

# Geelani's resignation blows lid off Pakistan medical college racket and the shadow war within Hurriyat

DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PUNE, VADODARA

**NIRUPAMA** SUBRAMANIAN & BASHAARAT MASOOD MUMBAI, SRINAGAR, JULY 4

TWO YEARS ago, few would have imagined that questions raised within the All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) about an alleged racket in medical seats in Pakistan would come to such a pass.

The bombshell resignation

2-week halt on flights to Kolkata from Ahmedabad, 5 cities with big case load

**PRANAV MUKUL** NEW DELHI, JULY 4

RESPONDING TO the West Bengal government's request to curtail flights to the state, the Ministry of Civil Aviation on Saturday asked airlines to suspend flights to Kolkata from Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Chennai and Ahmedabad – all cities with high Covid caseload between July 6 and July 19.

This is the first time since the resumption of domestic flights on May 25 that a state has decided to completely curtail incoming flight movements to manage the spread of Covid-19. Earlier, states such as Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Delhi had imposed restrictions on travellers in the form of quarantine and self-isolation norms.

In a letter to Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola dated June 30, state Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha had written, "...l approach you with a request kindly not to schedule any flight to West Bengal from high prevalence places viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Chennai, Indore, Ahmedabad and Surat and to stop movement of flights from these cities to Kolkata or Bagdogra for 2 request you to restrict the number of flights to Kolkata, Bagdogra and Andal from other cities to a frequency of once a week for each airline starting 6 July till 31 July, 2020.'

Though the Ministry, which has been moving in the direction of further reopening of domestic flight movement, requested the state government to rethink its decision, Bengal is learnt to have stuck to its stand.

While Sinha had sought the suspension of flights from Surat and Indore too, the Ministry has only directed the suspension of CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

of hardline Kashmiri separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani last week as "chairperson for life" of the APHC has caused a near implosion in the Hurriyat.

In his resignation letter, he accused Hurrivat representatives of corruption and cosying up to power structures in Pakistan which, ironically, is the shadow patron of the Hurriyat and whose voice he was in the Valley. He also nominated Abdullah Geelani, no favourite



Islamabad would like him to withdraw resignation but the lines have been drawn

of Islamabad, as his successor.

The unravelling of this umbrella group of separatists is a high-stakes political thriller still awaiting a denouement. How it ends could have far-reaching consequences given the political vacuum in the Valley.

Its roots go back to the 2018 controversy over medical seats, sources have told The Sunday Express. Geelani's reference to an "internal investigation," in his letter is

For close to two decades — beginning with the détente in the Musharraf years - Pakistan rolled out the red carpet for Kashmiri students wanting to study medicine and engineering. Until last year, students who could not get admission locally would head to Pakistan, where seats were reserved for them in colleges in PoK, Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore. Most seats CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

#### **NO WORD ON CALL FOR 'STRATEGIC REASONS'**

# As tensions soared after **Galwan, Pompeo made** quiet call to Jaishankar

Information sharing helping, good sense on Chinese build-up: Officials

**SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, JULY 4

AT THE height of tensions between India and China following the June 15 incident in Galwan Valley where 20 Indian Army personnel were killed in clashes with Chinese troops, US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo spoke to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, The Sunday Express has learnt.

The phone call by Pompeo, sources said, was made about 10 days ago and the conversation revolved around Washington's support to New Delhi at that time

Since March, Jaishankar and Pompeo had spoken to each other on at least three occasions, but this was their first conversation after the Galwan Valley incident.

Sources said information about the call was not made public for "strategic reasons" since India and China were in the middle of military and diplomatic talks - the second meeting of the Corps Commanders took place on June 22 and the Working Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) met on June 24.

Washington's statement on June 17, two days after the Galwan Valley incident, was seen as neutral in tone. "We are closely monitoring the situation between Indian and Chinese



Jaishankar, Pompeo spoke about 10 days ago. File

forces along the Line of Actual Control. We note the Indian military has announced that 20 soldiers have died, and we offer our condolences to their families. Both India and China have expressed a desire to de-escalate, and we support a peaceful resolution of the current situation,' a spokesperson for the US State Department had said.

But US statements in the last 10 days have seen calibration, reflecting a more vocal support. And Pompeo has been leading from the front. On July 1, briefing reporters in Washington DC, he welcomed the Indian government's decision to ban 59 Chinese apps.

"We welcome India's ban on certain mobile apps that can serve as appendages of CCP's surveillance state. India's clean app approach will boost India's sovereignty, will also boost India's integrity and national Facing long haul at LAC, Army's big challenge: Logistics

**SUSHANT SINGH** NEW DELHI, JULY 4

"AMATEURS DISCUSS strategy. Professionals talk logistics." That well-worn military saying is playing out for the Army on the disputed Line of Actual Control in Ladakh where it prepares itself for a long-haul deployment against the Chinese army.

A decision will have to be taken by the Army within the next six weeks on the number of troops that can be supported logistically in the remote area during the winter months by the military supply chain.

The Army is reported to have nearly three division-strength of troops in the sector, with two divisions coming from outside the

One of these divisions, which did not have a designated operational role in the area, is likely to be logistically more constrained. The situation is likely to be similar for other additional units rushed to Ladakh from the plains over the past two months. Logistics support for addi-

tional troops deployed on the

Sunday

**STORY** 

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

#### Visiting The Family

IGP, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar on Saturday visited the family of Bashir Ahmad Khan, who was killed in a shootout between militants and security forces in Sopore on Wednesday. He promised a probe into the incident. ANI

## TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE



**RECOVERED: 3,94,226 6,48,314** | DEATHS: 18,655 TESTS: 95,40,132 DOUBLING RATE: 20.47\*\*

	il.			
KEYSTATES Towatch	TOTAL Cases	SURGEIN 24HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING RATE**
■ Maharashtra	1,92,990	6,364	3.40%	21.20
■ Delhi	94,695	2,520	2.95%	24.38
■Tamil Nadu	1,02,721	4,329	4.67%	15.41

\* Compounded Daily Growth Rate over last 7 days \*\* Calculated over 7-day growth CASE FATALITY RATIO POSITIVITY RATE 7 DAYS EARLIER:

7 DAYS EARLIER: 3.08

■Haryana

■Telangana

Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths

under Section 124A require

omission or any amendment in

terms of its definition, scope

and cognizability?" is one of the

49 questions that are being con-

Dr Ranbir Singh, Vice-Chancellor

of National Law University, Delhi,

has sought a round of online

public and expert consultation

on substantive and procedural

ONE NIGHT last month,

Carmelina Rodrigues found

herself stuttering in front of her

amused son, who was wonder-

ing "why mummy is getting

dressed up at quarter to mid-

night". Her neighbours, too,

wanted to know "why she was

muttering away in the middle

**SMITA NAIR** 

of the night".

PANJIM, JULY 4

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The committee, headed by

6.36 **6.80** 

16.003

20,462

Positives against number tested

Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak the spread of disease

1.892

# ICMR dials down on Aug 15 vaccine date: 'Letter to cut red tape'

KARISHMA MEHROTRA NEW DELHI, JULY 4

A DAY after some of the country's top scientists and medical experts described as "unreasonable" and "absurd" an ICMR timeline to produce a Covid vaccine "for public health use latest claimed that its letter to clinical trial sites, which mentioned the date, "was meant to cut unnecessary red tape".

In a statement issued Saturday, ICMR said: "The aim is to complete these phases at the earliest, so that populationbased trials for efficacy could be initiated without delay."

The Council, however, remained silent on the unrealistic timeline and the language used in the letter dated July 2, and sent by ICMR director general Balram Bhargava to the 12 hospitals selected for carrying out

clinical trials of Covaxin, a candidate vaccine. The potential vaccine is be-

ing developed by Bharat Biotech, a Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company, in partnership with Pune-based National Institute of Virology, an ICMR laboratory. The Sunday Express has learnt that a scheduled virprincipal trial investigators with ICMR and Bharat Biotech was postponed.

In a statement issued Saturday, ICMR said: "The letter by DG-ICMR to investigators of the clinical trial sites was meant to cut unnecessary red tape, without bypassing any necessary process, and speed up recruitment of participants. Just as red tape was not allowed to become a hindrance in the fast track approval of new indigenous testing kits or for introducing in the Indian market potential

# Chinese apps banned, Govt calls homegrown ones to rise to challenge

**AASHISHARYA& PRANAV MUKUL** NEW DELHI, JULY 4

LESS THAN a week after it banned 59 applications with Chinese links, the Centre on Saturday launched a challenge inviting Indian developers to come up with apps in a range of segments such as office productivity, social networking, elearning, news, games, health and wellness, agri-tech, fin-

tech and entertainment, and speech translation, among others.

"Today there is immense enthusiasm among the tech & startup community to create world class Made in India Apps. To facilitate their ideas and products @GoI\_MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) and @AIM to Innovate (Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission) are launching the Aatmanirbhar Bharat App **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

PAGE 8

Software to hardware: China's expansionism goes digital

## From sedition to marital rape: Home panel looks at overhaul of criminal law

**APURVA VISHWANATH** NEW DELHI, JULY 4

FROM CRIMINALISING marital rape, making sexual offences gender-neutral to legalising euthanasia and revisiting sedition — a fivemember committee constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs is looking at a sweeping overhaul of

"Does the offence of sedition



3.15%

7.48%

22.89

9.62

DAILY IN, DAILY OUT

DETECTED TODAY

22,771

14,335

THE INDIAN Penal Code and Indian Evidence Act were enacted by the Imperial Legislative Council in 1860 and 1872 respectively. Reform of the code, its statutes is long overdue. Changing laws on key issues concerning criminality, the idea of justice and gender equality need more,

## Covid patient's body cremated on banks of Narmada after residents protest in Bharuch

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**ADITI RAJA** VADODARA, JULY 4

RESIDENTS STAYING near two crematoriums in Bharuch district prevented the district authorities from cremating the body of a 60-year-old retired police constable, who died of Covid-19, on Friday, and the body had to finally be cremated on banks of the Narmada River on a wooden pyre, on Saturday. Residents of colonies located

around two crematoriums in Ankleshwar and Bharuch towns held aggressive protests on Friday and Saturday, holding up the cremation for over 24 hours -- this was the district's second case requiring a cremation, the earlier ones having been burial rites.

For around 24 hours, officials of the district administration tried to convince protesting residents in Ankleshwar to allow the cremation of the deceased as per the safety protocol but they refused to budge. The deceased, who had

Where teachers record, relying on the silence of the night

tested positive for Covid-19 this week and was subsequently admitted to the designated Jayaben Modi Hospital in Ankleshwar, died on Friday afternoon, officials said. As per the protocol, the body was disinfected and wrapped in three layers of plastic and taken to the Shantidham Ankleshwar crematorium, which is located five kilometres away from the hospital and is a notified Covid-19 crematorium for the district, with gas furnace facility.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

# Cop held for 'accepting bribe of Rs 20 lakh from rape accused'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** AHMEDABAD, JULY 4

A WOMAN police sub-inspector (PSI) with Ahmedabad Police was arrested and sent to threeday police remand, on Saturday, for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 20 lakh from an Ahmedabadbased businessman -- accused in two rape cases -- in exchange for not applying a stringent act against him.

According to police officials,

Shweta Jadeja, PSI and incharge of Mahila police station (West) in the city, was arrested by a team of Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) officials in Ahmedabad on Friday after the complainant in the case, the rape accused, approached the Crime Branch and stated that Jadeja had allegedly demanded Rs 35 lakh from him, in exchange for not booking him under the Prevention of Anti-Social

Activities (PASA) Act. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

# **THE WORLD**



**US SENDS CARRIERS** TO SOUTH CHINA SEA **DURING CHINESE DRILLS** 

WHO URGES FOCUS ON **FIRST WAVE OF CORONAVIRUS** 

#### Lockdown LESSONS

CHANGING **CLASSROOMS** 

AN EXPRESS SERIES

Rodrigues, 48, is an English teacher at Pragati Vidyalaya in Ponda, and relies on the silence of the night to record online tutorials for her "children at school".

From multiple retakes to spending hours on research; from "reviewing" phone calls with students to recording late sessions at home; from working on PowerPoints, apps and images to navigating multiple online platforms -- teachers in rural Goa, like many of their peers across the country, are going beyond the line of duty to engage with students during the pandemic.

"This feels like the new normal. I told my son I was getting



Teachers at Pragati Vidyalaya in Ponda. Smita Nair

ready to record lessons," Rodrigues recalls. "My school children know me as a bubbly teacher. I would never want them to feel I didn't make an effort. I can't look shabby or like Einstein with hair all undone. We have to connect through everything...everything visual, even our emotions."

The state government had asked teachers to resume duty from June 24, but many had started working on online tutorial month, when classes usually start. The Sunday Express visited the Ponda school, far from the

classes from the first week of last

comfort and convenience of the big city, to track the effort that goes behind each online class. Here, teachers used to classroom settings are facing new platforms - and challenges. Science teacher Shital

Shinkre, 51, says 18 years of teaching couldn't prepare her for CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

DEATHS AWAY FROM HOME MAKE KERALITES PONDER ABOUT LONELY LIFE IN GULF

Although there's no data on the number of Malayalis who have tested positive so far, statistics show over 270 of them have succumbed to the virus since February in the six Gulf countries of UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar,

#### **VIDEO OF THE DAY**



**INTERVIEW WITH MANOJ BAJPAYEE** 

'Saroj Khan was so patient with a non-dancer like me'

#### **EXPLAINED**



IS LIONEL MESSI **LEAVING BARECLONA?** Messi has called off negotiations over contract extension

# **EXPRESS** AUDIO

## 'Cricket Samrat' and what the death of the magazine means

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY** 

On June 3, Abdullah was

ousted in Muzaffarabad, and re-

placed by Hussain Mohammed

Khatib, said to be a front for Safi.

The new appointment was ap-

proved by the APHC in Srinagar

at its June 5 shura, minus

Geelani's participation, a flash-

point for his resignation. Even as

it opposes Abdullah, Islamabad

knows Geelani remains a pow-

erful voice, and would prefer

that he withdraw his resigna-

On this side of the LoC, gov-

ernment sources said they were

not backing anyone in the lead-

ership stakes. Said an official: "It

is enough for us that there is

confusion in the separatist ranks.

It's best if this confusion re-

tion, a source said.

In the latest episode of the Express Sports podcast, we talk about why the popular magazine was a window to cricket in the Hindi heartland before TV and the internet

## **FROM PAGE ONE**

#### Kolkata flights

flights from airports in six cities. With more than 20,000 confirmed infections, West Bengal has the sixth highest caseload in the country. In the last one week, West Bengal added 5,760 new cases, 4,135 of which were detected in Kolkata and its surrounding areas of Howrah, Hooghly and North 24 Paragnas.

According to flight tracking portal flightradar24.com, more than 200 flights have been landing at Kolkata airport each day.

The airports from where flights to Kolkata have been suspended are in states with the highest Covid-19 caseloads in the country, with three of them -Mumbai, Nagpur and Pune – in Maharashtra, which continues to top the Covid count in the country with 1,92,990 cases so far.

#### ICMR vaccine

COVID-19 related drugs, the indigenous vaccine development process has also been sought to be insulated from slow file movement."

In the letter, Bhargava had written: "It is envisaged to launch the vaccine for public health use latest by August 15, 2020 after completion of all clinical trials... You are strictly advised to fast-track all approvals related to initiation of the clinical trial, and ensure that the subject enrolment is initiated no later than July 7, 2020." While approval for clinical trials had been given on June 29, the ICMR chief warned in the letter: "Kindly note that non-compliance will be viewed very seriously."

The letter has triggered outrage among experts with AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria describing the deadline as "a verv challenging and difficult task.

Speaking to Karan Thapar for The Wire, WHO Chief Scientist and former ICMR head Soumya Swaminathan pointed out that "phase-1 trials of ICMR/Bharat Biotech vaccine have not started"

"It cannot be given to people on August 15...it's important to follow ethical and scientific guidelines... people must believe rigorous processes have been followed... WHO recommends phase-3 trials should involve 20-30,000 people and could take years," she said.

Saying that all protocols will be followed in fast-track mode, the ICMR said in its statement: "While issues raised in public domain from time-to-time by commentators are welcome, as they form an important part of feedback loop, the best of India's medical professionals and research scientists should not be second guessed for their professionalism or adherence to the

highest scientific rigour." However, in a background note circulated the day it received approval for clinical trials, vaccine developer Bharat Biotech had said that the results of Phase I and Phase II trials would be out only by October.

"We have very little time. Trials usually don't happen this fast. They probably want to do everything at once and fast track it," said Dr Amit Bhate, the trial's principal investigator at Jeevan Rekha Hospital in Karnataka, which is among the 12 hospitals selected

Another principal investigator, Dr Venkata Rao of Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital in Odisha, said: "It will depend on the ethical committee's approval and the human body's response. Whatever we may want, the human body takes its time to show if the vac-

The US has created a collaboration of departments and private players under "Operation Warp Speed" for development Other vaccines are being developed by University of Oxford, Moderna, and Wuhan Institute of Biological Products.

## App challenge

Innovation Challenge," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in

AatmaNirbhar Bharat Innovate Challenge, the Central government has identified sub-categories for developers to build apps. These include a mobilebased microblogging application on the lines of Twitter and the Chinese Weibo (which was among the 59 banned apps); a mobile-based news application that uses cutting-edge technology to recommend the most relevant and interesting news to each user, something on the lines of banned Chinese apps Newsdog and UCNews: an application to optimise the performance of mobile devices by cleaning junk/cache files etc. the way Chinese apps Clean Master, Cache Cleaner and DU App Studio worked.

Other categories include a mobile application for "harnessing the most accurate facial and/or body mapping technology to allow for a true-to-life virtual try out of products like spectacles, clothes, etc."; a "mobile application for real-time speech-to-speech translation and camera translation of multiple languages"; "an automated web-based application that handles business-to-business lead generation and cold emailing and is completely manageable from a mobile device itself'.

"This Innovation Challenge with various cash awards and incentives... seeks to create an ecosystem where Indian entrepreneurs and startups are incentivised to ideate, incubate, build, nurture and sustain tech solutions that can serve not only citizens within India but also the world," the IT Ministry said in a statement.

#### Law overhaul

The committee, constituted on May 5, is also considering the introduction of special laws to counter violent incidents that have dominated social and political discourse including mob-

In December 2019, Union government was looking at nec-CrPC to deal with issues related to mob lynching, as members of Parliament called for a separate law to curb it.

then Home Minister LK Advani.

The Ranbir Singh committee has sought suggestions on whether there is a need to alter the minimum age of criminal responsibility to commit an offence. In 2015, the law was amended to treat a juvenile above the age of 16 years as an adult for heinous crimes and be punished with life imprisonment or death.

wife will be considered rape.

In a separate category on sexual offences, the committee has asked if "in the light of contemporary discourse on sexual and reproductive rights of women," if the offence of causing miscar-

The committee also sought to discuss the big question involved in rape cases: of defining consent. Although courts have

a tweet Saturday. As part of the Digital India

criminal law and the law on

Home Minister Amit Shah had informed Parliament that the essary amendments in IPC and

He had also underlined the government's "resolve" to amend the British era statutes earlier. The changes to IPC and CrPC had been first recommended by the 2003 Malimath Committee set up by

Many of the committee's guestions seek to harmonise the laws with judgments of the Supreme Court on issues such as euthanasia and sexual intercourse of man and his minor wife. In 2017, the SC in a landmark ruling had said that although marital rape is not a criminal offence, sexual intercourse of a man with his minor

riage can be decriminalised. settled the law on the consent of

## Pompeo made quiet call to Jaishankar Trump and Prime Minister

Facing long haul at LAC, Army's big challenge: Logistics

security, as the Indian government itself has stated," he said.

The US has conveyed, publicly and privately, its unambiguous support to South Block amid the tensions along the LAC. This has been matched by some substantive cooperation at the operational level too.

The Sunday Express has learnt that the Indian side has got a "good sense" of the buildup of troops and weapons on the Chinese side of the LAC because of the information-sharing cooperation with the US. While President Donald

LAC, if they continue to re-

main in location through the

winter, is assessed to stretch

the Army's lengthy supply

chain for the mountainous

been in-charge of logistics for

the Northern Command, told

The Sunday Express that "lo-

gistics support is going to be

a challenge - from procure-

ment to getting the supplies

A military officer, who has

Narendra Modi had spoken on June 2, before the Galwan Valley incident, Pompeo's phone conversation with Jaishankar (after the clash) is learnt to have smoothened the hierarchy workflow in Delhi and Washington.

The active cooperation in practical terms has also been accompanied by some highvoltage optics. Two US aircraft carriers kicked off joint exercises in the Philippine Sea last Sunday, a week after the USS Nimitz and the USS Theodore

Army through Advanced

Winter Stocking (AWS).

Supplies are transported via

two routes - over the Zoji La

from Srinagar to Leh; and, via

the Manali route. While the

Zoii La route has a turnaround

Roosevelt conducted their own joint operations in the area. It is rare to see three US aircraft carriers operating at the same time in the Western Pacific. and even more unusual to have separate dual-carrier exercises so close to each other.

This week, the White House spokesperson said President Trump believes that China's "aggressive stance" against India and other countries in the region confirms the "true nature" of the ruling Communist Party of China.

On July 2, US State

stocking resources will have

to be arranged. Routine main-

tenance is feasible till the

passes are open. The big chal-

lenge is ramping up the air ef-

fort which is limited by the

constraints of the Leh airbase

Department's Secretary of State Stephen E Biegun met Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, and conveyed his country's support.

Meanwhile, Modi Saturday night greeted Trump via a Twitter post: "I congratulate @POTUS @realDonaldTrump and the people of the USA on the 244th Independence Day of the USA. As the world's largest democracies, we cherish freedom and human enterprise that this day celebrates. @WhiteHouse."

eas where temperatures can

go down to minus 25 degrees.

Another officer said certain

units, moved from the plains

to Ladakh in the last six

weeks, are being supplied

from surplus stocks held in

the area while reserve stocks

from depots have also been

troops, the officer said, is cur-

rently not a constraint as they

can use normal tents in many

bers of snow or Arctic tents

By then, adequate num-

locations until September.

The habitat for additional

moved forward.

#### Bharuch

mains."

Of the 13 Covid-19 deaths in the district so far, 10 deceased have been buried according to their religious beliefs while one cremation was performed as per protocol by the family in Jambusar taluka in the district.

But as news of the possible first Covid-19 cremation reached the neighbourhood, residents gathered at the crematorium and got into a heated argument with officials, citing health concerns and "possible spread of Covid-19 from the smoke" from the cremation.

Sub Divisional Magistrate, Bharuch, NR Prajapati, who personally went to both the crematoriums to urge residents to rethink their stand, told this newspaper, "We explained to the residents that all over the world bodies of Covid-19 patients were being disposed of without any spread of infection as strict protocols are being followed. But they refused to agree. So the body was taken back to

the hospital for the night." On Saturday morning, after another attempt to convince the residents, the district magistrate instructed the officials to take the body to the Bharuch crematorium, which is about 10 kilometres away.

Meanwhile, another Covid-19 patient also died at the Covid-19 hospital in Ankleshwar and the authorities were left with the task of cremating two bodies -- the second body was also taken to Bharuch. Both the deceased were males, above 60 years of age, officials said.

"We faced a similar opposition there. Finally, we decided to cremate the deceased in an open space about one kilometre away from the Bharuch crematorium on the banks of the Narmada River -- the area actually falls under the jurisdiction of Ankleshwar taluka. The resi $dents\,were\,opposed\,to\,even\,this$ idea but there was no other choice as disposing the body was the priority," Prajapati said.

District Collector MD Modiya said that the opposition has meant that the administration is looking for other options to cremate Covid-19 deceased from

"It is unfortunate that at such a time, people are not able to show sympathy and humanity. They are paranoid about the rising number of cases in the district and have been misinformed that disposing of bodies of Covid-19 patients causes further spread of the virus. We are assessing if we can make arrangements for another cremation site. But it will not be possible to move the gas chamber from the Ankleshwar crematorium."

Superintendent of Police, Bharuch, Rajendra Chudasma said that the police has not registered any case against the protestors yet, but the district administration can seek police action if needed.

"There is a provision under the Epidemic Diseases Act to book cases against the protestors and we can do it. But we did not want to use any force today

as disposing of the bodies was our priority and we did not want to complicate the matters. We will take a decision on this issue soon," Modiya added. Bharuch has recorded 294

positive cases of Covid19 until Saturday.

#### Cop held

The PASA Act in Gujarat gives power to the police to detain an accused and send them to a prison away from their native district. The complainant claimed that he already paid Rs 20 lakh of the total amount to

which will end at 11:30 am on July 7. Following this, the PSI will undergo a medical check-up and be presented before the magistrate again. "We had originally de-

manded a seven-day remand. The accused officer has been sent to three-day remand for further investigation in the case," said a senior police official in Ahmedabad.

According to police, complainant Kenal Shah -- managing director of GSP Crop Science Private Limited, a crop solutionbased company in Ahmedabad -- is allegedly facing two separate rape cases under IPC section

PSI Jadeja was first entrusted with the investigation of a rape case against Shah in January this year, lodged at Mahila police station (West). The rape case complaint is of 2019. Another rape case against Shah was being probed by Assistant Commissioner of Police (Crimes Against Women), Mini Josef, wherein the investigation was reportedly completed.

tion report filed by the police, Jadeja had allegedly threatened Shah through his brother Bhavesh Shah -- a joint managing director at GSP Crop Science Private Limited -- and initially demanded Rs 25 lakh for not applying the PASA Act against the accused. The bribe amount was then settled at Rs 20 lakh and in February, the accused allegedly paid the amount via an office accountant to one Jayubha, allegedly a representative of ladeja, from a finance office in Jamjodhpur area of Ahmedabad.

The report further stated that after the initial amount was paid, a third complaint was allegedly made against Kenal by a security officer at his office, Yograjsinh, for criminal intimidation. After the third complaint, PSI Jadeja had contacted Bhavesh again and demanded an additional sum of Rs 15 lakh for not applying the PASA Act against Kenal. The complaint from the security officer was not converted into an FIR and Shah

However, It was after the demand of Rs 15 lakh that complainant Kenal approached the Crime Branch on June 27. An FIR was lodged against Jadeja at Ahmedabad DCB police station under sections seven and twelve of the Prevention of Corruption Act, charging her for "public servant taking gratification other than legal remuneration in re-

"Now that we have received the remand of the accused officer from the court, we will try to trace and recover the alleged Rs 20 lakh amount she received in this case," said Deepan Bhadran, Deputy Commissioner of Police,

Shweta Jadeja is a PSI of the 2016-'17 batch and a resident of Vastrapur in Ahmedabad, while her native place is in Keshod of Junagadh district. The police have not recovered the bribe

> **FULL REPORTS ON** www.indianexpress.com

#### to soldiers where they are deployed. Routine maintenance for existing troop levels is not an issue but assessments

would have already begun,

and a final call will have to be

taken in the next six weeks

before the passes close." The logistics supplies for troops are provided by the

a woman in rape cases, it is an is-

sue that is often debated. "What

should be the standard of con-

sent under Section 375 of the

various offences, the committee

asked if "additional types of

punishment – based on objec-

tives of deterrence, rehabilita-

tion, restoration etc — be in-

serted" in the Indian Penal Code.

It did not, however, specify what

additional types of punishment

prisonment, forfeiture of property

and the death penalty. In another

question on punishment, the

committee asked if there are any

offences for which the quantum

The committee also asked

of punishment must be revised.

for a mode of rationalising fines

collected from offenders and if

fines under the penal code must

be re-adjusted for inflation

across offences, either automat-

started a discussion on subjects

new to the legal landscape in

India such as corporate homicide.

In the United Kingdom, a law was

enacted in 2007 to criminalise ac-

tivities of a corporation, includ-

ing employers, if such activities

lead to the death of any person.

recording in front of a camera.

"One hears concepts like G-Meet,

live classes, YouTube uploads, etc.

At the age of 51, I am learning all

this. The first chapter on Life

Science usually takes a month,

but in the first two weeks, I man-

aged two pages online," she says.

eral takes, with the noise of

welding work in the back-

ground, Shinkre says, "Then, my

mother walked in, asking if she

Directorate of Education initi-

ated an online training work-

shop for teachers across Goa. At

Pragati Vidyalaya, with limited

broadband and no WiFi, the

teachers became students to

Kalyani Joshi, 42, the in-house

computer teacher. "It started

with teaching them how to open

As early as May, the

could fry fish for dinner."

Recalling a recording of sev-

The committee has also

ically or on a one-time basis.

The IPC prescribes fines, im-

are being considered.

On revising punishment for

IPC?" the committee asked.

Gmail accounts," she says.

time of two weeks, it is 17-18 due to altitude and weather.' days for the Manali axis. Both the officer said. these routes close by early Aircraft cannot take off from Leh with full load once December due to snowfall. It is based on the logistics calculations that pulling out of certain non-essential troops during the winter

"The process starts with procurement for which contracts are signed in March every year. New contracts will have to be signed now and more transport, vehicles,

Geography teacher Bhakti

esai, 33, struggled with trials for

a week -- camera focus, glare from

projector lights, multiple cables.

"In rural settings like Ponda, it also

takes time to pull in material.

Then someone helped us with a

digital camera. Now my husband,

a veterinary surgeon, records me

240 students from Class 5-10.

With the term fee at Rs 500 a year,

Headmistress Bharati Srivastava

says online training can be tough

for many students. "There are

families who cannot afford a

smartphone and remedial classes

It's not just about children and

connectivity, says Srivastava. "Let's

focus on teachers, too. They have

been putting hours in the day

preparing material and engaging

in live classroom settings. Later at

night, they record after their fam-

ilies have been fed. Then they

have to come to school physically

and mark attendance," she says.

man of Goa Vidyaprasarak

Mandal (GVM), which runs

Pragati Vidyalaya, says, "These tu-

torials expose the style of the

teachers' training to the manage-

ment and parents too. The teach-

were fully sponsored by the

Pakistan government, which

used the Hurriyat, on both sides,

to decide the allocation of these

Kashmiris studied in Pakistan

came when hundreds crossed

the Wagah border last week and

are now at Amritsar, waiting to

be transported back to their

Kashmiri and a former member

of the Hizbul Mujahideen, who

has lived in Pakistan for many

years, alleged that Ghulam

Mustafa Safi, then convenor of

the Muzaffarabad chapter of the

APHC, was "selling" these seats

in Kashmir. Abdullah is the

younger brother of the late Delhi

University teacher SAR Geelani

who was acquitted in the 2001

In 2018, Abdullah Geelani, a

An indication of how many

ers face that added challenge.'

Geelani

Bhaskar Khandeparkar, chair-

will be taken," she says.

