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NEARBY



School students start profit-making ventures

NEW DELHI

As part of a pilot project under the Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum, 41 students of Delhi government's School of Excellence in Khichripur were given ₹1,000 each as seed money and asked to start business ventures of their own. On Monday, they presented the success of their nine business endeavours that had managed to make a profit.

CITY ► PAGE 2

Paswan's bust at former bungalow sparks row

NEW DELHI

Less than a year after his death, erection of a bust of Ram Vilas Paswan, former Minister and Lok Janshakti Party founder, at 12 Janpath, his official residence for more than 31 years, has sparked a controversy with some quarters alleging a possible effort by his family to continue to occupy the house. The bust was put up a few days ago.

NEWS ► PAGE 9

Mobile Internet suspended in Karnal ahead of farmers' stir

Security beefed up in the district to maintain law and order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government has suspended mobile Internet services in Karnal district from 12.30 p.m. on Monday till 23.59 p.m. on Tuesday and beefed up security arrangements in view of the farmers' proposed protest on September 7. A similar order has been issued for Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind and Panipat districts where mobile Internet services will remain suspended from Tuesday midnight till 23.59 pm.

Farmer unions have given the call for protest demanding strict legal action against the IAS officer who was at the centre of controversy over the baton charge on protesting farmers in Karnal on Au-

11 more show Nipah symptoms as 251 contacts of victim traced

Parents, kin of 12-year-old among suspected cases; 30 health workers under isolation

STAFF REPORTER
KOZHIKODE

The number of people symptomatic for Nipah infection rose to 11 on Monday, a day after Mohammed Hashim, 12, of Pazhoor, near Chathamangalam in Kozhikode district of Kerala, died of the viral infection at a private hospital here.

Health Minister Veena George told the media late in the evening that among those symptomatic are Hashim's parents, Vayoli Aboobacker and Wahida, their close relatives and healthcare workers.

"Their condition is stable. The boy's mother had fever on Sunday night, but it has subsided now," Ms. George said. The number of people on the contact list of the deceased has gone up to 251, which, Ms. George said, could increase further. Of the total contacts, 129 are healthcare workers, the Minister said. Two of them are from Malappuram and Kannur districts, because of which



Searching for the source: Health workers collecting samples for testing at Pazhoor near Chathamangalam. ■ K. RAGESH

all been quarantined at Government Medical College Hospital (MCH), Kozhikode.

"The boy was taken to at least four healthcare institutions, including MCH, Kozhikode, before being admitted to the private hospital where he died. That is why a majority of the contacts are healthcare workers," the Minister said. Two of them are from Malappuram and Kannur districts, because of which

an alert was sounded in those places on Sunday.

Special laboratory ready

The Minister said a special laboratory under the aegis of the National Institute of Virology, Pune, had been set up at MCH. It will have facilities to conduct both point-of-care and RT-PCR tests. The samples of three symptomatic persons would be tested here and those from

Vaccine in the works

Can a Covishield-like vaccine provide protection against the Nipah virus? Preliminary animal trial results seem to suggest so. In July, researchers from the U.K. and the U.S. reported that the ChAdOx1 vaccine vector, when customised to the Nipah virus, fully protected African green monkeys. ► PAGE 10

eight others were being sent to Pune. The results from Pune are expected late on Monday.

Officials from the Department of Animal Husbandry also collected blood samples and oral swabs of two goats from the premises of the deceased.

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KERALA STARTS TRACKING
FEVER DEATHS ► PAGE 5

Fill tribunal vacancies by Sept. 13, SC tells Centre

You are testing our patience, says CJI

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

A Special Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, on Monday said the court was "not interested in a confrontation" with the government, but it was running out of patience and the Centre should conform and fill the long-pending vacancies in key tribunals by the next hearing on September 13.

The Bench, also comprising Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and L. Nageswara Rao, said tribunals across the country were on the verge of collapse. Cases were being adjourned by a year. Many operated with just one member as no appointments had been made for months, if not years. "You have no respect for

the judgments of this court... You are testing our patience," Chief Justice Ramana addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the government.

Tribunals collapsing

"Everybody is happy with the quick way in which the government cleared the Supreme Court appointments... We do not want any confrontation with the government. But if you can so quickly make appointments to the Supreme Court, you can very well do so with these small tribunals. The tribunals have virtually collapsed... Why are you being so particular about the tribunals?" Chief Justice Ramana asked Mr. Mehta.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

Taliban claim total control as Panjshir resistance folds

The Islamist group warns against any further rebellion

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

The Taliban on Monday claimed total control over Afghanistan, saying they had won the key battle for the Panjshir Valley, the last remaining holdout of resistance against their rule.

