax : 022 - 22872992
Website : www.hindustanpetroleum.com Email : corphqo@hpcpl.in
CIN : L23201MH1952G0008858

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation will be held on Thursday, August 06, 2020 to consider, inter-alia, the Unaudited Financial Results of the Corporation for the First Quarter ended June 30, 2020.

The said notice can be accessed on the Corporation's website at <http://www.hindustanpetroleum.com>. Notice to this effect has also been given to NSE & BSE Ltd.

As communicated to the stock exchanges earlier, it is further informed that the Trading Window for dealing in securities of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited is under closure from July 01, 2020 to August 08, 2020 for all 'Insiders' as per the Insider Trading code of the Corporation. The Insider Trading Code is available on the Corporation's website www.hindustanpetroleum.com

Place : Mumbai
Date : 27-07-2020

V. Murali
Company Secretary

MAHARISHI MARKANDESHWAR
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
MULLANA, AMBALA, HARYANA, INDIA-133207
(Established under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
(Accredited by MAAC with Grade A)

Applications are invited from NEET qualified candidates as per the list provided by the DGHS for admission against leftover NRI/AIQ vacant seats of the MD/MS and MDS in M.M. Institute of Medical Sciences and Research and MM College of Dental Sciences & Research, constituent institutes of Maharishi Markandeshwar (Deemed to be University), Mullana, Ambala. The application form (Available on website (www.mmmullana.org)) along with DD of Rs. 5000 is to be submitted in the University Office by 1:30 PM on 28.07.20. The counselling of registered candidates for NRI seats will be conducted at 2:00 PM onwards on 28.07.2020 in the Committee Room of this Deemed to be University. The counselling of Registered candidates for AIQ management seats will be done from 9:00 AM onwards on 29.07.2020 in the Committee Room of this Deemed to be University. The candidates should attend the counselling with all original documents and required fees as per the website.

Special concession in prescribed fees is available for pre and paraclinical courses of Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Pharmacology.

REGISTRAR

Ph. : 01731- 274475-78 Fax : 274495
Website: www.mmmullana.org Email : info@mmmullana.org

G.B.N. GOVT. POLYTECHNIC, NILOKHERI

Applications are invited from eligible Candidates latest by 17.08.2020 for preparing a panel of Guest/Visit faculty required from time to time as detailed below:

Sr. No.	Name of Institute	Name of Post
1.	M.K. Govt. Polytechnic, Jattal (Panipat)	Guest/Visiting faculty in a) Chemical Engg. b) Textile Technology

a. The attested Xerox copies of all documents must be attached with the Application Form.

b. The Application Form and details are available at www.gpnilokheri.ac.in

c. Detailed qualifications are available at Department Portal <http://techeduhry.gov.in>. Knowledge of Hindi upto Matric Standard.

d. The Candidate must apply directly to the Principal, M.K. Govt. Polytechnic, Jattal (Panipat).

Sd/-
Principal
GBN Govt. Polytechnic, Nilokheri.

81956/HRY

INTEGRATED HQ OF MOD (ARMY)
QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S BRANCH
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SUPPLIES
AND TRANSPORT
REGISTRATION AS APPROVED ASC CONTRACTORS

1. Applications are invited from interested firms for registration with Directorate General of Supplies and Transport as Registered ASC Contractors for annual contracts for supply of Meat Dressed/Chicken (Broiler) Dressed in Chilled/Frozen state for approx 259 stations to the Indian Army.

2. The firms applying for registration are required to be registered under serial number 3 and 4 in schedule 1 of FSSAI Act 2006, containing list of food business falling under the purview of Central Licensing Authority. Interested firms should have their own integrated slaughtering and processing facilities to handle only Goat/Sheep and Broiler where there are no chances of any mix up with the slaughter and process of other large animals for production of Beef/Pork etc.

3. Tenders are invited between Oct to Dec at HQ Commands for contracts for the period from 01 Apr to 31 Mar.

4. Interested parties may submit application on the printed letter head of firm to Director General of Supplies and Transport (DGST) alongwith FSSAI certificate. Any additional information may be obtained from the undersigned.

Colonel (Contracts)
Directorate General of Supplies and Transport
Quartermaster General's Branch
Integrated Headquarters of MoD (ARMY)
New Delhi — 110011
Telephone No : 011-23018353
E-mail ID — contracts.56@gov.in

Advertisement No : PC/63016/Q/ST5
davp 10602/11/0007/2021

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Online interview for appointment of doctors on contract based
L. No.-Gaz/Engagement/CMP/2020

Notification No. 7/2020 **Date 26.07.2020**
In reference to Railway Board letter No. 2020/E(GR)/Jl COVID-19/WFH/1 dated 28.03.2020 & Date 30-06-2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19 Pandemic, Jhansi Division, North Central Railway intends to engage 08 (Eight) (2 specialist physician & 06 GDMOs) full time Contract Medical Practitioners (CMP's) to be engaged in COVID-19 units like Isolation Ward, Isolation Coaches, Quarantine Centres, flu OPD, Triage area located over Jhansi Division on Contract basis for a duration of Six months as per details given below:-

SN	Speciality	Vacancy	Place of posting
01	Physicial Specialist	02 posts	COVID-19 units like Isolation Ward, Isolation Coaches, Quarantine Centres, flu OPD, Triage area located over Jhansi Division
02	General Duty Medical Officer (GDMO)	06 posts (UR-03, SC-1, ST-0, OBC-2)	

Details of Online Interview

	Date	Time	Venue
Online interview through whatsapp no. 9794825020	29.07.2020 (Wednesday)	10:00 hrs to 13:00 hrs	Divisional Hospital, North Central Railway, Jhansi.

Medical examination of candidates will be held later on. **Note:- (i)** Candidates must upload their application on the prescribed Performa along with required documents as envisaged in the application format latest by **1000 hrs of 29.07.2020** through email id i.e. comp2019@gmail.com **(ii)** In case the number of candidates are more and they cannot be interviewed on the nominated day, they will be interviewed on the next working day/days. **Remuneration for other then Retired Railway doctors:-** ₹ 7500/- for General duty Doctor & for Specialized Doctor ₹ 95,000/- per month fixed, if Govt. Accommodation is not provided. If Railway accommodation is provided an amount equivalent to the sum of House Rent Allowance and License Fee of the accommodation provided will be deducted. **Remuneration for Retired Railway doctors:-** ₹ 46000/- per month fixed (subject to the condition that remuneration+ pension drawn by retired railway doctor should not exceed the last pay drawn), if Govt. accommodation is not provided. If Railway accommodation is provided an amount equivalent to House Rent Allowance payable to a fresh entrant to Group 'A' Jr. Scale and license fee of the Railway accommodation, so provided shall be deducted from the monthly remuneration payable to the CMP. **Age for other than Retired Railway doctors:-** Candidates should not have completed more than 50 years of age as on **28.07.2020**. However, age relaxation of 5 years for SC/St and 3 years for OBC Candidates is admissible. **Age for Retired Railway doctors:-** Candidates should not have completed more than 65 years of age as on **28.07.2020**. **Terms and condition of other than Retired Railway doctors:-** The engagement of Doctors would be on contract basis initially for a period of Six months, which is extendable as per administrative requirements on the basis of assessment of performance of CMPs. However, the services of these doctors can be terminated before the expiry of six month on either side after giving 15 days notice. Railway administration will be at liberty to terminate the contract of the doctor with immediate effect by paying honorarium in lieu of 15 days notice period, if the circumstances, so warrant. The services rendered as contract doctor is a stop gap arrangement and will not have any bearing in respect of consideration of their period in case of regular selection through UPSC. It will also not confer upon any right for regularization or permanent absorption in the Railways. **No private practice is allowed. Terms and condition of Retired Railway doctors:-** The engagement of Retired Railway Doctors as CMPs shall be for a Minimum of six month. A fresh contract shall be entered. The contract shall be entered into for a period of six months or less from the date of entering into the contract. Period of contract shall not be extendable on any ground. However, the Railway administration shall reserve the right to enter into fresh contract with the Retired Railway doctors for another term. The engagement shall purely be on contract basis for a period of six months or till the regular incumbent joins or attaining the age of 65 years whichever is earlier. The Retired Railway doctor engaged as Contract Medical practitioner shall not have any claim or right for his/her continuity in service or automatic extension of the term of contract. During the validity of the contract, the CMP shall be at liberty to terminate the contract for betterment of his/her career or on any other grounds by giving 15 days notice to the Railways. The contract can also be terminated by the Railways at any time during the contract by giving 15 days notice without assigning any reason whatsoever. Contract shall also be terminated, if the CMP is found to be mentally or physically incapacitated. **No private practice is allowed. Note:- (i)** The contract Doctors shall not be entitled for Railway quarter etc. as a matter of right. However, if available, they will be provided accommodation. The detailed instructions with regard to their duties while on contract with the Railways shall be given to them in the form of their selection along with the offer of engagement. **(ii) Willing candidates should upload their application form along with Attested copies of all Certificates & Mark Sheets on the given email id i.e. comp2019@gmail.com upto 1000 hrs on 29.07.2020. (iii)** The offer of engagement to the selected candidates shall be issued subject to the availability of vacancy as per requirement in Hospitals/Health Units located at different stations as is where is basis. Administration has right to change the place of posting as per administrative needs. **(iv)** The places of notified vacancies may be changed as per requirement of the administration. **(v)** The notification can be down loaded from North Central Railway website www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. **(vi)** After approval of the panel by competent authority, the suitable candidates will be called through speed post/registered letter, Telephone calls and SMS to report on a particular fixed date at DIVISIONAL RAILWAY HOSPITAL-<JHANSI DIVISION for posting. The panel will be uploaded on official website of North Central Railway (About us-> Divisions->Jhansi Division) www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in **81720(D)**

North central railways **CPRONCR**

EXPRESS

Careers

SBI
State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department,
Corporate Centre, Mumbai.

RECRUITMENT OF CIRCLE BASED OFFICERS
Advertisement No.: CRPD/CBO/2020-21/20

Applications are invited from Indian citizen for appointment to the post of "Circle Based Officer" on Regular Basis.

Details of Vacancies, eligibility criteria (age, educational qualification, experience etc.), requisite fees and other details are available on detailed advertisement. Candidates are advised to go through the detailed advertisement ensuring their eligibility and other details before applying online.

The Detailed Advertisement (CRPD/CBO/2020-21/20) And Link To Apply Online Shall Be Available On Bank's Website From 27.07.2020.

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Place: Mumbai **General Manager**
Date: 26.07.2020 **(CRPD)**

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020



THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

THE LIFE SO SHORT, THE CRAFT SO LONG TO LEARN.

— HIPPOCRATES

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

STRESS TEST

RBI's financial stability report underlines weakness that must be addressed, or it could slow down economic recovery

IN MARCH 2020, the Reserve Bank of India had announced a moratorium on the repayment of all term loans for both businesses and households, to ease their burden during the period of the lockdown. Initially allowed for a period of three months, it was subsequently extended till the end of August 2020. Data from the RBI's latest financial stability report shows that at the end of April around half of the customers of scheduled commercial banks, accounting for half of the outstanding bank loans, opted to avail of the relief measures extended — underlining the precariousness of their financial position. Public sector banks shouldered a disproportionate burden of the moratorium with roughly two-thirds of borrowers availing of the facility, as opposed to less than half in the case of private banks. In subsequent months, as economic activity picked up following the relaxations of the restrictions, there has been an improvement in the situation, with those availing of this facility dropping steadily.

While the economic slowdown is likely to adversely impact banks' non-performing assets — according to the financial stability report, NPAs were on a downward trajectory before the COVID shock — greater clarity on the bank's asset quality will emerge only once the moratorium period ends. While this is still some time away, the RBI has conducted a series of stress tests to project the possible impact of the economic shock on bank balance sheets. According to its estimates, banks' gross NPAs may rise to 12.5 per cent by March 2021, up from 8.5 per cent in March 2020, if the economy contracts by 4.4 per cent this year. However, if the contraction worsens to 8.9 per cent, which some analysts are projecting, bad loans could rise to 14.7 per cent. Public sector banks are likely to witness a larger spurt in bad loans than their private sector counterparts, though the impact on the NBFCs/HFCs is also expected to be substantial. In the extreme scenario, five banks are unlikely to meet the minimum capital requirements, underlining the urgent need for banks to raise capital.

Owing to its fiscal constraints, the government is unlikely to recapitalise banks to the extent required. However, there is the possibility of the RBI extending the moratorium period or opting for a one-time restructuring of loans, especially for the stressed sectors. The latter will push back the requirement of banks having to raise additional capital. Failure to address the underlying weakness in the financial system, while at the same time prodding banks to ramp up lending despite data indicating their unwillingness to take on the credit risk in the economy, could further adversely affect their balance sheets. This weakness in the financial sector could slow down the economic recovery.

SECURING CAREGIVERS

Healthcare workers, on the frontlines of the battle against the virus, need greater care and support

ON SUNDAY, JOGINDER Chaudhary, a junior resident doctor at Delhi's Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, lost his month-long battle with the novel coronavirus. That he was only 27, reportedly an athletic person without any comorbidity, speaks of the unpredictable ways of the virus — young people, especially those who do not suffer any chronic ailments, are generally deemed less vulnerable to COVID-19. Chaudhary was placed under home quarantine initially, but the young physician's condition deteriorated after he complained of breathing difficulties. The capital's medical fraternity had come together to pool in money for their colleague's treatment at a private medical facility. But financial insecurity is just one of the risks that many workers at the frontline of the battle against the coronavirus — especially nurses and junior medics like Chaudhary — face.

Reports have indicated insufficient protective gear, failure to receive timely treatment, deviation from safety protocols and unexpected deterioration of condition — like in the case of the young Delhi doctor — as reasons for doctors' deaths. But there is no government data on the healthcare workers who have succumbed to the coronavirus. According to the Indian Medical Association (IMA), the pathogen has claimed nearly 100 physicians, and 10 nurses. The association admits that these figures could be an underestimate. The head of its Kochi chapter, R Jayadevan, has compiled a report, "100 Doctors' Deaths in India During the Times of COVID-19," which puts the toll at 108. The data in this report shows that being young, and apparently healthy, is no guarantee against COVID mortality, especially for doctors and nurses. The average age of those claimed by the virus is around 56, according to the report. More than 55 per cent of the doctors who have died at the frontlines of the battle against the disease are below 60 years of age. And, more than a fifth of the doctors who have lost their lives to COVID are below the age of 40. The average age of the nurses who have died fighting the virus is less than 50.

There is an urgent need to look beyond IMA data. The association's figures do not include AYUSH and homeopathic doctors as well as ASHA workers. With the virus now spreading beyond metros and big cities, to places where an allopathic doctor is not always at hand, the risks faced by such healthcare workers cannot be overstated. It's imperative, therefore, that government and professional medical bodies put their heads together to compile a mortality register of healthcare workers. That could be the first step towards a scientific understanding of the deaths of medical professionals due to COVID, in order to prevent them.

YOU WANNA BET?

John Saxon, gambling judoka and notable star of the kung fu era, has left for the great dojo in the sky

THE RISE OF kung fu action films had coincided with the economic boom in Hong Kong in the 1970s. Now, in a strange coincidence, as Hong Kong's fortunes seem to be falling with mainland China asserting its legal jurisdiction, John Saxon, the last of the three stars who turned *Enter the Dragon* into a global hit, has died. Bruce Lee died young in 1973, after taking the genre international with *The Big Boss* in 1971. Jim Kelly, who brought hang-loose black coolness to the ring, died in 2013. Saxon, the white American face of the sport, always took the jackpot by gambling shamelessly against himself with the leitmotif line: "You wanna bet?" He was the last to hold out, and his death at the age of 83 in Tennessee brings down the curtain on the pioneering era of English kung fu movies.

Together, the three men represented almost the entire spectrum of the human race — the Amar Akbar Anthony of the world of roundhouse kicks. *Enter the Dragon* sparked a martial arts craze that spanned San Jose and Sakhalin, Jedburgh and Jabalpur, and the film remains the most readily recognised work of the genre. The watershed movie seems to have erased much from public memory. John Saxon was originally a Fifties teen idol, romancing Debbie Reynolds and Sandra Dee. He was directed by John Huston and appeared with Rex Harrison, Burt Lancaster, Audrey Hepburn, Anthony Quinn and Lana Turner.

Unbelievably, when he did the judo throws and shotokan karate in *Enter the Dragon*, he was aged 36. He was fit and in training, a role model for the American people. Almost 50 years after, thanks to Saxon, they remain immersed in endless "training" for unspecified missions. It's a national craze. You think Saxon didn't inspire it? You wanna bet?

India & Democracy's Ten

A global coalition of democracies, amid the assertion of China, could open a range of new possibilities



C RAJA MOHAN

IN A WIDELY noted and strongly criticised speech late last week, the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, laid out two definitive propositions on China. One is that nearly five decades of US engagement with China have arrived at a dead-end. In the other, Pompeo recognised that the US can't address the China challenge alone and called for collective action. He mused on whether "it's time for a new grouping of like-minded nations, a new alliance of democracies."

Pompeo, however, insisted that tackling China is very unlike the "containment of Soviet Union". It is "about a complex new challenge that we've never faced before. The USSR was closed off from the free world. Communist China is already within our borders".

Both propositions are of consequence to India. For, they signal the breakdown of the relationship between the world's two most important powers that has shaped Asian geopolitics and the global economy in the last five decades. They also reflect on the need to create new frameworks to cope with emerging global challenges. That one of those powers, China, is a large neighbour of India and the other, America, is India's most important partner makes the new context rather different from the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union.

