

OPINION 6
STAND UP TO
THE DRAGON

MONEY 9
JUNE AUTO SALES ON SLOW ROAD
TO RECOVERY, STILL IN -VE TERRITORY

SPORT 12
ATLETICO HOLD BARCA
DESPITE MESSI'S 700TH GOAL

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DIGITAL BOOK
10 VIVACITY



End of road for Chinese firms

India will not allow Chinese firms to participate in highway projects: Gadkari

PNS/AGENCY ■ NEW DELHI

India gave yet another jolt to China on economic front with the Centre dumping off Chinese firms involved in road and highways projects across the country.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said the Indian Government will not allow Chinese companies to participate in highway projects and they would not be able to take part in joint ventures as well.

The Centre recently terminated a contract in Indian Railways worth Rs 471 crore with a Chinese company. BSNL too announced to terminate the contract with a Chinese company to set up 4G services. The Department of Telecom has also decided not to let Huawei to take part in 5G spectrum testing.

"The Government is going to ensure that Chinese investors are not entertained in various sectors like Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). We will not give permission to joint ventures that have Chinese partners for road construction. We have taken a firm stand that if they (Chinese companies) come via a joint venture in our country, we will not allow it," Gadkari said.

Gadkari said soon a policy would be out to ban Chinese firms from taking part in highway projects. He said the system would aim at relaxing norms for the Indian compa-



nies to expand their eligibility criteria for such projects.

Currently only a few projects which were undertaken much earlier involve some Chinese partners. Gadkari said the new decision will be implemented in current and future tenders and with respect to existing tenders and future bids. He said rebidding would be done if there are any Chinese joint ventures.

"We have taken a decision to relax norms for our companies to ensure that they qualify in bidding in large projects. I have directed the Highways Secretary (Giridhar Aramane) and NHAI Chairman (SS Sandhu) to hold a meeting for relaxing technical and financial norms so that our companies can qualify to work," he said.

Elaborating on the decision, Gadkari said if a contractor can qualify for a small project, he can also qualify for a large project. "Construction norms are not good so I have asked to change it. We are changing it so that we can encourage Indian companies," he added. According to him, qualification norms for projects are being rationalised to ensure Indian companies do not require to enter into pacts with foreign partners to grab projects.

"Even if we have to go for foreign joint venture in the areas of technology, consultancy or design, we will not allow Chinese," the Minister said.

The RTH Minister also said while the Government is

DRAGON DUMPED

- Gadkari said that the new decision will be implemented in current and future tenders and with respect to existing tenders and future bids
- The Centre recently terminated a contract in Indian Railways worth ₹471 crore with a Chinese company
- BSNL too announced to terminate the contract with a Chinese company to set up 4G services
- The Department of Telecom has also decided not to let Huawei to take part in 5G spectrum testing.

encouraging foreign investment and joint ventures in MSMEs, the Chinese companies will not be entertained for the same. He said this step is in sync with the vision of Prime Minister Modi to build a "self-reliant India" or Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Continued on Page 2

Modi quits Chinese social media Weibo

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after India banned 59 Chinese Apps, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday closed his account in Chinese social media platform Weibo. The PM joined Weibo in 2015 on his first visit to China as his favourite micro blogging site Twitter was not available there.

Modi till date published 115 posts on Weibo. According to PMO officials, though they had requested to cancel the account, Weibo was continuing the account. The PM's posts were deleted by the officials on Wednesday. Right now Modi's Weibo account is seen as blank.

Modi has more than 24 lakh followers in Weibo and many of his posts were about the India-China relations.

To block Huawei & ZTE entry, BSNL, MTNL scrap tender for 4G upgradation

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Wednesday cancelled the 4G upgradation tender of PSUs BSNL and MTNL to avoid the Chinese telecom giants Huawei and ZTE make

a bid for it. After the India-China tussle at Galwan valley, Indian officials had indicated that they would avoid using Chinese equipment in the Indian telecom network. Now DoT will issue a new tender with clauses avoiding Chinese companies.

India, China agree to ease LAC standoff

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The third round military-level talks between India and China to resolve the standoff at various places along the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh, saw the two sides resolving to "sincerely" implement the disengagement understanding reached in the first corps commander-level talks on June 6.

The Chinese establishment mouthpiece *Global Times* has painted a far more agreeable outcome of the parleys. In Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry on the third round of talks said the two sides continue working towards implementing the consensus reached at the two earlier rounds of commander-level talks and made progress in effective measures by frontline troops to disengage and deescalate the situation. China welcomes that.

"We hope the Indian side will work with the Chinese side towards the same goal, keep up close communication through military and diplomatic channels, and ease the situation along the border," it said.

India sources said India and China have stressed the need for an "expeditious" de-escalation as a "priority" and the coming days could see more meetings on the military and diplomatic level to restore peace on the border. These agreements were arrived at in the latest round of Corps Commander

Rajnath to visit Ladakh tomorrow to review ground situation



An Indian Army Chinook helicopter flies from Air force base in the backdrop of a Himalayan mountain range, amid border tensions with China, in Leh on Wednesday

level meeting on Tuesday in Chushul, Ladakh between Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin, sources said here on Wednesday. The talks lasted for more than two hours and ended late in the evening, they added.

In a related development, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit Ladakh on Friday to review the situation on the ground. He will be briefed by senior commanders of the Northern Command and is expected to visit some forward areas. He will also interact with some of the soldiers who were injured in the bloody brawl on June 15 and now recuperating at the military hospital in Leh.

It will be Rajnath's first visit to Ladakh since the face-off

began in early May. The proposed tour also comes at a time when the two sides are bolstering their troop strength besides heavy weaponry on the LAC as the repeated rounds of talks, so far, have not yielded the desired result.

Though the latest talks also remained inconclusive, officials said "Both sides have emphasised the need for an expeditious, phased and step wise de-escalation as a priority." This, the sources said, is in sync with the agreement between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in their telephonic talks on June 17 that the overall situation would be handled in a responsible manner.

Continued on Page 2

Cashless ₹2.5 lakh aid to road accident victims to obviate delay

New Govt policy to cover foreign nationals too

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to road accident victims, the Centre on Wednesday announced a provision of free cashless treatment up to ₹2.5 lakh to ensure that the victim gets immediate medical care including during the 'Golden Hour'. According to a Government notification, the policy will also cover foreign nationals if they meet with any such road eventuality.

The Road Transport and Highways Ministry has roped in the National Health Authority (NHA), which is implementing Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Aarogya Yojna, to process the claims raised by hospitals after treating the injured and will use its robust IT platform to run the scheme.

The idea of such a facility for road accident victims was first conceived in 2012 and was announced for a pilot project launch in December 2014.



Ministry will set up a Motor Vehicle Relief Fund with its own contribution and also from the General Insurance Company (GIC). GIC will bear the expenses incurred on victims due to accidents involving insured vehicles and in 'hit and run' cases. The Min will bear the expenditure for crashes involving uninsured vehicles

"The Ministry will set up a Motor Vehicle Relief Fund with its own contribution and also from the General Insurance Company (GIC). The GIC will bear the expenses incurred on victims due to accidents involving insured vehicles and in 'hit and run' cases. The road transport ministry will bear the expenditure for crashes involving uninsured vehicles," said a senior MoRTH official.

The move is considered to be significant considering that nearly 1.49 lakh people lost lives in road accidents in 2019 and about five lakh were left injured. About 15 per cent of

the fatalities are on account of 'hit and run' cases. According to a report, about 50 per cent deaths can be avoided by ensuring timely medical care to the accident victims. The official said the policy aims to bring relief to the poor who can't pay upfront to hospitals for medical care in case of accident on roads.

As per the plan, NHA will set up a dedicated cell for implementation of the scheme and settling the claims.

NHA has been involved considering its expertise in implementing Ayushman Bharat scheme.

Continued on Page 2

Maha sees 5,537 +ve; Covid count over 6L mark

2,442 new corona cases in Delhi take total tally of infected to 89,802

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Covid-19 positive case count in the country surged past the six lakh mark with Maharashtra on Wednesday alone adding 5,537 new cases of infection where the tally of the infected persons has touched 1,80,298 cases. Maharashtra recorded 198 deaths due to the pandemic, taking the tally of the dead due to novel coronavirus to 8,053.

During the last 24 hours, Tamil Nadu reported 3,882 fresh Covid-19 cases of infection where the tally of those hit by the pandemic has reached 94,049. The State recorded 63 casualties during the day, taking the death count to 1,264.

Delhi reported 2,442 new cases of Covid-19 infection, taking the tally of the infected to 89,802. As many as 81 persons died during the day, taking the tally of the deceased to 2,803.

West Bengal added 611 cases to stretch the tally of



infected people to 19,170. Fifteen persons succumbed to the disease during the day in the State that has now a death count of 683 persons.

Rajasthan recorded 78 new cases, taking the tally to 18,086. As many as 413 persons have died in the State till so far without any casualty during the day.

Karnataka added 1,272 new cases where 16,514 persons have been infected till now. Seven persons died during the day, taking the tally of deceased to 253.

Andhra Pradesh recorded 657 new cases of Covid-19 to stretch the tally to 15,252. Six deaths added up during the day to take the tally of dead to 193.

Continued on Page 2

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 6,04,808

DEATHS: 17,848

RECOVERED: 3,59,891

ACTIVE: 2,27,003

DELHI POLICE SPECIAL CELL INSPECTOR DIES OF CORONAVIRUS

NEW DELHI: A 49-year-old Delhi Police Inspector posted with the Special Cell has died due to Covid-19 at South Delhi's Max hospital. Police said Inspector Sanjeev Kumar Yadav was on ventilator support for days.

Detailed report on P2

COVID SITUATION BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL BY DELHI, CENTRE, SAYS KEJRIWAL

New Delhi: Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said the Covid-19 situation has been brought under control for now with "efforts" of the Delhi Government, Centre, but cautioned people against any complacency.

Detailed report on P3

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	1,80,298	8,053	93,154
Tamil Nadu	94,049	1,264	52,926
Delhi	89,802	2,803	59,992
Gujarat	33,318	1,869	24,038
Uttar Pradesh	24,056	718	16,629
West Bengal	19,170	683	12,528
Rajasthan	18,312	421	14,574
Telangana	17,357	267	8,082
Karnataka	16,514	253	8,065
Andhra Pradesh	15,252	193	6,988
Haryana	14,941	240	10,499
Madhya Pradesh	13,861	581	10,655
Bihar	10,204	73	7,811
Assam	8,548	12	5,832
Jammu & Kashmir	7,695	105	4,856
Odisha	7,316	33	5,353

6 men killed in TN boiler explosion

PNS ■ Neyveli (TN)

Six men were killed and 16 others injured when a boiler exploded at the NLC India's thermal plant here on Wednesday, an official said.

Home Minister Amit Shah, expressing anguish over the loss of lives, spoke to Chief Minister K Palaniswami and assured all possible help. While preliminary inputs from the explosion site said two people died, the toll has gone up to six now, the NLC official said.

"Six men have died. Sixteen people who sustained injuries have been rushed to a hospital in Chennai," he said. The six deceased men, aged between 25 and 42 years, were contract workers. The injured include employees who have sustained at least 40 per cent burn injuries.

Detailed report on P5

Coronil to be sold as immunity booster, not cure for Covid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev's Patanjali will now market Ayurvedic combination "Coronil" as immunity boosting "Covid-19 management drug" and not as Covid-cure drug as was initially announced by the promoter.

Ramdev on Wednesday said that all issues with the Union Ayush Ministry have been resolved and their ayurvedic medicine has been labelled as a Covid-19 management herbal medicine.

The Ministry accepted the yoga guru's claim saying that the herbal formulation will not be sold as cure for the coronavirus but as immunity booster to manage the disease.

Baba Ramdev said that his firm Patanjali Yogpeeth followed all due legal procedures in carrying out clinical control trials of Coronil, swasari and anu taila on Covid-19 positive patients. He also pointed out that after carrying



out successful clinical control drug trials on asymptomatic and mild patients, Patanjali is also carrying out advanced stage research on serious patients.

"Our Covid-19 immunity

boosters are solely abstract and compounds of Ayurvedic herbs like Giloy, Tulsi, Ashwagandha and have been effective in the treatment of coronavirus patients.

"Soon this Covid-19

immunity booster kit will be available across the country and we are in talks with those States also where due to some confusion the sale of Coronil was being opposed," said Swami Ramdev.

He pointed out that right through from licence seeking process, clinical trials, scientific documentation to submission of all the requisite documents pre and post trials, Patanjali followed each and every rule but undue confusion and doubts were created to malign their sincere efforts on creating an immunity boosting Ayurvedic medicine for Covid-19.

"The drug mafia, MNCs and anti-national forces want me in jail," he said.

Acharya Balakrishna, general secretary of Patanjali Yogpeeth, said that Patanjali has carried out clinical trials for more than 10 diseases like dengue, hypertension, asthma, swine flu and it's not the first time that they are conducting virology trials.

Priyanka asked to vacate Lodhi residence after SPG cover goes

Priyanka now all set to shift to Lucknow

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday was asked to vacate her Government-allocated Lodhi Estate bungalow in Delhi by August 1, as she no longer enjoys the Special Protection Group (SPG) security cover.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has told Priyanka that if she stays beyond August 1, she will have to pay penalty as per the norms. As per records, she has accumulated dues of ₹3,46,677- as on June 30, 2020. She has been issued the notice to clear these dues. Priyanka had been allotted 35 Lodhi Estate, a Type VI bungalow, in February 1997 for security reasons.



Priyanka is now all set to shift to Lucknow where she would stay at bungalow at Gokhale marg and devote her time to revive the Congress in the run-up to the Assembly polls. Sources said Priyanka had decided to shift to Lucknow at the beginning of the year itself but had to postpone her programme due to coronavirus outbreak. Her son and daughter will either stay in Gurugram or in Delhi to pursue their studies.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

SCHOOLS IN HARYANA TO RE-OPEN FROM JULY 28

Haryana: Haryana Education Department has released a letter on Wednesday mentioning about summer holidays from July 1 to July 27, 2020. The letter is indicating that schools might re-open after July 27. However, universities will remain closed until July 31, 2020.

14-DAY QUARANTINE FOR KANWARIYS IN U'KHAND

Haryana: Kanwariyas who enter Uttarakhand's Haridwar defying the ban on the annual Kanwar Yatra will have to serve a 14-day quarantine at their expenses.

9 OF KHALISTANI GROUPS DECLARED TERRORISTS

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday declared nine individuals linked to separatist Khalistani organisations, including four based in Pakistan, as designated terrorists under provisions of the UAPA Act.

Prasad asks Indian startups, tech minds to create 'Made in India' apps

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Days after the Government banned 59 Chinese apps, IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Wednesday said India must develop its own apps and stop dependence on such foreign apps.

"... The dependence on these foreign apps with their own agenda for variety of reasons, must stop," the Minister said adding that the ban presents an opportunity for Indian startups and bright young minds to leverage their intellectual capability and innovative thinking and come up with "good" "Made in India" apps.

Prasad was speaking at a conference organised by the

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology to commemorate five years of Digital India.

"In wake of the ban which we have imposed, I don't want to go into details of it... emergency power has been exercised and legal process is being followed. But I think it is a great opportunity, can we come up with good apps made by Indians..." Prasad said.

This would also offer a big scope for Public Private Partnership, he added.

"I don't have the slightest doubt...that let us take this as an opportunity that India will become a big centre of 'Made in India apps' with all the segmented requirements which we have. If we start thinking on

those lines, it is all doable," Prasad said.

He exhorted technology leaders like Nandan Nilekani (Infosys chairman), Debjani Ghosh (Nasscom president), and others to encourage large number of start ups and tech minds, to create good apps.

"... they are quite capable of doing so...I think there is tremendous intellectual capability, tech imaginative faculty available to do so..." he said.

The rise in India's app economy is "remarkable", Prasad said excluding confidence that USD 1 trillion digital economy target "is achievable".

On June 29, India had banned 59 apps with Chinese

links, including hugely popular TikTok and UC Browser, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country.

The ban, which comes in the backdrop of current stand-off along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh with Chinese troops, is also applicable for WeChat and Bigo Live. The list of apps that have been banned also include Helo, Likee, CamScanner, Vigo Video, Mi Video Call - Xiaomi, Clash of Kings as well as e-commerce platforms Club Factory and Shein.

This marks the largest sweep against the Chinese technology companies.

The Information Technology Ministry statement

had cited many complaints received from various sources, including several reports about misuse of some mobile apps available on Android and iOS platforms for "stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users' data in an unauthorised manner to servers which have locations outside India".

Meanwhile, speaking at the Digital India event, Prasad said Cabinet nod will soon be sought on policy for providing Broadband through landline.

"India is still the biggest centre of landline but they are largely untapped. So I have decided to go to the cabinet soon with all the details so that there is a proper policy in place for providing Broadband

Will boost India's integrity: US welcomes India's decision to ban Chinese apps

Washington: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday welcomed New Delhi's decision to ban dozens of apps with Chinese links, saying it will "boost India's integrity and national security."

"We welcome India's ban on certain mobile apps that serve as an appendage of the CCP's (Chinese Communist Party) surveillance State," Pompeo told reporters at a news conference held at the Foggy

Bottom headquarters of the State Department.

"India's clean app approach will boost India's sovereignty. It will also boost India's integrity and national security," he said.

India on Monday banned 59 apps with Chinese links, including the hugely popular TikTok and UC Browser, for engaging in "activities which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and

public order".

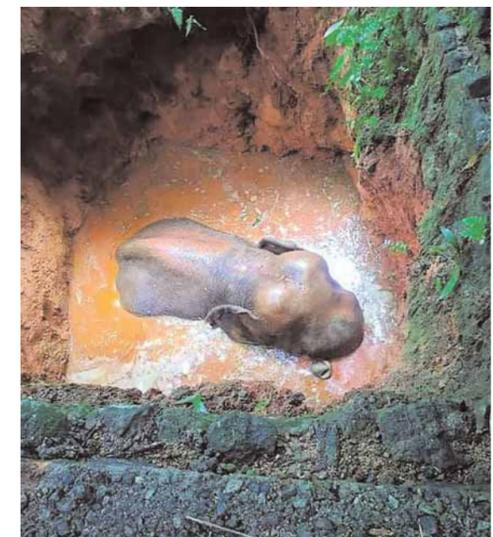
The ban also comes in the backdrop of the current stand-off along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh with Chinese troops.

The list of apps that have been banned by India also include Helo, Likee, Cam Scanner, Vigo Video, Mi Video Call - Xiaomi, Clash of Kings as well as e-commerce platforms Club Factory and Shein. Agencies

through the landline," Prasad said.

This will also allow cable operators to avail the facility to

provide broadband to the housing complexes, he added.



A wild elephant that strayed into a human settlement area, tries to get out of a well that it fell into, near Pooyankuutti in Ernakulam district, on Wednesday PTI

Cashless...

From Page 1

Nearly 20,000 private and government hospitals are on the NHA platform and this would come as a big help for quicker and successful implementation of the scheme.

The Centre had launched pilot projects on three highway stretches that provided the victim cashless treatment for up to Rs 30,000. The NH covered under such a scheme were Gurgaon-Jaipur section of NH 8, Mumbai-Vadodara of NH 8 and Ranchi-Rargaon-Mahulia of NH 33.

Another senior MoRTH official explained that a GPS enabled ambulances, connected with a central control room through a toll-free number 1033, will be stationed at distance of 20 km to transport the injured to the hospitals for treatment within the Golden Hour.

Bahuda Yatra of Lord Jagannath held without devotees

IANS ■ PURI

Bahuda Yatra, the return journey of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, was organised without devotees, here on Wednesday. The servitors pulled the wooden chariots back from the Gundicha temple to the 12th-century Jagannath temple.

Amid the beating of gongs, cymbals, blowing of conch shells, the deities were brought out of the Gundicha temple and taken in chariots in a procession called 'Pahandi'.

Lord Balabhadra was the first to set off in his chariot Taladhwaaja, followed by Goddess Subhadra in Darpadalana and Lord

Jagannath in Nandighosha.

