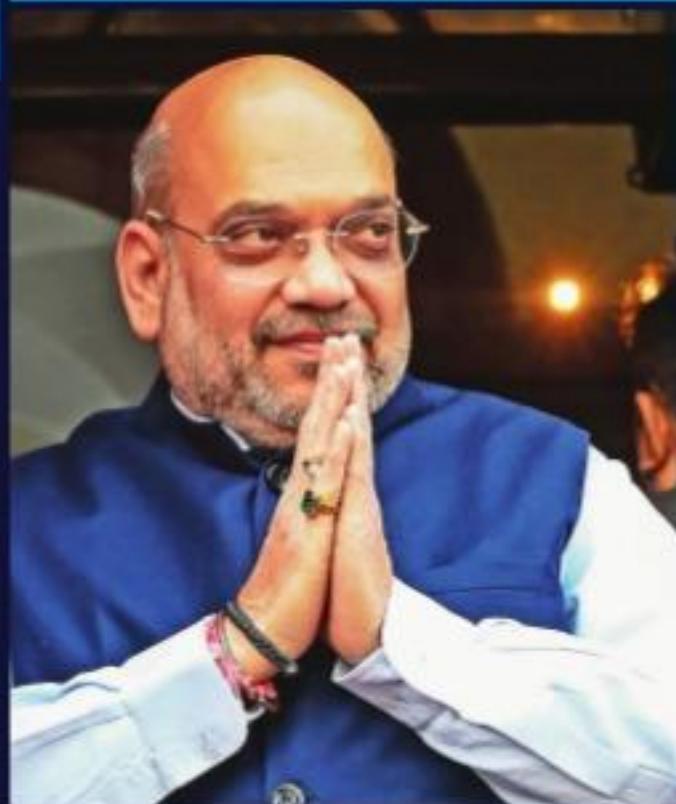


**COVID-19
PANDEMIC**

INDIA	DELHI
54,736	961
TOTAL	
17,50,724	1,37,677
NEW DEATHS	
853	15
TOLL	
37,364	4,004

**SHAH TESTS POSITIVE,
ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL**


■ Union Home Minister Amit Shah was admitted to Gurugram's Medanta Hospital at around 4:30 pm on Sunday after he tested positive for the coronavirus.

■ In a tweet, Shah said he got a test done after getting the initial symptoms. He said his health is fine. 'I request that all of you who have come in contact with me in last few days, please isolate and get your tests done,' Shah added.

**BIG B NEGATIVE,
REACHES HOME**

■ Actor Amitabh Bachchan tests negative, discharged from Nanavati Hospital after a 23-day stay, reaches his residence in an ambulance.



■ His actor son, Abhishek Bachchan, is still positive for the coronavirus due to 'some comorbidities' & continues to be at the hospital.

■ Karnataka CM BS Yediyurappa, TN Govt Banwarilal Purohit have tested positive for Covid-19.

■ UP minister Kamal Rani Varun dies of the coronavirus.

■ UP minister Mahendra Singh and state BJP president Swatantra Dev Singh test positive for the coronavirus.

SEE PAGES 2-3

CREDIT BATTLE SHADOWS CITY'S WAR ON COVID

Experts warn against complacency as BJP, AAP clash for credit over dip in cases & LG-Delhi govt differences mount

By Gulam Jeelani and Pankaj Jain
in New Delhi

ON Sunday, Delhi's Covid-19 death toll went past a grim milestone of 4,000. But overall, there's been a remarkable turnaround in the past few weeks.

Fatalities, new cases and the positivity rate have dropped. Testing and recoveries have gone up. There are more unoccupied hospital beds and isolation facilities now.

All this could be possible after the Centre, led by Home Minister Amit

Top doctors have not ruled out 2nd corona wave in city

Shah, and the AAP government joined hands for a greater focus on treatment, testing and containment.

"Daily deaths came down to 15 on Sunday. The total infections were less than 1,000. Let's all keep working hard to ensure that the downward trend continues," said Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

But here's a danger. An ugly credit war has broken out between BJP and AAP. And LG-Delhi govt differences are mounting. Experts warned against complacency as a second wave is possible.

Turn to Page 2

'A well-curated and sound strategy was put in place by Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal. I am proud to say Delhi exited the list of top states when it comes to the infection rate and total number of coronavirus cases.'

RAGHAV CHADHA, AAP spokesperson



'The atmosphere of fear and dread got over only when Amit Shah took charge of Delhi. Kejriwal should tell which model he is talking about. One that had people pleading for help from Delhi govt and none came?'

ADESHPATRA, BJP Delhi chief



Youth Congress activists protest against the Centre over the coronavirus situation, near the residence of Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi on Sunday.

ESCALATING WAR

■ Slugfest intensifies as L-G Anil Baijal scraps AAP govt's decision to open hotels & weekly markets. AAP says Centre deriving sadistic pleasure, Delhi Dy CM Manish Sisodia complains to Shah. Baijal and Kejriwal govt have also clashed over hospital quota for Delhiites as well as home isolation norms.

ANOTHER CRISIS

South Delhi civic body is unable to buy PPE kits and masks for frontline warriors, asks residents to contribute money.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I express my deepest condolences to the family of Cabinet Minister Kamal Rani Varun... She was a popular public leader and a social worker.

— YOGI ADITYANATH, UTTAR PRADESH CM



Centre has written to all states and UTs stating that smartphones and tablet devices should be allowed for hospitalised COVID-19 patients

so that they can interact with family and friends through video conferencing, which would provide them psychological support.

PANKAJ NANGIA

continued from page 1

AAP TAKES CREDIT

AAP leaders and workers have been claiming credit for the "effectiveness" of "Kejriwal's model" in bringing the situation under control.

AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj gave credit to party chief Kejriwal. "It cannot be that the responsibility is of Arvind Kejriwal and the credit will go to Amit Shah. It is immoral of the Centre to take credit," he said.

Another AAP spokesperson, Raghav Chadha, said, "A well-curated and sound strategy was put in place by CM Arvind Kejriwal. Proud to say Delhi exited the list of top states when it comes to the infection rate and total number of cases."

AAP's Delhi unit even tweeted out rising Covid-19 numbers in BJP-ruled states like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

On his part, Kejriwal has been thanking the Centre for support, saying the turnaround has been a joint effort. "This isn't the time to take credit, but to save lives in Delhi," he said recently.

BJP HITS BACK

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta gave the credit to Shah and said Delhi was suffering before he stepped in on June 14.

"The atmosphere of fear and dread got over only when Amit Shah took charge of Delhi's war on Covid. Kejriwal should tell which model he is talking about. One that had people pleading for help from Delhi government and none came?"

"Delhi's model is not Kejriwal's model. But this is Amit Shah's model under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi which led to the turnaround in Delhi. It is this model which the whole country is adopting," he said.

Another senior BJP leader, Vijender Gupta, said, "Home Minister Amit Shah intervened when the Delhi government failed to control the situation in June. Officers were upset and doctors were feeling discouraged."

"Since the time Modi government took charge of Delhi, the situation has been getting better day by day. The timely intervention of HM Shri Amit Shah under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi turned out to be a boon for Delhites. CM Kejriwal like always didn't care and left people to suffer," BJP's Delhi unit said in a tweet.

The Centre and the AAP government got their acts together after the Supreme Court, on June 12, called the Covid-19 situation in Delhi horrendous, horrific and pathetic. Then only did the situation started improving.

On July 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appreciated both central and local efforts in containing the pandemic in Delhi and said a similar approach should be adopted in the entire NCR.

LG-AAP WAR ESCALATES

This credit war has broken out right in the middle of another bitter round of clash between the Delhi government and Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Anil Baijal who has rejected its move to open hotels and weekly markets.

Chadha said the Centre was deriving sadistic pleasure, while Deputy CM Manish Sisodia has said in a letter to Shah that the decision badly affects business and employment.

Baijal and Kejriwal's government have also clashed over hospital quota for Delhites and home isolation norms.

THE TURNAROUND

Since late June, the coronavirus situation has been improving. From 3,947 on June 23, the daily number of cases has remained under 1,500 in the last few weeks. At 90%, Delhi is among the top states in the country in terms of recoveries.

"Delhi now stands at the 12th



File photo of a woman showing her queue number as health volunteers register her for an India-Israel Non-Invasive Rapid Covid-19 Test study camp, at a government hospital in New Delhi.

CREDIT CLASH GOES VIRAL



Home Minister Amit Shah intervened when the Delhi govt failed to control the situation in June. Officers were upset and doctors were feeling discouraged.

— VIJENDER GUPTA,
SENIOR BJP LEADER



It cannot be that the responsibility is of Arvind Kejriwal and the credit will go to Amit Shah. It is immoral of the Centre to take credit.

— SAURABH BHARDWAJ,
AAP SPOKESPERSON

position in the country. It was on the second position a month-and-a-half ago. The number of active cases in Delhi now stands at 10,705," Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain said.

CHALLENGES AHEAD
Experts pushed for consolidation of efforts as a second wave can't be ruled out. They warned that the government shouldn't get complacent as there could be another spike any time.

"The government ought to use this experience to be prepared for the next wave whenever that comes," said Dr Prabhakaran, epidemiologist and Vice President (Research and Policy), Public Health Foundation of India.

Jain also said people still needed to be very vigilant and practice social distancing and hand hygiene norms.

FIGHT FOR FUNDS

Fund crunch is another chal-

lenge. BJP-ruled civic bodies alleged that the Delhi government has been withholding their funds, a charge that AAP has refuted.

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) is requesting residents to contribute funds to provide safety gear to its staff and carry out preventive measures. It has created an account for people to donate funds so that it can procure masks, gloves and PPE kits and create facilities to help the masses.

"Delhi government has not released funds meant for us. We do not have money to pay salaries. So we have decided to raise money," said Narendra Chawla, Chairman, Standing Committee, SDMC.

AAP Councillor and Leader of Opposition, SDMC, Prem Chaudhary, said that the Delhi government has been giving full funds to the corporation from time to time. "But due to corruption of the corporation, employees are not able to get salary," he said.

I have tested positive for coronavirus. Whilst I am fine, I am being hospitalised as a precaution on the recommendation of doctors... — B.S. YEDIYURAPPA, KARNATAKA CM



2,655

Total number of Covid-19 cases in Himachal Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddh Nagar recorded 105 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday taking the tally to 5,431,

official data showed. The number of active cases was 886 as 63 more patients were discharged in 24 hours since Saturday.

Shah says he is fine as he tests positive, admitted to hospital

By Poulomi Saha
in New Delhi

HOME Minister Amit Shah has tested positive for coronavirus. The Union minister took to Twitter to inform about his health and requested all those who have come in contact with him in the last few days to get themselves tested for coronavirus.

Amit Shah said that his health is fine and he is being admitted to the hospital on the advice of doctors. Amit Shah was admitted to the Medanta Hospital in Gurugram at around 4:30.

"On getting initial symptoms of coronavirus, I got the test done and the report came back positive. My health is fine, but I am being admitted to the hospital on the advice of doctors. I request that all those who have come in contact with me in the last few days, please isolate yourself and get your inquiry done," Home Minister Amit Shah said in a tweet.

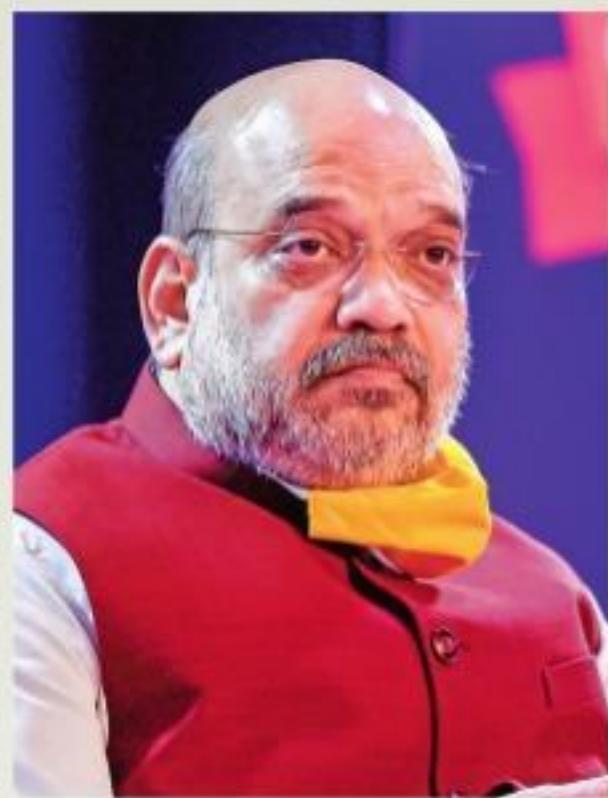
His contact tracing will be done

The 55-year-old home minister has been admitted in a room on the 14th floor of the Medanta Hospital and is under Dr Sushil Kataria's observation. His oxygen levels are currently being monitored.

Amit Shah's contact tracing will be done. Shah has come in contact with all his cabinet colleagues in recent meetings, however, it is unclear whether all cabinet ministers will be tested for coronavirus or not.

While Union Home Minister Amit Shah attended a cabinet meeting last week where the new National Education Policy (NEP) was passed, it is not yet clear if Amit Shah met Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently.

Home Minister Amit Shah has been at the forefront of India's fight against the



Shah was admitted at around 4:30 pm on Sunday.

You have defeated many adversities in life, and I am sure you will overcome this one too. I wish you a speedy recovery.

— VK SINGH, Union Minister

Wishing Mr Amit Shah a speedy recovery.

— RAHUL GANDHI, Congress leader

I pray for the speedy recovery of Hon'ble Home Minister Shri @AmitShah ji.

— ARVIND KEJRIWAL, Delhi CM

novel coronavirus. Amit Shah even assisted Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in bringing the Covid situation in Delhi under control when the infections were at peak in the national capital.

Setting aside political differences, Amit Shah and the Delhi government had held a series of meetings and discussions to bring the Covid situation in Delhi under control.

Sr Bachchan tests negative, returns home

FILE PHOTO



Amitabh Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan tested positive for the novel coronavirus on July 11.

By Chayyanika Nigam
in New Delhi and
Indrajit Kundu in Kolkata

A 15-YEAR-OLD girl from West Bengal has been missing since an unknown person befriended her on Facebook. The investigating team and the anti-trafficking unit working in the area believe that she has been lured by a trafficker to send her to Delhi, which is the ultimate destination for trafficked children.

Last week, the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) rescued nine child labourers working at several scrap shops in North East Delhi's Mustafabad. About 30 children allegedly escaped during the raid a fourth such operation undertaken by the commission to rescue child labourers during the pandemic.

A possible boom in trafficking of minor children is worrying the agencies as Delhi-NCR has reportedly become a hub of the trafficked kids. Traffickers often exploit the vulnerability of people by making false promises of a new job, better income, better living conditions and support to their families.

"International Labour Organisation (ILO) has predicted that with COVID-19 pandemic, the world may witness an increase in child labour for the first time in 20 years, thus, there is a risk of reverting years of progress in this arena," the statement issued by DCPCR said.

In June, a petition filed in the Supreme Court by Bachpan Bachao Andolan, an NGO headed by Nobel Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi said the opening of the lockdown would see a massive spurt in the cases of child trafficking.

Delhi-NCR has become a hub of trafficked kids

"The dilution of labour laws by some states in the midst of the Covid-19 lockdown must be reviewed and rescinded immediately since doing away with crucial safeguards is likely to lead to a spike in the incidence of child labour and child trafficking while deepening exploitation and abuse of workers," a Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) report based on a study conducted in some of India's rural areas has recommended.

Here's what is going on in some of the states that are considered potential hunting grounds for the child traffickers.

WEST BENGAL

The ensuing lockdown due to the pandemic coupled with cyclone has led to a spurt in cases of child trafficking and child marriage in the eastern state. In order to curb such incidents, the West Bengal Commission for Protection of

How corona is triggering cases of child trafficking

PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION



Last week, the DCPCR rescued nine child labourers working at several scrap shops in North East Delhi.

Child Rights (WBCPCR) has recently launched a dedicated helpline for such cases.

"We were expecting a rise in cases given the current situation so this helpline was opened for those in need to reach out for support," said filmmaker Sudeshna Roy, a member of WBCPCR.

JHARKHAND

Jharkhand has been a hub of migration and child trafficking. The migration out of state is not unusual but post the lockdown the impact on economy has added to the woes. "Poor people who earned and supported their family on daily wages lost their jobs during the lock down. More often they are left with no other options," said social activist Sanjay Mishra.

Reports from other states such as Jharkhand suggest that the number of children trafficked increased by over 600 % in April and May, during the Covid-19 lockdown, when compared to the same two months in 2019.

ODISHA

In a rare display of grit, a 19-year-old tribal girl from

Odisha's Balangir district helped free more than 6000 labourers trapped in different brick kilns of Tamil Nadu during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Manasi along with 355 other labourers were working at a brick kiln in Tiruvallur. The owner had sourced the labourers through a labour agent using cash advances as bait.

Manasi's family comprising her father and younger sister had taken an advance of Rs 28,000 in order to pay off their debts incurred for medical expenses in treatment of her late mother.

The labourers had already been at the kiln for six months now without any facilities on wages as low as Rs 250 a week. However, with the announcement of shutdown, the labourers began to worry about their return.

"All of us toiled day and night to complete the bricks so that we could leave for home. Our relatives were pressurising us to return and we were scared of the disease as well," recalls Manasi.

(With inputs from Mohammad Sufiyan in Odisha and Satyajeet Kumar in Jharkhand)

UNION minister Babul Supriyo said on Sunday that he was going into self-isolation as he had met Home Minister Amit Shah, who has tested positive for coronavirus. Supriyo said he would undergo a COVID-19 test soon and would confine himself away from family members.

"I had met Honble HM Shri @AmitShah ji day before in the evening," the minister of state for environment tweeted.

"I am advised by Doctors to confine myself, away from my family members, for the next few days with a test to be done soon," Supriyo said. Shall abide with all precautionary measures as per Rules & Protocol.

Abhishek Bachchan still remains Covid positive

positive. "I, unfortunately due to some comorbidities remain Covid-19 positive and remain in hospital. Again, thank you all for your continued wishes and prayers for my family. Very humbled and indebted. I'll beat this and come back healthier! Promise."

Amitabh Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan tested positive for the novel coronavirus on July 11. A day later, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Aaradhya Bachchan also tested positive. The mother-daughter duo were initially asked to remain in home quarantine but were admitted to the hospital on July 17 after showing mild symptoms.

—PTI

By Kumar Abhishek
in Lucknow

THE list of invitees for the 'bhoomi pujan' or the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, which originally had 208 people as guests, has been cut short to 170 to 180 in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The groundbreaking ceremony for the temple is slated for August 5.

India Today TV has accessed the invitee list for the Ram temple bhoomi pujan event. The list includes RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, chief of Ramjanmabhoomi Nyas Nritya Gopal Das, Bhaiyyaji Joshi, Dattatreya Hosabale and Lucknow field campaigner Anil Kumar.

Many known names that have not been included in the list of invitees include Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Morari Bapu.

About 50 saints have been invited to attend the ceremony. These include Mahant Kamal Nayan Das, Ram Vilas Vedanti and Raju Das. Maharaj Bal Bhadracharya from Chitrakoot is likely to be invited for the grand event. The list includes Acharya Narendra Giri and Jagatguru Swami Vasudevanand Saraswati from Prayagraj. However, Swami Vasudevanand Saraswati is likely to join the bhoomi pujan event via videoconferencing on August 5.

Apart from Jitendranand Saraswati from Kashi, three more Vedic scholars will be coming to be part of the learned Brahmins to perform the Ram temple bhumi pujan.

About 50 saints have been invited

Professor Ram Chandra Pandey (Shri Kashi Vidya Parishad VP), Prof Ramnarayan Dwivedi (Shri Kashi Vidya Parishad minister) and Prof. Vinay Kumar Pandey (Shri Kashi Scholar Council organization minister) are likely to attend the event. These three professors are the teachers of the Faculty of Religion at Hindu University.

Mata Amritanandamayi from Kerala, Jathedar Giani Iqbal Singh from Takht Harmandir Sahib in Patna, Balkanand Giri from Haridwar and Acharya Kishore Kunal from Patna have been included in the list.

Sources say, during the bhumi pujan event on August 5, Prime Minister Modi may share the stage with four other leaders.

Apart from PM Modi, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and Nritya Gopal Das, chief of Ramjanmabhoomi Nyas, will be present on the stage along with two other dignitaries. No other leader or saint will be present on the stage for the ceremony.

The 'bhumi pujan' for the Ram mandir at Ayodhya is only a few days away, and despite the temple trust's decision to cap the limit of invitees at 170-180 and its appeal to followers not to rush to the site in view of the coronavirus situation, many have expressed fears of over-crowding at the event, leading to a further spread in infections.

COVID-19 ALARMS AS AYODHYA PREPS FOR AUG 5 D-DAY

Ram Temple bhoomi pujan invitee list cut short to just 170-180 guests



PM TO PRAY AT HANUMANGARHI AHEAD OF THE BIG CEREMONY

By Himanshu Mishra in New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will offer prayers at the Hanumangarhi temple, a shrine dedicated to Lord Hanuman, while en-route to the mega foundation laying ceremony of Ram temple in Ayodhya on August 5, said Mahant Raju Das, the head priest of Hanumangarhi.

The ceremony is expected to last for about seven minutes, including three minutes at the Hanumangarhi temple. Speaking to India Today TV, Mahant Raju Das said they have been allocated seven minutes' window for PM Narendra Modi's ritual prayers at the Hanumangarhi temple.

Ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit to Hanumangarhi, Special Protection Group (SPG) and administrative teams have reached the temple.

Mahant Raju Das has told news agency ANI that special mantras will be recited after the visit of PM Narendra Modi. Das said due to social distancing norms in place only four priests are likely to con-



Police personnel sanitise a locality near Hanumangarhi, in Ayodhya, on Sunday. (Inset) Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

duct the prayers.

According to the reports, Vedic priests will escort PM Modi to the Hanumangarhi temple while reciting special mantras. According to ANI, special prayers will be conducted for his good health and for lessening the spread of coronavirus.

Meanwhile, preparations, including cleanliness drive, are underway in Ayodhya, ahead of the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Ram Temple on

August 5.

Mahavir mandir temple trust will distribute 1.25 lakh laddoos on August 5 after the Ram temple bhumi pujan ceremony in Ayodhya.

A member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra trust had earlier said that PM Narendra Modi will attend the ground-breaking ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya on August 5.

- (With inputs from Kumar Abhishek)

MP Congress to hold Hanuman Chalisa recitations a day before

By Ravish Pal Singh
in Bhopal

THE Congress' Madhya Pradesh unit is planning a massive event one day before the August 5 Bhoomi Poojan of the Ram temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya. Former MP CM Kamal Nath has announced that he will organise recitation of the 'Hanuman Chalisa' at his residence in Bhopal on August 4.

In addition, Congress cadre in the state will also hold a similar recitation

The BJP has termed Congress' stance on such issues a pretension

either at their homes or nearby temples across Madhya Pradesh while adhering to social distancing norms.

Ever since the 2018 Assembly elections, the Congress has been riding a wave of 'soft Hindutva', especially in MP. The party's chief ministerial candidate, Kamal Nath was portrayed as a 'Hanuman Bhakt' in the run-up to the polls.

He later initiated schemes such as the 'Ram Van Gaman Path Yojana', construction of cow shelters and beautifi-

cation of temples after coming to power.

Barely days before the collapse of his government had Kamal Nath organised a public recitation of the 'Hanuman Chalisa' in Bhopal.

The BJP has termed Congress' stance on such issues as pretension.

A spokesperson for the party, Rajnish Agrawal told India Today TV, "The Congress that negated the existence of Lord Ram and termed the Ram Setu Bridge as imaginary is now chanting the name of Ram. It would be better if the Congress does not remember Ram only in light of the by-elections."



Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath.



Chh'garh to turn Lord Ram's maternal home for tourism



By Ravish Pal Singh
in Raipur

WHERE on the one hand, preparations are underway in full swing for the Ram temple 'Bhoomi Pujan' in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya, there is a mood of celebration 800 km away in Chhattisgarh's Chandkhuri. The reason being Chandkhuri is considered the home of Lord Ram's maternal grandparents.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's government has now drafted a plan to beautify Chandkhuri.

Located near the state capital Raipur, Chandkhuri village is home to the ancient Kaushalya temple. With the temple as the central premise, a plan has been sketched out to beautify the entire area at a cost of Rs 16 crore.

Chandkhuri is already part of the Chhattisgarh government's 'Ram Van Gaman Path Yojana' under which all places where Lord Ram, his wife Sita and brother Laxman are believed to have spent time in

exile will be developed into spots of religious tourism.

According to CM Bhupesh Baghel, the entire area around the ancient Kaushalya temple in Chandkhuri will be made into a spot of religious tourism by developing civic utilities in the area.

A new high-tech bridge will be constructed for devotees to reach the ancient temple located at the centre of the lake. The design of this bridge will be such so as to give the impression that it is being supported by human hands. In addition, a walking track will be made on all four sides of the lake to allow devotees to circumambulate around the temple.

Trees of various species will also be planted in and around the lake area. A light and sound show will also be set up at the site of the temple apart from the construction of a car parking on the empty space in

Chandkhuri village is home to the ancient Kaushalya temple. A plan has been sketched out to beautify the area.

A new high-tech bridge will be constructed for devotees to reach the ancient temple located at the centre of the lake. A walking track will be made on all four sides of the lake to allow devotees to take circle around the temple

front of the lake. Space will also be allotted for the construction of a food joint at the site in Chandkhuri.

Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel reveres the ancient Kaushalya temple in Chandkhuri and has been known to visit there frequently along with his family. As per mythological scriptures, Chandkhuri was home to Lord Ram's maternal grandparents. Chandkhuri is considered the birthplace of Lord Ram's mother Kaushalya which is why it houses a beautiful ancient temple in the centre of the lake. It is said that this is a one-of-a-kind temple across the globe.

In fact, the people of Chandkhuri are so devoted to Lord Ram that on Diwali, locals light diyas at the ancient Kaushalya temple before lighting lamps in their own homes.

RUN-UP TO THE MEGA EVENT



Workers clean Ram Ki Paidi in Ayodhya on Sunday.



Through this historic event, the country is bringing the glory of the past alive and enshrining the values cherished by its people. — M VENKAIAH NAIDU, VICE PRESIDENT

The grand temple will not only give a boost to tourism but create jobs as well. The Uttar Pradesh government has started work to give a facelift to Ayodhya to draw in international tourists in large numbers. — SHRIKANT SHARMA, UTTAR PRADESH MINISTER



As a descendant of mother Shabri, who hailed from a deprived section, was a disciple of saint Matang and was an ardent devotee of Shri Ram, it is my good fortune that the temple is being constructed again in my lifetime. — CHIRAG PASWAN, LOK JANSHAKTI PARTY PRESIDENT

The decades-long movement for building a Ram temple in Ayodhya may have been marked by political and, at times, social discord, but the beginning of its construction from August 5 will foster in society brotherhood and harmony, the values associated with Lord Ram. — KAMESHWAR CHAUPAL, SHRI RAM JANMABHOOMI TEERTHA KSHETRA TRUST MEMBER



The decision to impose total lockdown in Bengal on the day of bhumi pujan in Ayodhya (Wednesday) reflects the communal mindset of the TMC government. — RAHUL SINHA, BJP NATIONAL SECRETARY

We have sent the water and soil from all the rivers and religious places in Karnataka. It will be used for sanctifying the temple site. — BASAVARAJ, VHP PRACHAR PRAMUKH

Three of the key accused nabbed so far happen to be local women

By Manjeet Sehgal in Chandigarh

WE have previously seen women destroying liquid vends and breaking liquor bottles in protests against alcoholism, but in rural Punjab, a sizeable number of the accused involved in the sale of spurious liquor are women.

The arrests of three women kingpins Balwinder Kaur from Muchhal in Amritsar, Triveni alias Pradhan and her relative Faujan alias Darshan Rani from Batala besides another woman from Taran Taran speak volumes about the involvement of women in spurious and illegal liquor trade here.

Having earned a bad name for widespread drug use, Punjab is in the throes of yet another controversy i.e illicit liquor distillation and sale of spurious liquor which resulted in 98 deaths during the last three to four days.

While the investigation is currently on to find the spurious liquor supply route in Amritsar and Batala where 23 people died after consuming spurious liquor, interrogation of eight people in Taran Taran has revealed that the spurious liquor came from Patiala which also happens to be the home district of Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh.

Opposition Shiromani Akali Dal has accused the state's Congress government of patronising the illicit liquor distillation and sale.

Akali Dal Chief Sukhbir Badal said the interests of state's ruling party politicians in liquor trade were causing a revenue loss of over Rs 5,600 crore to the state exchequer.

"The hooch tragedy is the outcome of the patronage being given to Congress leaders including MLAs and Ministers for carrying out illicit liquor trade in Punjab," Sukhbir Badal said.

Six police officials including four SHOs and seven Excise Department officials have been placed under suspension so far.

Jalandhar Divisional Commissioner is heading a SIT which is probing the deaths caused by spurious liquor.

ILICIT LIQUOR

Balwinder Kaur, 45, has allegedly been selling illicit liquor for the last 15 years right under the nose of the police here, but was never caught.

According to the locals, her daily customers numbered between 50 and 70. Most of them were poor labourers, and they would visit her home daily for their liquor requirement. She would even sell small quantity of liquor for ₹10 or ₹20.

Balwinder has been arrested and charged under section 304 of IPC besides the Excise Act as she is responsible for over 12 deaths reported in the last week.

Interestingly, one of the dozen people who died after consuming the liquor also included her husband.



Aam Aadmi Party state president Bhagwant Mann (C) talks to a patient who is being treated at the civil hospital in Tarn Taran on Sunday. (Below) One of the key accused from Batala, Triveni alias Pradhan.

How toxic biz ruined families across Punjab



THE KILLER LIQUOR TRADE

98 people have died in three districts of Punjab, including Tarn Taran, Amritsar and Batala. Tarn Taran has reported the most deaths — 75, followed by 12 in Amritsar and 11 in Batala.

■ The Punjab police have arrested over 25 people on charges of selling spurious liquor, including four women, of which three are said to be the kingpins.

■ The arrested women are accused of selling spurious liquor and running illegal liquor vends for many years.

TWO HELD IN BATALA

In Batala too, where 11 people died after consuming spurious liquor, two lady kingpins have been arrested on similar charges.

Triveni alias Pradhan has been arrested along with Faujan alias Darshan Rani. Both are close relatives and were allegedly selling illegal liquor for quite some time.

Triveni was popularly called as Pradhan (chief) as she was a well connected woman having connections with the higher-ups in Batala. She also claimed that she was a member of a political party, a social workers besides being a journalist.

In a video shot before her arrest,

Triveni had claimed the deaths were caused by stroke and those who were alive were being helped in getting treatment.

Police officials have said that she was involved in a spurious liquor sale in the garb of a social worker. The police have also arrested her son Jaijin Kumar besides her brother's wife Darshana alias Faujan and her son Rajan. Both Pradhan and Faujan were running their own networks in Batala.

"We have arrested both Darshana Rani alias Faujan and Triveni who is also known as Pradhan. They are being interrogated to get further leads," DSP City Parvinder Kaur said.

Besides Amritsar and Batala, the police have also arrested a total of eight people in Tarn Taran. One out of the eight accused is a woman who has been arrested with her husband.

Another accused Dharmendra Kumar, who was running an illicit liquor trade under the garb of a vegetable shop in Batala, is on the run.

Locals say he has been selling illicit liquor from the last decade but the police officials did not take any action against him. Among the 11 people who died of consuming spurious liquor in Batala also include Dharmendra's brother who was cremated under mysterious circumstances.

109 deaths in Assam, but the situation gets better

By Hemanta Kumar Nath in Guwahati

THE flood situation in Assam is improving, but the problems faced by the people who have been affected by it have not yet subsided.

Nearly 30,000 flood affected people are currently taking shelter at 122 relief camps, but many others are still living on roads in several parts of the state.

In Kamrup district, thousands of flood affected people are living on roads and other temporary embankments for the past one month.

These people are living on roads in temporary tent and several of them are facing food crisis as well.

72-year-old Hiran Devi — a resident of Chandrapur area said that, the flood had forced



Villagers on a banana raft move to a safer place.

them to leave their homes after the waters completely submerged their houses and they are now living on the road. "We are now living on this road. Our crops have completely been destroyed due to flood. We are now struggling to live," Hiran Devi said.

On the other hand, people of Nagarbera area in Kamrup district have faced massive problems of road connectivity after many roads and other embankments in the area were damaged by the flood waters.

The recent floods had washed away a bridge and damaged the Bhakuradiya-Suntoli road in the area, due to which more than 5000 people in the adjoining areas are now facing problems to move to other places.

The flood situation in the area is improving as the waters are receding, but the villagers have been forced to use banana raft to cross a small river.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 231 embankments, 200 bridges, culverts and more than 2000 roads have been damaged by this year's flood in the state so far.

Nearly 57 lakh people of 30 districts have been affected and 109 persons have lost their lives in this year's flood.

'No link between Sushant, Disha's death'

By Saurabh Vaktania in Mumbai

DISHA Salian, the former manager of Sushant Singh Rajput, died a week before the alleged suicide of the actor. From the time the news of Sushant's death surfaced, among the several speculations and conspiracy theories doing the rounds, there are a few that link the deaths of the two.

Recently, a BJP MLA from Andheri also wrote to the Mumbai police to investigate whether Disha attended a party at Sushant's house, a few days before her death.

But the Mumbai police in its investigation have ruled out the possibility of any link between the two deaths. Sources in the police say that, both are completely different case and there is no link between the two.

There were also reports that case files of the Disha Salian case are missing or have been



Disha Salian was the former manager of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

deleted, to which the Mumbai police have said that the reports are completely false. Disha's parents have also told cops that they don't have complaints against anybody. They have also appealed to people not to believe in such rumours and spare her after her death.

There have been several rumours linking both deaths

Disha died on the night of 8th and 9th of June. She is alleged to have jumped off the building in Malad where she was with her boyfriend, Rohan Roy — who has acted in some serials — and a couple of other friends.

The Mumbai police suspect that it maybe case of suicide, where a sudden trigger caused her to commit suicide. The cops are however not ruling out the possibility of her accidentally falling from the flat. Cops have still not closed the case and are still investigating the matter.

According to police officials Disha was frustrated as some projects of hers were not working out. Her friends and relatives have confirmed to the police that she remained very stressed because of her work. Many of the project she was working on were cancelled due to the lockdown.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Open Tender Notice No.: SPJ-ST-S-08-2020. DRM(S&T)/Samastipur invites open e-tenders on behalf of President of India for following work.

- Name of work with its location : Replacement of defective signaling cable at various stations of Samastipur Division.
- Approx. cost of the work : ₹80,01,311/- (Eighty Lakh One Thousand Three Hundred Eleven Only).
- Earnest Money to be deposited : ₹1,60,000/- (One Lakh Sixty Thousand Only).
- Date & Time for Submission of tender & opening of tender : 20.08.2020 Up to 16.00 Hrs. 20.08.2020 at 16.30 Hrs.
- Particulars of website where full details of tender may be seen : www.ireps.gov.in. For further details please visit the website www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisional Rail Manager (S&T)/ECR/Samastipur
PR/0490/SPJ/S&T/T/20-21/28

Pangong turns new LACFLASHPOINT

As China refuses to discuss Pangong, Indian Army conveys there can be no forward movement without a detailed exchange on situation

By Shiv Aroor in New Delhi

CHINA is practically refusing to discuss the stand-off in Pangong Tso, with the deadlock in this friction point now deteriorating by virtue of China simply dismissing it as even a talking point.

India Today TV has learnt that Chinese reluctance, that emerged in the previous (fourth) round of talks on June 14-15, has escalated now into all-out refusal to even acknowledge the Pangong Tso situation as a friction point. China's new stance on the Pangong Tso Finger complex stand-off assumes significance considering the Chinese Army has implemented discussed disengagement protocols in full at the Galwan Valley's Patrol Point 14 and Patrol Point 15 in the Hot Springs sector just south.

Disengagement at Patrol Point 17A at the restive Gogra Post has slowed to a crawl. But it is China's Pangong deployment that has been of chief concern to India so far. China's stubbornness at the talks table in even acknowledging it as a friction point is the most explicit affirmation so far of China's clear intent to change the lines of the pre-May status quo.

THE INTRANSIGENCE LINKS

The new intransigence ties in with two developments this past week. One, the Chinese ambassador's claim that disengagement was complete and that China was at its line in the Pangong Finger complex — a provocative signal that there would be no further pullback. As India Today TV has reported, China's huge deployment in the disputed stretch between Finger 4-8 had been overrun by Chinese positions starting early May, with very nominal changes now visible.

Two, India Today TV has reported that China has spent the last three weeks building up in depth areas of Pangong and activating several supply bases in Aksai Chin capable of rushing in troops for hostile action at short notice. The Indian Army is not taking China's reluctance to talk on Pangong lightly, and has clearly conveyed there can be no forward movement without a comprehensive and detailed exchange on the current situation in the Finger complex. Today's round of the talks, the fifth so far, between Indian Army Leh Corps Commander Lieutenant General Harinder Singh and his Chinese counterpart Major General Lin Liu, was confirmed late on Saturday evening by the Chinese side.

CHILL IN RELATIONS

Apart from the Pangong deadlock, the other major topic of discussion at Sunday's talks is

5th

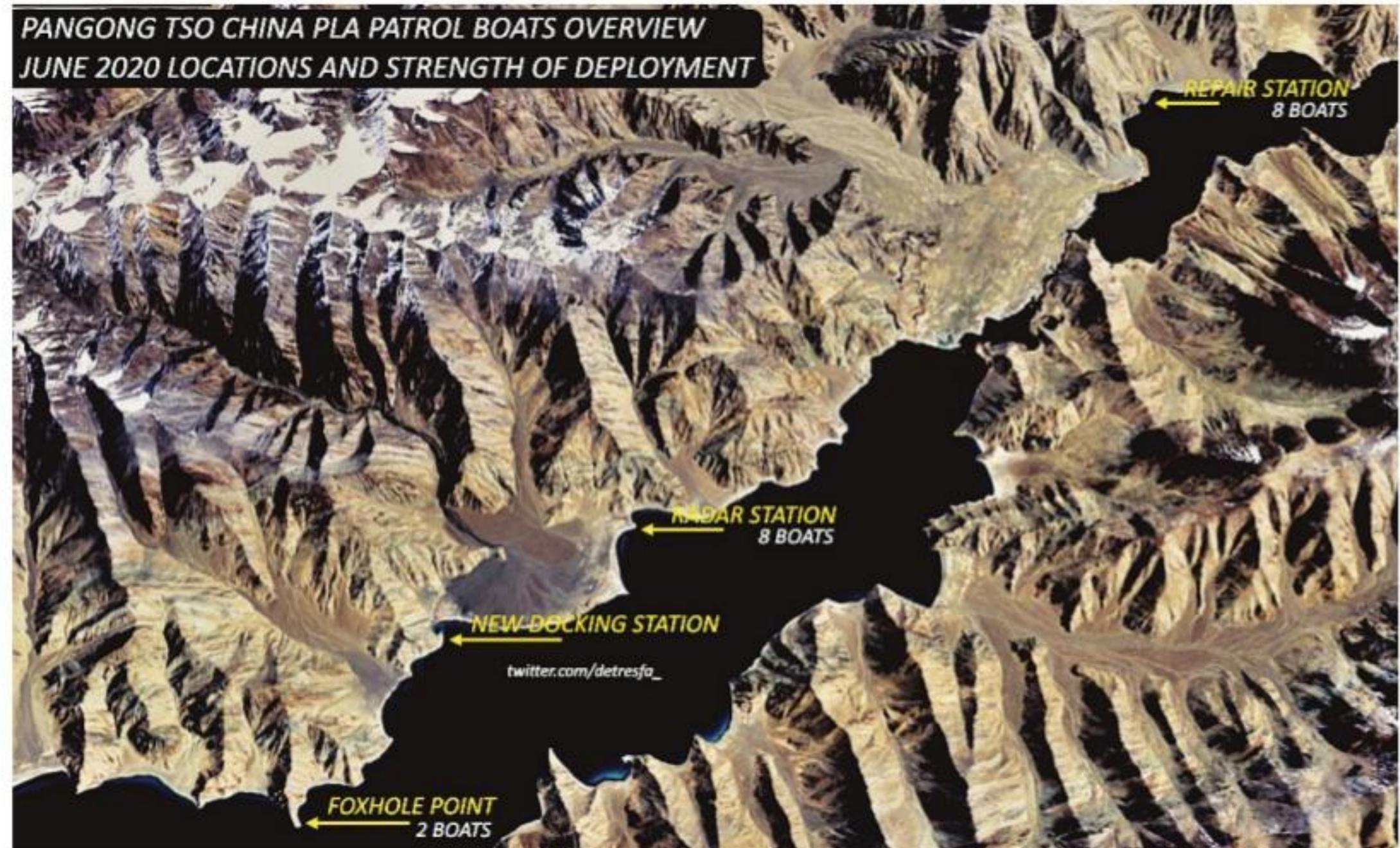
round of talks on Sunday aimed to ensure expeditious disengagement of troops from all the friction points along Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, military sources said.



PHOTOS: AGENCIES, @DETRESFA

Indian Army trucks move towards Ladakh amid the border tension, at Manali-Leh highway.

PANGONG TSO CHINA PLA PATROL BOATS OVERVIEW JUNE 2020 LOCATIONS AND STRENGTH OF DEPLOYMENT



PTI / PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION



File photo of security personnel in J&K.

Exposing JeM's Op Black Moon

By Kamaljit Kaur Sandhu
in Srinagar

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) will file a detailed charge sheet of terror conspiracy in Kashmir Valley by the end of this month. While top terrorists have been gunned down since the Pulwama terror attack in February 2019 with top Army commanders saying the situation in the Valley is normal, India Today TV brings you an insight into the modus operandi used by Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in Pulwama terrorist attack and other attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

The ghastly Pulwama terror attack of February 2019, in which 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed, resulted in India launching Balakot air strike to avenge the death of its martyrs. It

was almost immediately known that the main terror conspiracy involved Adil Ahmed Dar, the suicide bomber who had rammed his SUV into the CRPF convoy in Lethpora, Pulwama. On July 2, the NIA had arrested Mohd Iqbal Rather in connection with the Pulwama terror attack. Mohd Iqbal Rather had facilitated

Such nights allow militants to have more secrecy

the movement of JeM terrorist Muhammed Umar Farooq, a key conspirator in the case, in April 2018.

Along with others, Farooq had assembled the IED used in the attack. He was killed in an encounter on March 29 along with IED expert Kamran. They were given the responsibility to execute the attack.