Following their lightning-fast victory in mid-August over the former Afghan government's security forces and the withdrawal of U.S. troops after 20 years of war, the Taliban turned to fighting the forces defending the mountainous Panjshir Valley.

As the Islamist hardliners claimed victory, their chief spokesman warned against any further attempts to rise up against their rule while urging former members of the security forces to join their regime's ranks.

"With this victory, our country is completely taken out of the quagmire of war," chief spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.



Valley under siege: Armed fighters outside the provincial Governor's office in Panjshir. ■ REUTERS

Taliban provincial Governor vows to fight Islamic State

As a Taliban commander, he spent years battling the former Afghan government. Now, with his hard-line movement back in power, Mullah Neda Mohammad claims his forces had arrested 70 to 80 IS members since they took control of Nangarhar's provincial capital Jalalabad, the country's fifth biggest city. ► PAGE 11

individuals who are hiding," Mohammad, Governor of Nangarhar province, said, claiming his forces had arrested 70 to 80 IS members since they took control of Nangarhar's provincial capital Jalalabad, the country's fifth biggest city. ► PAGE 11

The Taliban are yet to finalise their new regime after rolling into the capital Kabul three weeks ago. As they undertake a mammoth transition into overseeing key institutions and cities of hundreds of thousands of people, Mujahid said an interim government would first be announced, allowing for later changes.

"Final decisions have been taken, we are now working on the technical issues," he said.

IT'S TIME FOR PEACE, SAY TALIBAN ► PAGE 11

Modi hails record pace of vaccination

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India is administering COVID-19 vaccines at a record pace of 1.25 crore shots a day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday, adding that the figure is higher than the population of many countries.

Mr. Modi was interacting virtually with health workers and beneficiaries of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Himachal Pradesh. He said the State had emerged a champion in the fight against the pandemic.

The success of the inoculation drive in India was due

to the spirit and hard work of its citizens, he said.

He praised doctors, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, medical personnel, teachers and women for their contribution to the vaccination campaign.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

T.N. makes it official: workers have right to sit

State govt. introduces Bill in Assembly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

It might not have all the connotations of a Rosa Parks' protest, but the Bill that the Tamil Nadu government introduced in the Assembly on Monday is revolutionary enough by recognising workers' right to sit.

Kerala is the only other State to have legislated on the 'right to sit', and that, in response to protests conducted by sections of the labour force. In Tamil Nadu, the government has taken a proactive step by introducing a legislation that will provide a chair to each worker, and a whole lot of dignity, besides helping the employees avoid the discomfort and health issues arising from remaining on their feet throughout the day.

Act to be amended

The Bill, which will benefit thousands of employees of large and small establishments, especially those working at textile and jewellery showrooms, was introduced by Minister for Labour Welfare and Skill Development C.V. Gamesan. It seeks to amend the Tamil



Work at ease: The Bill will benefit thousands, including those working in textile showrooms. ■ K.V. SRINIVASAN

Nadu Shops and Establishments Act, 1947, by adding a sub-section. The proposed Section 22-A reads, "The premises of every establishment shall have suitable seating arrangements for all employees so that they may take advantage of any opportunity to sit which may occur in the course of their work and thereby avoid the 'on their toes' situation throughout the working hours."

The subject was placed at a meeting of the State Labour Advisory Board on September 4, 2019, and was unanimously approved by the members.

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For these 'business blasters', the growth curve began from ₹1,000

Pilot project sees 41 students turn 'simple ideas' into profit-making ventures; programme will extend to all govt. schools from today, seed money will be hiked to ₹2,000

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ
NEW DELHI

As part of a pilot project under the Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum, 41 students studying at the Delhi government's School of Excellence in Khichripur were given ₹1,000 each as seed money and asked to start business ventures of their own.

On Monday, the 41 students – who were divided into nine groups – presented the success of their nine business endeavours that had managed to make a profit over the past few months.

Some business models were based on talents or hobbies that the students possessed while others were profit-making enterprises, which were born out of a need that arose during the pandemic.

Valuable skills

Judging from the skills developed by the students who created the ventures, the Delhi government is set to extend the pilot programme



Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia with young entrepreneurs; students showcase their ideas during an event in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

'Business Blasters' from September 7 to every government school where every child studying in Class XI and XII will be given seed money of ₹2,000 and will be mentored towards developing an "entrepreneurship mindset". Deputy Chief Minister

Manish Sisodia said the purpose of the programme was to create job providers and not job seekers.