Puri Gajapati Dibyasingh Deb performed 'Chhera Pahanna' (sweeping the chariots with a golden broom). Then the servitors pulled the chariots to the Jagannath temple on the grand road.

The Supreme Court, which allowed Rath Yatra, banned the devotees from participating in the annual festival in view of Covid-19 situation. The Rath Yatra was also held without any devotees on June 23.

The district administration had imposed curfew for both Rath Yatra and Bahuda Yatra. The deities go to the Gundicha temple during the Rath Yatra, which marks the nine-day journey of the deities from the 12th-century shrine.

Delhi Police Inspector dies due to Covid-19

New Delhi: A 49-year-old Delhi Police Inspector posted with the Special Cell has died due to Covid-19 at South Delhi's Max hospital, police said on Wednesday.

Inspector Sanjeev Kumar Yadav was on ventilator support since his condition was critical and died on Wednesday morning, they said.

He had complained of fever and breathlessness, following which he was tested for Covid-19. His result came positive after which he was admitted to the Max hospital around 15 days back, police said.

He was also given the plasma therapy and was out on ventilator since he was in a critical state, a senior police officer said.

Yadav was posted with the south-western range of the Special Cell and received the

police medal for gallantry this year for arresting a dreaded criminal — Bharat Bhusan — on May 2, 2018 after a encounter.

The accused was the kingpin of a gang which was involved in a cash van robbery in outer Delhi's Narela in which two bank employees were shot dead. The remaining four active members of the gang were also arrested later.

During his posting with the Special Cell, Yadav came face-to-face with armed criminals on no less than thirteen occasions, each of which involved an exchange of fire.

"However, owing to his courage, intelligence and professionalism, the officer ensured that all his team members remained safe while the criminals were apprehended," the police said in a statement. PTI

Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, the officer arrested dreaded criminals like Bijender, a member of the notorious Karambir alias Kala gang, and a wanted sharp shooter — Vikas alias PK of the Nandu Gang, they stated.

Yadav was also the recipient of 25 Commendation Rolls, 13 Commendation Certificates and 26 Commendation Cards issued by the Delhi Police.

He was earlier posted with the crime branch and the Railway and district units of the Delhi Police.

He enlisted in the Delhi Police on September 3, 1996 as a sub-inspector.

He was promoted to the rank of inspector on September 1, 2015 and assigned the charge of Inspector (ATO) at Tughlaq Road police station in New Delhi district. PTI

Priyanka asked to vacate Lodhi...

From Page 1

"Consequent upon withdrawal of SPG protection and grant of Z+ security cover by Ministry of Home Affairs, which does not have provision for allotment/retention of government accommodation on security ground to you, the allotment of Type 6B house number 35, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi is hereby cancelled with effect from 01/07/2020," said the ministry's notice. The notice was issued by GP Sarkar, deputy director of estate (A-1), MoHUA. According to the current norms, there are no provisions for allotment or retention of government accommodation to those with Z+ security unless exceptions are made based on recommendations given by the home ministry.

The bungalow was allotted to her despite being a private citizen on the account of Priyanka Gandhi having been a Special Protection Group (SPG) protectee. The SPG rules allow all the protectees to get government accommodation. Priyanka Gandhi, however, pays rent for the Lodhi Estate bungalow. The Modi government changed the rules for allotment of government accommodation in 2015 and made only SPG protectees eligible for government accommodation. Before 2015, even those with Z plus security were entitled for government accommodation. The security protectees will not be required to surrender their own houses in Delhi in lieu of allocation of government accommodation.

Assam's Covid tally crosses 8K

Guwahati: Assam recorded 753 fresh Covid-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the state's tally to 8,547, while the death toll rose to 12, Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Wednesday.

With 502 of the new cases in Guwahati city, he termed the Covid-19 situation in Guwahati as "most critical". Guwahati, which falls under Kamrup (Metro) district and where a complete lockdown has been imposed for 14 days since June 28 midnight, has reported around 1,800 cases so far.

"As the people are not cautious enough, that is why there is a rapid spike of coronavirus cases in the state's main city," Sarma said, noting that even after giving samples for testing, people are not isolating themselves. He also told the media that so far over four lakh samples have been tested. "The health authorities have evolved new testing methods in which sample testing report would be available in 15 minutes to one hour time," he added. Claiming his state is in the third position in testing ratio in the country, the Minister said that 11,750 tests per million are being conducted in Assam compared to Andhra Pradesh's 16,000 and Tamil Nadu's 14,000.

"Assam within the next one week is expected to cross the testing ratio of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Union Home Minister has asked me to conduct 10,000 tests per day. But this is not possible. We cannot force the people for Covid-19 testing unless they show any symptoms. We can conduct tests of maximum 4,000 samples per day in the existing 13 laboratories. Six more laboratories would be ready soon." IANS

India, China...

From Page 1

Also, the process of disengagement along the LAC is "complex", and in such a context, speculative and unsubstantiated reports need to be avoided, sources said. They said the discussions reflected the commitment of the two sides to reduce tensions along the LAC and more meetings are expected, both at military and diplomatic levels, to arrive at a "mutually agreeable solution".

At Tuesday's dialogue, the two sides also resolved to sincerely implement the disengagement understanding reached in the first corps commander-level talks on June 6, they said.

"The meeting on Tuesday was long and held in a businesslike manner keeping in view the COVID-19 protocols. The discussions reflected the commitment of both sides to reduce the tensions along the LAC," the source said.

Meanwhile, reports coming from China also said the two countries have agreed to disengage front-line border troops in batches and take effective measures to ease the situation in the border areas.

A source close to Chinese border troops also told the Global Times on Wednesday, the two Corps Commanders had a frank and in-depth exchange of views, discussed effective ways to resolve current differences in border control, and studied concrete measures to enhance mutual trust and maintain stability.

The two sides have agreed to disengage front-line troops in batches and take effective mea-

sures to ease the situation in the border areas. The source said that the military commander-level meeting showed the two sides' willingness to ease tensions on the border, and avoid further escalating the situation.

The two sides should make use of the existing border talk mechanism, abide by agreements, respect historical facts, accommodate each other's core concerns, and push for the implementation of the consensus reached through negotiations, the source said.

What is urgent now is that India should meet China halfway, strictly restrain the actions of front-line troops, refrain from taking radical moves and risks, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility in the China-India border areas, the source stressed. This was the third round of talks between the two Corps Commanders since June 6. In the previous two rounds of talks, the Indian side demanded immediate withdrawal of Chinese troops from various areas in the region and restoration of status quo ante prior to May 5.

In the talks on June 22, the two sides arrived at a "mutual consensus" to "disengage" from all the friction points in eastern Ladakh. The first round of talks on June 6 saw both sides finalizing an agreement to disengage gradually from all the standoff points beginning with Galwan Valley.

However, the situation deteriorated following the Galwan Valley clashes on June 15 killing 20 Indian Army personnel and the two sides significantly enhancing their deployments in most areas along the LAC.

End of road...

From Page 1

"For upgradation of technology, research, consultancy and other works, we will encourage foreign investment and joint ventures in MSMEs but in case of Chinese we will not entertain them," he said.

On stopping of consignments from China at Indian ports, the Minister said there is "no arbitrary stopping of goods" at Indian ports and the Government is initiating path-breaking reforms to help MSMEs and businesses in a bid to make the country self-reliant.

"It is a good step. The

imports from China will be discouraged and the country will take large strides towards self-reliance," the Minister said and added that he is among the strongest proponents of "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

There are reports that customs authorities at Chennai and Vishakhapatnam ports are conducting extra scrutiny of consignments from China.

Gadkari did not mention the name of the country from where these equipment were imported.

"Indian business has the strength and skills to grow further and power our journey towards self-reliance. Under

strong leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the Government of India is proactive and initiating path-breaking reforms that will help businesses and MSMEs," he said.

Most of these equipment, as per the information, pertain to spraying devices for pesticide control as the same had been diverted to urban areas during the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak. Amid heightened border tensions with China, Indian customs officials have started physical inspection of all consignments coming from the neighbouring country specially Chennai and Vishakhapatnam ports.

Maha sees 5,537...

From Page 1

Haryana reported 393 new cases, taking the tally of the infected to 14,941. Four persons died during the day in the State that has death count of 240 persons till now.

Madhya Pradesh recorded 268 new cases in the State with a tally of 13,861 infected persons till now.

Nine persons died during the last 24 hours where death toll stands at 581.

Bihar added 87 fresh cases of infection where count of infected persons breached the 10,000 mark. The State has 10,075 infected persons till now. Five persons died during the day in the State that has witnessed a toll of 73 persons till now.

Odisha recorded 251 new cases where the tally has reached 7,316. One death was reported during the day where

the toll is now 33.

Jammu & Kashmir added 198 new cases where the count of the infected people has now reached 7,696. Four persons succumbed due to the disease during the day to take the toll to 104.

Assam reported 140 new cases where the tally has surged to 8,548 cases. The State has recorded 12 deaths till now without any casualty during the day.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Tanmaya Nirmal S/o Late Shri Birendra Kumar Nirmal R/o 22, Aakriti Apartments 62, I.P. Extension Delhi-110092 declare that I have changed my name from Tanmaya to Tanmaya Nirmal for all future purposes. PD(8880)C

GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES
F-17, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110032
(CARE-TAKING BRANCH)
Tel. No. 22304568 E-mail: ctdhs.delhi18@gmail.com

F. No. 9/61/DHS/CT/HQ/2020-21/ Dated:-
Sub:- NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR MANAGEMENT OF HOME QUARANTINED COVID-19 PATIENTS IN DELHI

Tender (offline) is invited through NIT to be downloaded from: <http://health.delhigovt.nic.in>, from eligible suppliers/Agencies/Firms for Management of Home Quarantined Covid-19 Patients in Delhi, GNCT of Delhi for a period of three months.

SCHEDULE OF TENDER		
S. No.	Event Description	Date & Time
1.	Tender ID No.	F. No.9/61/DHS/CT/HQ/2020-21 -0051
2.	Uploading of Tender on Department website	02.07.2020
3.	Date of Publication in Newspaper	02.07.2020
4.	Submission of Bid	04.07.2020 at 11:30 am
5.	Deposition of EMD	04.07.2020 at 11:30 am
6.	Opening of Pre-qualification Bid	04.07.2020 at 02:00 pm
1.	Opening of Technical Bid	04.07.2020 at 3:00 pm
2.	Opening of Financial Bid	04.07.2020 at 4:00 pm

The details of NIT along with terms & conditions etc. is available on the department website <http://health.delhigovt.nic.in>, can be downloaded there from.
This issue with the prior approval of Competent Authority.

Dr. Nutan Mundeja
Director General Health Services

DIP/Shabdarth/0124/20-21

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE KHORDHA

B-121 Order No 752 Date 30.06.2020

1ST CORRIGENDUM TO BID IDENTIFICATION NO-03/2020-21 .

The tender invited wide Bid Identification No.SE.Khordha(R&B)Circle No.03/2020-21 dt 12.06.2020 the bid availability period date of opening of the tenders of the work "Improvement & widening of road from Kalapahar Chhak to Bidyaharpur G.P and Suando Village in Puri have been modified as follows.

Sl No.	Existing Bid Availability Period	Revised Availability Period	Bid Opening	Existing date of Bid Opening	Revised date of Bid opening
1.	01.07.2020 to 17.00 Hours of 14.07.2020	14.07.2020 to 17.00 Hours 27.07.2020	15.07.2020 at 11.30 Hours	15.07.2020 at 11.30 Hours	28.07.2020 at 11.30 Hours

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha

OIPR-34127/11/0008/2021

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender No.: 05A-TRD-NDLS-2020-21 Dated 01.07.2020

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:

1 Name of work with its Location	Replacement of failure prone brazed joint Contact wire (42 Km.) 3rd phase over Delhi Division.
2 Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 60,24,070.08
3 Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1,20,500/-
4 E-Tender Bid Online Submission period	13.07.2020 (00.00 Hrs.) to 27.07.2020 (15.00 Hrs.)
5 E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	27.07.2020 (15:00 hrs.)
6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

1465/20
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

RTCL LIMITED
CIN : L16003UP1994PLC016225

Registered Office: 8/26, Second Floor, SGM Plaza, Arya Nagar, Kanpur UP 208002
Corporate Office: 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007
Website: www.rttltd.in E-mail: rgc.secretarial@gmail.com

Intimation of rescheduling of Board Meeting from 30th June, 2020 to 31st July, 2020

With reference to the Captioned Subject cited above and pursuant to SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2013 and Vide SEBI Circular No.SEBI/HO/CFD/CMDI/CIR/P/2020/106, dated June 24, 2020, you are hereby informed that due to some unforeseen circumstances, the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company which was earlier intimated to be held on Tuesday, the 30th June, 2020 at 03:00 PM at the Corporate Office of the Company, has been rescheduled to Friday, 31st July, 2020 at 03:00 PM at the Corporate Office of the Company.

For RTCL Limited
Sd/-
(Ajay Kumar Jain)
DIN: 00043349
Director

Place: Delhi
Dated: 30.06.2020

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

Situation in Delhi improving but no room for complacency: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said that the situation in the national Capital has improved in the last few days, but there is no room for complacency. Kejriwal also said that the situation is not as terrible as it seemed like a month ago. However, people should keep taking precautions as the nature of the COVID virus is unpredictable. "COVID-19 situation in Delhi is not as 'terrible' as predicted, more people are recovering now. We have now arranged for 15,000 beds in Delhi; the testing rate has also increased and fewer people are

testing positive," Kejriwal said. He also said that it is the result of the sustainable efforts of all the agencies and stakeholders such as the doctors, nurses, agencies, and the people, that there are only 26,000 active cases in Delhi as against the earlier prediction of 60,000 cases by June 30. In Delhi, the death rate due to COVID has also decreased. There were around 125 deaths in Delhi once due to Corona, which has now decreased to around 60-65. Kejriwal said, "Around one month back, when the lockdown was lifted in Delhi, there was a sudden surge in the number of Corona cases in



Delhi. We had anticipated the rise in the number of cases, but there was an unexpected increase. During that time, the website created by the national experts for the central government used to give us the future projections of the number of Corona cases in the country after a month or after two months. According to that, our projections showed that by 30th June, there would be around 1 lakh cases in Delhi, out of which 60,000 would be active cases and around 15,000 beds will be needed in the hospitals." He further said that despite all challenges, his government did not give up. "We worked

twice as hard and sought help from whoever we could at that time. We put it in front of the people that the situation might get serious in the coming days and then I sought help from everyone. I held a meeting with all the government and private hospitals, improved the government hospitals, met all the hotels, and won the court battle against them. We met all the banquet halls owners, along with many civil society organizations and NGOs, religious organizations, and the Central government. We pleaded in front of all those who denied help at first." "I am happy today that in the last one month, through the

hard work and efforts of the 2 crore people of Delhi and all agencies, the situation that we gauged regarding what the number of cases would be on 30th June, we will compare that to today, i.e., July 1," he added. CM Kejriwal said that the Delhi government has arranged for 15,000 beds in Delhi, and 5,800 patients are admitted to the hospitals in Delhi as against that. The number of patients is decreasing on a daily basis and the number of patients recovering from Corona is constantly increasing. "One month back, around 38% of patients had recovered, and today 66% of patients have recovered. Out of 87,000 total Corona patients,

58,000 patients have recovered. There were 85,000 beds in the hospitals one month back, we have arranged for 15,000 beds in the hospitals and hotels in the city. On 23rd June, there were 39,500 cases in Delhi, and yesterday there were 2,200 new cases, which means that the daily number of new cases is also decreasing and it has been around 2,000 only for the last 3-4 days," said CM Kejriwal. "It has taken us a lot of hard work to get to the stage where we are today, we must not do anything to make things worse. Our teamwork must be intact. We must hope for the best but continue to be prepared for the worst," he added.

'Covid tally may not reach 5.5L by July end, but need to see how virus behaves in monsoon'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Dr Mahesh Verma, the head of a Delhi Government committee tasked with strengthening the preparedness of hospitals to battle coronavirus on Wednesday said that the COVID-19 tally in the national Capital may not reach the estimated number of 5.5 lakh cases by July end but one needs to see how the virus behaves during the monsoon. Verma, who is also the vice-chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, is part of a five-member committee that was constituted by the Delhi government last month for healthcare infrastructure augmentation and strengthening of overall preparedness of hospitals to battle Covid-19. Verma, however, said before making a new forecast, the number of cases should be monitored over the next couple of days. "It is only three-four days since there has been a decline. We have to keep a watch over the numbers for another couple of days and then only we can forecast. We were expecting almost one lakh cases by the end of June but we have added about 65,000 cases. A new pattern is emerging," Verma said. Verma said due to the surge, everyone became more proactive and there was increased testing, which contributed to the general management of cases. As the numbers witnessed a sharp ascend, Delhi has sig-

nificantly ramped up testing, mostly after the Rapid Antigen methodology was permitted. Verma said based on the current scenario, it looks unlikely that Delhi will see 5.5 lakh cases by the end of July. "But now monsoon is around the corner. We do not know how it will behave since it is a new virus. Earlier, we would say it would go away in summer but it never went away. Monsoon is also a reason for viral diseases. We do not know whether the viral load for those diseases will compound coronavirus. Let's wait for a few days to see whether it is a temporary decline or whether there will be any surge," he said. According to Delhi government's health bulletin figures, between June 13 to 27, there were seven days on which over 3,000 cases were reported daily.

Kejriwal, Sisodia inspect CWG Covid care centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia visited the newly established Covid Care Centre at the CWG Village in Delhi to take stock of the preparations being done to ramp up medical infrastructure in the wake of coronavirus pandemic. The 500-bedded Covid Care Centre set up by the Delhi government will be attached to the LNJP Hospital in Delhi. Kejriwal said, "As you know, a massive expansion of the number of beds is underway in Delhi. There are separate wards constructed for both men and women, and there are stay-in facilities for the doctors and nurses at this centre." He said that as compared to last month, the number of cases in Delhi is now decreasing and the situation seems to be getting under control. "I hope and pray

that the facilities created and the beds installed across the city are not required in the future, but even if they are, we are not lacking in our efforts. In case there is a spike in the number of Corona cases, we are ready to deal with it," he added. He further said, "Around 500 beds have been installed here, and the Doctors For You NGO is supporting us in setting up this facility." "Many banquet halls are being acquired in Delhi and new centres like these will also be established in the coming days. The installation of 500 beds has already been done at this centre at the CWG village. Our efforts and preparations will continue; however, the cases have considerably gone down. On June 23, there were around 4,000 new cases in a day, and now it has gone down to 2,200 cases that were observed yesterday. We may not need these many beds, but we are ready in

case they are required." The Chief Minister also said that the plasma bank established at the ILBS Hospital in Delhi will be inaugurated on Thursday. The CM also said that the Delhi government is preparing for all possible situations considering the unpredictability of the novel coronavirus as no one can predict when the cases might increase or decrease. "The increase in testing and the low positivity rate are both good signs. The recovery rate has also increased. Out of 87,000 Corona cases, around 58,000 cases have recovered. Many people are recovering in their homes. The death rate has considerably reduced in the last few days. Last month, on one of the days there were close to 125 deaths, but now Delhi's count has gone down to 60-65 in a day and we are working to reduce the death rate further," said Kejriwal.