An insight into Jaish's modus operandi was only revealed over a year later with the recovery of Muhammed Umar Farooq's mobile phone. It was 'Operation Black Moon' which enables the terrorists to have more secrecy during infiltration.

Amongst several incriminating videos available on his phone, one was the video of the module infiltrating on a black moon night (Amavasya) from Jammu sector. His phone also contained a two-minute video of Umar Farooq cutting the border fence at the International Border (IB). The Army's 15 Corps commander, Lieutenant General BS Raju confirmed the modus operandi to India Today TV. He said terrorists prefer new moon nights for infiltration into the Indian territory. An official privy to the probe by the anti-terror agency has said that this will be part of the charge sheet.

DAY IN WORDS

‘India’s democracy is damaged when GOI illegally detains political leaders. It’s high time Mehbooba Mufti is released.’

— RAHUL GANDHI, Senior Congress leader, on former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti’s imprisonment

‘I’ve become more secure in my own identity. It’s probably in the last six or seven years that I’ve gone, ‘OK, this is who I am and what I stand for.’

— NICOLE KIDMAN, actor, on being secure with her identity

‘A different strategy was needed. Sometimes the vision of the coaching staff is not accepted by management.’

— MAURICIO POCHETTINO, former Tottenham Hotspur manager, on why he was dismissed

DAY IN NUMBERS

1 **₹20L**

number of doctors India has for every 1,404 people, says Health Ministry

worth of narcotics that have been seized by the authorities in Thane, Maharashtra

AROUND THE WORLD

THE GUARDIAN
ON MINISTERS POINTING FINGERS

Blaming the public is a faulty strategy

A KEY theme of the pandemic has been the recognition of its unequal impact; that the poor, old, and minorities are most affected.

Ministers have sought to distance themselves from the consequences of their failures to introduce a proper system of test and trace, the abandonment of care homes, the inadequate stocks of PPE – and

This argument is as rational as a Donald Trump tweet

striven to blame the behaviour of individuals, especially the poor.

At every point, the government has insisted that people must “blame themselves”. As the health minister Lord Bethell said last week, the “least advantaged in society are hardest hit by this disease”, for “behavioural reasons” such as “the decisions [they] make about social distancing”.

It’s an argument as rational as a Donald Trump tweet. Once, intellectuals argued certain races are incapable of social progress. Culture plays the role once occupied by race.

This argument should remind us that racism and contempt for poor and working-class people have common roots. To challenge the one, we also have to challenge the other.

DAILY HUMOUR

“For fast-acting relief, try slowing down.”
— Lily Tomlin



SO FUNNY
All those who believe in psychokinesis, raise my hand.

PTI

TESTING TIMES



Students wearing protective shields appear in the IIT entrance examination, in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

Covid sours India’s \$5 trillion dream



by Nilanjan Ghosh

COVID-19 has emerged as the biggest impediment to India’s ambition for becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024. This deadline can be explained from the fact that 2024 marks the end of tenure of the current dispensation with General Elections scheduled.

Even when Modi 2.0 set this goal last year (when Covid-19 was not in the horizon), it was no mean task! Quite a few eyebrows were raised as the economy needed to grow at around 8-9 per cent every year - a seemingly herculean climb! The Indian GDP that was worth 2875 billion USD in 2019 according to official data from the World Bank and projections from Trading Economics, thereby accounting for 2.39 percent of the world economy, is now slated to come down to the levels of 2,500 -2,600 billion USD by FY 2020-21. This implies that over the three years between 2021 and 2024 the GDP has to double itself by attaining around 26% average annual growth rate.

Growth story so far

GDP growth rates are no pandemic: they don’t double like the numbers of infected victims in matter of days or weeks! This implies that there needs to be a revision in the specified goal of \$5 trillion economy by 2024. As such, the pandemic has opened eyes on many things. The first and foremost thing is that unbridled growth ambitions that have been followed by Indian economy or economies of developing world from time immemorial are unsustainable. The concerns of equity or distribution and sustainability are perhaps more important during times of crisis, with health concerns now becoming supreme! The pandemic has revealed the pathetic conditions of health infrastructure in various parts of the nation.

The Indian growth story has so far been an organic consumption-led growth narrative spurred by the growth of the service sector. Services have lately contributed to more than 60% of the Indian GDP but employing 25% of the labour force. On the other hand, agriculture employing 53% of the labour force barely

contributes 15.4% of the GDP, while manufacturing contributes 23% of the GDP employing 22% of the population. As such, services also develop around manufacturing and productive agriculture. Labour and growth drivers shifted directly to services from primary sectors, due to lack of secondary sector growth. This is also because of the globalised nature of the service provisions which started being support systems of the industrialised economies of the world. These are largely market-driven organic phenomena, than being policy-driven ones.

In any case, rather than having an ambition of \$5 trillion economy that seems almost unattainable by 2024, it is important that the next three years focus on creation of better provisions of public goods and services like health. It is not that the present dispensation is oblivious of these public provision needs. The paradigm-changing New Education Policy is a good example of movements in the right direction for creating a better future. On April 15, 2020, when lockdown was in full swing, Amartya Sen posed a very optimistic hypothesis in the Financial Times: “A better society can emerge from the lockdowns”. Sen’s essay reiterated the need for equity and the distribution aspects of development by quoting the example of how life expectancy at birth in England and Wales increased during the war decades. “... The positive lessons from pursuing equity and paying greater attention to the disadvantaged helped in the emergence of what came to be known as the welfare state”.

New ideas needed

While the pandemic by itself posed a huge threat to humanity, a bigger problem emerged while combatting it through lockdowns. The lockdown should not be interpreted as mere locking down of shops and households; it is tantamount to locking down of market forces. Much in contrary to the thinking

that “markets are ruthless”, the lockdown brought to the fore the importance of market forces in promoting equity. The locking of the market forces showed us the ugly face of the economy in the forms of the job losses, mental depressions, and the plights of the migrant labour force. The governmental safety nets simply proved inadequate while dealing these socio-economic problems.

I would like to dream of an optimistic world from 2021, when vaccines are there to combat the virus, and post-pandemic life replicates the pre-pandemic days. What should be the priority of the Government under such a situation? The thinking needs to begin now.

Mission possible

The following are the prescriptions: a> growth needs to be spurred through demand created by consumption that will happen organically but to be driven by more cash in hand: this is possible through lower direct taxes, fiscal transfers, rationalisation and broadbasing of the GST by bringing in petrol, diesel, and other products under its realm; b> better provision of public goods and services for combatting disasters like future pandemic: more spending on public health and infrastructure, and better targeting; c> reforms in business environment: this will require rationalisation of laws including labour statutes, tax rationalisation (including the GST), and reduction of overall transaction costs of business, which is possible through reforms in the product market and the factor markets; d> promotion of UN sustainable development goals (SDGs), which, as shown by ORF research, create enabling business conditions (through decreasing long term risks, bringing transparency, create new business opportunities, and bring overall business competitiveness), as also help promote equity and sustainability concerns; and e> accounting for the costs of growth, arising from various directions and in various dimensions, namely, social, economic, political, and environmental. It needs to be remembered that the present problems faced by humanity whether arising from climate change or the pandemic are results of unbridled growth ambitions only.

The writer is Director, ORF Kolkata.
The views expressed are personal.

“I only have ‘yes’ men around me. Who needs ‘no’ men?”

— Mae West



BIZ BAROMETER

MG ARUN

Readymade garment makers hit by pandemic

PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION



The garment making business is one of the worst hit sectors in the pandemic.

ONE of the worst hit business sectors in the pandemic is textiles, and within that segment, garment makers, especially those who were betting on exports.

A sharp fall in domestic and exports demand due to Covid-19, lower profitability, and elongation of working capital cycle will impair the credit profiles of readymade garment makers this fiscal, says a note from Crisil. The impact will be felt by exporters owing to higher revenue degrowth and stretched receivables, an analysis of more than 180 Crisil-rated readymade garment manufacturers (representing revenue of around ₹40,000 crore) shows.

THE lockdown and lower discretionary spending will reduce the revenue of ready-made garment makers by 25-30% this fiscal. For exporters, the fall will be more because of tepid discretionary spending in the US and European Union (accounting for nearly 60% of India's readymade garment exports).

"Over the past five fiscals, revenue growth of readymade garment makers was supported by domestic demand even as exports were muted," says Gautam Shahi, director, Crisil Ratings. This fiscal, with domestic demand also falling significantly, revenues are expected to be materially impacted. "Consequently, their operating margins are expected to contract 250-300 basis points (bps) to 7-7.5% for the sample set, despite softer cotton prices, and cost-reduction initiatives." Further, their working capital cycle has elongated because of higher inventory and stretched receivables.

With demand depressed in the first half of this fiscal, inventories will stay high.

Last fiscal ended with 20-25% higher inventory as the Covid-19 pandemic took hold and lockdowns began in late March. With demand depressed in the first half of this fiscal, inventories will stay high. There will be weakening credit profiles of some large global brick & mortal retailers, which will stretch receivables.

A sharp fall in profits means readymade garment makers won't have sufficient cash accruals to meet repayment obligations in the first half of this fiscal. But they are expected to utilise the cushion available in their working capital facilities, and will be helped by the moratorium on loan repayments, the government relief package to micro, small and medium enterprises, and the Covid-19 emergency credit lines. Cash flows may improve in the second half of this fiscal due to pick-up in demand from the third quarter as the festive season begins in India and winter season begins in the export markets.

The writer is Deputy Editor, India Today

IT MAKES SENSE TO INVEST IN GOLD

GLOBAL gold prices are on a rise and with rising uncertainties in the macro-environment, it created record-highs on July 28 by touching \$2,000/ounce in the futures market for the first time.

Average daily gold prices surged 5.1% in July 2020, when compared with previous month. However, the increase was much higher at 29.2% when compared with July 2019. Interestingly, in the recent 7 trading sessions from July 17-

India has less than 1% share in world exports of fruits and vegetables.



Ways to boost India's agro exports

INDIA can be among the top five exporters of agro commodities if governments take measures to handhold farmers, says a recent study.

India ranks eighth with annual agro exports of \$39 billion. Through intervention in capacity building, India can enhance its agro export to become the fifth largest exporter. The government should re-orient the role of its extension centres, viz. the 715 Krishi

Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) across India, to help farmers in growing those crops demanded in the global market.

The study was conducted by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai. India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world and yet its share in world exports is 1.7-1.8%. India is the largest producer of papaya, lemons and limes; but meets 3.2% of the world import

demand for papaya, and 0.5% for lemons and limes, shows FAO data. In 10 years, India has made progress in export of capsicum chilly, and castor oil. India has less than 1% shares in world exports of fruits and vegetables. India should explore South Asia and ASEAN markets for beverages. According to the study, India can tap USD 1.46 billion worth import demand for non alcoholic beverages in South Asia.

Why credit to MSMEs is growing at quick pace

THE bank credit to MSMEs has grown at a CAGR of 15% in 10 years. Services sector accounts for over 65% of the total bank credit disbursed to MSMEs and drives the MSME credit. As of June, the outstanding credit disbursed to MSME totalled ₹10.6 lakh crore. In June, the incremental credit to MSMEs contracted by 5.8% against a degrowth of 0.4% in June 2019.

During the month, manufacturing segments witnessed contraction in bank credit off take while in the services it grew by 1.6% over March. Credit offtake by medium enterprises shrunk faster by 9.4% in June. It's on account of the consequences of the lockdown, says Care Ratings. Banks sanctioned 43.5 per cent of ₹3 lakh crore



Credit to MSMEs in sectors, such as engineering has grown

under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for stressed MSMEs as on July 23, with disbursements rising. Cumulative loan sanctions rose to ₹1.30 lakh crore on July 1, with private and state-owned banks stepping up credit deployment. Disbursements as a proportion of the total amount was 27.35 per cent at ₹82,065 crore as on July 23.

ASSETS OF NBFCs LIKELY TO SHRINK

ASSETS under management (AUM) of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) will de-grow 1-3% in this fiscal as new disbursements drop. Lower repayments during the loan moratorium period and capitalisation of interest accumulated will help limit the de-growth, says Crisil. As for disbursements, four factors are at play: one, the challenging macroeconomic environment, which would curb underlying asset sales, two, sharper focus on liquidity as incremental

Most segments could contract in this fiscal

funding is hard to get; three, competition from banks; four, tightening of underwriting standards.

"While disbursements across segments will fall 50-60%, AUM trajectory will differ by segment," says Krishnan Sitaraman, senior director, Crisil Ratings. "Crisil's analysis of the largest segments of the NBFC AUM pie shows most segments could contract in this fiscal. The silver lining would be gold loans, which constitute around 5% of the AUM. Growth is higher as more micro enterprises go for it to meet immediate funding needs."



India is the second largest consumer of gold after China

27 2020, prices surged 3.5% sequentially. On July 27, domestic gold futures closed at ₹52,395 on the Multi Commodity Exchange for contract expiry on December 4. India is the second largest

consumer of gold, after China. In the past five years imports of gold is on a decline, from \$31,700 mn in FY16 to \$28,100 bn in FY20. The fall in imported quantity will benefit India's trade balance.

WORLDLY WISE

Bangladesh recorded 886 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, its lowest daily increase in 85 days, taking the nationwide tally to 240,746, health officials said on Sunday.



I do hope that the Chinese and the Russians are actually testing the vaccine before they are administering the vaccine to anyone... ,

— ANTHONY FAUCI, US INFECTIOUS DISEASE EXPERT



Passengers wear protective masks as they leave a train, at the central station in Zurich.

The agency also says the effects of Covid will be felt for decades

THE UN health agency warned that the coronavirus pandemic would be lengthy and could lead to response fatigue, as the case count in South Africa topped half a million. Six months after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global emergency, the novel coronavirus has killed more than 680,000 and infected over 17.5 million, according to an AFP tally.

South Africa is by far the hardest hit country in Africa, accounting for more than half of diagnosed infections, although President Cyril Ramaphosa said the fatality rate is lower than the global average.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Health authorities had been expecting a surge in cases after the gradual loosening of a strict lockdown that was imposed at the end of March.

Nigeria on Saturday also announced it would ease a lockdown in the commercial capital Lagos, allowing churches and mosques to reopen next week.

An emergency WHO committee reviewing the pandemic highlighted the anticipated lengthy duration of this COVID-19 outbreak, noting the importance of sustained community, national, regional, and global response efforts.

WHO continues to assess the global risk level of COVID-19 to be very high, it said in its latest statement. The agency also said the effects of the pandemic will be felt for decades to come.

Mexico overtook Britain to become the third hardest hit country in virus

WHO continues to assess the global risk level of COVID-19 to be very high

W.H.O. WARNS OF DRAWN OUT PANDEMIC

deaths — after Brazil and the US — with over 46,600 fatal cases.

Although many Latin American countries have begun relaxing stay-at-home measures, the virus is still spreading quickly across much of the region, which has now recorded more than four million cases and almost 200,000 deaths.

Half of them are in Brazil, where President Jair Bolsonaro said he believes nearly everyone will catch the virus eventually, after himself recovering from it. The US, the hardest-hit country in the world, has now tallied more than 4.6 million cases and 154,319 deaths.

We are waging a losing battle against COVID-19, and we need to draw up a consolidated, definitive plan of action, said an open letter signed by 80 Filipino medical associations.

Japan's Okinawa declared a state of emergency after a record jump in cases on the islands — many linked to US military forces stationed there.

The pandemic has spurred a race for a vaccine with several Chinese companies at the forefront, while Russia has set a target date of September to roll out its own medicine.

However, US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci said it was unlikely his country would use any vaccine developed in either nation.

"I do hope that the Chinese and the Russians are actually testing the vaccine before they are administering the vaccine to anyone," he said.

—AFP

Victoria declares 'state of disaster', imposes curfew

AUSTRALIA'S second-most populous state of Victoria declared a state of disaster on Sunday and imposed a nightly curfew for the capital Melbourne as part of its harshest movement restrictions to date to contain a resurgent COVID-19.

Melbourne, Australia's second-largest city already under a reimposed six-week stay-home order, has struggled to rein in the disease, with record numbers of infections of the new coronavirus reported last week.

On Sunday, Victoria reported 671 infections, one of its highest, and seven COVID-19 deaths. High numbers of community transmissions and cases of unknown origins have forced the new restrictions, which will be in place for six weeks, officials said. "The current rules have avoided thousands and thousands of cases each day, and then thousands of people in hospital and many more tragedies than we have seen. But it is not working fast



A group of police and soldiers patrols the Docklands area of Melbourne, Australia on Sunday.

enough," Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews told a televised briefing.

A curfew from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. every day will be implemented from Sunday evening in Melbourne, barring the nearly five million in the city from leaving their houses except for work or

to receive or give care. Australia has fared far better than many other countries in keeping the virus from spreading. It has recorded around 18,000 cases and just over 200 deaths, but the recent surge in Victoria has proven difficult to contain. —Reuters

Russia set to start vaccine campaign in October

RUSSIA'S health minister announced that the country is planning a mass vaccination campaign for October.

A state research facility in Moscow, the Gamaleya Institute, completed clinical trials of the vaccine and is working on getting it registered.

Health Minister Mikhail Murashko said: "We plan wider vaccinations for October" after outlining his plan to give the vaccine to teachers and doctors first. Russia's first potential vaccine is set to be approved in August, anonymous sources told Reuters.



Experts are concerned at how quickly Russia is planning to distribute it.

However, some experts have expressed concern that Russia is moving too fast on developing a vaccine, without making sure it is safe, in order to win national prestige.

US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci, said yesterday that it was unlikely the US would use a vaccine developed by Russia or China because of different regulatory systems. He told a Congressional hearing: 'I do hope that the Chinese and the Russians are actually testing the vaccine before they are administering the vaccine to anyone.' Worldwide countries are in a race to create a vaccine with over 20 currently in clinical trials. —DailyMail

'US-based terror group chief held'

Iran claims to have arrested the head of the group involved in a 2008 bombing of a mosque



(Above) Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei; (Right) A file photo of Shohada Mosque in Shiraz that was bombed in 2008.

IRAN said Saturday it had arrested the head of a US-based terrorist group accused of being behind a deadly 2008 bombing in the southern city of Shiraz and planning other attacks.

Jamshid Sharmahd, who was leading armed and sabotage operations inside Iran, is now in the powerful hands of Iran's security forces, state television said, citing an intelligence ministry statement.

It did not elaborate on where or when the alleged leader of the opposition royalist group known as the 'Kingdom Assembly of Iran', or 'Tondar' (Farsi for Thunder), was detained.

Iran slammed its arch enemy the United States for hosting Sharmahd and supporting known terrorists who have claimed responsibility for several terrorist acts inside the country.

"This regime must answer for its support of this terrorist group and other groups and criminals who orchestrate armed, sabotage and terrorist operations against the people of Iran from inside America and spill Iranians' blood," a foreign ministry statement said.

The intelligence ministry said Sharmahd had orchestrated the



TERROR CHARGES

■ Iran says Jamshid Sharmahd is accused in the deadly 2008 bombing in the southern city of Shiraz and planning other attacks.

■ It says that the group called 'Tondar' had plotted several other big operations which failed.

■ It said that 'Tondar' had planned to blow up a dam in Shiraz and use cyanide bombs at a Tehran book fair.

April 12, 2008 bombing in a packed mosque in Shiraz that killed 14 people & wounded 215.

SPURIOUS CHARGES

A US State Department spokesperson said the Iranian regime has a long history of detaining Iranians and foreign nationals on spurious charges.

"We urge Iran to be fully transparent and abide by all international legal standards."

Iran hanged three men convicted of the bombing in 2009, saying they had ties to the monarchist group.

The three men said they had been taking orders from an Iranian US-backed CIA agent identified at the time only as Jamshid to try to assassinate a high-ranking official in Iran, Fars news agency reported at the time.

They were 21-year-old Mohsen Eslamian and Ali Asghar Pashtari, 20 — both university students — as well as Rouzbeh Yazyadeh, 32.

The three were found guilty of being mohareb (enemies of God) and corruption on earth by a revolutionary court in Tehran.

Iran in 2010 hanged two other convicted members of the group, who had confessed to obtaining explosives and planning to assassinate officials.

HAD PLANNED MORE ATTACKS

The statement issued on Saturday said that Tondar had plotted several other big operations which failed.

It said that Tondar had planned to blow up a dam in Shiraz, use cyanide bombs at a

Tehran book fair, and plant an explosive device at the mausoleum of the Islamic republic's founder, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Iran's intelligence ministry published a picture later on Saturday of a grey-haired man in a blindfold it said was Sharmahd. It did not say where or when the photo was taken.

It was not clear how Iran arrested Sharmahd, who has generally been based in the US, in what its intelligence ministry called a complicated operation.

According to the association's website, Sharmahd was born in Tehran in 1955 and grew up in an Iranian-German family before moving to the United States in 2003, where he started to voice anti-Islam and anti-Islamic republic statements.

Tondar rejects the Iranian political system and campaigns to overthrow the Islamic republic.

Iran announced the arrest of a former opposition figure in similarly mysterious circumstances in October last year.

It said Ruhollah Zam was arrested in a sophisticated and professional operation. —AFP

Ceasefire between Taliban and govt holds

A RARE ceasefire between the Taliban and Afghan government appeared to hold for the third and final day on Sunday, with hundreds of militant prisoners released in a bid to bring peace talks closer.

Calm prevailed across much of Afghanistan, with officials not reporting any major clashes between the two foes since the truce began on Friday to mark the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha.