He said the pilot project has shown how the children by investing their seed money pick up skills that will help them in life and that

they will never have to stand in line for a job.

"About 3.5 lakh children will be involved in this project. The purpose is to inculcate the belief in children that whatever work they do, they should do it with an entrepreneurial mindset. Stu-



dents will be prepared to invest, get rid of their fear of starting a business and earn profit. Most importantly, even if they do not make profit, then they should learn to face their failures," Mr. Sisodia said.

He added that in the last

5-6 years, the infrastructure of Delhi government schools has improved and teachers have been trained but the real achievement would be when these students emerge with an entrepreneurial mindset after completing education.

CThe purpose of the programme is to create job providers and not job seekers. Around 3.5 lakh children will be involved in this project. The purpose is to inculcate the belief in children that whatever work they do, they should do it with an entrepreneurial mindset

MANISH SISODIA
Deputy CM

Sharing their experiences, students said the project had taught them that giving up was not an option. Students said they did not need out of the box idea to start a successful business but could instead go with a simple idea.

Aryan Kharbanda, who was a part of a group of five students who started Ionals – a digital pooling solution – said they invested their seed

money of ₹5000 to purchase subscriptions to various OTT platforms and some special educational platforms, many can't afford the subscription. The project provides it at a lower cost so that everyone can enjoy the content and learn," the students said.

'Profit of over ₹20,000'
Students who came up with another business plan – Divine Creations – said they had turned their investment of ₹2,000 into a profit of ₹24,750 by selling handmade paintings depicting the cultural diversity of India.

Another venture, Mobi-site, started selling refurbished mobile phones to those who could not afford new phones and converted their seed money of ₹8,000 into a profit of ₹21,960.

'Metro saw 23 lakh passenger journeys daily in Aug.'

Over 13,000 commuters penalised by flying squads for violating COVID-19 protocol last month

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

The average number of passenger journeys on the Delhi Metro network in August has increased to around 23.36 lakh following a relaxation in guidelines that permitted a 100% seating capacity inside coaches.

The number of people penalised for not following COVID-19 protocol also saw a spike with over 13,000 commuters being fined by the flying squads.

Due to lockdown
In the past 18 months, services on the Delhi Metro were disrupted at least twice with passenger operations being first suspended on March 22 last year due to the COVID-induced nationwide lockdown.

Services resumed on September 7 last year before being disrupted again in May this year due to the second wave of the pandemic.



Commuters boarding a train at Rajiv Chowk metro station in New Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

According to relevant guidelines, travel was permitted with alternate seating and standing with social distancing in place. Following a phased resumption of services, the Delhi Metro Rail

Corporation had also deployed flying squads across the network to ensure relevant COVID protocols.

"The flying squads were deployed across the network to randomly check in-

side trains for any kind of violations and counsel people to refrain from doing so for their own and everyone's safety," said a DMRC official.

A fine of ₹200 is imposed on commuters who are found to be flouting norms, said DMRC.

The highest ridership that the Delhi Metro saw, since the first lockdown, was in March this year when over 26.81 lakh passenger journeys were recorded. According to data provided by the DMRC, the number of fines imposed in March this year was 7,058.

Between September 2020 and March this year, the Delhi Metro network saw a gradual increase in the number of passenger journeys recorded, from around 12.25 lakh in October last year to 25.55 lakh passenger journeys in February this year.

However, with the onset

of the second wave and before services got suspended on May 10 this year, the Delhi Metro network saw around 14.07 lakh passenger journeys in the month of April. Despite the dip in the number of passenger journeys, around 8,735 commuters were fined by the flying squads in April this year as compared to the 2,823 fines imposed in February when the passenger journeys were comparatively higher.

In the Delhi Metro network, which spans over approximately 391 km, currently standing travel continues to be prohibited. However, according to government guidelines, 100% seating capacity is permitted and passengers can be seated next to each other.

According to officials, this has lowered the carrying capacity of each metro coach from 300 passengers per coach to 50 passengers per coach.

It's a tradition for them. Vicky's family asked Chandoliyas to stop petting pigs," the DCP said.

In April last year, the two families quarrelled over the matter and leveled allegations of physically hurting each other.

A case was registered and members of both sides were arrested and subsequently released on bail.

In October last year, Vicki's family lodged a complaint on the matter with the municipal corporation and ensured Chandoliyas didn't pet a pig, the police said. Next, the police said the two families thereon continued with their fights.

In April this year, they quarreled again and legal action was taken against both sides. The two families continued to verbally trig-

ger each other after that, police said. On Sunday night, the two sides fought again at 11 p.m. and the accused committed the crime using a country-made pistol, Mr. Sathiyasundaram said.