The school has a strength of

speaking at night," she says.

could be considered by the

the temperature goes above a certain limit, which makes pre-noon as the cutoff for return flights during summers. The American C-130J aircraft are much better in that respect, compared to the vin-

tage Russian IL-76 transport aircraft. Besides supplies, the other challenge is providing special

will be provided to soldiers for the winter, the officer said,

adding that creation of semipermanent habitat is not under consideration at this

clothing for high-altitude ar-

Pakistan, but after allegations of racketeering first surfaced, he stopped recommending names The allegations are now part

"Allegations are allegations," Safi told The Sunday Express from Pakistan. "These allegations are fake, they have been made in a letter, there is no proof. legations until proven and sub-

stantiated." But even before the NIA investigation, it had set off a storm in the Hurriyat. Geelani sacked Safi and appointed Abdullah as

convenor in January 2019. But Abdullah Geelani's convenorship was stormy too. He was not popular with the other Hurriyat leaders in PoK, nor with

Armed with Geelani Senior's mandate, he initiated enquiries against Safi. But Safi, said to have the backing of the Pak establishment, remained a power centre.

Geelani Senior makes a reference to these allegations, and says when "investigations" were launched by the party, "to circumvent the process of transparency and accountability... your representatives started non-cooperating with the con-

Muzaffarabad brought out a "re-Safi denied that his exit as leadership of the APHC".

Safi said he owes allegiance

Parliament attack.

Last year, no students went because of uncertain conditions in Kashmir but before that, in Srinagar, it was an open secret that both the Geelani and Mirwaiz factions of the Hurriyat held sway over who got the seats, according to a beneficiary. Geelani Senior's grand-daughters, too, study medicine in

of a National Investigation Agency investigation in which several Kashmiris are in Tihar

Allegations of NIA remain as al-

In his resignation letter,

convenor of the Hurriyat's PoK chapter was acrimonious. "There are no differences between us," he said, but added that "as I am the representative (in PoK) of the Tehreek-e-Hurriyat which is not part of APHC...I am not bound by the

only to Ashraf Sehrai, leader of the TeH in Kashmir. Sehrai, killed in an encounter, remains a serious contender to the leadership of the post-Geelani Hurriyat, despite Geelani's naming of Abdullah as heir. Meanwhile, Abdullah was burning his bridges with Islamabad. Sources said after the August 5 decisions in Kashmir, Abdullah Geelani became a vocal voice against the Pak establishment for not doing enough to protest

New Delhi's moves. Hizbul Muiahideen chief Syed Salahuddin, too, began to question the silence of the Pak establishment. One view in Pakistan is that Geelani's resignation may have also had a Hizb push. At one stage, Salahuddin questioned how some leaders in Kashmir had escaped detention while others had not, and why those who were free had not spoken up. Geelani's resignation letter too raises this concern.

The Indian security establishment has also been saying for some months that Salahuddin has been sidelined and the new Kashmir militant outfit, The Resistance Front, is a Pak-created front of the globally designated Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Toiba, and is a snub to the Hizb.

Meanwhile, Hurriyat leaders in Srinagar too have questioned the authenticity of Geelani's resignation letter saying he is in a state of advanced dementia, and allege the letter is a fabrication by Abdullah. "He has been made completely inaccessible. The security around his house (Geelani is under house detention) doesn't allow any of us to meet him," said a Hurriyat leader in Last month, the APHC in

port" alleging that Abdullah had foisted himself on the elder Geelani. It alleged Geelani's son Dr Nayeem had "managed" to make Abdullah the convenor in 2019. Abdullah rejected the allegations. Nayeem refused to respond to the allegations, saying Abdullah was the person authorised to make statements.

Jadeja on February 3. On Saturday, a sessions court awarded Jadeja a three-day remand with the Crime Branch,

As per the remand applica

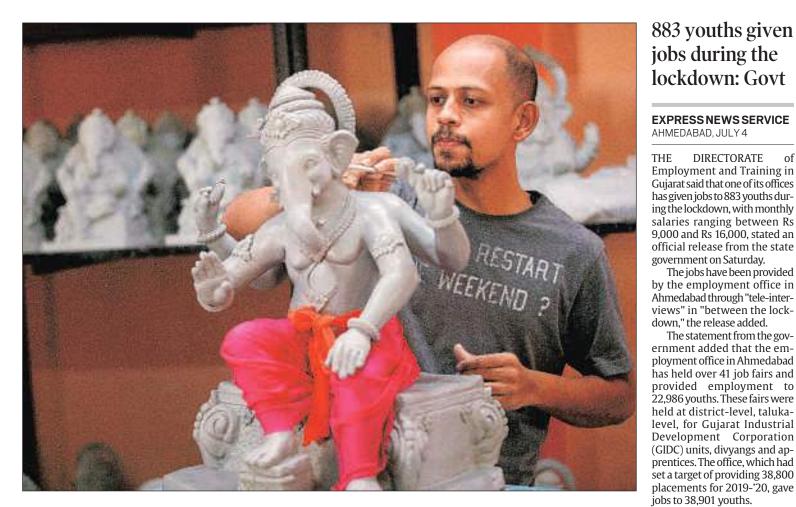
has not been jailed yet.

spect of an official act".

Ahmedabad. amount she allegedly accepted

as of late Saturday.

# GUJARAT



#### Ahead Of Ganesh Chaturthi

A sculptor works on a 2.5-foot-long clay idol of Lord Ganesh, ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi festivities in August, in Vadodara on Saturday. Bhupendra Rana

# Karni Sena leader booked for rioting, assault on women

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** AHMEDABAD, JULY 4

MORE THAN two dozen people, including a local leader of the Karni Sena, have been booked for rioting, assault and outraging the modesty of women at a residential society in Naroda of Ahmedabad.

According to police, the incident occurred around 11 pm on Thursday when a group of 20-25 people allegedly belonging to Karni Sena arrived and assaulted 4-5 persons of a family using sticks and rods.

Police said that as per the victim, the attack was allegedly due to the issue of locking up of gates of the society in view of Covid-

"Right outside our society is a market complex where there floor. The flats are connected to our society through a ladder and people residing in these flats use the medium to commute. Due to coronavirus pandemic, we keep the main gate of the society locked to restrict entry of people from outside," said the complainant in the first information report lodged at Naroda police station on Friday night.

"I received a call from one Rahul Singh Rajput on July 2 where he identified himself as Ahmedabad president of Karni Sena. He asked me to open the main gate saying that Marwari community people who own shops in the market complex are having difficulty commuting as the main gate is locked and also threatened me with dire consequences. Around 11 pm on the same day, 20-25 people reached our society gate shouting slogans of 'Jai Karni Sena' and attacked lested them by tearing their clothes," he added. Taking cognizance in the

case, police have booked Rahul Singh Rajput, and three others and 20-25 unidentified people under Indian penal code sections 143 (unlawful assembly), 144 (unlawful assembly with deadly weapon), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting with deadly weapon), 323 (assault), 354 (assault to outrage modesty of women) and 294B (obscenity) 427 (mischief) and 507 (criminal intimidation by anonymous means). While Rahul has been identified as the Ahmedabad president of Karni Sena by the police, the other three named accused are residents of the flats at the market complex near the society.

"We have detained six persons till now in the case. The search of Rahul Singh Rajput is floor and five flats on the first women of our society. They not ing on," said JG Patel, in charge only beat them but also mo- officer, Naroda police station.

# Karni Sena chief held for 'threatening police'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** VADODARA, JULY 4

VADODARA Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) officials on Saturday arrested Gujarat Karni Sena chief Raj Shekhawat and four other members of the outfit after Shekhawat allegedly made a statement to mediapersons, in which he threatened the police against arresting a city-based businessman, Dharmendrasinh Waghela, who was booked in a case of theft of fuel in June.

Shekhawat, who was in Vadodara for a protest against the sale of Chinese goods, allegedly told local news channels that 'Vadodara city will burn if the police dared to arrest Waghela.

A resident of Naroda in Ahmedabad, Shekhawat participated in a protest in Vadodara on Friday where he and members of China-made electronic items.

The video was widely circu-

lated on social media. At the same event, Shekhawat also made the statement about the case against Waghela to local news channels. Shekhawat was booked under IPC section 505 for statements conducing to public mischief.

DIRECTORATE of

The jobs have been provided

The statement from the gov-

The employment office also

stated that in the last three years,

22 youths under its guidance got

work and study visas. These visas

were for the LIK Canada Russia

Australia, the USA and Malaysia.

Jaydeepsinh Jadeja, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCB) Vadodara, said, "The comments amount to creating mistrust and tension... He has no connection with the case against Waghela but his threat to the police is unwarranted and against the law. It incites the public to react to an investigation.'

Jadeja added that Waghela, a close relative of former BJP MLA Dilubha Chudasama, was booked in a case of theft as he is the owner of a firm named Narendra Transport where a police raid found fuel being pilfered from a truck commissioned for Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) in June.

absconding. The video of the statement went viral, police said.

# 200 more ventilators, Rs 100 cr for new Covid hospitals in Surat: CM



Cabinet Minister Kishor Kanani, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel and Principal Secretary (Health) Jayanti Ravi in Surat on Saturday. Hanif Malek

**KAMAALSAIYED** 

CONSIDERING THE recent rise in Covid-19 cases in Surat, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said the state government would spend Rs 100 crore to convert two hospital buildings on Surat New Civil hospital premises into Covid facilities. Besides, 200 ventilators will also be made available in the city in a day or two, he added.

It would 8 to 10 days to prepare the stem cell hospital, while the kidney hospital would take nearly a month, Rupani told reporters during his visit to the city on Saturday to review Covid-19 situation. He was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel who is also the state health minister.

Surat has been reporting 100 plus cases daily since June 20 and an average of 200 plus since June 29, the maximum being from the diamond and textile business clusters soon after Unlock-1.

"The state government has decided to convert the stem cell

hospital and kidney hospital on New Civil Hospital premises into dedicated Covid facilities at the cost of Rs 100 crore. The work has been given to six different agencies and they will complete it on a war footing. Surat is our focus, given the rise in the number of positive cases," Rupani said.

"We are taking daily stock of the situation in Surat. We have decided to send 200 ventilators to Surat and ensure it reaches in a day or two. The private hospitals have also agreed to reserve 50 per cent of their beds for Covid-19 patients." Rupani added. He also said that 100 Dhanvatri raths have been deployed by the Surat Municipal Corporation.

The CM also warned the diamond and textile industries to maintain social distancing and other Covid norms. "If rules are flouted, units and markets will have to be closed, because our first responsibility is to ensure that infections don't rise," Rupani said.

BJP MLA from Majura seat in Surat, Harsh Sanghavi said he had requested Rupani and Patel to make the Actemra (Tocilizumab) injection available to private hospitals treating Covid-19 patients. "We have also requested that Covid-19 testing be allowed at OPD also. If testing is done at an early stage, positive patients can be identified at the earliest," Sanghvi said.

Navsari MP CR Patil and minister of state for health Kishor Kanani, who is also an MLA from Surat, has been asked to stay in touch with leaders and associations of both textile and diamond industries so that they follow Covid-19 guidelines.

The Chief Minister and his deputy met corporation, district administration officials, and also representatives from New Civil Hospital, SMIMER hospital and private doctors.

New Civil Hospital, at present, has a total bed capacity of 780 beds, while the stem cell hospital will have a 600-bed facility, as per plans. At present, the planning of the kidney hospital bed facility is ongoing, said incharge medical superintendent of NCH, Dr Preeti Papadiya.



This is to inform that in view of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual General Meeting 'AGM'/Meeting') of The Tata Power Company Limited (the 'Company') will be convened through Video Conference ("VC")/other audio visual means ("OAVM") in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules made thereunder, read with General Circulars No.14/ 2020 dated 8th April 2020, No.20/ 2020 dated 5th May 2020 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated 12th May 020 issued by the Securities and Éxchange Board of India ('SEBI Circular')

The 101st Annual General Meeting of the Members of The Tata Power Company Limited will be held or Thursday, 30th July 2020 at 3.00 p.m. (IST) through VC/OAVM facility provided by National Securities  $\label{lem:decomposition} Depository\,Limited\,('NSDL')\,to\,transact\,the\,businesses\,as\,set\,out\,in\,the\,Notice\,convening\,the\,AGM.$ 

The e-copy of the 101st Annual Report of the Company for the Financial Year 2019-20 (the 'Annual Report') along with the Notice of the AGM, Financial Statements and other Statutory Reports will be available on the vebsite of the Company at <a href="www.tatapower.com">www.tatapower.com</a> and on the website of NSDL at <a href="www.evoting.nsdl.com">www.evoting.nsdl.com</a>. Additionally, the Notice of the AGM will also be available and may be accessed from the relevant section of he websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited ('BSE') and National Stock Exchange of India Limited 'NSE') at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively. Members can attend and participate in the AGM ONLY through the VC/OAVM facility, the details of which will

be provided by the Company in the Notice of the Meeting. Accordingly, please note that no provision has been made to attend and participate in the 101st AGM of the Company in person, to ensure compliance with the directives issued by the Government authorities with respect to COVID-19. Members attending the neeting through VC/OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of he Companies Act, 2013. The Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report for FY20 will be sent electronically to those Members

whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company/Registrar & Share Transfer Agents "Registrar")/Depository Participants ('DPs'). As per the SEBI Circular, no physical copies of the 101st AGM Notice and Annual Report will be sent to any Shareholder. Members who have not yet registered their email addresses are requested to follow the process mentioned below, before 5:00 p.m. (IST) on Wednesday 22nd July 2020, for registering their e-mail addresses to receive the Notice of AGM and Annual Repor ectronically and to receive login ID and password for e-Voting:

For Members who hold shares in Electronic form:

a) Visit the link <a href="https://green.tsrdarashaw.com/green/events/login/po">https://green.tsrdarashaw.com/green/events/login/po</a>
b) Enter the DP ID & Client ID, PAN details and captcha code.

System will verify the Client ID and PAN details.

On successful verification, system will allow you to enter your e-mail address and mobile number

 e) Enter your e-mail address and mobile number. The system will then confirm the e-mail address for the limited purpose of service of the Annua

For Members who hold shares in Physical form:

Physical Holding

services and other activities.

Dated: 4th July 2020

a) Visit the link <a href="https://green.tsrdarashaw.com/green/events/login/po">https://green.tsrdarashaw.com/green/events/login/po</a>
 b) Enter the physical Folio Number, PAN details and captcha code.
 c) In the event the PAN details are not available on record, Member to enter one of the share certificate's

d) System will verify the Folio Number and PAN details or the share certificate number

On successful verification, system will allow you to enter your e-mail address and mobile number.

Enter your e-mail address and mobile number.

g) If PAN details are not available, the system will prompt the Member to upload a self-attested copy or

h) The system will then confirm the e-mail address for the limited purpose of service of the Annua

the Company is pleased to provide remote e-Voting facility ('remote e-Voting') of NSDL to all its Members to cast their votes on all resolutions set out in the Notice of the AGM. Additionally, the Company shall also rovide the facility of voting through remote e-Voting system during the Meeting. Detailed procedure for note e-Voting before the AGM / remote e-Voting during the Meeting will be provided in the Notice of the

Members who have not updated their bank account detalls for receiving the dividends directly in heir bank accounts through Electronic Clearing Service or any other means, may follow the

> Send hard copies of the following details/documents to the Registrar, TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited, 6-10, Haii Moosa Patrawala Industria Dalashaw Consultation Trade Limited, Orlor, Taji Moosa Fatawaka Industrial Estate (Near Famous Studio), 20, Dr. E. Moses Road, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai 400 011, latest by 15"July 2020:

> a) a signed request letter mentioning your Name, Folio Number, complete address and following details relating to the Bank Account in which the

dividend is to be received:

Name and Branch of Bank and Bank Account type;
Bank Account Number and type allotted by your bank after implementation of Core Banking Solutions; and

iii) 11 digit IFSC Code.

Self-attested copy of cancelled cheque bearing the name of the Member or first holder, in case shares are held jointly;
Self-attested copy of the PAN Card; and

Self-attested copy of any document (such as Aadhar Card, Driving License,

Election Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the Member as registered with the Company.

Members holding shares in demat form are requested to update their Electronic Bank Mandate with their respective DPs. In view of the outbreak of COVID-19, in case of non-availability of the bank details of any Member, the Company shall dispatch the dividend warrant/cheque by post to such Member, upon normalisation of postal

Pursuant to the Finance Act, 2020, dividend income will be taxable in the hands of the Shareholders w.e.f. 1st April 2020 and the Company is required to deduct tax at source ("TDS") from dividend paid to the Members at rates prescribed in the Income-tax Act, 1961 (the 'IT Act'). In general, to enable compliance with TDS requirements, Members are requested to complete and/or update their Residential Status, Permanent Account Number, Category as per the IT Act with their DPs or in case shares are held in physical form, with the Company by sending documents through e-mail by 9th July 2020. The detailed process of the same is available on the website of the Company at <a href="https://www.tatapower.com/investor-relations/tds-on-">https://www.tatapower.com/investor-relations/tds-on-</a> dividend.aspx/)

For The Tata Power Company Limited Company Secretary FCS No.: 3606

PUBLIC NOTICE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE It is hereby informed that the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority(SEIAA). Paryayaran Bhayan, Sector 10-A. Gondhinggar-382 010, has accorded Environmental Clearance for Setting up Synthetic Organic Chemicals (API-Bulk Drug & Drug Intermediates) Manufacturing Plant at Plot No. 8006/2, GIDC Industrial Estate, Ankleshwar, Tal-Ankleshwar, Dist: Bharuch.(Gui) of M/s. Ozone Life Science vide letter No. SEIAA/GUJ/EC/5(f)/762/2020 dated 29/06/2020, under the provision of EIA Notification dated 14th September 2006. Capies of Clearance letter are available with website of SEIAA, www.seiaa.gujarut.gov.in AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY M/s. Ozone Life Science



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH MOHALI Sector-81, Knowledge city, PG-Manauli, SAS Nagar Mohali, Punjab-140305 **FACULTY VACANCIES** 

Applications are invited from extremely molivated scientists with a high-profile research agenda and a flair for teaching. The openings are for faculty positions at all levels in all areas of Biology/Chemistry/Physics/ Mathematics/Earth & Environmental Sciences/ Humanities and Social Sciences. For detailed information please visit www.lisermohali.ac.in

This is a rolling advertisament, and the next date for consolidation and screening of applications is September 30, 2020.



Date:03/07/2020

ZOSARB, BARODA BRANCH 4th Floor, Suraj Plaza-III, Sayajigunj, Vadodara - 390005. Phone No. : 0265 - 2360022 / 33

#### E-mail: armsgz@bankofbaroda.com NOTICE

With reference to the E-auction sale notice Dt. 19.09.2019 under the provisions of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI Act) published on 20.09.2019 in The Indian Express & (Gujarati Language) in the matter of E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE ON PHYSICAL / SYMBOLIC POSSESSION WITH E-AUCTION DATE ON 11.10.2019, 1.00 PM to 3.00 PM, the description of the immovable property at Point No. 3 against A/c. Name of M/s. Ren Tobacco was given s : The mortgaged property is situated at R. S. no. 88, 89,92/1 Paiki Jamin, F.P. No.127, Moie Akota and the building is known as Vinayak Bunglows, Bunglow No. A/3, Plot area adm.1082 sq. ft., Built up area 2000 sq. ft. Near SNDT Collage, Akota, Vadodara, District Vadodara and sub District Vadodara Gujarat and the property is in the name of Mr. Chimanbhai Maganbhai Patel and the boundaries are as under :- East - Bunglow No. 4, West

- Bunglow No. 2, North - F.P. No. 127, South - Road. The said immovable property was described in the 60 days' notice Dt. 04.07.2018 under section 13(2) and symbolic possession notice Dt. 04.10.2018 under section 13(4) of

the SARFAESI Act as under House bearing R S no. 88, 91, 92/1 located at Block no. A-3, Vinayak Bunglow, Moje Village: Akota (Opp. HDFC Bank), Vadodara, Gujarat - 390020, owned by Mr. Chimanbhai M Patel, bounded by :- East - Vinayak Bunglows No. 4, West - Vinayak Bunglows No. 2, North - F.P.

No. 127. South - Internal Road. The description without affecting the identity of the immovable property is to be read

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property in registration district Vadodara, Sub district Vadodara, moje village Akota, R. S. No.88.91.92/1 pajki, F.P. No.126 T.P. Scheme No.1, plots paiki the Plot/block No. A/3, adm.1082.42 sq.fts wherein the bunglow constructed known as Vinavak Bunglows, having following boundaries :- On the EAST: Vinayak Bunglows No. 4, On the WEST: Vinayak Bunglows No. 2, On the NORTH

House bearing F.P. No. 127, On the SOUTH: Internal Road of Vinayak Society The auction sale in respect of above property was conducted on 11.10.2019, sale has been concluded in favour of the successful bidder and sale certificate issued in favour of the

said successful bidder Authorized Officer, ZOSARB, Baroda Date: 04.07.2020, Place: Vadodara

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** Office of the

INCOME - TAX OFFICER WARD-1(1)(2),AHMEDABAD Aayakar Bhavan, Vejalpur, Room No. 203, Nr. Sachin Tower, 100ft Road, Anandnagar-Prahladnagar Road, Ahmedabad-380015 Phone No. 079-26941203, Email ID: ahmedabad.ito1.1.2@incometax.gov.in

IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND

IN THE MATTER OF Department of Income-Tax In the M/s. Bhavani Textiles Private Ltd.

V/s Registrar of Companies, Gujarat M/s Bhavani Textiles Private Limited

In the matter of Company Appeal No. 115/252(3)/NCLT/AHM/2019 regarding restoration of the name of the company M/s Bhavani Textiles Private Limited under Section 252 of the Companies Act, 2013

Notice is hereby issued that the Hon'ble NCLT of Gujarat vide order dated 24.02.2020 passed in Company Appeal No. 115/252(3)/NCLT/AHM/2019 directed for restoration of the above named company, namely M/s Bhavani Textiles Private Limited, in the Register of Companies maintained by the office of the Registrar of Companies, Gujarat. As per the said order of the Hon'ble NCLT, Bench at Ahmedabad, the name of the aforesaid Company is hereby restored as M/s Bhavani Textiles Private Limited in the Register maintained by the office of Registrar of Companies, Gujarat. (Dhananjay Kumar)

Place: Ahmedabad Date: 05.07.2020

Income Tax Officer Ward-1(1)(2), Ahmedabad.

**Aspire Home Finance Corporation Limited** ASPIRE Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opposite ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025.

Email:-info@ahfcl.com CIN:-U65923MH2013PLC248741

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice/s on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/date of receipt of the said notice/s.

The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd., for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time

Sr. No.	Loan Agreement No. / Name of the Borrower/ Co Borrower/ Guarantor	Demand Notice date & Amount	Date of possession Taken	Description of the Property/ies mortgaged
1.	LXSUR00216-170045929 Sajal Arjun Ghosh & Karbi Sajal Ghosh	<b>26-09-2019</b> <b>for</b> Rs.693960/-	03-07-2020	Flat No.C-304,3rd Floor, Bulding C,Raj Avenue,Neal Sachin Railway Station, Sachin, Surat, Gujarat 394230
2.	LXSUR00315-160006016 Nareshbhai Kalyanbhai Agrawal & Ushaben Nareshbhai Agrawal	<b>26-08-2019</b> <b>for</b> Rs.1322023/-	03-07-2020	Flat No.301 Of Bldg No.33, Priyanka Intercity, Opp Bhaktidham Magob, Chorasi, Surat, Gujarat - 395610
3.	LXSUR00216-170030730 Rakeshpuri Kailashpuri Gosvami & Kailashpuri Mangupuri Gosvami Fensiben Kailashpuri Gosvami	<b>24-01-2020 for</b> Rs.976481/-	03-07-2020	Row House No - 34, Govindji Park Society Bagumara, Palsana, Surat, Gujarat - 394305
4.	LXSUR00416-170047053 Gyaneshwar Harishankar Tiwari & Gayatri Gyaneshwar Tiwari	<b>26-09-2019</b> <b>for</b> Rs.1293189/-	03-07-2020	Row House No.76, Type-E, Block No.107&108 Paik R.S.No. 80/1,-2,3, Near Jpb Fiber, B/H Bharat Petro Pump, Canal Road, Bagumara, Surat, Gujarat 394310

Place : GUJARAT Authorized Officer, (Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd.)







**CASE TRACKER** 

**DEATHS** 

1,475

57

13

31

14

17

2

14

6

4

13

15

10

12

20

NEW CASES

172

253

61

20

15

19

8

7

10

4

3

15

10

10

CONFIRMED

21.715

5,714

2.520

322

708

369

235

21

308

34

171

85

157

193

217

281

220

266

207

222

99

97

16

186

142

5

# senior leaders as incharges for 8 seats

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** AHMEDABAD, JULY 4

THE CONGRESS party has appointed senior leaders as incharges for the eight Assembly seats which will go for by-elections later this year.

According to a list released by the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee on Friday night, senior leaders such as Arjun Modhwadia, Siddarth Patel, Tushar Chaudhari, Jagdish Thakor, Shailesh Parmar, Gauray Pandya, Punjabhai Vansh and CJ Chavda will be incharges for the vacant constituency seats of Morbi, Karjan in Vadodara, Kaprada in Valsad, Limbadi in Surendranagar, Gadhda in Botad. Dang, Dhari in Amreli and Abdasa in Kutch respectively.

The by-elections for the eight vacant seats are expected to be October year. The seats fell vacant following the resignation of Congress MLAs.

Even as the Gujarat Congress alleged the ruling BJP of poaching its MLAs, Congress managed to secure one out of the four Rajya Sabha seats in the recently held elections with Shaktisinh Gohil as winning candidate.

According to GPCC officials, the senior leaders have been assigned the task of touching base with the constituencies again and look for desirable candidates.

All eight senior leaders will be in direct touch with Rajeev Satav, Rajya Sabha MP and Gujarat Congress incharge and Amit Chavda, president of GPCC. The leaders will not only connect with the booth level workers to check the situation on ground but also keep caste dynamics in mind as out of eight seats, two of

MANAGING DIRECTOR

**GUJARAT MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED** 

**TENDER NOTICE: D-03/2020-2021** 

Tenders are invited online from reputed Manufacturers/Formulators/Direct Importers

for purchase of (1) Alphacypermethrin 5% wp (2) Pyrethrum extract 2% on rate

contract basis and details if specification, quantity is available on

https://gmscl.gujarat.gov.in and www.statetenders.com. All tender documents

can be downloaded free on the website <a href="https://gmscl.nprocure.com">https://gmscl.nprocure.com</a> & Tender Notice.

Interested bidders are requested to submit the tender through e-tender process.

Last date for submission of physical document: 24/07/2020 upto 18.00 HRS.

**NOTIFICATION** 

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

SECRETARIATE, GADHINAGAR

**DATE: 3 JUL 2020** 

The Right to fair compensation and Transparency in Land

Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013

WHERE AS The State Government its notification No. AM-

2018-787-M-LAM-1218-1367-GH, Dated 29/11/2018 issued

under section-19(1) of Land Acquisition Act. 2013 has notified

that the land bearing T.P. No. 16 (Shaherkotda), F.P. No. 233.

236, 237, 239, 240, City Survey No. 3201, 3272, 3428, to

3440, 3459 to 3483, 7 to 12, 24 to 29, 35 to 60 and 81 total -

79 City Survey No. and total area: 6929.08 as.mt. of Village

Shaherkotda, Ta. Maninagar, Dist. Ahmedabad is needed for

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section-25 of the Right

to fair compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition

Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013 and all other pow-

ers enabling it in that behalf, The Government of Gujarat here-

by extend the period to one year for issuing the notification

under section-23 of the said act. The period of one year will

the public purpose of Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Gujarat,

Duration of downloading of tender document (online)

Last date for submission (online): 23/07/2020 upto 18.00 HRS.

Opening of Technical Bid Date (online) 27/07/2020 at 15.00 HRS.

No. AM-2020-360-M-LAM-1218-1367-GH

be effective from the date of 29-11-2019.

03/07/2020 to 23/07/2020 upto 18.00 Hrs.

INF/389/20-21

(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)

Regd. Office: Block No. 14/1, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan,

Sector-10, Gandhinagar,

Ph. 079-23250767, 23250766, 23257696

reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates and Gadhda in Botad reserved for Scheduled Caste community.

"Although the dates of by

elections have not been announced and list of candidates will be released much later, we have already started our preparations in these eight constituencies where we will get in constant touch with the frontal organisations associated with Congress along with booth-level committees and administrative rings. We will also have to check the performance of workers in these areas, their popularity among masses, caste and geography dynamics and a sense of the ground reality to look for favourable candidates. The incharge leaders will be in direct touch with Rajeev

Satav and Amit Chavda," said an

**BRIDE WANTED** 

**GENERAL** 

Tall Fair Avg 40's Mumbai

Postgrad Sanskari Prefers

younger Bride with Child Ok.

Photos and profile WhatsApp

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official of GPCC.

The Gujarat Congress said that for the upcoming by elections, the party intends to highlight the issues of inflation, farmers' crisis and alleged failure of BJP-led state government during Covid-19 pandemic.

"The BJP has put one MLA each as incharge executive of each seat during the time of elections but we didn't see them doing the same for Covid-19 pandemic. So we want to ask them whether their priority is to win only elections and not the health and welfare of the people of Guiarat... We will also raise the issue of rising prices of diesel and petrol and an overall inflation... The BJP this time will also have to manage the inner fights as the turncoats from our party who have joined BIP now will not be accepted that easily by the BJP loyalists," said Jairajsinh Parmar, spokesperson, GPCC.

**GROOMS WANTED** 

**BRAHMIN** 

Wanted groom for smart,confident and beautiful girl,age 28,

belonging to brahamin family

height 5'-5", fair complexion and

slim. Qulaification-MBA. Doing

job in MNC in New Delhi, Father

is serving Army Officer (Maj Gen)

posted in J&K. Seeking alliance

some groom from affluent family.

Believe in Horoscope. Individual

Not be MANGLIK. Contact:

from well settled, smart hand-

# Assembly bypolls: Congress appoints State sees highest single-day surge, crosses 35,000 mark

**PLACES** 

Ahmedabad

Vadodara

Bhavnagar

Rajkot

Patan

Valsad

Porbandar

Gir Somnath

Sabarkantha

Panchmahal

Junagadh

Anand

Bharuch

Dang

Surendranagar

From other states

Navsari

Mehsana

Morbi

Kutch

Gandhinagar

Chhota Udepur

AHMEDABAD, SURAT, JULY 4

ON A day when Gujarat reported the highest single day surge of 713 new cases, with Surat taking the lead with 253 cases, the state health departcompared to which "Gujarat's

For the first time, the state also tested a record-high number of samples - 8,481 in a 24hour cycle, fully utilising the state's available testing capacity. Guiarat has now tested over 4.04 lakh samples, adding a lakh since June 17 until when 3.03 lakh samples had been

tested. Giving details of the number of cases reported by six other states on Friday, the bulletin stated that Maharashtra reported 6,364 cases, Tamil Nadu 4,328 cases, Delhi 2,520 cases, Telangana 1,892 cases, Karnataka 1,698 and Uttar

Pradesh 972 cases. It also stated that the nationwide numbers of Covid-19 cases "have seen a rise in the past three days.'

Gujarat has now crossed 35,000 mark.

Surat, which has been reporting over 200 cases since June 29, added 253 cases taking the total here to more than 5.700, as per the state health bulletin.