Pompeo has drawn attention to the unique nature of contemporary Chinese political structure — the so-called party-state. In China, the Chinese Communist Party dominates the state organs, including the army. Hence Pompeo's references to the "CCP regime" in China.

He also referred to China's President Xi Jinping as the General Secretary of the CCP. Whether this new convention outlasts the Trump Administration or not, it reflects Washington's deepening resentment against China.

While Pompeo's critics argue that an all-out assault on the Beijing leadership will only rally the nation behind the CCP, the Trump Administration's China hands believe it is important to signal that Washington has nothing against the Chinese people and that its contestation is with the CCP and its policies. To reinforce the point, Pompeo welcomed two well-known Chinese democracy activists in the audience — Wang Dan, one of the leaders of the pro-democracy student

protests at Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, and Wei Jingsheng who had called for democratic reform a decade earlier in 1978. Part of the setting was the venue of the speech — the California home where President Richard Nixon was raised and that now hosts his papers.

It was Nixon who ended the US boycott of communist China by traveling to Beijing in 1972. Nixon and his successors, said Pompeo, "presumed that as China became more prosperous, it would open up, it would become freer at home, and indeed present less of a threat abroad, it'd be friendlier." Pompeo's message last week was that the "old paradigm of blind engagement with China" has failed, because Beijing has taken advantage of America's economic and political openness.

Given the intense political polarisation in the US, Pompeo's remarks met with inevitable rebuke. Many saw it as part of a bid to boost Trump's faltering presidential campaign by bashing China. Others saw it as an attempt by "China hawks" in the Administration to make irreversible changes in Washington's policy towards Beijing. Many in Delhi, as in other capitals, would like to know if the current direction of China policy will endure if Joe Biden wins the presidential election in November.

To be sure, China occupies significant space in the Democratic Party's draft platform for the elections to be finalised this week. It tries to differentiate Biden from Trump's China policy while also sounding tough on Beijing's unfair trade practices and human rights abuse. While fending off Trump's charge that he is "weak on China", Biden is under pressure from the party's liberals to stay away from the "trap of a new Cold War with China".

Although the term, "Indo-Pacific", was invented by the Democrats, the party platform sticks to the idea of "Asia-Pacific". But it also hails the "Pacific Century" and promises to "invest in our strategic partnership with India — the world's largest democracy, a nation of great diversity, and a growing Asia-Pacific power."

While India must pay close attention to the unfolding China debate in the US, it must also note the structural changes in American engagement with China over the last two decades. America's political and institutional sentiment in favour of rearranging the bilateral economic relationship with China, resist-

ing Beijing's expansionism, and countering its influence in operations at home has gained steady ground. So has the idea of working with like-minded countries, especially large democracies, to balance China. Delhi will certainly demur at Pompeo calling the group an "alliance". It would rather have it described as a "coalition of democracies".

Over the last many years, India has become comfortable with the idea of a political partnership with the world's leading democracies. The NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee joined the Clinton Administration's initiative to build a global "Community of Democracies". The UPA government supported George W Bush's democracy promotion fund at the United Nations. An Asian quadrilateral of democracies was very much part of the conversation between Delhi and Washington during the Obama years.

Delhi has revived the security dialogue among the Quad (including Canberra, Tokyo and Washington). It is also actively engaged with Washington on the "Quad Plus" dialogue — at official and ministerial levels — to address the challenges posed by the coronavirus by drawing other countries like New Zealand, South Korea, and Vietnam (as the current chair of ASEAN).

Delhi has also welcomed President Trump's initiative to convene an expanded gathering of the G-7 leaders in Washington later this year. Australia, South Korea and India are expected to join the meeting. Some are calling it the Group of Ten Democracies.

While many Democrats have criticised Trump's G-10 proposal, Biden expressed interest in convening a global democracy summit in the first few months of his presidential tenure. The idea of democracies working together has an enduring appeal for the US.

That India figures in this American vision is relatively new. So is Delhi's readiness to reciprocate. Constructing a global coalition of democracies will take much work and quite some time. But engaging with that initiative, amidst the rise and assertion of China, should open a whole range of new possibilities for Indian foreign and security policies.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express



SHEILA VIR

WHEN SHE MARRIES

Ensuring delayed marriage requires concerted efforts to keep girls in school for longer

INDIA'S MATERNAL Mortality Ratio (MMR) stands at 122 as per the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) bulletin from last year — a significant decline from an MMR of 556 in 1990. A parallel decrease in the prevalence of child marriage is also noted — 58 per cent in 1970-80 to 21 per cent by 2015-16. There is, however, a wide variation amongst states — highest in West Bengal at 39 per cent followed by Bihar and Jharkhand. The 2015-16 national family health survey (NFHS 4) also confirms the urban-rural difference in the incidence of early marriage — 17.5 per cent in urban and 31.5 per cent in rural women.

However, despite these positive developments, intrauterine growth restriction and poor birth outcome for gestational age and low birth weight (LBW) remain a grave concern, with three out of 10 children being LBW and a neonatal mortality rate of 23/1000 live births. Early marriage and early pregnancy play a central role in this grim scenario.

The relationship between the level of education and early marriage is well established. With no education, 44.7 per cent women are married before 18 years. This drops to 39.7 per cent with primary education, 23.2 per cent with secondary education and 2.9 per cent with higher education. With higher levels of education, women are also empowered to take decisions within the family and better equipped to inculcate safe sex, family planning and safe abortion practices.

Following infancy, adolescence (10-19

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years) is the last "window of opportunity" for attaining optimum height. Entering pregnancy at this stage, often under societal pressure, hinders attaining optimum height and prevents full growth of reproductive organs resulting in higher chances of obstructed labour and mortality. Poor maternal height (<145 cms) is reported to be one of the highest risk factors associated with chronic child undernutrition. Prevalence of malnutrition among children born to adolescent mothers is 11 per cent higher than among the others.

While revisiting the legal age of marriage for girls, we cannot ignore some prevalent socio-cultural determinants of early marriage. For instance, in some tribal northern regions of the country such as Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, a young girl is "sent off" by her parents without a formal wedding, for cohabitation through what is referred as Pethu, Udhalika vivah, etc. The marriage is formalised whenever the girl's parents have adequate resources to hold a community feast, often after a young girl has already borne children. Similarly, in certain semi-urban and rural areas, the practice of Gauna is common. As per this custom, a girl child is married at a young age, but the girl continues to live in her natal home, only to consummate the marriage once puberty is attained. In such situations, the community will find it difficult to adhere to the legal age unless an opportunity is provided and incentives built-in for a girl to have access to completing secondary school education.

Such incentives or cash transfer education schemes are in operation in various states.

Along with increasing the age of marriage, efforts need to be directed to delay the age of conception. Schemes such as universal registration of marriage could be vital in providing newly married couples with timely information on family planning and family care. Moreover, if the registration is linked with Aadhaar, it can facilitate support to women to enter pregnancy well-nourished and at the right time.

According to the 1978 amendment of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, and Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, the minimum age of marriage is 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys. The Task Force responsible for reviewing the age of marriage should recognise the diversities that may hamper its implementation. Ensuring delayed marriage and pregnancy depends not just on the legal age but requires concerted efforts to keep girls in school for longer, as well as enabling them to complete higher education or vocational training.

A well-educated woman's chances of gainful employment, making informed decisions and exercising greater agency in the household is unparalleled and monumental in breaking the cycle of poverty, early marriage and ill health, as well as the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition.

The writer is director, Public Health Nutrition and Development Centre, Delhi

JULY 28, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

McMAHON LINE

CHINA CLAIMS THAT a "historic document" discovered recently disproves India's stand that the Simla Agreement of 1914 confirms McMahon Line as the traditional Sino-Indian boundary in the eastern sector. The Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Wang Bing Nan, said that the British representative at the Simla conference, McMahon, had merely suggested a boundary line. The British government later prepared a "false document" saying that the boundary had been decided at the conference. Wang said that India's External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao had "agreed to check the his-

torical documents". Mr Wang at first said that Rao had made the announcement in the Indian Parliament. But in reply to further questions, said that Rao had made the announcement not in public but in a written reply to an MP.

SHAH IS DEAD

DEPOSED SHAH OF Iran Mohammed Reza Pahlavi died in a military hospital in Cairo, where he put up his final battle against cancer. Pahlavi was 60. Washington was watching nervously to see how Iran's leadership will react to the Shah's death in the context of the fate of US hostages in Teheran. It was the US

decision to allow the exiled Shah to seek treatment for cancer in New York that led to the seizure of the hostages in a crisis that has so far defied solution.

KASHMIR FIRING

AT LEAST ONE person was killed and several were injured, some of them seriously, when armed police resorted to firing and bursting of teargas shells in various parts of the city. The police chased away violent crowd which set on fire two places of worship and many vans belonging to the Army or paramilitary forces. Those who received gunshot wounds were admitted to the state hospital.



13 THE IDEAS PAGE

The lockdown advantage

It decelerated the pandemic, averted lakhs of cases, saved thousands of lives. The time it provided has been utilised effectively to strengthen the health system



VINOD PAUL

THE FIRST CASE of COVID-19 in India was reported on January 30. For the next six weeks, aggressive contact tracing and containment measures kept the numbers minimal. However, by the third week of March, it became apparent to experts that the outbreak was entering the exponential phase. The growth rate of new cases had increased by nearly 80 per cent in just over a week preceding March 22, from 10.9 per cent to 19.6 per cent (figure). The doubling time of cases at just over three days was pointing toward an imminent trajectory of an overwhelming caseload and excessive mortality, experienced by the US and many European nations.

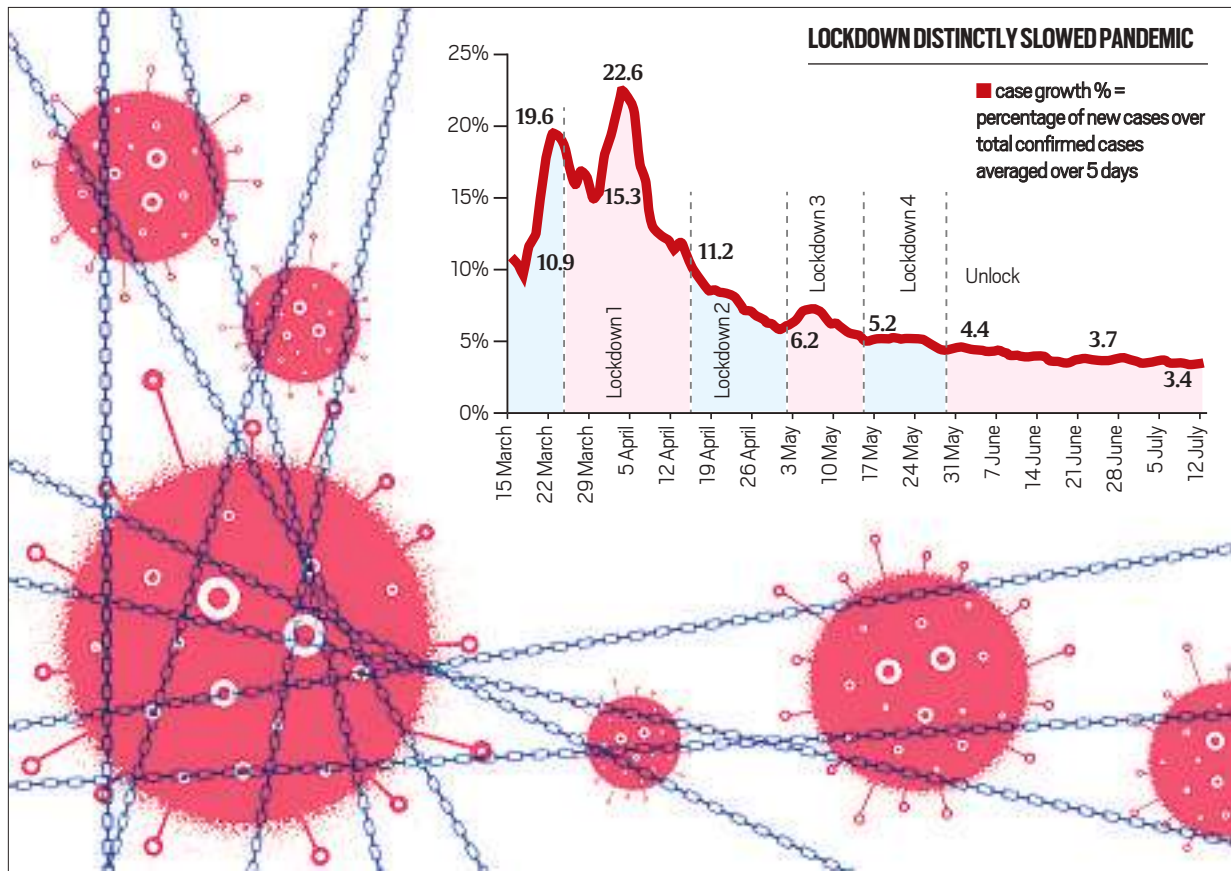
The nationwide lockdown announced by the prime minister on March 24, based on this assessment, was a necessary intervention to quell the transmission chain of the virus and to gain time for a high level of preparedness. The unanimous support of the states has been critical in making this measure effective and successful.

SARS-COV-2, a respiratory virus, generally spreads by respiratory and salivary droplets within close physical proximity. There is neither a vaccine nor a drug for prevention. While there are several unknowns in dealing with this new disease agent, increasing the physical distance between individuals and decreasing the frequency of person-to-person contact makes it difficult for the virus to spread. This principle underpins the lockdown strategy. It results in suppressing the transmission chain of the virus, thereby decelerating and limiting the spread. In doing so, lives are saved, the infection is controlled and valuable time is gained to strengthen health systems and prepare a fitting response.

The impact of the lockdown on pandemic progression became evident after about 10 days, by the end of the first week of April, as was expected given the infection incubation period. The figure shows that the growth rate of new cases dropped from an unerring 23 per cent in the first week of April at the cusp of the lockdown-effect period to decline to just over 5 per cent in the next six weeks by mid-May. This translated into increasing the doubling time of cases from 3.4 days at the outset to over 14 days. As a lasting gain of the lockdown, the growth rate continues to be consistently low even in the unlock phase with the doubling time having climbed to 21 days.

Several independent analyses give us a big-picture view of the situation we would have found ourselves in without the lockdown. Some estimates of cases averted run into crores. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has estimated that based on a rational model, the lockdown prevented as many as 14-29 lakh COVID-19 cases and 37,000 to 78,000 deaths (with point estimates of 20 lakh and 54,000, respectively) by mid-May. Remember, even in mid-July, we have yet to reach such a high burden, and this could have been a grim reality in mid-May.

The lockdown has kept the outbreak geographically contained. Even today, only 13



CR Sasikumar

states make up 90 per cent active cases, the others together have 10 per cent active cases. Nearly half of our total cases and 65 per cent deaths are confined to just 10 cities. In the media din, it escapes notice that the vast population of our nation has low or negligible infection prevalence. Notwithstanding the challenges in containing the disease in metros and large cities, the fact remains that overall, the nation has ensured that the pandemic remains manageable so far. Yes, the number of confirmed cases is rising, but on a much lower trajectory than the pre-lockdown curve. Most significantly, the case fatality rate has been progressively declining. India's health teams are delivering better and better outcomes.

Thanks to the lockdown decision, the total burden of confirmed cases and deaths is among the lowest in the world despite our large and dense population. Six months into the pandemic, we have had about 12 lakh cumulative cases and 27,000 deaths. In contrast, with almost an equivalent combined population, Europe (740 million) plus North America (580 million) together have had 72 lakh cases, and about 4 lakh deaths despite having stronger health systems. So far, we have 811 total confirmed cases per 10 lakh against the world average of 1,881 (USA 11,774, Brazil 9,876, Spain 6,573, UK 4,341, Italy 4,043, France 2,676). Likewise, total deaths per 10 lakh in the country are just 20 compared to the global mean of 78 (UK 667, Spain 608, Italy 580, France 462, USA 433, Brazil 374). We continue to reap the results of the effective reduction in case growth due to the suppression of virus transmission that was achieved during the lockdown (figure).

Besides, the lockdown provided an opportunity to ensure all-round preparedness to face the disease. In the first two months of the lockdown, states readied 3.2 lakh COVID-specific hospital beds along with additional 6.5 lakh beds for suspected and mild cases. In the same period, the testing number reached 30 lakh from a mere 20,000. An entirely new industry to manufacture PPEs was built in a matter of weeks. The country experienced a

At end-April, half a billion people were under lockdown — imposed by most countries in Europe and Latin America. Earlier in the same month, almost 300 million people in the US were in some form of lockdown. Most of these countries resorted to lockdowns at a stage when the epidemic was already overpowering, their health system capacities were close to being exhausted and the burden of deaths was already overwhelming. The lockdown had become an inevitable compulsion for them. In contrast, India has been proactive and pre-emptive in its approach and took this measure at a point when the size of the outbreak was manageable and deaths were low.

game-changing moment for telemedicine. The most important gain of the lockdown was the behaviour change in the people. Wearing masks, *do gaz ki doori* and hand hygiene became widely embraced as the “new normal”.

In this pandemic, each day counts because we learn more about this virus every day and we get better at saving lives. The window provided by the lockdown has also taken us closer to a more informed treatment, better drugs and even vaccines. Two indigenous vaccines have entered human trials and emergency use has been authorised for a few therapeutic modalities.