—Ranjana Dimri | Pioneer

Rope in post-grads, pool hospital resources to deal with staff crisis: Panel

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To address the problem of shortage of staff in Delhi's hospitals amidst surge in Covid-19 cases, a Delhi Government panel has recommended roping in post-graduate students, pooling of resources of hospitals and cash incentives. According to sources, the two-member committee, comprising Dr Mahesh Verma,

vice-chancellor of the Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University and Dr BL Sherwal, director, Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (RGSSH), was formed last week. Sources said that the panel has recommended roping in young blood since senior doctors might have co-morbid conditions. "The panel submitted its recommendations to the government and they were forwarded to the Cabinet. It sug-

gested enlisting second and third year postgraduate students, interns, dental surgeons and AYUSH officers, and stated there can be a course for dental surgeons and AYUSH officers so that they can take care of non-critical patients or those with mild symptoms admitted in quarantine centres. Apart from this, the panel has also recommended pooling of hospitals' resources. For instance, if a government

hospital has more number of healthcare providers or specialists, they can be sent to work in other government hospitals that might be grappling with a shortage of staff. Nearly 2,000 healthcare workers have been infected with coronavirus in the national capital which is also one of the reasons for their shortage. Experts have also said that even though the number of beds are being increased, there need to be

healthcare providers to look after them. The two-member panel has also recommended cash incentives and commendation certificates in addition to the facilities already being provided to healthcare workers like insurance, quarantine facilities and providing them 'recommendation' for their future endeavour. It was felt that there should be some incentive otherwise they won't continue to work

indefinitely. Critical area is the main focus where the presence of healthcare workers is needed the most and the staff working there should be provided incentives. Verma said they have submitted their recommendations to the government. "We have advised the government about all the financial packages that can be given to healthcare providers -- not hire them on routine government packages but in addition

what we can do is give them financial incentives, insurance, family insurance, transportation allowance and commendation certificates," he said. The sources said that the panel has made these recommendations in terms of hiring of specialists, medical officers, dental officers, AYUSH officers, senior and junior residents, paramedical staff, multipurpose workers like nursing orderlies.

NMC notices to housing societies to submit seismic stability report

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) has issued 115 notices to schools, residential group housing societies, institutional buildings etc. to submit structural audit reports to ensure seismic stability of the buildings. A senior north Corporation official said that these notices have been issued following the instructions of the High Court of Delhi. "Residents are required to submit a structural audit report within 30 days from the date of notice with the concerned zonal executive engineer of North Corporation," he said. "The buildings shall have to be retrofitted if required as per structure audit under the supervision of a registered structural engineer within a further period of six months. Non-submission of report on time may attract strict action as per law," he said. As per the action plan notified by Delhi government in the first phase, structural safety of high risk buildings to be completed within two to three years time frame and thereafter the buildings falling in moderate and lower risk matrix shall be taken up. In the 2nd phase, the building coming under the lower risk matrix as well as those falling in the jurisdiction of unauthorised, unauthorised regularised, village abadis, re-settlement colonies, special areas shall be taken up, he added. Initially, a list of about 25 municipal buildings, other government buildings has also been prepared in the zones for structural audit agencies like IIT Delhi, DTU, NCCBM are being requested to carry out the structural audit of these buildings.

AAP protests against fuel price hike

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday held nation-wide protests against the rising fuel prices. The party volunteers led by senior party leaders protested at the party headquarters in Delhi. Delhi minister Rajinder Pal Gautam also participated in the protest. "The rising prices of petrol and diesel in the corona era have broken the back of the public. On the other hand people are losing employment due to corona and there is no relief from the Centre," he said. AAP leader Durgesh Pathak claimed that some protesters were arrested by police and kept in Rajinder Nagar police station. "In the international market, the price of crude oil has come down to \$40 per barrel, but the Modi government has not reduced the prices of petrol and diesel. Industries and common people are facing difficulty amid the coronavirus pandemic," said AAP senior

leader Gopal Rai. Prices of petrol and diesel were hiked for the 22nd time on Monday in just over three weeks. However, no immediate reaction was available from police. On its Twitter page, the AAP shared details and pictures of protests held at Raipur, Rajkot, Madhya Pradesh, Patna, Panipat and Dibrugarh in different states. Adil Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee, took to the micro-blogging website and said that party workers have been detained. "AAP workers protesting peacefully outside the BJP headquarters against the spike in diesel and petrol prices have been detained. For the last half an hour, the police are not telling where they are taking us," Khan said. Delhi Congress leaders had staged a protest across the city against hike in fuel prices, raising slogans against the BJP-led central government.

Golden Baba dies at AIIMS

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Known for wearing kilos of gold jewellery, the Golden Baba died at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Tuesday night. Sudhir Kumar Makkar, alias 'Golden Baba' was hospitalised for some 'serious illness' in mid-May this year. The baba, despite having many criminal cases against him, earned wide media attention for undertaking annual pilgrimage Kanwar Yatra along with his entourage, including several macho bodyguards and luxury cars. Makkar earned fame as 'Golden Baba' for always being adorned in gold ornaments, weighing several kilos and worth millions of rupees. The 'Golden Baba' started wearing gold in 1972, when it was less expensive. Initially he wore around 40 grams of gold which gradually increased in several kilograms. He was last seen wearing 14 kilos of gold during the annual pilgrimage Kanwar Yatra in 2019.

Man held for duping people on pretext of providing bank loans

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a man for allegedly posing as a bank official and duping a man of Rs 7 lakh on the pretext of granting him loan in southeast Delhi. The accused, Devender Singh, a resident of Ghaziabad was nabbed with the help of technical surveillance. Police has also recovered two mobile phones, four batteries, seven ATM cards, cheques, cash worth Rs 17,000 and a car from the possession of the accused. According to Gyanesh Kumar, the additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Sanjeev Kumar Gautam, a resident of Jeevan Nagar area here, reported that on June 10, a person named Ashish contacted him through mobile on the behalf of ICICI Bank for giving loan. "Ashish sent a man named Abhishek to his house to collect the KYC documents. But

Gautam asked Abhishek to collect the said documents from his factory in Okhla. Thereafter, Abhishek collected the said KYC documents along with six cheques of two banks from Gautam's factory," said the additional DCP. "The next day, when the complainant tried to contact Ashish, his phone was switched off. On being suspicious, he contacted the banks and found that Rs 7 lakh was withdrawn from his accounts via cheques. Based on his complaint, a case was registered under section of cheating and forgery at the Sun Light Colony police station," said the DCP. "During investigation, footages of around 150 CCTV cameras installed in Jeevan Nagar and Sunlight Colony area were checked and a white Hyundai i-20 car was noticed. The ownership of the car was obtained and it was found registered in the name of Devender. The contact number of the accused was col-

lected from the insurance certificate of the car and during technical surveillance, his location was traced to Rajnagar Extension, Ghaziabad," said the DCP. "A trap was laid on June 29, and the accused was held from his house. Interrogation revealed that accused came in contact with Neeraj and Kamal Sharma, both residents of Modi Nagar in UP. They cheated people using fake identity. Devender also joined them and started cheating innocent people on the pretext of granting them loan," said the DCP. "The accused admitted that he along with Neeraj and Kamal Sharma had cheated the complainant of Rs 7,00,000, by using fake identity. He received Rs 2,33,000 as his share from the cheated amount and deposited them in different bank accounts. Further, investigation is in progress and efforts are being made to trace other co-accused," the DCP added.

India ready to handle Covid: Ashwini Kumar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Pointing that India has turned this pandemic into an opportunity to ramp up its healthcare infrastructure; Minister of State (MoHFW) Ashwini Kumar Choubey said that India is ready to handle the highly-infectious disease ravaging the world. Speaking at the inaugural of 'Gratitude Week - A Tribute to Health Guardians' a first-of-its-kind live web show by Integrated Health and Wellbeing (IHW) Council, Choubey said he will consider demand of a memorial for healthcare workers who are fighting the battle from the front. The idea was endorsed by Dr Randeep Guleria, Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) who was also present at the event. Dr Randeep Guleria, director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) said that this is once in a generation experience and at a time when we were more focussed on non-communicable diseases, infectious diseases have come back with a bang - it reminds how important preparedness is. Doctors are coming out of their retirement to serve people despite knowing the risks and they accept the risks as a part of their duty, but at the same time want people to hear their concerns, protect, prepare, support and care for them. "We need to remember no man is an island - in population-based interventions, such as social distancing, cough etiquettes, masks and isolation will be important until there is a medicine or a vaccine but we can witness more outbreaks and we need to have a long-term plan to prepare for them," he said.

Corona helpline for police personnel launched

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

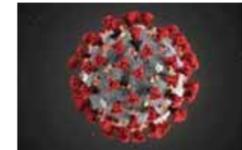
Delhi Police Commissioner, S N Shrivastva, on Wednesday inaugurated "Corona Helpline for Delhi Police" extended by Indian Medical Association (IMA) in National Capital. Police said that the helpline has been instituted in coordination with Indian Medical Association and will be available on phone numbers i.e. 9999672238 and 9999672239. The CP, Delhi thanked IMA for extending this facility

ty and also greeted the doctors on the occasion of International Doctor's Day recognizing their priceless contribution in our lives. According to Anil Mittal, the Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO), Delhi Police, the helpline is meant for Delhi Police personnel and their family members to seek medical counseling from a doctor about prevention and handling of Corona cases. "This facility will be available during working hours seven days a week. There was



a pressing need for such a facility, as Delhi Police personnel are in frontline in tackling the pandemic thereby rendering them and their family members prone to Covid-19," said Mittal. "Hence senior formations of Delhi Police including S Sundari Nanda, Special CP, Vigilance coordinated with Dr Rajan Sharma, President and Dr RV Asokan, Secretary General, IMA to arrange this facility for Delhi Police personnel and their family members," Mittal added.

States told to implement 'test-track-treat' strategy to contain virus



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the total Covid-19 case-load is all set to zoom past six lakh across the country, the Centre on Wednesday asked the States to urgently facilitate and ramp up testing to ensure quick implementation of 'test-track-treat' strategy for early detection and containment of the pandemic.

Pointing out that in some States/UTs, the capacity utilisation of the testing labs, particularly the ones in private sector, is grossly sub-optimal, Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan said States/UTs have been advised to facilitate testing at the earliest by enabling all qualified medical practitioners, including private practitioners, to prescribe Covid test, to any individual fulfilling the criteria for testing as per ICMR guidelines.

The ICMR, on its part, recommended that laboratories should be free to test any individual in accordance to the ICMR Guidelines and State authorities must not restrict an individual from getting tested, as early testing will help in containing the

Submit MRP of all med devices within 10 days: NAAP

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As the demand for pulse oximeters and oxygen concentrators is on the rise due to the increase in Covid-19 cases, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has directed all the manufacturers and importers of the medical devices to submit the maximum retail price (MRP) of the respective products within the next 10 days. The move is being seen as a bid to ensure their prices do not escalate and there is no artificial shortage of these products in the market.

The manufacturers or importers of these devices have to comply within next ten days, failing which action may be initiated for violation of provisions of DPCO 2013 read with Essential Commodities (EC) Act 1955.

A pulse oximeter measures blood oxygen saturation and heart rate. If the body is deprived of adequate oxygen supply, which happens in the case of pneumonia caused by COVID-19, it is immediately detected by the

virus and saving lives. While RT-PCR is the gold standard for diagnosis of COVID-19, ICMR has recently approved the use of a point-of-care Rapid Antigen Test for



Medical Devices

device while oxygen concentrator is the vital piece of equipment that supports severe and critical patients who cannot get enough oxygen into their blood by breathing normally.

The Delhi Government had recently announced that it will make arrangements for sending pulse oximeter and oxygen concentrators to Covid-19 patients under home isolation in case their oxygen saturation levels drop.

"This (seeking MRP from the manufacturer and importers) has been done to do price monitoring under Para 20 of Drugs Price Control

Order (DPCO)-2013 to ensure that no manufacturer/importer can increase more than ten per cent of MRP during the next 12 months," said an office memorandum (OM) issued by the national drug price regulator NPPA on June 29.

"This is with reference to the gazette notification dated March 31, 2020 wherein it was notified that medical devices which have been notified as drugs under the provisions of DPCO 2013 with effect from April 1, 2020... In this regard, this is to reiterate that with effect from April 1, 2020 MRP of pulse oximeter and oxygen

concentrator shall be monitored under Para 20 of DPCO -2013 to ensure that no manufacturer and importer can increase the MRP more than 10 per cent of MRP during the next 12 months," the order stated.

approved a total of 1,056 laboratories for COVID-19 testing. Of this, 764 labs are in public sector and 292 are in the private sector.

concentrator shall be monitored under Para 20 of DPCO -2013 to ensure that no manufacturer and importer can increase the MRP more than 10 per cent of MRP during the next 12 months," the order stated.

The NPPA had earlier also directed manufacturers and importers of medical N-95 masks to submit MRP of their products and were also asked to obtain requisite certification from Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) expeditiously.

Major manufacturers and importers of medical N95 masks have reduced their prices up to 67% of the MRP (the details of such manufacturers/importers has also been shared by the NPPA).

The WHO had on June 25 warned that many countries are experiencing difficulties in obtaining oxygen concentrators. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that "80 per cent of the market is owned by just a few companies, and demand is currently outstripping supply."

Well-fitted homemade masks with multiple layers of quilting fabric effective in reducing droplet dispersal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With masks becoming an integral accessory during the current Covid-19 pandemic, researchers have suggested well-fitted homemade masks with multiple layers of quilting fabric, and off-the-shelf cone-style masks, saying that they have been found to be the most effective in reducing droplet dispersal that could contain viruses.

These masks were able to curtail the speed and range of the respiratory jets significantly, albeit with some leakage through the mask material and from small gaps along the edges, said the researchers in their study published in Physics of Fluids.

However, they cautioned that face coverings are not a 100 per cent effective in blocking respiratory pathogens. "This is why it is imperative that we use a combination of social distancing, face coverings, hand-washing and other recommendations from health care officials until an effective vaccine is released," said Scientist Siddhartha Verma



and his team from Florida Atlantic University.

The team experimented with different choices in material and design to determine how well face masks block droplets as they exit the mouth. Using a laser to detect droplets as they were coughed and sneezed out of a mannequin head, the group was able to map out the paths of droplets and examine how different designs and materials alter that path.

The authors noted the need for further quantitative analysis but were aware of the power of more straightforward visualisation. "While there are a few prior studies on the effectiveness of medical-grade equipment, we don't have a lot of information about the cloth-

camp/ using mobiles vans in high incidence areas to collect samples of all symptomatic individuals as well as their contacts, and get those samples tested by using rapid antigen tests while attention is paid to 'contact tracing.'

coverings that are most accessible to us at present," said Verma. "Our hope is that the visualizations presented in the paper help convey the rationale behind the recommendations for social distancing and using face masks."

The group found loosely folded face masks and bandana-style coverings had little to no effect on stopping droplet jets. Well-fitted homemade masks with multiple layers of quilting fabric and off-the-shelf cone style masks proved to be the most effective. Some leakage notwithstanding, these masks reduced the number of droplets significantly.

When without a mask, the mannequins were projecting droplets much farther than the oft-cited 6 feet in social distancing guidelines. Verma said the group looks to continue studying the complex interplay that can involve droplet evaporation, ambient airflow and properties of the respiratory fluid ejected that lead to how droplets

CBI registers case against arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Wednesday registered a case against arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari in a corruption case for allegedly receiving "consultancy" fee to the tune of USD 50 lakh from South Korean firm Samsung Engineering Company Ltd for allegedly influencing award of Dual Fuel Cracker Unit of ONGC Petro Additions Ltd (OPaL) at Dahej in Gujarat.

Besides Samsung, the agency has also named Bhandari-promoted Santech International, FZC, UAE, Foster Wheeler Energy Ltd., UK, then senior manager of SECL Hong NamKoong and unknown officials of ONGC/OPaL and unknown others in a case of graft, cheating, criminal conspiracy and criminal misconduct.

Sanjay Bhandari, Director of Santech International, UAE allegedly acted in criminal conspiracy with other accused and in furtherance of the said conspiracy entered into a consultancy agreement with SECL in violation of the contract agreement between OPaL and SECL, CBI officials said.

Bhandari allegedly obtained USD 49,99,969 (approximately) from the South Korean major in the overseas bank account of Santech International in order to induce unknown public servants to show alleged undue favour to the consortium of SECL in the award of contract of DFCU project at Dahej, Gujarat, they said.

It was further alleged that the said agreement was relating to the consultancy services to be provided by Santech International FZC to SECL for obtaining the DFCU contract.

It was also alleged that Samsung had to pay 10 million US Dollars as coordination and consulting fee, with 50 per cent payable within 30 days of receipt of advance payment from ONGC and



the remaining 50 per cent was to be paid within six months of the receipt of payment from ONGC.

But on the date of agreement on October 30, 2007, the ONGC/OPaL Board did not approve the advance payment to be released to the tenderer and the tender document (BEC) did not have the provisions for making advance payment.

However, the OPaL Board in its 5th meeting held on December 17, 2007 allegedly approved the provision of advance and linked the payments to the progress of the work.

The interest free advance payment was made in contravention of CVC circular and CAG in its report has also raised objection on the same, the CBI said.

It was further alleged that the tender for DFCU project was floated on April 20, 2007 and two consortiums - Germany and South Korea-based private company and USA and India-based private company submitted their bids for the project.

The contract was awarded to the consortium of South Korea and Germany-based company at their quoted lump sum price on the basis of higher Net present value calculated by UK based company.

The consortium of the USA-based company challenged the selection. But the representation was turned down and the tender of DFCU was finally awarded to the consortium of South Korea and Germany-based company for lump sum cost of Rs 6744.32 crore and the contract was signed on February 10, 2009.

UPSC allows candidates to change their exam centres amid Covid-19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the coronavirus pandemic, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Wednesday announced to allow candidates for Civil Services (preliminary) examination, 2020, scheduled to be held on October 4, to change their exam centres.

The opportunity to change the centres will also be applicable to Indian Forest Service (preliminary) examination, 2020 which will also be held along with the Civil Services examination all over India on the same date as per the revised schedule.

Keeping in view the large number of candidates and requests received for change of exam centres, the Commission said it was decided to give them an opportunity to submit revised choice of centres.

"The option to change the centres for Civil Services (Main) Examination, 2020 and Indian Forest Service (Main) Examination, 2020 is also being made available to the candidates," the Commission said.

The requests for change in exam centres will be considered against an additional or enhanced capacity intimated by the respective centres for accommodating additional candidates.

The time window for submitting revised choices of centres will be operational in two phases -- July 7-13 and July 20-24 on the Commission's website.

The candidates are advised to visit the website and submit their choices of centres for the above examinations, if required.

The UPSC also clarified that requests for change of centres will be considered based on the principle of "first-apply-first allot" basis and once the capacity of a particular centre is met with, the same will be frozen.

The candidates who cannot get centres of their choice due to the ceiling will be required to choose centres from the remaining ones, it said.

Home Ministry names 9 Khalistani terrorists on designated terror list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Ministry on Wednesday designated nine persons belonging to Khalistani organisations abroad as Designated Terrorists. These nine persons belong to various Khalistani terror outfits like Pakistan-based Babbar Khalsa International, International Sikh Youth Federation, Khalistan Zindabad Force. Some persons are harboured in Germany, USA and Canada and London working under the banner of Sikh For Justice and Khalistan Tiger Force are also designated as terrorist.

As per the Union Home Ministry circular, the following nine persons are classified as Designated Terrorists under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. "Wadhawa Singh Babbar: Pakistan based Chief of terrorist organization, "BabbarKhalsa International". Lakhbir Singh: Pakistan based Chief of terrorist organization, "International Sikh Youth Federation".

Ranjeet Singh: Pakistan based Chief of terrorist organisation, "Khalistan Zindabad Force". Paramjit Singh: Pakistan based Chief of terrorist organization "Khalistan Commando Force". Bhupinder Singh Bhinda: Germany based key member of terrorist organization, "Khalistan Zindabad Force". Gurmeet Singh Bagga: Germany based key member of terrorist organisation, "Khalistan Zindabad Force". Gurpatwant Singh Pannun: USA based key member of Unlawful Association, "Sikh for Justice". Hardeep Singh Nijjar: Canada based Chief of "Khalistan Tiger Force". Paramjit Singh: United Kingdom based Chief of terrorist organization, "BabbarKhalsa International".

Few months back after the amendment in UAPA, India first classified four persons - Maulana Masood Azhar, Hafeez Saeed, Zaki-ur-RehmanLakhvi and Dawood Ibrahim - as Designated Terrorists.

Following the Galwan Valley incident, the government has given the armed forces "full freedom" to give a "befitting" response to any Chinese misadventure along the Line of Actual Control.

Plea in SC seeks direction to Centre to make public its trade policies with China

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre to make public its trade policies with China amid the bitter standoff between the two armies at multiple locations in eastern Ladakh for the last seven weeks.

The Indian and the Chinese armies are engaged in a standoff in various areas in

eastern Ladakh and the tension escalated after 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a violent clash in Galwan Valley on June 15. The Chinese side also suffered casualties but it is yet to give out the details.