However, the local administration reported a total of 265 cases, reporting the district total at 6,232 cases. Surat local district administration has also declared 238 deaths till date of Covid-19 positive patients against the state's declaration of only 176 deaths, seeing an underreporting of more than 62 deaths by the state health department.

Ahmedabad recorded its lowest since April 28, reporting only 172 cases, seven of them from the rural limits, and nine deaths, all from the municipal corporation area. Ahmedabad till now has reported over 21,700 cases.

Vadodara with 61 new cases, took the total here to more than 2.500 cases now.

Rajkot saw a jump by 47 cases, taking the total here to 369, while Gandhinagar crossed 700 cases. Some other districts, which had reported fewer numbers, saw a jump as well. These include Bhavnagar

AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

**TENDER NOTICE** 

"Construction of New Terminal Building & Other Allied structures (Phase I & II) at Patna Airport. SH: SITC of Elevators at ATC Cum

Technical Block. Residential Quarters & MLCP." for an estimated cost

of Rs. 477.22 Lacs with a period of completion 5 months for SITC of elevator and 5 years for Annual Comprehensive Maintenance.

ast date and time of submission of bid document is 15.07.2020 up to

For detailed information log on to CPP e-Procurement Portal

reference https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app or www.aai.aero

Further clarification/corrigendum if any will be notified through

Dahod 66 25,406 Devbhoomi Dwarka 26

Total cases: **35,466** Deaths: **1,935** New cases: **713** 

(20), Valsad (19), Bharuch (15), and Navsari (11).

AMC also declared 19 more micro containment zones, five of them from the west zone, several bungalows in south west zone including three in Anweshan Row House, Bopal, two residential blocks in northwest zone and a floor with four flats near Gulaab Tower in

Another four micro containment zones including municipal labour quarters in India Colony, two colonies in Chharanagar and one settlement in Sabarmati were delisted from the microcontainment zones.

In a press release on

vans for OPD consultations has resulted in referring 462 patients with severe acute respiratory infection to UHC and hospitals and another 826 with comorbidities such as hypertension, diabetes were referred for clinical treatment to UHCs, CHCs and hospitals. However, no data was given of how many of those referred tested posi-

its initiative of mobile medical

The AMC also announced the commencement of 'Doctor Mitra Yojana', starting July 3, wherein 21 of the total 74 urban health centres across the city, will remain open from 5 pm to 9 pm apart from the regular UHC operation hours from

Saturday, AMC also stated that 9 am to 5 pm otherwise.

#### Coast Guard team recovers 24 packets of charas near Jakhau

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

AHMEDABAD, JULY 4 THE INDIAN Coast Guard recovered 24 packets of charas

(hashish)abandoned near lakhau in Kutch district of Gujarat on Friday. As many as 1,200 abandoned packets of the contraband have been recovered in and around Jakhau since May 20 by different agencies. The latest recovery by the

Coast Guard was during a coastal patrol at Kadiyari Beyt near Jakhau port and has a total market value of Rs 36 lakh. "The consignments were found neatly packed in water proof packets which were found strewn across isolated islands and beaches around Jakhau. The consignments have been handed over to the local police which will conduct further investigation regarding how the packets of the contraband ended up on

the shore in Kutch," an official said. In about eight operations conducted by the Coast Guard independently, about 165 packets of charas were recovered over a period of one-and-a-half months.

**WESTERN RAILWAY-AHMEDABAD** 

VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION WORKS E-Tender Notice No. EL/C/ADI/235/ 2020-21 (1) Name of work with its location: Electrification of UTS/PRS Iocation: Electrification of UTS/PRS building, Platforms, Cover Sheds, battery charging Facilities between Mahesana-Jagudan line in C/W utility shifting for the proposed DFC parallel alignment on Pansar-Palanpur section. (2) ApproxImate Cost of Work: ₹ 69,14,595/- (3) EMD: ₹ 1,38,300/- and Date and time of submission and opening of bid. As specified on IREPS portal. (5) Completion Period of work: 12 Months (6) Website particulars and Notice Board where details of tender can be seen and address of the office: Notice board and office of Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction), Western Railway, Kalupur, Ahmedabad (Gujarat-380 002 Website: www.ireps.gov.in. CPM-09

llow us on: twitter.com/WesternR

Ahmedabad

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

ment in its daily bulletin stated that the daily Covid-19 count in six other states has seen a rise, is the lowest".

With Saturday's new cases,

Banaskantha Jamnagar Kheda Narmada Aravalli Mahisagar **Botad** Amreli Tapi भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण

9419180635/09596979595. 0020408006-1 Airports Authority of India invites item Rate tenders through E-Tendering portal by AGM(E-E) on behalf of Chairman AAI from eligible Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) of Elevator for the work of

8:00 hours.

# **Classifieds**

matrimonials

#### **PERSONAL**

Change of Name

Chaudhari Daliben lathatibal, Wo Patel Nathabhai Devjibhai esiding at Village Alhabed. s. Radhanpur, Dist. Paten, Guisrat do hereby scientify affirm that my actual name and surrame was Chaudhari Dalibon, but after the namage, I am known as CHAUDHARI DALIBEN NATHABHAL So my correct arte is CHAUDHARI DALIBEN NATHABHAI instead of Chaudhari Baliben.

**OTHERS** 

SITUATION VACANT

WANTED OFFICE ASSISTANT -**FEMALE GRADUATE** For Unit at GIDC,

Makarpura, Vadodara Apply in your own hand-writing to Post Box No. 791. MIE Post Office,

GIDC, Makarpura, Vadodara-390 010.

Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations o individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoev

#### e-procurement portal at <a href="https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app">https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app</a> **TENDER NOTICE NO 3 OF 2020-21**

On behalf of Governor of Gujarat state, Executive Engineer Anand (R & B) Division, Opp. D.S.P. Office, Near Jilla Seva Sadan, Anand invites online tender through E-tendering system from the registered contractor in appropriate class for 3 (Three) Building work having estimated cost Rs. 10.07 Lac to 60.54 Lac. Detailed tender notice & all documents details of Sr. No 1 to 3 would be available on **www.rnb.nprocure.com** after 12.00 P.M. by Dt. 09.07.2020. If any correction in this tender notice, could be available only online website. Other detailed tender notice could be seen on www.statetenders.com.

More details of works can be availed from the above website and office. (INF/ANAND/154/20-21)

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

SICRITARIAT, GANDHDNAOAR

NOTIFICATION

(The Right to Pair Compensation and Transparency is Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resemblement Act, 2013) (10 of 2013)

No. AM-2020-326-M-LAM-1219-2382-GH

(H.J. Rathod)

No. AM-2020-326-M-LAM-1219-2382-GH

Whereas it appears to the Government of Gajanet that, the land specified in the SCHEDULE annexed herein, is likely to be required to "The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (A Joint Venture of the Government of India and participating State Covernments "thereinaths referred to as "The Requising Bedy") for the public purpose — for the purpose of construction of infrastructure project of "The Mumbal-Minnelabed High Speed Rail Project," (barainafter referred to as "The Public Purpose Project").

1. Now whereas, the Government of Gajanet Revenue Department has, in exaction of the powers conferred, by section 10A (Issuanda by section 3 of the Right to Fair Companision and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Reliabilitation and Resettlement (Gajarat Amendment) Act, 2016(Gajarat Acat No. 12 of 2016)] of The Right in Fair Companision and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Reliabilitation and Resettlement of Caparat Amendment Act, 2013 (30 of 2013) (hereinafter referred to as "The Act") assumption, interest, by Notification No. AM-2019-708-M-LAM-2119-2382-GH, Danadré2/12/2018, published in the Extraordinary Gazation of Gajarat Government duted: 6/02/2019, the below stantioned Scheduled area of Land, to be sequired for the infrastructure project of The Mumhal-Ahmedelash High Speed Rail Project, from the application of the provisions of Chapter II and III of The Act, and

2. Now whereas, in exercise of the provisions of Chapter II and III of The Act, and

3. Now whereas, in exercise of the provisions of Chapter II and III of The Act, and

4. Now whereas, in exercise of the provisions of Chapter II and III of The Act, and

3. Now whereas, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 11 of "The Right to Pair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (30 of 2013) (hereinafter referred to as The Act), the Government of Gajarat has a point of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 11 of "The Right to P

SCHEDULE

-	T		The second	F210	
No.	Village Panchayat's Building Assessment Statement No.	Sq.mr.	No.	Village Panchnyat's Building Assassment Statement No.	Sug and
1	7	9.4782	29	62/8	20.024
2	8	92,1621	30	105	12.8055
3		138.8616	31	104	1.5497
4	10	59.9472	32	74	32.6343
5	4	74.7787	33	75	26.7714
	13	56.8541	86	76	29.5346
7	12/1	26.3760	35	77	53.0560
8	13	29.8398	96	79	8.3176
9	11	24,2965	37	84	0.3130
10	190	47.9178	30	54/1	7,9689
11	187	18,7117	89	88	45,2777
12	184	125,1626	00	86/1	70.0881
13	100	0.7386	41	87	52,4464
14	47	45.5124	42	90	41.6637
15	180	56.3998	43	91	29,5844
16	57	53.4543	aa	98	26.6418
17	56	42.8806	45	92/1	23,7170
18	185/1	26.3932	46	93/2	55.2909
19	50	52,5976	4.7	93/1	26.4121
20	55	24.1607	48	93/A	0.9806
21	174	1.4800	49	93/6	25.5975
22	59	67.7753	50	353	50.3347
23	172	9.2384	53	85/1/1	39.9719
24	61	28.3185	52	85/1	76.9228
25	62/A	71.333	53	05	30.7410
26.	62/1	98.0349	54	75A	50/3338
27	564	2,7768	56	79/1	4.1762
28	73/3	73.2455	50	59	51.5507
				Total	22290107

No. INF/ABD/251/2020

made.

## BEED NAGAR PARISHAD, BEED

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. NP BEED/05 OF 2020-2021

Online tenders(e-tenders) in B-1 form for the following works are invited by Chief Officer Nagar Parishad, Beed (Phone No. 02442-222423) on Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management System from the contractor registered with punblic Work Department of Maharashtra State

Note: This Tender notice contains (44) Works & detailed work wise notice can be viewed on website given below from Date: 07/07/2020.

All information about E-tender is available on the following Portal l. https://mahatenders.gov.in

(Changes if any will be intimated over above portal)

Chief Officer Nagar parishad, Beed

# SARDAR SAROVAR NARMADA NIGAM LIMITED

(A Wholly Owned Government of Gujarat Undertaking) Tender Notice No. 07 of 2020-21 Online Tenders (E-tendering) for following work(s) of Sarder Sarovar Project

are publicly invited by Executive Engineer, Narmada Project Colony Dn-1, Revadia Colony from the eligible contractors registered / to be registered in appropriate class. 1. Estimated cost 1. Tender fee

Name of work	Rs. in lat an per SOR 2015-16 2, EMO in Rs. 1. Class	2.Time for completion of Work		
Providing & Carrying out Plinth Protection Treatment, Extensor Colour and Waterproofing at Category C, Category III and Category B type Blocks at Kevadia Colons.	7] 9s. 36000.00	1) Rs.1500:00 + 270:00 (18% GST) = Rs. 1770:00 2) 02 Months		
	SCHEDULE OF E-T	ENDERINS		
1. Pre-bid Meeting		N.A.		
Downloading of Tender documents.	Up to Dr. 13/07/202	Dup to 18 80 hrs.		
<ol> <li>On line submission of tender document i.e. last date of recept of tenderby \$5KML.</li> </ol>	Up to Dt. 13/07/202	Dup to 18:00 hrs.		
	/2020 to this 16/07	<ul> <li>2 (Three) days Ji.e. from date: 13/07/2020 up to 18:00 hrs in the office of the N.P. Colony Division No.3. Kewdle</li> </ul>		
	On St. 17/07/2020 from 11:00 hts. Cowards (If possible) in the office of the Executive Engineer, N.F Calaby Division No.3. Kevadia Colony			
6: Opening of Technical Bid ()f Applicable (On Ine)		MA.		
J. Opening of price bid	On Dt. 17/07/2009	at 3200 hrs. cowards ( if possible)		
www.ssenl.mpropure.com		nder documents are available on to Rs 3.0 Come, relevant changes shall be		

(INF/NARMADA/103/2020-21)

# Dakshin Gujarat Vij Co. Ltd. 1580 CIN U40102GJ2003SGC042909

Regd. & Corp. Office: "Urja Sadan", Nana Varachha Road, Kapodara Char Rasta, Surat - 395 006 GUJARAT DGVCL Tojj Free No. 19123 (0r 1800 233 3003) Install MCB/ELCB/RCCB & Prevent Electric Shocks/Electrical Accidents

Tender Notice
Sealed tenders are invited from GST registered firms for construction of new Navsari RSO Office, G+1 structure including infrastructure work under Surat Rural Circle. Last date for tender submission is 23.07.2020 (upto 15:00 hr). Details are available on www.dgvcl.com

(for view and download tender documents) & www.dgvcl.nprocure.

com (for view, download and online tender submission). Tender No. EstImated Cost

	1	DGVCL/CIVII				Rs. 98,57,	
	Note	Bidders may vis	sit our web	site for regu	ılar up	dates till o	pening
ı	of the	tender.			ACE (	(P), DGVCL,	Surat.
	=						
	199.5	40					

SHIVAMOGGA SMART CITY LIMITED Regd Office: 1ST Floor, Corporation Building block, SN Market, Nehru Road, Shivamogga - 577201 CIN: U74999KA2017PLC100268, GSTIN: 29AAYCS3808B1Z0,

PAN: AAYCS3808B, TAN: BLRS63059D Web: http://shivamoggasmartcity.in/ E-mail: shimogasmartcity@gmail.com Phone No: 08182-279951 No.: SSCL/CR/140/PBT/2018

SHORT TERM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL-CALL 3

#### Through Government of Karnataka E-Procurement Only SSCL Shimoga invites Request For Proposal for eligible bidders

as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through e-procurement on Public Private Partnership (PPP). Details of the work is as below. Sl No: 1. Name of the work: Survey, Investigation, Planning

Design, engineering, Financing, Procurement, supply, Erection, Testing, Installation, commissioning and comprehensive operation & maintenance and transfer of 25 MW Solar power generation plant on Upper or Lower Tunga canal stretches passing through the Shivamogga City, Shivamogga District Karnataka State under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode for 25 years on DBFOT basis EMD Amount in Lakhs: 140.00, Project Duration: Implementation Peroid-18 Months and O&M period – 25 years Calender of events:

1. Blank Tender documents can be downloaded from: **04.07.2020** @**4.00 P.M 2.** Last date for Tender Queries: 20.07.2020@ 11.00 A.M 3. Pre bid meeting: 22.07.2020 @ 4.00 P M @ SSCL office, Board Room, Shivamogga 4. Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is: 07.08.2020 upto 4.00 P.M 5. Date of Opening of Technical bid is on: 10.08.2020 @ 4.30 P.M 6. Date of Opening of Financial bid is: 24.08.2020 @ 5.00 P.M

For details, registration and e-payment visit GOK e-procurement website. https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contract eprocurement Helpdesk at 080-25501216 / 080-25501227, For more information contact in office hours.

Sd/- Managing Director Shivamogga Smart City Limited, Shivamogga DIPR/SMG/No.30-07/zenkar/2020-21

**ADVERTORIAL** 

Guru Poornima



HER HOLINESS SHRI MATAJI NIRMALA DEVI Founder of Sahaja Yoga

**Giving Self-Realisation by Kundalini Awakening** 



# **QUALITIES OF A REAL GURU**

#### A GURU CONNECTS YOU TO THE DIVINE:

Golden Jubilee

(1970 - 2020)

The first and foremost quality of a Guru is that he makes you meet God, means he raises the Kundalini and establishes your relation with the all-pervading power. It was asked to Guru Nanaka and he said, "Sahib mili hain so hi Satguru." Meaning, the one who makes you meet the Divine is the only one who is the Satguru, who is the Guru. Then he has categorized them as agurus, kugurus etc. But the one who is a Satguru, the one who is the real Guru is the one who makes you meet God, makes you meet this Divine power.

YOU CANNOT PURCHASE A GURU: A Guru has to take full responsibility of the wellbeing and righteousness of the disciple, with the same intensity as the mother. Guru is the one who connects the disciple to the Brahmachaitanya. You cannot purchase him. If you buy a Guru then he is your slave, he cannot be a Guru.

A GURU HAS TO BE A REALIZED SOUL OF A VERY HIGH QUALITY AND GREATLY **EVOLVED:** The Guru has to be a real Guru, not one who is just exploiting the disciples and who is not authorized

by God. There is a gap between human awareness and Divine awareness, a very big gap, and that gap can be only fulfilled by a Guru who himself is complete. Today is a Poornima day, 'Poornima' means the complete moon. The Guru has to be a complete personality to talk about the Statutes of the Lord and to elevate his disciples to this level of understanding, by which they imbibe those statutes. He is there to fulfill this gap, and for that it is essential that every Guru has to be a realized soul of a very high quality and greatly evolved.

A GURU NEED NOT BE AN ASCETIC: If you see the lives of all these Gurus, they were married, they had children, they lived a normal life. Yet in their own personal life they were absolutely detached people. A Guru need not be a person who is an ascetic, or he need not be a person who is living in the forest. He could be a common householder, he could be a king. All these outward manifestations of one's life do not matter.

(Guidance given by Her Holiness Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi)

# **ALL THE REALISED SOULS AND GURUS SPOKE OF UNIVERSAL LOVE AND PEACE**

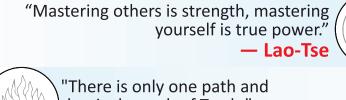
"When you live in the realm of the Divine / Power, the *Brahma*, it looks after you."

Raja Janak



"Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren." — Abraham

yourself is true power."





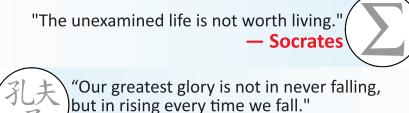
that is the path of Truth." Zoroaster

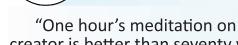
"See the Divine in the Human Being." Shri Shirdi Sai Baba





"You shall therefore keep all the commandments which I command you this day, that you may be strong." — Moses





— Confucius

"One hour's meditation on the work of the creator is better than seventy years of prayer." Prophet Mohammed



'See the brotherhood of all mankind as the highest order of yogis; conquer your own mind, and conquer the whole world." — Guru Nanak

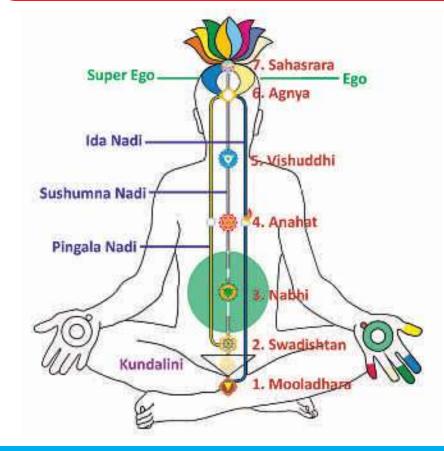
# **Guru Is He Who Connects You To God**

## 7 Touchstones For Seekers of a True Spiritual Master Seekers of truth tend to look for a Guru to guide them 4. If it teaches giving up family and property in the name

through the ordeals of life and channelize their seeking of of austerity or renunciation, it's a swindle you are about God. This is to caution them of false gurus mushrooming in India, ready to rob them of their faith, money, health and common sense.

- 1. Is money taken at any time? If it's not free, it's a fraud. The truth cannot be owned, nor can it be bought or
- 2. If he or his agents pursue you like salesmen and take money, they are an organized business. The more valuable the path, the less organized it is, unlike a business.
- 3. What experience do you get? A transitory experience is not necessarily divine. Visions, voices, astral projections, auras, levitation, predictions, communication with the dead and other similar feats are dangerous.
- to subject yourself to.
- Are you asked to clothe in unusual dress, sit in strange postures, perform wild chanting, or wear rings or some sort of an ornament? God is beyond these and the power of pure desire is all that matters.
- What do you get? Does the Guru make you dharmic (righteous/ virtuous and not religious)? If he teaches that a particular religion is superior to others, he is faking spirituality.
- 7. If you are guided towards either sexual liberation or austerities, you are in a wrong place, ready to be physically exploited by fake gurus and their agents of

# Good luck to you on your path of seeking!



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# 6 GOVT & POLITICS

# Bihar polls: Demand within Congress to reach out to LJP

NEW DELHI, JULY 4

anti-NDA THE Opposition alliance in Bihar is struggling to resolve internal differences over the projection of

RJD chief Tejashwi Yadav as the chief ministerial candidate, there are demands within the Congress that it should try and exploit the fissures in the NDA camp and perhaps reach out to Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (LJP).

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi held a virtual meeting with top leaders of the Congress in Bihar to assess the party's preparations for the Assembly elections and directed the party leadership to sort out the alliance issues by the end of July.

While leaders of the alliance partners have held one round of meetings, smaller parties such as former CM Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM(S), Upendra Kushwaha's RLSP, and Mukesh Sahni's Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) have still not agreed on Tejashwi Yadav as the CM candidate.

Sources in the Congress said talks with Left parties — CPM and CPI - are underway and a final decision is expected soon.

Meanwhile, Gandhi's meeting with the Bihar leadership on Friday saw one of the senior leaders suggest that the party needs to be more aggressive.

Rajya Sabha MP Akhilesh

Prasad Singh did some plainspeaking, saying that the BJP and ID(U) are engineering defections while the pandemic and lockdown has forced the Congress to curtail its activities, sources said. While mentioning Jyotiraditya Scindia's exit and the defection of five RJD MLCs to the JD(U), Kumar said all is not well in the NDA and the Congress should establish contact with those who are unhappy. His reference was to the LJP, which has signalled that it is not comfortable with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

LJP national president Chirag Paswan has said that the party's alliance in 2014 was with the BJP and not with the JD(U). The JD(U)became part of the NDA again in 2017 when Kumar walked out of the alliance with the RJD and Congress and joined hands with the BJP. Besides, the LJP argues its alliance is at the national level and state politics is different.

Singh, it is learnt, also told Gandhi that he had told a senior Congress leader three months ago that three MLAs of the JD(U) are interested in joining the Congress. 'But he (the senior leader) has not come back to me. There is no direction whether I should get in touch with them or not... I don't know whether this information has reached you... we cannot do politics like this," Prasad said. "All is not well within the NDA... but somebody should open a channel of communication with them," Prasad is learnt to have said.

# 'PM must follow raj dharma... India should tell China to retreat'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JULY 4

THE CONGRESS on Saturday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to follow his "raj dharma" and tell the country about the reality of the Chinese "incursions" in Ladakh. The party also invoked Jawaharlal Nehru to suggest that India's first Prime Minister never accepted the Chinese claim line and Beijing had accepted during his tenure that Galwan Valley be-

Addressing a virtual press conference, Congress leader Kapil Sibal said satellite images of Pangong Tso from May and June showed Chinese structures in the area and asked the Prime Minister to at least speak the truth.

Referring to PM Modi's visit to Ladakh, Sibal said former Prime Ministers Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri had visited forward locations to boost the morale of soldiers. Nehru, he said, visited soldiers in forward locations in NEFA in 1962 but "it appears that our Prime Minister stayed 230 kms

away in Nimu, Leh".

On the Prime Minister's remarks that the "era of expansionism is over". Sibal quoted letters exchanged in 1962 between then Prime Minister Nehru and then Chinese premier Zhou Enlai. He said the term Line of Actual Control was coined by Zhou in 1956 and then repeated in 1959, and before and during the 1962 war. At that

#### Withdraw tax on disability pension for Army: Adhir

New Delhi: The leader of

Congress in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, on Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding the withdrawal of tax imposed on disability pension for military perconnel Chowdhury praised the Prime Minister for visiting the general hospital at Leh to meet the military personnel injured in the Galwan Valley clash.

time, he said, Zhou sent Nehru a letter asking India to accept the 1959 Chinese claim line.

Sibal said Nehru had told Zhou that the demand for India to accept the Chinese 1959 line is a demand to which "India will never submit, whatever the consequences and however long and hard the struggle may be".

"Paradoxically, the Chinese 1959 line clearly depicted the entire Galwan Valley in India... The times warrant India to look eyeto-eye at China and unequivocally tell them to retreat from their illegal and brazen occupation... Mr Prime Minister, this is the only raj dharma that you must follow," Sibal said.



President Ram Nath Kovind lights a lamp during a virtual event organised by the International Buddhist Confederation on the occasion of the Dhamma Chakra Diwas, at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Saturday. PTI

#### Modi: Buddha's teachings can provide lasting solutions

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JULY 4

THE TEACHINGS of Lord Buddha are especially relevant in current times and can provide lasting solutions for a world grappling with "extraordinary challenges", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday, greeting the people on Ashadha Poornima.

Addressing an event at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, marked as Dhamma Chakra Day, the Prime Minister also said the government wants to develop more connectivity to Buddhist heritage sites in the country for pilgrims as well as tourists

"Today the world fights extraordinary challenges. To these challenges, lasting solutions can come from the ideals of Lord Buddha. They were relevant in the past. They are relevant in the present. And, they will remain relevant in the future," he said in his video message.

The event was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind, who, too, echoed Modi in his address. As the pandemic of Covid-19 ravages human lives and economies across the globe, "Buddha's message serves like a beacon", he said.

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

BIHAR'S LEGISLATIVE Council

Chairman Awadhesh Narayan

Singh and four of his family

members and staffers tested pos-

itive for Covid on Saturday, send-

ing shudders through political

circles in the state, with at least

50 VVIPs, including Chief

Minister Nitish Kumar and his

deputy Sushil Kumar Modi send-

while one of the staffers in his of-

fice tested positive for Covid, of-

more than 100 VVIPs, including

CM Nitish Kumar, Deputy CM

Modi, Bihar Assembly Speaker

Vijay Kumar Choudhary and

Leader of Opposition Tejashwi

ficial sources said.

Nitish has tested negative

Singh's report caused alarm as

ing their samples for testing.

PATNA, JULY 4

# PM pitches hackathons for agri innovation

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, JULY 4

TO ENSURE innovation in agriculture and allied fields, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday emphasised on promoting start-ups and agri-entrepreneurs, and asked the Indian Council of Agriculture Research to organise biannual hackathons for solving "identified problems" in the sector.

Reviewing ICAR's progress via video-conference, the Prime Minister spoke on using information technology to provide information on demand to farmers. He also highlighted the need for developing forward and backward linkages to assure better returns for them.

"PM directed that start-ups and agri-entrepreneurs need to be promoted to ensure innovation and use of technology in agriculture and allied sectors,' said a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

"He directed that hackathons may be organised twice a year to solve identified problems and meet design needs for tools and equipment that can reduce drudgery if farming activity,

AT LEAST 50 VVIPs SEND SAMPLES; BIHAR CM TESTS NEGATIVE

Bihar Council Chairman positive

Nitish Kumar sat next to

an event on July 1. ANI

Awadhesh Narayan Singh at

Prasad had recently met the

Council Chairman — during a hu-

man rights commission meet and

at the swearing-in ceremony of

the nine newly-elected MLCs on

said at least 50 VVIPs have given

their samples for testing and the

number is likely to go up as Singh

met several people recently.

Health department sources

Nitish, Sushil undergo tests as

given that a large number of farm workers are women," said the statement.

Modi also directed officials to ensure ease of access to farm equipment and transport facility from field to markets.

"PM highlighted the need to orient agricultural education and research systems based on agro climatic requirements to meet the demands of the farmers. The systems are to be geared towards enhancing farmer's incomes while meeting international standards,' the statement said.

During the review meeting, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, Ministers of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, and senior officials, including ICAR DG Trilochan Mohapatra, were present.

The Prime Minister reviewed the ICAR's contribution in developing new breeds of cattle, sheep and goats, and highlighted the need for research on "indigenous breeds" of dogs and horses.

"He exhorted the need to create awareness regarding inclusion of millets like jowar, bajra, ragi and several other minor millets in the diet to ensure healthy diet," said the statement.

Eight politicians, including

"The situation is very scary.

People have scant respect for

preventive norms despite sus-

tained awareness. The only sav-

ing grace is a very good recovery

rate. But co-morbidity is surely a

big concern," said a minister

who has given his sample for

are eagerly waiting for contract-

tracing details. "We are only

praying Awadhesh Narayan

Singh's case does not turn out to

of which 7,930 people have been

discharged and 88 have died. In

the last 24 hours, 546 new cases

have been reported.

Bihar has 10,810 Covid cases,

be a political super-spreader."

Another BIP leader said many

six BIP leaders, a Congress legis-

lator and a senior RJD leader and

former Union minister, have

tested positive in Bihar so far.

#### of 'unhappy' MP divisions

Chouhan to

take charge

**LIZ MATHEW** 

Saturday.

NEW DELHI, JULY 4

FOR THE BJP, the party organisa-

tion is not just a machine to win

elections but "it means serving the

people, taking everyone along,

and ensuring everybody's happi-

ness and prosperity", Prime

Minister Narendra Modi said on

from across the country on a vir-

tual platform, Modi lauded the

leaders and workers for welfare

works done during the lockdown

period and the pandemic, but re-

minded them that each one of

mands things of us, we must un-

derstand that it expects us to de-

liver. The Covid-19 period has

helped us understand this feeling

better. The society gave us a

Modi told party workers: "For

us, our organisation is not just a

machine to win elections. For us,

our organisation means service.

Our organisation means taking

everyone along. For us, our organ-

isation means happiness of all and

workers from seven states -

Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Bihar,

Karnataka, Delhi, Assam and Uttar

Pradesh - on their social and wel-

fare activities during the lock-

down period at a function to re-

view the 'Seva Hi Sangathan'

programme. He asked the work-

ers to prepare a digital book on

works they have done right from

the mandal and district level to the

state and national level. The digi-

BIP leader asks

Modi watched presentation of

prosperity for all.

chance to serve," he said.

"Whenever the public de-

them is in public life to serve.

Addressing party workers

**MILIND GHATWAI** BHOPAL, JULY 4

TWO DAYS after Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan exa dozen former Congress MLAs, senior BJP leader and former minister Ajay Vishnoi on Saturday requested Chouhan to become incharge minister of Jabalpur and Rewa districts to stem the public discontent over the expansion.

Supporters of at least half-adozen BJP legislators have registered their protests over exclusion

of their leaders. Mahakaushal and Vindhya regions, of which Jabalpur and Rewa are the headquarters, have got the short shrift, with a lion's share of ministerial berths having gone to Gwalior-Chambal and Malwa belts, he indicated. "I can understand your compulsions but not the common people, who are unhappy with the ministry. Please come and take charge of Jabalpur and Rewa to make them feel better. (Congress leader) Digvijaya Singh was in charge of Jabalpur district when he was the CM. I am sure you will accept the request," Vishnoi, MLA from Jabalpur's Patan, wrote.

# BJP organisation not a poll-winning machine, it's to serve people: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the BJP's 'Seva Hi Sangathan' programme, in New Delhi. PTI

tal books, recording all welfare

the future generation, he said. It could be released on September 25 on the occasion of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's birth anniversary.

and social activities as well as cre-

ative works from the respective

areas, would be an inspiration to

After reviewing of the state units' social activities, Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted: "No organisation in the world would have done service work on such large scale. For this I congratulate National President @jpnadda and crores of workers of the BJP."