President Ashraf Ghani and the Taliban have both indicated that long-delayed negotiations could begin straight after Eid.

"This Eid feels different, parks are full with people... you almost forget that there has been a war in this country for 40 years," said Shahpoor Shadab, a resident from the city of Jalalabad.



Taliban prisoners walk as they are released from a prison in Kabul on Friday.

In restive Zabul province, several residents recited poems calling for the ceasefire — only the third official halt in fighting in nearly two decades of conflict — to be made permanent.

"Peace is everybody's need and aspiration," said Sardar Wali, who took part in the poetry session. "This is a great opportunity to extend the ceasefire and start intra-Afghan talks tomorrow."

Under a deal signed by the Taliban and the US in February, the intra-Afghan talks were slated to start in March, but were delayed amid political infighting in Kabul and as a contentious prisoner swap dragged on.

The deal stipulated that Kabul would free around 5,000 Taliban prisoners in return for 1,000 Afghan security personnel held captive by the Taliban.

The National Security Council said Sunday that a further 300 Taliban prisoners had been released since Friday, taking the total number of insurgents freed so far to just over 4,900. —AFP

UK considering a coin to honour Mahatma Gandhi



A portrait of Mahatma Gandhi is held up as people march during a protest in Berlin on Saturday.

BRITAIN is considering minting a coin to commemorate India's independence hero Mahatma Gandhi, amid growing interest in recognizing the contributions of people from the Black, Asian and other minority ethnic communities.

British Finance Minister Rishi Sunak, who is of Indian-origin, has asked the Royal Mint Advisory Committee (RMAC) in a letter to pursue recognition of individuals from those communities, the UK Treasury said in an emailed statement late on Saturday.

"RMAC is currently considering a coin to commemorate Gandhi," the Treasury said.

Gandhi, who was born in 1869, had advocated for non-violence throughout his life and played a key role in India's struggle for independence.

His birthday, October 2, is observed as the International Day of Non-Violence.

Often referred to as India's "father of the nation", he was assassinated by a Hindu radical on Jan. 30, 1948, just a few months after he led India to freedom from British rule.

'Want to recognise role of minority communities'

As part of a global reassessment of history, colonialism and racism triggered by the death in May of a Black man, George Floyd, in the United States after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes, some British institu-

tions have begun re-examining their past.

Many organizations have taken initiatives to make investments to help the Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities and to support racial diversity. Floyd's death has led to global protests against racism, colonialism and police brutality.

In his letter to the RMAC, Sunak said members of the BAME communities have made a "profound contribution" and that the committee should consider recognizing it on the UK's coinage.

The RMAC is an independent committee made up of experts who recommend themes and designs for coins to Britain's finance minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

—Reuters

good HEALTH

The perks of moderation

To improve immunity during the pandemic, people have enhanced their consumption of spices and other home remedies – with harmful consequences.

By SAIMI SATTAR

PEOPLE with low immunity are more likely to be affected. "Drinking turmeric milk ups immunity," "Kaadha prevents flu," "Up your Vitamin C intake to prevent throat infections." As the pandemic began to grow and intensify, each of us was privy to such bits of advice voiced with some variations by a well-meaning relative or friend. It, of course, did not help that Coronavirus-affected patients began getting diagnosed in our neighbourhoods. So all of us woke to a dash of spices in our morning tea and called it a day after downing a glass of the good old *haldi doodh* (turmeric latte, anyone?). But while

In extreme cases it can have serious implications. Adds Dr P Venkata Krishnan, Sr. Consultant, Internal Medicines, Paras Hospital, Gurugram, "High dose of Vitamin C precipitates in the urine can cause kidney injury. It has an acidic molecule and can cause gastric irritation, acidity and ulcer in high doses."

When it comes to supplements in particular, sticking to the recommended dosage can never be overemphasised, says Dr. Manjeeta Nath Das, Sr. Consultant, Internal Medicines, Columbia Asia Hospital, Gurugram. "Adults are recommended a dose of 65 to 90 mg of vitamin C a day, and the upper limit is 2,000 mg. Too much dietary vitamin C may cause diarrhoea and nausea."

CARDAMOM, known as *elaichi*, is used in almost every Indian household and is part of the spice box. What's lesser known about cardamom apart from its quality of imparting an amazing flavour and aroma to dishes is its ability to boost lung health.

Here are some of the ways, Cardamom can boost lung health and help support respiratory disorders.

■ Reduces phlegm and acts as a natural expectorant: Mucus build-up in our lungs is the natural defence mechanism in our body in response to pollution in order to trap toxins and pollutants, but excess mucus could cause issues in breathing and turns out to be the best breeding ground for pathogens. Cardamom has an active ingredient called Cineole. Cineole has the ability to break down mucus and expel it out of the system not only in the respiratory system but also in the digestive system. This is particularly use-



Some Ayurvedic medicines contain heavy metal and steroids that are harmful to your health.

Hospitals, "Garam masala is a mixture of spices and the addition of each spice ensures normal body temperature thereby helping in digestion. It improves blood circulation and supplies oxygen to all body parts. It prevents growth of cancer-causing radicals. It's rich in anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidative properties which restores heart health and reduces cholesterol." However, the seemingly harmless-looking home remedies can have far-reaching consequences.

"Overdosing can lead to side-effects like acidity, blood in stool, itching of the skin, rashes, burning sensation in the mouth." Each of the spices that makes the *garam masala* mix can have specific side effects. Dr Das says, "Pepper in large quantities may cause skin itching or rashes as well as a burning sensation in the mouth. *Garam masala* may also cause diarrhoea and vomiting. Disproportionately mixed ingredients of *garam masala* may cause bloating."

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Dr Mugdha Tappdiya, Senior Consultant, Internal Medicine at Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj recalls, "In few cases people complained of nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain due to excessive spices used for immune boosting *kaadhas*."

Dietitian Dr. Vaishali Verma, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Manipal Hospitals, Delhi, recalls some peculiar cases that she treated. "After looking at the history, it was clear that they were drinking *kaadha* three-four times a day as well as gily tablets, drinking hot water and eating piping hot food to prevent Covid. They complained of burps, gastric problems and hyper-acidity. I

reduced the *kaadha* to once a day and food at normal temperature along with exercise," she says.

Another home remedy that many swear by is turmeric milk. Explains Dr Verma, "Turmeric is used as an antioxidant and is anti-inflammatory, anti-allergic, antiseptic etc. Some people experience stomach upset, nausea or diarrhoea when consumed excessively. Turmeric with milk several times a day may lead to indigestion."

Others went a step further and popped over the counter Ayurvedic medicines. "Some of these contain heavy metal and steroids that can be catastrophic to your health," says Dr Shuchin Bajaj, Founder Director, Ujala Cygnus Orthocare Hospital, New Delhi.

Dr Das, too, cautions against taking Ayurvedic medicines without prescriptions. "*Tripala* can cause diarrhoea and abdominal discomfort while *guggul* may cause stomach upset, headaches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and hiccups. Overdose of *boswellia* may cause stomach pain, nausea and an allergic rash while *gotu kola* causes sensitivity to light, stomach upset and nausea."

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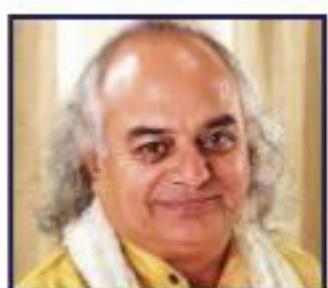
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TWO PAGES OF ASTROLOGY, PUZZLES AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE



By Dr Ajai Bhambi

ARIES Apr 14-May 14

Your elusive behavior will confuse your sweetheart who's wondering what's going on. It's just that you're tired from too much work. There's no need for any panic, the relationship will get stable.

TAURUS May 15-June 15

Your partner can turn belligerent towards you should you raise a past issue. Not knowing how to react, you will feel hurt and can utter unpleasant things as well.

GEMINI June 16-July 15

Career matters can interfere with your love life. However, you refuse to be defeated and will put in all efforts to make both work. A piece of good news will make you happy.



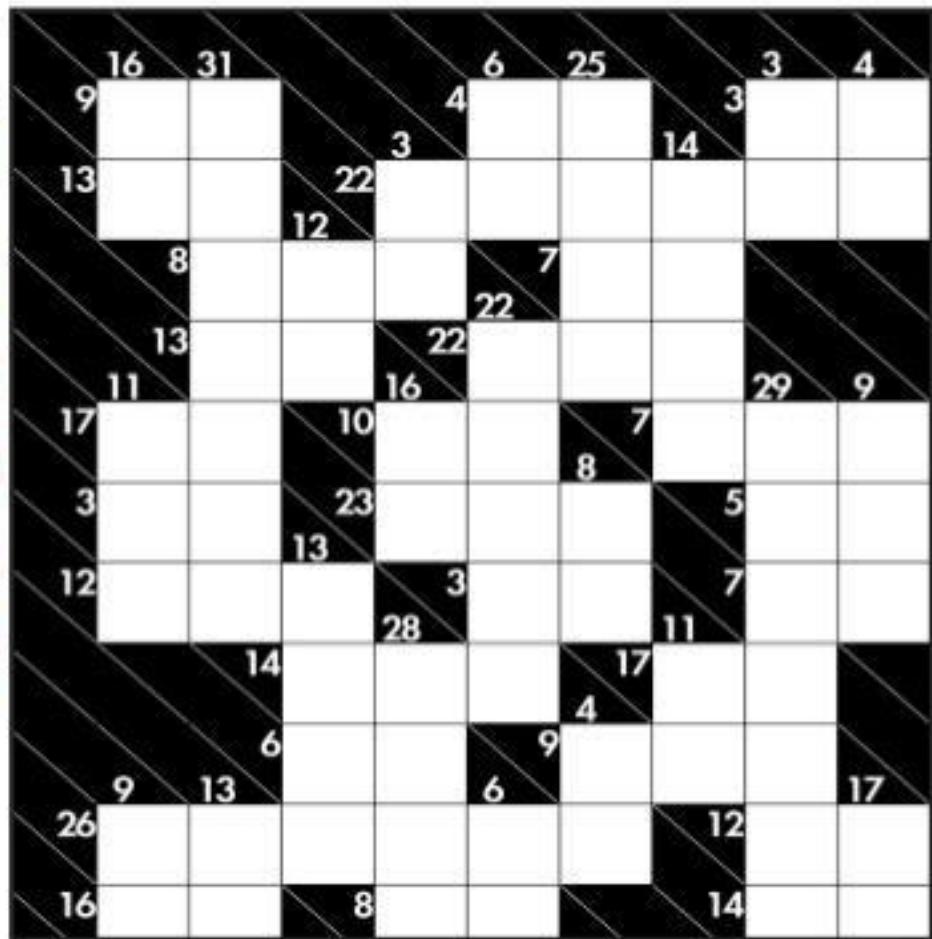
Love Horoscope

*Dates based on Vedic Sun Signs

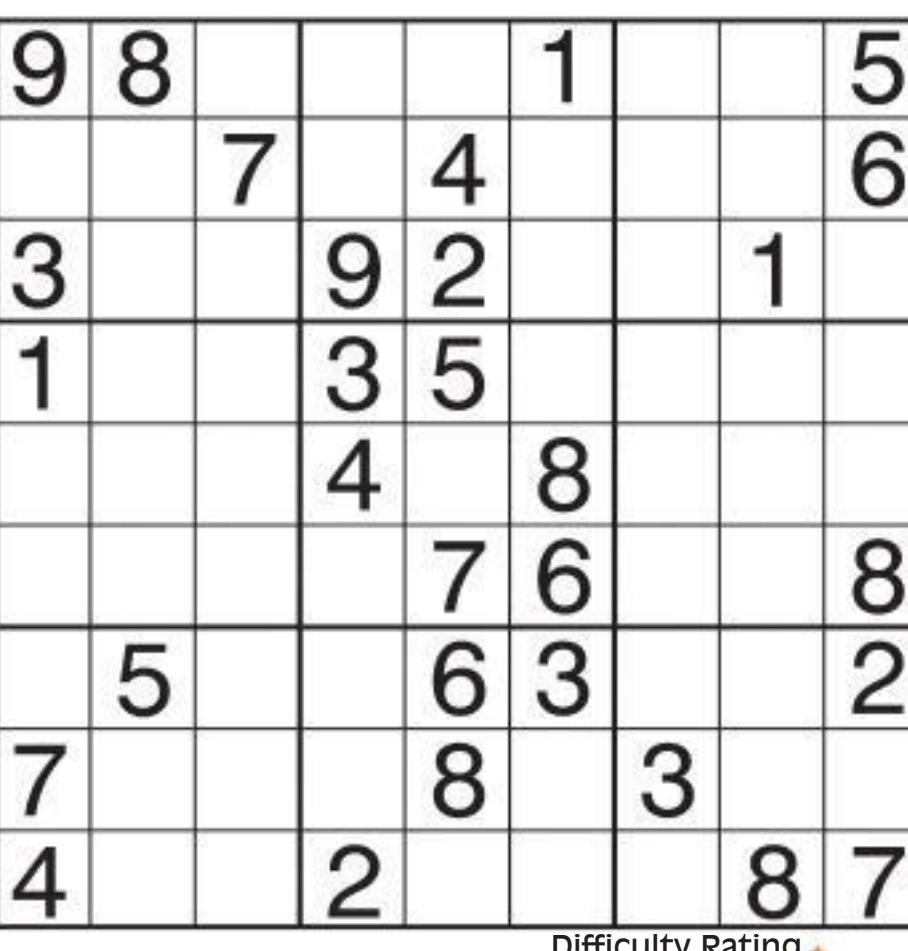
CANCER July 16-Aug 15

Being a creative person, you will enjoy the company of your beloved who also enjoys creative pursuits. Your love will scale new heights and you could plan on having a quick wedding.

KAKURO



SUDOKU CLASSIC



Difficulty Rating ★

DAILY JUMBLE

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



GUTZON BORGULM'S ABILITY TO CREATE UNIQUE SCULPTURES ALLOWED HIM TO ---

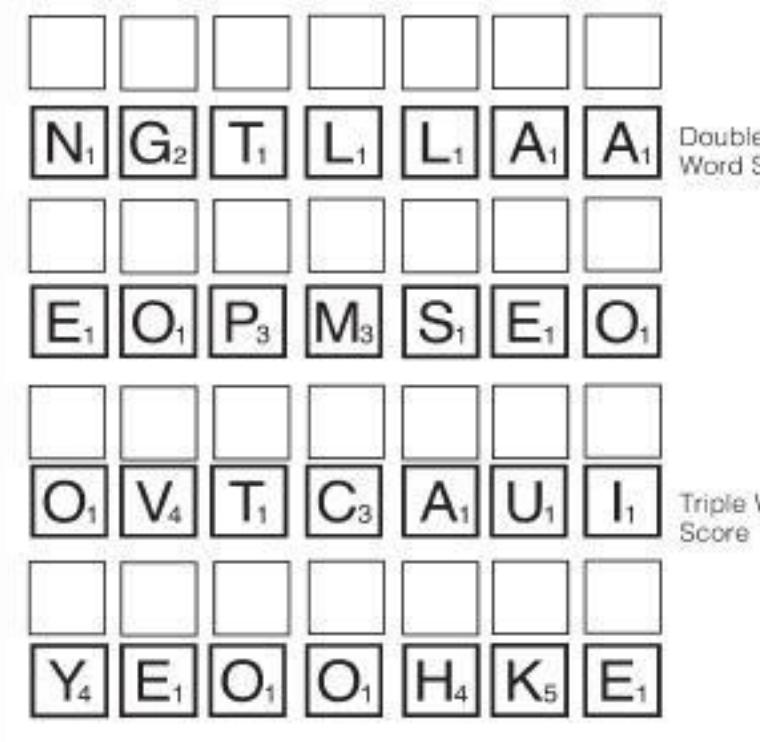
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SCRABBLE GRAMS

SCRABBLE BRAND

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Double Word Score

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 110-120

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary.

LEO Aus 16-Sep 15

Get straight to the point when time is not much. Ask your loved one the true intentions so you can plan your life accordingly. You have so much to do right now.

VIRGO Sep 16-Oct 15

It is going to be a happy time. You will plan your day well so both of you have enough time to spend together. There are chances that you would think of settling down soon.

LIBRA Oct 16-Nov 15

You will take on a sophisticated approach now to matters of the heart. You are going to be your seductive best, attracting not one but many people towards you.

SCORPIO Nov 16-Dec 15

Your sweetheart has a huge influence on you both mentally and physically. You both share a special relationship that will definitely culminate in wedlock.

SAGITTARIUS

Dec 16-Jan 13
An intimate discussion can open up new horizons for you and your lover. You can discover new interesting things about each other and this will take you to a new plane.

CAPRICORN

Jan 14-Feb 11
You will be the centre of attention among many friends. Your charm is going to entice one of them enough to want to be in a relationship with you.

AQUARIUS

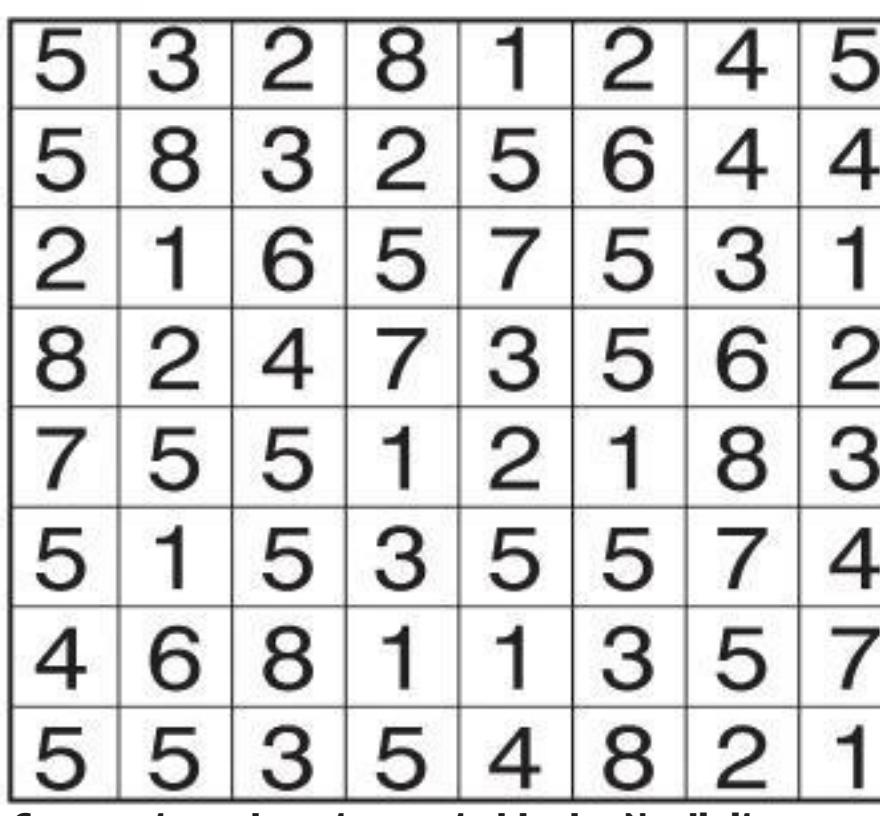
Feb 12-March 13
A sense of purpose will dominate your life. A friend can introduce you to your love mate, a chance encounter that will lead to a stormy but happy alliance.

PISCES Mar 14-Apr 13

Love life is good. You can expect to enjoy a candlelight dinner to set the tempo for good things ahead. You share an excellent rapport with your lover.

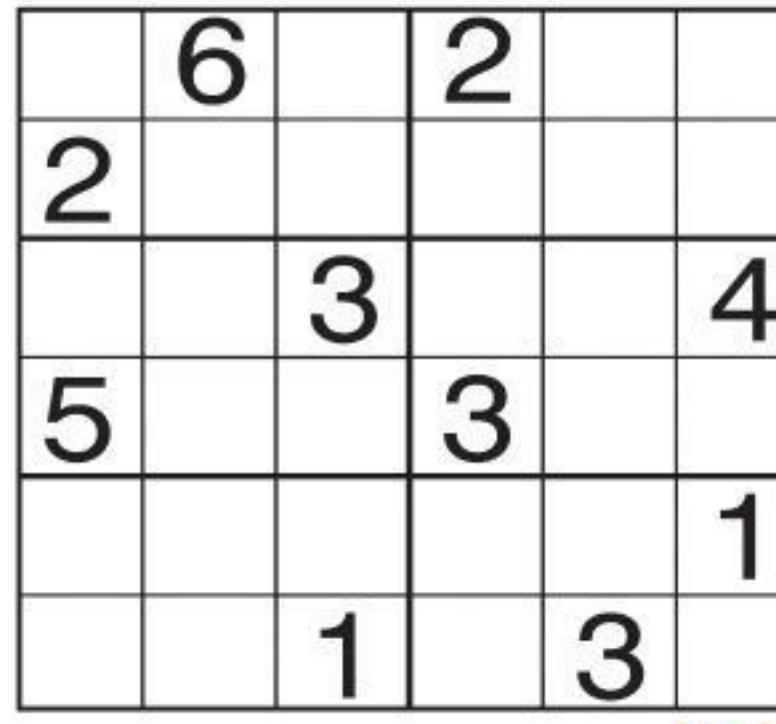
Top
Puzzles

HITORI



Cross out numbers to create blanks. No digit can appear in a row or column more than once. No two adjacent squares can be blacked out. All the squares left unblacked must be connected — vertically or horizontally — to form a single shape.