A lockdown is a very difficult choice for any nation to make. It has huge economic and social costs. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, this option had to be exercised by many countries to save lives and restore people's confidence in the face of an emergent catastrophe. At end-April, half a billion people were under lockdown — imposed by most countries in Europe and Latin America. Earlier in the same month, almost 300 million people in the US were in some form of lockdown. Most of these countries resorted to lockdowns at a stage when the epidemic was already overpowering, their health system capacities were close to being exhausted and the burden of deaths was already overwhelming. The lockdown had become an inevitable compulsion for them.

In contrast, India has been proactive and pre-emptive in its approach and took this measure at a point when the size of the outbreak was manageable and deaths were low. If it was not for the lockdown, by now, the scale of the pandemic would have been astronomically larger with devastating consequences. The lockdown effectively decelerated the pandemic, averted lakhs of cases and saved thousands of lives. The time it provided has been utilised effectively to strengthen the health system. Challenges lie ahead, but a timely lockdown gave India an edge in the war against the pandemic.

The writer is Member (Health), NITI Aayog. Views are personal



ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

A livable planet

APJ Abdul Kalam's vision for development has special resonance today

THE WORLD IS going through very turbulent times. National and international bodies are cooperating on various platforms to overcome multiple crises. In this context, a thought of former President of India, A P J Abdul Kalam, that the earth is the only livable planet in our solar system, has particular relevance. Humanity is duty-bound to protect and preserve the earth. Our society and governance systems recognise this and have become more sensitive to that fact that even small delays in action can cause unrepairable consequences.

Today, man-made forces like global warming and pollution are a threat to the planet. The combination of better governance systems and our demographic dividend — 65 per cent of its population is less than 35 years old — are key ingredients in developing India in a sustainable manner, which can also be inspiring to rest of the world. Few individuals have possessed the knowledge and wisdom to enlighten society on these lines and inspire future generations. Kalam, a Bharat Ratna, was one such person. Recalling his wisdom and adopting his values in our daily lives will be the best tribute to the noble soul, whose fifth death anniversary fell on Monday.

Kalam inspired many people to work for

making India a developed nation by 2020. In his final, cautionary lecture — “Creating a Livable Planet Earth” — at the Indian Institute of Management, Shillong, on July 27, 2015, he gave a warning about the damage our quest for development has inflicted on the earth's ecosystem. He laid down the principles for the future course of action to save nature.

It was at the Beijing Forum in China on November 2, 2012, that Kalam first spoke about how vital the idea of a livable planet earth is. Addressing the Forum, he said: “Humanity needs a great vision to forget all the conflicts and move towards a common goal of peace and prosperity for all global citizens. We visualise the birth of a world vision leading to ‘livable Planet Earth’. This vision will be greater than any other vision so far envisioned by humanity.”

The need to adhere to this vision asks us to take lessons from nature itself. Today, the technology-connected world has become a global village. We must include green measures in our daily lives. Lives are interlinked and we need to strengthen these linkages. Nature can teach tolerance and build an amicable relationship with humanity. This is a moment to introspect on this relationship. The need of the hour is also to find new op-

portunities for serving the society in ways hitherto not imagined. As an important stakeholder in the ecosystem, we must act towards strengthening policy initiatives such as recycling, waste management, energy efficiency, designs without pollution, paperless offices, renewable energy, effective use of natural light and ventilation, sustainability education and other such relevant activities. This is how we could follow Kalam's vision.

In *The Family and the Nation*, a treatise of values for building a sustainable society, Kalam, along with Acharya Mahapragya, has shown the right path for making India a great nation.

Kalam advised politicians to show maturity and work for the sustainable development of the country. As per Article 79 of the Constitution, Parliament consists of the President and the two Houses of Parliament. Emphasising this relationship, Kalam expressed concern about frequent disruptions of Parliament many times. In his IIM Shillong lecture, he asked young professionals to come up with three innovative ideas to make Parliament more productive and vibrant. Inspired by Kalam, the Sansad Ratna and Sansad Maha Ratna awards for the best parliamentarians were instituted. I received these awards during the 15th Lok Sabha. I

had several informal discussions with Kalam on the role of MPs and Parliament before the publication of his book, *A Manifesto for Change*.

Kalam dreamt of a developed India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been leading the people on a journey to achieve Kalam's dream. PM Modi's clarion call of Atmanirbhar Bharat has given further impetus to our efforts. The identification of champion sectors, collaboration and co-option of the best international practices with a vocal campaign for local manufacturing, are among the steps taken towards making India a superpower as envisioned by Kalam. The principle of self-reliance is guiding the government's actions in all the sectors. The 17th Lok Sabha has witnessed the dynamism of MPs and their legislative work towards nation-building.

While demitting office as the President, Kalam said that his mission in life was to connect the hearts and minds of billions of people and to give them self-confidence that “we can do it”. Karma yogi Kalam's wisdom continues to guide us even after his death.

The writer is Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“The world must not be hijacked by a group of political madmen. The tragedies in 1910s and 1930s must not be repeated again.” — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

On a dark path

Rajasthan case shows that institutions charged with holding the line are crossing it



RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA

FORMER PRIME MINISTER Lal Bahadur Shastri once famously reminded the nation to hold dear the rule of law “so that the basic structure of our democracy is maintained and strengthened”. Like other statesmen of that era, Shastri knew that the continued existence of a democracy was (and remains) inextricably linked to its adherence to the rule of law. A democracy can only function if the constitution on which it is founded — and from which flows this rule of law — is treated as inviolable and sacrosanct. That certain lines cannot be crossed if a democracy is to flourish in the truest sense.

And yet, the last week has seen a litany of unprecedented assaults by institutions that were once charged with holding the line. These institutions have not just acquiesced but also participated in the crossing of a Lakshman rekha in a manner which, either willingly or unwillingly, benefits the interests of a single political party, all the while flagrantly flouting long-standing legal precedents.

First, the conduct of the Rajasthan governor. A government is willing to prove its majority on the floor of the House, through the constitutionally-prescribed method and asks for a session to be called. However, the governor, instead of discharging his obligations which are clearly circumscribed by the Constitution, chooses to raise arbitrary and unrelated issues (qua period of notice, pending case etc.) to buy time and delay the process. This action stands out for its lack of constitutional sanction. The Constitution simply doesn't give the governor the authority to raise these concerns. There is similarly no provision or precedent that allows the governor to defy the calling of a session of the Assembly. Multiple benches of the Supreme Court have confirmed this (including a seven-judge bench in *Shamsher Singh* in 1974 and a five-judge bench in *Nebam Rebba* in 2016).

During the Constituent Assembly debates, Babasaheb Ambedkar (May 1949) explained that “According to the principles of the new Constitution he (the governor) is required to follow the advice of his ministry in all matters... We felt that the powers of the governor were so limited, so nominal, his position so ornamental that probably very few would come forward to stand for election”. This is just

one reference out of many which explain the limits placed on the office of the governor by the Constituent Assembly.

It is telling that there is no statement or concern expressed by those who appointed the governor in question. The Modi-Shah run Union government has chosen to remain silent at a time when the governor's new-found eloquence clearly benefits them. However, no one is in doubt about the conspirators and collaborators behind these attempts. What should worry us as a country is that there is an almost pathological political desperation, even in the face of a pandemic, a devastating economic spiral and a border crisis, to seize power in yet another state through means that are neither honourable nor legal.

Second, we saw a high court, in a manner never witnessed before, disregard the decision of a constitutional bench of the Supreme Court (*Kihoto Hollohan*, 1992) just to halt the disqualification of individuals who are openly working to destabilise a government.

The high court, after indulging a specious constitutional challenge, intervened to “stay” the Speaker's notice in a manner that was, in this writer's opinion, premature and without jurisdiction. The decision, almost immediately, invited widespread and legitimate criticism given that it went, inexplicably, against the categorical direction of the five Supreme Court judges (in *Kihoto Hollohan*) that “[H]aving regard to the constitutional scheme in the Tenth Schedule, judicial review should not cover any stage prior to the making of a decision by the Speakers/ Chairman; and *no quia timet* (that is, interim interventions) are permissible”. No reasoning whatsoever is provided for this striking departure from established precedent by the high court. No plausible justification is provided to explain why the constitutional precedents presented before them were disregarded.

The very fact that foundational constitutional principles are being casually revisited is a cause for concern. Democracy will cease to have any meaning if all constitutional institutions fall to the wayside and capitulate in this manner. By betraying the offices created and upheld by great men and women and by committing acts that border on rewriting the law based on convenient opinions instead of precedent, we are set on a dark path.

But the Constitution of India can survive this assault. Indeed, it was designed to do so. We will maintain our vigil as a parliamentary opposition should. And in doing so, we will hope that other institutions, which are sought to be bullied and undermined, stand together and uphold the rule of law.

The writer is an advocate and the AICC in-charge, media and communication

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHO FAILED US?

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Case for a presidential system’ (IE, July 25). The presidential system carries with it the dangers of creating a dictatorship. Indian democracy drives its strength from the illiterate poor who have kept it thriving by defying the sceptics, not Oxford elites. The presidential system was forwarded as a solution even when Indira Gandhi was prime minister. But the problem is the cult of personality or “bhakti” as B R Ambedkar said. The lacunae in the parliamentary system needs to be addressed especially that pertaining to time-bound discussion of bills, but to say that presidential system is the answer to India's woes is incorrect. Thus neither India's democracy nor its Constitution has failed, it is the leaders who have failed us. As Ambedkar said “If tomorrow you fail to implement the Constitution, don't blame it, blame the vile men”

Husain Dalwai via e-mail

REMAIN ON ALERT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘The propaganda front’ (IE, July 27). Information warfare can easily disrupt the functioning of a government. For years, Pakistan has spread an anti-India narrative, especially in international fora. Terrorism and information campaigns are the biggest threats to India. Delhi needs to keep the vigil against the campaign until it becomes too late.

Omkar Thorat, Mumbai

NAGALAND UNREST

GOVERNOR AND GOVERNMENT'S interlocutor RN Ravi about a parallel government in the state pertains to well-known facts. Successive governments at the Centre have tried hard and for too long to bring stability and harmony in

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the region. The Centre should not remain a mere spectator and assert firmly against violent, seditious and anti-India stands of the Naga insurgent groups. The government must also find alternate voices representative of the Naga people that are peaceful and reasonable in dealing with the Naga cause.

Sagar Ganesh Borade, Thane

SCHOOL CHALLENGES

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘How COVID has hit learning’ (IE, July 27). The pandemic has slowed down the economy, shut down domestic and international markets and has impacted the government treasury. It has also hit the country's educational system. The boards have been compelled to lighten the syllabus for the year, classes are been conducted online with lesser scope of healthy education being imparted. The ‘Sarva Sikshya Abhiyan’ did attempt to increase literacy levels, but today amid this problem, the students of rural areas where the Internet has not spread face an uncertain future.

Chandravir Singh, Agra



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

SIMPLY PUT

Governor's role, in review

Rajasthan Governor's recent decisions recall the actions of Governors in various states over the years, from dismissal of Namboodiripad government in 1959 to government formation controversies in recent years

MANOJ CG

NEW DELHI, JULY 27

RAJASTHAN GOVERNOR Kalraj Mishra's refusal to accept the Ashok Gehlot government's recommendation for convening a session of the Assembly, ostensibly to go for a trial of strength to checkmate the rebels led by Sachin Pilot, has once again brought into focus controversial decisions by Governors in formation and dismissal of state governments over the years.

Both the Congress and the BJP, when in power at the Centre, have been accused of misusing the office of the Governor for political purposes. And when in Opposition, both have alleged murder of democracy and the Constitution.

The role of Governors in imposing President's Rule in states dates as far back as 1959, when the E M S Namboodiripad government in Kerala was dismissed. The role of Governors in toppling one government and installing another is not new either: in 1967, West Bengal Governor Dharma Vira dismissed the Ajoy Mukherjee government and installed a Congress-supported government with P C Ghosh as Chief Minister.

Governors have also courted controversy by not inviting the single largest party to form the government.

1980s-90s: Congress years

In August-September 1984, Governor Ram Lal installed minister Nadendra Bhaskara Rao as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh when Chief Minister N T Rama Rao was abroad for a heart surgery. The same year, Sikkim Governor Homi Taleyarkhan dismissed the Nar Bahadur Bhandari ministry.

Both instances were during the Indira Gandhi regime at the Centre.

In 1988, P Venkatasubbaiah's action to dismiss the S R Bommai government triggered a legal battle, which ended up in the landmark Bommai judgement of the Supreme Court of 1994.

Bommai faced a rebellion when an MLA K R Molakery defected and claimed the support of 18 MLAs. The Chief Minister told the Governor that his government enjoyed the majority but Bommai was not given the opportunity to prove it in the Assembly.

Instead, Venkatasubbaiah recommended imposition of President's Rule, which was accepted by the Rajiv Gandhi government.

Bommai was in the Janata Party. In 1988 his party had merged with the Lok Dal, forming the Janata Dal, and new members were inducted into Bommai's Ministry.

1990s: United Front

In 1996, Gujarat Governor K P Singh recommended President's rule in the BJP-ruled state. At the Centre was the United Front government headed by H D Deve Gowda.

The crisis for the Suresh Mehta government began after Shankarsinh Vaghela and 40-odd MLAs rebelled. Mehta proved his majority but the session witnessed a bloody clash between MLAs. Citing breakdown of the constitutional machinery, the Governor recommended Central rule which was accepted.

Then came the Romesh Bhandari episode in Uttar Pradesh. In the middle of the 1998 Lok Sabha polls, the Kalyan Singh government wobbled after the 22-member Loktantrik Congress headed by Jagadambika Pal withdrew support. Governor Bhandari dismissed the government a little after 8 pm, invited Pal to form the government and swore him in as Chief Minister at around 10 pm along with 17 ministers. Kalyan Singh approached the court, which reinstated him and ordered a floor test which he won. Pal became known as the one-day Chief Minister.

2003-13: UPA rule

The Bihar Assembly elections in February 2005 threw up a fractured mandate. With no party in a position to form the government, President's rule was imposed in the first week of March.

Two months later, the NDA claimed it had the support of 115 MLAs. The JD(U) and the BJP had managed the support of some LJP leaders and independents. Governor Buta Singh alerted the President that this could lead to horse-trading and recommended dissolution of the Assembly on May 21. The Union Cabinet of the UPA met at midnight and faxed the Governor's report to President Abdul Kalam who was in Moscow. Kalam approved the recommendation in two hours and the Assembly was dissolved.

The Supreme Court later came down heavily on Buta Singh. In its interim order, it held the dissolution unconstitutional. In its final judgement, it held that the Governor had misled the Centre and pointed out that the Union Council of Ministers should have cross-checked before accepting his recommendation. Singh resigned.

The same year saw Jharkhand Governor Syed Sibtey Razi installing JMM's Shibu Soren as Chief Minister overruling the NDA's claims that it had the support of 41 MLAs in the 81-member House after the elections threw a hung Assembly. The BJP was willing to parade the MLAs. Soren resigned without facing a trust vote after nine days in office and BJP's Arjun Munda was sworn in as the next Chief Minister.

Since 2014: NDA

On March 18, 2016, Congress's Harish Rawat government in Uttarakhand plunged into crisis after nine MLAs joined hands with the BJP, which staked claim to form the government. The next day, met Governor K K Paul asked the Chief Minister to prove his majority by March 28.

A day before the trust vote, the Speaker disqualified the nine rebels. The NDA government at the Centre, on the recommendation of the Governor, imposed President's rule the same day without giving Rawat an opportunity to prove his majority. The matter went to court and in April the Uttarakhand High Court quashed imposition of President's Rule and asked Rawat to prove his majority, which he did.

In 2017, after Assembly elections in Goa, the Congress emerged the single largest party with 17 seats (out of 40) while the BJP had 13. But Governor Mridula Sinha invited the BJP which had cobbled up a post-poll alliance with some regional parties and independents and formed the Government.

In Manipur too, the Congress emerged the single largest party with 28 seats in the 60-member House, but Governor Najma Heptullah invited the BJP first after it submitted a list of legislators supporting it.

In the 2018 elections in Karnataka, the BJP emerged the single largest party but fell eight seats short of the halfway mark out of 224. The Congress dramatically announced a post-poll alliance with JD(S) to keep the BJP out. Governor Vajubhai Vala invited BJP's B S Yeddyurappa and gave him 15 days to prove the majority.

Yeddyurappa was sworn in on March 17. The Congress rushed to the Supreme Court which curtailed the time given and asked Yeddyurappa to prove his majority on May 19. Unable to get the numbers, he resigned without taking the floor test.

In Maharashtra, the Assembly elections in October last year threw up a hung verdict. With possibilities of formation of a stable government not emerging even 15 days after the results, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari recommended President's rule which was imposed.

The Congress, Shiv Sena and the NCP began discussions and came to an understanding on November 22 to stake claim for formation of a government with Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray as Chief Minister. But it was BJP leader Devendra Fadnis who Koshiyari swore in as Chief Minister on November 23 at 8 am, with NCP leader Ajit Pawar as his deputy. This came after the President's rule was revoked at 5.47 am that day. The Governor had submitted a report recommending revocation at 12.30 am.



Governor Kalraj Mishra interacts with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and other Congress MLAs at Raj Bhawan. PTI

Discretionary powers: the law, and SC rulings

APURVA VISHWANATH

NEW DELHI, JULY 27

RAJASTHAN GOVERNOR Kalraj Mishra returning the government's fresh proposal to convene an Assembly session on July 31 has raised fresh legal questions on the powers of the Governor.

Who has the power to summon the House?