Following the Galwan Valley incident, the government has given the armed forces "full freedom" to give a "befitting" response to any Chinese misadventure along the Line of Actual Control.

Tomar urges farmers to grow different varieties of crops

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday urged the farmers to grow different varieties of crops during Kharif season keeping in view the type of farmland in order to make farming a 'gainful activity'. In a letter to the farmers across the country, the agriculture minister has exhorted farmers to adopt best agricultural practices in an attempt to ensure maximum production in the ongoing Kharif season.

In his communication, Tomar highlighted a number of good agricultural practices including control of weeds, use of biopesticides, organic manure and vermicompost, ridge and furrow method of crop planting, seed treatment of pulses with rhizobium bacteria, balanced use of nitrogenous fertilizers along with potash and phosphorus in accordance with a soil health card, and using best irrigation methods.

Appreciating the farmers for completing their work with responsibility and dedication even during the difficult time of Coronavirus-triggered lockdown which affected industries and businesses, the Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country has been effectively dealing with the Covid-19 crisis.

He said the Rabi crops were harvested and selling procedure completed without any hindrance.

Tomar has mentioned some of the best methods of farming of paddy, the chief Kharif crop, pulses, oilseeds, coarse grains and other Kharif crops grown in the different

WB, MP, Sikkim, Manipur and Bihar perform unsatisfactorily in PMGKY implementation

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur and Bihar have performed unsatisfactorily while implementing the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) while Chandigarh, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir are among the top which lifted almost 100 per cent food grains quota under the scheme. Bihar assembly polls are expected this year while West Bengal's polls are due next year.

Interestingly, of the total 5.79 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT) Pulses dispatched, the States/UTs have been able to distribute only 4.47 LMT so far. A total of 08.76 LMT pulses (Tur- 3.77 LMT, Moong-1.14 LMT, Urad-2.28 LMT, Chana-1.30 LMT and Masur-0.27 LMT) was available.

As per the data of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Bihar distributed around 72 per cent of grain if lifted in the three months - 91 per cent of April's quota, 88 per cent of May and just 37 per cent of June's quota. In the case of pulses, Bihar has distributed 82 per cent of April's quota, 31 per cent of May, and hasn't distributed anything from June's quota. Data show that Bihar is entitled to distribute 50,655 tonnes of pulses in the three

months at 16,885 tonnes per month.

In the case of West Bengal, the state has distributed 59 per cent of its quota of grains till June 30. Of its quota of pulses, the state has distributed just 87 per cent of April's quota and nothing since. It has received almost 28,000 tonnes of free pulses out of its quota of 44,000 tonnes.

In Madhya Pradesh, data till June 30 show, around 68 per cent of the three months' allocation has been distributed. This includes 74 per cent of April's quota, 83 per cent of May, and just 48 per cent of June's quota.

In the case of free pulses, MP has distributed 64 per cent of April's quota, 48 per cent of May, and very little of June's quota. The state is entitled to distribute 35,000 tonnes of pulses at 11,686 tonnes per month and has received a little over 16,000 tonnes of pulses and distributed 15,475 tonnes so far. Chandigarh and Lakshadweep have lifted their 100 per cent food grains quota under the scheme.

Under the scheme, the Centre has provided 5 kg of grains per person and 1 kg of pulses free of cost to ration cardholders for the months of April, May and June amid the nationwide lockdown. As per the revised data under the PMGKY, for the April-June period, a total of 116.34 Lakh

Metric Tons (LMT) food grains has been lifted by various States and UTs. In the month of April 2020, 37.06 LMT (93%) food grains have been distributed to 74.12 crore beneficiaries; in May 2020, total 36.83 LMT (91%) food grains were distributed to 73.66 crores beneficiaries and in the month of June 2020, 29.64 LMT (74%) food grains have been distributed to 59.29 crores beneficiaries.

Under Atma Nirbhar Bharat package, the states and UTs have lifted 6.39 LMT of food grains. States and UTs have distributed 1,06,141 MT of food grains to 121.00 lakh beneficiaries in May and 91.29 lakh beneficiaries in June, 2020. Around 33,998 MT gram/dal has been dispatched to the states and UTs. A total 32,291 MT gram has been lifted by various States and UTs. 7,263 MT gram has been distributed by the states and UTs. The Centre is bearing 100% financial burden of approximately Rs. 3,109 crores for food grain and Rs 280 crores for gram under this scheme.

After Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) extended till November, the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs has estimated cost for distribution of food grains (Rice and Wheat) and pulses around ₹1,48,938 crore.

parts of the country. Tomar said that PM Modi has visualised an "Atmanirbhar" or self-reliant India keeping agriculture and villages at the centrestage.

SC denies bail to 'Covid +ve' convict in 1984 riots case

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Wednesday refused to entertain a plea for interim bail of convict and former MLA Mahender Yadav, serving 10 years jail term in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, on the ground that he has been admitted to the ICU after being tested positive for COVID-19.

A vacation bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and B R Gavai, in the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, said the interim bail application cannot be entertained as the family has no "grievance" related to Yadav's treatment and moreover, no relatives can visit him in the ICU where he has been treated for the novel coronavirus or COVID-19.

Besides Yadav, former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar and former Congress councillor Balwan Khokhar are serving life imprisonment in the case after the Delhi High Court

had convicted them on December 17, 2018. The counsel for Yadav said the convict was above 70 years of age and has tested positive for COVID-19 on June 26 in Mandoli jail where another convict, sharing the barrack with him, has recently died of the deadly disease.

"I do not think we can entertain this petition in absence of any specific allegation or complaint regarding treatment and also common rules have to be followed. Nowhere relatives of a patient is allowed to visit," Justice Banerjee said.

Senior advocate H S Phoolka appeared for the riot's victims and opposed the interim bail plea of Yadav.

Earlier, the apex court, on May 13, had dismissed the interim bail plea on health grounds of former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in the case saying that he did not need hospitalization as per medical report at the moment.



It had declined to entertain similar pleas of other two convicts Yadav and Khokhar.

The regular bail plea of Sajjan Kumar will now be listed for hearing in August, it had said.

Khokhar's life sentence was upheld by the Delhi High Court in 2018, while it had reversed the acquittal of Kumar by the trial court in 2013, in a case related to the killings of five Sikhs in the Raj Nagar Part-I area in Palam Colony in southwest Delhi on

November 1-2, 1984, and burning down of a Gurdwara in Raj Nagar Part-II.

The anti-Sikh riots had broken out after the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984 by her two bodyguards. The high court had also upheld the conviction and varying sentences awarded by the trial court to the other five -- Khokhar, retired naval officer Captain Bhagmal, Girdhari Lal and former MLAs Mahender Yadav and Kishan Khokhar.

RAGHUNATH INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
 CIN No.: L52312UP1994PLC022559,
 Regd Office: 8/226, Second Floor, SGM Plaza, Arya Nagar, Kanpur UP 208002
 Corporate Office: 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, SubziMandi, Delhi-110007
 E-mail: rgc.sectarial@rediffmail.com, Website: www.raghunathintltd.com

Intimation of rescheduling of Board Meeting from 30th June, 2020 to 31st July, 2020

With reference to the Captioned Subject cited above and pursuant to SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2013 and Vide SEBI Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMDI/CIR/P/2020/106, dated June 24, 2020, you are hereby informed that due to some unforeseen circumstances, the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company which was earlier informed to be held on Tuesday, the 30th June, 2020 at 03:30 PM at the Corporate Office of the Company, has been rescheduled to Friday, 31st July, 2020 at 03:30 PM at the Corporate Office of the Company.

For Raghunath International Limited
 Sd/-
 (G.N. Choudhary)
 DIN: 00012883
 Director

Place: Delhi
 Dated: 30.06.2020

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Blast in Neyveli power plant claims six lives

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A blast in the second unit of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation of India Ltd, nearly 200 km south of Chennai on Wednesday morning claimed the lives of six workers. 16 persons who suffered serious injuries have been admitted to a corporate hospital in Chennai while one person is being treated at Neyveli itself, said the company release.

This is the second mishap in two months occurring in NLCIL, a public sector enter-

prise. A blast in early May had resulted in two persons losing their lives.

According to S Gurusaminathan, Chief General Manager, NLC, the blast occurred when workers tried to restart a boiler which had been shut down on Tuesday night. On Wednesday morning, the management had deputed 17 contract workers and six permanent staff to restart the boiler. The blast happened at 9.45 am while the team was trying to start the boiler.

Union Home Minister

Amit Shah spoke to Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami on hearing about the news and assured the latter all help from the Centre. "Anguished to learn about the loss of lives due to a blast at Neyveli power plant boiler in Tamil Nadu. Have spoken to @CMOTamilNadu and assured all possible help," Shah tweeted.

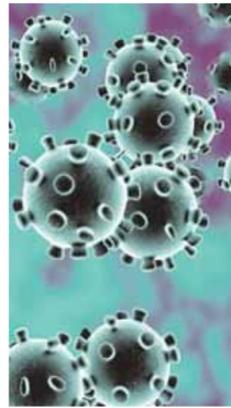
The Home Minister further said that Centre's paramilitary wing Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was already on the spot to assist the relief work.

3,882 new cases in TN, 63 die on single day

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

For the seventh day in succession, Tamil Nadu tested more than 3,000 positive cases for coronavirus while the death toll too continued to be on the higher side. On Wednesday 3,882 persons were diagnosed with covid-19 in the State while 63 patients succumbed to the pandemic on a single day.

A medical bulletin issued by the Tamil Nadu Government said the total number of persons diagnosed with the pandemic till date reached 94, 049. As on Wednesday, there were 39, 856 patients all over the State while 52, 926 persons have been cured of the pandemic till date and discharged from hospitals.



Tamil Nadu's death toll reached 1,264 on Wednesday, said the release.

Out of the 63 patients who succumbed to covid-19 on Wednesday, 55 died with comorbidities.

The State Government continued with its aggressive testing through 91 laboratories across Tamil Nadu. On Wednesday, 30, 571 persons were tested while till date 1.14 million people across the State has been tested, making Tamil Nadu one of the leading States with aggressive testing.

Chennai continued to top the list of districts with the highest number of persons diagnosed with coronavirus. Out of the 3,882 persons tested positive on Wednesday 2,182 were from Chennai. The neighboring districts of Chengalpattu accounted for 226 cases, while Thiruvallur (147)

and Kancheepuram (86) showed some decline. Madurai (297) and Salem (162) are the new cause of worry for health professionals as there has been no let up in the number of patients in these districts.

While 11, 294 persons in the 60+ age group were afflicted with coronavirus, it is the population within the 13 to 60 age group which took a major brunt of the virus in the State. 78, 138 persons in this age group were afflicted with the pandemic.

Though Tamil Nadu has been seeing the return of many expatriates and people from other parts of the country to the State, it has not caused a major issue in the State. On Wednesday only 75 persons who returned to the State from

foreign countries as well as other parts of the country tested positive for covid-19.

Dr K Kolanda Swamy, former director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Government of Tamil Nadu said the utmost care has to be observed in the present phase of the pandemic. "Avoid close contact between persons staying even in the same house. Maintain at least two meters distance if separate rooms are not available in the house. Avoid visitors and relatives. Use electronic mode of communications to the extent possible," Dr Kolanda Swamy told The Pioneer.

He said it was not fair to expect that the lock down would bring down the number of cases.

Photos of Valley boy sitting over bullet-ridden grandfather's body stir conscience

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Images of a minor boy, sitting over bullet-ridden body of his maternal grandfather, stirred a Nation's conscience shortly after two Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) terrorists, hiding in an attic of a local mosque, ambushed a CRPF party killing a jawan and a civilian on the spot while leaving three others grievously injured near Model town area of Sopore on early Wednesday morning.

Braving a barrage of fire, a Station House Officer of Sopore, identified as Azim Khan, safely evacuated a visibly 'traumatised' kid and handed him over to his family after a short gap.

Flouting all norms, the images of a minor boy, sitting by the side of a 'motionless' body of his grandparent, wail-

ing inside a policy gypsy went viral on various social media platforms.

In the last two weeks, it is for the second time the terrorists have used a religious place to target the security forces in Kashmir valley.

Two terrorists were neutralised in a Jamia mosque in Meej area of Pampore on June 19 without causing any collateral damage inside the mosque.

According to a local police officer, "the minor child was traveling in a private car with his maternal grandparent, identified as 65 year old Bashir Ahmad from Srinagar". "Bashir Ahmad was working as a contractor and was heading towards Handwara to pick someone. When he was caught in the crossfire he ran out of the car to secure a safer place

but received two bullet injuries and succumbed".

Some miscreants in Kashmir valley also attempted to launch a misinformation campaign on various social media platforms and even aggrieved family members parroted the narrative that a civilian was killed by CRPF jawans. Reacting to these reports, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar, denied all these allegations and also urged the family to appreciate the role of a police officer who saved their minor boy and escorted him to safety amidst exchange of heavy gunfire. "I want to ask them whether they were present at the site of the incident. Did they see themselves who fired"? IGP asked. He also patted the back of the SHO for discharging his duty and saving an innocent life

during cross firing.

A CRPF spokesman in Srinagar also rejected the family's allegation. "His family was not on the spot. How can they level such allegations," he said. "Bashir Ahmad was killed in the terrorist firing. He was hit by the bullets coming from the same side from where our CRPF jawans were also hit," he said.

According to a Station House Officer (Sopore), Azim Khan, "when the local police party arrived at the spot they saw injured CRPF jawans and a civilian lying in a pool of blood". He said, "we also noticed a minor boy present there. My first priority was to evacuate him to safety. We covered the area with mobile bunkers of J&k Police and CRPF to prevent the minor boy from coming in the line of fire

from the opposite side". SHO said, "we also shifted the injured CRPF jawans and one of them succumbed due to fatal bullet injuries in the hospital". SHO claimed, no one coming from the opposite direction from Handwara and Kupwara received bullet injuries. Some of the travelers had taken shelter inside local shops and we rescued several among them, none of them were hurt in the firing from our side. He claimed, "all the CRPF men and a civilian received injuries when terrorists fired upon them from inside a local mosque in the area".

Sharing sequence of events, IG Kashmir range told media persons in Srinagar, "around 7.30 a.m when a CRPF party was deboarding near a Model town area of Sopore to set up a routine security checkpoint

near Model town area of Sopore they were fired upon by two LeT terrorists from a nearby mosque".

He claimed one of the LeT terrorists involved in the attack was a Pakistani national Usman Bhai and another was identified as Nasir, a local LeT cadre.

Vijay Kumar said, "It is for the second time in the last one month, terrorists have entered inside a mosque to carry out a strike on the security forces". Security forces had earlier neutralised two terrorists in Pampore inside a mosque without causing any damage to the religious structure. He said the police party had recovered one full and one half magazine from inside the mosque soon after the attack. He also appealed to the local religious leaders and members of the masjid committees to prevent use of

mosque by these terrorists in future.

of condemning the terror attack on the security forces, the former Chief Minister and Vice President of the National Conference questioned the conduct of the security forces in his tweets.

"Everything becomes a propaganda tool in the bloody violence in Kashmir. A three year old toddler has to have his misery broadcast to the whole world to drive home the "we good they bad" message. We would have got the point without his misery being filmed & shared so please don't". In another tweet Omar said, "We would have expected no less from the men in uniform than to rescue the young boy & for that they have our gratitude but we would expect better than for them to film & use a three year

old's pain the way it's being done today".

PDP Chief, Mehbooba Mufti also posted a tweet saying, "Two versions about what caused the death of a 65 yr old civilian in Sopore. Family has held CRPF responsible for his cold blooded murder. Kashmiris are stuck in the crossfire between armed forces & militants".

Army foils infiltration bid on LoC in Rajouri

PNS ■ JAMMU

Alert jawans of the Indian Army early on Wednesday morning neutralised one terrorist while foiling a major infiltration bid along the line of control in Keri area of Rajouri.

According to Jammu based Defence spokesman Lt-Col Devender Anand, "a joint operation, based on specific intelligence inputs from J&K Police, was launched close to LOC in Keri area of Bhimber Gali sector in Rajouri district early Wednesday morning".

"Terrorists were seen crossing the LoC. Alert troops of Indian Army foiled the infiltration bid resulting in the killing of one terrorist. One AK -47 rifle with two magazines was recovered", the defence spokesman said adding the operation was still in progress.

One terrorist killed

West Bengal boy brings TikTok alternative Inosens

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls for turning hardship into opportunities here is school boy in Bengal residing not far from Kharagpur IIT who has taken up the challenge and delivered the 'goods' as well as services.

Even as Trinamool Congress MP and Bengali cine star Nusrat Jahan has attacked the Centre for its knee-jerk decision to ban Chinese apps without arranging for any back-up systems causing job losses to thousands of people, a Class XII student from Midnapore has come out with an alternative system to replace much popular Chinese App TikTok et al, sources said.

Named "Inosens" the new App was created by Priyanshu Singh a student of a private school of Midnapore not far from Khargagpur IIT and his friend Shivam Singh during the lockdown period. The App is available in the Google Play Store, sources said adding the App has been prepared along the lines of the most popular Chinese Apps.

The students of DAV Public School have created the App confirming to the cyber security laws, one was told.

The new development

comes after the Central Government banned 59 Chinese Apps amid a heavy build up along the Indo-China borders and in the wake of the neighbouring country's aggression in Ladakh border that led to 20 Indian Army men being martyred on June 15.

Meanwhile Nusrat Jahan a popular actor and TMC MP from Basirhat came down heavily on the Narendra Modi Government for banning the Chinese Apps without providing adequate backup Apps triggering a job loss for thousands of people during a period when the country was already passing through a recession on account of corona pandemic.

"The Government has taken a very rash decision by banning the Chinese Apps which has not done any good to the people many of whom have lost their jobs and that too in this pandemic times," Jahan said adding the "ban is always welcome because there can be nothing dearer than motherland but before that the people's interests should have been kept in mind by creating adequate alternatives."

Maybe India "could have approached the Googles, Nasa or whatever to get alternative Apps before taking this decision so that thousands of jobs could have been saved," she said.

Opp condemns attack on Bengal BJP chief Ghosh

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Spontaneous protests broke out in several parts of Bengal after alleged Trinamool Congress supporters attacked State BJP president Dilip Ghosh near his new residence at Rajarhat-New Town, a posh township in the north eastern fringes of Kolkata.

Ghosh alleged that he was heckled by TMC goons who vandalised his vehicle and beat up his party men. The State ruling outfit however has dismissed the charges.

Ghosh a BJP MP from Midnapore had recently changed his residence from Salt Lake to Rajarhat New Town where he was attacked while he was out on a morning walk.

"I keep changing my residence every year. I have come here very recently and was on

a morning walk. As usual I was speaking to some people during Cha Chakra --- gossiping over tea cups --- after finishing my morning-walk when some henchmen of the TMC emerged from nowhere and started abusing us... when we tried to reason out they heckled me and my security men and even beat up my party cadres. Even when I had left the place they were attacking my party people," Ghosh alleged saying party president Amit Shah too called him up to enquire about his well-being.

"He was asking as to how the goons could pierce the security ring to attack Dilip Ghosh," a local party leader said adding the Centre was taking the issue very seriously.

"Such is the condition that the Government is harassing the person who has rented me

Ghosh alleged that he was heckled by TMC goons who vandalised his vehicle and beat up his party men

the house asking him to produce all his papers, building plans and even summoning him to the Lal Bazaar police headquarters," Ghosh said.

The incident triggered a spontaneous reaction from other political parties too with Congress Lok Sabha leader Adhir Chowdhury attacking the TMC for "stooping so low as not to spare even as State president of a party."

The TMC may have ideological differences with the

BJP "but that does not mean that a senior leader will be attacked like this. Even I am opposed to the BJP's ideology but I strictly condemn this attack on the State president of that party," he said.

CPI(M) central committee member and State Legislature Party leader Sujan Chakrabarty said "TMC is the ideal party to represent lumpen politics," adding the "attack was another way of popularizing the BJP and its leaders in Bengal... This attack was mounted not for any other reasons but to give Ghosh the publicity — in a minute — for which he would have to toil hard for months."