MINI SUDOKU

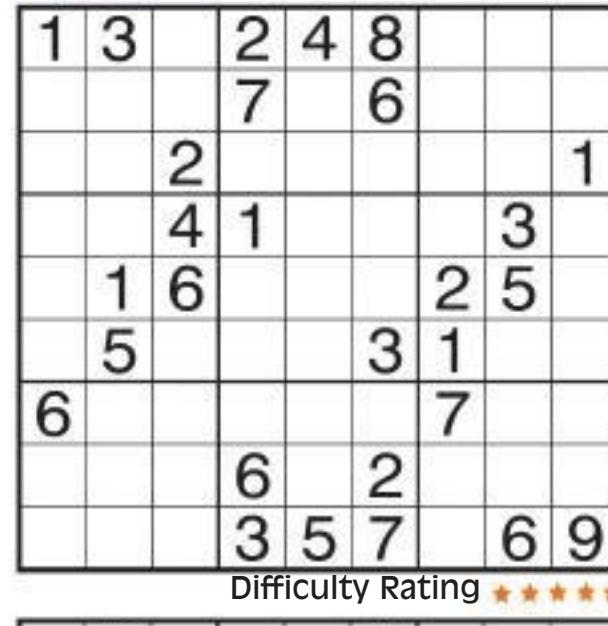


Difficulty Rating ★★★★

SUDOKU X



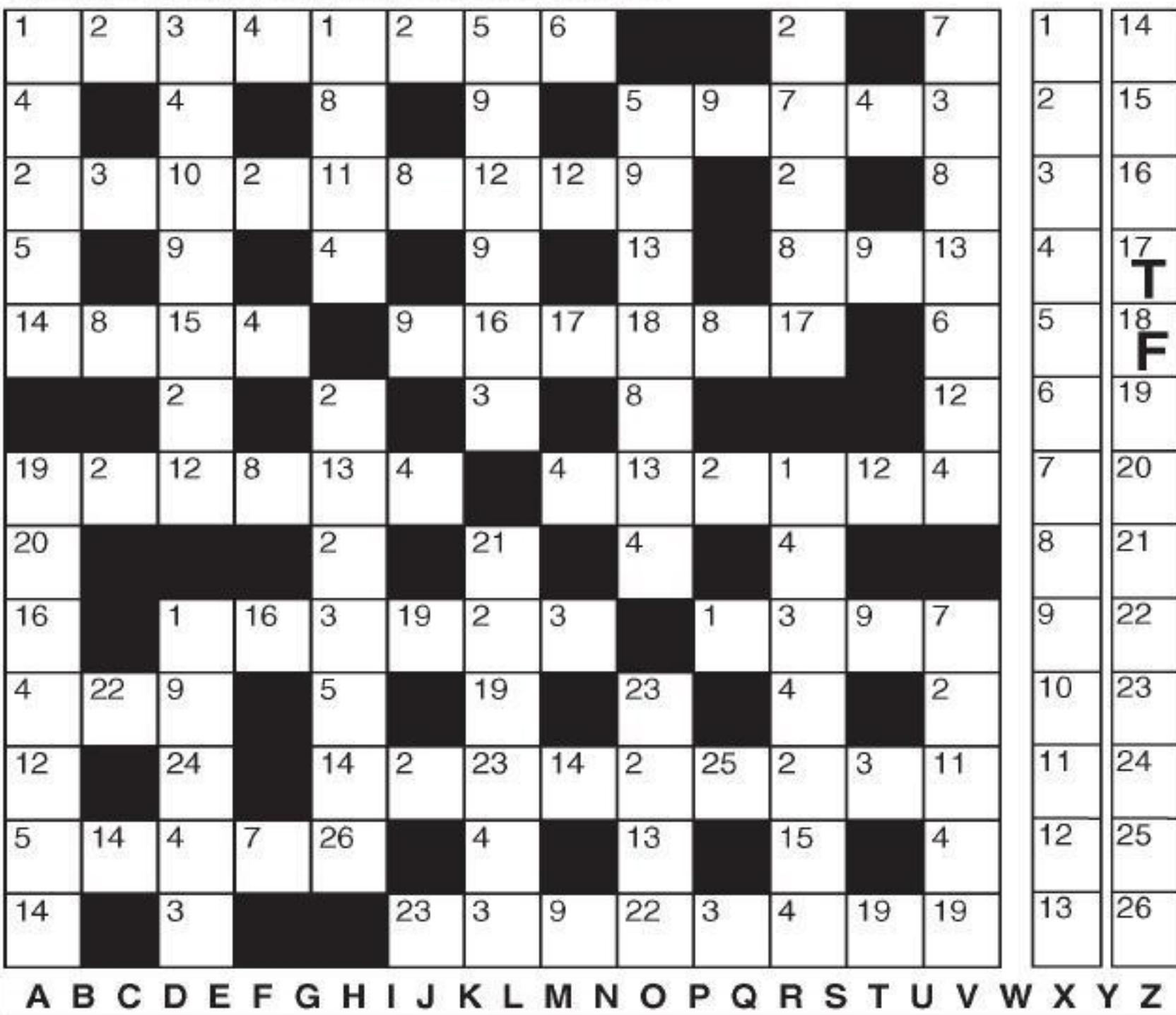
SUDOKU



Difficulty Rating ★★★★

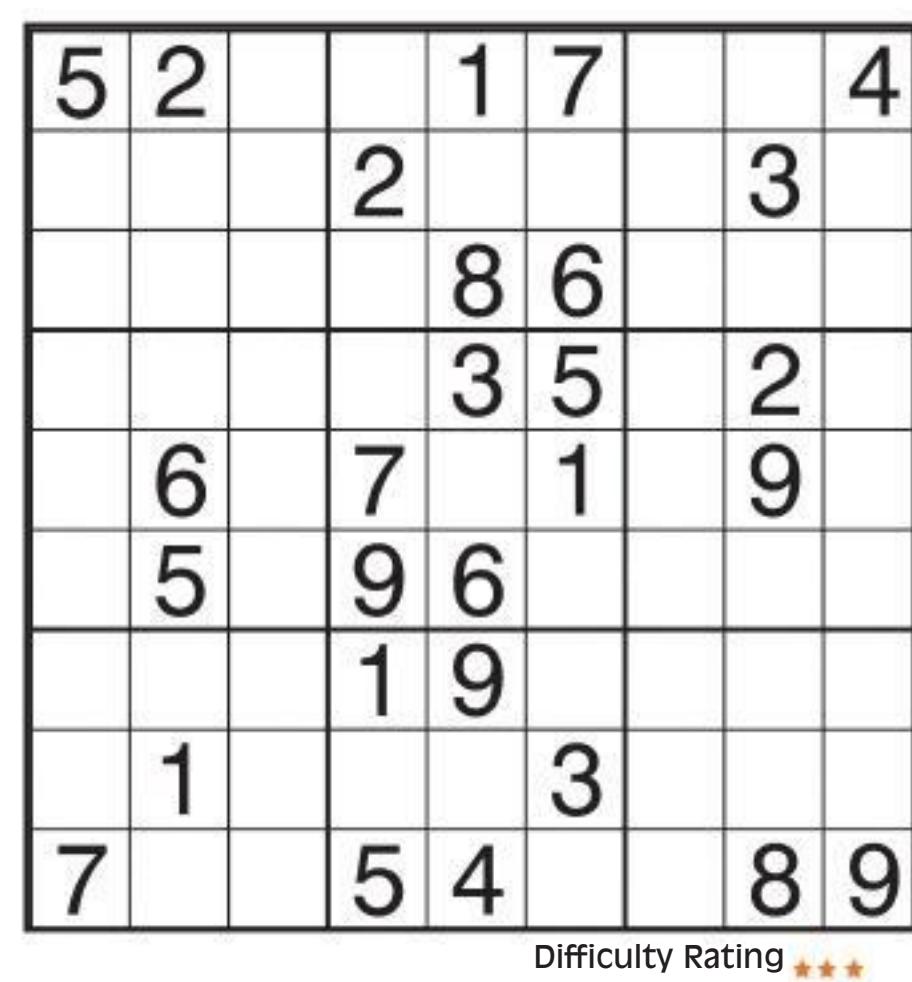
CODEWORD

EACH number in our Codeword grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. For example, today 17 represents T so fill in T every time the figure 17 appears. You have two letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares. As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the list of alphabetical letters as you identify them.

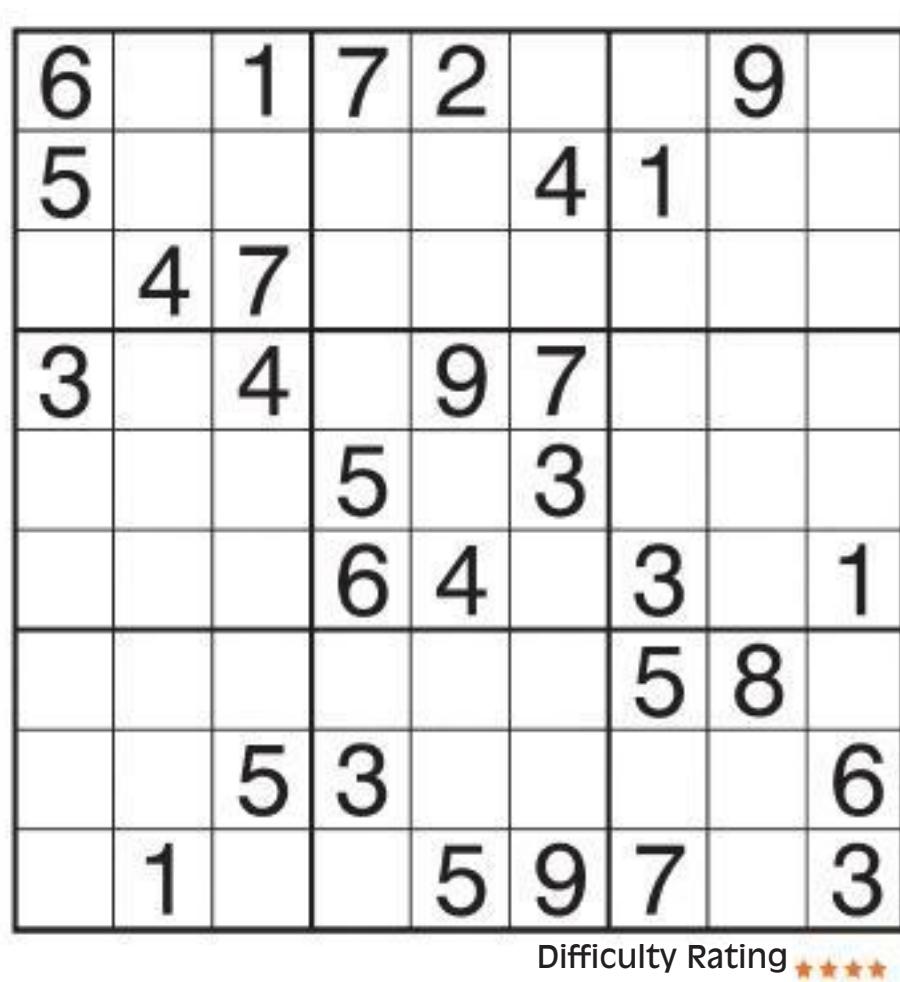


SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9. Solutions are below.



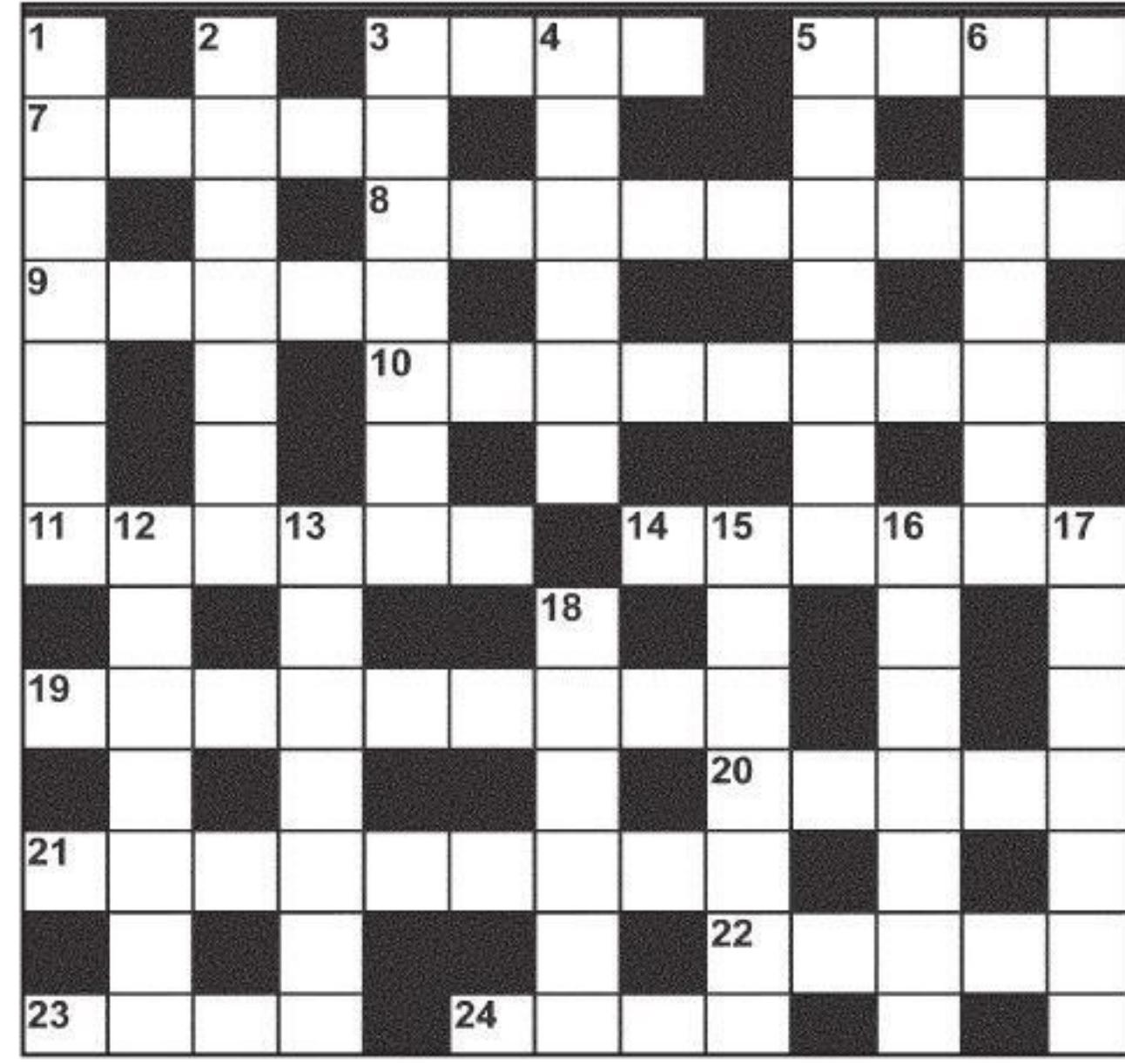
Difficulty Rating ★★★



Difficulty Rating ★★★



Difficulty Rating ★★★★

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**ACROSS**

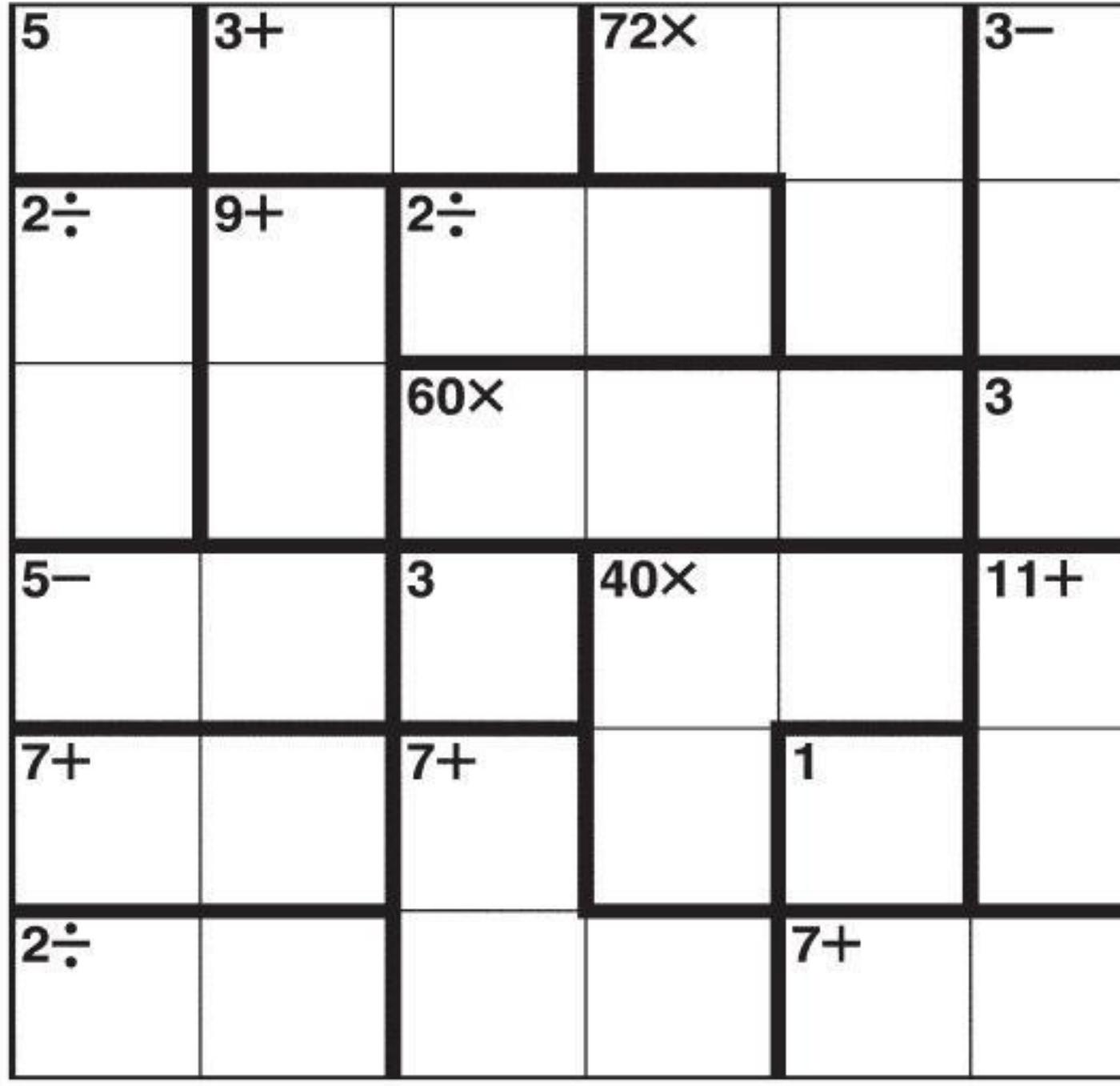
- 3 It's beautiful but can produce a sore! (4)
- 5 Father's into modern music (4)
- 7 I break a leg but remain very active (5)
- 8 It has a loving nature and you're abusing it! (9)
- 9 Father goes red on meeting the army minister (5)
- 10 Check how compulsion can strengthen you (9)
- 11 To me, golf accessories should be handled with respect (6)
- 14 How you annoy us when you step out to meet the queen! (6)
- 19 Indeed, an actor made it look nice with paint and paper (9)
- 20 That's nothing! I have to carry grapes and look sheepish (5)
- 21 Or Al, to this tribe, is the one to guarantee them freedom (9)
- 22 This language is filled with jargon! (5)
- 23 How to get lots into a nar-
- row opening (4)
- 24 Yield to office demands (4)

DOWN

- 1 Looking sheepish in court, admitting to aggressively excited behaviour (7)
- 2 Cut out to be avid when playing bridge? (7)
- 3 How I revere mental abstraction! (7)
- 4 In a way, I'd lost but remained unemotional (6)
- 5 There are no hidden traps for our customers! (7)
- 6 Some deity! What a pain! That grand manner of his! (7)
- 12 Is there a place in particular? (7)
- 13 Ned tore out in his caustic way (7)
- 15 Having been seen by Rod, I'll sanction it (7)
- 16 100 Romans play with it - how characteristic of them! (7)
- 17 Even Reg has a way of getting his own back! (7)
- 18 You have a taste of what it's like to be stoned (6)

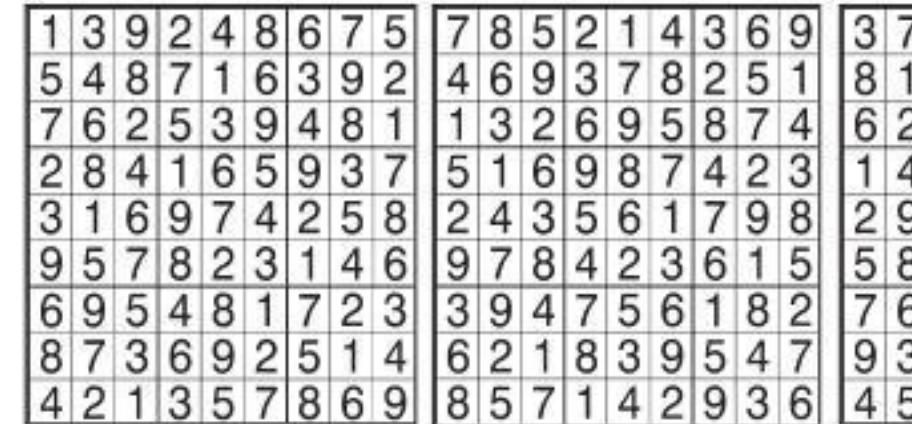
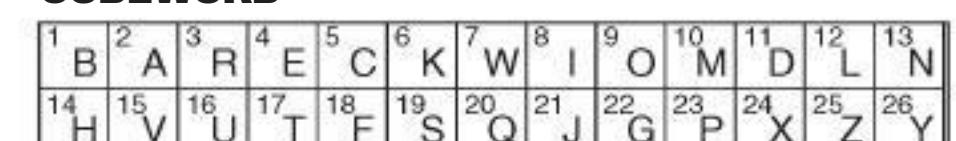
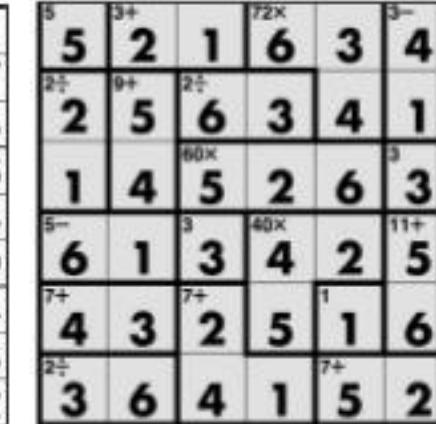
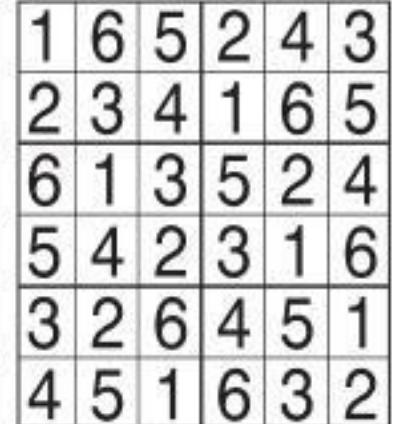
KEN-KEN

Each row & column must contain numbers 1 to 4 (easy) or 1 to 6 (difficult). The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes must combine to produce the numbers in the top-left corner.