Article 174 of the Constitution gives the Governor the power to summon from time to time "the House or each House of the Legislature of the State to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit..."

The phrase "as he thinks fit" is read as per Article 163 of the Constitution which says the Governor acts on the aid and advice of the cabinet. Article 163(1) essentially limits any discretionary power of the Governor only to cases where the Constitution expressly specifies that the Governor must act on his own and apply an independent mind.

What has the Supreme Court said about this power?

It is settled in law that the Governor cannot refuse the request of the Cabinet to call for a sitting of the House for legislative purposes or for the Chief Minister to prove his majority. On many occasions, including in 2016 in Uttarakhand, the court has clarified that when the majority of the ruling party is in question, a floor test must be conducted at the earliest available opportunity.

In 2016, a Constitution Bench in *Nabam Rebia and Bamang Felix vs Deputy Speaker* (Arunachal Pradesh Assembly case) expressly said that the power to summon the House is not solely vested in the Governor.

What did the court say in the Arunachal Pradesh case?

Referring to discussions in the Constituent Assembly, the court noted that the framers of the Constitution expressly left out vesting powers to summon or dissolve the House solely with the Governor.

"The most significant feature of draft Article 153 [later Article 174] was expressed in sub-article (3) thereof, wherein it was provided, that... the power to summon and dissolve the House or Houses of the State Legislature... shall be exercised by him (Governor) in his discretion," the court noted.

"The manner in which draft Article 153(3) was originally drawn, would have left no room for any doubt, that the Governor would definitely have had the discretion to summon or dissolve the House or

Houses of the State Legislature, without any aid or advice. After the debate, draft Article 153 came to be renumbered as Article 174. Article 174 reveals, that sub-article (3) contained in draft Article 153 was omitted. The omission... is a matter of extreme significance, for a purposeful confirmation of the correct intent underlying the drafting of Article 174," it added.

After debating the intention of the framers, the court concluded that "the only legitimate and rightful inference, that can be drawn in the final analysis, is that the framers of the Constitution altered their original contemplation, and consciously decided not to vest discretion with the Governor, in the matter of summoning and dissolving the House, or Houses of the State Legislature..."

When can the Governor use his discretion?

Article 163(1) of the Constitution says "there shall be a council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Governor in the exercise of his functions, except in so far as he is by or under this constitution required to exercise his functions or any of them in his discretion."

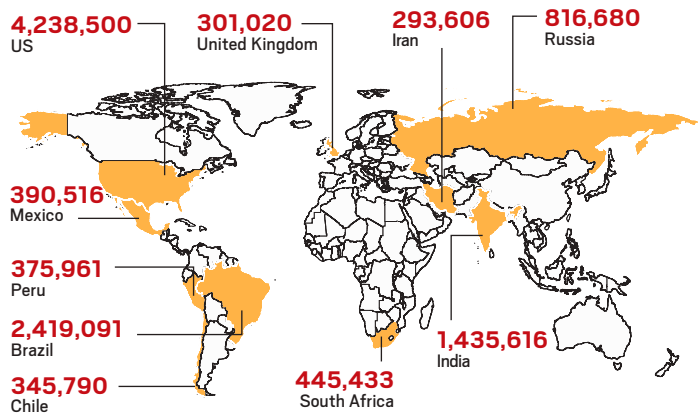
When the Chief Minister has lost the support of the House and his strength is debatable, the Governor need not wait for the advice of the council of ministers to hold a floor test. Generally, when such doubts are cast, the Opposition and the Governor would rally for a floor test and the ruling party would attempt to stall the process to buy time.

In Rajasthan's case, despite requests from Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, the Governor has returned these requests to call for a session. The 19 rebel MLAs have not defected from the Congress and have stated before the Rajasthan High Court that they are merely expressing their dissent and have not shifted to the BJP.

In the Arunachal Pradesh ruling, the court clarifies this question as well. "In ordinary circumstances during the period when the CM and his council of ministers enjoy the confidence of the majority of the house, the power vested with the governor under Article 174 to summon, prorogue and dissolve the house(s) must be exercised in consonance with the aid and advice of the chief minister and his council of ministers. In the above situation, he is precluded [from taking] an individual call on the issue at his own will, or in his own discretion. Only in a situation where the government in power — on holding of such floor test — is seen to have lost the confidence of the majority, would it be open to the governor to exercise the powers vested with him under Article 174 at his own, and without any aid and advice," the court said.

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

THE WORLD



TOTAL CONFIRMED: 16,296,635

DEATH COUNT: 649,662

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on July 27. JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match if these are accounted at different times.

Now, stroke risk found low in hospitalised Covid patients

A NEW paper published in *Stroke*, the American Heart Association's journal, shows a low risk of stroke in patients hospitalised for Covid-19. These findings come after initial reports had suggested a significant risk of stroke in patients hospitalised with Covid-19. The study was conducted by researchers from University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Among the afflicted patients, the majority had existing risk factors, such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

To evaluate the risk and incidence of stroke in hospitalised Covid-19 patients, researchers analysed data from 844 Covid-19 patients admitted to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, and Pennsylvania Hospital between March and May. The team also analysed the data for cases of intracranial haemorrhage (bleeding in the brain).

Researchers found that 2.4% of patients had an ischemic stroke—the most common type of stroke, typically caused by a blood clot in the brain. Importantly, the majority of these stroke patients had existing risk factors, such as high blood pressure



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

(95%) and a history of diabetes (60%), and traditional stroke mechanisms, such as heart failure. Additionally, over one-third had a history of a previous stroke.

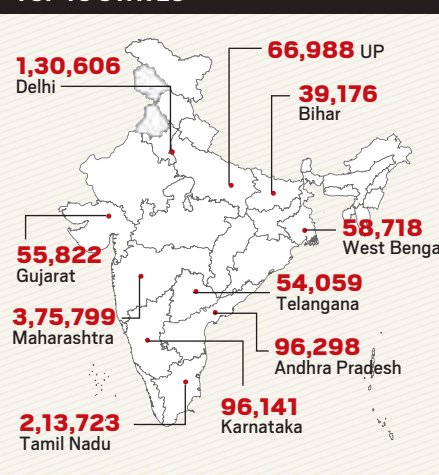
"While there was initial concern for a high number of strokes related to Covid-19, that has not been borne out. Importantly, while the risk for stroke in Covid-19 patients is low, it's mostly tied to pre-existing conditions—so physicians who do see stroke in hospitalised Covid-19 patients must understand the virus is not the only factor, and it's necessary to follow through with normal diagnostic testing," senior author Brett Cucchiara said in a statement. "However, there are still many unknowns and we need to continue investigating the linkage between stroke and Covid-19, particularly considering the racial disparities surrounding the disease."

Researchers say the results suggest that these cerebrovascular events in hospitalised Covid-19 patients are likely tied to existing conditions, and not the sole consequence of the virus. However, other factors could be at play and require continued research.

Source: University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

INDIA COUNT: 14,35,453 (32,771 DEATHS)

TOP 10 STATES



REST OF INDIA

Andaman and Nicobar Islands	324
Arunachal Pradesh	1158
Assam	32228
Chandigarh	887
Chhattisgarh	7450
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	914
Goa	4861
Haryana	31332
Himachal Pradesh	2176
Jammu and Kashmir	17920
Jharkhand	8275
Kerala	19025
Ladakh	1285
Madhya Pradesh	27800
Manipur	2235
Meghalaya	702
Mizoram	361
Nagaland	1339
Odisha	25389
Puducherry	2786
Punjab	13218
Rajasthan	35909
Sikkim	545
Tripura	3900
Uttarakhand	6104

Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, July 27. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above. 9,17,568 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 35 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES

Have a question on the COVID-19 outbreak and what you should/should not do? Write to explained@indianexpress.com

Rafale jets on the way: 7,000-km journey from France, and what next

KRISHN KAUSHIK

NEW DELHI, JULY 27

THE FIRST batch of five Rafale fighter jets are on their way to India, having left France on Tuesday.

Which are the jets coming now?

These are three single-seater and two twin-seater jets, out of 36 twin-engine fighter planes bought from Dassault Rafale through an inter-governmental agreement signed in 2016, at an estimated cost of Rs 58,000 crore. The twin-seater air planes have the Air Force chief, Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhaduria's initials RB, as he played a significant role in negotiating the deal. The single-seater aircraft have the initials of the previous Air Force chief, retired Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa.

The first jet had been handed over to the Indian Air Force in October 2019 in France, in a ceremony attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and French Minister for Armed Forces Florence Parly.

When will they reach India?

All five jets are being flown by Indian Air Force pilots, who took off from the Merignac airbase near Bordeaux. They will reach Ambala Air Force Station on Wednesday, after covering close to 7000 km. They will require air-to-air refuelling. A stop has been planned in United Arab Emirates.

They will be taken to the Al Dhafra French air base near Abu Dhabi on Monday, and will take off from there for Ambala on Wednesday morning.

When will the other jets arrive?

The five jets are among the first 10



One of the five Rafale fighter jets at Merignac, before flying out to India. PTI

whose delivery has been done on schedule, as per a statement by the Indian Embassy in France. The other five will remain in France for training missions. IAF pilots and support personnel have been given training about the aircraft and weapon systems by Dassault in France. According to the Indian Embassy in France, IAF batches will continue to be trained in France for the next nine months.

The delivery of all the 36 jets is scheduled to be done by end of 2021.

What happens when they reach India?

The five aircraft will be inducted at Air Force Station Ambala on Wednesday, subject to weather. The final induction ceremony will take place in second half of August.

The IAF air and ground crews have undergone training on the aircraft, including

its highly advanced weapons systems. Post arrival, efforts will focus on operationalisation of the aircraft at the earliest, IAF had stated on July 20.

Rafale jets have a range of 3,700 km, which can be enhanced with mid-air refuelling, and can fly at speeds up to 750 knots.

Which squadron will they join?

The first jets will comprise the resurrected No 17 'Golden Arrows' squadron of the Air Force, and will be stationed in Ambala. The Golden Arrows were raised in 1951 and have been involved in a number of significant operations, including during the Kargil War. After the Air Force started to phase out the Mig-21, which were operated by the Golden Arrows, the squadron was disbanded in 2016.

It has been resurrected now with the Rafale jets.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Kansai Yamamoto

JAPAN

Fashion designer Yamamoto, who dressed Bowie, dies at 76

JAPANESE FASHION designer Kansai Yamamoto, known for his avant-garde and colorful work that included flamboyant costumes of the late rock icon David Bowie, has died of leukemia, his company said Monday. He was 76. Yamamoto developed leukemia in February and was determined to recover and come back with renewed energy, said the company, Kansai Yamamoto. He died last Tuesday. Born in 1944 in Yokohama, near Tokyo, Yamamoto debuted in 1971, becoming the first Japanese fashion designer to hold a show in London. He became internationally known for blending traditional Japanese motifs with brilliant colours and bold designs.

MALAYSIA

26 Rohingya, thought to have drowned, found alive on islet

TWENTY-SIX ROHINGYA refugees, who had been feared drowned while trying to swim ashore on the Malaysian resort island of Langkawi, were found alive hiding in the bushes on a nearby islet, a senior coastguard official said on Monday. Malaysia does not recognise refugee status, but the country is a favoured destination for Rohingya Muslims after escaping a military crackdown in Myanmar. Late on Saturday, one Rohingya swam ashore from a small boat off Langkawi's west coast. Officials had feared that the rest of the group had drowned.

UKRAINE

Full ceasefire takes effect in eastern Ukraine

A FULL and comprehensive ceasefire between Ukrainian government forces and pro-Russian separatists has entered into force in eastern Ukraine, opening the prospect of an end to military and civilian casualties, the two sides said Monday. Ukrainian, Russian and OSCE negotiators last week agreed on a full ceasefire in eastern Ukraine from Monday, putting on hold the conflict that has claimed 13,000 lives. The deal was backed by the presidents of Russia and Ukraine

UAE

Indian teen falls to death in Sharjah

A 14-YEAR-OLD Indian girl, one of the twin daughters of a couple from Kerala, has died after falling from a high rise building in Sharjah in the UAE, police said on Monday. An official from the Sharjah Police told the Gulf News that the police are investigating if the incident reported from Al Taawun area was a case of suicide. The girl, a grade 10 student, had suffered serious injuries from the fall, the official said. He said the girl was shifted to the hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

DEVELOPED BY NIH, MODERNA

Biggest Covid vaccine study begins as US-made shots put to final test

First among 30,000 planned volunteers given test doses, but results of the trial still months away

LAURAN NEERGAARD & MICHAEL HILL
JULY 27

THE WORLD'S biggest Covid-19 vaccine study got underway Monday with the first of 30,000 planned volunteers helping to test shots created by the US government — one of several candidates in the final stretch of the global vaccine race.

There's still no guarantee that the experimental vaccine, developed by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc., will really protect.

The needed proof: Volunteers won't know if they're getting the real shot or a dummy version. After two doses, scientists will closely track which group experiences more infections as they go about their daily routines, especially in areas where the virus still is spreading unchecked.

"Unfortunately for the United States of America, we have plenty of infections right now" to get that answer, NIH's Anthony Fauci recently told The Associated Press.

Moderna said the vaccination was done in Savannah, Georgia, the first site to get underway among more than seven dozen trial sites scattered around the country.

In Binghamton, New York, nurse Melissa Harting said she volunteered as a way "to do my part to help out."

"I'm excited," Harting said



A volunteer for the study gets an injection in Binghamton, New York, on Monday. AP

Vaccine candidate made using mRNA

VACCINES WORK by producing a response by the body's immune system to a pathogen before the body is infected. Usually, this is achieved by putting small inactivated particles of the pathogen inside the body. However, the vaccine candidate developed by the US NIH and the biotech firm Moderna uses a slightly different method.

EXPLAINED

They use a synthetic version of genetic material from the Covid-causing virus for their vaccine. The genetic material, called mRNA, prompt human cells to create small particles of the virus, which then trigger an immune system response. The use of mRNA has the potential to quicken the process of developing vaccines.

before she received a study injection Monday morning. Especially with family members in front-line jobs that could expose them to the virus, "doing our part to eradicate it is very important to me."

Several other vaccines made by China and by Britain's Oxford University began smaller final-

stage tests in Brazil and other hard-hit countries earlier this month.

The studies aren't just to test if the shots work — they're needed to check each potential vaccine's safety.

If everything goes right with the final studies, it still will take months for the first data to trickle in from the Moderna test. AP

Trump's NSA Robert O'Brien tests positive

Washington: US National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien has become the highest ranking official in President Donald Trump's inner circle to test positive for the coronavirus.

Announcing the infection on Monday, the White House said in a statement there was no risk of exposure to Trump or Vice President Mike Pence.

The announcement caught some White House staff off guard, as there had not been an internal memo about it, one source said.



Robert O'Brien

Because of the regular testing regimen, White House officials do not reliably wear masks while working in the West Wing.

An administration official said O'Brien had not had contact with the President in several days. The NSC did not immediately respond to questions. REUTERS

Chinese doctor alleges coronavirus cover-up

Beijing: A Chinese doctor, who diagnosed early coronavirus cases in China, has accused the local authorities of a cover-up of the initial scale of the outbreak at the epicentre Wuhan, saying the evidence was already destroyed when they went for investigation, according to a media report.

Speaking to the BBC, Professor Kwok-Yung Yuen, a microbiologist, physician and surgeon in Hong Kong, who helped to investigate the Covid-19 outbreak in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, said the physical evidence at the Huanan

wildlife market was destroyed.

"When we went to the Huanan supermarket, of course, there was nothing to see because the market was clean already. So, you may say that the crime scene is already disturbed because the supermarket was cleared. We cannot identify any host which is giving the virus to humans," Yuen was quoted as saying. "I do suspect that they have been doing some cover-up locally at Wuhan. The local officials who are supposed to immediately relay the information have not allowed this to be done as readily as it should." PTI

China takes over US Chengdu consulate

MARTIN QUIN POLLARD & THOMAS PETER
CHENGDU, JULY 27

CHINA TOOK over the premises of the US consulate in the southwestern city of Chengdu on Monday, after ordering the facility to be vacated in retaliation for China's ouster last week from its consulate in Houston, Texas.

The seizure capped a dramatic escalation in tensions between the world's two biggest economies that began when employees at China's Houston consulate were seen burning documents in a courtyard last Tuesday, hours before Beijing announced that it had been ordered to leave the facility.

The US consulate in Chengdu, in Sichuan province, was closed as of 10 a.m. (0200) on Monday, and Chinese authorities had entered the building from the front door, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

On Friday, Beijing announced that it had asked the United States to close its Chengdu post, and gave the Americans 72 hours to vacate, the same amount of time China was given to leave its Houston mission, which was shut on Friday.

"We are disappointed by the Chinese Communist Party's decision and will strive to continue our outreach to the people in this important region through our other posts in China," a US State Department spokesperson said in an email to Reuters. At midday



Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte

Can't confront China over SCS claims: Duterte

Manila: Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday said he had no choice but to treat disputes in the South China Sea as diplomatic endeavours because the alternative was to go to war with China. Duterte was speaking in defence of his government's decision not to press a 2016 decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which went in favour of the Philippines in a case against China. He said China was in possession of territory that his country did not have the capability to challenge militarily. "We cannot go to war." REUTERS

on Monday, police removed a roadblock that had restricted access to the Chengdu facility, and dozens of passersby stopped to take photos and videos. REUTERS



A small number of pilgrims circumambulate the Kaaba in the Great Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, late on Sunday. AP

Pilgrims arrive in Mecca for downsized Haj amid pandemic

AYA BATRAWY
DUBAI, JULY 27

MUSLIM PILGRIMS have started arriving in Mecca for a drastically scaled-down Haj as Saudi authorities balance the kingdom's oversight of one of Islam's key pillars and the safety of visitors in the face of a global pandemic.