At the function, attended by BJP president JP Nadda and party general secretaries such as Rajnath Singh and Shah, among others, Modi said: "At a time when everyone in the world is busy protecting themselves, you have given up your worries and dedicated yourself to the service of the poor and the needy. This is a great example of service.'

If this had taken place in any western country, Modi said, everyone would have heaped

praises on these activities

The Prime Minister said the BJP is following the same principles its founding fathers had envisaged for it. "We considered power as a medium of service. We never made power our medium of profit. Selfless service has been our resolve, and that has been our value," he said.

Modi had special praise for Nadda, who, he said, has been providing food packets from his own home for the poor throughout the lockdown period.

He also pointed out that the BJP has turned the crisis period into an opportunity. "We will remember the pandemic as the transformation stage for BJP, digitally. Today, a lot of our workers have got better on digital platforms." He reiterated a sevenpoint code for party workers sevabhav (service), santulan (balance), saiyam (restraint), sakaratmak (constructive), samvedana sensitivity) and samvaad (dialogue) - and pointed out that the BJP is represented by all sections of the society.

**2 FISHERMEN KILLED BY ITALY MARINES** 

# **Build international** pressure for fair trial, Pinarayi writes to PM

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

FRAI A CHIFF Minister Pinaravi Vijayan on Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking the Indian government to build international pressure – in connection with the shooting of two Indian fishermen by Italian Marines in February 2012 — for a fair trial in Italy.

An international tribunal earlier this week ruled that the Italian Marines held immunity and will face a trial in Italy.

In his letter, the Chief Minister said the grave crime committed against the two Indian citizens "is not being brought to justice" in the country and the incident deserved a more cautious and sensitive

handling from the beginning. "Whatever be the technicalities of the international conventions, the decision of the ITLOS has resulted in added grief to the bereaved families and the people of Kerala. I wish to convey our strong feelings on this issue," he wrote, "If the award of the Arbitral



stated by the Central government in the affidavit filed before the Supreme Court, Government of India should take earnest efforts to build international pressure for a fair trial in Italy."

Vijayan said India must bargain for an exemplary amount of compensation and approach IT-LOS within the stipulated time period if adequate compensation is not possible through

The tribunal acknowledged India's argument that the marines on board 'Enrica Lexie' had violated the freedom of navigation rights under the UNCLOS by shooting at the fishermen on

MINISTRY FOR DE-CRIMINALISATION OF 'MINOR OFFENCES FOR IMPROVING BUSINESS SENTIMENT'

# Govt looks to 'amend' parts of Disabilities Act, community protests

**NEW DELHI. JULY 4** 

THE UNION Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's notification proposing amendment of the Right of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, to de-criminalise "minor offences for improving business sentiment and unclogging court processes" has met with protests from the community of disabled persons. activists and organisations.

While representatives of the disabled community contend that the strong 2016 Act has, for the first time, given their marginalised community robust protection under punitive measures included in the law, min-

istry officials point out that the Act is being examined to make laws commensurate with the offence, which may not be the case under the 2016 law.

In its notification issued on Wednesday, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, under the ministry. stated that decriminalisation of minor offences will alleviate the risk of imprisonment for actions which do not necessarily have "mala fide intent". It stated that the risk of jail is a hurdle in attracting investments – from both domestic and foreign investors — which has become more pertinent after the Covid-19 pandemic in order to revive the economy.

Three days since the department's notification, 125 signato-

activists/groups from across the country on Saturday wrote to the ministry in protest.

Explaining the reason for starting the "process of amendment", the department's director, and author of the notification. KVS Rao. said: "The government has undertaken the process of reviewing existing laws, many of which were devised by the British under the Indian Penal Code and had never been reviewed such as IPC Section 377, which criminalises homosexuality. When this (RPwD) Act was formulated, many IPC Sections were added mechanically, without consideration of reformulating to keep abreast with

"The notification is a call for feedback and observations from the community. The intent is not to harm the community or to pass an amendment which may be detrimental to the rights of disabled persons.'

Rao said the department will consider reducing the punishment or penalty meted out to an offence which may be classified as severe currently but which the department holds as a minor offence. "For instance, there is a dif-

ference in severity between sexual offence against a person with disability and insulting a disabled person by calling them names, or (calling) a non-disabled person by a disabled name which demeans the community," Rao said. "At present, both offences are considered severe, and both have a financial penalty as well as the possibility of imprisonment. We feel both offences are not at the same level of severity and need to be treated differently.'

But disability activists demur. They argue that the 2016 Act was the result of years of struggle, and came into force after India became a signatory to and ratified the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007.

Muralidharan, general secretary of the National Platform for Rights of the Disabled (NPRD), said: "The (earlier) 1995 Act was not as comprehensive as the 2016 Act. It covered seven types of disabilities, as opposed to 21 that the 2016 Act covers.... The 2016 Act is more about rights of disabled persons, besides an extensive list of benefits in this Act."

He said an "integral part" of those rights is penal provisions, provided for the first time. "The penal provisions are to act as deterrents against offences against disabled persons. The department needs to understand that there are layers of discrimination that a disabled person goes through, including insults thrown at them implying that they are not good enough, This has severe psychological effects..."

Some of the rights that the 2016 Act, which came into effect in 2017, ensures is that of the right to education, right to employment and the right to liveli-

hood, with 4 per cent reservation in government offices and 5 per cent reservation in educational institutions.

Three sections of the Act are under review: Section 89, which, in a first, imposes a fine — of Rs 10,000, going up to Rs 50,000 to Rs 5.00.000 in a second offence for breaking of any rule in the Act; Section 92(a) for intentionally insulting or intimidating a person with disability with intent to humiliate in public view; and Section 93, which pertains to companies contravening the Act or not submitting relevant documents to the Disability Commissioner when asked for.

Only Section 92(a) has a provision for imprisonment.

According to the new proposal, imprisonment provision penalty can be negotiated by the sparring parties under supervision.

Delhi-based activist Satendra Singh said: "Penal provisions of this Act are meant to be as effective as those made for SC/ST persons. As the SC/ST Act is strict, it acts as a huge deterrent for offences being committed. RPwD Act was meant to do the same for us. By removing penal provision, the government is not only diluting the Act but also going against commitments it made internationally and to the UN....

Rao said the department is 'flexible" and will consider extending the date of feedback from July 10. **FULL REPORT ON** 

www.indianexpress.com

DAY AFTER EIGHT OF ITS MEN KILLED

# **UP Police probe** 'insider' role, suspend officer



Vikas Dubey's house was razed in Bikru village, Kanpur, Saturday. Police denied any role in the demolition. PTI

**AVANEESH MISHRA** & MANISH SAHU LUCKNOW, JULY 4

A DAY after eight police personnel, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), were killed during a raid to arrest history-sheeter Vikas Dubey in Bikru village in Kanpur, the station officer (SO) of the police station concerned was suspended pending an inquiry into links with Dubey.

Officers suspect Dubey was tipped off about the raid early Friday morning, helping him escape even as his men held off the police team. Sources said the Special Task Force (STF) that is probing the shootout is questioning Chaubeypur Police Station SO Vinay Tiwari. DGP Hitesh Chandra Awasthy confirmed that a probe was on into

Tiwari's "role in the case". Police had gone to arrest Dubey, a former zila panchayat member who carries a reward of Rs 50.000 on his head, in

connection with an attempt to

murder FIR.

On Saturday, Dubey's house in Bikru village was demolished. While a police team was present at the spot and said locals had accused Dubey of usurping their land to build the house, it denied any hand in the demolition later.

Admitting that they are probing if Dubey was tipped off about the raid, Inspector General (IG), Kanpur Range, Mohit Agarwal told The Sunday Express that Dubey's men were well-prepared for the police team "and the informant could be from the police itself". "If that is the case, the police personnel who leaked the information would be sent

to jail and dismissed," the IG said. A senior police officer said they were also probing if only SO Tiwari had links with Dubey, for personal gains, or more personnel from the police station were involved. "Using call details we will find out how frequently the SO was talking to Dubey," the of-

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

HELPLINES SET UP TO MOVE PATIENTS INTO HOSPITALS

# **Amid chaos, Karnataka recalls** order not to reveal test result

BENGALURU, JULY 4

THE KARNATAKA government on Saturday decided to withdraw a controversial June 27 order, which barred disclosure of Covid-19 test results to patients, following widespread confusion in Bengaluru over hospitalisation of people who tested positive but did not have copies of test results.

Helplines for moving Covid-19 patients, or people suspected to be infected, into hospitals for care was also introduced on Saturday as the state authorities took measures to deal with a jump in cases.

The bar on test reports being disclosed to patients was introduced after confirmed cases in Bengaluru rose, and a single-day high of 918 cases were reported on June 27, creating a surge in people trying to find hospital beds. It was intended to facilitate a centralised bed allocation system.

But many patients brought to hospitals after being informed by officials that they had tested positive were denied admission since they were not provided copies of the test report.

"The notification issued on June 27 has been withdrawn with immediate effect. However, all government and private laboratories should upload the details of Covid-positive and negative test cases to the ICMR portal daily," according to a notification issued on Saturday.

Last week's order, issued by di-



B S Yediyurappa

fare services Dr Om Prakash Patil, stated, "Covid positive test result status should not be revealed to the individual by the authorities of the government/private laboratories by any means." Labs must upload test results to ICMR portal and details must be given only to state officials, it stated.

The order was widely criticised by medical professionals and experts.

The government also announced two helplines: 108 to access ambulances and hospital beds, and 1192 for grievances of denial of hospital admissions. "There should not be any unfortunate cases of denial of treatment," the health department stated. The helplines have been created following deaths last week of two men aged over 50 in Bengaluru one of them was suspected of having contracted the infection and another was a person who had waited for two days for a hospital bed after testing positive.

"As the number of cases in and around Bengaluru are rising, shifting of COVID 19 positive cases / se-

cases to appropriate medical facility and ensuring that they are admitted and treated properly is of paramount importance," Saturday's circular quoted Health Secretary Jawaid Akhtar.

Besides moving patients to hospitals and between different levels of care and treatment centres, the 108 Arogya Kavacha helpline will also facilitate hospital admission of people with symptoms indicative of Covid-19 infection before a test.

The circular asks all patients facing breathing distress to call the toll-free 108 ambulance service. "On receiving the call, 108 will quickly ascertain if the patient is COVIDpositive or is COVID suspect using sample referral form (SRF) ID, provided by ICMR) and then move him/her to nearby treatment facility..." it

The 1912 helpline "should receive grievances related to deof admission in hospital/CCC for Covid-19 pa-

tients or SARI patients," it said. On Saturday, 1,839 confirmed cases were reported in Karnataka, including 42 deaths — a single-day high for the state since the first case was detected on March 8. The majority of cases were reported from Bengaluru, where daily numbers crossed the 1,000 mark for the first time -1.172fresh cases and 23 deaths were **CM reallocates** Covid-related work to ministers

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** BENGALURU, JULY 4

KARNATAKA CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa on Saturday re-allocated COVID-related responsibilities to his Cabinet colleagues for better management of the pandemic in the state.

At a Covid-19 task force meeting, Yediyurappa ordered stringent sealing measures at areas of Bengaluru that have reported more cases, as several ministers expressed opposition to re-imposition of lockdown.

"We are working as a team and we have to work like that. We have a Covid-19 task force committee, along with that Revenue Minister R Ashoka and Chief Minister's Political Secretary S R Vishwanath

have been given the responsibility of ensuring availability of beds at private hospitals," Medical Education Minister K Sudhakar

"While Deputy Chief Minister Ashwath Narayan has been given the responsibility of Covid-19 care centres and has been asked to increase their numbers; I have been directed to take care of policymaking, guidelines, war rooms and the responsibility of briefing

# **Kashmir IGP visits** Sopore victim's family, promises investigation

**ADIL AKHZER** 

SRINAGAR, JULY 4

INSPECTOR GENERAL of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar on Saturday visited the family of a civilian killed in firing in Sopore three days ago and assured the family that an "impartial investigation" would be conducted into the incident.

Bashir Ahmad Khan, 65, and a CRPF person were killed during a shootout when militants ambushed a team of police and CRPF personnel on the outskirts of Sopore, in north Kashmir, on Wednesday morning.

"I, along with senior officers, visited the family today and offered our condolences. I told them that whatever is running on social media is incorrect," IGP Kumar told The Sunday Express. "I heard them patiently and promised there will be an impartial investigation. I also offered to show them CCTV footage".

Kumar was referring to con-

troversy over pictures of Khan's 3-year-old grandson, who was with him at the time, at the site.

After the IGP's visit, family members of the deceased said they sought information about the incident. "We told them [police that it [the incident] should be investigated and we need complete facts and information," Khan's son, Suhail, told The Sunday Express. "They assured us that an impartial investigation will be conducted into the matter.... The family is in shock; we want iustice.'

Khan's elder brother Nazir Ahmad said IGP Kumar visited the family since his sister-in-law -Khan's wife - used to work in the police department. "He told us that since she worked with the police department, they were here to offer their condolences.... We told them that at the press conference instead of saving the police will investigate the matter and punish those who are guilty, you declared that he [Khan] died in the encounter."



At the site of the gunbattle in Arrah, Kulgam. ANI

# Tamil Nadu custodial deaths: Role of Friends of Police under scanner

# Ganguly brand role raises conflict of interest issues

**DEVENDRA PANDEY** MUMBAI, JULY 4

IN WHAT raises questions of potential conflict of interest, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Saturday appeared in an Instagram post wearing a JSW Cement (Jindal Steel Works) Tshirt while "at work" as the company's brand ambassador.

JSW Sports, the sports arm of the business conglomerate JSW Group, is, along with the GMR Group, the joint owner of the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Delhi Capitals.

Speaking to The Sunday Express, Ganguly, who has been mentor of Delhi Capitals in the past, insisted his new role as brand ambassador of JSW Cement didn't overlap with his duties as BCCI president, "How do I influence? I am not brand ambassador of ISW Sports (which handles Delhi Capitals in IPL). I don't think the cement company is a sponsor of the (Delhi Capitals) team, I don't see any conflict in it. I am not associated with their cricket; had I been, it would have been a conflict," Ganguly said.



Cement shirt

Ganguly

picture

posted this

wearing JSW

ble conflict of interest situation, direct or indirect, the BCCI constitution makes the following hypothesis: "When the BCCI. a Member, the IPL or a Franchisee enter into contractual arrangements with entities in which the individual concerned or his/her relative, partner, or close associates has an interest. This is to include cases where family members, partners or close associates are in positions that may, or may be seen to compromise an indi-

ance and discharge of roles.' JSW Cement's Managing Director Parth Jindal is also the director of JSW Sports and is the most prominent representative of the franchise. He is regularly seen in the dugout during matches of the Delhi Captials team and is also a vital decision-maker at IPL

vidual's participation, perform-

CHENNAI, JULY 4 THE INVESTIGATION into the

custodial deaths last month of a father and son in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi has brought under the scanner a 27-year-old community policing initiative in the state, Friends of Police (FOP), with demands to dismantle the system that is 'widely misused", especially in small towns and rural areas.

**ARUN JANARDHANAN** 

The probe by the state's Crime Branch-CID into the deaths of shopkeeper P Jeyaraj and his son | Bennix in Sathankulam police station on the night of June 19 has zeroed in on the alleged role of six FOP members who had been "helping the Inspector and Sub-Inspectors in routine affairs".

'We suspect that all six of them had a role in the custodial torture that happened on June 19 night and similar incidents in the past. We have identified them, and all six will be arrested," an officer linked to the

probe told The Sunday Express. Police have so far arrested five officers, including one inspector and two sub-inspectors, in the case, while the government has transferred all the other officers posted at the Sathankulam station. The CBI is

Police have so far arrested five officers, including one inspector and two sub-inspectors, in the case, while the government has transferred all the other officers posted at the Sathankulam station

expected to take over the probe soon, following a recommendation from the state govern-

"One of the arrested officers said they had beaten the father and son the same way they had been beating others. What we are now probing is the nature of the crime that lasted for several hours in the night, and how these FOPs also engaged in it," said the officer.

FOP. a voluntary system with no salary, was started in 1993 in Ramanathapuram district to bring the police and the public closer. It is estimated that there are around 4,000 active FOP members in police stations across Tamil Nadu.

"Volunteers can apply, and there are minimum criteria like no political affiliation or criminal background, etc. Those who apply are mostly rural youth from poor backgrounds. It is not the salary but the proximity to police that is an attraction. Some with criminal tendencies

take advantage of a favourable environment in the system," said another officer.

The Sunday Express spoke to three IG-rank officers and six SPs over the last two days on this initiative, and all of them agreed that FOPs "have grown like a cancer in the state police system".

in small towns and rural areas where police officers keep FOPs as sidekicks...to buy tea or food, help in vehicle checks, take seized vehicles to stations, or take people in illegal custody. In recent years, especially in southern districts like Thoothukudi, the police system is facing challenges from officers with strong caste and religious identities, who rely on

The officers pointed out that the police force has benefited from similar initiatives like the Home Guard for traffic regulation and crowd control, and

IG-rank officer.

the support of FOPs," said an

for contact tracing in Covid-19. "But the FOP system alone has faced charges," said an officer. For instance, the 3rd Tamil

Village Vigilance Committees

Nadu Police Commission Report submitted in 2008 said: "FOP scheme has not been evaluated by an independent body and its usefulness is doubted by a section... There are complaints, however, that some undesirable persons enroll themselves under the scheme and misuse the position...

scheme should be modified as Citizen Volunteers Scheme, the report said that "the effort of Police must be to develop such rapport with the public that all citizens are friends of Police, and not only a designated few".

Recommending that the

K Chandru, former judge of Madras High Court, said: "This is the proper time to implement the police commission report on community policing."

In a statement referring to the charges against FOPs in the Sathankulam station, G Lourduswamy, state administrator of FOP, said: "They were not members of FOP but volunteers hired for corona related work," According to him, those who are facing charges had not attended any training session and did not have FOP identity

# 2 militants killed, 3 soldiers injured in Kulgam encounter foreigner and identified as Ali Bhai

**ADIL AKHZER** SRINAGAR. JULY 4

TWO HIZBUL Mujahideen militants were killed and three Armymen injured in an encounter in Kulgam district of South Kashmir on Saturday, police said.

According to police, a cordon d search operation was Saturday launched in Arrah area and the gunbattle began as militants hiding in the area fired at security forces.

A senior police officer in Srinagar told *The Sunday Express* that two militants have been killed. "Three Armymen sustained injuries in the operation and they were shifted to the hospital for treatment," he said.

In the evening, a CRPF spokesperson said that firing in the area has stopped and search is underway. "The joint troops recovered bodies of two terrorists.'

A JK Police spokesperson said, 'One of the killed terrorists was a alias Hyder. However the identification of another killed terrorist is being ascertained. The killed terrorists were affiliated with proscribed terror outfit HM."

In the afternoon, Kulgam Police had issued a statement saying, "CASO was launched in Kulgam police station jurisdiction where terrorists fired upon joint forces triggering an encounter. Updates will be given post conclusion of operation."

With the killing of two more militants, as per the official records of J&K Police, 121 militants have been killed so far this year, with the highest number of militants killed in the Vallev in June (48). Nearly 90 percent of the total militants killed in the first half of 2020 in the Valley were locals and 11 were foreigners, as per records.

I&K Police had recently said that 29 foreign militants are active in the upper reaches of South Kashmir, which has seen several major anti-militancy operations in the last few months.

# WB: TMC councillor shot at Barrackpore

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA. JULY 4

NORTH BARRACKPORE councillor Champa Das was shot at in the leg by unidentified people near her home in North 24 Parganas district on Saturday.

The incident took place around 8 pm, when Das, the councillor of North Barrackpore Municipality's ward number two, was standing near her home. The attackers arrived on a bike, and fired at her. As the councillor fell, local people and party workers rushed towards her, while the attackers fled. She was first taken to a local hospital, and then admitted to RG Kar Medical College and Hospital here.

State Food Minister Jyotipriyo Mulllick accused the BJP of orchestrating the attack on the councillor, However, Noapara BIP MLA Sunil Singh dismissed the accusation. "The police should properly probe why the female councillor was shot at," he added.

# Two days before her wedding, stalker killed 19-yr-old, father

**AMIL BHATNAGAR** MEERUT, JULY 4

A 10-litre can of cooking oil, a sack of flour and packets of dry fruits lie stacked in the corner of a house in Meerut's Shiv Puram. The raw ingredients for a wedding feast will now be be returned after the bride-tobe and her father were shot dead-two days before the ceremony.

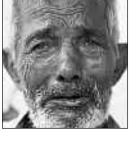
The house is now crowded with relatives and friends paying condolences to the garlanded photographs of Raj Kumar (48) and daughter Anchal (19).

The FIR filed by a relative, Aman, 21, says the two were killed on the night of June 27— allegedly by a stalker, who wanted to marry Anchal.

The main accused, Sagar Thakur, a neighbour, was arrested on Friday after a brief encounter, and the police said he reaffirmed the motive as mentioned in FIR.

Bhrampuri Circle Officer

remains absconding." The FIR states: "Our



The girl's grandfather at their Meerut house.

Chandrakant Tripathi said: 'Sagar has confessed that he planned to murder her since he loved her. We have arrested five people, including Sagar's mother. One accused

neighbour Sagar Thakur had a one-sided love affair with my sister, Anchal. He did not take in the fact that she was getting married to another person. To put pressure on us... along with four others, opened fire at us with the intention to kill. The bullets

hit my sister, my father and my brother. My sister and father succumbed.'

Anchal's mother Usha, 40, maintained that the murder motive was linked to an altercation between the victim's family and the accused during Diwali last year. CO Tripathi, however, dismissed that as a motive.

On the night of June 27,

the siblings were dancing in the drawing room, and Anchal can be seen grooving joyfully in a recorded video. Seconds later, gunshots are heard and a commotion ensues, the video shows. According to family members, Sagar and four others came with guns at their doorstep and shot Rajkumar, lying on a bed outside.

As the children rushed outside, the accused shot Anchal thrice. She died "They knew whom they

had to shoot, and how," Usha said. "They did not give anyone any notice. They did not want to injure her-they wanted to kill her.'

# For five decades, his typewriter spoke for Mumbai, his letters for its people

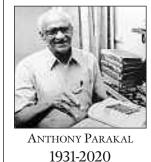
**MOHAMED THAVER** MUMBAI, JULY 4

ANTHONY PARAKAL belonged to a time when the common man wrote letters congratulating Prime Ministers on their appointment and received handwritten responses. It was a time when a reader's letter to a newspaper's editor spurred the government to act.

Those times may be long gone. And on Tuesday, Parakal, whose typewriter in a one-room Malad residence spoke for the people of Mumbai for over five decades. breathed his last, too. Ill and bedridden for five years, he succumbed to a cardiac arrest at 89. He is survived by his wife and three children.

In 1993, Parakal's name was included in the Limca Book of Records for having the most number of letters published in newspapers till then: 3,700. By 2005, when fading memory and ill health forced him to forsake that typewriter, he had around 5,000 letters published in his name, according to his son Cherian, who is based in Sharjah.

In fact, Parakal had even typed out a note on giving up writing let-



ters to newspapers after 50 years: "What motivated me... is my belief that one should not live for himself but also for others without which

we cannot live in a peaceful society.' A stickler for record—there are 16 files full of his letters—he also wrote in that final note that his "last social commitment" was getting the height of the Malad railway station platform raised so that people did not fall in the gap between the train footboard and the platform.

That letter, incidentally, was published in The Times of India on December 15, 2003. On January 28, 2004, there was a response from Shailendra Kumar, CPRO, WR

Churchgate: "Apropos the complaint of Mr Anthony Parakal, the Western Railway will be raising the height of many platforms between Churchgate and Virar. For Malad station, contract formalities are being completed."

Parakal's connection with the Railways was lifelong, starting with his first posting in Jhansi and transfer to Mumbai in 1953. "In Mumbai, he was shocked to see the poor amenities, especially in the slums. This was in stark contrast to Kerala from where he hailed," says Parakal's son, Cherian, 55.

Cherian says his father's elder brother Kurian was a Gandhian from Narakkal in Kerala who was called "Sarvodayam Parakal" for his social work. "He would go from house to house, asking people if they needed anything. That is where my father developed a sense of social responsibility...At one point, he was interested in journalism and had learnt shorthand writing. This could have been the reason why he chose the 'Letters to the Editor' column to fight for social issues," he says

Cherian says his father would travel on the suburban line where he would get ideas about what sub-

ject to choose for the next letter. "In the free time between Malad and CST, he would jot down the issues in shorthand. Once he returned home, he would take a bath, have food, and pull out the typewriter. He had a particular spot on the sofa where he sat to type out those letters. He was so disciplined that the spot where he sat on the sofa every day has worn out," says Cherian.

arity. "The A-4 letters that he typed did not fit in the envelopes available then. So he would make his own envelopes," he says. Parakal's file also included con-

The son recalls another peculi-

gratulatory messages sent to Prime Ministers, from Morarji Desai to Rajiv Gandhi, and their replies.

"We used to enjoy it. Sometimes, by the end of the month, when cash was short, our mother would threaten to burn the letters. But she was actually very supportive, and took tuition at home to support the family," says Cherian.

"As people came to know about his letter-writing, many from all over the city started coming to our house with their issues. He would ignore us, but never the person who came home with a grievance."

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# SUNDAY STOR

# STOP

Last week, amidst a tense border standoff with China, the government banned 59 mobile applications with links to the neighbouring country. PRANAV MUKUL, KARISHMA MEHROTRA, AASHISH ARYAN & SANDEEP SINGH on how Chinese companies came to dominate India's digital space — from apps to devices and ancillaries, there's more than a little bit of China on our phones

NTIL RECENTLY, the most fascinating story about Valsad was its Freddie Mercury connection - the British rock musician traced his lineage to this South Gujarat town that's now a chemical industry hub. But when the town shut down in response to the Covid pandemic, Sanjay Rathod, a 29-year old who washed cars for a living, found himself out of work. He filled his long, vacant hours practising his dances moves and recording them on his smartphone, one with a broken screen and an inexpensive data pack. Soon, his videos were up on TikTok — and a new star was born. In a little over three months, Rathod, who went by the screen name 'Armaan', had earned 7 million followers on the video sharing app.

Last week, amidst a tense border standoff with China, the Centre banned the app along with 58 others for posing "emergent threats" to the country's national security. While TikTok's reach — with over 120 million active users in India - made it the most visible symbol of the government's action against China, the other apps too had a deep presence in India. According to technology market research firm Counterpoint, almost one out of every three smartphone users in India had one or more of these apps on their devices

Tailored for the first-time Indian Internet user, these apps are among hundreds that make up China's digital presence in India, and which have been gradually edging out American competitors from the country's

In 2018, 44 of the 100 most downloaded Internet applications in India were made by Chinese companies, a huge jump from 18 such apps in 2017, according to a report in the Observer Research Foundation.

Last year, TikTok surpassed Facebook to reach 611 million downloads in India, according to Sensor Tower, a market analysis firm.

#### Tech as strategic goal

But this is more than just an app story. From hardware to software, Chinese companies have dominated the digital technologies space in India over the last few years, with more than a little push from the Chinese

The Communist Party of China (CPC) has consistently viewed technology as the next frontier through which to establish its supremacy in the global market, with its 'Digital Silk Road' policy — announced in a white paper in 2015 - an attempt at expanding its digital footprints to 65 countries.

In 2016, the country's National Cyber Security Strategy adopted the phrase "strong Internet power" as a strategic objective.

Numerous other strategies, such as the Internet Plus strategy of 2015 and the National Informatization Development Strategy of 2006-2020, explicitly call for the country's largest companies such as Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent to push out products to international markets.

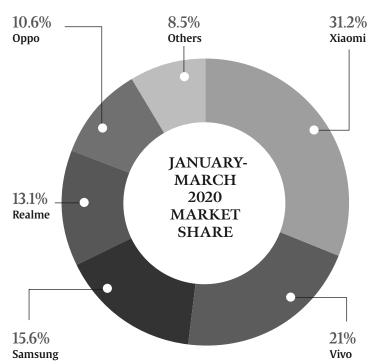
In India, the ground for this aggressive push from Chinese companies was laid in July 2014, when Xiaomi, often called the 'Apple of China', made its entry, followed by a flurry of Chinese brands such as Oppo, Vivo, OnePlus, Realme etc. The influx of these Chinese companies peaked in 2016 when Reliance Jio launched its cheap data offerings, starting with its free Internet package that disrupted the telecom sector.

Latest data by the International Data Corporation shows that among the top five smartphone sellers in the country, four are Chinese with Xiaomi topping the charts with a market share of 31.2%, followed by Vivo at 21% (see box)

This rapid increase in imports of electronic goods worried the Central government, which in April 2017 notified a phased manufacturing plan to ramp up domestic production of smartphones.

"The import of electronic goods was of the order of \$53 billion (approximately Rs 3,44,500 crore) in 2017-18. With the demand for electronics hardware expected to rise rapidly to about \$400 billion (approximately Rs 26,00,000 crore) by 2025, India cannot afford to bear a huge foreign exchange

# India's smartphone market



Source: IDC Quarterly Mobile Phone Tracker, May 2020 \*All except **Samsung** are Chinese brands

#### CHINESE INVESTMENT IN INDIAN UNICORNS

Company	Chinese Investor	Amount(\$M)
Ola Cabs	Tencent, Sailing Capital	451
Swiggy.com	Tencent, Hillhouse Capital	328
Paytm Mall	Alibaba	222
Policy Bazaar	Tencent	150
Dream11.com	Tencent	100
Delhivery	Fosun Group	49
Byju's Classes	Tencent	40
Big Basket	Alibaba, TR Capital	**
Lenskart.com	TRCapital	**
Zomato	Alibaba, Shunwei Capital	**

\*\*Amount not disclosed; Source: Venture Intelligence

outgo on import of electronics alone," the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology detailed in its National Electronics

The efforts to make India a manufacturing hub for electronics resulted in dozens of Chinese companies and their contract manufacturers setting up base in Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and elsewhere.

Chinese equipment vendors such as Huawei and ZTE also have a significant presence in the telecom equipment space in India. India telecom companies have depended on technologies by these Chinese equipment makers to take on European giants such as Ericsson and Nokia, a partnership that has helped bring down costs.

Thus, while the smartphones were being assembled in the country, most of the highvalue components such as printed circuit boards, memory devices, storage units, processors, were – and continue to be – imported, much of it from China.

This has been mainly because of the scale of Chinese manufacturing that has enabled companies to offer cheap, low-cost products. Most of the Chinese products would technologically follow premium brands such as Apple and Samsung, often resulting in a \$100-device with functionalities and design of a \$1000+ one.

Even Indian brands such as Micromax had initially resorted to importing semiknocked-down mobile phone units from China to assemble them locally and sell at a competitively lower price. The Gurugramheadquartered company, which is now struggling to maintain its ground, once led

the Indian mobile phone market, beating global behemoths such as Samsung and Nokia. But this was before the entry of Chinese players, who together accounted for 114 million of the 158 million smartphones shipped to India in 2019.