**QUICK QUIZ**

Evangeline Lilly was born on August 3, 1979.

1. In which series did she play the character Kate Austen for which she received wide acclaim?
2. Where was this Canadian actress born?
3. Her acting career began when a Ford Modeling Agency agent discovered her. Where was that?
4. She also writes children's literature. Who is her literary inspiration?
5. In which year was she listed as one of the "Most Powerful Canadians in Hollywood" by Canadian Business magazine?
6. She is the face for a well-known fragrance. Which one is that?
7. In which country did she live in a grass hut in the jungles with a missionary group?
8. Which programme did she study at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver?
9. Which non-profit organisation does she work for?

TODAY'S SOLUTIONS**SUDOKU****HITORI****KAKURO****CODEWORD****CRYPTIC CROSSWORD****SUDOKU X****KEN-KEN****MINI SUDOKU****SUDOKU CLASSIC****SCRABBLE GRAMS**

SCRABBLE® GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD									
© 2019 UFS. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication									
G	A	L	I	L	A	N	T		
M	O	P	E	S					
V	A	T	I	C					
E	Y	E	H	O	K				
PAR SCORE 110-120									
JUDD'S TOTAL 172									

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QUICK QUIZ: 1. Lost; 2. Fort Saskatchewan in Alberta; 3. A Kelowna street; 4. Roald Dahl; 5. 2006; 6. Cool Water Woman; 7. Philippines; 8. International Relations; 9. GO Campaign

**ASTRO FOCUS**

by Manisha Koushik

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 20

Good day for financial transactions. It is possible to get the responsibility of assignments abroad. Long-standing physical troubles will disappear.

TAURUS Apr 21-May 20

The financial situation is strengthening due to proper utilization of funds. You will get relief from problems of cough and cold. Your expertise will be needed at workplace in different departments.

GEMINI May 21-June 21

The favourable financial conditions will keep you happy and satisfied. You will perform exceptionally well in your career. It is possible to get rid of long troubling diseases.

CANCER June 22-July 22

It is time for the financial instability to end. You will keep any important person happy at workplace. This will indicate the opening of the path to advance in career.

LEO July 23-Aug 23

You will shop for luxury items. Opponents in the professional field will be ready to support, know their true intent. You will get rid of diseases and live a healthy life.

VIRGO Aug 24-Sep 23

Financial issues will be resolved, money transactions will be possible. Your work in profession will be appreciated. There will be increased interest towards health-related activities.

LIBRA Sep 24-Oct 23

Happiness and prosperity are assured. Those wishing to change jobs will get opportunities. By following the regular routine, you will be hearty and healthy.

SCORPIO Oct 24-Nov 22

The financial situation is stabilizing due to money flow. Workplace concerns will end. You will remain healthy as following a disciplined lifestyle.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23-Dec 21

Wealth is sufficient, you will be confident in money matters. Your work in the professional front will be appreciated. There will be ease in relationships with family members.

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 21

Time is profitable for those involved in the stock market. The day will be full of achievements in the professional front. Chronic illness can cause trouble.

AQUARIUS Jan 22-Feb 19

Freelancers income appears increasing as they get more work. Your employees may demand increase in salary. Do not avoid exercising, it's important for health.

PISCES Feb 20-Mar 20

You will get the opportunity to do your favourite work. You will try your best to keep yourself fit. Do not ignore the advice of elders. Taking a break from the routine is much needed.

PROPERTY MAIL

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Mail Today, New Delhi, Monday, August 3, 2020



PROPWITER
Kausar Firdausi

Buying a house is always a better option than renting. According to industry experts, there are various reasons like long-term saving or investment, tax saving, and most importantly asset creation from a multi-generational view point. They believe that covid has reinforced the importance of physical and mental wellness by creating a safe and nurturing environment for the family. Residential property is still the best asset class owing to both commercial and emotional reasons. "Today, buyers can afford to own a home much faster than any other generation majorly owing to a fall in prices. Thus, they would be buying homes at an age earlier than the previous generations," says Maneesh Mansingka, director, Kalpataru Limited.

The recent JLL Homebuyer Preference Survey stated that 91 per cent of the respondents prefer to buy a house instead of renting a property and this trend is being manifested in the ongoing rise in home sales. Adapting to Covid-19 challenges, developers are now creating properties keeping in mind the evolving requirements of end consumers, such as work-from-home friendly residences, societies with fewer residents in greener areas, etc. "We believe that this is an opportunity to create future-ready, resilient, and sustainable homes for the discerning consumer who wants a house that fulfils requirements relating to work, education, entertainment, etc and we look forward to catering to this demand," says Prashant Solomon, managing director, Chintels India and hon. treasurer, CREDAI NCR.

The JLL survey uncovered

A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN CONSUMER SENTIMENTS

According to a couple of recent surveys, a majority of consumers prefer home ownership over renting despite Covid-19 challenges



that a greater proportion of people in the age group of 20-35 years were likely to defer their home purchase plans by more than six months. Polled consumers above 35 years indicated that they are more inclined towards buying a property in the next six months. Also, more than 50 per cent of the prospective homebuyers indicated a preference to buy a 2-BHK apartment with size

ranging from 800 to 1,000 sq.ft. "Real estate has emerged as the most resilient asset class today and we see potential for more consumers to pivot towards home ownership in the longer-term. In tandem, ongoing work from home arrangements are pushing developers to become more flexible and give homebuyers the option of creating a study room if need be," says Ramesh

Nair, CEO & country head (India), JLL.

The pandemic has also accelerated the pace of digital transformation amongst developers and intermediaries. "In the past, we have seen project discovery happen online, this moved to virtual tours and interactions, and now one-fifth of the respondents in this survey said they're digital-ready to affect

their transaction online end-to-end," adds Nair.

The JLL survey also indicates that more than 50 per cent of the prospective homebuyers surveyed have expressed their readiness to potentially buy homes within the next six months. "Developers are relatively flexible to allay buyers' concerns in this fragile business environment with respect to immediate cash outgo and long-term financial

COVID BOOSTER TO HOMEBUYERS: INDIA'S BIGGEST ONLINE HOUSING FESTIVAL TO UNLOCK 2.70 LAKH HOUSES FOR HOMEBUYERS SOON

In a bid to resurrect from a continuous decline in the housing sales and revive the demand amid the worst hit covid pandemic, the country's real estate developers will soon offer over 2.70 lakh 'ready-to-move-in' houses for online sales to the homebuyers in a first and biggest ever housing festival, which will begin soon.

Initiated by National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), in this festival, the developers from all over India will list their housing properties for sale on an exclusively created E-commerce marketplace 'NAREDCO Housing for All'

developed in guidance with the ministry of housing and urban affairs. This festival is expected to unlock the affordable housing properties worth over ₹1.21 lakh crore and offer a great opportunity to the national and international homebuyers to buy RERA registered properties at the right prices anywhere in India.

Hardeep Singh Puri, union minister, housing and urban affairs, announced the launch of the e-commerce portal and also unveiled the recently approved 'affordable rental housing policy' knowledge pack to support a huge influx of people in urban India find

affordable rental housing. Niranjan Hiranandani, national president, NAREDCO and president, ASSOCHAM; Rajan Bandekar, convenor, NAREDCO Housing for All Portal and president - west; Rajeev Talwar, chairman, NAREDCO; Parveen Jain, vice chairman, NAREDCO and other industry delegates were present at the web-based event.

Congratulating NAREDCO on launching an innovative e-commerce portal, Puri said, "The visionary step of creating an e-marketplace for the homebuyers designed by NAREDCO and implementation of the affordable rental housing policy will change

the dynamics of the sector, as many people will be able to find their dream houses under these programmes."

Responding to a demand raised by NAREDCO for Housing For All Portal about permitting a 100 per cent FDI in affordable rental housing sector, Puri announced that the government will soon allow 100 per cent FDI in affordable rental housing. He also maintained that on the lines of the civil aviation ministry, the real estate sector will too have a 'permanent working group' to attend any issues or matters pertaining to the sector for faster decision making.

The already beleaguered sector is pinning high hopes on this mega online sales for pushing the demand and much needed liquidity. Hiranandani said, "The real estate sector needs an immediate demand shock and unlocking the potential of unsold housing inventory is the immediate remedy. This e-commerce platform is curated supporting the government's 'Digital India' initiative which will not only disrupt sales process; but also instil confidence among the respective stakeholders like consumers, developers, banks and financial institutions."

ATS STRENGTHENS ITS LEASING AND COMMERCIAL PORTFOLIO

In order to strengthen commercial and retail space business portfolio, India's prominent real estate player, ATS Infrastructure recently announced the appointment of Anil Pankaj Singh. He will lead the commercial and leasing business of the company.

Singh comes with a rich experience close to two decades in leasing, sales, business development

and strategy formulation. He has demonstrated exemplary leadership and responsibility in his previous association with Ascendas now CapitaLand, Prius Group and Orchid Infrastructure.

Speaking on the initiative, ATS Infrastructure CMD, Getamber Anand, said, "It is our vision to offer products and services across real estate spectrum. Commencing the

leasing of our commercial real estate portfolio is in line with that thought. Anil has an exceptional leadership track record, strong industry partnerships and deep strategic expertise in handling commercial vertical in real estate sector through its complete value chain from investment, occupation to operation. I am certain he will take ATS to greater heights."

Commenting on his appointment, Singh said, "ATS is a marquee brand and it feels great to be a part of an organisation that has inspired trust and delivered value to its customers for last three decades. I look forward to collaborating and working with the larger team and I am sure that we would be able to unlock greater value to our clients, employees and other stakeholders."

Mail Today, New Delhi, Monday, August 3, 2020

MAIL TODAY Special Initiative | 17



obligation by offering attractive flexible payment options with minimum upfront payment," said Samantak Das, chief economist and head research & REIS, JLL.

According to JLL, Covid-19 can be credited to be the catalyst for accelerating vital trends such as price rationalisation in larger markets, adoption of technological platforms to enable seamless buying and selling while resetting

the significance of 'owning' a house amongst potential homebuyers. The survey was conducted in June-July this year and has seen participation from 2,500 respondents across major cities.

Besides, as per an Anarock survey gauging housing market sentiment in covid times, a majority of 1910 participants chose real estate as their preferred investment asset class. Of these, 59 per cent of intending buyers are end-users. The Anarock survey also indicates that home-ownership is now a compelling priority for millennials facing uncertain times. Out of the total voters favouring real estate, 55 per cent are aged between 25-35 years and 68 per cent are end-users. In the H2 2019 edition of this survey, only 42 per cent were in this age bracket.

Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock Property Consultants is of the view that the security of owning a physical asset during a coronavirus-like crisis now combines with a rising aversion to high-risk investments. As a result, the demand for residential real estate has increased. "Millennials are key demand drivers, their preferences now dictated by the prevailing uncertainties, stock market volatility and recent-past financial sector incidents. Many of them now prefer buying over renting homes. The general home-buying sentiment is also guided by cheaper home loan interest rates, which currently average between 7.15 per cent to 7.8 per cent," says Puri.

Akash Kohli, founder & CEO, Elante Group is also optimistic that while at first glance covid appeared devastating to real estate as a market, it later proved to be the game changing revolution to carry rationalised property costs into larger markets including technological innovation to allow seamless digital transactions and to reinforce the pride and security of 'owning' a home among potential homebuyers.

The current pandemic

situation has made many people to stay away from the tier-I cities where the only option was to live in rented accommodations. "There will be a curtailment in the exodus from these cities and will lead to employment creation along with the movement of MNCs, which are already looking at cutting down on expenses. With job market sorted out after the movement of IT and BPO firms, the market here is seeing a steady demand of real estate. Many real estate developers are already present in tier-II cities and peripheral areas due to the rising demand. Another reason for the residential markets in tier-II cities performing better than tier-I cities is the budget, which is affordable as compared to high property prices in metros and in the current situation it has become more lucrative as people will spend every penny prudently," asserts Raman Gupta, director- branding and construction, GBP Group

Experts realise that affordable housing projects have far greater chances of achieving quicker possession now, as compared to the ones in mid-segment and luxury housing categories. "An affordable housing player in order to take full advantage of this market situation must be equipped with technology and means to reach his potential buyers. Government's lending support via announcement of schemes such as Credit Link Subsidy Scheme during lockdown and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana existed much before to fulfill the vision of 'housing for all' by 2022," affirms Pradeep Aggarwal, founder & chairman, Signature Global Group and chairman, ASSOCHAM National Council on Real Estate, Housing and Urban Development. These schemes and deferred payment plans introduced by some of the developers have given impetus to buyers as well as investors for putting their funds in this housing category.

REALTORS' FORUM

Do you think the over subscription of the MindSpace REITs is an encouraging sign for the real estate sector in general and commercial segment in particular? Industry experts answer...



India's dynamic investment landscape, continued faith of investors in Indian real estate, sustained government support and unique offerings have resulted in a favourable ground for REIT. The oversubscription of the MindSpace REIT is a positive sign for the commercial real estate sector and especially during this uncertain time. It will further build confidence amongst foreign and domestic retail investors, which will help the commercial realty sector emerge stronger.

VAMSHI KK NAKIREKANTI, Executive Director, India & South East Asia, CBRE



MindSpace Business Park REIT, owned by K Raheja Group and Blackstone, is the second REIT to hit the IPO market after Embassy Office Park REIT and looks quite promising. K Raheja group has an excellent previous track record with presence across geographies. MindSpace REIT is a high-quality office portfolio with good tenants across various assets having almost cent per cent occupancy levels.

SHOBHIT AGARWAL, MD & CEO, Anarock Capital



The real estate market is on the path to glory as the trust of the buyer is back. Performance of REITs during covid is encouraging for the people involved in real estate sector as well as a proof of what realtors have been saying about real estate and its bonding with the masses. The performance of commercial REITs also throws light on the fact that business is happening which is important for the revival of the economy.

ASHISH BHUTANI, CEO, Bhutani Infra



MindSpace REIT is the second such offering in the country which got subscribed 13 times, a sure sign that the leased commercial Indian real estate segment is truly global and this investment asset class has caught the fancy of global and domestic investors. In the commercial office space, we expect at least 5 of the top 20 developers to come out with similar REITs within the next three years.

AMIT GOENKA, MD & CEO, Nisus Finance

URBAN SQUARE GETS APPRECIATION FOR CUSTOMER AND VENDOR SATISFACTION

Bhumika Group's retail project in Udaipur, Urban Square mall, gets a 5-star rating from Bengaluru-based research firm. The Rajasthan-based developer was rated as the best upcoming mall developer in Northern India after being assessed on various parameters such as customer satisfaction, vendor satisfaction, banking relations, after sales support & timely construction. The delivery of Urban Square is progressing as per delivery timelines and the project will be delivered as per RERA commitment. Designed by Award-winning international architect Bentel from South Africa, it is one of the only few projects where the construction

is progressing at Udaipur. Commenting on the appreciation, Uddhav Poddar, MD, Bhumika Group said, "It is a result of our efforts towards providing top-of-the-class infrastructure. We are delighted that our efforts are being recognised and this is an assurance to all the stakeholders that the group has been working in the right direction. It is because of this positive image that we were able to close some new leases during covid."

Recently, the group has announced that it has signed up three more international brands - Adidas, Puma, Asics - in Urban Square and the total

area on lease for these three brands is 2612 sq.ft. Some of the brands that have already signed up for the mall are Shoppers Stop, Reliance Trends, Inox, Marks & Spencer, Holiday Inn, Zudio, Aeropostale, Sketchers, US Polo, Arrow Sport, FCUK, F-Bar, Looks, Go Colors, Reebok, Pepe Jeans, among others. These brands have leased around 1.75 lakh sq ft area.

Urban Square is a 1.8 million sq.ft. mixed-use project, which also has a mall positioned as an 'all under one roof' with lifestyle retail, along with a food court, a state-of-the-art multiplex, gaming zone, a bowling alley, and many more entertainment options.

MY BIZ

India in talks for \$8 bn loan

THE ASIAN Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is in discussion with the Indian government for financing a USD 8-billion scheme for improving health infrastructure at the district level to make the country better prepared for the future healthcare challenges. The Beijing-based multilateral funding agency had earlier approved a financial assistance of USD 1.2 billion for India to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of India has discussed about its ambitious scheme of strengthening the health infrastructure. It entails building health infrastructure in every district including upgrading of testing facilities with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), AIIB Vice President D J Pandian told PTI in an interview.

Beijing-based AIIB is considering proposal

It is a USD 8-billion project, he said, adding that the World Bank and Asian Development Bank are also involved in the discussion with the Health Department of the Government of India. The Finance Ministry is trying to put up a financing plan for this ambitious scheme and the minute details are being worked out, he said. If things work out, the financing by the AIIB can be cleared this year itself on a fast-track basis, he added.

Pandian said the AIIB has approved two loans of USD 500 million and USD 750 million, respectively.

Cipla calls back drug from US

By Mail Today Bureau
in Mumbai

DRUG MAJOR Lupin is recalling 35,928 bottles of a generic antibiotic drug in the US market following unfavourable result in retention samples, the US health regulator said in a report.

According to the latest Enforcement Report of the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), the Mumbai-based company is recalling Cefdinir for oral suspension USP, 250

Medicine made at Madhya Pradesh plant

mg/5mL, packaged in 60 ml bottles. The lot has been manufactured at Lupin's Mandideep manufacturing facility in Madhya Pradesh. USFDA said the company is recalling the specific lot due to out-of-specification result observed in an assay test of retention samples.

Foreign portfolio investors pumped ₹3,301 crore into the Indian capital markets in July, according to depositories data. In the previous month, FPIs had put in a net ₹24,053 crore in Indian markets.



NUMBER OF THE DAY

₹1.39 lakh cr is fall in market cap of India's 6 top firms last week.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

'The Indian steel market has started showing signs of recovery after being hit by the pandemic. Our Hazira steel plant in Gujarat is now running at full capacity.'



— ADITYA MITTAL, ARCELORMITTAL NIPPON STEEL INDIA CHAIRMAN

Vivad Se Vishwas scheme put on fast track

Taxmen told to go on a war footing

By Mail Today Bureau
in New Delhi

IN AN attempt to make up for the sharp shortfall in tax collections, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has set an August-end deadline for its field formations to compute taxes for all assesses and fixed monthly targets for disposing of appeals under the Vivad Se Vishwas scheme.

The scheme announced in the union budget presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in February this year, allows a complete waiver of interest and penalty to taxpayers if they pay the entire amount of tax in dispute by December 31.

CBDT chairman P C Mody has in a letter to Principal Chief Commissioners of Income Tax, pointed out that taxpayers are waiting to file applications under 'Vivad Se Vishwas' scheme, but they are also waiting for the correct demand to be intimated to them.

The CBDT chief also set a monthly target of disposing of pending appeals by sending communication through the e-filing portal and or through emails only.

"The board desires that all the work of cleaning up of the tax demand and calculating the tax payable or refundable in respect of all eligible assessee under Vivad Se Vishwas scheme is taken up on priority," states the letter, dated July 9.

Asking taxmen to immediately attend to the applications under the Vivad Se Vishwas scheme, the CBDT chief said whether application under the scheme is received or not, all the assessing officers shall compute the tax payable by or refundable to all the eligible assessee in their jurisdiction.

The deadline for settling tax disputes under the Vivad se Vishwas scheme ends on December 31, 2020.

Under the scheme, taxpayers willing to settle disputes will be allowed a complete waiver of interest and penalty if they pay the entire amount of tax in dispute by December 31 this year.