The Haj, which begins on Wednesday, normally draws around 2.5 million people for five intense days of worship in one of the world's largest gatherings of

people from around the world.

This year, Saudi Arabia's Haj Ministry has said between 1,000 and 10,000 people already residing in the kingdom will be allowed to perform the pilgrimage. Two-thirds of those pilgrims will be from among foreign residents in Saudi Arabia and one-third will be Saudi citizens.

The kingdom has one of the Mideast's largest outbreaks of the coronavirus, with more than 266,000 reported infections, including 2,733 deaths.

The Saudi government is

covering the expenses of all pilgrims this year, providing them with meals, hotel accommodation, transportation and health care. Normally, the Haj can cost thousands of dollars for pilgrims who save a lifetime for the journey. It also generates billions of dollars in revenue each year for Saudi Arabia.

Saudi kings have for generations assumed titles as custodians of Islam's holiest sites, and their oversight of the Haj is a source of prestige and influence among Muslims globally. AP

Garrett Foster brought a gun to Austin protest, then he was shot dead

DAVID MONTGOMERY & MANNY FERNANDEZ
AUSTIN, JULY 27

IT WAS not unusual for Garrett Foster to be at a protest against police brutality on a Saturday night. And it was not out of character for him to be armed as he marched.

Foster was carrying an AK-47 rifle as he joined a Black Lives Matter demonstration blocks from the state Capitol in Austin, Texas. Gun-rights supporters on both the left and the right often carry rifles at protests in Texas, a state whose liberal gun laws allow it.

Foster bumped into an independent journalist at the march Saturday, and he spoke matter-of-factly about the weapon that was draped on a strap in front of him.

"They don't let us march in the streets anymore, so I got to practice some of our rights," Foster told the journalist, Hiram Gilberto Garcia, who was broadcasting the interview live on Periscope. "If I use it against the cops, I'm dead," he conceded.

Later that night, Foster was fatally shot, but not by police. Authorities said he was killed by a motorist who had a confrontation with protesters.

Police and witnesses said the man in the car turned it aggressively toward the marchers, and Foster then approached it. The driver opened fire, shooting Foster three times. He was rushed to a hospital and was later pronounced dead.

The driver, who has not been named by authorities, was detained.

Foster, who had served in the military, was armed, but he was not seeking out trouble at the march, relatives and witnesses



Garrett Foster with his fiancée Whitney Mitchell

told reporters. At the time of the shooting, Foster was pushing his fiancée through the intersection in her wheelchair.

Foster and his fiancée, Whitney Mitchell, had been taking part in protests against police brutality in Austin daily since the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Foster is white, and Mitchell, who is a quadruple amputee, is African-American. She was not injured in the shooting.

"He was doing it because he feels really strongly about justice and he's very heavily against police brutality, and he wanted to support his fiancée," Foster's mother, Sheila Foster, said in an interview with "Good Morning America," adding that she was not surprised he was armed while at the march.

In Texas, it is lawful to carry so-called long guns on the street without a permit, as long as the weapons are not brandished in a threatening manner.

The presence of Foster's weapon could play a key role in the case if the driver claims that he shot Foster out of fear for his life, a defence allowed under the so-called "stand your ground" law in the state. NYT



Iran's refurbished mockup aircraft carrier has been used previously as a simulated target in military drills. Reuters

Iran moves mock-up US aircraft carrier to Strait of Hormuz

REUTERS
DUBAI, JULY 27

IRAN HAS moved a mock-up US aircraft carrier to the strategic Strait of Hormuz, satellite images show, suggesting it will use the look-alike vessel for target practice in war games in a Gulf shipping channel vital to world oil exports.

The use of dummy American warships has become an occasional feature of training by Iran's Revolutionary Guards and its naval forces, including in 2015 when Iranian missiles hit a mock-up resembling a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier.

Tehran, which opposes the presence of US and Western navies in the Gulf, frequently holds naval war games in the strategic Strait, the conduit for

some 30% of all crude and other oil liquids traded by sea.

One of the images taken on July 26 by US-based space technology firm Maxar Technologies showed an Iranian fast attack boat moving toward the model US carrier in the strategic waterway. Another image showed model planes lined up on the deck of the fake carrier.

"We cannot speak to what Iran hopes to gain by building this mock-up, or what tactical value they would hope to gain by using such a mock-up in a training or offensive exercise scenario," said Commander Rebecca Rebarich, the spokeswoman for the US Navy's Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet.

"We remain confident in our naval forces' ability to defend themselves against any maritime threat."

DR SAPAN DESAI WAS BEHIND THE STUDY ON HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE THAT WAS LATER RETRACTED

The ambitious doctor behind the disputed coronavirus data

ELLEN GABLER & RONI CARYN RABIN
JULY 27

A COLLEGE degree at 19. A medical school graduate with a Ph.D. at 27. By the time he completed training in vascular surgery in 2014, Dr. Sapan Desai had cast himself as an ambitious physician, an entrepreneur with an MBA and a prolific researcher published in medical journals.

Then the novel coronavirus hit, and Desai seized the moment. With a Harvard professor, he pro-

duced two studies in May that almost instantly disrupted multiple clinical trials amid the pandemic.

One study's findings were particularly dramatic, reporting that anti-malaria drugs like hydroxychloroquine, which US President Donald Trump promoted, were linked to increased deaths of Covid-19 patients. But that study and another were retracted in June by the renowned journals that had published them, weeks after researchers around the world suggested the data was dubious. Desai, who declined to share the raw information even with his co-



The study on hydroxychloroquine's impact on Covid-19 patients had caused a global stir before it was retracted (Representational image)

authors, claimed it was culled from a massive trove acquired by Surgisphere, a business he started during his residency.

The now-tainted studies helped sow confusion and erode public confidence in scientific guidance when the United States was already deeply divided over how to respond to the pandemic. And the anti-malaria drugs cited in the papers have continued to generate controversy, as new research prompted some scientists to petition for expanding their use against the coronavirus, despite Food and Drug Administration

warnings against them.

While the journal debacle has shaken the broader scientific community, many people who have known Desai, 41, described him as a man in a hurry, a former whiz kid willing to cut corners, misrepresent information or embellish his credentials as he pursued his ambitions.

In interviews, more than a dozen doctors who worked with him during training and residency said they had often found him to be an unreliable physician who seemed less interested in patient care than in the medical

journal he founded and his company, branded early on as a medical publishing business.

"You couldn't trust what he said," said Dr. Vanessa Olcese, a former chief resident who worked with Desai at Duke University Medical Center. "You would verify everything that he did and take everything he did with a grain of salt."

Desai acquired enough college credits to graduate from the University of Illinois at Chicago at 19. "His goal was to be the first person at UIC, that ever graduated college in one year," said

Peter Okkema, a biology professor in whose lab the young undergraduate worked.

Desai seemed eager to impress people, the professor recalled, but never sought advice or guidance.

At Desai's most recent post at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, Illinois, he became involved in at least four medical malpractice cases that are pending, including three in 2019.

By the time Desai left the hospital this year — he voluntarily resigned for personal reasons — Covid-19 was raging in China and spreading to other countries. NYT

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Lajpat Rai S/O-Shiv Charan R/O-119, Gate.No-3, Anand-Vihar, Pitampura Delhi-110034,have changed my name to Lajpat Rai Bansal,for all future purposes.

0040543019-2

I Mahender Singh Kalra S/o Saudagar Singh R/o H-1/138-139, Ground Floor, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085 in my daughter's school record my name has been wrongly mentioned as MAHINDER SINGH KALRA. But my correct name is MAHENDER SINGH KALRA 0040542977-1

I Jatin S/O, Sh. Ganesh Dass R/o Vpo Nigana, Tehsil Kalanaur, District Rohtak, Pin 124113 have changed my name to Jatin Arora for all purposes. 0040542968-1

I, sweetsa rani,w/o-of no 14638743A Hav ajay kumar misra.R/o-Vill&PO-Garjaul Distt vaishali (Bihar). 844114-1,changed my name from sweetsa rani, to sweta rani.Video.affidavit dated,23 july 2020,before Madan Lal Gupta Delhi 0040543035-5

I, monika wadhwan D/o-yash pal, flat.no-11, block-D,pocket-8 sector-23b,dwarka delhi-110078,have change my name monika TO monika wadhwan,for all purpose. 0040543022-7

I, Yogendra Kumar S/o Madan Lal Gupta R/O-61,Shanti Niketan DM-Road,Distt.-Bulandshahr, U.P,have changed my name to Yogendra Kumar Gupta for all,future purposes. 0040543010-2

I, Vansh Kashnay, S/O Vinesh Kumar Kashnay, R/o C-4/162 Yamuna Vihar Delhi-110053 am also known as Vansh Aditya Kashnay. Both names belong to one and the same person. 0040542989-1

I, Trishant s/o Sanjay Sharma R/O-1077/5, Multani Mohala, Gandhi-Nagar, Delhi-110031,have changed my name to Trishant Sharma Permanently. 0040543022-3

I, Suman Lata W/o Surender Kumar Juneja R/O House No. 43A, Bhagat Singh Colony Ballabgarh Dist. Faridabad-121004, (Haryana) have changed my name from Suman Lata to Kiran Juneja for all future purposes. 0070709628-1

I, Sohail Sarraf S/o Kamlesh Kumar Soni R/O Ward No-15, Lalita Chouk Madavas Road, Gopdabadnas, Sidhi, MP-486661, have changed my name to Shree Ram Soni 0070709631-1

I, Shiv Charan Dass S/o-Kanhya Lal R/O-117, BF-Block, East Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088 have changed my name to Shiv Charan Goyal for all purposes. 0040542972-1

I, SUNITHA SARAF D/o Late.Ram Avtar Gupta & W/o-Anil Saraf,R/O-E-505, GREATER-KAILASH-2, NEW-DELHI-48, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NEETA SARAF,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040543019-1

I, Ruhina W/o Mohammad Mateen R/O-463, Anjanam Road, Deepa Sarai, Sambhal-244302 U.P. have changed my name to Ruhina Sarbat. 0040543035-2

I, Poonam Choudhary W/o Praful Kumar Mehta R/O- C-4/136, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Poonam Mehta. 0040543035-1

I, Pooja W/o Himanshu Teotia R/O Vill+Post-Chhapurawat, Distt.-Bulandshahr, UP,have changed my name to Pooja Rani Tomar for all,future Purposes. 0040543010-6

I, Munish , S/o Balbir Singh Bhan , R/O House no. 2057 sector 4 Kurukshetra 136118, Haryana, , have changed my name to Munish Bhan for all purposes. 0070709627-1

I, Vivek Soti R/O-3482 Second-Floor Raja Park Rani Bagh Delhi-34, changed my minor son's name Vansh Soti to Aditya Soti. 0040543022-8

I, Mohd Shariq Beig s/o Sayeed Beg R/O-G-20, Madanpur Khadar-Extn. Phase-3, Sarita-Vihar, N.Delhi-110076,have changed my name to Shariq Beg,Permanently. 0040543022-5

I, Lali Devi W/o- Pratap Singh R/O:-A-706, J.J.Colony, Uttam Nagar, New.Delhi-59,Have changed my Name to Daya. 0040543010-4

I, Jugal Kishore Raikwar S/o.Late Har Swaroop Raikwar R/O-E-107, Sec-22,Noida, G.B.Nagar,have changed my daughter name from Ankita to Ankita Raikwar permanently. 0040543010-7

I, Israr s/o Late.Shamsher Khan R/O-C-134, Welcome, Seelampur, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Israr Ahmed Permanently. 0040543022-4

I Mahinder Pal S/o -Jyoti Prakash R/O-F-93, Himkunj Apartment, Plot No.8, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Mohinder Pal Sharma for all purposes. 0040542975-1

I, Hirdemani Bhatnagar W/o B.B.Bhatnagar residence,40-C, Pocket-A,MIG-Flats, G.T.B.Enclave, Delhi-93,have changed my name Hirdemani Bhatnagar to Hariyamani Bhatnagar for all purposes infuture and both are, same person. 0040543010-3

I, Ebenezer s/o Siya Ram R/O-278, DDA-Janta Flats, Badapur, New Delhi-110044, have changed my name to Ebenezer Siyaram Permanently 0040543022-6

I, Dr. Aanietaa Vaisnavna R/O 181,NAVAL TECHNICAL OFFICERS SOCIETY, PLOT NO 3A, SECTOR -22, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110077 have changed my son Anany Prakash name to a new name- Rudraksha Vaisnavna for all future purposes. 0040543026-1

I, Deelep Kumar R/o-Yogmaya Apartment, 178-M, Ward.No.2, Mehrauli, New Delhi-110030,inform that in my UID.No.531577159015, my father-name wrongly-written as P.K.Vasappan instead of correct-name Vasappan. 0040543019-4

I, Deepmala Antiwal W/o Kamal Singh R/o.Indian Overseas Bank, Flat.C-65A, Block-C,Sector-27, Noida,UP-201301,have changed my name to DEEPMALA GAUTAM. 0040543010-5

I, DHEERAJ S/O JAI PRKASH GUPTA R/O-E-36 GALLI.NO-2 PUL-PHELD DELHI-110044 have changed my name to DHEERAJ GUPTA. 0040543022-1

I, Bikram Ghale S/o C B Ghale R/o Chumukedima, Dimapur, Chumukedima, Nagaland-797103, have changed my name to Bikram Tamang 0070709628-1

I, Arvind S/o Satya Pal R/O House No-1726A, Kaimari Road, Amardeep Colony, Hisar, Haryana-125001, have finally changed my name to Arvind Singh 0070709635-1

I, Aruna w/o Virender Kumar R/o-RZ-4/J, West SaharPur, Near-Nutan Bai Vidyalaya, N.Delhi-110046, chaged my name to Aruna Verma Permanently. 0040543022-2

I, Amrita Ghale W/o Bikram Tamang R/o Chumukedima, Dimapur, Chumukedima, Nagaland-797103, have changed my name to Amrita Tamang 0070709639-1

I,smt Seema Spouse of No 1549603SL ALD Sandeep Kumar of 85Armd Regt declare that in my husband service documents my DOB was erroneously published as 05-03-1986. My correct DOB is 4-03-1986, So I have changed my DOB 04-03-1986 in my husband's service documents. 0040542967-1

I, Rajendra Kumar S/O Bheem Singh R/O WZ-176A, Gali No-3,Tihar Village Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Rajender Kumar. 0040543019-3

Add Surname Old :- Sanjeev Kumar S/O Brij Mohan New :- Sanjeev Kumar Sharma S/O Sh Brij Mohan Sharma 0130016129-1

I, Vijeta Chanana W/o Ruchir Minotra R/o 3/148, 3rd Floor, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Vijeta Minotra for all purposes. 0040514323-1

I, Salha Taufiq Patankar S/O Taufiq Nisar Patankar R/O 13D, Shatabdi Vihar Sector-61, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to Salha Taufiq for all future purposes. 0040514307-2

I, Renu W/O Jayant Kumar Budhiraja R/B-B-146, Sector-50, Noida (U.P.) have changed my name to Renu Kohli for all future purposes. 0040514307-1

I, Rajeev Kumar S/o Shri Vinod Kumar Chawla R/O 1341, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110098. Have changed my name from Rajeev Kumar to Rajiv Chawla for all future purpose. 0040514385-1

LOST & FOUND

I, Sita Rani D/o Late Sohan Lal have Lost my all Original Property Papers of Property.No.103,Bharat Nagar Front-Side Delhi-110052, finder Contact-7042363406. 0040543022-10

I, Riyush Jain S/o Late. D.D.Jain R/O-H.No.61,Ground Floor, Devence Enclave,Vikash Marg,Delhi,have lost my Allotment-Letter of Plot.No.104, Allotment No.-PAT01182, Sector/Village-Patwari, Greater Noida,G.B.Nagar. 0040543010-1

I Geeta, D/o Harbir Singh, R/o 26 A, Karkarduma Village, Delhi have lost my original documents of property chain of my Flat No.S-2, Plot No.D-181, Ramprastha Colony, Ghaziabad. Anyone find please contact at: 9873195016 0040543011-1

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to the public, to whom it may concern that my client Sh. Mohan Lal Makhija, S/o Late Sh. Madan Lal Makhija & Smt. Meena Makhija, W/o Sh.Mohan Lal Makhija Both R/o,WZ-64-A, Upper Ground & First Floor, Ram Nagar, Tihar Nagar,New Delhi-110018, have given of aarhakti and disowned their son namely Deepak Makhija, & his wife namely Sunena and their child namely Sunena and their child namely Prisha from all their movable and immovable properties and to their bad habits, misconduct and bad character. The aforesaid Deepak Makhija, & his wife namely Sunena and their child namely Prisha of my client are having no connection of any kind with my clients & other family members in any manner whatsoever. Any person dealing with them in any manner shall be doing so at their own risk and responsibilities, my clients shall not be responsible of any kind of loss or damage from now onwards.

K.R. KAUSHIK (Advocate)
Ch.No. X/31, W.Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
"My client Sh. Chuni Lal S/o Late Sh. Khecheru Ram R/o 2/6073, Gali No.2, 1st Floor, Dev Nagar, Karai Bagh, New Delhi-10005 have severed all relationship from his son Sh. Devender Kumar and his wife Smt. Karishma respectively from all his movable and immovable properties and my client has nothing to do with them. My client shall not be responsible for their acts, deeds from now onwards.