"When the Left was in power we had stopped BJP from communalizing Bengal. But during Mamata Banerjee BJP has done this very easily. First she tried to bring them directly through an alliance but

when she failed she brought them to Bengal in an indirect manner."

The TMC however denied such charges even as their MP Sudip Bandyopadhyay said, "BJP has not reached a stage of popularity in Bengal from where we will have to beat their leaders down. The 2019 general elections was just a flash in the pan and in 2021 you will see where they stand... and they are staring defeat they are trying to create such kind of drama... the allegation is completely baseless."

Meanwhile BJP supporters came down on the streets in large numbers in Kolkata—where an attempt to march to the State secretariat was foiled by the police, Coochbehar, Hooghly, North 24 Parganas and elsewhere in protest against the Wednesday's attack.

Indian knitwear exports to lose out due to stand off with China

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Knitwear manufacturing units in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu's industrial life line that employs more than 6 lakh workers, are in trouble because of the intransigent attitude of the customs officials, according to office bearers of Tiruppur Exporters Association, the umbrella organisation of all entrepreneurs in the textile hub.

The knitwear units which scraped through a major crisis following the covid-19 pandemic because of the financial packages announced by the Centre is facing a hostile Customs Department which has refused to issue clearance certificates to consignments

meant for the industry that has from China.

The consignments include accessories and raw materials which are urgently required by the knitwear units, according to Raja M Shanmugham, TEA President.

"The concern is that this news has given doubtfulness to the buyers on the possibility of exporting of goods as per delivery schedule. While contacting the Customs Authorities we came to know that they could proceed for clearance of stranded consignment only after getting approval from the Central Government," Shanmugham said in representations he sent to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and

Union Industries Minister Piyush Goyal.

Shanmugham said the refusal of the Customs Officials come at a time when garment exports is facing severe competition in the global market from countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia apart from China. Foreign buyers are always keen to get quality product with competitiveness couples with delivery schedule," said the representation by Shanmugham.

He said any delay in delivering the products would force the buyers to categorise the Indian exporters as unreliable suppliers and this would sound the death knell of the knitwear industry in the country.

Rajinikanth condemns TN police for custodial deaths

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Though Tamil Nadu Government on Wednesday offered a job in the State service for the daughter of P Jeyaraaj, who was "killed" with his 31-year-old son Fenix last week in police custody, the tempers in civil society has not cooled down over the alleged police atrocity.

Tamil Nadu Minister Kadambur Raju called on the bereaved family on Wednesday and handed over the letter appointing Jeyraaj's daughter in the Government service to his widow.

Film actor Rajinikanth, who had made known his political ambitions earlier, condemned the action of the Tamil Nadu Police which resulted in the death of the father-son duo in police custody. "While the entire humanity has opposed the brutal killing of the father and son by torture, I was shocked at the way some policemen behaved and spoke in front of the judicial magistrate.

All those involved should get appropriate punishment. This should not be spared," the actor said in his social media posting on Wednesday. But the actor was silent about the death of Murugesan of Tenkasi who too died in police torture in Tenkasi.

What makes Rajinikanth's anger unique is that he had supported the police action in the May 22, 2018 Sterlite Rioting at Thoothukudi. Police had opened fire at rioting mob in front of the Sterlite Copper Ltd belonging to the Vedanata Group demanding the closure of the factory and this resulted in the death of 13 persons. Though human rights activists and opposition party

leaders blamed the Police for the firing, Rajinikanth took a different stance and supported the cops.

"Anti-social elements had infiltrated the protests and created trouble. The people who participated in the protests including the fishermen were innocent. The same thing had happened on the final day of the Jallikattu protests at Marina Beach in Chennai in early 2017. I will never accept policemen in uniform being attacked," Rajinikanth had said after touring Thoothukudi in May 2018.

Jeyaraaj, who owned a mobile phone shop was taken into custody by the Sattankulam Police for alleged violation of lockdown rules which had specified that shops should down their shutters by 9 pm.

His son Fenix went to the police station to find out why his father was arrested when he too was held.

The duo was taken to Kovilpatti on being remanded to judicial custody where they fell ill and were rushed to Government General hospital where both of them died in quick succession.

Though there was another case of death due to alleged torture by the police from the district of Tenkasi, the agitation had fizzled out in a day. The Government is yet to announce a solution to the bereaved family of Murugesan.

बिहार सरकार

प्राचार्य का कार्यालय

राजकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, बेतिया, पश्चिम चम्पारण

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

नॉलेल कोरोना वायरस के प्रकोप के कारण उत्पन्न महामारी की स्थिति को देखते हुए देश में लॉकडाउन सहित आपातकालीन स्थिति और चिकित्सा उपकरणों/उपभोग्य सामग्रियों की आपूर्ति श्रृंखला पर इसकें प्रतिकूल प्रभाव के कारण इस मेडिकल कॉलेज में स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं में आपातकालीन (COVID-19) स्थिति से निपटने के लिए तत्काल आधार पर स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली के निर्देशानुसार आई०सी०एम०आर०, नई दिल्ली द्वारा प्रस्तावित राजकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, बेतिया, पश्चिम चम्पारण के माईक्रोबायोलॉजी विभाग अंतर्गत Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) की स्थापना हेतु आधारभूत संरचना कार्य एवं मशीन उपकरणों/सामग्रियों की आपूर्ति हेतु मुहरबंद लिफाफे में निबंधित/स्पीड ड्राफ्ट द्वारा इच्छुक निर्माताओं या उनके द्वारा प्राधिकृत विक्रेताओं/आपूर्तिकर्ताओं एवं निबंधित निर्माणकर्ताओं/मरम्मतिकर्ताओं जो अनुभवी हैं, प्रथम निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि से सातवें दिन के अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक हार्ड कॉपी एवं सॉफ्ट कॉपी (M.S. Excel) कॉपी सी०डी०/डी०बी०डी० के साथ निविदा आमंत्रित किया जाता है। निधारित अवधि के बाद प्राप्त निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

निविदा प्राप्ति के अंतिम तिथि के उपरान्त दूसरे दिन क्रय समिति के समक्ष निविदा कार्यालय अवधि में खोला जायेगा, जिसमें निविदादाता या उनके प्रतिनिधि उपस्थित रह सकते हैं। इसके लिए उन्हें अलग से किसी प्रकार का सूचना नहीं दी जायेगी।

निविदादाता को निविदा के साथ सत्यांकर राशि के रूप में रु० 200000/- (दो लाख रुपये) मात्र प्रत्येक के लिए अलग-अलग (मशीन उपकरणों एवं आधारभूत संरचना को) किसी भी राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक का बैंक ड्राफ्ट अथवा एन०एस०सी० जो प्राचार्य, राजकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, बेतिया, पश्चिम चम्पारण के पदनाम से हो संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। दर अनुमोदित होने पर जब तक आपूर्ति/कार्य चलता रहेगा सत्यांकर राशि वापस नहीं किया जायेगा।

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नोट:- अनुभवी आपूर्तिकर्ता को प्राथमिकता दिया जायेगा।

प्राचार्य,
राजकीय चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय,
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China's proxy warriors

After Nepal, Beijing is confabulating with Pakistan to open two fronts, by moving troops and pushing terrorists into Kashmir



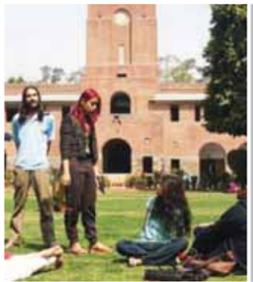
Clearly, a bruised China, which had so far been used to India cowering before its military and economic might, hadn't quite expected our Army to pay back the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in its own coin in Ladakh. And now that "Emperor" Xi Jinping, the new moniker emblematic of the Chinese President's desire to universalise the "Chinese dream," is affronted by India standing up to his grand design, he is unleashing his proxies and opening up new fronts. If Beijing got Nepal to wage a cartographic war with us, it has now deployed Pakistan, which has started moving

20,000 troops in the Gilgit-Baltistan area. This even as India and China are in negotiations to restore the status quo at Galwan Valley in Ladakh, which China is claiming to be its own and building up pressure by way of ingress, marking lands with its maps and reinforcing its presence. By bulldozing India and synchronising joint pressure points, it wants us to give up on our strategic gains and positions inimical to its interests in Aksai Chin, Xinjiang and, of course, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), part of which runs through Gilgit-Baltistan. And it is hoping for a mutual "back-off" deal. But perhaps it had not bargained for India's acquired strengths by way of improved border infrastructure and connectivity, persistence and most importantly, its practised mountain warfare that could sustain an ambush. Such is its desperation and hurt ego that there are reports of the Chinese army holding talks with terror organisation Al-Badr to incite fresh violence in Kashmir. There have also been reports about a new terrorist threat to the iconic Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai. Given Pakistan's state of the economy and its own battle with the pandemic, opening two fronts, one in Kashmir and another in the mainland, is not only over-ambitious but nonsensical. But if that is the diktat of its all-pervasive "master," it will escalate threats for India, which, too, is writhing under the spiral of the pandemic. Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), egged on by the Chinese, has reportedly stepped up infiltration in a bid to fire up the Line of Control (LoC) and contain India with a pincer attack. This is evident from the recent spate in terrorist killings in Kashmir and given the improved local intelligence, even flushouts in key terrorist strongholds. But post abrogation of Kashmir's special status, it is not being able to galvanise local militancy and is quite frustrated on that front. So the Chinese strategy seems to be wearing us out on both the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and LoC while keeping up the pretence of negotiations. The Corps Commander-level dialogue on finalising modalities for the disengagement of troops from various standoff points in eastern Ladakh lasted 10 hours on Tuesday with little to show on the ground. China is hardly interested in withdrawing from its "new claim lines" in Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso and a number of other areas, which let it keep a hawk's eye on our troop movements, without a trade-off of some sort on the ground. With Galwan, it intends to wrest the advantage it had in northern Ladakh before India built a key highway and commanded the heights.

Diplomatically, too, with the US and France offering help to India in its border crisis, China is not sitting idle. It has got its vassal States like Nepal and Pakistan to turn world opinion against India for attempting to destabilise their respective nations. Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, who is finding himself increasingly isolated within the ruling Nepal Communist Party, has blamed India for engineering a rebellion. And Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has now decided to extend his support to Oli, joining the chorus of India-bashing. Earlier Khan had blamed India for the Balochi attack in Karachi without so much as lining up credible evidence. Even China proposed a condemnatory statement in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) but was held back by other members who expressed reservations on uncalled for statements by Pakistan. The rebuff was sharp but such is China's avarice for global domination that it forgets that without peace with India, the second largest Asian entity, it cannot convince the rest of Asia about its supremacy or "dreams." Worse, it's pushing India further towards the US in a new bipolar tussle. India has to scale up its diplomacy, use its favourable image in the West and even its friendly vibes with Japan and Australia. It must make a global case for its patience despite China's ceaseless "wolf warrior" attacks. It must further use the US, which is anathema to China at the moment, to corner the latter and drive home the futility of its acquisitions at the border which might end up in a worldwide diplomatic censure. Not that it cares about goodwill but post-Wuhan, China will find it very difficult to justify its intentions or positions in world affairs. We need to use every multi-national forum, alliances and reinvigorate bilateral ties with the neighbourhood to make enough noise about the asymmetric relationship with China. Our studied silence for strategic peace has been clearly interpreted as weakness.

Virtual insanity

With no outlook on when the institutions will open, should the admission process even start?



St Stephen's College, one of Delhi University's top institutions, has been known for its strict admission process for years. Instead of solely choosing its next intake of students on the basis of marks obtained, it also conducts personal interviews in order to make the final selection. The college usually shortlists five to seven candidates for every seat and those who have endured the process will tell you that it is a gruelling personal examination. While the college has every reason to conduct the interview — giving some candidates who might have faltered a little bit in the board exams

a shot at making it — one wonders whether conducting virtual interviews in the wake of the pandemic makes any sense this year. Some teachers have argued that conducting online video interviews will be potentially unfair to those students without high-bandwidth data connections. This indeed is an issue. In fact, a much deeper one that policy-makers in the education sector will need to come to terms with in a post-COVID world. The pandemic has already undone years of economic progress made by millions of Indians to rise out of poverty. It should not be allowed to make the educational gap between rich and poor Indians even wider. Online learning is a good solution but all stakeholders, not just educators and the Government but also telecom companies and hardware makers, should try to devise solutions to ensure that this gap does not grow.

However, will it make sense to start the interview process when there is no clarity as to how the educational boards will issue results? Further, there's no clarity about when colleges will reopen. Even optimistic projections for educational institutions of all sorts reopening are predicting that this will not happen till September. The opening of schools and colleges will be a sure sign that things have returned to a sense of normalcy. But the truth is that the pandemic is still wreaking havoc on India's health-care system, particularly in bigger cities. And while Governments have managed to tame the dragon for now, a hasty reopening, coupled with social distancing and hygiene norms not being followed, could make matters worse. It might make sense for St Stephen's and the rest of Delhi University to wait until there is some more clarity.

opinion 06

Stand up to the dragon

The lesson from Galwan for India is to keep up its guard. Right now, neither the diplomatic mechanism nor dialogue will result in a breakthrough. May be a Modi-Xi summit can help



ASHOK K MEHTA

On the ground in eastern Ladakh, there is a profound lack of clarity after the Galwan fracas. It is reminiscent of China's sudden announcement in December 2010 that it did not have a border with India in Jammu & Kashmir as a prelude to signing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) agreement. In an act of defiance, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has restored its new post at the confluence of Galwan and Shyok rivers, which was destroyed by Indian soldiers, leading to the Galwan clash.

According to satellite imagery of June 25, the PLA has encroached 500 metres on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Galwan. It has continued with its build-up and blocked Indian forces from patrolling up to its LAC in Galwan, finger areas where a PLA helipad has come up, Gogra Heights, Chushul and Depsang Bulge. Except for Galwan, which is mountainous, all other intrusions are in the plain areas. All of this has compelled the Indian forces to block the PLA intrusions in strength and also occupy gaps where it could make fresh encroachment. This has turned the LAC in eastern Ladakh into a virtual Line of Control (LoC), occupied by three Indian Infantry divisions. This is unprecedented.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's original statement, where he gave a clean hit to China during an all-party meeting after the Galwan brawl — despite clarification from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and his warning last Sunday that "those casting an evil eye on Indian soil in Ladakh have got a befitting reply" — was translated into Mandarin and widely circulated. There was a method to his wordplay that "India's territorial integrity had not been violated." The articulation was strategic, meant for his electoral constituency while keeping the window open for salvaging summitry with Chinese President Xi Jinping where he is heavily invested.

Notably, Modi did not condemn China for any treachery. Instead, seven weeks after multiple intrusions by the Chinese, on June 26, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) admonished China — about amassing troops, its unjustified and untenable claims, changed behaviour, attempting to change status quo and violating border protocols. These were regurgitated the next day, which is last week, by Ambassador Vikram Misri in Beijing. The veil of denial was finally lifted.

Galwan has become the tipping point for India-China relations. But



why did we wait for 45 days to speak up and show the strength to push back or at least contain the intrusions? We have proved hopeless in the battle of narratives compared to our reactions during Depsang (2013), Chumar (2014) and Doklam (2017); though these were promulgated singly and not collectively like now.

This time, the PLA is enforcing its 1959 claim line to give depth to its strategic assets in Aksai Chin and at the same time, threatening India's new strategic highway to Daulat Beg Oldie. One reason cited for the glaring infrastructural differential, besides constraints of funds and terrain, is the erstwhile defeatist reasoning that connectivity on our side of the border would facilitate PLA in its operational plans. Former Defence Minister AK Antony revealed this last week and as a veteran, I can confirm this to be the legacy of the 1962 syndrome.

China picked up the threads of its intentions in 2010 to excise the 1,500 km border with Jammu & Kashmir, reducing it from 3,488 km to 2,000 km. Mandarins in the MEA had then said that China can lop off the LAC but it cannot remove our troops deployed in those areas. This is precisely what the PLA is attempting to do now.

Separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq had then said, as

China holds parts of Jammu & Kashmir, it is a stakeholder in the Kashmir dispute, thereby trilateralising a bilateral issue.

China occupies 92,535 sq km of Jammu & Kashmir — 5,180 sq km of the Shaksgam Valley was ceded by Pakistan in 1963 in violation of the Karachi Agreement (1949) and UNCIP (1950) and 37,355 sq km annexed in the late 1950s in Ladakh through which it built the West-East link to Tibet via the Aksai Chin. Territorially, India holds 45 per cent, Pakistan 35 per cent and China 25 per cent of undivided Jammu & Kashmir.

In his book, *India-China Boundary Issues: Quest for Settlement* (2014), late Ranjit Singh Kalha, who handled China negotiations for 12 years, wrote: "In the west, China is already in possession of territory up to its claim-line." In the eastern sector, it has to contend with the McMahon Line though it claims all of Arunachal Pradesh. The middle sector is the least contentious region. The ongoing Chinese military coercion in Ladakh is extending further towards the west — its control of the 1959 claim-line and the move to enhance security to CPEC, which India has termed "illegal passage through Indian territory."

India's new map following the revocation of Article 370 shows the Aksai Chin within

the boundary of Ladakh. Kalha adds, "The major differences in determining LAC in the western sector are Samar Lungpa, Trig Heights, Depsang, Kongkla Pass, Pangong Tso, Spanggur Gap, Mount Sajun, Dimachele, Demchok and Chumar."

The Galwan River Valley was never one of them in the western sector among the 23 contested areas overall. So whatever be China's geopolitical compulsions for its aggressive behaviour, the centrality of Ladakh — renunciation of the border with Jammu & Kashmir and multiple and interlinked intrusions as *fait accompli* — is clear.

Few Indians are calling for retribution, adding China is not Pakistan. It is insane to start a conflict — in the middle of a deadly pandemic that is yet to peak in India — which you cannot terminate on your terms given the power differential and its potential to turn into a two-front situation.

Equally, it is unwise to over-emphasise the battle experience variables between the war-tested Indian military and a Vietnam-bruised PLA in 1979. Still, the PLA has decisive force multipliers, modern weaponry and is led by Xi. This is not to suggest that the PLA cannot be given a bloody nose if push comes to shove, a *Nathu La à la 1967* can be repeated. But India should

choose its moment and not be sucked into a Galwan-like trap again.

We have stopped the bleeding but during negotiations, we must not lose key terrain in the Galwan River Valley. Like Pakistan forced the Siachenisation of Kargil, China may succeed in India's militarisation of the LAC, turning it into a *de facto* LoC at enormous cost for India. There is much India can do to raise the stakes diplomatically but turning adversary into enemy has to be calibrated. On the trade and economic front, pragmatism and not emotions should dictate policy, avoiding overplaying *atmanirbharta*.

Taking down Chinese apps will incur costs. The lesson from Galwan is to keep up your guard. Right now, neither the diplomatic Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) mechanism nor military commanders dialogue — third round was held on Tuesday — will result in a breakthrough: Disengagement terminating in status quo ante on May 5. Maybe a Modi-Xi summit can hope to achieve it if troops in inadequate habitat are to avoid a harsh winter at 17,000 ft.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander IPKF South, Sri Lanka and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff.)

SOUNDBITE

In the wake of the ban which we have imposed...I think it is a great opportunity. Let the dependence on foreign apps, with their own agenda for a variety of reasons, stop.

Union Minister
—Ravi Shankar Prasad



No one will stop, saying 'one is allowed, two can't, so we won't go to work.' We have to find a way under the guidelines. Nobody wants to stop working now.

Actor
—Taapsee Pannu



As I watch the pandemic spread its ugly face all across the world, including the tremendous damage it has done to the US, I become more angry at China.

US President
—Donald Trump



It is a subject of the External Affairs department, we will support the Government stand... But we have to be very aggressive and at the same time use the diplomatic channel.

West Bengal CM
—Mamata Banerjee



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Police brutality

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Crying shame" (June 29). The custodial death of two traders in Tamil Nadu is the latest example of how police brutality results in the loss of life. Undeniably, the case will be investigated by an autonomous high power body. The State Government wants the CBI to probe the case. It is the responsibility of the investigative body to fix accountability.