Of the 30 unicorns

in the country, more

than half have major

investments from

Chinese firms.

Twelve of these

count marquee

their backers

investors Alibaba

and Tencent among

In addition to flooding the digital market with affordable products, the Chinese also pushed the purchase of these products through micro-financing. For example, smartphone brand Oppo has jumped onto the financial services bandwagon in India, launching Oppo Kash. Realme and Xiaomi are the other smartphone makers that offer credit, investment and other financial products through their apps PaySa and Mi Credit respectively. These players are also engaged in providing services such as smartphone screen

insurance, personal loan, business loan, free credit report and even mutual fund invest-

India's financial technology sector hasn't remained untouched either. Chinese ecommerce giant Alibaba is the largest investor in payment app Paytm. Zestmoney, which has raised Rs 236 crore till date in the form of equity, counts Xiaomi among

#### The software presence

Once they had flooded the hardware market, Chinese companies launched a

blitzkrieg on the software side as well. The three Chinese giants, search engine Baidu, online marketplace Alibaba and WeChat developer Tencent - also known as the BAT trinity - have invested in a bunch of startups in India, including unicorns (startups worth at least \$1 billion) such as Swiggy,

A new red line

WHILE INDIA has resisted China's

signature physical infrastructure

Initiative, the neighbour's Digital

has helped Chinese companies

Silk Road policy, launched in 2015,

make significant headway into the

Indian technological space. In that

light, the ban signifies a new red

line, with newly erected virtual

walls between the two countries.

projects such as the Belt and Road

Zomato, Ola, Snapdeal BigBasket and Byju's among several others.

2:31 PM

Of the 30 unicorns in the country, more than half have major investments from Chinese firms. Twelve of these count marquee investors Alibaba and Tencent among their backers.

Simultaneously, hundreds of utilities app were launched on Apple's App Store and Google's Play, and a concerted push from the Chinese companies led to some of these becoming the most popular ones in their

respective categories. These included CamScanner, which was used even by senior officials in the Indian government to scan and share documents on their mobile phones. The app was among the 59 banned

Dev Lewis is among those who have witnessed the early days of this Chinese "gold rush" for the Indian digital space. Keenly aware of their own saturated user bases, Chinese companies big and small were eager to harness India's data revolution.

In 2016, with a fresh diploma in Chinese language and literature under his belt, Lewis

had his first job interview in Beijing at a littleknown company called NewsDog. NewsDog was one of the forerunners in Chinese apps

Uninstall 782MB

Now a fellow with Digital Asia Hub, a Yenching scholar at Peking University and researcher of India-China technology relations, Lewis says, "I remember the founder said something on the lines of, 'I know nothing about India, but I know it's the only other market like China. I missed the bus in China; I want to go for India'. It was a new gold rush."

Characterised as ultra-experimentative and iterative. Chinese companies apply the Shenzhen manufacturing model – quick-tomarket and quick-to-fix — for its products. ByteDance, which owns TikTok, has been called an "app factory", with at least 21 products since its founding in 2012.

Another Indian, who requested anonymity, recalls her time in 2017 working at ByteDance in Beijing, where she was tasked with looking at international products for the company (the company had no products in India then). In November that year, ByteDance bought another Chinesecompany, Musical.ly, which had a growing Indian base. In August 2018, it merged the company with TikTok.

"These companies consider themselves global, not Chinese. They believe that whatever success they have in China can be replicated in a lot of other markets," says the product strategist.

Chinese developers working on apps such as TikTok or NewsDog were quick to comprehend India's highly-stratified market with divisions of Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. "The themes of migration from smaller cities to bigger cities, from lower middle class to upper middle class — those are stories the Chinese can relate to." Something worked and TikTok became a household name

Given the app's reach in India, global brands such as PepsiCo and Reckitt Benckiser, which makes Dettol, jumped on to the bandwagon, their video campaigns garnering views in billions on TikTok.

#### An expanding footprint

The increasing popularity of these apps also prompted the companies running them to invest heavily in their India operations. To begin with, to meet India's data localisation norms, major companies with China links. including Tencent, Alibaba Group and ByteDance announced the setting up of data centres within India.

Last year, ByteDance, which is based in Cayman Islands, announced an investment of \$1 billion in India over a period of

Through all this, there were concerns,

much of those surrounding China's farreaching Internet laws, which experts interpret to mean that these apps and comanies could be forced to give government. They say that both the 2017 National Intelligence Law and the 2014 Counter-Espionage law can be leveraged by the Chinese government to seek data from companies that run out of India and

other countries. Despite these concerns, experts say China's disproportionate presence in India's app economy has allowed the Indian government a bargaining chip, albeit a lowhanging one, in these times of tension.

"This (ban) is just a stopgap measure... to convey that the Chinese should stop what they are doing, otherwise India has levers in other respects," says Arun Mohan Sukumar, who is pursuing a PhD at Tufts University on international rule-making in cyberspace. "Whether they have the Digital Road or the  $BRI (Belt \, and \, Road \, Initiative), China \, just \, can't$ ignore India. Half the population is still waiting to be connected to the Internet. No matter what our growth prospects, the digital economy will mature.'

The bargaining chip may be pure signalling. To be sure, the Chinese-owned MiPay, MiCredit, and RealMe Paysa handle much more sensitive financial data, and have not been touched by this ban. Yet, the ban serves to highlight the growing diplomatic dimension of these digital routes

"Data privacy has become the new national security. It's natural that India would view Huawei differently from an Ericsson or a Nokia. Technology is not neutral. When you strip everything down, it's a question of who do you trust more — the Chinese, the Americans, the Europeans," said Lewis, the researcher of India-China technology

While the Indian government has chosen to crack down on Chinese apps for now, the technology space offers plenty of fodder for diplomatic negotiations.

On the heels of the 2017 Doklam incident, the Defence Ministry asked armed forces personnel to uninstall 42 Chinese apps. More recently, Chinese tech company Huawei has been entangled in geopolitical concerns, as other members of the 'Quad' grouping (Japan, Australia, and US) have decided to ban the company from 5G infrastructure. India is vet to follow suit.

Speaking at the 2015 World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, Chinese President Xi Jinping was quoted in China Daily as saying, "Cyberspace should not become a battlefield for countries competing against one another.'

But now, it seems, a new front has opened. A virtual one.



#### Across **THE AISLE**



**PCHIDAMBARAM** 

Twitter@Pchidambaram\_IN

It is depressing that the law concerning personal liberty remains one in theory and another in practice. Mercifully, things are changing. Recently, a Constitution Bench in Sushila Aggarwal (January 29, 2020) reaffirmed another Constitution Bench judgment in Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia, (1980) 2 SCC 565 and courageously overruled eight judgments of the Supreme Court and also declared as "not good law" the view expressed in certain other judgments

# Rescue liberty from law

IF A person is arrested, he/she must have done wrong. If the person is denied bail, he/she must be guilty. If a person is sent to judicial custody (which is different from police custody), he/she deserved to be punished with impris-

Few pause to reflect that each of the above conclusions is patently wrong. It is our callousness towards that inviolable right called 'liberty' and our ignorance about how liberty is eroded that lead to a George Floyd moment in Minnesota, US, or a Jeyaraj and Bennix moment in Tamil Nadu, India.

Jeyaraj and Bennix's is not the first case of alleged custodial torture in India. In 1996, two judges of the Supreme Court took up, suo motu, letters from one DK Basu of West Bengal and one A K Johri of Uttar Pradesh that alleged frequent instances of custodial torture, and delivered a historic judgment on December 18, 1996 (DK Basu vs State of West Bengal, (1997) 1 SCC 436). That iudgment has been affirmed many times; yet, sadly, nothing has changed after 24 years.

#### Too Many Police

An average person has a touching faith in the State in so far as the State deals with other persons, and is willing to believe that a police officer, a prosecutor, a magistrate, a judge or a doctor will always act lawfully. He/She is wrong. Listen to Lord Denning:

"No one can suppose that the executive will never be guilty of the sins that are common to all of us. You may be sure that they will sometimes do things which they ought not to do: and will not do things that they ought to do."

The seed of custodial torture is sown not after the custody, it can be traced to the stages of arrest, denial of bail, allowing police custody, and remanding to judicial custody. At every stage, the law is clear, but its application is often wrong and perverse.

Let's begin with arrest. In D K Basu, the Court pointed out that we have given the power of arrest to many authorities other than the regular police: the CBI, ED, CID, CRPF, BSF, Traffic Police, Income-Tax, etc. Some of them claim they are not 'police' and are not bound by the Code of Criminal Procedure! The ED, for example, has asserted it is not obliged to maintain a 'case diary'. Worse, we have not specified the circumstances when an arrest may be made. The National Police Commission (Third Report) had observed that 60 per cent of all arrests were "unnecessary". The judges quoted the guidelines recommended in the Report and lamented,

"The recommendations of the Police Commission reflect the constitutional concomitants of the fundamental right to personal liberty and freedom. These recommendations, however, have not acquired any statutory status so far."

#### ARREST & REMAND

The first reform is to take away the power of arrest from many authorities. The second is to declare that any authority with the power of arrest is a 'police' officer. The third is to severely limit the power of arrest to cases arising in specified circumstances. Remember, Jeyaraj and Bennix were arrested for allegedly keeping their shop open for 15 minutes more than the time allowed in a lockdown!

The second stage is production and remand. A magistrate/district judge will grant police custody without scarcely a thought to the need for such custody. At the end of police custody (maximum of 15 days), the magistrate/district judge will invariably send the arrested person to judicial custody. The law is very different. In Manubhai Ratilal Patel, (2013) 1 SCC 314, the Supreme Court said "...the Magistrate can appreciate the factual scenario and apply his mind whether there is a warrant for police custody or justification for judicial remand or there is no need for any remand at all". Rare is the magistrate/district judge who bears in mind the underlined words.

The third stage is the doctor's examination of a person arrested or remanded to custody. If Jeyaraj and Bennix had been examined by a doctor, properly, how could they have been given a clean

#### **EXCEPTION BECOMES** RULE!

The fourth stage is bail. Few magistrates/district judges will reject the prosecutor's opposition to bail, at least at the first or second hearing. Every jail is filled with under-investigation or under-trial prisoners when, under the law, they should be on bail. The law was laid down by Krishna Iyer Jin Balchand (1977) 4SCC 308. Since then, 'Bail is the rule, jail is the exception' has become a hallowed principle. However, few magistrates/district judges apply the rule, they are happy to apply the exception!

In the Jeyaraj and Bennix case, for the alleged petty offence, they should not have been remanded to any custody, police or judicial, and should have been granted bail on production.

It is depressing that the law concerning personal liberty remains one in theory and another in practice. Mercifully, things are changing. Recently, a Constitution Bench in Sushila Aggarwal (January 29, 2020) reaffirmed another Constitution Bench judgment in Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia, (1980) 2 SCC 565 and courageously overruled eight judgments of the Supreme Court and also declared as "not good law" the view expressed in certain other judgments. To err is human, to correct the error is justice.

There is yet hope for those who find themselves in a situation like Jeyaraj and Bennix did before they died.



# **Nationalism** with a new nuance

THE WORD nationalism has acquired a rancid, venomous meaning in Narendra Modi's 'new' India. Instead of meaning love and pride for your country, it has become a weapon to be used against anyone who does not show blind faith in government policies and unquestioning devotion to the Great Leader. Ironically, in this time of serious hostilities with China, the Prime Minister, and the BJP, that is now imprinted with his personal stamp, have adopted the Chinese version of nationalism. It is a version that exists in all totalitarian countries but should be considered an abomination in our proud democracy.

The one thing we have that makes us a much, much better country than China is our democracy, so those people who have taken it upon themselves to create this new definition of nationalism are truly India's biggest enemies. And, it is they who we see on primetime debates banging their strident, jingoistic drums and hurling abuse at anyone who dares question the Prime Minister on any of his policies. Sadly, some of the loudest, noisiest drums are being beaten these days by famous TV anchors. They seem to have forgotten that most fundamental of journalistic princi-

ples, which is to speak truth to power. Modi has had a terrible year. Never in his long political career has he been more in need of people who tell him the truth. If someone had dared tell him the truth when the Shaheen Bagh protests happened, he would have learned that the women who were ready to protest through Delhi's icy cold winter nights, often with small children in their arms, did so because they were genuinely terrified of losing their right to be Indian citizens. They were not idiots so they knew that it was not the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) that was the threat but the way in which it was linked by the Home Minister to the National Register of Citizens (NRC). The Home Minister said menacingly and often that these two things were linked and then used Shaheen Bagh to try and

win votes in the Delhi election. The BJP lost. But, the poison that was spread in the name of nationalism and anti-nationalism had no antidote by then and Delhi saw Hindu-Muslim riots for the first time in decades. These happened even as the Prime Minister and his high officials were entertaining Donald Trump in Rashtrapati Bhavan. The media contingent that travelled with the American President came from the world's oldest democracy and saw where the story was. They lost interest in the State visit and concentrated on the riots that killed more than 50 people.

When the violence ended, Covid-19 arrived. By then the poison of communal ric of Delhi. So, senior BJP leaders tried to blame Muslims for spreading the virus. Rumours spread across the country that Muslims hated India so much that when they were taken from the Tablighi Jamaat conclave to hospitals to be tested, they spat at nurses and doctors in an attempt to spread the disease. A speech by the head of this Islamic group played repeatedly on news channels in which he was heard urging Muslims to continue praying in mosques because what better place to die than while at prayer. Speaking of which, where is Maulana Saad? How is it that so many months on he still manages to hide from justice?

When it became clear that the Chinese virus was spreading well beyond the borders of Delhi the Prime Minister responded with what is now acknowledged as the strictest lockdown in the world. It happened at four hours' notice, and none of his close advisors appears to have noticed that when migrant workers lost their jobs in the cities they would be forced to flee to their rural homes. When Barkha Dutt walked with them on national highways to bring their stories to us, she was called a traitor many, many times on social media by people whose handles an-

nounce their political loyalties. The lockdowns have not done much more than slow down the spread of Covid-19 but people in the Prime Minister's inner circle are telling him that if it were not for him there would have been corpses piled high in the streets of our cities. If the media were doing its job, he would be told instead that the virus is going to stay for a while and that if we do not deal with our huge economic problems people will be

dying from hunger and not disease. It is in this terrible time that the Chinese have chosen to make incursions into our territory in the Galwan Valley. The brutal massacre of 20 Indian soldiers will go down in military history as one of the most barbaric acts of war ever. The Chinese are still on our territory and they are showing every sign of making permanent bases in the Galwan Valley. It was good to see the Prime Minister visiting troops in Ladakh last week but what he needs now more than ever are real nationalists around him. People who dare to tell him the truth about how he can lead India in this year in which his leadership is being so tested. Real patriots and nationalists are those who speak truth to power in the fullest sense of that term. Modi needs them today more than ever.

Ahmedabad

# inside TRACK

#### CABINET CARPENTRY?

AT A meeting last week in Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met senior RSS functionaries Dattatreya Hosabale and Krishna Gopal as well as BJP president J P Nadda and general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh. However, none of Modi's ministers were present. The meeting has fuelled speculation that a Cabinet reshuffle is on the cards by August. There are conflicting views as to the likely changes, if the move fructifies. Some believe that only middle-rank portfolios will be switched since the PM wants certain politicians replaced by domain experts and those with technical know-how. The entry of former Congress stalwart Jyotiraditya Scindia looks near certain. However, the buzz in some quarters is that even a senior ministerial portfolio could see a change.

#### **IOINT OPERATION**

Indian Intelligence agencies believe that Pakistan and China are acting in tandem. Additional Pakistani troops have been moved closer to the LoC in the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir sector as well as near the Punjab and Jammu borders. The Chinese People's Liberation Army, which was very active from May 1 to May 18, has massed troops at 18 locations near the LAC. In seven locations in Ladakh they had crossed the border, and of these, in five positions they moved 3 to 4 km inwards. The Chinese forward movement was accompanied by the building of huts, bunkers and roads. Since then there has been some pullback of Chinese forces.

#### Bypassing Chief

GENERAL BIPIN Rawat became the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in January this year. But since the post is newly created, the profile and duties of the CDS on a daily basis are still unclear. It is learnt that sometimes Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane is taken aback when General Rawat talks directly to Army officers on defence matters, going over his head.

#### Waiting in Wings

Attorney General K K Venugopal, 89, was keen to step down after his three-year tenure ended earlier this year, due to his advanced age. But, he was persuaded to accept a year's extension. The government is

in talks with senior counsel Harish Salve, currently based in London, to eventually take over the AG's post. Salve has impressed Prime Minister Modi after his legal victory on Kulbhushan Jadhav at the International Court of Justice. He charged a token fee of one rupee for the complex case. Salve has requested a grace period of eight months to decide on the offer, as he has some personal work to tie up first.

#### CUP AND LIP SLIP

The Congress believed it had sewn up the lone Rajya Sabha seat in Manipur, and would also succeed in toppling BJP Chief Minister N Biren Singh, since it had persuaded a few disgruntled former Congress MLAs who has switched to the BJP to return to its fold. But there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. Thanks to some deft moves by Assam Deputy Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Biren Singh survived, at least temporarily. The Congress was so flat-footed that it sent Ajay Maken and Gaurav Gogoi as election observers for the Rajya Sabha poll without first finding out the quarantine rules in Manipur. When the observers landed in the state, they were sent into quarantine since they had failed to book return tickets for the same day. The Congress also did not reckon that blood is thicker than water. Though Congress MLA Imo Singh is from an old Congress family, he is the chief minister's son-in-law and took full advantage of the relationship. Imo Singh jumped ship as did several other turncoats. The BJP may have won this round, but the question is how much longer Sarma will remain content to play second fiddle to CM Sarbananda Sonowal in Assam, considering he is the BJP's master strategist for the

#### Veteran's Victory

When the 77-year-old Lingayat leader BS Yediyurappa was appointed Chief Minister of Karnataka it was presumed it was a stopgap arrangement and the real power in the state would lie with BIP General Secretary (Organisation) BLSanthosh, who would eventually succeed him. But BSY's masterful handling of the Covid pandemic in Karnataka has silenced his critics. Even though Bengaluru is the third largest city in India. its Covid-19 figures and death rate are lower than all other metropolises such as Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Ahmedabad. The experienced BSY enlisted the cooperation of the Opposition and the minorities, in the all-out war against the disease. The CM heeded the advice of medical experts and senior bureaucrats. Santhosh may have had his way in selecting non-entities as BJP candidates for the three Rajya Sabha seats, but BSY remains boss of Karnataka. An impressed Amit Shah consulted the Karnataka CM for advice on how to tackle the pandemic in the National Capital Region.

#### History **HEADLINE AMRITH LAL**

THE MALABAR rebellion, also called  $Mappila\,revolt, continues\,to\,be\,a\,contested$ and polarising event nearly a hundred years after it took place. It has now grabbed the headlines after a film project on one of the rebel leaders, Variyankunnathu Kunjahammed Haji, was announced. One right-wing group in Kerala has announced that it will contest the attempts to "glorify" Haji and the revolt with a year-long campaign "to expose the atrocities committed on Hindus" during the rebellion. Three more films are reportedly in the works — the upcoming centenary of the rebellion is sure to offer political and commercial opportunities.

The rebellion was a remarkable event that saw people in southern Malabar, predominantly Muslims, wage an armed struggle against the British for nearly six months beginning August 1921. In sociologist D N Dhanagare's words, "gross neglect of the basic tenurial security, the deterioration of landlord-tenant relations and the political alienation of the poor peasantry were the important formative conditions" of the rebellion. According to Dhanagare, three different political movements merged to trigger the rebellion – one of these, the tenancy movement, was rooted in local agrarian grievances (particularly in south Malabar); the other two were the Khilafat (Caliphate) movement and the Non-Cooperation movement, launched jointly by the All-India Khilafat Committee and the Indian National Congress. The talukas where the Khilafat agitation turned violent, had a significant presence of Muslims, who nursed political, administrative, economic and religious grievances against the British - Malabar had witnessed over three dozen Muslim peasant revolts against the British and landlords in the 19th century. The tenancy movement in the 1910s had foregrounded the agrarian issues that affected the peasants, many of them Muslims, causing unease among the landlords, most of them upper caste Hindus,

and the colonial administration. However, the turning point was the visit of Maulana Shaukat Ali and Mahatma Gandhi to Malabar in August 1920, which attracted Muslims in large numbers to join the Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movements. By February 1921, the British authorities started to ban Khilafat meetings and even arrested senior Congress-Khilafat leaders. The crackdown transformed the character of the movement and influenced local leaders and cadres, whose notions of justice was shaped by religious values and memories of past resistance to the colonial forces.

to resist the British forces with arms. The rebellion started on August 20 when

# Don't strip Malabar rebellion off its layers



The rebels captured after a battle with British troops. Wikimedia Commons

the army and police raided the Tirurangadi mosque, an important religious centre headed by Ali Musaliyar, who soon emerged as a leader of the rebels. Attempts by senior Congress-Khilafat leaders such as Muhammed Abdurahman Saheb, Moidu Moulavi, KM Moulavi, MP Narayana Menon and K Madhavan Nair to pacify the rebels failed. Following the Tirurangadi incident, Khilafat workers mobilised across the region. They were targeted by the army, which triggered more mobilisations and violence. The rebels targeted public officials and buildings, and those who collaborated with the administration. The rebels initially forced the British administration to flee from the region, but army and police returned with reinforcements to put down the rebels.

The anarchy that followed the collapse of administrative and leadership structures was exploited by rabid and criminal elements among the rebels to further sectarian and communal agendas, including destruction of property, killings and forced conversions of Hindus.

The religious edge in the Khilafat agitation - Khalifat movement demanded the restoration of the Turkish Caliphate, which was for many Muslims both a femporal and spiritual institution — had turned many Hindus lukewarm to the rebellion, and later, when the rabid voices gained prominence, to side with the British administration, which furthered the communal divide. Scholar M Gangadharan has argued that many rebels harboured the suspicion that Hindus, including Congress workers, could be sympathetic to the British and whenever the rebels turned into mobs took to violence against non-Muslims. However, Gangadharan, historian KN Panikkar and others point out that the top rebel leaders including Ali Musaliyar and Variyankunnathu Kunja-

hammed Haji discouraged and opposed forcible conversions and looting and destruction of property belonging to non-Muslims. R H Hitchcock, the police official who led the British forces against the rebels. was to write that neither was the rebellion brought about only by Muslims nor all Muslims were supportive of the rebels.

The British authorities put down the rebellion in the most brutal manner - official estimate is 2.337 rebels killed, 1.652 wounded and no less than 45,000 taken as prisoners. Sumit Sarkar in Modern India quotes an Arya Samaj source that claimed about 600 Hindus were killed and 2,500 forcibly converted during the rebellion. Unofficial estimates say that nearly 10,000 rebels were killed and thousands of their family members and relatives deported to the Andamans. Police brutality in Malabar was most visible in the Wagon Tragedy incident (November 1921), in which 67 prisoners died of suffocation after they were forced to travel in a closed railway carriage.

There were few gains from the rebellion whereas it adversely affected Hindu-Muslim unity, in Malabar and beyond, and reinforced the stereotype of the Muslim as a religious fanatic that British administrators, who wrote about the Mappila agrarian revolts of the 19th century, had created.

The Malabar rebellion is a layered story with multiple strands that defy simplistic narrations. Erasing any of these strands or experiences — the anti-colonial impulse, religious content, agrarian moorings, police brutality – would result in an incomplete, lopsided picture of the event with potential for dangerous interpretations in our fraught present, Surely, uncritical valorisation of the rebellion or spinning a singular Hindu victimhood narrative cannot do justice to the complex tragedy that the rebellion was.

# Out of **MEGHNAD DESAI**

WHEN THE English Ambassador George McCartney went to Beijing in 1793 to pay respect to the Chinese Emperor, he was at pains to deny that he had 'kowtowed'. He had gone because Great Britain had a trade deficit with China. The British wanted Chinese tea but had nothing to offer in return. The Chinese did not fancy English woollens.

But parts of India had come under British control and soon Indian opium was going to China to pay for tea. When the Chinese wanted to ban opium imports,

# Whose Asian century? Clearly, China's

the British launched the Opium Wars. After 1840, China had to give way to west-

Asia, especially Iran, India and China, had been the dominant rich economies till 1750. After the naval adventures of Columbus and Vasco da Gama, the Europeans first concentrated on American continent. But then, half a millennium later, it was Asia's turn. The European World Order was constructed in 1815 after the Battle of Waterloo. First Britain and then America ruled the world. The Anglo American consortium won the battle for European hegemony in two World Wars

and then the Cold War by 1991. It has been said for sometime that the twenty-first century will be Asia's, but no one knew which Asia. In Europe, it was Western Europe plus North America. Now it is quite clear that it is East Asia and more particularly China which will denote Asia.

China has been preparing for this moment for decades. Mao wasted 30 years after the Revolution in his fantasy economic experiments costing 30 to 40 million lives. But then came Deng Xiaoping. Indeed he was always there biding his time. Even now the Chinese worship Mao not Deng. Deng did not seek permanent office. After retirement, he continued to work as Secretary of the Bridge Club of senior comrades in the Zhongnanhai. He abandoned his core beliefs in socialist economics and transformed China by a singular application of the Capitalist model adapted to China. China's transformation within the 30 years following 1978 has been the fastest of any economy anywhere. Deng has to be one of the Greats of the Twentieth Century.

More than the economy was his subtle way with foreign policy. He signed the UK-China Treaty on Hong Kong playing a softly softly strategy, agreeing to One Country Two Systems. He had learnt from Chinese history that as England had done in McCartney's days, pretend to bow while waiting for your turn to strike. The British fell for it. Of course, they already knew that they were no longer the top power but just a client of the US.

Xi Jinping has now followed Deng's rulebook. He has unilaterally broken the Treaty. The Hong Kong Treaty was like Article 370. It was designed for international display. Now that the time has come, China has torn it up. The timing is important not just because China is more powerful. The Western Alliance has fallen apart. The battle for European hegemony was over in 1991, with the collapse of the USSR. Trump has shown that America is no longer interested. The UK has Brexited. Xi knows that the US will not fight the UK's battles, nor will the UK, whatever

The Asian Era is here, like it or not.

CRUDE WATCH

## OIL FALLS BELOW \$43 ON VIRUS FEARS

London: Oil fell below \$43 a barrel on Friday as a resurgence of coronavirus cases raised concern that fuel demand growth could stall, although crude was still headed for a weekly gain on lower supply and wider signs of economic recovery. REUTERS

FOUR MONTHS LEFT FOR DEADLINE

# Banks sanction 36.7% of govt's MSME package, lag in disbursals

Private lenders disburse ₹13 lakh per customer, public sector banks ₹2.65 lakh

**GEORGE MATHEW** MUMBAI, JULY 4

WITH FOUR more months left for the deadline, banks have sanctioned 36.7 per cent of the targeted Rs 3 lakh crore under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) scheme for stressed micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as

per Finance Ministry data.

As per the scheme, banks can lend Rs 3 lakh crore till October 31, 2020, of which Rs 1.10 lakh crore has already been already sanctioned by banks to 34.69 lakh borrowers till July 1, according to official data. However, disbursals lag at 47 per cent of the sanctions at Rs 52.255 crore to 14.03 lakh borrowers as of July 1. This works out to 17.41 per cent of the Rs 3 lakh crore target.

After a slow start, private banks are slowly catching up by sanctioning Rs 47.108 crore to

#### MAHARASHTRA GETS MAXIMUM LOANS FROM PSBs

■ Private banks have disbursed Rs 18.906 crore under the package to 1.45 lakh borrowers as on July 1, according to official data ■ Of total sanctions of Rs 110,343 crore, public sector banks sanctioned Rs 63,234 crore to 12.58 lakh borrowers. However average disbursement per

4.19 lakh borrowers under the package. The current pattern of loan disbursals indicates that private banks are opting for bigger loans of around Rs 13 lakh per borrower, while public sector banks prefer small loans in the range of Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 3.50

lakh per customer. Private banks have disbursed Rs 18,906 crore under the package to 1.45 lakh borrowers as of July 1, according to official data.

borrower by private banks was Rs 13.07 lakh while PSU banks disbursed an average of Rs 2.65 lakh per borrower ■ Among states, Maharashtra got the maximum loans from PSU banks with 2.62 lakh borrowers getting sanction letters for Rs 6,578 crore

Of the total sanctions of Rs 1,10,343 crore, public sector banks sanctioned Rs 63,234 crore to 12.58 lakh borrowers. However, average disbursement per borrower by private banks was Rs 13.07 lakh, while PSU banks disbursed an average of Rs 2.65 lakh per borrower.

Among states, Maharashtra received the maximum loans from PSU banks, with 2.62 lakh borrowers getting sanction letthis, Rs 3,310 crore has been disbursed to 94,377 borrowers so

far. In Tamil Nadu, MSME loans worth Rs 6.390 crore have been sanctioned to 3.21 lakh borrowers while 1.26 lakh customers got Rs 3,695 crore disbursements so far. In Uttar Pradesh, total sanctions were Rs 6.001 crore and disbursements at Rs 3.259 crore.

State Bank of India (SBI) has sanctioned loans worth Rs 20,281 crore and disbursed Rs 12,885 crore. Canara Bank sanctioned Rs 8,237 crore and disbursed Rs 4,342 crore. Though the government has given guarantees on repayment, private banks initially had a lacklustre start.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Vice-Chairman and MD Uday Kotak recently admitted that private banks have started a little slow, but assured that in the next few weeks there would be significant flow of credit from private sector banks under the scheme both in terms of loans sanc-

% Change from median

(7 day moving avg)

-30

-50

-70

1-Mar

tioned and disbursed.

Many private banks were pushing for relaxation in the eligibility conditions for the government's MSME package in view of the revision in turnover limit for MSMEs from Rs 100 crore to Rs 250 crore. Bankers and industry bodies have already taken up the issue with the government.

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar said the new definition of MSMEs, which included both turnover and investment limits, has made things simpler and will lead to improved flow of credit to the sector. "SBI is the largest lender to the sector and is increasingly utilising digital technology platforms to enable hassle free credit flow to the MSME industries," Kumar said while addressing the MSME meet organized by the CII.

Under the scheme, 100 per cent guarantee coverage will be provided by National Credit **Guarantee Trustee Company** 

- Residential

Workplaces

Parks

24-Jun

INTERVIEW WITH ZYDUS CADILA CHAIRMAN

# 'Initially, there were a lot of challenges ... but everyone rallied and the govt was very proactive'

industries were subjected to the nationwide lockdown announced in March, pharmaceutical firms had to keep operations going as their goods were considered essential. Zydus Cadila chairman PANKAJ R PATEL, in an interview to PRABHA RAGHAVAN, explains how the Ahmedabad-headquartered drugmaker overcame supply chain challenges during the lockdown and tried to keep the pandemic from entering the workplace. Edited excerpts:

#### What challenges to operations and personnel did Zydus Cadila face during the nationwide lockdown?

From day one, we've been working very diligently to make sure the right precautions are being taken. Being (part of the) pharmaceuticals industry, we cannot stop (operations) because medicines are required and have to be produced. While there was a problem - there was a lockdown there were challenges for transportation, challenges of the (spread of the virus during the outbreak), how do you protect your people? That was the biggest worry we had.