While Vikas sustained a gunshot in his shoulder, Suresh got injured in the abdomen. Vikas was declared dead and Suresh is undergoing treatment.

A case on charges of murder and an attempt to murder was registered based on a complaint by Mr. Chandoliya. Vicki used to work with a bank as a cheque collection agent till May this year but is currently unemployed. Rocky runs an eatery outside GTB Hospital. Vikas was a sanitation worker at a hospital, and injured Suresh is a bad character in the area, the police said.

HC tells govt. to take steps for hybrid hearings

North-east riots case: Umar Khalid withdraws bail plea, files fresh one

Police told to respond to fresh application; hearing on Sept. 8

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The High Court on Monday made it clear to the Delhi government that if the proposal to set up infrastructure for hybrid hearings in trial courts and quasi-judicial bodies is turned down on grounds of expenditure, then it will examine expenses incurred by it on subsidies and public advertisements since April 2020.

While directing the Delhi government to take expeditious steps to provide proper infrastructure for the purpose, the HC said it was mindful that the authorities incur huge money on subsidies and advertisements.

It said the pandemic was not yet over and there was a need to adopt technology as access to justice cannot be denied to citizens and expenditure incurred on the project should be considered as essential.

'Absolutely essential'
"We don't want it to shuttle like a shuttlecock. We need the system. Courts are not able to cope. Don't consider it as a wasteful exercise. The pandemic is not yet over, you prioritise the expenditure. This is not wasteful or entertainment expenditure. It is not for luxury, it is absolutely essential. We have to adopt this technology," a Bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Jasmaint Singh said.

The High Court was hearing two pleas seeking hybrid hearings in district courts in view of the COVID-19 threat.



prosecution of adopting "dilatory tactic".

"In the interim application you have filed, you have made certain allegations that the objections taken by the prosecution are dilatory tactics. Therefore, to paint the prosecution by saying that it is dilatory tactics is not fair," the prosecutor said.

Mr. Khalid, arrested on September 13, 2020, is facing charges under the UAPA for allegedly being one of the 'masterminds' and one of the main conspirators as well as instigators behind the riots that happened in northeast Delhi last year.

Last week, Mr. Khalid had contended that the charge sheet against him contained hyperbolic allegations without any factual basis.

JNU starts phased reopening of campus

Students demand full reopening, give call for sit-in at Dean of Students office

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar on Monday said since the university has students from across the country, and many of them might be living in areas where COVID-19 is still prevalent, it was not advisable to let a large number of people inside the campus.

The university started a phased reopening of the campus from Monday, allowing on-campus final-year PhD research scholars who have to submit their thesis



by the end of this year.

Students have been demanding a complete reopening of the university as the

Delhi government has allowed educational institutions to open.

The JNUSU has given a call for an indefinite sit-in at the Dean of Students office and has appealed to the student community to participate in the protest.

They have sought immediate allotment of hostels, the meaningful phase-wise opening of the campus, universal vaccination and improvement in hostel and health infrastructure.

In a Facebook Live interaction with JNU student, Professor R.P. Singh, Rector

3 of the university, said COVID monitoring committee of the university will be discussing opening up of the campus for terminal year students of Masters courses

who have to complete their studies, especially those who need to access labs for practicals or who have to submit their dissertations.

JNU said registration for the monsoon semester will start from September 20 and end on October 3, while the classes will begin from October 4. The university also plans to conduct its convocation at the end of the month.

DU practical classes for final-year students to start from September 15

Offline mode permitted with 50% working capacity of labs

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University on Monday said laboratory and practical classes for final-year undergraduate and postgraduate students will be permitted in the offline mode from September 15 with a maximum 50% working capacity of classrooms or laboratories.

DU Registrar Vikas Gupta said a principle of rotation will be followed and only a limited number of experiments, exercises or practi-

cals, that are considered essential for the semester, will be selected. The varsity also said that physical presence will be left optional for students to decide.

"Since the physical entry of students is voluntary, attendance shall not be compulsory. Final-year students may also be allowed to join for academic consultation and placement purposes as per the decision of the head of the institution. However, it should be ensured that students not more than 50% of

the seating capacity, should be present any point," the statement read. The university reopened libraries from Monday and said in situations where the seating arrangements were not adequate, issuing of books to students will continue on a "regular basis". "The colleges, departments or centers may also consider giving prior date-time slot appointments to the students before allowing them to visit the library in order to avoid overcrowding," the notification said.