But the current system of probe itself is farcical. Retention of the guilty in service with nominal penalties like transfer is an open secret. Police forces are supposed to be the watchdog of the people but the law and order system is such that the officials feel emboldened and flout due process and perpetrate violence on citizens. According to data submitted by State police before Madras High Court, there were 157 custodial deaths in Tamil Nadu between 2012 and 2016. While an impartial probe is a must, the State Government must send out the message that police excesses will not be tolerated.

TKM Kumbalamchuvattil
Muvattupuzha

Why a ban is not enough

This refers to the editorial, "Ban on China apps" (July 1). The digital strike by the Government of India, banning TikTok, SHAREit, UC Browser, Shein and many such Chinese apps is a welcome call. But this has resulted in creating a privacy breach issue for the citizens than being a response to the India-China military clashes along the border. Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, empowers the Government to block any content in the interest of the country. Some of these apps were allegedly exploiting personal information.

Having said that, app bans are notoriously hard to execute. Usually app firms upload their official versions on Apple App and Google Play store. Even after these applications are removed from such platforms, their unofficial versions are still available on the web and are easily downloadable. So, it would require internet service providers to blacklist every host and domain name associated with these apps. This poses further security threats and may be exploited by hackers and cyber criminals.

China must mend ways

Sir — Be it concerns regarding the sovereignty and integrity of India or mounting anti-China sentiments, the Indian Government's move to ban 59 Chinese apps, including TikTok, is welcome.

It has been argued that the



Also, just a simple ban won't work. Since many of these apps have marked prominence in our routine life, so relevant and similarly efficient alternatives are a must. People should be enlightened about substitutes for these applications, which are already available. Besides, our tech industry should develop unique indigenous replacements, which are user-friendly.

Ravi Teja Kathuripalli
Hyderabad

Act responsibly

Sir — Amid continuing stalemate between India and China along the LAC, sparring between the two main parties, the Congress and the BJP, has refused to die down. Both parties have accused each other of being in league with the Chinese. It is ironic that in the face of a serious external threat, our leaders have stooped to ridiculous levels, becoming a laughing stock of the world.

As a matter of fact, both the UPA and the present BJP Government are guilty of under-estimating the threat posed by China. Instead of lampooning each other, political leaders must wake up to the gravity of the situation and act as responsible legislators. The time has come for us to collectively introspect, take stock of the situation and build a national security strategy to counter the Chinese threat. Political leaders must learn how to deal with democratic differences with dignity.

Venu GS
Kollam

Mayank Khatri
Ujjain

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Welfare of migrants is key

Employers need to be humane and must be dealt with strictly if they fail to take care of workers in emergencies, like they did during the pandemic



VK BAHUGUNA

India went into a nationwide lockdown on March 24 to combat the Coronavirus pandemic and the entire Government machinery was galvanised by invoking the National Disaster Management Act. However, the sudden shutdown announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi created a serious governance and humanitarian crisis as panicked migratory workers in metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Ahmedabad set out for their home States on foot. The Government, before announcing the lockdown, should have asked the Labour Ministry to plan an exit route for migratory workers who are the backbone of urban India's economy. But that was not done, leading to endless suffering for the migrant workers.

Bureaucrats enjoy tremendous clout in running the Government and advising politicians, but in this case the Government machinery, from top to bottom was in deep slumber and failed to visualise the enormity of the problem. The district-level bureaucracy however, did extremely well in properly visualising and enforcing the lockdown and contained the pandemic to a certain extent. Had the migratory workers been tackled carefully, the virus would not have spread to rural India. For over two months there was chaos on the roads as nervous labourers and daily wage workers, who lead a hand-to-mouth existence, decided to go home and cover hundreds of kilometres on foot. As a result, many died midway due to hunger, thirst, fatigue and some died in horrific road and railway accidents.

The Prime Minister and the Centre realised their mistakes quite late in the day and started running special Shramik trains to ferry the migrant workers to their hometowns, just as they began a phase-wise easing of the lockdown. As a consequence, the returning migrant workers spread the virus in their respective States. For example, in Uttarakhnad there were only a few cases of COVID-19 in Dehradun and Haridwar earlier. But now the whole State is witnessing a daily spike in cases. This could have been avoided with foresight.

Most of the migrants fall in the category of the unorganised workforce and are employed by enterprises owned by individuals. Some are self-employed workers engaged in the production, sale of goods or provide services of any kind. This also includes a worker in the organised sector who is not covered by any Acts mentioned in Schedule II of the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Government enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 to protect them but the mandarins of labour and other Ministries failed to implement the provisions. It is estimated that ₹31,000 crore is available under this Act for building and construction workers. Similarly, labour welfare funds are also available.

Before announcing the lockdown, the Central Government should have asked all the migratory labourers to register at the nearest Government office and prepared an online list of such people living in the cities with the help of the State machinery. Based on this list, the funds available for the welfare of labour could have been utilised to retain them at their work stations. The employers should have been asked to pay their salaries for at least three-four months, with some support from the Government. Now, the Centre has announced a ₹20 lakh crore stimulus package for the economy, which also includes a package for migrant workers who have returned home. Had it been done at the start of the lockdown, economic activities would have assumed without a hitch. After all, without workers, the industrial and manufacturing economy cannot work. Now the Government has eased the lockdown but people are finding it difficult to find manpower to restart manufacturing units.

The people at the helm of affairs must ponder over the fate of the 45 crore unorganised sector workers who are the backbone of the ₹10 lakh crore construction, industrial and agriculture sectors. The Government should constitute a committee to identify the sector-wise strength of the unorganised sector workers and their problems of finding a livelihood. The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 had made adequate provisions for accommodation, crèche, canteen, education and healthcare. But these were never implemented by the contractors, Government engineers and other supervisors, though there is provision for penalty and punitive action. In the absence of unions, workers are not aware of their legal rights and are exploited and shunted out at the slightest protest.

The Government ought to direct all stakeholders and create an enforcement regime to ensure welfare measures for the unorganised sector workers. The recent package announced should be used to create all facilities in urban localities as per the 1996 Act provisions. It would be desirable to frame a new comprehensive Act covering all migrant/unorganised sector workers. The employers need to be humane and must be dealt with strictly if they fail to take care of workers in emergencies, like they did during the present pandemic. Labourers deserve to live with dignity. We must remember the words of Mahatma Gandhi who once said, "Man becomes great exactly in the degree in which he works for the welfare of his fellow men." (The writer is a former civil servant)

BY HIKING PRICES OF PETROL, THE BJP GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS ONLY INTERESTED IN PICKING POCKETS OF THE PUBLIC EVEN IN A CRISIS.

—CONGRESS LEADER PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA

POINTCOUNTERPOINT



THE RECENT INCREASE IN THE PRICES OF PETROL AND DIESEL HAVE NOT IMPACTED THE COMMON MAN.

—PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS MINISTER DHARMENDRA PRADHAN

Information overload

Every scientist is trying to make a contribution to the pandemic. This has led to everyone, including non-scientists, writing on almost every aspect of the crisis. How does one make sense?



DEEPIKA BHASKAR

FEROZ SURI

COVID-19 has left the world bewildered as much as it has challenged the global scientific community, which is making every possible effort to learn more about the virus, find effective diagnostic assays, drugs and vaccines for its cure. Learning about the structure, behaviour and prevalence of the virus to help design public health strategies and medical interventions is the need of the hour. Almost every scientist is trying to make a contribution to the pandemic. This has led to everyone, including non-scientists, writing and publishing on almost every aspect of the spread. The research efforts of the scientific community are visible from the mammoth quantities of data generated through publications, growing by thousands every day. More than 4,000 new scientific papers pertaining to the disease and the virus were added just in a week's time.

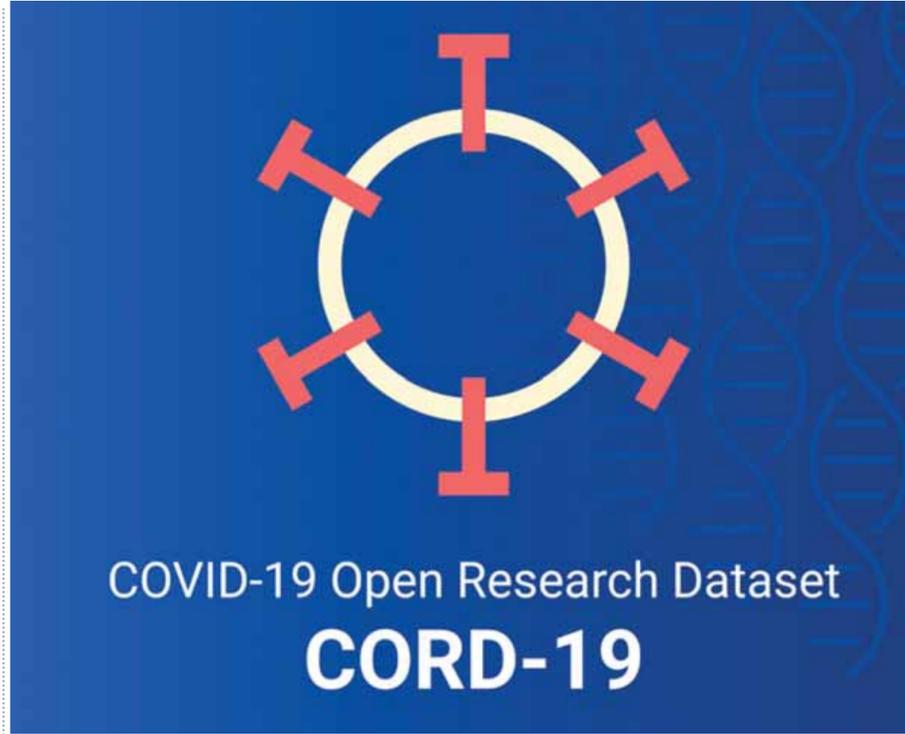
COVID-19 papers have been downloaded more than 150 million times since publishers brought down paywalls on research related to the pandemic. Since January, several major publishers have made around 50,000 COVID-19-related papers freely available. This is the biggest explosion scientific literature has ever seen. It is becoming increasingly difficult for scientists to keep pace with the growing volumes of information and sifting through all of it to find that which is relevant to their areas of research. The world is grappling to find ways to manage and effectively use the scientific information being generated. Thankfully, data scientists and software developers across the world have geared up with the help of journal publishers to create new search tools. These are in the form of datasets through data cleaning efforts and curated sets that bunch publications into collections of similar studies, while also highlighting the strong papers in those areas of research.

Efforts are also being made to cut out unnecessary noise through automated search tools via Artificial Intelligence (AI) so that a researcher lands at the information being sought, thus saving a lot of time and effort. Several datasets and databases have surfaced to help ease the COVID information overload crisis for researchers.

WHO COVID-19 database: The World Health Organisation has a WHO COVID-19 database that gathers latest international multilingual scientific findings and knowledge. Searches and additions are made on a daily basis to the dataset through bibliographic databases, hand searches and expert-referred scientific articles from global literature. Efforts are on to build a more comprehensive database through collaboration with key partners to enrich citations. The WHO database has over 18,000 publications, searchable in many languages by title, abstract or subject. Its global research page provides quick updates. There is an international clinical trials registry platform that provides updates on the WHO Solidarity Trial for accelerating a safe and effective vaccine.

The Lancet COVID-19 Resource Centre: It brings together new content from across *The Lancet* journals as it is published, making the content free to access in order to assist health workers and researchers. Similarly, there are other resources on COVID-19 like Cambridge University Press, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Chinese Medical Association, Cochrane, Elsevier, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), JAMA Network,

“ THERE IS REASON TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUALITY OF DATA AS WELL AS REGULATORY AND ETHICAL ISSUES SURROUNDING DATA GENERATED AT SUCH A QUICK PACE. QUESTIONS ON GAPS IN INFORMATION GENERATED, ITS QUALITY AND THOROUGHNESS HAVE BEEN RAISED. A RECENT RETRACTION IN THE LANCET AND THE SCANDAL ASSOCIATED WITH IT IS PROOF ENOUGH OF THIS CAUSE FOR CONCERN ”



The Lancet, LITCOVID: US National Library of Medicine, *New England Journal of Medicine* and, Oxford University Press.

The CORD-19 dataset: The COVID-19 Open Research Dataset Challenge, an initiative of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, has brought together the Semantic Scholar team at the Allen Institute for AI with the likes of Google, the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative and National Institutes of Health (NIH) to create a free resource of open tools and datasets of over 63,000 scholarly articles.

This is the largest structured dataset that caters to the ongoing need of the global research community for which the corpus is updated regularly with current research featuring in peer-reviewed publications from sources like PubMed's PMC, corpus maintained by the WHO and from archival services like bioRxiv, medRxiv and so on, based on search COVID-19 and Coronavirus research. In addition to the above major databases, there are numerous other datasets, literature repositories, specific information resources, re-purposing databases and technological advancements that are helping the world make meaning out of the mayhem.

Ethical concerns due to rapid publication rate: There is ample reason to be concerned about the quality of data as well as regulatory and ethical issues surrounding data generated at such a quick pace. Questions on gaps in information generated, its quality and thoroughness have been raised. A recent retraction in *The Lancet* and the scandal associated with it is proof enough of this cause for concern. Social media platforms have been instrumental in releasing quick information about research findings of significance and providing instant feedback through online comments or suggestions for the study, as

also linking the information with similar studies going on elsewhere in the world. However, not all significant research findings garner the same attention on social media platforms for researchers to pick up and relate. In fact, some do not surface on such platforms at all or drown in endless tweets or Facebook posts when there is too much to report on a subject and it's hard to catch up, till you are spending too much time on these platforms.

A general search for research publications, based on key words like Coronavirus and COVID-19, has shown that while there are quite a few promising studies and publications of high quality that can be pursued further, most other publications are either analysis, commentaries or incomplete studies that have been reported to either hasten publication or be visible. A thorough peer review is missing in most cases and hence, the authenticity or the quality of data raises grave concern. In many cases, research findings reported do not support the conclusions that have been stepped up to ensure publication in prestigious journals. While most of the literature on COVID-19 is freely available, around 20 per cent of the research publications are still behind paywalls, and this percentage is expected to grow in the near future to almost half of the total. That makes a comprehensive analysis quite difficult.

The role of biological resource centres: Rapid data sharing is important to help identify the causative agent; investigate and predict the extent of disease spread; define diagnostic protocols and evaluate treatments and methods to contain further spread. The types of information that can be collated and shared may include surveillance data, trial data, pathogen genomic and proteomic data, case study reports and summary of observations from these data

sources.

The users may include data scientists, bioentrepreneurs, clinicians, public health workers, researchers, governments, NGOs, disaster management experts, regulatory bodies and so on. However, there are multiple barriers to rapid data sharing, including concerns over data protection, confidentiality and different data protection legislations across countries. Other major barriers may be poor curation tools and quality of data. There is little doubt that breakthroughs in various facets of biotechnology will hugely impact our societies and lives almost as profoundly as information technologies have done in the past. Data sharing is necessary for enabling the global community to prepare for and respond to pandemics and similar global health crisis and speed up the diagnostic and therapeutic regimen.

With major sequencing efforts across the world resulting in massive biological data accumulation, storing, managing, annotating and archiving it has become quite a scientific challenge. Using this growing body of information to dig out solutions to the challenges is the need of the hour. Although, there are many biological data centres across US and Europe, access to biological data resources remains restricted due to different data protection policies. As a result, researchers from many developing economies could not access this.

While the world awaits a biological discovery, our trust in science to handle the global crisis and impact scientific, societal, political and economic decisions only grows with passing time. This can also have a separate dimension for storage, accession and archival of published information on infectious organisms to aid the researcher.

(Bhaskar is Registrar and Suri is CEO, Office of Connectivity, Regional Center for Biotechnology)

A multilateral global order need of the hour

While the world is reeling under the onslaught of the pandemic, China has intensified its belligerence and is indulging in aggression in the SCS and on the LAC



GAUTAM JHA

China and Pakistan. Historically, India had been the non-permanent member of the UNSC seven times starting 1950.

While the UN has completed 75 years of existence, its achievements have been mixed. Its five organs achieved certain milestones in health-care, economy, social welfare, human rights and environmental issues, concerning mostly the developing nations. At the same time it saw many aspirations of the five UNSC permanent member countries i.e. UK, France, Russia, US and China getting realised.

There have been situations where these veto-powered nations did not respect the verdicts of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and made a mockery of the organisation for which they acted as superlative leaders. Therefore, the universal objective of justice and peace has been halfway realised.

The global order is still based upon hegemony and domination. Earlier the world was bipolar, where-by global politics was dominated by

two superpowers, the former Soviet Union and the US. Now it is unipolar.

Even after the end of the Cold War, the smaller States are still struggling to align with the bigger powers in order to secure their sovereign status. Imperialism and expansionism still exist in many forms in the international arena like trade blocs, illegitimate access and exploitation of maritime resources, building power structures for future wars, manufacturing cheap goods and dumping the same in developing countries despite those developing countries having a substantial workforce to manufacture the same commodities.

Such tactics and exploitative aspirations are often realised by bigger powers by funding various governments in order to incline their foreign policy towards themselves, creating animosities among the neighboring countries, funding and managing the facilities of other countries. In such a scenario, the concept of NAM (Non-

Aligned Movement) seemed to be very relevant as it rose against the concept of power blocs by drawing on the principles agreed at the Bandung Conference initiated by Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Indonesian President Sukarno with Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser and the Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito. The purpose of the organisation was very clear: Sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of non-aligned countries in their "struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and all forms of foreign aggression, occupation, domination, interference or hegemony as well as against great power and bloc politics."

Thus, from the very beginning our leaders foresaw the possible dangers of aligning with bigger powers. The current situation is very clear, where the world is demanding more multilateralism because the majority of the members of NAM had to look either left or right as the NAM could not rope

itself tightly. India started looking towards the West as China attacked it in 1962, Indonesia started looking at the US to balance the influence from China or the Communist Bloc.

The best example which elucidates the above statement is the rise of an assertive China, which is not conflict-free. Several sovereign States in the vicinity or in the neighbourhood have been experiencing the pressures of its imperialistic, aggressive and belligerent attitude, especially in the South China Sea (SCS), as well as in other bordering States like Bhutan and India. China's imperialistic attitude is reflected in the form of illegitimate access to their exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and building structures in the common waters.

However, things have changed. A smaller country is visibly more powerful now than what it was during the colonial period, but it is still reeling under the new colonialism carried out by the bigger power in name of development or aid.

The UN has expanded its membership base from 50 to 193. In such a scenario, we need a stronger UN based upon the inclusivity and multilateralism which would emphasise upon human rights, democracy and other issues facing the world. Indonesia is a member of the UNSC and has a bigger say in terms of its geostrategic importance, population and economy.

In an IPI (International Peace Institute) virtual event held on April 24 with the President of the UNGA Tiji Muhammad-Bande, the Chair and former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said that while the COVID-19 pandemic was the most "urgent" challenge the 193-nation body had ever faced, it could be best addressed through the global "interconnectedness" represented by the UN.

Rudd emphasised that "pandemics are the very essence of the reason why we have a multilateral system of global governments, and we know the reason for that is because epi-

demics and pandemics have no respect for international borders." He further added, "This has tested not just our institutions of national government around the world, but it has truly tested our system of global governance." He observed that the creation of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1948 and the International Health Regulations in 2005 had been "anchored" in the UN Charter. Thus, India at the west frontier and Indonesia at the east can play a very important role in seeking a multilateral world.

As the world is reeling under the onslaught of the pandemic, China has intensified its belligerence, overshadowing humanity by indulging in fierce aggression in the SCS as well as on the Line of Actual Control with India. This clearly demands revamping and strengthening of the UN in order to isolate such belligerence and create a peaceful global order.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, JNU)

Hong Kong police make first arrests under new security law

Hong Kong: Hong Kong police made their first arrests Wednesday under a new national security law imposed a day earlier by China's central government, as thousands of people defied tear gas and pepper pellets to protest against it.

Police said nine people were arrested under the law, including a man with a Hong Kong independence flag and a woman holding a sign displaying the British flag and calling for Hong Kong's independence.