We provided them with masks, we provided them with protective (equipment), we measured their temperatures. These are standard (practices).

But, what we did more was, where they were working, we created compartments so that they can't actually come in contact with each other. We tried to segregate (our workers) — only 50 per cent coming to work and not 100 per cent. (Even our) canteens were (arranged) the same way. So, (we've)tried to avoid physical contact as much as possible.

If somebody was not coming

UNLOCKING THE **ECONOMY** WISHLIST & ROADMAP AN EXPRESS INTERVIEW SERIES



**PANKAJ R PATEL** 

to work, we also traced them and continued doing the tracing. Suppose somebody not coming now has got COVID because his wife got COVID or his neighbour got COVID and he contracted (it from them). The moment we know anybody in our company is in close contact (with them), we isolate them and put them into quarantine. We keep on doing this and, through that, ensure that the pandemic doesn't come into the workplace.

During the initial phases of the lockdown, we'd learnt that pharma operations across the industry had been disrupted, especially movement of essential goods across state borders. Did you face these issues and how did you adapt?

I remember. You know, (like) with hydroxychloroquine tablets ... we were the manufacturers. Everything was locked up and nothing was moving, and our production was being done at Sikkim. Then, it had to be sup-

We had to charter a flight to get this (supply to the destination). So, goods which would have a selling price of roughly Rs 35 lakh, we had to airlift for (nearly that amount) to supply. We did all that. That was important (to do), because, in pharma, we believe that supply is most important and that risk is a consequence of business. So, we were using air chartering...to make (supply of our medicines) happen.

And, gradually, exemptions were granted for pharmaceutical goods to move around...One of the good things is that our supply chain is very well set up. Typically, every pharma company would have a depot in every...state, and each depot would have at least 30-40 days stock. So, those first 30-40 days, there was stock (of medicines) lying at the state level and intra-state movement was not a problem.

That is why one could supply. By that time (at the end of the first 30 days), inter-state permits were given and (supply) could be replenished.

Initially, there were a lot of challenges ... but I think everybody rallied and the government was very proactive. They had formed a special group in the government whom we could always go and tell (about problems) and get it resolved. This was happening everyday ... supply chain (issues) were discussed at the highest level in the government also to make sure that pharmaceutical goods shortages didn't happen.

#### With restrictions slowly easing, what is the outlook for your operations going forward?

Currently, our plants are operating at 80 per cent (capacity) ... and production is almost normal.

## Equalisation levy: I-T dept amends tax challan to include non-resident e-commerce suppliers

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, JULY 4

AHEAD OF the first instalment payment deadline on July 7, the income tax department has brought in changes to the challan for paying the equalisation levy by expanding its scope to in dent e-commerce players supplying goods or services online.

The move comes after the United States Trade Representative (USTR) last month initiated investigations into taxes adopted or under consideration by 10 nations. including India, on revenues of US digital service companies like Netflix, Airbnb, Uber, LinkedIn and Spotify, and companies were seeking further clarification.

 $India-in\,amendments\,to\,the$ Finance Act, 2020 in March-end had expanded the ambit of the equalisation levy for non-resident e-commerce operators involved in supply of services, including online sale of goods and provision of services, with the levy at the rate

Equalisation levy at 6% has been in force since 2016 on payment exceeding ₹1 lakh a year to a non-resident service provider for

of 2 per cent effective April 1,2020. Equalisation levy at 6 per cent has been in force since 2016 on payment exceeding Rs 1 lakh a vear to a non-resident service provider for online advertisements. This is now applicable for e-commerce companies that are sourcing revenue from Indian customers without having tangible presence here in the country.

The income tax department has modified challan ITNS 285 (relating to payment of equalisation levy) to enable payment of the first installment by non-resident ecommerce operators. The amended challan now adds "ecommerce operator for e-commerce supply or services" under Type of Deductor'. The challan also seeks mandatory PAN of the deductor. Further, it provides for 'Outside India' option while seeking address details.

Nangia Andersen LLP partner Sandeep Jhunjhunwala said along with this modification in the p ment challan, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has cleared the clouds on requirement of PAN by making it a mandatory tab in the challan, "This has rather imposed a burdensome and challenging task for non-resident e-commerce players to apply for and obtain Permanent Account Number within one business day in the midst of curbs, lockdown and pandemic affected business life and also organize the mode of payment through an Indian bank account or debit card issued by an Indian bank," he said.

Non-resident digital companies were waiting for a detailed FAQ to get clarity on issues surrounding the equalisation levy.

#### BRIEFLY —

#### Air France and sister airline to cut 7,580 jobs

Nantes: Air France confirmed plans to cut some 7,500 jobs including 1,000 at sister airline HOP! on Friday, as staff protested over its response to the collapse in travel due to the coronavirus pandemic.The French flag carrier, part of Franco-Dutch group Air France-KLM, said it had lost 15 million euros a day during the worst part of

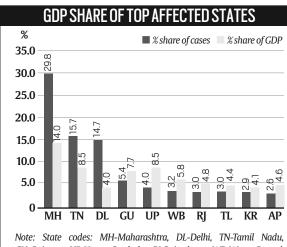
#### China regulator names and shames truants

Shanghai: Chinese regulators adopted shock and awe tactics Saturday to target misbehaving shareers by naming and shaming 38 corporate investors for having "gravely" violated rules in their first such exercise.

#### **US** apparel company files for bankruptcy

Bengaluru: Apparel company Lucky Brand Dungarees is filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, it said on Friday, becoming the latest retailer to fall victim to the pandemic. **REUTERS** 

# 'Rebound in economy based on pent-up demand, consumption plateauing as COVID-19 cases rise' GOOGLE MOBILITY INDEX ACROSS ACTIVITIES



GU-Gujarat, UP-Uttar Pradesh, RJ-Rajasthan, WB-West Bengal, MP-Madhya Pradesh, HA-Haryana. TL: Telangana, KR: Karnataka, AP: Andhra Pradesh: based on 2018 data. Source: CEIC. Nomura Global Economics

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, JULY 4

THE PICK-UP in economic activity after the easing of lockdown is now looking to be shortlived, with indicators including workplace mobility trends and business resumption indices plateauing and remaining below the pre-pandemic levels after mid-June. Amid rising COVID-19 cases across the country, the pickup seems to have been driven by the pent-up demand, raising concerns of excess supplies after this phase, which is then likely to result in a lower-than-expected growth in the second half of 2020-21 financial year.

The worst-affected states — Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu accounting for 60 per cent of

the cases have the lowest levels of workplace mobility, Japanese financial research firm Nomura uncertainty is arising as the top 12 worst-affected states, which comprise approximately 84 per cent of the pandemic cases, account for about 66 per cent of the country's GDP, it said

'The recent evidence that mobility has started to plateau after the initial acceleration whether due to public or private reasons – amid a rising number of COVID-19 cases nationally, suggests a rising risk that, after an initial burst, activity may start to stabilise at a level that is still substantially below pre-pandemic levels. Indeed, at the regional level, flattening appears to be taking place across most states...if

consumers remain cautious, as

reflected in the mobility curve, while the supply-side continues to catch up, then the risk is that with excess inventories after the initial pent-up demand phase, leading to lower-than-expected growth in H2 FY21," Nomura said in its report.

24-Mar

Source: Google and Nomura Global Economics

16-Apr

Google's workplace mobility index rose by 37 percentage points by mid-June from April (on a 7-day moving average basis) but since mid-June, the mobility curve has plateaued, with the workplace mobility index worsening by nearly 2 percentage points, despite the continued relaxation of measures under Unlock 1.0.

Restricted activity could be the consequence of public intervention in the form of recurring lockdown restrictions imposed at local levels or privately driven

with individuals making a conscious decision to practice social distancing due to the alarming tions it said The in cremental tightening of lockdown measures at local level may also be one of the reasons behind the plateau in the mobility curve.

1-Iun

9-May

The pace of India's recovery out of the pandemic will be determined by how quickly activity normalises across states, Nomura said. It expects India's GDP growth in April-June to plummet to -15.2 per cent from 3.1 per cent, which is then expected to remain in the negative territory for the next three quarters (-5.6 per cent in July-September, -2.8 per cent in October-December and -1.4 per cent in January-March next year, averaging -6.1 per cent in FY21).

# No international flights till July 31: End of runway for 747 jumbo as Why has DGCA extended ban?

**PRANAV MUKUL** NEW DELHI, JULY 4

THE DIRECTORATE General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday extended the ban on international flights from July 15 earlier to July 31, further elongating the period after which scheduled international passenger flights could operate normally.

#### Why did the DGCA extend the ban?

According to senior government officials, the ban was extended on account of a sense that it will take some more time for India to prepare before it can resume scheduled international operations.

The resumption of international flights depends mainly on the destination country allowing Indian citizens into its borders or removing travel restrictions that they put in place over the last few months in light of the pandemic.

EXPLAINE

As per officials, the ban was extended on account of a sense that it will take some more time for India to prepare before it can resume scheduled foreign operations

#### Have any countries relaxed restrictions for Indians?

Contrarily, as some jurisdictions are opening up their borders for travel, they have left out some major countries including India, the US, Brazil, where the COVID-19 spread is still on a rise. A group of 27

European Union countries agreed on an initial "safe list" of 14 countries earlier this week, and travellers from countries in the safe list will be allowed to travel for non-essential purposes. This list is set to be reviewed every two weeks.

Additionally, the UK government has also established travel corridors with 59 jurisdictions, from where passengers will be allowed to enter the UK July 10 onwards without having to selfisolate them, unless they travelled to a country not mentioned in the list in the preceding 14 days of their arrival. The UK's safe list also does not include India.

#### Is India planning to establish travel corridors?

On Thursday, Airports Authority of India (AAI) Chairman Arvind Singh had told reporters that India was in advanced stages of discussions to establish individual travel bubbles with the US, Canada and several European countries.

On these lines, US-based United Airlines has announced flights on Delhi-Newark route on July 10, July 12 and July 15 to carry passengers from India to

While the airline will ferry passengers from India to the US, it has not been permitted to fly passengers from the US to India.

# Boeing placed final part orders

**REUTERS** SEATTLE, JULY 4

final number of parts it would need for the 747 jumbo jet programme at least a year ago, signaling the end for a plane that democratized global air travel in the 1970s but fell behind modern twin-engine aircraft, industry sources said on Friday. Boeing's "Oueen of the Skies" the world's most easily recognized jetliner with its humped fuselage and four engines, marked its 50-year flying anniversary in February 2019, clinging to life thanks to a cargo market boom fu-

BOEING CO and suppliers set the

eled by online shopping. But the end for the program has been hanging in the air for years amid falling orders and pricing pressure. The coronavirus pandemic has also crushed passenger travel and demand for new jets.

The last order for a passenger version came in 2017, when the US government asked Boeing to repurpose two 747-8 jetliners for use as Air Force One by the US president.Boeing declined to confirm that it was pulling the plug on the



A Lufthansa Boeing 747 at aircraft storage and recycling company Tarmac Aerosave in Tarbes, France. Reuters file

747 program, first reported by Bloomberg News on Thursday."At a build rate of 0.5 airplanes per month, the 747-8 program has more than two years of production ahead of it in order to fulfill our current customer commitments," a Boeing spokesman said.

"We will continue to make the right decisions to keep the production line healthy and meet customer needs," he added.

The end of the 747 would follow Airbus SE's phasing out of its A380 jumbo jet. In June, the last

convoy of outsize parts for the world's largest airliner crawled towards an assembly plant in southwest France.

The death of the 747 program could also mean charges and layoffs for halting production at the mammoth wide-body plant outside Seattle. It could also have financial implications on newer programs such as the 787 Dreamliner and the latest model of 777, which would have to bear a larger share of the plant's huge overhead if the 747 line went dark.

## Govt considers replacing multimodal transportation act with national logistics law

**PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA** NEW DELHI, JULY 4

THE COMMERCE Ministry is considering to replace the multimodal transportation of goods act with a full fledged national logistics law with a view to promote growth of the sector, a senior government official said on Saturday.

Special Secretary in the logistics division of the ministry, Pawan Agarwal, said a National Logistics Efficiency and Advancement Predictability and Safety Act (NLEAPS) is under consideration and this law tends to define various participants of the logistics space and create a light regulatory

osystem. "What the logistics sector is all about is not very clear to us as of now and in that direction, we need to clearly define what the logistics sector is and what are the various elements in it. In this direction, there is a thinking and I am just sharing that thinking that the earlier legislation multimodal transportation of goods act...We are considering to replace it with a full-

#### WHAT IS MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION?

**■** Multimodal transportation includes a combination of more than one mode of movement, such as rail, road or sea, for end-toend delivery of goods.

fledged national logistics law." NLEAPS is under consideration, he said at a webinar organised by industry chamber PHDCCI.

Multimodal transportation includes a combination of more than one mode of movement, such as rail, road or sea, for end-to-end delivery of goods.

The Special Secretary sought views of the industry on the

He said the logistics division is also working on how to modernise and formalise the logistics services and promoting digitisation in the sector, which is key for the smooth movement of goods.

A Siberian tiger attacked and killed a 55-year-old zookeeper at Zurich's zoo Saturday. Rescue crews were unable to save the woman, who died on the spot. A visitor reported the attack to the zoo staff, but the circumstances of the incident were still under investigation.

# TOPOFTHE \_



Khashoggi was killed at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in 2018

**TURKEY** 

#### Khashoggi case: Oven was lit after killing, court told

Istanbul: A Saudi consulate worker in Istanbul told a Turkish court on Friday he had been asked to light a tandoor oven less than an hour after Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi entered the building where he was killed. Zeki Demir, a local technician who worked for the consulate, was giving evidence on the first day of the trial in absentia of 20 Saudi officials over Khashoggi's killing, which sparked global outrage. Demir said he had been called to the consul's residence after Khashoggi entered the nearby consulate to seek his papers. "There were five to six people there... They asked me to light up the tandoor (oven). There was an air of panic," he said.

**PAKISTAN** 

#### **PIA terminates** services of 52 employees: report

Islamabad: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has terminated the services of 52 employees on various charges, including fake degrees, breach of rules, according to a media report. Last month, the national flag carrier grounded more than 140 pilots after it was revealed in the National Assembly that some of them held "dubious and fake" licences. "It is important to appreciate hardworking and dedicated employees and punafter transparent and unbiased inquiries as per law," Dawn quoted the PIA's HR department's letter to its employees.

**JAPAN** 

#### Thousands flee as rains lash southern Kyushu

Tokyo: Japan asked thousands of people to evacuate their homes on its southern island of Kyushu, media said on Saturday, following unprecedented torrential rains in which 15 people are feared dead and nine missing. With the region facing the risk of further floods and landslides, authorities told 92,200 households in the prefectures of Kumamoto and Kagoshima to vacate their homes, the Kyodo news agency said. "The heavy rainfall is likely to continue until Sunday, and people in the area are required to be on maximum alert," PM Shinzo Abe said.



Trump watches the US Navy Blue Angels' flypast as he attends the US Independence Day celebrations at Mount Rushmore in Keystone, South Dakota. Reuters

# Trump slams 'left-wing cultural revolution' in I-Day address at Mount Rushmore

**JEFF MASON** 

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL, JULY 4

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Friday accused "angry mobs" of trying to erase history with efforts to remove or rethink monuments to US historical figures and used a speech at Mount Rushmore to paint himself as a bulwark against leftwing extremism.

On a day when seven US states posted a record number of new Covid-19 cases, the pandemic moved further into Trump's inner circle. Kimberly Guilfoyle, a senior campaign official and the girlfriend of Donald Trump Jr, tested positive in South

Why event riled Native Americans

THE MONUMENT known as Mount Rushmore is part of South Dakota's Black Hills – sacred land for the Native American tribes that occupied the region before European colonisation. An 1868 treaty, upheld by a 1980 Supreme Court ruling, granted the Black Hills to the Sioux tribe, but the government kept

Dakota before the event, according to Sergio Gor, a Trump campaign official. Trump Jr tested negative, Gor said.

salt to the wound. The pre-July 4 holiday event drew 7,500 people, packed into

an outdoor amphitheatre. Many

did not wear masks, defying the

the land. Native

American leaders say

of four white presi-

hills symbolises the plunder of

the indigenous population by

the European colonisers and

treaties. They say the pomp of

a July 4 event in the area adds

the US's refusal to honour

the carving of the faces

dents on to the sacred

advice of health officials.

Trump has not worn a mask in public and made limited reference

to the pandemic in his remarks. Speaking underneath the famed landmark depicting four US presidents, Trump warned the demonstrations over racial inequality threatened the foundations of the US political system.

"Make no mistake, this left wing cultural revolution is designed to overthrow the American revolution," Trump said. "Our children are taught in school to hate their own country."

"Angry mobs are trying to tear down statues of our founders, deface our most sacred memorials, and unleash a wave of violent crime in our cities,' Trump said. **REUTERS** 

# **US** sends carriers to **South China Sea** during Chinese drills

Navy says operation 'to support a free and open Indo-Pacific'

**MATTHEW TOSTEVIN** 

TWO US aircraft carriers were conducting exercises in the disputed South China Sea on Saturday, the US navy said, as China also carried out military drills that have been criticised by the Pentagon and neighbouring states.

China and the United States have accused each other of stoking tension in the strategic waterway at a time of strained relations over everything from the new coronavirus to trade to

Hong Kong.
The USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan were carrying out operations and exercises in the South China Sea "to support a free and open Indo-Pacific", the navy said in a statement.

It did not say exactly where the exercises were being conducted in the South China Sea, which extends for some 1,500 km and 90 per cent of which is claimed by China despite the protests of its neighbours.

"The purpose is to show an unambiguous signal to our partners and allies that we are committed to regional security and stability," Rear Admiral George M. Wikoff was quoted as saying by the Wall Street Journal, which first reported the exercises.

Wikoff, commander of the strike group led by the Ronald



The Ronald Reagan Strike Group is carrying out drills in South China Sea amid heightened tensions in the region. Reuters file

#### Senate seeks to sanction China officials

THE US Senate on Thursday unanimously passed legislation to impose sanctions on Chinese officials trying to stamp out political dissent in Hong Kong, sending the measure to President Trump's desk for his signature. The passage of the Bill, spearheaded by Senators Patrick Toomey, Republican of Pennsylvania, and Chris Van

Reagan, said the exercises were

not a response to those being

conducted by China, which the

Pentagon criticised this week as

"counter-productive to efforts

larger signal to China," Toomey icism of its drills on Friday and suggested the United States was

Hollen, Democrat of Maryland,

comes days after Chinese lead-

ers imposed a sweeping new

security law on Hong Kong. "It's

not only an effort to shield free-

dom-loving Hong Kongers

from this continuing escalation

of aggression by the Chinese

communists, but the Bill is a

at easing tensions and maintaining stability". China dismissed the US critto blame for increasing tensions.

China announced last week it had scheduled five days of drills starting July 1 near the Paracel Islands, which are claimed by both Vietnam and China. REUTERS

**GLOBAL COVID-19 CASES RISE TO OVER 11 MILLION** 

# WHO urges focus on first wave of coronavirus

World experiencing second peak in first wave: WHO emergencies chief

**AP&REUTERS** GENEVA, JULY 4

WORLD Organisation's emergencies chief says "we need to put up a current wave of the coronavirus pandemic rather than focusing on when a second wave might come. Dr Michael Ryan said the world will be much better at fighting a second wave, if people can learn the lessons of fighting the first wave.

WHO officials emphasised mask-wearing, social distancing, and hygiene by individuals, along with contact-tracing and tracking of cases by health authorities as key strategies to fight the virus.

They say governments and individuals should contour their policies and behaviour based on the outbreak's status in their countries. Ryan said the world was ex-

periencing a "second peak in the first wave", a situation in which the virus hasn't been suppressed enough to quell transmission to end the first one. Meanwhile, global coron-

avirus cases exceeded 11 million, according to a Reuters tally, marking another milestone in the spread of the disease that has killed more than half a million people in seven months.

The number of cases is more than double the figure for severe influenza illnesses recorded an-

**Indian man dozes** off at Dubai airport, misses repatriation flight

Dubai: A 53-year-old Indian worker in the UAE has missed a special repatriation flight after he dozed off at the Dubai International Airport, a media report said. P Shajahan, who worked as a storekeeper in Abu Dhabi, was supposed to fly to Thiruvananthapuram on the Emirates jumbo jet chartered by the Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre Dubai, Gulf News reported. It was the first-ever jumbo jet chartered for repatriation. Shajahan, who had paid 1,100 dirham (\$300) for the ticket, said he had not slept the previous night as he kept waiting for the confirmation of his ticket.PTI

nually, according to the WHO. Many hard-hit countries are

easing lockdowns put in place to slow the spread of the coronavirus while making extensive alterations to work and social life that could last for a year or more until a vaccine is available.

Almost a quarter of the known global deaths have occurred in the United States nearly 129,000.



A wedding ceremony, under social distancing norms, at St George's Church in Leeds, England, on Saturday. Weddings are once again permitted to take place in the country, with ceremonies capped at a maximum of 30 guests. England is embarking on its biggest lockdown easing as pubs and restaurants reopen Saturday for the first time in more than three months. AP

# China says G4 swine flu virus not new, does not infect humans easily

**REUTERS** 

SHANGHAI, BEIJING, JULY 4

MINISTRY Agriculture and Rural Affairs said on Saturday that the so-called "G4" strain of swine flu virus is not new and does not infect or sicken humans and animals easily, rebuffing a study published earlier this week.

That study, by a team of Chinese scientists and published by the US journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), warned that a new swine flu virus, named G4, has become more infectious to humans and could become a potential "pandemic virus".

However, China's agriculture ministry said in a statement that the study has been interpreted by the media "in an exaggerated and nonfactual way."

An analysis by the ministry concluded that sampling of the published study is too small to be representative.

The ministry said it drew its conclusions after holding a seminar on the G4 virus's impact on the hog industry and public health. Participants included the leading authors of the PNAS study.

## chair, claims plot to dislodge President too **YUBARAJ GHIMIRE** KATHMANDU. JULY 4

Oli fights to save PM

WITH THE chorus for his resignation growing within the ruling Nepal Communist Party, dragged in President Bidhya Devi Bhandari into the row Saturday, claiming there was a "larger conspiracy" to dislodge not just him but also the President, and that he would take stern measures to counter the threat.

Shortly after he met Bhandari for about 50 minutes in the evening, Oli convened a meeting of ministers, office bearers of the party and secretariat members, telling them to choose between him and those opposed to him.

"I have all along stood for party unity and had no problem in handing executive powers to party co-chair Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda), but ignoring all that, there is a conspiracy to dislodge me and the President from our posts," Oli was quoted by one of those present at the meeting.

He did not mention India when he spoke of a "conspiracy" - he did that a week ago, setting off a political firestorm in Kathmandu – but maintained he was being targeted, along with Bhandari, because of his stand on the border issue.

Rival Prachanda held a parallel meeting at his residence. The apprehension in his camp is that the PM and President may go in for



Nepal PM K P Sharma Oli

"measures to save themselves".

Last month. Oli steered a constitution amendment Bill to get parliamentary sanction for Nepal's new map that includes three territories with India

Kalapani. Lipulekh and Limpivadhura). He later claimed that India and a section of leaders in Kathmandu were plotting to remove him from power. On July 2, Oli refused to yield to party pressure to step down, and got both Houses of Parliament pro-

The Cabinet recommendation to end the sessions was immediately accepted by the President. At the meeting Saturday, Oli

rogued to ward off threats to post.

indicated that he may drop ministers from the rival camp. He was quoted saying "may be some of us will not be seeing each other".

There is speculation he may bring an ordinance to tweak a law that will allow him to split the party. A meeting of the standing committee, scheduled for Saturday, was postponed to Monday to give time for back channel moves to keep the party intact.

EXPLOSIVES AND NAZI MEMORABILIA WERE FOUND AT AN ELITE SOLDIER'S HOME

# As Neo-Nazis seed military ranks, Germany confronts an enemy within

**KATRIN BENNHOLD** CALW.JULY 4

AS GERMANY emerged from its coronavirus lockdown in May, police commandos pulled up outside a rural property owned by a sergeant major in the special forces, the country's most highly trained and secretive military unit.

They brought a digger. The sergeant major's nickname was Little Sheep. He was suspected of being a neo-Nazi. Buried in the garden, police

found 2 kg of PETN plastic explosives, a detonator, a fuse, an AK-47, a silencer, two knives, a crossbow and thousands of rounds of ammunition - much of it believed to have been stolen from the German military.

They also found an SS songbook, 14 editions of a magazine for former members of the Waffen SS and a host of other Nazi memorabilia

"He had a plan," said Eva Högl, Germany's parliamentary commissioner for the armed forces. "And he is not the only one."

Germany has a problem. For years, politicians and security chiefs rejected the notion of any far-right infiltration of the security services, speaking only of "individual cases". The idea of networks was dismissed. The superiors of those exposed as extremists were protected. Guns and ammunition disappeared from military stockpiles with no real investigation.

The government is now waking up. Cases of far-right extremists in the military and police, some hoarding weapons and explosives, have multiplied alarm-



The town of Calw, Germany, in the Black Forest region, near the base where KSK soldiers are stationed. NYT

ingly. The nation's top intelligence officials and senior military commanders are moving to confront an issue that has be-

come too dangerous to ignore. The problem has deepened with the emergence of the Alternative for Germany party, or AfD, which legitimised a far-right ideology that used the arrival of more than 1 million migrants in 2015 — and recently the coronavirus pandemic – to engender a sense of impending crisis.

Most concerning to authorities is that the extremists appear to be concentrated in the military unit that is supposed to be the most elite and dedicated to the German state, the special forces, known by their German acronym, the KSK.

This week, Germany's defence minister, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, took the drastic step of disbanding a fighting company in the KSK considered infested with extremists. Little Sheep, the sergeant major whose weapons stash was un-

covered in May, was a member. Some 48,000 rounds of ampounds, of explosives have disappeared from the KSK altogether, she said.

munition and 62 kg, or about 137

Germany's military counterintelligence agency is now investigating more than 600 soldiers for far-right extremism, out of 184,000 in the military. Some 20 of them are in the KSK, a proportion that is five times higher than in other units. But German authorities are concerned the problem may be far larger and other security institutions have been infiltrated as well. **NYT** 

# 12 EXPRESS ADDA



In an e-Adda hosted by The Indian Express, Uday Shankar, President, The Walt Disney Company (Asia Pacific) and Chairman, Star & Disney India, spoke on broadcasting in the time of Covid-19 and tensions with China, the possibility of conducting IPL and why TV will survive in India







(Clockwise from above) Shankar was in conversation with The Indian Express Group Executive Director Anant Goenka and National Sports Editor Sandeep Dwivedi

# The IPL experience is important for the love of cricket, to signal that life triumphs'



#### On the crises that surround us

I think it's a perfect storm. The Covid-19 crisis is a really serious one, it's likely to affect everybody. The silver lining is that India has still done better than a lot of other countries. While some of the economic fears were exaggerated, as it is turning out to be, some of them were actually understated. So, as we play along, over the next few months, my biggest problem is that it's difficult to take a fix on the economy, primarily because we still don't have a fix on the trajectory of the infection itself. And on top of that, the whole Chinese tension on the border.

#### On the ban on Chinese apps

This is an unprecedented mix of storms and crises that we are living through. And rationality is not the default mode for anyone at this time. Probably, there are other, better ways of handling this, frankly, because it doesn't help anyone or resolve the tension. But in a real world, symbolism sometimes gets the better of rational decision-making.

#### On the rise of the sentiment against globalisation

We are going through a massive reaction against globalisation. We're seeing the rise of protectionism. The advocates and drivers of globalisation should have been mindful of all this, because unbridled globalisation was going on, without any concern for people at the bottom of the pyramid. If globalisation meant lots of FDI and money that came in, foreign goods were also flooding the market. It would lead to a reaction. And that is where a model like Star India is a relevant model that everyone should think about. Star is a foreign company, owned by foreign entities, first by News Corp and Fox, and now by The Walt Disney Company, which has acquired the 21st Century Fox company, but Star is – in the minds of the consumers, of the people here — in its brand, culture, content and product, in every respect, a truly Indian company. And that is a model where it's a good mix of globalisation and localisation.

#### On the impact of boycott of Chinese firms and products

First of all, in national interest, every government has the right to decide what they want to do, and everybody has to comply with that, whether we like it or not. But, the second point — and that's a very material point - when we invested in cricket, we did not invest on the back of companies from any country, or of any specific companies. We invested in cricket because we believed it had power, which comes from its popularity and depths of its engagement with Indian consumers. If people like something so passionately, there will be people who would be willing to put money behind that. There's a monetisation model that you can create. So, if company X or Y is not there, because in the larger social or national interest, it's been decided, we'll have to figure out a

#### AAMIR KHAN, ACTOR



I've worked very closely with Uday when we were doing the TV show Satyamev Jayate. He was the one who came up with

the title. Star was going to be hosting the show, but I also wanted it to air it on Doordarshan, a competitive channel. It's a very strange condition that I put... he did not hesitate. He's someone who really sees beyond just the financial aspect of things.

I had heard horror stories about Aamir. I was told that he just decides everything and it's impossible to work with him. And I have to say, one of my most fulfilling experiences was that project. I am a big believer in regular entertainment, people have so much drudgery in their lives that they need to be taken into a make-believe world. But when you've got their attention, I equally believe you should seed some relevant messages. And Aamir turned out to be a believer in the same agenda.

**RAHULJOHRI BCCICEO** 

What is the future of broadcasting, especially pay TV, and do you see digital subscription revenues overtaking pay TV?

Television has a future in this country. But one of the biggest challenges that it is facing is the whole pay ecosystem, and the way it has been devastated, or it has never been allowed to take off. And that is why we are not able to invest enough in content, and not create robust business models. Despite all the promise, I don't believe that digital streaming services are anywhere at that scale where they can replace television.

#### **ANIRUDH CHAUDHARY**

FORMER TREASURER, BCCI

How do you prioritise the following this year: the Indian bilateral series, Indian Premier League, and the ICC T20 World? And how far ahead in time is virtual reality in cricket

Right now, there is no clarity on when the tournaments will be held. With ICC T20 tournament, not having clarity doesn't help. In case of IPL also, we know that the BCCI is keen to get it back but they are in no position to tell us. But technology-wise, this is a huge opportunity. With this disruption, there is pressure on everyone to innovate.



What are the radical changes that are afoot in our industry in terms of content distribution, exhibition,

#### **VOICE BANK**

**ABHINAV BINDRA** OLYMPIC SHOOTING CHAMPION



consumption? VVS LAXMAN, FORMER INDIA CRICKETER



With the pandemic, live sports action also has been affected tremendously. How can we tackle this?

To what extent

fragmentation

accelerate

of sports

content. production and

would COVID-19

The fragmentation is happening, but I like to see this as segmentation. The multiple channels that are getting created, are making the reach of the sport bigger. In the short term, it might look like audiences are getting fragmented, but over a period of time, these are all multipliers for delivering the content to a larger universe of fans. Right now, the most important thing is for people to be safe and as soon as we can create a reasonably safe bubble for bringing live sports back, that's the most important thing.