The scheme aims to settle and see the finalisation of 4.83 lakh direct tax

BY PANKAJ NANGIA



GOING ALL OUT:
Finance Minister
Nirmala Sitharaman

CUSTOMS DEPT ROLLS OUT FACELESS CARGO DEALING

DELHI and Mumbai Customs will begin faceless assessment of certain imported goods starting from Monday.

The facility has already been rolled out in Bengaluru and Chennai as part of the first phase launched in June this year.

The board has issued an internal circular stating that the 2nd phase of all-India faceless assessment with effect from August 3, 2020 will include Delhi and Mumbai Customs Zones.

In the first phase only goods under Chapter 84 and 85 were covered relating to

certain machines and electrical equipment. In the second phase, items under Chapters 89 to 92 and 50 to 71 will also be covered and Bengaluru, Chennai and Delhi customs will clear imported goods based on faceless assessment. Chapters 89 to 92 relate to ship, boats, musical instruments, clocks and watches, and photographic, cinematographic, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus. Chapter 50-71 include textile items, carpet, footwear, headgear, umbrella, ceramic products and glass items.

Car sales revving up after lockdown blues

By Mail Today Bureau
in New Delhi

CAR SALES picked up in July compared to the previous month with market leader Maruti Suzuki forging a step ahead to post a 1.3 per cent increase in the number of units sold over the corresponding figure for July 2019 as well.

The country's second largest car maker Hyundai Motor India fell just 2 per cent short of the number of cars it sold in July last year.

Maruti Suzuki India said its domestic sales in July stood at 1,01,307 units as against 1,00,006 units in July 2019 with sales of mini cars comprising Alto and S-Presso jumping 49.1 per cent. Its sales of utility vehicles, including Vitara Brezza, S-Cross and Ertiga, increased 26.3 per cent to 19,177 units.

Maruti Suzuki had sold 53,139 units in June and a mere 13,888 units in May amidst the lockdown blues.

Rival Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) saw its domestic sales at 38,200 units last month as against 39,010 units in July 2019.

Maruti Suzuki saw 1.3% rise in sales over July 2019

down by 2 per cent. The car maker had reported domestic sales in June at 21,320 units and a mere 6,883 units in May.

Commenting on the sales performance, HMIL director (sales and marketing) Tarun Garg said the company has been able to

contribute towards triggering the country's economic revival. With the changing trend of preference for personal mobility, our consistent efforts are towards fulfilling the customer needs and meeting the market demand, he said.

Homegrown auto major Mahindra & Mahindra saw domestic sales recovering to 24,211 vehicles in July from 8,505 units in June. The company could sell only 3,867 units in May. "At Mahindra, we are happy to see a growing trend in our overall vehicle sales, buoyed by the continuing revival in demand, primarily in rural and semi urban India, M&M Ltd Chief Executive Officer," Automotive Division Veejay Ram Nakra said. It is encouraging to see that the enquiry and booking levels in July are significantly higher compared to June, he added.

By Echo Wang, Alexandra Alper
in New York/Washington

CHINA'S ByteDance has agreed to divest the U.S. operations of TikTok completely in a bid to save a deal with the White House, after President Donald Trump said on Friday he had decided to ban the popular short-video app, two people familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

U.S. officials have said TikTok under its Chinese parent poses a national risk because of the personal data it handles. ByteDance's concession will test whether Trump's threat to ban TikTok is a negotiating tactic, or whether he is intent on cracking down on a social media app that boasts it has 100 million users in the United States.

Trump told reporters onboard Air Force One late on Friday that he would issue an order for TikTok to be banned in the United States as early as Saturday. "Not the deal that you have been hearing about, that they are going to buy and sell... We are not an M&A (mergers and acquisitions) country," Trump said.

Late on Saturday, Peter Navarro, director of the White House's office of trade and manufacturing policy, told Fox News that Trump would be taking action on TikTok on Sunday or Monday.

ByteDance was valued at \$140 billion earlier this year

ByteDance was previously seeking to keep a minority stake in the U.S. business of TikTok, which the White House had rejected. Under the new proposed deal, ByteDance would exit completely and Microsoft Corp would take over TikTok in the United States, the sources said.

Some ByteDance investors that are based in the United States may be given the opportunity to take minority stakes in the business, the sources added. About 70% of ByteDance's outside investors come from the United States.

"The administration has very serious national security concerns over TikTok. We continue to evaluate future policy," the White House said in a statement, declining to comment on whether Trump would accept ByteDance's concession. ByteDance in Beijing did not respond to a request for comment.

"We are here for the long run. Continue to share your voice here and let's stand for TikTok," TikTok U.S. general manager Vanessa Pappas said in a video published on the app on Saturday.

Under ByteDance's new proposal, Microsoft, which also owns professional social media network LinkedIn, will be in charge of protecting all of TikTok's U.S. user data, the sources said. The plan allows for a U.S. company other than Microsoft to take over TikTok in the United States, the sources added.

"What's the right answer? Have an American company

like Microsoft take over TikTok. Win-win. Keeps competition alive and data out of the hands of the Chinese Communist Party," Republican Senator Lindsey Graham wrote on Twitter on Saturday.

Microsoft did not respond to a request for comment.

As relations between the United States and China deteriorate over trade, Hong Kong's autonomy, cyber security and the spread of the novel coronavirus, TikTok has emerged as a flashpoint in the dispute between

The US has been scrutinising app developers on personal data they handle

the world's two largest economies.

ByteDance has been considering a range of options for TikTok amid U.S. pressure to relinquish control of the app, which allows users to create short videos with special effects and has become wildly popular with U.S. teenagers.

ByteDance had received a proposal from some of its investors, including Sequoia and General Atlantic, to transfer majority ownership of TikTok to them, Reuters reported on Wednesday.

The proposal valued TikTok at about \$50 billion, but some ByteDance executives believe the app is worth more than that.

ByteDance acquired Shanghai-based video app Musical.ly in a \$1 billion deal in 2017 and relaunched it as TikTok the following year.

ByteDance did not seek approval for the acquisition from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), which reviews deals for potential national security risks.

Reuters reported last year that CFIUS had opened an investigation into TikTok.

Insurance cost for new cars and bikes falls

By Aprajita Sharma in New Delhi

INSURANCE Regulatory Authority of India (IRDAI) has scrapped the long-term motor insurance packages that cover both own damages (OD) and third-party (TP) damages. The move will effectively decrease on-road prices of new cars and two-wheelers in the country.

According to IRDAI the new mandate will be applicable for those vehicles that will be purchased after August 1, 2020.

IRDA has mandated insurers to discontinue long-term own damage (OD) cover that added extra cost to the vehicle's showroom price.

The Supreme Court had in 2018 made it compulsory to buy minimum three years of third party (TP) liability cover for new cars and five years for two-wheelers, while OD cover was kept optional. Pursuant to the

SC order, the insurance companies started offering two types of motor insurance policies - one year of OD cover along with three years of TP insurance (bundled product) and three years of OD and TP insurance both (long-term cover).

IRDAI intervenes as insurers were taking customers for a ride

The long-term cover has been withdrawn as it was observed that customers were being mis-sold the long-term motor insurance policies even as the OD cover was optional. Some showrooms were giving no other options to customers as they pushed a 3+3-year policy instead of giving an option to buy 3+1 to unaware customers.

Also, no-claim bonus benefits were not very clear to some agents let alone customers. So, customers were misinformed sometimes," says Naval Goel, CEO and Founder of PolicyX.com.

Earlier, it was mandatory for a four-wheeler or two-wheeler owner to have third party insurance (three years for cars, and five years for scooter/bikes). An individual could also buy long-term comprehensive insurance, comprising OD and TP for a longer period.

But now with the enforcement of this new rule, customers will not be required to pay for three or five years of long-term insurance in a combined format.

However, the new rule requires a vehicle owner to have at least one-year mandatory third-party insurance. Additionally, customers can also opt for a one-year OD cover.

IOC to invest ₹13,805 cr in Odisha plant

INDIAN Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) will invest Rs 13,805 crore to set up a plant in Odisha's Paradip to manufacture raw materials for the textile sector, company chairman SM Vaidya said on Sunday.

The project is expected to be completed by 2024, he said. The paraxylene (PX) and purified terephthalic acid (PTA) plant will be integrated with the IOCL's refinery facility in the port town of Jagatsinghpur district.

The integrated paraxylene (PX) and purified terephthalic acid (PTA) complex plant in Paradip will be set up at an estimated investment of Rs 13,805 crore to facilitate textile sector, the official said.

The project will generate approximately five million man-days of employment over the three-year plant construction period, he said.

The capacity of PTA production would be 1,200,000 tonne per annum. PTA is a raw material for the production of polyester. IOCL Chairman SM Vaidya said this plant along with the upcoming mono-ethylene glycol facility of 357-kilo tonne per annum capacity in Paradip would be a ready source of feedstock for Indian Oil's upcoming yarn project in Odisha.



IOC chairman SM Vaidya

Taiwan phone makers in line for India sops

APPLE Inc's Taiwan contract manufacturers Foxconn, Wistron Corp and Pegatron Corp have applied for funds from India's \$6.65 billion scheme to boost smartphone manufacturing, the technology minister said on Saturday.

The production-linked incentive (PLI) plan offers companies cash incentives on additional sales of devices made locally over five years, with 2019-2020 as the base year. India wants to become a global smartphone export hub like China.

Apple assembles some smartphones, including the iPhone 11, at Foxconn and Wistron's plants in two southern Indian states.

Govt has floated \$6.65 bn fund for smartphones

Pegatron, one of Apple's top suppliers, has yet to open a plant in India, but is in talks with various states to set up operations, according to sources. Pegatron officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co Ltd has also applied for incentives under the plan, technology minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told a news conference.

Samsung has a plant on the outskirts of New Delhi that it describes as the world's biggest.

— MT Bureau & Reuters

SENSEX	37,736.07	-129.18
THURSDAY'S CLOSE	37,606.89	
H: 37,897.78	L: 37,431.68	

NIFTY	11,102.15	-28.70
THURSDAY'S CLOSE	11,073.45	
H: 11,150.40	L: 11,026.65	

TOP GAINERS		
% change	Price (₹)	
1 SUN PHARMA	4.27	531.75
2 SBI	2.63	191.45
3 HCLTECH	1.49	705.45
4 M&M	1.45	606.50
5 AXISBANK	1.36	431.60

TOP LOSERS		
% change	Price (₹)	
1 RELIANCE	-1.98	2,066.95
2 HDFCBNK	-1.69	1,032.65
3 HDFC	-1.55	1,782.85
4 ASIAN PAINTS	-1.52	1,716.55
5 KOTAKM	-1.48	1,367.45

BULLION

Friday	
GOLD/10 gm	₹450
SILVER/1 kg	₹2,181
(GOLD)	₹53,588
(SILVER)	₹64,851

EXCHANGE RATE

		Thursday	Friday
Dollar	₹74.87	₹74.80	
Euro	₹88.01	₹88.65	
Pound	₹97.43	₹98.43	
Yen (100)	₹71.16	₹71.33	
76	72	90	
68	80	70	
64	70	60	
350	400	380	
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu
350	400	380	350
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu
DOLLAR, YEN	\$	YEN	€



SIBLING REVELRY

A sand sculpture with a message: 'Let's celebrate Rakhi with Covid Warriors', created by artist Sudarsan Pattnaik, on the eve of Raksha Bandhan festival, in Puri on Sunday.

YOUTUBE

► trends

1) GUNJAN SAXENA: THE KARGIL GIRL | NETFLIX



Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl, starring Janhvi Kapoor, Pankaj Tripathi, Angad Bedi, Vineet Kumar Singh, Ayesha Raza and Manav Vij, is an inspiring true story of a simple girl with big dreams who stood her ground to rule the skies. Will take off on August 12, only on Netflix!

2) DIL KO KARAAR AAYA | SIDHARTH, NEHA

Anshul Garg presents 'Dil Ko Karaar Aaya' feat Neha Sharma and Sidharth Shukla. Sung by Neha Kakkar and Yasser Desai.

3) RAKSHA BANDHAN | ASHISH CHANCHANI



Starring Ashish Chanchlani, Muskan Chanchlani, Kunal Chhabria, Tanish Sirwani, Jashan Sirwani and Akash Dodeja; written, created and directed by Ashish Chanchlani. A must watch!

4) SOOD MEETS KUMAR | KAPIL SHARMA SHOW

Watch The Kapil Sharma Show Season 2, starting from August 1, every Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 pm, on SET.

LETTERS

■ Top court needs to take action on Soz's case soon

THE way Supreme Court has disposed of a petition by 83-year-old Jammu and Kashmir Congress leader Saifuddin Soz's "illegal detention" that he is "free and not under detention" is heart-wrenching. Justice AM Mishra said, "We will not enter into it any further," after senior lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi argued that the Jammu and Kashmir administration's affidavit was "contrary to facts" of the affidavit filed by Jammu and Kashmir Home Department, saying, "Professor Soz has never been placed under any detention, as alleged."

Within a day, Soz was dragged back into his house by security personnel when he sought to address scribes from behind the barbed wire fortifying the boundary wall in Srinagar. This is a glaring example of lies the BJP government has been making to the SC. The question is why did it accept the state's definition of freedom when it is clearly in conflict with the citizen's?"

If the court initiates proceedings for criminal contempt on Prashant Bhushan's tweets on role of some CJIs in the last six years, then why not this matter in the Supreme Court does not come under the contempt of the court? In Jammu and Kashmir, many like Soz needs police permission to step out of his home. Action must be taken in this matter as soon as possible.

—BIDYUT KUMAR CHATTERJEE, Faridabad

■ Punjab hooch tragedy culprits must be punished

IT is very unfortunate that the death toll in the Punjab spurious liquor tragedy mounted to 86 and as per media reports, the spurious liquor is still being sold in the open across the state. As a matter of fact, the seeds of this mafia rule have been sown by Akali-BJP government during its rule.

WRITE TO THE EDITOR

You can now email your opinion to letters@mailtoday.in

QUESTION

of the day

Mail Today poll



After the Delhi government had given a 'go ahead' for the opening of hotels and weekly markets in Unlock 3.0, Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal struck it down.

Do you think this will cause more uncertainty?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION

There has been a fierce debate among politicians and educationists over the New Education Policy 2020 introduced by the government. Do you think that there was a need to change the education policy?

YESTERDAY'S RESPONSE

YES 50%	NO 50%
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The Congress government under chief minister Amarinder Singh, who is also holding the excise department, has fully flourished and even promised the people that there will be end of drugs smuggling in four weeks after assuming power in 2017. The results are before all of us. This has proved beyond any iota of truth that there is no fit leader

in the government to end this menace being a lucrative trade operated through smugglers in connivance with bureaucrats and politicians. Now, how to end this mafia rule is a challenge.

—SK KHOSLA, Chandigarh

■ MP minister who cleaned office toilet deserves applause

SWACHH Bharat Mission is a revolutionary step of the Government of India, but the government departments do not maintain sanitation in its offices. Recently, some female employees in Madhya Pradesh complained to a Cabinet minister that the toilet reserved for them in the office building is not cleaned regularly. The minister inspected the toilet and found it dirty. He cleaned the toilet and presented an example to all about the awareness of sanitation. It shows that the government officers have not been concerned about such matters. The government must take special care of public conveniences for office staffers, especially women and differently-abled employees.

—AMIT KUSHWAHA, Satna

BLOGS

of the day

ADELE SHOWS OFF HER WEIGHT LOSS

ADELE showed off her weight loss as she supported 'Queen' Beyoncé. The 'Someone Like You' hitmaker wowed with her seven stone weight loss in the photograph, where she knelt under the TV which was showing Beyoncé's 'Black Is King' visual album. Taking to photo-sharing site Instagram, she wrote, "Thank you Queen for always making us all feel so loved through your art (sic)." contactmusic.com



'FEARED WOULDN'T LIVE TO SEE 2018'

KATY Perry feared she "would not live to see 2018" if she did not change her ways. The pop star, 35, split from Orlando Bloom and fell into depression in 2017 – but Katy decided to change her lifestyle and outlook after "hitting rock bottom". The singer – who got engaged to Orlando last year – reflected, "...I had no choice but to go on this emotional, spiritual, psychological journey or I probably wouldn't live to see 2018. But love did save me." contactmusic.com

Sports Mail



This IPL can't be selection criteria for Dhoni: Nehra

'Thought England career over'

Broad had retirement in mind after being dropped from first Windies Test

STUART Broad mentions Tom Brady and volunteers that Monday is Brady's birthday. He knows the greatest quarterback in the history of American football is 42 and that he is about to turn 43.

He knows he played in four Super Bowls for the New England Patriots since he turned 37 and won three of them. He knows he won the Super Bowl when he was 41.

And he knows that even though Brady has now moved to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, America is still rooting for him.

In England, Broad thinks, we do things differently. We treat age differently. In sport, we treat age as a criminal and we try to banish the player it is accosting. And it does not matter whether the player is bowling better than he has ever bowled before and with more hunger than he has ever had and is fitter than he has ever been and whose numbers keep getting better and who wins and wins and wins.

The sub-text here is the first Test against the West Indies last month when Broad, who is 34, was startled and upset when he was dropped. The sub-text here is that when he was recalled, he responded with 16 wickets in two matches at an average of just over 10. In the course of

those match-winning performances, he became only the fourth seam bowler in history to take 500 Test wickets.

It is not that he feels his numbers entitle him to a place in the team. Broad does not get carried away with what he has achieved. He says that being among the top seven wicket-takers ever to have played the game does not put him even in the top 20 bowlers in the sport's history.

He talks about watching his great bowling partner, Jimmy Anderson, in the nets, open-mouthed in admiration for Anderson's control and skill.

"I have not really told anyone this but I was so down that week of the first Test," says Broad. "I was really low. I was stuck in that hotel. I couldn't go anywhere. It wasn't like I could go back to Mollie and have a barbecue and chill out and reassess. I wasn't playing, I was staying in a single room. I didn't sleep for two days. I was nowhere. A different decision could definitely have been made with my emotions of how I was feeling."

"In this modern world, sometimes face-to-face comfort can get lost. I have always had a huge amount of respect for Stokes and I will be friends with him for life, but what he did almost added to that. He is captain of the game, he has got a hell of a lot going on this week but he has taken the time to come and see how I am, which

I was really low. I was stuck in that hotel. I couldn't go anywhere. It wasn't like I could go back to Mollie and have a barbecue and chill out and reassess.

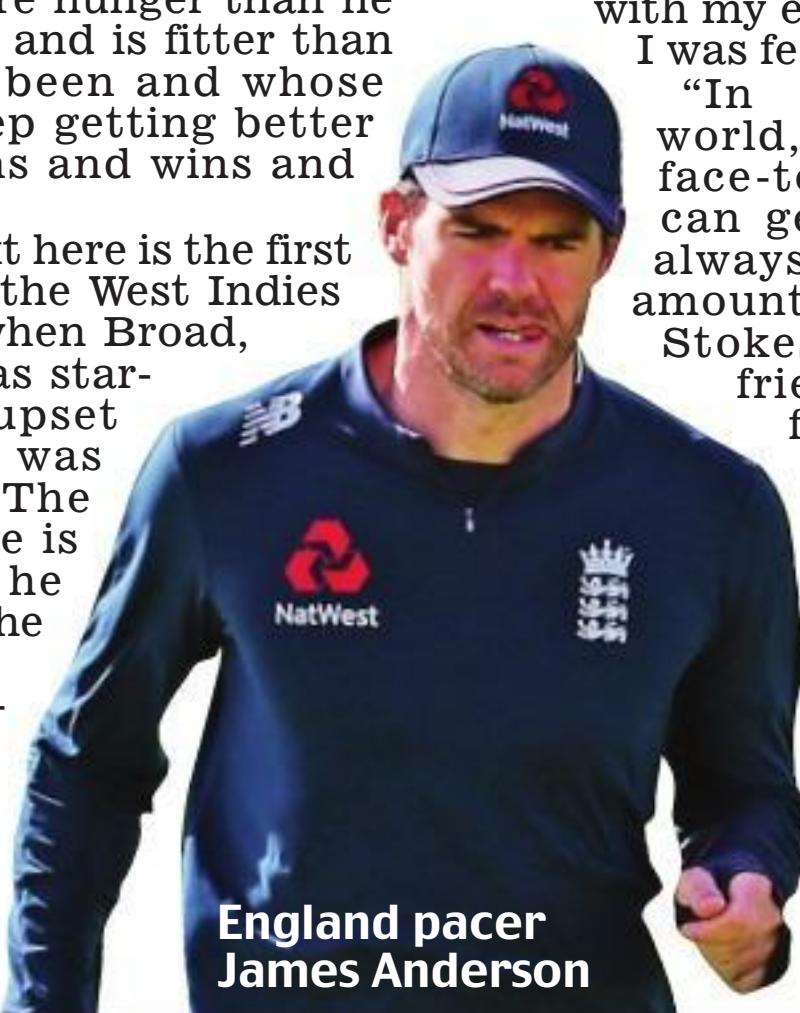
Were there thoughts of retirement going round my head? One hundred per cent. Because I was so down. I was expecting to play.

**- STUART BROAD,
ENGLAND FAST BOWLER**

almost lifted me out of a bit of a rut.

"Were there thoughts of retirement going round my head? One hundred per cent. Because I was so down. I was expecting to play, which is always a bit of a dangerous thing in sport but I felt I deserved to play. If I had had a different conversation with the coach the day after and the coach had said you are not in our plans... well if you are not in England's plans when you are bowling as well as you can, you are pretty screwed."