Others were detained for possessing items advocating independence. Further details were not immediately available.

Hong Kong police said on Facebook that they arrested more than 300 people on various charges, including unlawful assembly, possession of weapons and violating the national security law.

The arrests come as thousands took to the streets Wednesday on the 23rd anniversary of Britain's handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997. For the first time, police banned this year's annual march. Protesters shouted slogans, lambasted police and held up signs condemning the Chinese government and the new security law.



A reporter falls down after being sprayed with pepper spray by police during a protest in Causeway Bay during the annual handover march in Hong Kong on Wednesday

The new security law deepened concerns in Hong Kong and abroad about the semi-autonomous territory's future.

The law, imposed by China following anti-government protests in Hong Kong last year, makes secessionist, subversive, or terrorist activities illegal, as well as foreign intervention in the city's internal affairs.

Any person taking part in secessionist activities, such as shouting slogans or holding up banners and flags calling for the city's independence, is violating the law regardless of whether violence is used.

The most serious offenders, such as those deemed to be masterminds behind the crimes, could receive a maxi-

mum punishment of life imprisonment. Lesser offenders could receive jail terms of up to three years, short-term detention or restriction.

Hong Kong's leader strongly endorsed the new law in a speech marking Wednesday's 23rd anniversary of the handover of the territory — officially called the Hong Kong

Special Administrative Region — from British colonial rule.

"The enactment of the national law is regarded as the most significant development in the relationship between the central authorities and the HKSAR since Hong Kong's return to the motherland," chief executive Carrie Lam said in a speech, following a flag-raising ceremony and the playing of China's national anthem.

"It is also an essential and timely decision for restoring stability in Hong Kong," she said. A pro-democracy political party, The League of Social Democrats, organized a protest march during the flag-raising ceremony. About a dozen participants chanted slogans echoing demands from protesters last year for political reform and an investigation into accusations of police abuse.

The law's passage Tuesday further blurs the distinction between the legal systems of Hong Kong, which maintained aspects of British law after the 1997 handover, and the mainland's authoritarian Communist Party system.

Critics say the law effectively ends the "one country, two systems" framework under which Hong Kong was promised a high degree of autonomy.

Taiwan opens Hk migration office in rebuke to Beijing

Taipei: Taiwan on Wednesday opened an office to facilitate migration from Hong Kong following China's passage of a national security law for the former British colony seen as sharply restricting political opposition and freedom of speech.

Taiwan is a self-governing democracy claimed by China as its own territory and has firmly rejected Beijing's demand that it unify with the mainland under the "one country, two systems" framework in place in Hong Kong.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council minister, Chen Ming-tong, said the office would assist Hong Kong professionals seeking to move to the island for a range of purposes, including education and business.

Under Hong Kong's national security law enacted Tuesday, those found guilty of inciting activities deemed to be of a secessionist, subversive or terrorist nature or of colluding with foreign forces could face up to life imprisonment.

UK PM holds China in 'clear and serious breach' of pact, confirms citizenship route for Hong Kong

London: Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday held China in "clear and serious breach" of the Sino-British agreement under which Hong Kong had been handed over to the Chinese authorities and confirmed that a citizenship route will now be offered to Hong Kong's British National (Overseas) passport holders.

Addressing his weekly Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons, Johnson said China's new National Security Law is a threat to the rights and freedom of the region and in direct conflict with Hong Kong Basic Law.

"We stand for rules and obligations and we think that is the soundest basis of our international relations. The enactment and the imposition of this National Security Law constitutes a clear and serious breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration. It violates Hong Kong's high degree of auto-

nomous and is in direct conflict with Hong Kong Basic Law," he told MPs in Parliament.

"The law also threatens the freedoms and rights protected by the Joint Declaration. We made clear that if China continued down this path, we would introduce a new route for those with British National (Overseas) status to enter the UK, granting them limited leave to remain with the ability to live and work in the UK and thereafter to apply for citizenship. And, that is precisely what we will do now," he said.

The UK has committed to make it easier for the estimated 350,000 Hong Kong residents who are British National (Overseas) passport holders to come to the UK, as well as nearly 2.6 million others who are eligible to BNO status. Under current rules, they are entitled to visa-free access to the UK for six months but under a new "bespoke" system this will be further extended.

Biden, Trump agree: Nov election could be corrupt

Atlanta: President Donald Trump and his challenger, Joe Biden, have found something they agree on: The November election could be rife with corruption because of how officials handle the voting process.

Of course, the Republican incumbent and his Democratic rival place the prospective blame in different places. Each points at the other's party.

"I really, really, really believe we're on the cusp of what could be the most corrupt process that we've seen in a general election if we don't monitor this every single second," Biden told donors Tuesday evening as he discussed Trump's and many Republicans' opposition to expanding early voting and mail-in voting amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

That's similar language to what Trump has tweeted to his millions of social media fol-

lowers in recent weeks. "Mail-in voting ... will lead to the most corrupt election in USA history," Trump declared Sunday.

The president previously argued that mail-ballooting allows voters to "cheat." One such tweet drew a rare, special

tag from Twitter that directed readers to mail-voting facts that rebutted the president's unsupported claims about voter fraud.

There are instances of voter fraud in the U.S., most often found in local or smaller jurisdictional elections, but

there is no evidence of widespread fraud that would tilt statewide or national results.

Biden noted Tuesday that Trump himself has voted using mail ballots, most recently using Florida's absentee process to cast his Republican primary ballot in March.

US not to stand idle while China 'swallows' Hong Kong: Pompeo

Washington: The US has warned China that it will not stand idle while it "swallows" Hong Kong into its "authoritarian maw," a day after Beijing imposed a "draconian" national security law in the former British territory.

In a strongly-worded statement, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said it was a "sad day" for the people in Hong Kong and warned China of new countermeasures, including ending defence and dual-use technology exports to the territory.

The national security law came into effect in Hong Kong on Tuesday dramatically broadens the powers of local and Chinese authorities to investigate, prosecute and punish dissenters.

The law, approved by Chinese President Xi Jinping, criminalises secession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion

with foreign powers. People convicted of such crimes can face sentences of up to life in prison.

Reacting to Beijing's move, Pompeo said, "The Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) decision to impose draconian national security legislation on Hong Kong destroys the territory's autonomy and one of China's greatest achievements."

"Hong Kong demonstrated to the world what free Chinese people could achieve - one of the most successful economies and vibrant societies in the world," he said on the 23rd anniversary of the handover of Hong Kong from British rule to China.

But Beijing's "paranoia and fear" of its own people's aspirations have led it to eviscerate the very foundation of the territory's success, turning 'One Country, Two Systems' into 'One Country, One System', he said.

Divided West can do little as China tightens up on Hong Kong

London: From Tokyo to Brussels, political leaders have swiftly decried Beijing's move to impose a tough national security law on Hong Kong that cracks down on subversive activity and protest in the semi-autonomous territory.

But the rhetoric has more bark than bite. For people in Hong Kong, the question is: Will international anger and statements of concern make any difference? Individual countries have little leverage over Beijing on human rights, experts say. A joint effort could make a difference, but coordinated action seems unlikely given strained ties between the Trump administration and many of Washington's traditional European allies.

"The USA and EU are moving in different directions in many areas. It is perhaps to China's advantage that that should be so," said Rod Wye, an Asia-Pacific associate fellow at

the Chatham House think tank in London. In particular, Europeans do not want to be drawn into the US-China trade war, he said.

"Expressions of concern are certainly not going to change the Chinese intention one little bit," he added.

A joint US-European report released this week on relations with China described "a deep sense of frustration, fatigue, and futility. The stronger China gets, the less willing it has become to even engage perfunctorily with the West on the issue."

The report — from the Asia Society, the Bertelsmann Stiftung and George Washington University — said that concern about human rights abuses in China remains deep, from the new security law in Hong Kong, which went into effect Tuesday night, to the repression of Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang region.

Russian vote on extending Putin's rule until 2036 nears end

Moscow: A vote on amendments to Russia's constitution that could allow President

Vladimir Putin to hold power until 2036 entered its final day Wednesday amid widespread

reports of pressure on voters and other irregularities.

For the first time in Russia, polls were open for a week to bolster turnout without increasing crowds casting ballots amid the coronavirus pandemic — a provision that Kremlin critics denounced as an extra tool to manipulate the outcome.

Putin is all but guaranteed to get the result he wants following a massive state propaganda campaign and the opposition's failure to mount a coordinated challenge.

UK experts slam US for hoarding remdesivir

AP ■ LONDON

Some British experts have slammed the US decision to snap up nearly the entire global supply of remdesivir, the only drug licensed so far to treat COVID-19.

Ohid Yaqub, a senior lecturer at the University of Sussex called it "disappointing news" in a statement.

"It so clearly signals an unwillingness to cooperate with other countries and the chilling effect this has on international agreements about intellectual property rights," Yaqub said.

Calls for UN probe of China forced birth control on Uighurs

United Nations: Politicians around the world have called for a United Nations probe into a Chinese government birth control campaign targeting largely Muslim minorities in the far western region of Xinjiang, even as Beijing said it treats all ethnicities equally under the law.

They were referring to an Associated Press investigation published this week that found the Chinese government is taking draconian measures to slash birth rates among Uighurs and other minorities, while encouraging some of the country's Han majority to have more children. The Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, a group of European, Australian, North American,

and Japanese politicians from across the political spectrum, demanded an independent U.N. investigation.

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Nepal's Covid tally crosses 14,000-mark

Kathmandu: Nepal has registered 482 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking the nationwide Covid-19 tally to 14,046, the health ministry said on Wednesday.

Health Ministry Spokesperson Jagdish Gautam said that 365 men and 117 women tested positive for COVID-19 during tests conducted across the country in the past 24 hours. Thirty people have died due to the coronavirus. The virus has spread to all 77 districts of Nepal. In the last 24 hours, 1,462 patients have been discharged from hospitals after their recovery. So far, 4,656 Covid-19 patients have recovered, he said.

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the Work : "Allotment of 08 (Eight) nos. of Mechanical Iron Ore/Iron Pellet Plot".
License Fees : Rs. 2,71,41,180/-
Wharfage Fees : Rs. 15,20,430/-
Last date & time of submission of bid : 14.07.2020 up to 15:00 hrs.
Date and time of opening (technical bid) : 15.07.2020 up to 16:00 hrs. Refer our Website : <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Traffic Manager
PPT/PR/100/20-21 Date : 30.06.2020

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mrs. Anita Srivastava wife of Shri Rakesh Srivastava had entered into an Agreement to sell for the purchase of Flat No. 3, 3rd Floor, Rattan Jyoti Apartment, Plot No. 20, Sector-20, Vaisali, Ghazipur, UP from Shri Mr. Vinod Kumar S/O Rajender Singh registered over on the basis of Sale Deed dated 14.05.2010 and Original Allotment Letter dated 17.06.1999 and Builder Buyer Agreement dated 25.08.1999 in the name of Mr. Anirudh Pal Singh and Mrs. Shevinder Gill have been lost/misplaced and our client is mortgaging the above property to LIC Housing Finance Ltd. If anybody has any claim, right, interest in the said property shall also inform within 15 days to the undersigned on Telephone No.- 011-24324137, 9953683363 & 9811163363.
Karnail Singh, Advocate
Ch. No.153, Saket Court Complex, New Delhi-110014.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that Ruchi Gupta 'Seller' claims to be the Only Beneficiary in estate of Late Jai Prakash Gupta & Late Savitri Devi & the owner & in possession of Property No. B-169, in Wazir Pur known as Ashok Vihar Phase-II, Delhi (hereinafter called the property) & said Late Jai Prakash Gupta & Late Savitri Devi were the Joint Owners of the property by 4 Sale Deeds Reg. Vide Doc Nos. 3656 & 3657 dtd. 28.6.96 & Reg. Vide Doc Nos. 3784 & 3785 Dtd. 9.7.96 & 3619 & 3620 Savitri Devi died on 23.04.1998 thereafter a Relinquishment Deed was executed by Anur Kumar Anil Gupta & Nirmal Gupta in favor of Jai Prakash Gupta Reg. vide Doc No. 11654 Dtd. 13.11.07 for Half Undivided Share in the property & thereafter Jai Prakash Gupta Died on 14.05.2017 & Nirmal Gupta Died on 16.01.2012, thereafter a Relinquishment Deed was executed by Anur Kumar Anil Gupta & Saurabh Gupta & Prema Shyam in favor of Ruchi Gupta Reg. vide Doc No. 11271 Dated 13.9.17 for the property & said Ruchi Gupta has agreed to sell the property to Reg. Gool & said Reg. Gool has agreed create mortgage of the Property in favour of our clients, Axis Bank Ltd, Having its office at Achya City Centre Indraprastha, Ghazipur, UP. All persons Institution's having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, gift, trust, etc., or in any other manner whatsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing within 15 Days hereof with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived &/or abandoned & our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan against the said property & subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.
Vishal Divan (Advocate)
For Divan and Company LLP,
Advocates and Solicitors
House No. 21(GF), NRI Complex, New Delhi-19
Mobile No: 9818399999

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-06-T-R1-20-21-E3 Comprehensive AMC of Johnson make lifts installed at Gate no. 2A, 2B, 2C & 2D Railway Board, New Delhi.
Approx. cost of the works : Rs. 15.87 lacs
Address of the office : Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Earnest Money : Rs. 31,800.00
Date & time of submission of tender : 24.07.2020, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender : 24.07.2020, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board : www.reps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
1466/2020
Serving Customers with a Smile

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED
General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Anuradha, D/o: Sh. Rajkumar, R/O N-14/219, Munshi Ram Colony, near Mukherjee Nagar, New Delhi**, has been missing/kidnapped from her house from the area of P. S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi since **23.06.2020** at 6:00 pm. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 399/2020, U/s 363 IPC dated 24.06.2020** has been lodged in P. S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under: **Age: 17 years 6 months, Height: 5' 2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue colour T-shirt & jeans and black colour slipper in her feet.** If anyone having any clue/information about this girl, kindly inform the undersigned.
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID - cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax No. 011-24368639 **SHO**
Ph. Nos.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi**
DP/222/NW/2020 **Ph.: 011-27654675, 8750870231**

UJVN LIMITED
H.O. "Ujjwal" Maharanji Bldg, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
(Telephone- 01155-2763598, 2763809) CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866,
Corrigendum
Under the point -3 of section no. 1 of tender no's. 06/EE(G)/CPS/2020-21, 07/EE(G)/CPS/2020-21 & 08/EE(G)/CPS/ 2020-21 invited by the Executive Engineer (Generation), Chibro Power House, Dehradun, the three year annual Report shall be read 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 in place of 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and ITR shall be read 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 in place of 2018-19, 2019-20 & 2020-21.
For Eligibility Criteria and full & further details kindly visit our website www.ujvn.com Eligibility Criteria will remain same as before.
वृत्त क्र. 009 / विभाग : 30.06.2020
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY" **EE(Gen.) CPS, Chibro**

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from eligible firms/contractors for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes / amendments & corrigendum etc.
1. 21/SM(Jal)-II/ET/20-21, M/o Sewerage (P/F of Manhole cover frame and raising of sewer manhole and Cleaning deep sewer line in Network Sec-116, 117), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost - Rs. 36.51 Lacs.
2. 25/SM(Jal)-II/ET/20-21, M/o W/s (Labour Operation of Network Sector-90, 136, 138, 139, 140, 140A), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost - Rs. 52.22 Lacs.
3. 26/SM(Jal)-II/ET/20-21, M/o Sewerage (Cleaning of Deep Sewer Line By Super Sucker Machine and Cleaning of Sewer Line for Sector's Blocks by Jetting Cum Suction Machine in Network Sector-30, 31 and 36), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost - Rs. 47.98 Lacs.
4. 27/SM(Jal)-II/ET/20-21, M/o Sewerage (Providing and Fixing of Sewer Manhole Cover Frame, Raising Sewer Manholes in Network Sector -30, 31, 36), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost - Rs. 28.08 Lacs.
5. 28/SM(Jal)-II/ET/20-21, M/o Sewerage (P/F of Sewer Manholes, Raising and Cleaning of Sewer Manhole at Various Places in Village-Kondli), Noida. Cost - Rs. 36.43 Lacs.
6. 29/SM(Jal)-II/ET/20-21, M/o Sewerage (Raising of Manhole, cleaning of Manhole & P/F of Manhole cover frame and other sewer related work in Sec-28, 29, 37), Noida (For Two Year). Cost - Rs. 49.95 Lacs.
The above tenders can be uploaded by date **17/07/2020** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date **20/07/2020** at **11.00 AM**. **(YOGENDRA KUMAR)**
SENIOR MANAGER (JAL)-II, NOIDA
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

June auto sales on slow road to recovery, still in -ve territory

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Major automobile manufacturers, including Maruti Suzuki India, Hyundai, Toyota and Mahindra & Mahindra, on Wednesday reported big dip in June sales, though fared better as compared to May as companies gradually ramped up operations after relaxation in lockdowns.

The country's largest car-maker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) reported 53.7 per cent drop in domestic sales at 53,139 units last month, as against 1,14,861 units in June 2019.

Its June performance, however, got better than May when it had posted domestic sales of 13,888 units.

"On the customer side if you look at parameters which reflect demand pattern which are enquiries, bookings and retails, there I think we have reached levels 80-85 per cent of the normal," MSI Executive Director Marketing and Sales Shashank Srivastava told PTI.

It means "there is quite a good pick up in demand mainly due to pent-up demand" as there was no retail in April and very less in May, he said adding that June was in that sense more representative month because showrooms were open entire month.

With sales demand reviving, he said, the companies are now also looking at ramping up production.

Last month, sale of company's mini cars comprising Alto and WagonR stood at 10,458 units as compared to 18,733 units in the same month last year, down 44.2 per cent.



Sales of compact segment, including models such as Swift, Celerio, Ignis, Baleno and Dzire, declined 57.6 per cent to 26,696 units as against 62,897 cars in June last year.

Similarly, sales of utility vehicles, including Vitara Brezza, S-Cross and Ertiga, declined 45.1 per cent at 9,764 units as compared to 17,797 in the year-ago month.

Hyundai Motor India reported dip in domestic sales last month at 21,320 units as against 42,007 units in June 2019.

Similarly, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) saw domestic sales plunge 63.53 per cent in June at 3,866 units as against 10,603 units in the same month last year.

"With demand gradually coming back in the market and with strong support from our dealer partners as well as the hard work of our SBU's (Strategic Business Units), we have been able to keep up with customer expectations.

Thanks to our special financing offers and buy back offers which has also helped bring customers back to dealerships," TKM Senior Vice President Sales and Service Naveen Soni said.

The company is also seeing a visible growth in online enquiries as well as bookings, he added.

Homegrown auto major Mahindra & Mahindra saw domestic sales drop by 53 per cent to 18,505 units last month, as against 39,471 units in June 2019.

"The automotive industry has started to see recovery both in the passenger and small commercial vehicle segments. This has been led primarily by rising rural demand and movement of essential goods across the country," said Veejay Nakra, chief executive officer, Automotive Division, M&M Ltd.

MG Motor India said it retailed 2,012 units in June.

In the two wheeler seg-

ment, market leader Hero MotoCorp reported 26.88 per cent dip in sales last month at 4,50,744 units as compared to the same period of last year.

The company's dispatches last month, however, grew four-fold when compared to May this year. The company had sold 6,16,526 units in June 2019 while it despatched 1,12,682 units in May 2020.

"We have demonstrated phenomenal leadership quality and tenacity to clock a sharp vertical growth in our sales at a time of massive disruption and uncertainty," Hero MotoCorp Chairman Pawan Munjal said.

Sales of over 4.5 lakh two-wheelers in a highly disrupted month is also a clear signal of the resilience of the Indian economy to be able to revive in the face of any adversity, he added.

"This has vindicated our strong belief in the robust fundamentals of the Indian economy," Munjal said.

He added that a major part of the market demand is emanating from the rural and semi-urban markets, which have been helped to a large extent by the various stimulus packages rolled out by the government.

"A combination of multiple factors, including the forecast of a normal monsoon, a bumper rabi crop and the upcoming festive season are expected to keep the momentum going over the next few months," Munjal noted.