ANIL KUMBLE, FORMER INDIA CRICKETER



A lot of people live sports on their mobile apps. What would be the next wave in broadcast and the viewership

Every sport was first watched by people who gathered on the ground, and then stadiums came, and then radio commentary and television broadcast. Each of these have made the sport bigger and even if people are not in the stadiums today, sooner or later, they will start going back to the stadium.

#### MAHESH BHATT, FILMMAKER



production and audience ownership? What will each contribute to this Renaissance that I fantasise about?

#### **UDAY KOTAK**

MANAGING DIRECTOR, KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

#### Where do you see the future of entertainment and sports in the new digital world post-Covid?

There is going to be a Renaissance because the more channels of reaching the consumer that we find, the richer the health of the industry will be. The industry begins to choke when the supply lines are choked.

#### SANJIV MEHTA, CEO & MD, HINDUSTAN LINII EVER I IMITED



With spectator sport taking a backseat, how do you see the

If we use the tion as an opportunity to take

The startup that

you have done

by creating a

sports to more people and create a fuller, richer and more fleshed-out experience for those who are not in the stadium, then the sports can get bigger.

#### **NANDAN NILEKANI** NON-EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, INFOSYS



whole new tournament around Kabbadi and telecasting it, has made watching the

sport so popular.

**RISHANK DEVADIGA** PRO KABBADI PLAYER



Has there been some planning for the Pro Kabbadi season this year? Kabbadi is a

close contact sport, and we have to be ex-

tremely careful as and when we do it, because we have to create a safe bubble.

ANANT NATH, EDITOR, THE CARAVAN How reflective is TV programming of our societal issues, including class, caste, ethnicity and race?

There is no such thing as an Indian society; there are multiple layers and nuanced structures along both the geographical and the socio-economic hierarchies. And the challenge of doing programming in India, especially on TV,

is that you are forced to look at a common denominator, else you are at the risk of losing attention.

#### **GAUTAM GAMBHIR** FORMER INDIA CRICKETER, LOK SABHA MP



Do you have any plans to promote hockey, our national sport?

You have to realise that whatever sport league we get involved

with, we can only do as much. If there is not a groundswell of excitement around the sport, it's tough for us to be able to do everything. Hockey has real potential, and that's why we are involved with it and I think Indian hockey is looking better today than it was 10 years ago.

#### RAMIT BHATNAGAR COO, MJ GLOBAL

**RAJESH MEHTA** FOUNDER, ENTRY-INDIA

#### Do you see this trend lasting where mainstream cinema movies release on OTT platforms?

I don't think it's a substitutive trend; it's one more stream for releasing cinema. We have just announced the premiere of seven films on Disney+Hotstar over the next two months, and some of them are really big. There is an appetite for films but there are only 52 weeks in the year and only 52 Fridays. So direct to digital releases or premieres is a great initiative

#### **SHYAM BAGRI**

FOUNDER, BAGRRY'S

#### How can the OTT platform be used for advertising? On Disney+Hotstar, we have the com-

plete ability to customise and deliver your message to the target audience and in parts of the country that you want the message to go. Even in a city, we can target it to your specific requirements.

# KARAN JOHAR, FILMMAKER

How do you manage to maintain social distance from the entertainment and sports fraternity, and yet engage with them

professionally? I'm not a product of this industry. I came through news and now I see this as a job. I have deepest respect for everybody that I deal with, but in order to maintain objectivity, it's important to maintain some amount of distance.

#### I don't think this will be a factor. The trolling itself was unfortunate. The loss of a promising young life (Sushant Singh

feel, this cuts across the spectrum. Whether

the liberals are as intolerant of the non-liberal point of view and vice-versa.

On whether the trolling of

With Karan

Karan Johar will affect Koffee

Rajput) is very tragic. But to play politics and to push personal agenda on the back of that is really repugnant. And, just because somebody's life has been lost, no matter how tragic it is, but all those who are living do not become culprits just because of that.

#### On the possibility of sports commentators being dropped because of public opinion

I think there is a distinction that we need to make between cricket journalists and cricket commentators. You are a journalist, you are at liberty to say what you want to say, and your only discipline comes from the discipline your paper and your reader imposes on you. A commentator is not, in my view, a journalist. A commentator is part of the entire package to make the game more entertaining.

#### On the changing role of broadcasters

The role of the broadcaster in determining the nature of the content has got reduced. And, people talk about the BCCI having played a very regressive role in that, but it's the same everywhere. As broadcasters, we often feel creatively, the only thing we understand is how to make exciting content across genres. And yet, you'd be shocked to see the kind of rigid framework in which sometimes people insist that we cooperate. Actually, the broadcaster is getting more marginalised. The only time he has a say is when the broadcaster is saying how much they are going to pay for it.

#### On whether cricket viewership will move from TV

In India, television has a long runway, it will still continue to go for a long time in my view. It is one of the few countries where still new TV homes are being added. India is one of the cheapest markets to buy television. And, yet, the way the world is moving, in this country, we believe that in the next four-five years, there will be about 700-750 million handheld screens, and about 200-250 million TV screens. Clearly, handheld devices will become very important. Good thing is that a large part of the same consumer switches seamlessly between TV and digital.

#### On when to expect the IPL

We all know that we are living through a perfect storm. The good news is that the BCCI is very keen to do something because they know that - both for the love of cricket and also for signalling to the country that life triumphs — it is important that people get the IPL experience and then there are other tournaments that are lined up. But we really don't know when they will happen, because we don't have a fix on the trajectory of the virus itself. Though we are ready internally, discussing, planning, we don't want the tournaments to be held until it is reasonably safe.

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On Unilever stopping advertising on Facebook and what it shows

different monetisation model.

The advertisers are beginning to re-

spond to a lot of these pressure points. They create their products and services and sell to the society; they need to exist and they need the endorsement of the society. Sometimes it's irrational, sometimes it's tactical, but people just want to be careful.

#### On whether audiences are becoming thin-skinned

We are all getting very, very thinskinned in general. We all want to have the freedom, authority and space to express our point of view and that we think is the right to be liberal. But we don't believe that liberalism also means tolerance, to hear the other point of view no matter how repugnant that might be. We are living in a funny world where my point of view is the most relevant and hence must be expressed, but anyone who disagrees with me, there's a lynch mindset that goes after that. And, I



What a centuries-old folk theatre form unique to the Sundarbans tells us about human fragility, survival and surrender in the tide country

Dipanita Nath

OW DOES a goddess defeat a storm? When Amphan swept through the Sundarbans on May 20, theatre actor Anita Mondal, who lives in Annpur, a remote village on the islands, crawled under a charpai with her husband and children, "Even if the walls fell, we would live if we hid under the bed," she says over the phone, a month later. Clutching a bag of precious belongings, she heard the wind tear down huge siris trees and coconut palms, and blow away the thatched roof of their house. As the ground began to tremble, they grabbed the legs of the charpai to keep it from flying away.

As the storm raged, Mondal was praying for help from the protagonist she plays on stage on calmer days - Bon Bibi, the deity of the forest and the central character of Bon Bibi'r Palagaan, a musical drama unique to the Sundarbans. "We do not have a roof but I feel blessed. Bon Bibi saved our lives," she says.

The Sundarbans boasts of almost 30 troupes that perform Bon Bibi'r Palagaan in various islands through the year. Traditionally, the performances are held near Bon Bibi temples or villages bordering the forests, in the light of solar lamps and bulbs powered by generators. Mondal has essayed the role of the goddess for 20 years now, which means something in the Sundarbans, where the audience comprise people who go into the mangroves to collect honey, prawns, fish or crabs every day. They see the play as a part of their daily life, for it is by the grace of Bon Bibi that they believe they survive in tiger country.

Like everything else in the Sundarbans. Amphan has ravaged through the art form and its practitioners. The pink sari that Mondal's Bon Bibi used to wear on stage has been wrapped in a plastic packet and put away. The spaces where the palagaan used to be played are now sites of destruction. The island has not had a single performance for more than three months, the longest in recent memory. Its poetry lies submerged in brackish water. "I have no work so I am sitting at home. The only time I go out is to get traan (relief)," says Uttam Barik, a rickshaw-puller from Gosaba, one of the main islands of the Sundarbans, and a third-generation performer.

In the largest continuous mangrove forest in the world, humans reside a short distance from a thriving population of crocodiles, snakes, sharks and man-eating Royal

Bengal Tigers. Many of them depend on the crab-collectors and gatherers of the thick and strong honey that grows in combs on the hetal, gorjon, goran and sundari mangrove trees.

The people of Sundarbans believe that you can enter the forest anytime you like. Whether you will leave it depends on Bon Bibi. Last month, alone, one man went out to get firewood from the forest and another to fish. Tigers took them both. Hence, the 54 inhabited islands of the 102 deltaic islands of the Sundarbans are studded with temples to Bon Bibi and her twin brother, Shah Jongoli.

Legend has it that Bon Bibi was born far away in Saudi Arabia. Her father was Fakir Ibrahim, who lived in Medina, and her mother was Gulal, a woman from Mecca. "Bon Bibi realises that they have been sent to earth to fulfil a divine purpose and must leave Medina and that is how she reached the Sundarbans," says Kanailal Sarkar, 66, author of History of Sundarbans (2011), who was born in Lahripur, a village in Gosaba.

The palagaan recounts her birth and the story of Bon Bibi and Shah Jongoli's triumph over the fierce Dokkhin Rai and his mother Narayani, who represent tigers. It is the third part of the story, Dukhey Jatra, which is most performed in the Sundarbans. "In the play, we are a group of honey-gatherers who go to the forest with a little boy called Dukhey. His mother wants him to stay home but cannot afford to feed him as they are desperately poor. When you have nothing to eat, you have no choice but to go to the forest to work, just like us. Unfortunately, Dukhey does not return from the forest. The honey-gatherers tell his mother that he has been taken by a tiger and will never return to her lap again," says Barik. In the forest, the child calls out to the goddess for protection, Bon Bibi rescues Dukhey and restores him to his mother.

"When I visited the Sundarbans in 2014 for research, I stayed in several remote villages of Gosaba. Something fundamental about the people, especially those who were very poor, was that they identified themselves with Dukhey and thought of themselves as Bon Bibi's children," says Amrita Sen, assistant professor in the department of humanities and social sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur.

In one of the most ecologically fragile regions of the world, a strict code, tied to the belief in Bon Bibi, governs human acquisition. The islanders believe that one must enter her kingdom without carrying any weapons. ...the islanders often explained that Bonbibi (sic) had left them the injunctions that they were to enter the forest only with a pure heart/mind' (pobitro mon) and 'empty hands'



THE FARTHEST **SHORES** 

(Above) A performance of the Bon Bibi'r Palagaan; people of the Sundarbans live in

in the Sundarbans (2010). close proximity to tigers, crocodiles, snakes and sharks

(khali haathe). The islanders explained that they had to identify completely with Dukhe, whose unfailing belief in Bonbibi had saved him," writes anthropologist Annu Jalais in Forest of Tigers: People, Politics and Environment

"You must also not take more than you need," adds Sen. You may enter only if you have nothing to eat at home and have to seek your livelihood in the forest. You must not defecate in the forest, smoke beedi or wash utensils. "I never carried any weapons when I went into the forest to fish or catch crabs. Bon Bibi would be angry if I did. She is the one who protects me in the forest," says Saniit Mondol from Pakhiralay, a village on Gosaba island. What if he were attacked? "When a tiger chooses you, there is nothing to do anyway," he says.

Sanjit is a regular member of the audience of Bon Bibi'r Palagaan, whose story can be found in a 19th-century text called Bon Bibi Johuranama (The Chronicles of Bon Bibi's Glory). "It is difficult to confirm whether the performative text of the palagaan precedes the printed johuranamas or vice versa," writes Mousumi Mandal, assistant professor, Presidency University, in Bonbibi-r Palagaan: Tradition, History and Performance, on Sahapedia. The language of the johuranama is Musalmani Bangla, written in the Bengali script, but with the book opening to the right, in the Arabic style. "Her worshippers do not think of her in terms of 'Muslim' or 'Hindu' but as a 'forest super-power' who extends her protection over individuals of all communities equally," writes Jalais. "When people read Bon Bibi johuranama, they punctuate the verses with a chorus of 'Allah Allah Bol (Say the name of Allah)'," adds Mehebub Sahana, a research associate in the School of Environment, Education and Development, University of

Manchester, the UK.

There are no documents to confirm when the performances started, a problem with most folk art forms in India. Sahana says that the Bon Bibi cult spread during and after the Great Bengal Famine of the early 1770s, which killed lakhs. "Since agriculture was destroyed by the famine, people who lived and farmed in the upper parts of the Sundarbans, came to the lower parts of the islands to fish and live off the forest. They became bonojeevi or people who work in the forest. As the pressure of humanity grew on the forests, there was the inevitable clash with wild animals, especially tigers," he adds.

In the palagaan, human protagonists are not the heroes but the subjects or prey of nature — a lesson that the pandemic is spreading across the world. People reduced to their primal condition — frail skin and bones, fear and helplessness - against the whims of nature is the old normal. And so, the actors of Bon Bibi'r Palagaan not only educate or entertain but also advocate total surrender. "When we go into the forest, we think, 'Ja hobey hobey, sheta porey bhaba jaabey. Jodi phiri toh bhalo, na phiri toh ki kora jabey?' (Whatever has to happen will happen. If I return home, it would be good. If I don't, nothing can be done about it)." savs Saniit.

In a scene in the play, the fishermen are in the middle of the huge Raimongol river, which is so vast that you cannot see its end, when clouds sweep through the sky. They do not ask the waves to recede. They submit, asking the boatman, to row the boat quickly and take them ashore, with the help of Bon Bibi. "When you see a wild animal, you should not fight but move out of its way. If a tiger has chosen you, only Ma Bon Bibi can save you," says Anuja Adhikari, 37, from Lahripur village in Gosaba, who also plays the deity in the Bon Bibi'r Palagaan. She runs a kirana shop and catches fish and crabs in the forest. "The money I bring home runs the family. The only time I forget my troubles and feel happy is when I act and sing as Bon Bibi. I have faith that Bon Bibi will look after us," she says.

A few years ago, when she was returning home after playing Dukhey's mother in Bon nearby. "The tiger had crossed the river from the forest into the village. I kept telling myself, 'Ma achche, oshubida hobey na' (Mother will look after me)." she says. She found the tiger in a cattle shed of a milkman. "If the tiger had not found its aahar (food) in a cow that day, I wouldn't be alive. Through my performances, all I want to tell people is to have faith that Bon Bibi will save you," she says.

Battered by cyclones through the ages, and now buffeted by the pandemic as well as Amphan, the Sundarbans is down to its last dreg of resilience. Life on the islands will only become harsher with the rise in sea temperatures and climate change. In this turmoil, the palagaan will also have to adapt, as it has in the past. While night-long ritual performances were still held, tourist lodges had become the new platform in the last few years. with shows tailored to suit foreigners or metropolitan Indians looking to experience an

But, increasingly, it is becoming hard to keep the faith. A few years ago, Sanjit used to play Dukhey in Bonbibi'r Palagaan. The family had a fishing boat at the time that cost Rs 15,000. During cyclone Aila in 2009, the boat was tied tightly to a tree by the side of the river. "When we went back after the storm, it was in splinters. Machine parts had been flung on the bank. Aila also destroyed our house. broke the river's dam and flooded the island." says Sanjit. He decided to end his career on stage. "I could also see that the days of Bon Bibi'r Palagaan were numbered. A lot of people are not accepting of the Bon Bibi faith anymore," he says. Today, the 23-year-old is a construction worker in Tamil Nadu and other parts of West Bengal and an eco-tourism guide in the Sundarbans.

On the other hand, the island has sent out its first graduate from the National School of Drama in Delhi, Sajal Mondol, 38, who graduated in 2011, chose to return home to work in the local theatre form. He staged a major show of the palagaan in 2013 in the Sundarbans and Kolkata and was supported by the state's ministry of culture. But he, too, discovered that the Sundarbans did not offer opportunities to an artiste.

Across the world, theatres are shutting down as a virus stipulates new rules of social interaction. Will the palagaan be staged again? Adhikari says, "Things will be all right, have faith in Bon Bibi. The pandemic will be over soon and we will, once again, sit together to pray and perform. After all, Sundarbans will not be Sundarbans without Bon Bibi."

# **DOWN IN JUNGLELAND**



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and

# Wild Love

On dating and mating rituals among the birds and the bees

OST GUYS think they know how to woo the girl of their dreams. Some serenade girls with guitars under their balconies (or spout mushy poetry), others strut around in tight T-shirts flexing their biceps and showing off their abs. Yet others spray themselves with aftershave, drive around in Lamborghinis (usually leased) and buy expensive jewellery (or take the the girls to obscenely expensive restaurants). There are those, usually bulging with biceps, who go berserk (like bull elephants in musth) and bash up anyone and everyone who comes anywhere near their chosen one. Some might even take their girls up to their palatial penthouse apartments. Then, there are those smitten jokers who can only shake their heads in speechless wonder and go "duh!" when they behold their beloveds.

Well, what goes on in the animal kingdom is no different, so that's a bit of an ego deflator for us at the top of the evolutionary pile. We must also keep in mind one almost universal truth: in most cases, it's the girls who choose who they want to be with. Also, animals tend to carry off courtship with much more élan and style than we do!

Let's start off with the insect and arachnid world. The tiny, but gorgeous, peacock spider does an elaborate fan dance in front of his beloved to convince her of his love and that she should please not eat him during the courtship. Most male spiders — wimps in comparison to their lady friends — have a seduction routine that serves to chill their ferocious girlfriends, or they bring them silkwrapped gifts (cockroaches do nicely), which the female cannot resist opening while the male does his part and beats it. Moths and butterflies spray irresistible "come hither" perfumes (pheromones) around themselves, summoning one another from as far as 11 km away.

Birds, of course, have been through the entire menu, so to speak. A cock sparrow will stick out his chest and strut in front of his girl, looking, frankly, like a neta trying to impress a Field Marshal. Indian myna gents show a surprising humility — they'll duck their heads and raise their crests and chortle deep loving things around their girls. Floricans jump sky high as if bouncing on a trampoline and sage grouse puff themselves up like air-bags and strut around one another. Perhaps, the most wonderfully dignified strut-display I've seen was that of the endangered great Indian bustard. Sometimes, feathers may well fly as the gentlemen try to beat one another up, to show the



RANJITLAL

WATCH ME SOAR

Gadwalls exchanging flying kisses mid-air

lady that they are stronger and more virile. But, birds are probably most famous for their singing. Magpie robins, decked out in shiny tuxedos, will produce flute concertos that Mozart could have written. I once came across a Brahminy myna (starling) looking like a dishevelled hobo, throwing his head back and singing his heart out, eyes rolling wildly, crest resembling a mohawk hairstyle. The shama is said to outclass the magpie-robin and ornithologist Salim Ali rated the grey-winged blackbird number one on his playlist. Like so many of us, there are birds who think they can sing, but are tone-deaf, and assume volume can make up for this. The Indian prinia and the tailorbird can deafen you from 50 paces away, and I once encountered a couple of shiny black koel gentlemen yodelling their heads off at each other at 110 decibels, with not two feet distance between them. Their ruby eyes bulged belligerently as they shrieked and their speckled lady friend got so nervous that she slunk off with another gentleman hanging back in the bushes!

Some birds prefer dancing, the peacock being the prime example of this. He'll unfurl his tapestry into a great shimmering fan, suggestively wiggle his brown wing feathers as he twirls round and round. His harem pretends to be uninterested, but you can bet that if a wannabe princess makes a move towards him the reigning queen will fly at her enraged. Personally, I prefer the mad, exuberant dance of the Sarus crane — a bird known for its lifelong fidelity, indulging in an exhilarating cabaret act that would have been at home at the Moulin Rouge.

The famous baya weaver is a skilled architect and builder and woos his lady by weaving a beautiful vaselike nest out of grass. He boasts loudly about its assets (central air-conditioning, CCTV, gold-plated faucets, etc). But once he has settled one bride (if she accepts), he will then go and build another palace for another bride and so on! Many of the raptors indulge in spectacular aerial acrobatics to impress their ladies while birds like parakeets and owls are plain old-fashioned romantics — offering tidbits and then getting on with some passionate French kissing.

Male mammals, too, will strut around or roar to show who's boss: the snootiest strutter has got to be the blackbuck that will prance around his harem like a princeling, snorting, his skewer-like horns flat against his back. Often in the mammalian world, violence breaks out between competing males, but they try their best to avoid injury or worse because then, your romance is over. This, alas, is so unlike us.

# Strawberry Fields Forever

Fifty years after they split, the Beatles remain the original rockstars

Seema Chishti

ELL BEFORE television ushered in the age of the celebrity, The Beatles were rock stars. Fifty years after their breakup, the Liverpool lads remain so. A BBC radio documentary on the quaint subject of the evolution of song fade-outs, made in 2010 by Stuart Maconie, paid tribute to how the Beatles revolutionised even that aspect of music. The two-minute long fade-out for Hey Jude in 1960 marked a complete break in how the ending of songs was to be imagined.

A special issue of LIFE magazine this April, marking The Beatles split half a century ago, offers a small window into why the band mattered. It describes how on their 1964 visit to New York, people "ran through the street against traffic, past mounted policemen, as they swarmed the Plaza Hotel, where the Beatles were still staying three days after their appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*." The audience of 73 million for the show was not the only landmark. Fans watching The Beatles leave the plaza, included "New York Catholic archbishop Francis Cardinal Spellman, who had been born in the previous century."

Hitting their prime two decades after the sun had set on the British empire, it was the Beatles, after the English language and the BBC, who ended up opening doors for British culture the world over.

When they were not touring, they kept "office hours" at the now tourist hotspot, London's Abbey Road studio — industriously managed by producer George Martin and other technicians. In some exceptionally productive times, they were able to record up to four songs a day, two before the lunchhour break and two after. From 1962 to 1970, they did a whopping 210 songs, almost all recognisable decades on — complete with clear sharp voices, complex music and lyrics.

The jury is out on whether the lyrics would command an honour in the way Bob Dylan's could. Let it Be (1970), an all-time hit, remains a world-class ballad for all times but the Beatles never made the angst or dark side of the 1960s their primary preoccupation. They signalled concern on world events, but were original in what they had to say about it.

The Beatles prospered right through the polarising Cold War (1947-91) and their song Back in the USSR (1968) involved a cheerful shout-out to Ukraine girls "who really knock me out". There is also the runaway hit, Revolution (1968), which mellifluously invokes the ways of Chairman Mao. In an interview with GQ in 2018, Paul McCartney does mention Blackbird (1968) as being his expression of protest against racism, but the Beatles were no exhorters to the marching public.

The quality of their songwriting may not have literary flourish, but whatever they did had the signature of freshness and elegance. A Day in the Life (1967) was literally stitched up from reports picked from news dailies, so it had the ability to speak to Everyman. The way they invoked common people in their music, talking about their names, hopes and hopelessness, touched a chord: Paperback Writer



(1966), Dear Prudence (1968) and Eleanor Rigby (1966). Weeks would pass, and their songs would be stuck on top of radio charts.

In November 1963, at the Royal Variety concert in London at the Prince of Wales theatre, with the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret watching from the royal box, John Lennon urged those in the cheap seats to clap

#### THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

(Above) The Beatles with Ed Sullivan from their first appearance on Sullivan's television show in February 1964; wax statues of the band members at Madame Tussauds, New Delhi

very loudly, and "for the rest of you, will you please jangle your jewellery?" The fact that they could get away with it, with their boyish charm and grins, only reflected the extent of the popular support they enjoyed.

India was to have its own special relationship with The Beatles via meditation, the sitar and the tabla. Mahesh Yogi hosted them at his ashram in Rishikesh, providing a new musical influence. After the split, George Harrison persisted with the sensibility he had got attuned to here.

The story goes that when The Eagles were parting ways in the middle of their association, news reporters asked them when they would sing together again. One of them muttered angrily: "When hell freezes over." So that was the name of the album. Hell Freezes *Over*, when they came back to making music

together in 1994. There is no such comforting tale about

Perhaps, they ruled the music scene for so long only because they parted close to their

peak, John Lennon was murdered tragically in New York just 10 years after the split, but not before he had delivered legendary hits even by himself. George Harrison died in 2001. Paul McCartney remains the most

visible connect to pop-history's greatest band of the 20th century. Last year, the reclusive Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney appeared together at a concert to wild cheer, when McCartney presented his latest album Egypt Station to reasonable acclaim. What did they first perform together on July 14, 2019? Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band (1967), of course.

# A Sport and a **Pastime**

Despatches from the world of dating apps, as ideas about romance and intimacy evolve to meet the challenges of the pandemic

Divya Sethu

"PUT YOURSELF out there!" If you're single, you've heard this statement a lot. Never mind that it is vague and overused, but in the time of a pandemic, it's also the one thing we can't do. As the world remains in COVID-19's grip, with countries either in lockdown or enforcing strict social distancing, a singleton's search for love needs to be put on hold. Meeting people on dating apps comes with risks of its own, but were I to "put myself out there" right now, catching the coronavirus would just be an addition to a long, already existing list of threats.

I envy couples who manage to remain intimate even when miles apart. According to the meme floating around about how dating is now serious business because you're essentially choosing your apocalypse partner, these couples seem to have it figured out.

Most of my closest friends are in happy, fulfilling relationships right now. Two, who are in a long distance relationship with their boyfriends, told me they keep in touch through text and video calls, watch movies together online, and sometimes even have dates where they eat meals together.

Doing that with the people I've met on dat-



As my friend Poornima, a 22-year-old digital-content producer based in Noida, puts it, 'I'm not on dating apps to talk. So if I'm doing that right now, it seems like doing all the work without any reward."

"I would like to meet new people and actively look for a more meaningful relationship now. We're conditioned to shift importance to aesthetics instead of wit, intelligence, or any other positive attribute. Essentially, we swipe for looks, supplemented by mediocre bios," another friend of mine, Pooja, 22, a student at a university in Toronto, says. So if I'm only focusing on how a person looks, how do I pretend to care enough to sustain a conversation?

Some of my friends who are active dating-app users are treating this situation as an opportunity for lead-hunting. "It's like I'm keeping a repository for now. I talk to them just so it doesn't get awkward after the quarantine ends," says Pakhi, 21, a marketing associate in Pune. However, she admits that the lockdown has made her want to meet more people and form more meaningful connections in the future.

The idea of seeking a casual relationship right now seems redundant. We look for comfort in familiarity in times of uncertainty. We want to retreat into the security and safety of a relationship. These are not things that casual dating offers. From where we stand now, perhaps for once, dating apps and the instant gratification that they offer won't be enough to sustain us in a time when loneliness and feelings of isolation are peaking.

This is because swiping on dating apps right now has more to do with finding some brief validation of one's desirability, some sort of anchoring in a world of love that one can't fully participate in right now. It has little to do with actually wanting to be in a relationship or even just going out on a date. But when I look at those around me who are in relationships, I realise that what I yearn for is to have stability. Unlike in the world of hook-ups, long-term relationships can navigate the lack of physical intimacy that this lockdown has presented us with, and build on the principles of love, trust and companionship.

GETTYIMAGES

So hang in there, singletons, because I do believe our apocalypse partners are out there. Hopefully, they, too, are maintaining social distance and washing their hands right now.



# All That Jazz

A glimpse into the world of some of the greatest musicians of the last three decades and their impact on the etiquette and aesthetics of music

Susmit Bose

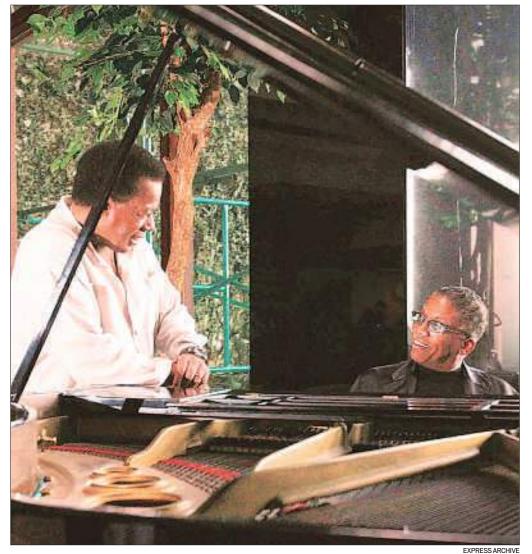
OW, MAN, what an eclectic compilation! Conversations, interviews and reportage with some of the greatest masters of music, from Roger Waters, Ian Anderson, Mark Knopfler, John McLaughlin, Sting, Jean-Luc Ponty and Carlos Santana to L Subramaniam, Louis Banks, Sivamani, Ranjit Barot, Junoon and Amyt Datta, and Srikanto Acharya, the contemporary folk group Bhoomi and Tapas 'Bapi' Das of the baul jazz and blues group Moheener Ghoraguli. I like this genre in the regional languages, and Shantanu Datta does well to include them in the book. I wish he had also included the pioneers, Kabir Suman and Anjan Dutt. Datta has the credibility to write Calling Elvis. The book describes him "as a journalist (who) has been placed at the forefront of music reportage for much of the past three decades". He lives up to the reputation.

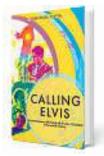
I find that interviews of artistes, especially musicians, and, particularly, rock and pop artistes are very fluid, random and too casual. Perhaps, it is because they are not 'in the moment', which is when they are composing or performing. But Datta manages to hold them captive by his questions. I liked the interviews with John McLaughlin, Jean-Luc Ponty and Herbie Hancock, exploring their relationship with Miles Davis, "the Picasso of jazz". Datta's interactions with humble men like Sting and Carlos Santana are heartfelt.

These are mature musical conversations and one learns so much about the etiquette and aesthetics of the art. Aspiring artistes would do well to imbibe the wisdom of these musicians. I must confess that I don't understand the idea of fusion music, and don't like the term because it undermines music itself, but if artistes from varied genres getting together and performing is what explains fusion, then I am all for it. 'Jamming' is not the word.

I also did not understand why the book had to be pegged so heavily on the interviews and conversations, as Datta calls them. They're great add-ons to the story, but the reportage is much more than that. It's about the music of the times when it was practised, and the temperament of artistes. As Miles Davis said, "I am not what I do; I do what I am." Datta's writing on Western music and the scene in Calcutta is very profound. His next book, perhaps the sequel to Calling Elvis, should be about Western music in India and the strong influences that it is structured on. The music scene in Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore and Madras could have completed the story.

loved Datta's tribute to Dilip Balakrishnan of Great Bear — and later, frontman, vocalist and songwriter of the group High—and to Usha Uthup's tenacity in doing what she has done. I was also hanging out in Calcutta at that time and it all rings so true. I





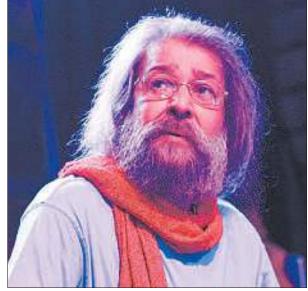
**CALLING ELVIS** BY SHANTANU DATTA Speaking Tiger 230 pages





THE RIGHT NOTES

(Clockwise from top left) Wayne Shorter and Herbie Hancock in Mumbai; Dilip Balakrishnan; Louis Banks at his 75th birthday celebration; Bapi Das



met Devdan Sen of Great Bear in Amsterdam many years ago and we reminisced about the times, and similarly with Louis Banks and Pam Crain, who sang for one of my albums. Thankfully, I am in touch with Nondon Bagchi and Usha Uthup to get my fix of the late Sixties and early Seventies in Calcutta. I remember Pandit Jnan Prakash Ghosh playing me some nonsense verse on the tabla when I was a boy. It sounded like hip-hop.