—Daily Mail



England pacer James Anderson

Bairstow helps England seal ODI series vs Ireland



Jonny Bairstow in action against Ireland at Aegas Bowl on Saturday night.

A PUMPED-UP Jonny Bairstow sealed a series win for England against Ireland – but Eoin Morgan's team almost made a mess of a simple chase.

Bairstow equalled his country's fastest one-day fifty, off just 21 balls, and went on to make a punishing 82 off 41. By the time he fell to left-arm quick Josh Little, England were 131 for four in pursuit of a modest 213, and well on their way to a 2-0 lead.

But Little then removed Morgan and Moeen Ali – England's captain and vice-captain – for ducks, and it needed an unbroken seventh-wicket stand of 79 between Sam Billings and David Willey to settle home nerves. Victory came with more than 17 overs to spare.

Bairstow's innings was admirably described as 'ridiculous' by stand-in

head coach Paul Collingwood. And it felt like the work of a player with a point to prove after his omission from England's Test squad earlier in the

Jonny scores

country's quickest

fifty in 21 balls

summer. As other bowlers have discovered before Ireland's, Bairstow is never more dangerous.

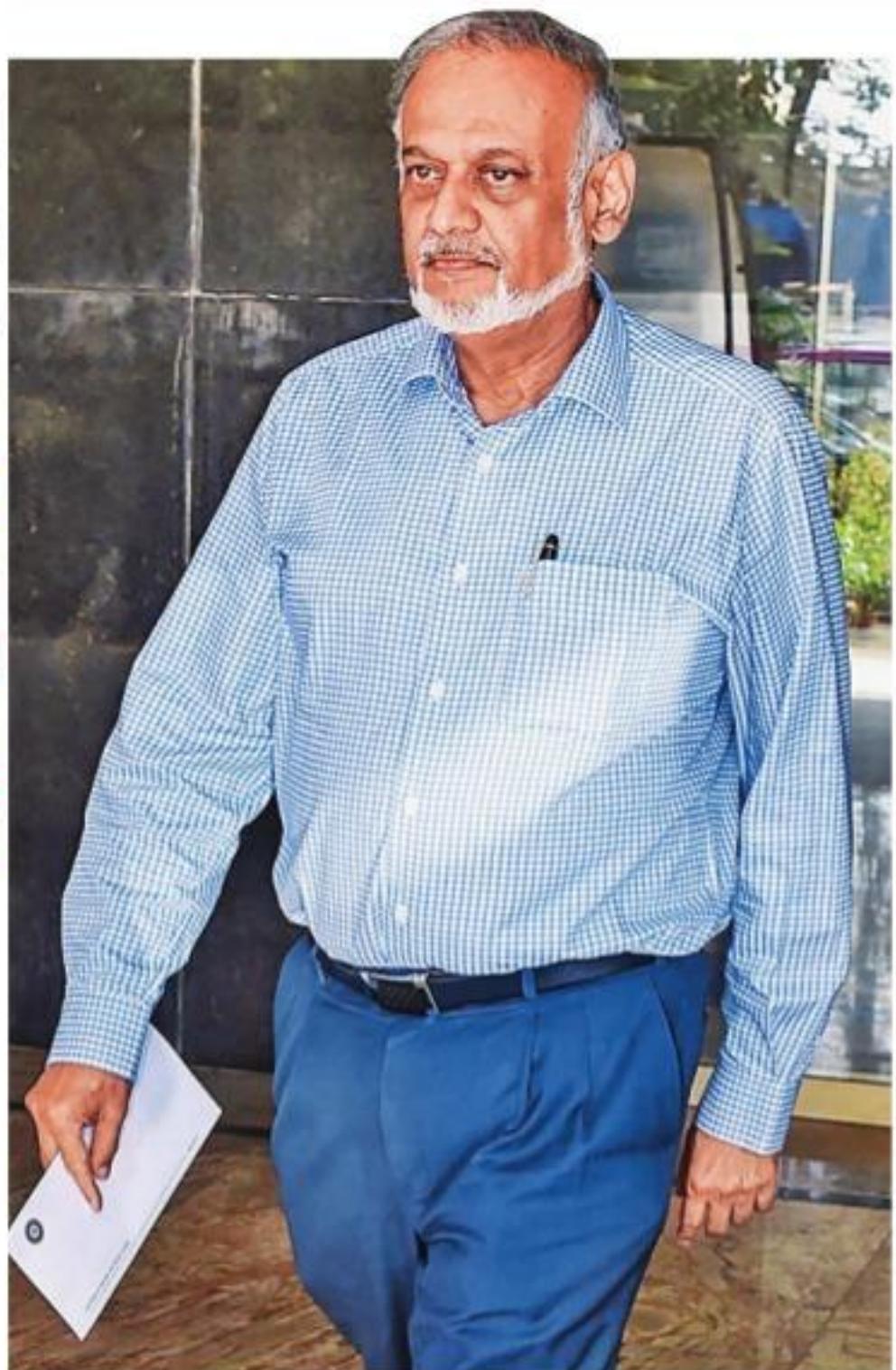
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After his opening partner Jason Roy had fallen for a third-ball duck, driving a wide half-volley from Craig Young low to cover, Bairstow crashed 14 fours and two sixes. The second of them brought him alongside Morgan's 21-ball half-century against Australia at Trent Bridge in 2018, and he was soon equalising another England record – the 72 innnings Joe Root required to tick off 3,000 one-day runs.

—Daily Mail



After returning, Stuart Broad put in match-winning performances, reaching 500 wickets.



IPL Chairman Brijesh Patel.

IPL to be played from Sept 19 to Nov 10 in UAE 'subject to govt clearances', says Jay Shah

Mail Today Correspondent in New Delhi

THE BCCI has got the green light from the Indian government to conduct this year's Indian Premier League (IPL), but the

venue is still in waiting. The IPL's Governing Council — after the meeting — on Sunday has also decided to retain all its sponsors, including Chinese mobile company VIVO, and approved COVID-19 replacements in the event.

The tournament will be played from September 19 to November 10 at three venues in the UAE — Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi — subject to Indian government approval, which is expected in the next couple of days.

IPL GC retains all its sponsors, including Chinese company

A major issue also put to rest was Chinese sponsorship of the IPL. It became a bone of contention after violent clashes between the Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh in June. India lost 20 soldiers in the showdown, causing outrage across the country after which the BCCI promised to review the deals.

After the meeting, BCCI secretary Jay Shah issued a statement, saying, "The Indian Premier League Governing Council (IPL GC) met today via video-conference to decide on the issues concerning the VIVO IPL 2020 edition. Taking note of the prevailing COVID-19 situation in India, the IPL GC decided to stage the tournament in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the matches will be played in Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi subject to necessary clearances from the Government of India," he said.

It is expected that the squad strength in terms of playing members will be 24 for the eight franchises.



YES, BUT WAIT!



BCCI president Sourav Ganguly says the Women's IPL or the Challenger series, as it is better known, is very much on, ending speculation about the parent body not having a plan for Harmanpreet Kaur and her team.

Women's IPL on time: Ganguly

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Sunday said the Women's IPL or the Challenger series, as it is better known, is very much on, ending speculation about the parent body not having a plan for Harmanpreet Kaur and her team.

"I can confirm to you that the women's IPL is very much on and we do have a plan in place for the national team also," said Ganguly.

The BCCI president, who is awaiting a Supreme Court verdict on waiver of the cooling off period to continue in the position, did not divulge details but another senior official privy to the development said that women's Challenger will be held during the last phase of IPL like last year.

The women's Challenger series is likely to be held between November 1-10 and there could be a camp before that, the source said.

—PTI

"VIVO IPL 2020 will be played from 19th September and the final will be played on 10th November 2020. The 53-day tournament will witness 10-afternoon matches starting at 15:30 IST while the evening matches will start at 19:30 IST," he added.

The Governing Council also dis-

cussed the comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which will be finalised and published in due course, including the agencies to execute and deliver a bio-secure environment for safe and successful conduct of IPL 2020 Season.

"The Governing Council also

reviewed the Player Regulations for replacement player for 2020 season. "Women's T20 Challenge will also take place in the UAE and will comprise three teams with four matches to be played during the IPL Playoff week. A meeting with the franchises will be called shortly," Shah stated.



With no confirmation, shuttlers skeptical on training resumption

By Rohit Paniker
in New Delhi

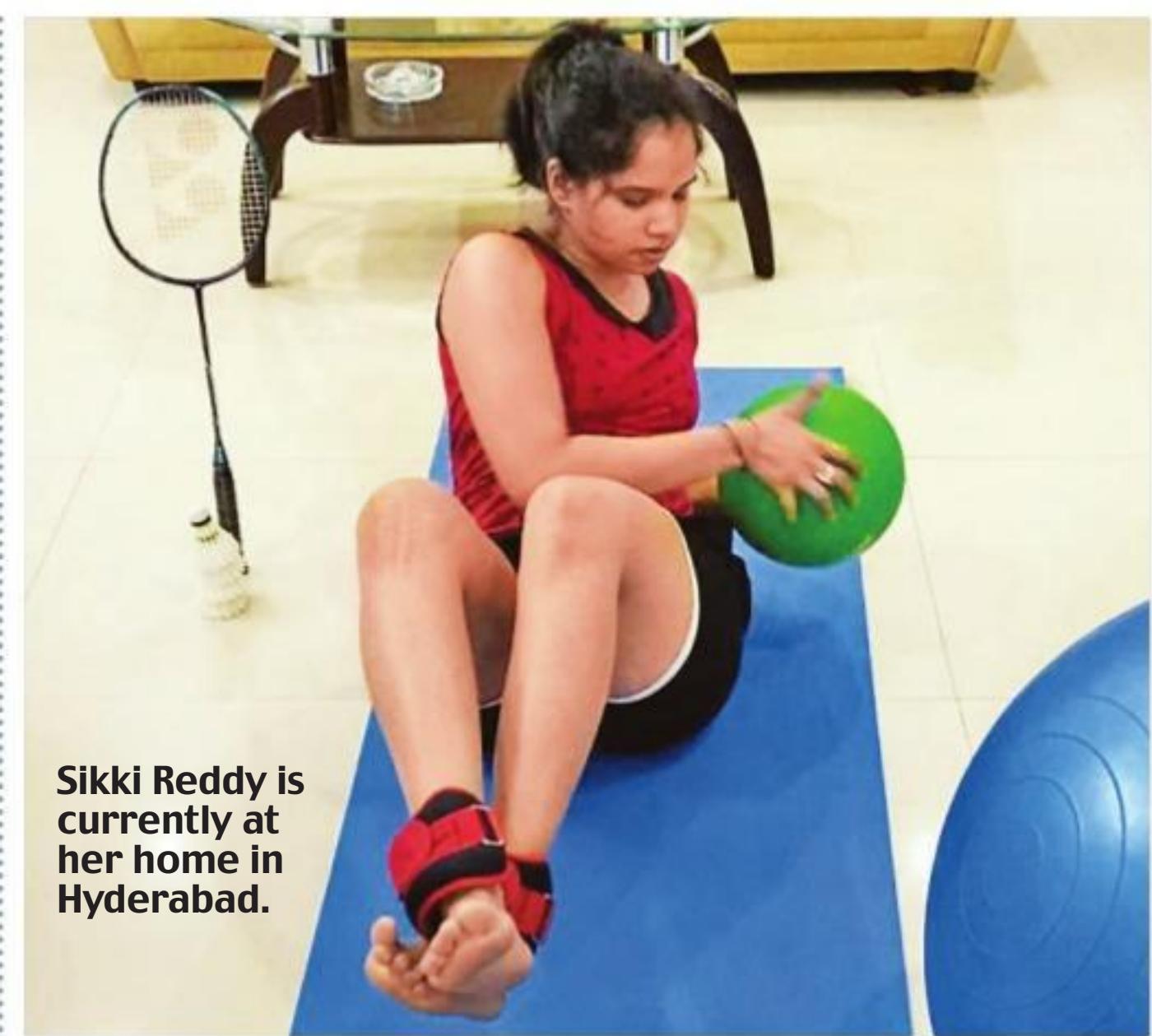
TELENGANA state government's decision to open sports academies and facilities comes as welcome news to the badminton players as they can finally resume training in bid to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics next year.

Badminton was among few Olympic sports in India waiting for the national camp to begin as a lot of time has been lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A tweet by the Badminton Association of India on Sunday suggested the training will resume on August 5.

"Badminton training will resume from August 5 as @TelanganaCMO gave green light to resumption of sports in the state," it read. And while the gates to the Sports Authority of India-Gopichand National Badminton Academy are set to open in Hyderabad this week, some of the Olympic hopefuls are skeptical as the pandemic is still raging.

According to the reports, the government guidelines instruct strict social distancing protocols, with players asked to be split into groups and allowed to train on alternate days. However, a couple of players Mail Today spoke to on Sunday have informed that they have received no official communication from the Badminton Association of India (BAI) or SAI, which is responsible for hosting the camp due to de-recognition of National Sports Federations (NSFs).

"I read somewhere about Telengana government's decision to uplift the ban on acad-



Sikki Reddy is currently at her home in Hyderabad.

emies. But I have not received any letter or message from SAI or BAI. I am yet to speak to the coaches about this as well. I won't be leaving for Hyderabad before knowing what the norms are. There is a lot to be discussed. I will consult the coaches as I live in Mumbai where COVID-19 cases are at a greater number. I don't think I will be rushing towards the camp. I have to make sure it is safe first," World No. 10 doubles star Chirag Shetty told MAIL TODAY.

It has been learnt that a meeting is set to take place this week between the coaching staff and chief coach Pulella Gopichand regarding training resumption. Guidelines pertaining safety and health and

quarantine period for players coming from outside the state will be discussed. An official date of the national camp will then be announced. Only players in race to qualify for Tokyo will be part of the national camp. "State has given permission to open facilities but we haven't got the confirmation from the academy yet. I don't think national camp will resume soon as many players are in their respective states. So, I am not sure whether it will start or not. But yes, Gopi bhaiya is saying we might open for a few players and some sparring people to help us. Once Gopi bhaiya tells us that we can come from this date, we shall go. We don't have any idea," said Sikki Reddy.

Mail Today Correspondent
in New Delhi

WORLD champion PV Sindhu, an artist on the badminton court who has used the time spent at home during lockdown and unlock to create 10 paintings on canvas, believes that all players will have to be prepared to embrace the idea of returning to play before empty stands when competition resumes.

Speaking at a webinar hosted on Facebook, featuring legends Ami Ghia Shah and Madhumita Bisht and moderated by Delhi City Badminton Association President Dr. Ameeta Singh, Sindhu said she had no doubt that while players will have to learn to maintain social distancing and strong personal hygiene, people would be scared of flocking to the stadia to watch tournaments.

Sindhu, who said social media is a good way to be in touch with fans and to feel their positive energy, support and encouragement, spoke about how the pressure of expectations increased after she won the 2016 Olympic Games silver medal in Rio de Janeiro. "It is important for people to understand that a player cannot win all matches all the time," she said.

"I have learnt to focus on the point that I am playing. Each time I step on court, I want to win but I will be happy if I know if I have given my 100 per cent," Sindhu said, adding that meditation that she has learnt over the past year has helped her a lot. "I have won after trailing by a game just as I have lost after leading by a game. I have learnt that each match is a different contest."

Sindhu spoke about how pressure of expectations increased after Rio Olympics

'A player cannot win all matches all the time'



World champion PV Sindhu.

Madhumita Bisht, who has coached Sindhu in the national team, recalled a time when the youngster was playing with a little girl and her teddy bear ahead of the semi-finals in the Danish Open. "She is still a kid and makes friends easily with everyone, irrespective of their age,"

Madhumita said. Sindhu also spoke about how she liked to dress up to be on court. "If you can carry yourself well with whatever you have chosen to wear, it gives you the confidence and creates a positive vibe," she said in response to Dr Ameeta Singh's query on her choice of apparel.

"I remember playing a couple of tournaments in all-white apparel when I was 13 or so but

I love the colourful apparel." The webinar on the Facebook page of Let the Bird Fly 2020 encompassed more than half a century of Indian women's badminton, dating back to 1968 when Ami Ghia started playing the sport as a 11-year-old. The three panelists shared dozens of national championships crowns, including 17 singles titles, among them.

**—PV SINDHU,
INDIAN BADMINTON STAR**



Golfer SSP Chawrasia.

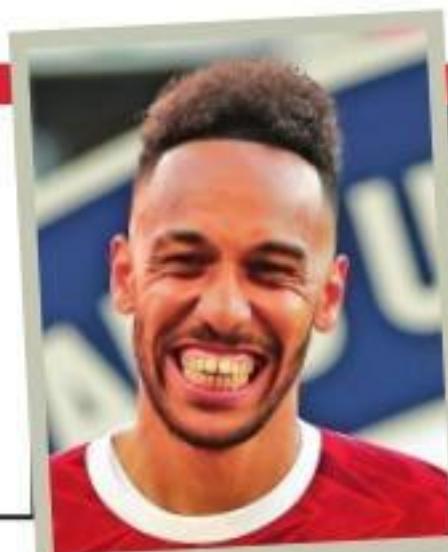
Chawrasia tests COVID positive

ACE Indian golfer SSP Chawrasia on Sunday said he has tested positive for COVID-19 and is in home quarantine in Kolkata, the result spoiling his plans to compete on the European Tour.

A four-time winner on the European Tour, including back-to-back Indian Open triumphs in 2016 and 2017, Chawrasia had started training at the Royal Calcutta Golf Course and was slated to fly to England this week.

"I did not have any symptoms as such. But for immigration requirement, I had to do the COVID test and the report came positive on Friday. I've been in home quarantine since then," the 42-year-old said.

—PTI.



Captain Aubameyang guides Arsenal to 14th FA Cup title

LEWIS LIMPS ACROSS THE LINE



Hamilton reacts after winning the race at Silverstone. (Right) Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel after the British Grand Prix.

Drama at Silverstone as Briton wins with puncture in front tyres and sparks flying

LEWIS Hamilton drove himself to yet another landmark by winning the British Grand Prix for a record seventh time – on three wheels.

From pole position, the Englishman led all afternoon to move ahead of Alain Prost, on six victories. Hamilton, 35, was in a two-horse race with his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas until the dramatic last two laps.

Bottas suffered a puncture and then Hamilton front-left went on him, too. He just limped over the line, his rubber shredded, 5.8sec ahead of Verstappen in an astonishing late twist.

The Dutchman would have won but for going in for fresh tyres to attack, successfully, for the quickest lap.

Hamilton crossed the line, just

Nico, Magnussen and Kvyat were all out of the race

ahead – a heart-stopping end after an otherwise turgid race.

Verstappen was a street ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in third. Renault's Daniel Ricciardo was fourth.

Over the years Hamilton has celebrated in style amid the cheers and flag-waving of a throbbing crowd here but this race behind closed doors was very different, the atmosphere flatter, as he accepted the prize.

This was the first of a double-header at Silverstone in successive weeks. The 70th Anniversary Grand Prix comes next Sunday, when nobody is expected to challenge the might of the black-liveried Mercedes.

The die was cast early – at the first corner, Abbey – when Hamilton held off the faster start of Bottas around the outside. He was in charge from that moment on, though he was kept



The damaged tyres on the car of Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton.



RESULTS

1. Hamilton Mercedes, 1:28:01.283
2. Verstappen Red Bull, +5.856s
3. Leclerc Ferrari, +18.474s
4. Ricciardo Renault, +19.650s
5. Norris McLaren, +22.277s
6. Ocon Renault, +26.937s
7. Gasly AlphaTauri, +31.188s
8. Albon Red Bull +32.670s
9. Stroll Racing Point, +37.311s
10. Vettel Ferrari, +41.857s

Haas's Kevin Magnussen collided at Luffield. Magnussen's race ended there and then.

The stewards blamed Albon for the smash, giving him a five-second penalty, though Magnussen, on the racing line, seemed to have left Albon with little room to manoeuvre.

The safety car came out a second time when Alpha Tauri's Daniil Kvyat went into a concrete wall at the flat-out Maggots. Running over the kerbs, he lost control, perhaps with a suspension problem or a flat rear right tyre, spun and hit the wall almost front on before being ricocheted from the gravel into the grass.

—Daily Mail



Jehan Daruvala after the F2 race at Silverstone circuit on Sunday.

Jehan takes fourth place in F2 British GP

RED Bull Racing junior Jehan Daruvala sparked at the British Grand Prix, taking a creditable fourth position in the Sprint race of the FIA Formula 2 on Sunday.

The Indian racing sensation started from behind and worked his way up the field, jumping eight places sensational in the last three laps. Jehan, in his first Formula 2 season, had to cope with an extremely competitive grid, and although he was faster than some cars in front, he

was unable to overtake due to their ability to use DRS (Drag Reduction System).

Lap 16 saw the safety car being deployed to retrieve a car. Jehan and his team Carlin took the gamble to pit for fresh medium compound tyres, just like a few others and promptly gained two places.

The moment the safety car pulled into the pits, it was a three lap dash to the finish. Last year's FIA Formula 3 second runner-up, immedi-

ately went on a phenomenal charge up the order. While attempting a move Jehan initially lost two positions to fall back to twelfth, but a few corners later he made a brave move around the outside at Brooklands and overtook four cars in one corner to move to eighth.

On the penultimate lap, Jehan overtook two more cars. He continued his charge, with a brilliant move on the last lap, to finish fourth. Local racer Dan Ticktum won the race ahead of Christian Lundgaard of Denmark. —Mail Today

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