Sd/-
MAMTA ADVOCATE
Enl.No. D/32332015
Ch. No. K-134, Lawyers Chambers, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054
Mob.: 9802211691

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client Smt. Usha Singh w/o Late Sh. Ajit Singh R/o 11-A, Astami Village, Aurbindo Marg, New Delhi-17 has severed all her relations with her son Dinesh Sejwal and his wife Smt. Poonam and has disowned and disinherited them from all her movable and immovable properties since they are neither obedient nor under the control of my client and henceforth, my client shall not be responsible for any social, financial and otherwise acts, activities, conduct or omission or commission whatsoever of her said son and daughter in law.

Sd/-**S.CHAGGAR ADVOCATE**
CHAMBER:- 68, WESTERN WING, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Umesh Kumar Sachdeva S/o Late Ram Kishan Sachdeva & Smt. Promila Sachdeva W/o Sh. Umesh Kumar Sachdeva both R/O C-75A, 2nd Floor, Anoop Nagar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi have severed all their relations with their son, Sh. Gaurav Sachdeva and daughter-in-law Smt. Charu Sachdeva W/o Sh. Gaurav Sachdeva, due to their non cooperative and quarrelsome behaviors. My clients have disowned and debarred their said son and daughter-in-law from all their movable and immovable properties. Any body dealing with the said debarred persons, shall be doing so at their own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or activity of the debarred son and daughter-in-law.

Sd/-**PAVEEN RASTOGI ADVOCATE**
RZ-87, KHUSHI RAM PARK, UTTAM NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110059
MOBILE: 0911098943

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify the general public that my clients Subhash Chander Saluja, S/o Late Kundan Lal Saluja & Smt. Rajrani W/o Sh. Subhash Chander Saluja both R/o G-1/52, Opp. SBI, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59 have disowned/deshierited their younger son Rahul Saluja & his wife Priyanka Saluja from all their movable & immovable properties with immediate effect. Anybody dealing with them in any manner shall do so at his/her own cost, risk & responsibility. My clients shall be in no way responsible for any acts, deeds & things done by them.

Sanjay Kapoor & Associates
788, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client SURENDER SINGH S/O SHRI UMRAO SINGH & SAROJU W/O SHRI SURENDER SINGH BOTH R/O 128, KATWARIA SARAI, DELHI-110016, have debarred his son MR. ASHWANI SAKSANSAL, & his wife DOLLY alias AULSHA, from all movable and immovable properties, assets, and their personal life. Anybody dealing with them civil and criminal matters shall be doing at his/her their all risks, cost and responsibility, and have severed all relation from them due to their misconduct, bad behavior, bad company and bad intentions. Any person dealing with them or severally shall be doing so at their own risk. My client shall not be responsible in any manner for any kind of legal-illegal act, deed done by them.

PARKASH CHAND ADVOCATE
Enrl. No. 04602079
Chamber: 914, IX Floor, Lawyers Chamber, Rathi Court Complex, Delhi-61

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that my Client Ramnik Singh S/o Sadhu Singh R/o H.N- WZ-42, Block-B, Gurpreet Nagar, G-13 Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 have Disowned his son In Law Shukdev Singh and daughter Jaswant Kaur from all movable and immovable Properties due to their misbehavior. In Future whosoever deals with them shall deal on their own risk and my Client will not be responsible for their actions.

Sd/-
RITU VARMA ADVOCATE
Enrl.No-D/126/92

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify publiclly that my clients Mr. Bhullan Khan, S/o Mr. Babu Khan, and Shabina Begum, W/o Mr. Bhullan Khan, both R/O J-44, Gali No.4, Anul Fazal Enclave, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have disowned & debarred their son Irshad Khan and his wife Kamruti Nisa, from their all movable and immovable properties with immediate effect. They both are not in the control of my clients therefore my clients have severed all legal/ social relations with them. My clients will not be responsible for any acts done by them in future.

SALIM ALVI (Advocate)
Ch. No. 529, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE
I declare that my clients namely Mrs. Padma W/o Late Nand Kishore R/o Plot No. 220, Ground Floor, Village Bawana, Block-J, Pocket-2, Sector-G-8, Narela, Delhi-110040, wants to disown his/her son namely Mr. Ashok and his wife namely Mrs. Rekha from self acquired movable and immovable property for future all actions, and above said statements are true and correct in the best of my knowledge & belief.

Shama Rani (Advocate)
Enrolment No. D-843/1992

PUBLIC NOTICE
That my Client Urfana W/o Mohammad Naeem R/O 2681, Choti Saradai Sher Afghan Baitimara, Delhi-110065 is the lawful owner of the Property No. 6427, at Gali Kalyan, Katra Baryan, Fatehpur, Delhi-110085, and she wants to sell and dispose of the said property to intending purchaser, that if any person have any objection for the said Chawla Chawla, if he do so the necessary police action shall be taken against him.

Sd/-
Rajiv Kumar Advocate
Enroll. D/3560/09
Ch./Seat No. 112, Old Court Kashmat Gate Delhi-110096
Mob. 9212036442, 911-23869992

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public notice is given to the general public that my clients namely Mr. Haseen Miya S/o Mohd Kholafah & Smt. Akila W/o Haseen Miya both R/o H.No. 2773, Gali Chand Wala, Pahani Bhojla Delhi-6, have severed their all relations with their son namely Azam S/o Haseen Miya. They have disowned him from all their movable and immovable properties and my clients shall not be held responsible for any act to him, nor he shall be allowed to enter into any contract with any person, if he do so, the necessary police action shall be taken against him.

Sd/-
M.N. Khan Advocate
Ch. No. 618, W Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-64
Mob. No. 9210804751

PUBLIC NOTICE
I declare that my clients namely Mrs. Padma W/o Late Nand Kishore R/o Plot No. 220, Ground Floor, Village Bawana, Block-J, Pocket-2, Sector-G-8, Narela, Delhi-110040, wants to disown his/her son namely Mr. Ashok and his wife namely Mrs. Rekha from self acquired movable and immovable property for future all actions, and above said statements are true and correct in the best of my knowledge & belief.

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I declare that my clients namely Mrs. Padma W/o Late Nand Kishore R/o Plot No. 220, Ground Floor, Village Bawana, Block-J, Pocket-2, Sector-G-8, Narela, Delhi-110040, wants to disown his/her son namely Mr. Ashok and his wife namely Mrs. Rekha from self acquired movable and immovable property for future all actions, and above said statements are true and correct in the best of my knowledge & belief.

Shama Rani (Advocate)
Enrolment No. D-843/1992

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed that my clients sh. Nareesh Kumar S/O Late SH. Salig Ram and Smt Geeta W/O Nareesh Kumar R/O RZ-6024 No. RZ-741A, Gali no. 10, east Sugarpur New Delhi -110046 have disowned my son sidarth from their all movable and immovable properties and have severed of all their relations from him. Any person dealing with them shall be doing so at his own risk and responsibility. My clients shall not be responsible for the same.

Sd/-
Ankit Dixit Advocate
Ch. No. 440, Lawyer chamber, DWARKA Court complex, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi 110075.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This Notice is hereby given to general public that Mrs. Kalish Rani, who claimed to be owner and in possession of Entire First Floor, "the said floor", with 1/4th Undivided Share in still parking provided on roof terrace right, part of Property bearing No. 54, area measuring 231.39 Sq. Yards in Block-A, situated in the layout plan of Government Teacher Co-operative House Building Society known as Saraswati Vihar Pitampura, Delhi and same was purchased from Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal by virtue of Sale Deed dated-15.09.2018, Doc. No.13847 duly Regd. in SRO-VI-A, New Delhi, And now Mrs. Kalish Rani has approached to IDFC First Bank Ltd. for financial assistance and therefore shall be mortgaged with the said Bank. All person's having any claim regarding in respect of the said property or any part, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to undersigned with supporting documentary evidence at the address mention below within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which claim, if any of such persons will be consider to have been waived and/or, abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property and subsequent creation of Mortgage in respect thereof.

Sunil Parsad (Advocate)
For Juris NexGen Law Offices
E-56, Greater Kailash Enclave Part-I, New Delhi-110048

"IMPORTANT"
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SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on [www.scrRailwayIndia](#)
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e-procurement Tender Notice No. 174

The following tenders and corrigendum notice have been floated through e-Procurement. Tenders are requested to visit the web-site [www.ireps.gov.in](#) and submit their offers. It may be noticed that the offers submitted manually or on paper will not be accepted. Offers sent by post are not entertained:-

S.No. : 1, Tender No.: TMC2019107, **Description :** Supply of Grease gun adopters, Grease Nipple, etc., for the use of Track Machines, **Due Date :** 17.08.2020,

S.No. : 2, Tender No.: TMC2019108, **Description :** Supply of Rubber Rings, Seal rings, Guide Column seal set, Vibration Hub seal, etc., for the use of Track Machines, **Due Date :** 17.08.2020,

S.No. : 3, Tender No.: TMC2019109, **Description :** Supply of Flywheels, Tamping Arms, Swivel Bearings, Tamping Type Holders, etc., for the use of Track Machines, **Due Date :** 17.08.2020,

S.No. : 4, Tender No.: TMC2019111, **Description :** Supply of Guide column Top Brackets, Tamping arm small pin assy, Flange and Cover plates, etc. for Track Machines., **Due Date :** 19.08.2020,

S.No. : 5, Tender No.: TMC2019112, **Description :** Supply of Socket Counter screws, High tensile full threaded and half threaded screws for the use of Track Machines, **Due Date :** 19.08.2020,

S.No. : 6, Tender No.: TMC2019113, **Description :** Supply of H.T. Bolts, Sunloack Nuts, Flat Washers, Flat Washers, etc., for the use of Track Machines, **Due Date :** 19.08.2020,

S.No. : 7, Tender No.: TMC2019116, **Description :** Supply of Valves and Radiators for the use of Track machines, **Due Date :** 19.08.2020

S.No. : 8, Tender No.: TMC2019115, **Description :** Supply of Pumps and Motors for the use of Track machines, **Due Date :** 24.08.2020

Issue of Corrigendum No. 1 to the tender notice No. 172 (e-Procurement Tender Notice).

Tender Notice No. & Date : Tender Notice No. 172 of 12.06.2020, **Tender No. :** TMC 2190991, **Description :** Due Date is changed.

For complete details please refer [www.ireps.gov.in](#)

Dy. Chief Engineer/TM/HQ Secunderabad

A0912
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at [http://www.ireps.gov.in](#) or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
A-11, Sector-24, Noida-201301, Ph.: 0120-2412294, Extn. 2220 (CIN:L74899DL1974GOI007417)

Ref. No.DAP/MOP/Avgust **Date: 28.07.2020**

NOTICE INVITING GLOBAL E-TENDER

Bids are invited for supply of loose bulk fertilizers as detailed below:

E-Tender No.	Product	Qty.	Last date of bid submission
2020_NFL_53894_1	Muriate of Potash (MOP)	1,28,000 MT (Staggered Shipments at ECI & WCI)	06.08.2020 14:00 Hrs IST
2020_NFL_53893_1	Di Ammonium Phosphate	40000 MT at ECI 60000 MT at WCI	12.08.2020 14:00 Hrs IST

(DAP-18:46:0)

For details, visit websites: [www.nationalfertilizers.com](#) and [https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app](#). Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, shall be published only on above websites.

NFL : Farmers' Friend, Nation's Pride

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Technical Services Division
North Site, Trombay, Mumbai-85

Notice Inviting e-Tenders

The Chief. Engineer, Technical Services Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, North Site, BARC, Trombay, Mumbai - 400 085, on behalf of the President of India invites online item rate tenders on two bid system for following work :-

NIT No. BARC/TS/D/143/2020-21, Name of work - Operation of 110KV Receiving Station and other Sub-Stations in BARC, Trombay, Mumbai 400 085. **Estimated cost -** ₹ 1,35,00,000/- **Earnest Money -** ₹ 2,70,000/- **Period of completion -** 24 months; **Last date and time of submission of bid -** 16.09.2020 (23:59 Hrs.).

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the Website [www.tenderwizard.com/DAE](#) or [www.barc.gov.in](#)

Changes if any, in the above scheduled date etc. will be notified only on the website [www.tenderwizard.com/DAE](#)

Contact for assistance / clarifications 24x7 @ 9969395522
Shri Rudresh, e-mail: rudresh.tenderwizard@gmail.com

Chief Engineer

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Railway Manager (Medical), Northern Railway, Moradabad for & on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed open E-Tender on the Prescribed form for the under noted work:-

N.I.T. NO.	146-Med/C/Cleaning/DDN/2020 Dated: 24.07.2020
Name of work	Comprehensive Mechanized Cleaning work of New Deep Nagar Railway Colony, Dehradun on monthly payment basis for Two years.
Approximate Cost	Rs. 38,66,960.64 (including Conservancy work, GST, Dumping Charge) for Two years.
Earnest Money	Rs. 77,400/- to be deposited online on www.ireps.gov.in
Completion period	Two years
Date & Time of opening of Tender	E-Tender shall be opened on Dt. 14.08.2020 at 12:00 hrs. If date of opening happens to be a holiday the tender shall be opened on the same time on next working day.
Indian Railway Website	Additional relevant information may be checked on the Indian Railway Website: www.ireps.gov.in
Cost of E-Tender Document	Rs. 3000/- Online

1. Payment of Tender document cost (TDS) and earnest money deposit (EMD) in respect of E-Tendering shall be accepted IREPS Portal through net banking, Debit and credit card only. **1646/2020**

Serving Customers with a Smile

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:-

1. Name of Work	Repair to road surface & damaged platform in DKZ goods shed in the section of SSE/WDLI/ Line under ADEN/DLI.
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1,49,99,962 (Rupees One Crore Forty Nine Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Two only)
3. Earnest Money to be Deposited	Rs. 2,25,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Only)
4. Cost of tender document	Rs. 5900/-
5. Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	21.08.2020 @ 15.00 Hrs.
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	www.ireps.gov.in

* The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](#) for participating in the e-tender system. * For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. * No manual offers are acceptable. * Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

E-Tender No. : 128-W/280/eTender Notice/NIT/14-2020-21/W-3
Dated : 27.07.2020

17 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 37,934.73 ▼ 194.17 NIFTY: 11,131.80 ▼ 62.35 NIKKEI: 22,715.85 ▼ 35.76 HANG SENG: 24,603.26 ▼ 102.07 FTSE: 6,110.76 ▼ 13.06 DAX: 12,880.96 ▲ 42.90

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
TELECOM

States write to IT Min for more funds, say finishing phase 2 of BharatNet on time not possible otherwise

AASHISHARYAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

SEVERAL STATES including Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh have written to the central government, asking for more funds to start work on the second phase of BharatNet, senior government officials in know of the development said. The officials, however, declined to reveal the amount sought by the states.

"In many states, the progress is extremely slow due to lack of workers, which have mostly gone back to their hometown. Though states have asked for additional financial support, no decision has been taken on it until now," an official said.

Andhra Pradesh, for example, had demanded Rs 2,000 crore, in addition to the funds that was already allocated to it, from the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The USOF, however, has denied the request, sources said.

The states have also written to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), expressing their inability to finish the BharatNet phase two project by the stipulated deadline of August 2021 as the COVID-19 crisis had resulted in cash and well and workforce shortage, the officials said.

The BharatNet project, which initially began as the National Optical Fibre Network in October 2011, has been delayed for over 92 months now. The new deadline is August 2021. For BharatNet phase one, a special purpose vehicle of the MeitY, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), was the nodal agency. It was incorporated in 2012 and had started implementation of the

The new deadline for the project is August 2021

plan after inordinate delays in the implementation and execution of BharatNet work by BharatSanchar Nigam Limited.

In phase two of the project, however, many states had expressed their desire to complete work on their own and had also floated request for proposal (RFP) for the same.

Under BharatNet phase two, as of January this year, against the target of providing last mile connectivity to 1.5 lakh gram panchayat (GPs), only about 745 per cent had been made service ready. For cable laying, against a target of 3.11 lakh km of optical fibre cable, only about 92,283 km of cable has been laid down as of December end.

Overall, under all the phases of BharatNet, a total of 1.41 GP had been connected and made service ready as against a target of 2.5 lakh.

Compounding the problem further, an estimated 19,952 km of lossy optical fibre out of the 27,534 km laid by BharatSanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) under phase one is now being pulled out and replaced by new optical fibre, the official said, adding the work on that project was also "crawling at a very slow pace". As of January, progress in states like Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Odisha under BharatNet phase two was the worst. The number of service-ready GPs in these states had not even touched 1 per cent of the total 28,623 villages planned to be connected by March 2019. The four states had so far spent about Rs 950 crore, nearly 17 per cent of approved project cost.

NEED FOR DIVERSIFYING FINANCING OPTIONS: RBI GOVERNOR

'Big push' to targeted mega infra projects can reignite economy: Das

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das Monday pitched for a "big push" to certain targeted mega infrastructure projects, accompanied by new financing options, to reignite growth in the economy. He suggested a series of reforms in the electricity sector to promote solar energy via accelerated depreciation benefits and fiscal incentives.

Identifying infrastructure as "force multiplier for growth" and one of the five silent dynamic shifts happening in the economy, he said: "As in the case of the golden quadrilateral, a big push to certain targeted mega infrastructure projects can reignite the economy. This could begin in the form of a north-south and east-west expressway together with high speed rail corridors, both of which would generate large forward and backward linkages for several other sectors of the economy and regions around the rail/road networks."