Datta's inclusion of the music store Braganza is wonderful. Old man Braganza presented me with a 12-string guitar in the Seventies, which I still have and cherish. George Harrison, Ian Anderson, Ian Carr of Magna Carta and several other musicians from the West visited Braganza to buy Indian instruments. There was also Hemen-da or

Hemen Babu, who made a scale-change harmonium for my father. I am glad that there is also a mention of Melody, the record store which was a meeting point for young musicians in Calcutta.

The book is a must-read for music lovers and practitioners. Datta's Calling Elvis is a job well done. In his own words, "As tributes go, this one, by one who grew up in Calcutta, and drew on experiences our magnanimous country throws up every day, may seem woefully inadequate, given my own shortcomings and the varied nature of the conversations. But it is a tribute nevertheless... if for nothing else, then for the singers of the world, their tunes and symphonies yet to come.'

Susmit Bose is an urban folk singer and songwriter

# How To Talk to Your Child About Death

Anita Roy on her new book, and why the ongoing ecological catastrophe stems from our inability to face up to being mortal

SCHOOL FOR THE

RECENTLY

**DECEASED** 

BY ANITA ROY

Paromita Chakrabarti

EDITOR-WRITER Anita Roy, 55, has played a pivotal role in Indian publishing for children and young adults. In 2004, she set up Young Zubaan, an imprint that promotes diversity in children's publishing; she was also one of the founding members of the popular Bookaroo Festival of Children's Literature in 2008. In this interview, the UK-based Roy speaks about her debut YA novel on death and ecological destruction, and darkness in children's literature. Excerpts:

Gravepyres School for the Recently Deceased is out at a time when the world is facing its own fragility. What made you contemplate a book

There's a point in the novel when Jose, the main protagonist, remembers his grandfather saying: it's amazing how it's the one thing that is 100 per cent guaranteed to happen to everyone, and, yet, no one ever imagines it will ever happen to them. It is extremely difficult to contemplate the fact of your own mortality. The psychiatrist Irvin Yalom has a phrase for it: 'staring at the sun'. In his book of the same name, he writes: 'I feel strongly – as a man who will himself die one day in the not-too-distant future and as

a psychiatrist who has spent decades dealing with death anxiety - that confronting death allows us...to re-enter life in a richer, more compassionate manner.'

There's a great question I was once asked: 'What is the opposite of death?' Immediately, the answer comes, 'Life!' but that's wrong. The opposite of death is birth. Life, when you really get down to the truth of the matter, has no opposite.

I wanted to find a way to begin to explore some of these quite difficult, philosophical and spiritual matters in a way that made them accessible to kids. In a way that did not fudge or soft-soap the heartbreaking fact of death's finality, but ended on the tremendously positive note of interconnectedness.

To be honest, I worried about the book coming out just as the COVID-19 crisis was accelerating all over the world, when death is so much 'in the air'. Would people dealing with real grief, real loss, be offended at the lightness of tone, the humour, the laughter? A good friend of mine died of COVID-19 last month and I can almost hear her cackling at

the thought. Death may be sad — I want a much, much bigger word but it will have to do — but it is serious not solemn, mysterious rather than morbid. The ecological catastrophe that we are currently experiencing stems from the same inability to deal honestly and openly with our own mortality. We have bought into the myth that life — or at least our human lives – can be lived without limit or consequence. A large part of the story of *Gravepyres* is also about the disastrous consequences of trying to stop the natural flow of time, the natural processes of

Red Panda death, decay and rebirth. 232 pages Do you see the pandemic affecting how we approach grief as a community? How

> to bereavement? I hope that one of the many things that we learn as a community is how connected we are. I have been astonished by how much compassion has been shown by people helping others became (for a time at least during lockdown, here in the UK) a sort of national characteristic.

differently do you see children reacting



TILL DEATH DO **US PART** 

Gravepyres School for the Recently Deceased is Anita Roy's first novel, meant for young adults

It has also focused our concern on the most vulnerable — the elderly, those in care homes. How we care for our elderly is how we, too, will be cared for when we reach that point. How we treat the sick is how we, too, will be treated. How we grieve is how we would hope others might grieve for us - for love and grief are minted together to make that precious coin.

How has it affected children? Well, I don't know — but I do worry. I worry that it has promoted a sense that the world outside is a place of danger and other people are a source of infection. I worry about building empathy in a world where hugging is seen as trans-gressive and possibly fatal.

A lot of children's literature, both contemporary and traditional, have quite dark themes. When do you think the trend arose to present a rosy view of

#### the world to children? And, again, how did we return to keeping things real?

In India, 15-20 years ago, there was a strong sense that there were certain topics that weren't suitable for children, certain things you could and couldn't - and shouldn't — say. The emphasis was on single-issue, morally improving tales, usually involving clumsily drawn anthropomorphic animals. Things have massively improved thanks to a slew of creative and imaginative writers and illustrators coming up through the ranks, whose work has been championed and supported by commissioning editors, mostly women! Children's publishing in India today is a much broader church, with books that 'keep it real' and others that gleefully keep it fantastic! The whole spectrum is necessary.

If I look at the current crop of titles for children (middle-grade as well as young adult) they seem to be falling over themselves to explore dark themes. Drug addiction, conflict, sexual abuse, racism, sexism it seems like there aren't any subjects that are off the table. There are many, many positives to be had from this: not least the empathy-building work that children's literature is so very good at. The importance of seeing 'people like me' in the stories that you read is vital for children to grow up having a healthy sense of who they are and what they might hope to become.

There's a delightful mix of English, Arabic, Indian, French and Spanish being used in the afterlife in Gravepyres. Do you envision it as more accommodating of our many cultural influences?

I am all for cultural confluence. Maybe, it has partly to do with my own background half-Bengali, half-English, who grew up in the UK but spent half my adult life in India. With access to films, books, videos and music from every corner of the globe, today's children are much more open to other cultures than, perhaps, they would have been in the past - and Indian children, in particular, are adept at swimming in different cultural and linguistic streams. And, at the end of the day, we are all united in our shared mortality. We're all going to die - whether you are Inuit or Sentinelese, from Buckinghamshire or Johannesburg.

# Shadow Lines

Was he a social radical till the end, or did he lose his way? A biography of M Karunanidhi seeks to demystify the politician



**POWER PLAY** Karunanidhi (right) with MG Ramachandran

Mahesh Rangarajan

TTHE time of his death in August 2018, M Karunanidhi was the titan among leaders of his home state of Tamil Nadu and one of India's seniormost politicians. From 1938, when he took to the streets against the Congress government's promotion of Hindi in school education, right to his last electoral battle in 2016, when his party finished second, he stood out as a fighter. But he was also a writer, playwright and screenwriter, an orator and a man of letters. Novelist and veteran journalist Vaasanthi offers rare insights into the man and his mind. The young Karunanidhi experienced caste exclusion when he saw that his father, an expert nadaswaram player, left his chest bare when he met a member of the upper-caste landed gentry, or mirasdar. The idea of a unified Tamil society which addressed issues of exclusion would take him first into the militant Dravida Kazhagam, and, then, with his mentor CN Annadurai, to the Dravidar Munnetra Kazhagam.

A deep pride in Tamil language and culture was not unique to the young idealist, activist and editor. But he was gifted with the written and spoken word and skilfully organised political workers. The loss of his first wife, terms in jail and a hand-to-mouth existence deepened his commitment. By the early 1960s, he was a key leader in a rising regional party. As a senior minister, he was well placed to succeed Annadurai when he died of cancer in 1969.

The first two terms in office saw more than the expansion of reservations and steps to claim more autonomy for the states. The horrific Kilvenmani massacre of Dalits (1968) in the Thanjavur delta exposed the pressing need for redressing agrarian inequality. Legislation for fair wages and a higher minimum wage was followed in 1970 by halving the land ceiling from 30 to 15 acres.

By aligning with Mrs Indira Gandhi in the historic Congress split of 1969, the DMK leader also entered the national stage. In the wake of the Indira wave of 1971, he



KARUNANIDHI: THE DEFINITIVE **BIOGRAPHY** BY VAASANTHI Juggernaut Books 274 pages ₹599

managed to manoeuvre the national party out of state politics while allowing it a share of Lok Sabha seats. Despite a falling-out over the Emergency and the dismissal of his government, he was able to forge ties with the Congress later — with Indira in 1980 and with Sonia in 2004, he was the ally of an all-India party that swept The ascent to the top and the

subsequent falling-out with MG Ramachandran are well-known: close friends became rivals and parted ways three years later. The MGR decade, till his death in 1987, was a trial by fire for the DMK and Karunanidhi could not dent the chief minister's base. As atrocities mounted in Sri

Lanka, both men sought to play

on Tamil sentiments. By the time India intervened in 1987-90, they were already on opposite sides, the one backing a federal nation and the DMK coming close to endorsing Eelam. But as chief minister in 1990-91, Karunanidhi was unable to control the Tigers; their rival K Padmanabha was brutally murdered in June 1990. Even before Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, and his government's dismissal, Karunanidhi was seen as being soft on terror. This gave J Jayalalithaa the perfect launching pad to power in 1991.

Karunanidhi was in power twice after that, and in these terms, including the last in 2006-11, he retained his focus on social and economic inclusion. But succession was a problem. He reacted strongly when asked who his heir would be, asserting that the DMK was a democratic party, not a religious order. Yet by the mid-1990s, the choice of his son MK Stalin was clear. The long spell of power of the Congress-led alliance in Delhi saw the party embroiled in the 2G spectrum scam controversy, and a long jail spell for his daughter Kanimozhi. Sadly, lineage and kinship became central issues, even in a movement with a radical social message.

Karunanidhi's determination, visible when he was arrested by Jayalalithaa in 2001, was paralleled by a deep vulnerability. Vaasanthi portrays his anguish at his daughter's arrest. Was he losing the plot by that time? Certainly, the damage done by the 2G scam was beyond what the party had imagined. Vaasanthi draws on Karunanidhi's writings and speeches, stray remarks and editorials. The emergence of the Kalaignar as kingmaker and shaper of policy in Delhi in 1996, and in the long spell in coalitions virtually unbroken until 2014, gets due attention.

Other than K Kamaraj in the 1960s, no Tamil leader ever wielded such influence. In the Kalaignar's case, there was a near-unbroken spell in office as coalition partner from 1996 to 2014. This made a regional party a major player in economic decision-making at the federal level. Vaasanthi rightly shows the deep affinity he had for the late VP Singh, mainly on account of the

Mandal Commission. And, yet, the man remains an enigma. Was he a social radical till the end, or did he lose his way? Can regional nationalism survive once its colossus has departed? Much food for thought here. Vaasanthi's prose is beguilingly simple. Its skilful play of shadow and light preoccupies long after you finish reading.

Mahesh Rangarajan teaches history and environmental studies at Ashoka University



Finland's Valtteri Bottas will start the Formula One season on pole position after denying Mercedes team mate and six-times world champion Lewis Hamilton the top slot in Austria on Saturday.

Austrian GP, Live on Star Sports 2/HD2, 6.35pm

## Greenwood brace helps Man Utd to 5-2 win over Bournemouth

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** 

MANCHESTER, JULY 4

TEENAGE MANCHESTER United striker Mason Greenwood enhanced his burgeoning reputation with wonderful finishes off either foot for a double in a 5-2 win over relegation-threatened Bournemouth in the Premier League on Saturday.

The 18-year-old Greenwood took his goal tally in all competitions for the senior team to 15 in his breakthrough season at United and the quality of his strikes showed why he is being rated as one of English soccer's most highly rated talents. His first goal, which canceled out Junior Stanislas' 16th-minute opener for Bournemouth, was lashed home with his left foot after being fed by Bruno Fernandes.

After a penalty from Marcus Rashford and a brilliant 25-yard finish by Anthony Martial, Greenwood got his second with an individual strike that saw him drift round left back Diego Rico and fire an angled right-footed shot into the top corner in the 54th minute. "Mason is one of the best, if not the best finisher, I have worked with and seen," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskiaer said. "He is so calm. He knows where to finish if it is on the training ground, here or in his garden at home."

That restored United's two-goal lead at 4-2 after Josh King's penalty for Bournemouth, and Fernandes added a fifth off a free kick from the edge of the area in the 59th.

A third straight victory, in which the team has scored at least three times in each game, maintained United's push for Champions League qualification. Solskjaer's side stayed three points behind third-place Leicester with five games remaining

#### **Buffon sets Serie A record**

Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon set an outright Serie A record on Saturday with his 648th appearance in Italy's top flight. The Turin derby game against Torino moved the 42-year-old Buffon one ahead of AC Milan great Paolo Maldini, who set the record in 2009. Buffon matched this record on December 18 against Sampdoria. It was Buffon's 915th club match as a professional.

# Dan there was none

Retirement of badminton's greatest player leaves a void as an era of excellence ends

**SHIVANI NAIK** MUMBAI, JULY 4

FOR 142 long, deluded weeks before the London Olympics, Lin Dan allowed Lee Chong Wei to sit on top of the world as No.1, hoping for his own stab at greatness when the Games fetched up. Dan, in fact, strung him along till 19-all in the third in the final.

Then in one smooth move — or three of a prowling jungle cat, the Chinese reigning champion, gently pulled the rug from under the Malaysian's feet to lord over the big moment of reckoning – not for the first time in his career, nor the last.

Badminton's greatest men's singles player, the unanimously beloved Chinese, anointed Super Dan at Wembley by Peter Gade (another World No.1 bereft of the Olympics gold) after his first All England triumph in 2004, called time on his career on Saturday after pain and (diminishing) physical abilities won the inevitable battle against perseverance for the ageing 37-year-old.

Chong Wei is the original perseverer; the greatest and first amongst unequals shown this chimera by Lin Dan, whose extraordinariness lay in dangling the chance of a win before his opponents before pouncing at victory every single time. At Beijing in 2008, Chong Wei had been packed off in 40 odd minutes, the savagery of 21-8, 21-12 loss sparing him protracted heartbreak.

Dan courted badminton greatness by loyally chasing big occassions, and turned inducing these dramatic disappointments in Chong Wei's life, into fine art.

Two World Championship finals at London (2011) and Guangzhou (2013) on either side of the 2012 Olympics title came in similar drawn out, teasing fashion, elevating badminton to extravagant opera. Finals that could've gone either way, but Lin Dan insisting on stamping his class on every finish to build the legend of his dominance. For there came five World Championships, two Olympic titles, six All England's, 66 tournament victories and 666 career wins including a clutch of team titles in Thomas and Sudirman Cup as well as the Asiad, to headline shuttle's most successful career.

Nearing the end of his 20-year-long ca-



Lin Dan has two Olympic & five World Championship titles to his name. AP

reer, Super Dan had 9 first round losses in 19 matches in the last year to be dubbed 'First Round Lin'. At the 2016 Rio Games, he even lost the semis to old nemesis Chong Wei and returned without a medal, like in Athens. A bunch of upstarts from around the world now fancied their chances against him, though he casually made the 2017 World Championship and 2018 All England finals to show he hadn't completely lost his aura.

"Every forceful jump was a desire for victory. I have dedicated everything to this sport I love," he announced on Weibo. The postponement of Olympics owing to Covid, had meant he would've needed to labour another season to leapfrog Chen Long and Shi Yuqi to reach Tokyo, though he had been training in right earnest — at the same facility as China's fastest sprinter, to keep up his speed.

His past two seasons had seemed propelled by sponsor's nudges, though you would be a fool to ignore preps of a man who in the lead-up to one of his Olympic titles ran under blazing sun at noon in high temperatures to bolster his capacity.

Also having broken free from China's national training system, he had once defiantly declared after winning one of his last titles, "All the Chinese coaches are sitting there in the corner. And I want to prove to them that even if I am 33, I, Lin Dan, can still win." But His shot armoury was Paris, New York and Milan fashion weeks rolled into one for setting trends, slavishly mimicked across the shuttle world

that was after a successful decade and half of being nurturedly leashed to the regimented Chinese system.

Dan arrived on the scene as a junior World champion, highly touted after wins as a teenager in Korea and Denmark, but with a big booming flashy game that predictably didn't pay the dividends early on.

Beijing would prove to be the start of the Super Dan epoch as a raucous home crowd matched his roaring bloodlust for his first Olympic title.

As such, Dan's game can be clearly demarcated into pre-and-post Beijing: an outrageously attacking lefthander to start with making use of his exceptionally quick arm speed till 2008 to cutting down pace later and playing a stubbornly steady game to preserve his body for that blazing speed was unsustainable.

Dan had that spinning smash, hit hard and steep and a follow-up net shot where he was aggressive and would go on peppering opponent's body line like a radar guided missile to shred their defense. There was that impossible forehand clear where he would retrieve from the edge of the lines running back, dragging the shuttle back into play by sheer force of will, yet sending it back with such ferocity and precision that a defensive scramble turned into a winner deep into the rival's backcourt.

All of that, shots seeming simple but pulled off after hours of training and strengthening the body as well as repurposed returns by taking the shuttle mighty late — found followers religiously attempting to ape his style. His shot armoury was Paris, New York and Milan fashion weeks rolled into one for setting trends, slavishly mimicked across the shuttle world. And though the 21-point system would've largely constricted his flair -- one never knows what he could've done with his many round the body trick shots if the 15 or 11 point format

was prevalent and he didn't eschew flash there was yet another dimension to his game as a southpaw even if it didn't look as pretty as Bao Chunlai's or Lee Hyun Il's.

Perhaps the most underrated aspect of his game was his economy of movements a graph that Roger Federer traversed in another sport to prolong his magic. Chong Wei would be bouncing about, the length, breadth of the court and in the air above. Dan would return to the Tlike a horse unfailingly gallops into its barn, and barely exert himself more than what was needed.

For all his dominance spanning his career, Lin Dan rarely looked like he was stepping on the gas, to disintegrate his opponent. Unlike Chong Wei whose switch of gears was a visible hustle bustle signalling a change in pace and bursting of nerve, Dan would ease into kill mode smoothly without a wrinkle on his visage. Former international Arvind Bhat recalls how Lin Dan would put in a full hour's warmup of hitting with sparrers just before a match – drops, parallel, flicks, box, just knocking around and was seldom seen sitting in the crowd doing nothing before his games.

An introvert who rarely smiled — not out of arrogance but from staying manically focussed - Dan remained China's elusive genius, not very talkative even after winning his big titles. After winning the world title at Hyderabad in 2009, he would come into the media room donning a Shaquille O'Neal tee — a mere change of shirt for him, as he would look befuddled when asked about the NBA star.

But badminton's famous four - Dan, Chong Wei, Peter Gade and Taufiq Hidayat had a world of their own and in their own classy way, they went about taking the game to unprecedented heights in quality, even if they were all far too reticent (or cool) to get chatty about smashes in English and open up their world to a larger base. Though comparable to tennis' Big Four, the shuttle quartet never tried too hard to stake claim to a similar space (maybe to the game's detriment). But for those who followed a feathery bird mangled magically by four sorcerers of that era, the enchantment was self-sufficient. Chong Wei turned poet at Dan's departure from international badminton when he tweeted, "Your final wave ...all four disappear....Within the hush of silent tear.'

## Not averse to contesting for **DDCA** prez post: Jaitley Jr

NIHALKOSHIE

NEW DELHI, JULY 4

ROHAN JAITLEY, son of former union minister the late Arun Jaitley, said he is "not averse to the idea" of contesting for the post of president of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA). Arun Jaitley was DDCA president for over a decade till 2013 and the main stadium in the capital, which hosts international matches, is named after him.

"I have had a lot of people across the board who have come and met me and discussed various things. I have been requested to do it  $(contest\,for\,president's\,post).\,I\,have\,told\,them$ that I will keep it in mind certainly, but let the electoral process start. My intention is the welfare of the association. It should be brought back to the glory days. At the appropriate time, I will convey whatever my decision is. I am not averse to the idea," Rohan told The Sunday Express.

Over the past month, various groups within DDCA have been calling on Rohan, who is a lawyer, and have claimed that he has agreed to contest for the post of DDCA president. On Saturday, DDCA secretary Vinod Tihara said: "Looking at the mess in the DDCA, we need someone who can unite all groups and someone who everyone will respect and listen to for guidance. If Rohan Jaitley decides to contest for the president's post of the DDCA, I think he will be a unanimous candidate. The contest will be for the other five posts in the DDCA. According to me, Rohan Jaitley is the best person to lead the DDCA and run the association smoothy."

DDCA joint secretary Rajan Manchanda, who has a running feud with Tihara since the annual general body meeting in December, was also in favour of Jaitley's potential candidature.

"What we are aiming for is to ensure that Rohan Jaitley is elected unopposed and it is a unanimous decision. A majority of the members are ready to support him. If other groups within DDCA are supporting him, it will be beneficial for the association," Manchanda said.

On June 17, the Delhi High Court had directed the DDCA to hold elections within six

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The overwhelming

impact of your planets is felt on your

finances. There are

some expensive purchases lined up, but far-sighted Librans will be

concentrating on saving. It's also

unanswerable questions. Try to

a serious time, a moment to

find some space for yourself,

All eyes are now on you, and

support early in the week,

when the Moon offers you its

you will be challenged to display

your social and healing skills. By

people are falling out, you must

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

Your sense of self-preservation

but you'll still have to step in to

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

placating, so do your best.

help a close friend out of a tight

spot. Someone at work may need

becoming

that, Most of you were never that

interested in small talk and now,

 $companions\,who\,offer\,some\,sort$ 

of close commitment. At work,

more than ever, you'll want to

mix with old friends and

focus on long-term plans.

increasingly lively,

but no less serious for

will stop you doing anything silly,

You may be pulled up

that happens towards

short by something

the end of the week.

this I mean that while other

come to the rescue.

reviewing your progress so far,

and making plans for the future.

You're bound to be

attention — at least

for a few more days.

the centre of

contemplate life's many

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

#### **BRIDGE**

**♠** A10982 **₩**KQ3

**♣**J9763

♠ KQJ73 **₩**A105 **♦** 107543

 $\label{lem:mirror} Miraculously\,, you and your partner arrive in 6S (your great bidding, of and the opening lead from silent opponents is the DK. Plan the play.$ With a void in both hands, you can ruff all your diamonds in dummy and all your clubs in hand (a crossruff). As you hold so many of the top trumps, it is unlikely that any one will ever overruff you (after the S2 and S3 have scored,

Before crossruffing, however, it is a very good idea to cash your side-suit vinners (hearts) first. If you wait, a defender may be able to discard a heart or two as you merily cross ruft. Auter when you try to cash you heart winners, a spade may suddenly appear on the table — one of their spades! And since you will be out of trumps by then, down you go.

So how many heart tricks should you try to cash before crossruffing? These re the numbers: a 4-3 break occurs a bit more than 62% of the time, and a 5-2 break occurs 30.5% of the time.

At IMP scoring, where making your contract is the most important thing, there is no good reason to risk cashing the third round of hearts. If it gets ruffed and a trump comes back, your crossruff is ruined and there is a good chance that you will wind up with just 11 tricks. Take the money (two hearts

What about Matchpoints, where overtricks are more important? Take two learts and run even faster! Have you noticed that you are in a slam with 20 HCP between the two hands? In a world of point counters, how nany pairs do you think will get to this slam? Baby, you are in the contract of your life – I've seen hands like this passed out! Don't risk going down for rick when you already have ALL the matchpoints.

At Matchpoints, you can risk your contract for an overtrick(s) when you are in a normal contract and have the odds in your favour. But when you are in a great contract (or a doubled contract) play it safe!



SOUTH ♠ AKQ **₩**AK4 ♦ AK32 **832** 

WEST NORTH Pass Pass 2 NT Pass 3NT Pass Pass West leads the SJ, presumably from a holding headed by SJ 10 9. Spades don't worry you, but you have only eight sure tricks. No suit other than clubs seems to offer the possibility of extras. What is your plan?

**JUMBLED WORDS** 

# SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2276

#### TQUICK CLUES

- Basque ball game (6)
- 10. Aches, pains, suffers (8)
- 11. More profound (6)12. Blending, mingling (6) 13. Holiness (8)
- Porch (7) Rotten; bribable (7)
- 20. Resisted or repulsed (8)
- 22. Swaps, deals in (6) 23. Trifles (6)
- 26. Instruction session (8) 27. Local inhabitant (6)
- Show live on TV (8)
- Make more difficult
- Finish to pedestrian way
- Be made up of (7) Spanish dance (8)
- Underground mammal
- 14. Red fired clay (10) 16. Coastal area of Croatia
- Maintain (8)
- 19. Eccentric person (7) Scolding(6)
- 22. Crowd of people 24. Stringed instrument (4)
- CRYPTIC CLUES
- He may produce stupor in his
- readers ? (6) Scepticism for a French unfinished bell that is loud
- 10. About fifty workers in a pea
- cannery and they work slowly (8) Right breed of cattle from Ireland 12. Unconsciously sound reasons for
- discovering minerals beneath the
- 13. Gives prominence to regular
- some degree (7) 17. The churchmen who keep to one
- colour on board (7) 20. Determined to lay about with our

SUDOKU

- 15. Floor covering which is French in
- Cancel a French season after being led astray (6) 14. Dirty, unhappy, lacking

Try out a wiry muscle ? (4)

Arab sheikdom (3.5)

22. The Australian gardener?

25. Sat back playing flute (8)26. Marlborough's house-dog

Larks in a strange land

27. Gotten up like a siren, perhaps

Money you don't get for nothing?

Reportedly filches metals (6)

Doesn't encourage delays (4,3) A beverage custom, timeless, in

exciting! (6)

DOWN

(3,5)

(4,3,3)

23. All you can hold for a penny that's

- application, private ... otherwise
- 16. Egghead joked that he was
- properly prepared (8) 18. Supposes the bird got locked up in the cupboard

19. The man without even the

Idlesse, 20 Assailed, 23 Sawyer, 25 Stoppage, 4 Yard-Arm, 5 Struts. 6 Bonhomie, 7 Keener, 15 Sparable, 17 Disclose, 18 Specious, 19 Oddball, 21 Sloped, 22 Looper, 24 Wraith. CRYPTIC Price-War, 11 Laddie, 12 Off Air, 13 River-Man, 14 Legends, 16 Hat-Pins, 20

# opportunity for a quick snack

Wickedly ill, surrounded by nameless envy (6)

(3-4)

- 22. Underworld spring causing consternation (6)
- 24. Queue for a job? (4) vessel (6)

#### Solutions to 2275

QUICK CLUES Across: 8 Fluent, 9 Authored, 10 Revamped, 11 Unhand, 12 Fedora, 13 Rosemary, 14 Dabster, 16 Tobago, 26 Bulgaria, 27 Well Well, 28 Sits Up. **Down:** 1 Aloevera, 2 Legato, 3 Lamppost, 23 Unsaid, 25 Tee Off, 26 All Right, 27 Live Long, 28 Not Bad. **Down:** 1 Pea Rifle, 2 Wotcha, 3 New World, 4 Scorers, 5 Pavlov, 6 Acid Drop, 7 Marina, 15

Strange, 21 Amelia, 22 On Foot, 24 Stints.

# If it's your Birthday

#### Sunday July 5

You can afford to be optimistic about the future, largely because of all the efforts you have put in. A friend will support you, so make plans and a workable strategy.

#### Monday July 6

orm and your rising confidence may be seen in the Moon's alignments. You might still be inclined to keep to yourself, which may come as a surprise to people.

#### Tuesday July 7 Your feelings for a certain person could be

surprisingly strong. You're also in a  $confident\, mood\, and\, will\, take\, the\, lead.\, There$ will be positive pay-offs over the next year.

#### Wednesday July 8

You're tougher than you seem. It's an ideal moment to increase the energy you're putting into professional and worldly ambitions. You can handle practical problems with great efficiency.

## Thursday July 9

You may begin to get ready to implement repairs and mprovements at home which are overdue. You should also take the initiative if family affairs are floundering.

Friday July 10 An element of chance is introduced into your ordered and regulated routine. That allows you to exert free will, for if cracks appear, you can make new arrangements.

#### Saturday July 11

You're passing through a period of maximum inspiration, but also of potential confusion. If your confidence begins to

suffer, get back to the facts.

#### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) You're right in the middle of a period of financial opportunity.

For some of you this

may necessitate a brief crisis before things get better. For all of you the longterm prospects are excellent. Tuesday and Wednesday favour all domestic undertakings and family gatherings, Thursday and Friday place the emphasis on professional and

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Opportunities are

worldly ambitions.

coming your way. You have two choices. Either you may ride

out the storm and risk losing control. Or you may actively seize the initiative and assert your presence, insisting that others pay attention to what you need and want. Thursday's lunar alignments offer you the key to personal success.

#### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) It's certainly a busy

time, but you seem to be rather under the

weather, or in danger  $of \, succumbing \, to \, emotional \,$ stress. You may not see eye to eye with one particular colleague. The advice is to relax and see to it that you have sufficient time to yourself.

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Mars and Venus, planets of energy and

desire, are especially active at the moment.

Your stars are nothing if not passionate, but do remember that when strong feelings surface, they can swing either way. As the old saying tells us, love and hate are different sides

#### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) Your stars are a mixed

bag this week.

Although you have excellent reason for optimism, if you fail to take note of reality you may find that the ground is swept from under your feet. Deal with all disagreements, otherwise family members are liable to take offence.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) It's time to talk, and I don't just mean about day-to-day

avoiding potential

the end of the week.

misunderstandings towards

affairs. You've a lot on your mind and friends and relatives can't advise you unless they know what you're really feeling. If you are frank, open and honest now, you'll stand a better chance of

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19) Intense trends strengthen as your planets form and re-

form their relationships. If you're contemplating either a change of job or a new community commitment, now is the time to pull out all the stops. Don't compromise your principles. Family life is on a fundamentally positive path, even if there is a glitch.



grow stronger and all Pisceans with wanderlust will be itching to fly to foreign parts as soon as possible. Your mystical nature is also on the move and you may be rediscovering some strange interests, Legal and educational questions should be cleared up.

Ahmedabad

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. \_\_continues to ruin my life - Bill Watterson (7)

**AEGNLT BBGRUY** 

SOLUTION: HAZER, TRIPE, TANGLE, CRUBBY

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

**Difficulty Level** 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 5s = Very Hard; 6s =

#### 9 6 3 5 1 5 8 3 4 6 7 1 2 6 3

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4159

8	7	4	1	5	2	6	3	9
3	1	2	9	6	7	5	8	4
6	9	5	3	4	8	1	2	7
2	8	8	4	7	9	3	5	1
7	4	1	5	8	3	2	9	6
9	5	3	6	2	1	7	4	8
4	2	9	7	3	6	8	1	5
1	6	8	2	9	5	4	7	3
5	3	7	8	1	4	9	6	2

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