In a series of recent meetings



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, file

with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, senior government officials have suggested increasing targeted investments in the infra space to support economic activity. In his address to CII National Council members via a video link Monday, Das argued for diversifying financing options for infra projects to support around \$4.5 trillion for investment in the sector by 2030, as estimated by NITI Aayog.

Arguing that the corporate bond market was turning the corner especially for lower-rated companies, he said more initiatives are required to promote fund-

ing for infra projects. "Non-performing assets (NPAs) relating to infrastructure lending by banks have remained at elevated levels. There is clearly a need for diversifying financing options. Promotion of the corporate bond market, securitisation to enhance market-based solutions to the problem of stressed assets, and appropriate pricing and collection of user charges should continue to receive priority in policy attention," he said.

He identified said five dynamic shifts that are underway in the Indian economy: fortunes shifting in favour of the farm sector; changing energy mix in favour of renewables; leveraging information and communication technology, and start-ups to power growth; shifts in supply/value chains, both domestic and global; and infrastructure as the force multiplier of growth.

The share of renewable energy in overall installed capacity has doubled to 23.4 per cent at end-March 2020 from 11.8 per cent at end-March 2015. As much as 66.6 per cent of the addition to total installed capacity during the last five

years has been in the form of renewable energy, which contributed 33.6 per cent of the incremental generation of electricity.

"Going forward, this landmark progress could result in a significant overhaul of the power sector, encompassing deregulation, decentralisation and efficient price discovery. Policy interventions in the 5 form of renewable purchase obligations (RPO) for DISCOMs, accelerated depreciation benefits and fiscal incentives such as viability gap funding and interest rate subvention will have to go through a rethink/need review," he said.

To queries on adequate level of exchange rate, he said the RBI has no fixed target for the rupee but monitors undue volatility in the currency. Das said the recent interventions by the central bank and the government has led to a "marked improvement" in the market conditions for corporate bonds, and the position has improved even for below AAA-rated corporates. Amid uncertainties, it will continue to remain vigilant and will not hesitate to act when necessary, he said.

Gold jewellery hallmarking: Deadline extended
Price in Delhi up ₹905EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

The Centre Monday extended the deadline for mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts till June 1, 2021, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan said on Monday.

The government had set January 15, 2021 as the deadline. Hallmarking of gold jewellery is voluntary and about 31,000 jewellers have registered with the Bureau of Indian Standards till date. Gold prices in the Capital rose Rs 905 to Rs 52,960 per 10 gram on Monday, while silver prices rose Rs 3,347 to Rs 65,670 per kg.

Govt to go ahead with divestment of 23 PSUs cleared by Cabinet: FM

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

THE GOVERNMENT is working to complete stake sale process of 23 public sector companies whose divestment has been cleared by the Cabinet, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday.

In an online conversation with Hero Enterprise Chairman Sunil Kant Munjal, she said the government is willing to listen to all issues being faced industry and has an open mind with regard to further measures that may be needed to support the economy. "We are open to every suggestion that is coming in. We have not closed any

Bulk drugs, medical devices production scheme: Norms for companies announced

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

FIRMS SEEKING to participate in the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) to build India's self-reliance in over 50 critical active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) will have to have a net worth of 30 per cent of the proposed investment required to build the capacity. The scheme is one of four for which guidelines were announced by Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers DV Sadananda Gowda Monday to boost domestic bulk drug and medical device production.

A total of 136 companies will be allowed to apply for the PLI bulk drug scheme within four months, after which approvals will be finalised within three months, as per a presentation.

Applicants will be selected based on two criteria: how cheap they can sell the bulk drug in question, and the capacity of their proposed plant. Incentives for making 18 of the bulk drugs, including penicillin G, clavulanic acid, vitamin B1, tetracycline and dexamethasone, will follow a graded format over six years.

Between 2023 and 2027, manufacturers will get 20 per cent of

their turnover with the product they choose. Between 2027 and 2028, they will get 15 per cent, and between 2028 and 2029, they will receive a 5 per cent incentive. The investment required to set up a manufacturing facility for these APIs, known as fermentation-based drug intermediates (DIs) or key starting materials (KSMs), will be around Rs 50 crore to Rs 400 crore, depending on the type.

For the remaining 23 chemically synthesised APIs, KSMs and DIs, which include meropenem, atorvastatin, acyclovir and aspirin, a minimum investment of Rs 20 crore to Rs 50 crore will be required. Here, incentives will be uniform, around 10 per cent will be given each year. These 41 bulk drugs are considered crucial in the production of 53 APIs.

For the PLI scheme for medical devices, a maximum of 18 applicants will be selected to manufacture devices in four categories: cancer care & radiotherapy, radiology & imaging, anaesthetics & cardio-respiratory, and implantable devices. Here, minimum investment has to be Rs 180 crore and applicants will be picked based on many parameters, including if they had a turnover of Rs 60 crore in 2018-19.

SpiceJet to fly long-haul flights from Amsterdam on Aug 1 & 2 to repatriate Indians

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

LOW-COST AIRLINE SpiceJet, which has so far operated domestic and short to medium haul international flights, is starting its long-haul operations with a charter flights from Amsterdam to Bengaluru and Hyderabad on August 1 and August 2, respectively. With this, the airline will overtake other carriers such as IndiGo and Vistara, in the race to start long-haul flights. Currently, flag-carrier Air India is the only Indian airline flying long-haul international to destinations in Europe and the US.

For this, SpiceJet started by approaching the Indian community in the Netherlands, who have been wanting to come back home but have not been able to due to COVID-19 shutdowns. Meanwhile, the carrier launched negotiations to wet-lease wide-bodied aircraft to fly on these sectors. Aviation industry experts have pointed out that airlines looking to wet-lease planes have things going their way in the current situation with several other airlines and lessors across the world sitting on idle aircraft and crew capacity.

According to a SpiceJet official, the company has wet-leased a 371-seater Airbus A330-300 aircraft from a Lisbon, Portugal-based leasing company Hi Fly.

Furthermore, SpiceJet will also be responsible for securing all the necessary regulatory permissions for the flight to be operated. A senior official at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) told *The Indian Express* that SpiceJet's proposal to operate a charter flight from Amsterdam has been submitted to the regulator and the process to grant the clearance was "in progress".

The Bombay Flying Club is India's first DGCA-approved drone training school

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

MUMBAI-BASED FLIGHT training institute The Bombay Flying Club has become India's first approved drone training school after receiving clearance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

"Based on information provided and undertaking, this office hereby accords exemption from CAR Section 3, Series X, Part I, Bombay Flying Club, Mumbai for conducting remote pilot training using Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems. The above stated exemption shall be valid for 1 year from the date of issue of this letter or until the operationalization of Digital Sky Platform, whichever is earlier," a DGCA order said.

BRIEFLY

'Single window for approvals'

New Delhi: The Centre will soon set up a single window system for clearances and approvals for industry, said union minister Piyush Goyal.

Settlement for trade reversal

New Delhi: Sebi proposed a one-time settlement opportunity for entities that executed reversal of trades in stock options segment of BSE during 2014 and 2015.

₹1 crore fine on CARE Ratings

New Delhi: Sebi has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on CARE Ratings regarding lapses in assigning credit rating to NCDs of RCom. **PTI**

dentsu X India tops RECMA list

New Delhi: For the third year running, dentsu X India has been ranked first in the 'new business and client portfolio growth' list by RECMA.

Skoda's booking platform

New Delhi: Skoda Auto India will bring the second wave of its centralised booking platform, to help choose a company vehicle easily. **ENS**

China mini-IPO market

Shanghai: China's new mini-IPO market kicked off trading Monday in a frenzy as circuit breakers were triggered for both surging and slumping stocks. **REUTERS**

Covaxin gets DSMB nod to continue human trials

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

INDIAN COVID-19 vaccine candidate 'Covaxin' has crossed its first hurdle in its path to a potential launch, with a safety monitoring board allowing clinical trial sites to continue with human trials, three people close to the development confirmed.

Clinical trial sites studying the safety and effectiveness of Covaxin were recently given permission by the Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) to continue recruiting participants for the trial after it reviewed data from the first 50 participants that were vaccinated, they said.

This means that the board has found the vaccine safe enough to administer in humans at a higher dosage, according to Dr Savita Verma, the principal investigator for the trial taking place at Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (PGIMS) in Rohtak.

PGIMS had submitted data of around 20 participants for DSMB review and, following the clearance, has screened and vacci-

nated an additional 15 participants.

"Whenever we give a drug or vaccine for the first time (as part of a trial), we give it at low doses and in a smaller number of individuals because we have to see whether the vaccine will be safe enough to proceed," Verma told *The Indian Express*. "The issue always is that... we don't know how our body is going to react to something new. So there's always a chance of a (major) allergic reaction. That is the major concern in any investigator's mind," she said.

"So far, we haven't seen any adverse events or major allergic reactions," she added. The 20 participants vaccinated in the first set are expected to receive a second dose on July 31, according to her.

"The DSMB's decision was communicated over email," said another principal investigator. Covaxin's trials started on July 15, with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) vaccinating its first set of participants with the candidate. On July 17, PGIMS became the second site to vaccinate participants as part of the trial.

FY20 GST aid to states 70% higher than cess fund

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

THE CENTRE has released Good and Service Tax (GST) compensation of Rs 13,806 crore to the states for March, 2020, which takes the total aid for FY20 to Rs 1.65 lakh crore. The collection under the compensation cess fund was only Rs 95,444 crore in the fiscal, which means the compensation payments were over 70 per cent higher than the fund.

A part of this gap was bridged by money from the compensation fund that remained unutilised in the first two years of GST. Further, a sum of Rs 33,412 crore was also ploughed back from consolidated fund of India to compensation fund after analysis showed that Centre had apportioned more I-GST to its own kitty in FY 2017-18 than was due to it. This had happened due to the ad-hoc method of I-GST settlement developed in the first few months of FY 2017-18. The data showed that manufacturing states claimed the highest compensation which included Maharashtra (Rs 19,233 crore). **FE**

Mindspace Business Parks REIT: How this instrument works?

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, JULY 27

MINDSPACE BUSINESS Parks REIT, which is looking to raise up to Rs 1,000 crore through issuance of fresh units and up to Rs 3,500 crore through an offer for sale, opened for subscription Monday. The Rs 4,500-crore real estate investment trust (REIT), jointly owned by K Raheja and Blackstone, will close for subscription on Wednesday.

Last Friday, the Mindspace REIT raised Rs 2,644 crore from anchor and strategic investors, with HSBC Global, Fidelity and Nomura Trust, Capital Income Builder and Cohen & Steers as

REITs develop and own income producing commercial real estate properties

among the major investors. While the price band has been set at Rs 274-275 per share, investors can bid in multiples of 200 shares with a minimum amount of Rs 55,000 at the upper end of price band.

Conceptualised as SPVs

REITs develop and own income producing commercial real estate properties. In India, they are conceptualised as special purpose vehicles (SPVs) with perpetual life,

providing investors an opportunity to earn dividend-based income and appreciation in unit value due to property appreciation. Majority of the assets owned by an REIT are required to be held in completed income generating assets and are mandated to pay out majority of their earnings as distributions to unitholders.

Ways to invest

Initial public offerings (IPOs) is one of the ways to get in when a new REIT like the current one comes in for subscription. As per Sebi regulations, you will have to invest a minimum of Rs 50,000 in the REIT. After IPO, the REIT will be available on the secondary market, i.e. it will be listed on the stock

exchange like shares and one can purchase in the stock market.

Pandemic impact

With a large office going population operating from their homes after the pandemic, there has been a growing concern on future demand for office real estate. While some feel that savings on commutation cost, time and office overheads will make several companies think on allowing employees to work from home to an extent, other feel that factors such as smaller homes, intermittent internet, data security, blurred personal and professional lines will see workforce going back to office.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Why IPL in the desert is not a mirage

The EmiratesCricket Board confirms receiving 'letter of intent' from BCCI; limited spectators could be allowed

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, JULY 27

THE T20 World Cup postponement has opened a window for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to organise this year's Indian Premier League (IPL). Subject to approvals, the tournament will be played in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where, unlike India, the Covid curve has flattened considerably. And there's an outside chance that some crowd might be allowed at the venues.

When will the IPL take place?

The BCCI has written to the Indian government, seeking permission to organise the IPL in the UAE. Subject to the government's approval, the Board will announce the dates for the tournament. An IPL Governing Council meeting will be convened soon to formally announce the tournament schedule and the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for all the stakeholders. The postponement of the T20 World Cup has created a window for the league from mid-September to early November. As a chief executive of an IPL franchise informed, the BCCI has verbally communicated to the IPL teams that the tournament will be played from September 19 to November 8.

Has there been any official communication between the BCCI and its UAE counterpart?

The Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) has confirmed that they have received the official 'Letter of Intent' from the BCCI to host the 2020 edition of the IPL. "We have received the (official) letter and now wait on the decision from the Indian Government which will ink the final deal," Mubashshir Usmani, ECB secretary-general, told the Emirates Board's official website. Usmani said that spadework for an IPL in the UAE has started, with both cricket boards "have fully mobilised and have instigated discussions with the relevant authorities".

How is Emirates Cricket Board positioned to deliver the tournament?

The UAE hosted the first half of the 2014 IPL due to general elections in India. So the ECB has the past experience to fall back on. Hosting the tournament against the backdrop



BCCI officials say that the local administration is mulling on allowing some crowd at the venue — 50 per cent of the stadium capacity. *PTI*

of a pandemic, however, has extra challenges. "This is a massive movement of people and equipment and we now need to bring in the experts to discuss all aspects of UAE hosting the IPL," said Usmani. He ascertained that sports bodies and government agencies in the UAE, "who have had strong, proven experience", will work in tandem "to support and deliver on a successful edition".

Will the matches be held behind closed doors?

BCCI officials say that the local administration is mulling on allowing some crowd at the venue — 50 per cent of the stadium capacity. They say that by the time the IPL starts, the situation would be even better in the UAE. Data put out by the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that the UAE has 58,562 confirmed coronavirus cases from January 29 to July 26, with 343 deaths. At 51,628, the recovery rate is also pretty high in the Emirates. By September, local sports events are expected to begin in Dubai. Also, Dubai will host the European Tour golf finale

before the IPL. So there's an outside chance that some spectators might be allowed at the venues for the IPL matches.

Then again, as a member of the ECB informed, the Emirates Board is doing a recce of the three venues in the UAE — Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah — and surveying the entry and exit points. If even 20-30 per cent of spectators are allowed, every venue will need to have sanitisation tunnels and other necessary measures as per safety protocols.

Can fans travel to watch the matches?

Yes, they can if they test negative for Covid-19 and provided that matches aren't closed-door affairs. As per the local government protocol, if the matches are held in Dubai, for example, travelling fans have to either get a PCR test done within 96 hours before embarking or take one after reaching there. Only those who test positive will be quarantined for 14 days. A Dubai Sports Council functionary, however, said that if

overseas fans are allowed, they will have to undergo a quarantine period. Also, UAE is the only country in the Middle East where international flights are regularly operating.

Will the franchises suffer losses if matches are held behind closed doors?

They will lose out on income through gate receipts. Gate receipts vary for different franchises. Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), for example, enjoy high gate receipts with a 67,000-seater Eden Gardens as their home venue and very high turnouts. Franchises that have smaller stadiums as their home venues don't earn high gate receipts. Usually, gate revenue is around Rs 250 crore, eight franchises combined. According to an official, each IPL franchise is going to lose at least Rs 15-20 crore if the tournament is played behind closed doors.

Have the franchises started preparing for the IPL?

Yes, they have. A Chennai Super Kings (CSK) official said they have started enquiring about hotels in the UAE. Several franchises have also started negotiating with their sponsors. Every team will have a camp before the tournament, but there's still no clarity on when the camps could be held. A franchise official informed that they haven't received visa confirmation for their foreign players from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

CSK, for example, are planning to send their Indian players for a camp in Dubai towards the end of this month or early August. Delhi Capitals, too, will have a camp in Dubai, according to a franchise official. A few franchises, though, want a three-week camp for their Indian players at a remote place in the country, a city that falls under the green zone. Overseas players for all the franchises will directly check-in at Dubai, but teams are still unsure about when their foreign players will turn up. In countries like South Africa for example, no international flight is operating yet. So it is very likely that foreign players will come in batches.

Will the franchises lose sponsorship revenue?

Commercial success in modern-day sport is determined by the TV viewership and digital streaming. So from the point of view of

Qatar interested in bidding for 2032 Olympics

Qatar is keen on on hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The gas-rich Persian Gulf nation has expressed an interest in hosting the world's biggest sporting events in a letter to the International Olympic Committee. Qatar is turning its focus to bringing the Summer Games to the Middle East for the first time as it prepares to host the region's first World Cup in 2022.

AP

Baroda call off camp after player's kin tests positive

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JULY 27

APRE-SEASON fitness camp of Baroda Cricket Association had to be suspended after a brother of a player contracted Covid-19.

"As a precautionary measure, we have decided to suspend the off-season training camp," the BCA secretary Ajit Lele told *The Indian Express*. "It was a fitness and conditioning camp." Players like Hardik Pandya and Krunal Pandya were not participants in this camp as they had chosen to do their own training at another ground in Vadodara. The BCA had organised the fitness camp at Moti Bagh ground in batches of 10 players. The association had only allowed those players who lived in non-containment zones.

All the usual precautions were taken. When the players enter the ground, they had to undergo thermal screening. Also, the players had to regularly update about their health to the officials. "The batches started from 7 am. We have obviously advised the player whose brother has contracted the virus to take care. And those who have come in contact with that player have been told to undergo isolation in their respective homes. The association is in touch with all players," Lele said.

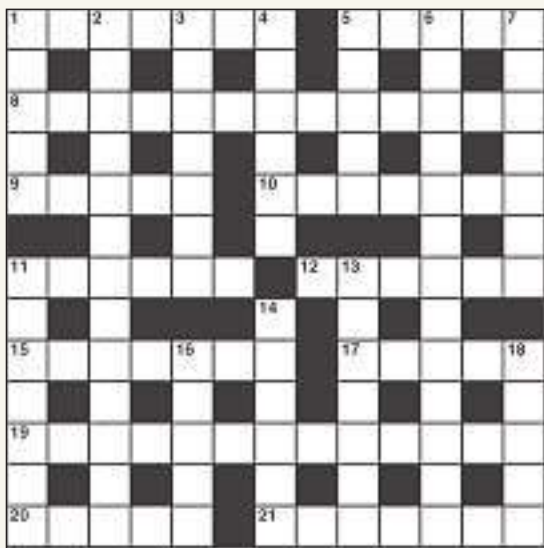
Cricket has completely come to halt since March in India and after the restrictions were lifted recently, many states decided to allow their players to practice individually. Baroda had started their camp six weeks ago.

FOURTH DAY OF ENG VS WINDIES TEST WASHED OUT

ENGLAND AND the West Indies were prevented by rain from playing on the fourth day of the deciding test at Old Trafford on Monday. The day was a washout, leaving the fate of the three-test series to the last day, weather permitting again. England is on the brink of a series win and regaining the Wisden Trophy in perpetuity, seeing as it will be retired. The series is at 1-1. The West Indies is 10-2 in its second innings, tasked with 389 more runs to win the series decider.

AP

CROSSWORD 4181



ACROSS

- Poor Dad is in contempt (7)
- Understand it is a number less than 10 (5)
- Is it taken by a suicide? (5,8)
- Musical piece written for man to perform (5)
- A number in Exeter possibly going rather too far (7)
- One who leads in the German language (6)
- The manuscript is about Eastern subjects (6)
- Duties in the services (7)
- Rising and descent of the sun produces disturbance (5)
- CO's personal transport in total stoppage (7,6)
- Daily leader studied in awe (5)
- Order the stripper to make reparation (7)

Down

- Submit to delay, perhaps (5)
- Take a borderline view? (3,2,3,5)
- Nothing left from the galleon (3,4)
- Some trainee dedicated to work required (6)
- The general meaning seems to lack purpose (5)
- It makes no random hit (6,7)
- Crafty offers? (7)
- Note recorded as beaten (7)
- Made some spirited returns to the scene (7)
- Good man in a new role looking after horses (6)
- Made better in a crude way (5)
- Such ages may be tense (5)

Solutions Crossword 4180: Across: 1 Ditch, 8 Side door, 9 Essay, 10 Ignorant, 11 Prime, 12 Lee, 16 Seance, 17 Whiten, 18 Ace, 23 Abate, 24 Heaves to, 25 Abet, 26 Two-faced, 27 Strew. Down: 2 Inserted, 3 Charming, 4 Single, 5 Demon, 6 Sofas, 7 Grate, 12 Lea, 13 Ewe, 14 Bit by bit, 15 Went home, 19 Cutter, 20 Shute, 21 Canoe, 22 Debar.

JUMBLD WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

Destroying rainforest for economic gain is like burning a Renaissance painting to _____. - E. O. Wilson (4,1,4)

MZAAE



DLROO



EEHYCL



KLUUKM



SOLUTION: AMAZE, AMAZE, DROOL, LYCHEE, MUKLUK. Answer: Destroying rainforest for economic gain is like burning a Renaissance painting to cook a meal. - E. O. Wilson

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4183

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4182



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL



ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

There is no turning back. This much must be clear to you. If, on the other hand, you want to plan for the immediate future, get all your spending plans in order. Put the emphasis on long-term investments, and try to get partners to opt for safety and security.



TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The truth of your situation should now be becoming clear. You may, for example, be about to realise the importance of authority and tradition. At work, there is no way to evade the powers that be. Your most positive approach is to do what you have to for now, and try to turn the tables when the time is right.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You may be about to amaze loved ones with a display of energy. I'm not advising you to be aggressive, but I would like to see you being more self-assertive in the very best sense. Stand up for what you know to be right. If you take the easy way out, then you won't respect yourself and neither will other people.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

There will of course be times when you don't see eye to eye with loved ones, but you may head off potential confrontations by biting your tongue, turning the other cheek and allowing people to learn from their own mistakes. That might be the best approach for them as well as for you.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

There is no point in advising you to ignore what is happening at home. You may get away with burying your head in the sand now but, if you do, your problems will escalate over the summer. Therefore, you must deal with all those fundamental issues, now.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

The general planetary set-up indicates that you are still unclear whether to press ahead with your own individual goals or muck in and help out with tasks that are primarily others' concern. The answer is to do what you want today, but do what you have to tomorrow.



LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You should be ready to stand up and be counted. You must also be ready to put your back into achieving special personal goals. Don't ever expect to attain your goals without putting in sufficient effort. The cosmos just doesn't operate like that.



SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Astrology is infinitely complicated, and today's stars are completely overshadowed by alignments that take place in two to four days' time, so don't be mesmerised by short-term developments. Do yourself a favour by talking about your plans and discussing your hopes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

The moment may have come to spring a few surprises, but there's a supreme irony here. The way you can astound people is by being utterly conservative. Radical ideas are out of date, and traditional values are in, at least for today. Tomorrow may be different.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Personally and emotionally this has been a trying time. Today's fascinating stars vary from being totally superficial to utterly profound. There is no middle way, so don't be complacent. You will have to decide which path you're taking and then follow it through.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Don't concern yourself with what happens today. It's the evening that counts, and if I were arranging your movements, I'd advise you to stay in bed until later. It may be impossible to fit in with such an awkward planetary schedule, but do your best.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You haven't always had a smooth ride recently. You may be in a tight corner, probably at home. But, to be perfectly frank, you could probably charm your way out of almost any situation the universe can throw at you. If in doubt, smile and win others over.



Empowering women through education

Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya has been fulfilling the higher educational needs of the rural women from all across the country. University Created to Empower Women through Education



Our vision:-



PROF. SUSHMA YADAVA, PhD,
Vice Chancellor

WE are committed to empowering women by providing a qualitative and job-oriented education at an affordable cost. Our goal is to prepare skilled professionals. We provide education rooted in Indian traditions and ethos with a modern outlook. The university draws its inspiration and strength from the ancient value-based principles of education enshrined in the Vedic texts. We sincerely resolve to realize the vision of our forefathers to make India self-reliant. Here we ignite minds and nurture compassionate hearts that strengthen the commitment of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'. We believe that education is the key to women empowerment, and we at BPSMV are continuously evolving as one of the premier girls' universities of India, promoting quality research and inclusive societal growth.

About the university:-

Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya (BPSMV) is the first state funded women's university in North India. The campus spreads over 400 acres of land. The journey began with the establishment of a Girls' Gurukul (with just three girls in the first batch at Khanpur Kalan in the year 1936) by Bhagat Phool Singh, whose seminal idea of empowering women through education was a progressive step. The Gurukul was established purely through philanthropic means, and it not only expanded further but also became a sought-after centre for higher learning and education for girls. Bhagat Phool Singh's vision and the efforts put in by his daughter Padamshree Subhashini turned the Gurukul into a premier institution modeled on Indian values and ethos. It was in August 2006 that the Government of Haryana thought of giving a firm shape to the idea conceived by Bhagat Phool Singh Ji. The government then upgraded the Gurukul and its constituent institutions to a women's university, mandated to further the original idea of Bhagat Phool Singh:- Women Empowerment through Education".

Since then BPSMV has expanded on all fronts and offers a range of academic job oriented programmes touching almost all aspects of life and career. BPSMV offers PhD in as many as ten subjects, M.Phil in three subjects, Post Graduation in twenty-five subjects, Graduation in twenty-one subjects, PG Diploma, Diploma and Certificate programmes in thirty-one subjects through its seventeen university

teaching departments, three Constituent Institutions, five special centers, two regional centers and six affiliated government colleges for women.

The university has signed MoUs with Durban University of Technology, South Africa, St. Catherine University in USA, National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), New Delhi, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Shiksha Sanskriti Utthaan Nyaas, Delhi, Haryana Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal, Haryana. Societal growth through community engagement is the core strength of BPSMV. The university has established centers of excellence, like Centre for Indic Asian Studies (CIAS) and Centre for Society University Interface and Research (CSUIR).

Key achievements from last year:-

The university has won two Global Awards for being the "Best Upcoming University" and "the Best University in Social/Community

Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU).

- Has been awarded with Auropath Global Awards under "Best Upcoming University" and "Best in Social Service/ Impact".
- Is well-connected by road to NH1, Rohtak, Sonapat, Panipat and Delhi.

Offers completely safe and secure ambience for female students.

- Is an Associated Partner of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan
- Has been awarded with establishment of National Resource Centre for Philosophy by the MHRD, Govt. of India.
- Has established state-of-the-art language laboratory (LRC).
- Trains school and college teachers of English through its autonomous Staff Training and Research Institute for Teaching of English (STRITE).
- Has implemented all academic & examination reforms recommended by UGC like Semester System, Credit System, and Continuous & Internal evaluation.

- Has initiated to implement Choice Based Credit System in all its academic programmes.
- Offers facility to join NSS and NCC units functioning in the university.
- Has established a driving school on the university campus in collaboration with Hero Motocorp & UNDP to offer skills' development opportunities to university girls and rural women from neighboring villages.
- Provides placement assistance to the meritorious students especially from the professional courses. The companies are invited to the campus for placement.
- Offers 'Earn while Learn' scheme to the meritorious & needy students.

Special Centres:-

- Centre for Indic-Asian Studies (CIAS): BPSMV is the first and only university in Haryana to be awarded prestigious Area Study Centre on Indic Asian Studies of UGC which undertakes research on issues related to Indo-Asian knowledge systems. CIAS has operationalized its dedicated website www.sthaneshwaranidh.ac.in which contains information on various themes pertaining to Indo-Asian culture and traditions.
- Centre for Society University Interface and Research (CSUIR): CSUIR was established in August 2010 with an aim to bridge the disconnection between University and society. It organizes courses and activities which are of direct relevance to the rural community and to formulate schemes that recover traditional good agricultural practices, sustain and conserve the vast knowledge reservoir of rural women. The Centre offers innovative courses in three core areas viz. Integrated Energy Resource Management, Microfinance Practices and Folk Medicine.

Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC): The objectives of HRDC at BPS Mahila Vishwavidyalaya are in cognizance and harmony with the vision of MHRD and UGC; developing skilled academicians and educators for the growth of young minds. The HRDC is committed to its vision of providing excellent training & development programme in helping academicians to reach their full potential by developing their academic competencies, pedagogical innovation and critical thinking skills. Teachers from all over India have benefited by undertaking various courses offered by the HRDC.

Front Line Demonstration Centre (FLDC): Based on Indo Israel project, FLDC has been established by BPSMV in 03 acres. The centre aims at training farmers and women of neighboring villages in modern techniques of farming which in turn boosts their economic independence.

- Learning Resource Centre (LRC): The Learning Resource Centre has six state-of-the-art Language laboratories equipped with latest technological software, which helps in effective

learning of communication skills, which are compulsory to learn for all the enrolled students. LRC imparts training & guidance for appearing in International English Proficiency Examination (IEPE) and Business English Certificate (BEC). The LRC had the privilege of hosting American interns in English Language teaching.

- Staff Training and Research Institute for Teaching of English (STRITE): It is the autonomous Institute of BPSMV for imparting training in effective teaching of English & operation of language laboratory to school and college teachers.
- University Placement and Counseling Cell (UPACC): UPACC provides free placement and counseling guidance to all the students of the University and also organizing placement drives and workshops.
- University Centre for Judicial Services (UCJS): UCJS has been established in the University for imparting coaching and guidance for entering into judicial services.
- Central Library: The Central Library has a stock of approximately 17013 books.

University created to empower women through education



PROF. B.K. KUTHIALA
Chairman,
Higher Education Council
Haryana

Sanskrit is still a compulsory subject in all combinations of the BA course. BPSMU offers thirty undergraduate and twenty-eight postgraduate courses. A variety of courses range from Fashion Technology, to Information Technology to Ayurvedic system of health care. Surely, BPSMU is a modern Gurukul where young girls have the scope to bloom into scientists, technologists, managers, physicians and leaders of tomorrow. Haryana State Higher Education Council invites all young women to be an active partner of learning groups in BPSMU for a bright and prosperous future.

Engagement and Impact". BPSMV is a partner in Unnat Bharat Abhiyan which is a social transformation flagship programme of the Government of India. The University has established National Resource Centre for Philosophy; organized Mission Sahashi (self defence training workshop for girls), Gynatosav (festival of knowledge) and North Zone Inter-University Women Kabbaddi Championship at our campus.

Salient features:-

- Is recognized by the UGC and the member of Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and



Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya Khanpur Kalan (Sonapat) Haryana

(A STATE UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED BY HARYANA LEGISLATURE Act 31 of 2006 & RECOGNISED BY UGC UNDER SECTIONS 2 (f) & 12 (B) OF THE UGC ACT)

ADMISSION NOTICE (2020-2021)

Salient Features:

- First Women University in North India. The only women, rural, multi faculty/discipline, residential university in the country.
- E-suidha to students on portal (like, syllabi download, admit card, examination schedule, academic details etc.)
- Networked, pollution free 500 acres of Campus surrounded by serene atmosphere.
- Offering innovative, job oriented programmes in various disciplines.
- The world class facilities like hostels, classrooms, mess, sports, entertainment, libraries, language labs etc.
- Placement assistance provided.
- Academic exchange programmes with foreign universities from USA, UK and Korea.
- Scholarships offered to meritorious and needy students.
- Safe ambience for girls/a campus with strict safety & security norms for Girls.

Online applications are invited for admission to the following courses for the session 2020-21 from 24/7/2020 for the University Teaching Departments/Constituent Colleges/institutes/Regional Centres:-

- **Ph.D.** (English, Law, Management, Computer Science & Engineering, Social Work, Education, Mathematics, Economics)
- **M.Phil.** Education, English, Commerce
- **PG Courses:** M.A. English, M.A. Social Work, M.A. Economics, M.A. History & Archaeology, M.A. Political Science, LL.M, M.B.A, MBA (lateral Entry), M.Com, MHM, M. Tech in CSE (Network Security), M. Tech Fashion Technology (Functional Garments), M.SC (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, Food & Nutrition), M.P.E.S, M.ED, M.A Education
- **UG Courses:** B.A Hons. (Economics), BA-LL.B, BBA-LL.B, BBA, B.Com.(Hons.), B.H.M., B.P.E.S., B.ED, B.A.M.S., B.A., B.Sc. Medical, B.Sc. Non-Medical, B.Sc. Home Science, B.Sc. Computer Science, B.Pharm & B.Pharm.-LEET (Through common Entrance test conducted by HSBTE or as amended by HSBTE)
- **BAMS** through centralized counselling on the basis of rank obtained by the NEET (UG) 2020 or as per directions of the Government.
- **P.G. Diploma** in Foreign Language Teaching (PGDFLT) (French, German, Russian), Insurance Laws, Cyber Laws, Human Rights.
- **Diploma** in Foreign Language Teaching (DFLT) (French, German, Russian), Diploma in Education (D.Ed), Diploma in Ayurvedic Pharmacy D.Pharm (Ayu.), Diploma in Kayasutra D.K.T., Diploma in Panchkarma Therapy D.P.T., Diploma in Yoga Science D.Y.Sc. Diploma of Proficiency in Micro Finance Practices & Women, Diploma of Proficiency in Folk Medicine, Diploma of Proficiency in Cooperative Management
- **Advanced Diploma** of Proficiency (ADOP) (French, German, Russian), Advanced Diploma of Proficiency in Microfinance Practices & Women, Advanced Diploma of Proficiency in Folk Medicine
- **Certificate** of Proficiency (COP) (French, German, Russian), Certificate of Proficiency in Micro Finance Practices & Women, Certificate of Proficiency in Folk Medicine, Certificate of Proficiency in Cooperative Management, Certificate of Proficiency in Integrated Energy & Resource Management, Certificate Course in Human Rights.
- **Regional Centre at Kharal (Jind)** - **UG Courses:** - B.A., B.Sc.(Non Medical), B.Com.(Hons.), B.A.in Sanskrit (Hons.), PG Courses: - M.A. English, M.A. Political Science
- **Regional Centre at Lula Ahir (Rewari)** - **UG Courses:** - B.A., B.Sc. (Non Medical), B.Com.(Hons.)
- **PG Courses:** - M.A. English, M.A. Political Science

Important Information:-

1. Online registration will commence from 24.7.2020 to 24.8.2020
2. Admissions to all programmes except M.Phil and Ph.D will be made on merit basis of the qualifying examinations.
3. Processing charges for submission of the online admission application is Rs. 500/- for General Category and Rs. 125/- for SC/BC Candidates of Haryana only. The prospectus can be downloaded free of cost from the University Website www.bpswomenuniversity.ac.in OR <http://bpsmv.digitaluniversity.ac/>
4. The online application forms may be filled on the website <http://bpsmv.digitaluniversity.ac/> OR go to www.bpswomenuniversity.ac.in and click on DIGITAL UNIVERSITY link.
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