TVS Motor Company reported 36 per cent dip in domestic two-wheeler sales at 1,44,817 units last month as compared to 2,26,279 units in June 2019.

"The market is opening up gradually post the lockdown, and we are witnessing a positive uptake in both domestic retail as well as exports," the company said.

The company faced supply chain constraints in June. However, it has undertaken various countermeasures, some of which have started yielding results in June itself, it added.

TVS Motor expects to overcome these issues in the month of July, it noted.

Tata Motors reports 82% dip in sales in Q1

New Delhi: Tata Motors on Wednesday reported 81.78 per cent dip in its total sales at 25,047 units in the first quarter ended June 30, 2020.

The company had sold 1,37,545 units in the April-June quarter of 2019-20.

Domestic sales of the company stood at 23,845 units in the first quarter of the current fiscal, down 82 per cent from 1,31,879 units in same period of 2019-20, Tata Motors said in a statement.

"Amidst subdued demand environment, first quarter was marked by successful transition to BS-VI across the range of commercial vehicles," Tata Motors President, Commercial Vehicles Business Unit Girish Wagh said.

There are early recovery signs in a few sectors, and the company looks forward to a gradual pickup in demand on the back of overall economic recovery while continuing to address the challenges of intermittent demand and supply

disruptions from Covid-19, he added.

The company's commercial vehicle sales during the quarter declined by 90 per cent to 10,476 units as compared with 1,00,357 units in same period of 2019-20.

Passenger vehicle sales during the period under review declined by 61 per cent to 14,571 units as against 36,945 units in the corresponding period last year.

"The Covid-19 lockdown deeply impacted PV industry sales in the first quarter of 2021 fiscal. After partial sales recovery in May pent up demand supported a steeper recovery of retail in June," Shailesh Chandra, President, Passenger Vehicles Business Unit, Tata Motors said.

Retail sales were stronger than wholesales by 27 per cent, driven by the company's focus on the former while ensuring optimum inventory levels in the network, he added. **PTI**

SEBI extends compliance relaxations for REITs, InvITs

Mumbai: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Wednesday extended the deadline for regulatory filing and compliances for investment vehicles - REITs and InvITs for the period ended March 31, 2020 by another month over and above the extension given in March. The temporary relaxations come in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

In March, the regulator had announced the extension in the due date for regulatory filings and compliances for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvIT) for the period ending March 31, 2020 was extended by one month over and above the timelines prescribed under the regulations.

"It has been decided to further extend the due date for regulatory filings and compliances for REIT and InvIT for the period ending March 31, 2020 by a month over and above the extended timelines specified vide the aforementioned circular," a SEBI circular said. **IANs**

Ashok Leyland June sales fall 81% to 2,394 units

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hinduja Group flagship firm Ashok Leyland on Wednesday reported a 81 per cent decline in total vehicle sales at 2,394 units in June.

The company had sold

12,810 units in the same month last year, Ashok Leyland said in a regulatory filing.

Total domestic vehicle sales stood at 2,132 units in June as against 12,085 units in the year-ago period, registering a decline of 82 per cent.

CIABC urges Bengal Govt to reduce high sales tax to sustain industry

New Delhi: Alarmed over the steep fall in sale of liquor in West Bengal due to imposition of high sales tax amid corona pandemic, the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) has urged the State Government to reduce the levy imposed on alcoholic beverages from 30 per cent to not more than 5-10 per cent to sustain the industry and generate more revenue. With West Bengal's long and porous border with other states where price increase has been less, CIABC apprehended that the wide difference in price will result in unlawful smuggling of liquor. This move comes two weeks after CIABC made a similar submission to the Andhra Pradesh government which has imposed a cess of 75 per cent on liquor in the state amid the pandemic.

In its letter to the West Bengal Government, CIABC, the apex body of the Indian Alcoholic Beverage Industry, has stated that increase of sales tax on liquor by 30 per cent on April 9 has led to drastic fall in sales of liquor which has resulted in lower collections for state exchequer. "In April sales fell down by 84% and in May by 35%. When prices are increased sharply, consumers down trade to cheaper products. The tax collection per bottle also goes down, further compounding the tax loss," Vinod Giri, director general of

CIABC, said.

It, therefore, has urged to reduce the increase in Sales Tax on liquor to a level not more than 5-10%. "We believe that with such increases the adverse impact on sales will be low, thus leading to higher Tax revenues for the Government, besides obvious benefits to the companies and the consumers," it added.

Excise data had indicated that volume sales of beer alone declined about 60 per cent in Telangana, Karnataka and Rajasthan, while the fall was steeper at more than 80% in West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh as a result.

Giving examples of other states, Giri said: "In Delhi imposition of high Corona taxes had severely brought down liquor sales and thus Government tax revenues, while in Haryana and UP which imposed moderate tax increases had managed to contain the decline and were net gainers. Delhi has subsequently withdrawn 70% tax and replaced with a reasonable 5% increase in VAT."

Liquor attracts the highest taxation of any beverage in the country, with more than half the retail price going to state and Central Governments through value added tax (VAT) and excise duty. In FY19-20, Indian states had earned a combined ₹1,75 lakh crore from excise, and liquor. **PNS**

India invites Dutch firms for investments in healthcare, agri sectors

PTI ■ THE HAGUE

India has invited Dutch companies to increase their investments in the country, especially since there is a substantial scope in sectors like healthcare, water, agriculture and agri-tech.

Large internal market and skilled labour availability make India an ideal location for the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and global supply chains, industry leaders informed the Dutch business community during a recent webinar here.

During the webinar, organised by the Indian embassy here on Friday with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as a partner, the industry leaders highlighted that the IMF in its June forecasts has predicted that India will grow at 6 per cent in 2021.

At the webinar, India's Ambassador to the Netherlands Venu Rajamony invited Dutch companies to increase investments in India, especially since there is substantial scope in sectors such as healthcare, water, agriculture and agri-tech, according to an official statement issued on Wednesday.

"The CII has conveyed to Dutch business community that a large internal market and skilled labour availability make India an ideal location for foreign direct investment and global supply chains," it said.

The webinar was participated by former Dutch foreign minister Uri Rosenthal, former Dutch ambassador to India, Fons Stoelinga and representatives of the Dutch Government as well as leading companies like Shell and Philips.

Sensex jumps 499 pts as macro data bolsters recovery hopes

RIL, finance stocks shine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices clawed back lost ground on Wednesday after two sessions of losses as investors accumulated banking, finance and energy stocks amid encouraging macroeconomic data and firm global cues.

After hitting a high of 35,467.23, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 498.65 points, or 1.43 per cent, higher at 35,414.45.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 127.95 points, or 1.24 per cent, to close at 10,430.05.

Axis Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, soaring 6.58 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, HDFC, Bajaj Finance, ITC, IndusInd Bank, SBI, ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries.

On the other hand, NTPC, Nestle India, M&M, L&T and ONGC were among the laggards, skidding up to 2.40 per



cent.

On the macroeconomic front, GST revenue collections in June swelled to ₹90,917 crore, from ₹62,009 crore in May and ₹32,294 crore in April, official data showed.

The country's manufacturing sector activity also moved towards stabilisation in June, according to PMI data.

The headline seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing

Managers' Index (PMI) stood at 47.2 in June, up from 30.8 in May.

The figures show green shoots in the economy, though the Covid-19 crisis remains a major overhang on global as well as domestic growth, traders said.

"A revival in GST collections during June and a smart comeback by the banking sector buoyed sentiments as the market rose over in trade today.

"The broader market too exhibited strength as savvy investors were seen lapping up select counters (which) seem to be less impacted from the pandemic," said S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities.

BSE finance, bankex, energy, oil and gas, FMCG and basic materials indices ended up to 2.74 per cent higher, while capital goods, power, healthcare and realty finished with losses.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices rose up to 0.39 per cent.

Global markets were largely positive on the back of supportive PMI data.

Bourses in Shanghai and Hong Kong ended with gains, while Tokyo and Seoul closed in the red. Stock exchanges in Europe were trading on a firm note in early deals.

International oil benchmark Brent crude futures rose 2.67 per cent to USD 42.37 per barrel.

On the currency front, the rupee settled 9 paise lower at 75.60 against the US dollar.

RITES FY20 Revenue up by 22.1%, PAT up by 29.3%

Final dividend of ₹6 per share

Gurugram: RITES Ltd. (NSE: RITES, BSE: 541556), the leading Transport Infrastructure Consultancy and Engineering firm, announced its standalone and consolidated financial results for the Quarter and Year ended on 31st March, 2020.

Revenue and Profit Growth Consolidated
RITES total consolidated revenue has gone up by 22.1% to ₹2,735 crore. Similarly, the operating revenue, excluding other income, increased by 20.9% and reached ₹2,474 crore. Consolidated EBITDA and PAT have gone up by 19.6% and 29.3% to ₹929 crore and ₹633 crore, respectively, over FY19. This significant growth came with sustained EBITDA and PAT margins which stand at 34% and 23.2% respectively. These margins are the result of strategic focus on order execution and increased human resource productivity.

over FY19. Consultancy and leasing helped to maintain profit margins and EBITDA and PAT margin stand at 32.5% and 22.4%, respectively during the year. Key performance was in Exports which saw a jump of 161.6%. Consultancy revenue remained almost flat because of various reasons including disruption in March'20 and certain foreign projects suffered due to lockdown in those countries. Other than exports, leasing and turnkey also saw high growth of 16.5% and 18.7% respectively.

Q4FY20 (standalone)
Q4FY20 total revenue stands at ₹596 crore as against ₹765 crore in Q4FY19. Revenue moderated during the quarter due to lockdown and major exports shipments were already completed till Q3FY20. Similarly, the operating revenue, excluding other income, stands at ₹553 crore in FY20. EBITDA and PAT margin stand at 31.9% and 22%, respectively which remained intact on better margins from consultancy.

Performance of our Subsidiary and JV
Revenue from our subsidiary REMCL has remained almost flat amounting to ₹81 crore against ₹83 crore in the previous financial year. PBT has shown a slight growth of 0.6% with ₹50 crore against ₹49 crore in FY19. Revenue from this subsidiary got

impacted in Q4FY20 due to low demand from railways during lockdown and maintenance work for wind mills.

Our wagon manufacturing Joint Venture, SRBWPL, has achieved a profit of ₹16 crore during FY20. The wagon manufacturing joint venture has produced and rehabilitated 1066 wagons during the last financial year.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Rajeev Mehrotra, Chairman and Managing Director, RITES Limited, said, "Notwithstanding the challenging business environment, I am pleased to share that our company has demonstrated sustained growth momentum across the segments during FY20 and again surpassed the revenue and profitability targets. Rolling stock exports remained our strategic growth area duly supported with Govt of India's Make in India program. We achieved a major success by securing an export order of ₹706 crore from Mozambique for cape gauge locomotives and coaches. We plan to develop products for standard gauge countries too."

Dividend
After declaring 2 interim dividends of ₹150 crore (₹6 per share) and ₹100 crore (₹4 per share) for FY20, Board of Directors have recommended a final dividend of ₹150 crore (₹6 per share) for FY20 which is 60% of paid-up capital.

Dahej terminal processed 885 TBTU of LNG during financial year end

- Highest ever quantity of LNG in a financial year, processed at Dahej Terminal in FY 2019-20 at 885 TBTU
- Highest ever quantity of LNG in a financial year, processed by the Company in FY 2019-20 at 928 TBTU
- Highest ever PAT in a financial year, achieved by the Company in FY 2019-20 at INR 2,698 Cr

New Delhi: During the financial year ended 31st March, 2020 (current year), Dahej terminal processed 206 TBTU of LNG as against 222 TBTU processed during the previous quarter and 199 TBTU processed during the corresponding quarter. The overall LNG volume processed by the Company in the current quarter was 219 TBTU, as against the LNG volume processed in the previous and corresponding quarter, which stood at 233 TBTU and 205 TBTU respectively.

The Company has reported PBT of ₹3,111 crore in the current year, as against ₹3,234 Crore in the previous year. The PAT for the current year was reported at ₹2,698 cr (highest

ever PAT in a year) as against the PAT of the previous year i.e. ₹2,155 Crore.

The Company has reported PBT of ₹486 crore in the current quarter, as against ₹902 crore in the previous quarter and ₹655 crore in the corresponding quarter. The PAT for the current quarter was reported at ₹359 cr as against the PAT of the previous quarter and corresponding quarter i.e. ₹675 Crore and ₹440 crore respectively.

The Company has adopted the Ind AS 116 'Leases', with effect from FY 2019-20. Pursuant to the above, the Company has recognized the 'Right to Use Assets' and corresponding 'Lease Liability' of ₹3,829 cr in FY 2019-20. Classification of the lease rentals has been changed from the 'Cost of the Goods Sold' and 'Rent Expenses', as the case may be, in the profit and loss account to 'Depreciation' and 'Finance Cost'.

During the quarter ended

WESTERN RAILWAY				
MISCELLANEOUS ENGINEERING WORKS IN CHURCH GATE-VIRAR SECTION				
Sr. DEN (South), Mumbai Central, Western Railway invites e-Tender as per details given as follows :				
Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and Location	Approx. cost of work (₹)	EMD (₹)
1.	BCT/20-21/151, dtd. 30.06.2020	CCG-VR section : Casual renewal of 60 kg rails under ADEN (T/S) PL & (T/N) BVI section and sleeper renewal under SSE (Pway) BYR section.	50,35,203/-	1,00,700/-
2.	BCT/20-21/152, dtd. 30.06.2020	CCG-VR section : Standardisation of Dead End under Sr. DEN (S) BCT Section.	1,30,35,823/-	2,15,200/-
3.	BCT/20-21/153, dtd. 30.06.2020	CCG-VR section : Lifting & packing of track and recoumpment of ballast to avoid flooding in monsoon under Sr. DEN (S) section	1,35,78,923/-	2,17,900/-

Date & Time of submission : For each SI. Nos. - On 28.07.2020 at 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of opening :** For each SI. Nos. - On 28.07.2020 at 15.30 hrs. **Note:** Please visit our website www.irps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details.

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INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Enterprise - Mini Ratna)
CN - L7489DL1998G010707

OPEN E-TENDER for in-premise promotional bulk mailer for both 1st Party and 3rd party affiliate for period of 4 years (Two Packet System Technical Bid and Financial Bid).

Open E-Tender No. 2020/IRCTC/ITC/ Bulk Mailer. Last date and time of acceptance of Pre-bid queries: **09.07.2020 up to 1700 Hrs.** All pre-bid queries must be sent through e-mail to itprocurement@irctc.co.in. **Pre Bid Meeting:** In wake of Covid-19 situation, no Pre-Bid meeting will be held. All Queries would be entertained only on E-mail. Last Date and Time of Submission of bids Online: **28.07.2020 up to 1500 hrs**

For more details visit IRCTC website: www.irctc.com or www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC

Tender participation can be done only on www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC

In case of any Corrigendum / addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published on IRCTC's website- www.irctc.com and www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC

Office Address: IRCTC Ltd. Group General Manager/IT internet Ticketing Center, IRCTC, State Entry Road, New Delhi - 110055

WESTERN RAILWAY			
E-Procurement Tender Notice No. S/10/2020 Dated : 29.06.2020			
SN	Short description of item	Quantity	T.O.D.
205	Orthopaedic Hexapod fixation System	1 set	17.07.2020
206	Set of Lock Nut F.S.	162 sets	20.07.2020
207	Membrane for Crowned Gear Coupling (HURTH Coupling)	218 sets	21.07.2020
208	Application magnet valve	190 Nos.	22.07.2020
209	Provision of LED based destination boards	94 Nos.	23.07.2020
210	AOH/HOH/POH Kit	136 Sets	23.07.2020
211	Computerised & Automated Bogie mounted Brake Cylinder Test Stand	1 No.	24.07.2020
212	Grease Exxon Arapen RB 320	1239 Kg.	24.07.2020
213	Set of Cylindrical Roller Bearing	56 Sets	25.07.2020
214	Tensioning Device Assembly	679 Sets	27.07.2020
215	Thin walled E Beam 19 core 2.5 sqmm	2890 Mtr.	27.07.2020
216	Set of Labyrinth Ring Bearing Cap	54 Sets	27.07.2020
217	Spheri Bloc for Traction Motor	200 Nos.	27.07.2020
218	Set of Labyrinth Ring and Bearing Cover	54 Nos.	27.07.2020
219	Repair Kit for Motor Suspension Unit	94 Sets	28.07.2020
220	EP Contactor Complete	106 Nos.	28.07.2020
221	Yoke for High Tension CBC	361 Nos.	28.07.2020
222	Sub Kit POH-1 for TAP Changer No. 32	42 Sets	30.07.2020
223	ERRU for 25 KW Brushless Alternator	65 Nos.	03.08.2020
224	Axle Box Pivot Bush	2500 Nos.	03.08.2020
225	Silent Block for Anchor Link	16665 Nos.	04.08.2020
226	Double acting hydraulic shock absorber	1854 Nos.	17.08.2020
227	Foot Step Arrangement	2388 Nos.	17.08.2020

Regarding detailed notice, EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender condition, please visit website : www.irps.gov.in and www.westernrailways.gov.in

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

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

Trend Slazer

Shilpa co-authors digital book

Actor **SHILPA SHETTY KUNDRA** has co-authored a digital book titled *The Magic Immunity Pill: Lifestyle*, with Luke Coutinho, a holistic lifestyle coach associated with integrative medicine.

The book focusses on emotional wellness, quality sleep, balanced nutrition and adequate exercise to build a strong immune system.

"It's been such a rich and learning experience working on this book with Luke Coutinho. Today, we are trying our best to stay healthy, for that I believe it's a prerequisite to have a really strong immune system," she said.



'I was very thrilled to see the love they showered on my character in season one, now with the amazing twist and a more intriguing look that my character has, there is lot more in store. Not to forget the amazing star cast, each one of us bring something to the table and that is amazing. Excited for the new season as things get grittier.'

—Amit Sadh

Amid the lockdown, actor **KAJOL** has found a new friend at home, and introduced her new-found buddy on Instagram.



She uses social media to share glimpses of her lockdown moments. Now, in a post, Kajol introduced her friend.

"Day 100 of quarantine: Making new friends inside the house," Kajol captioned a new post on Instagram.

She also shared a picture of herself with a friend — which is an artifact.

Recently, Kajol shared that lockdown is changing the way we think about hair. She posted a picture where she is seen flaunting brown locks.

Elnaaz raises money for migrants

Sacred Games actor **ELNAAZ NOROUZI** is going to celebrate her birthday by doing a good deed.

Ahead of her birthday on July 9, Elnaaz will raise money to help feed six to seven thousand families of Indian migrant workers.

This will be done in association with an NGO. Whatever money is raised by Elnaaz and her fans, will directly go to the NGO for the cause.

She is currently in Germany amid the global pandemic.



There's no denying that the TikTok ban in India will hit ByteDance the hardest. However, the decision has also left various content creators wondering about their future and careers. The short-form video making and sharing platform garnered more than 200 million users of the app and identified India as its largest international market. During its brief ban in 2019, the company had missed out on half a million dollars a day of revenue. Well, the app indeed gave rise to a whole new breed of celebrities in the country — the TikTok stars! But now what?

While some brands also came up with innovative ad campaigns on the platform, there are several people who found stardom and a possible career through it. Experts say

Another migration

Experts suggest that the TikTok ban will boost chances of similar apps as for its users and influencers, it's about talent and not the platform, says TEAM VIVA



that the ban will put a lot of things on hold. Nidhi Kumar, 24, has 1,30,000 followers on Instagram but 1.2 million on TikTok. The dancer posts around six videos on TikTok everyday, which typically receives half a million views cumulatively. She had earlier said, "The way you can reach the masses with TikTok is next level." Kumar gets up to 40 per cent of her income from social media via TikTok, and second from Instagram.

TikTok influencer Vaishnavi Naik (@beingnavi) who has over six million followers on her Instagram, "As you all know, TikTok is banned, will be posting my content here. Need your support."

Another user, Arman Rathod, a Gujarat-based car cleaner, said that TikTok was his "one-way ticket" to unexpected stardom as it allowed him to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a dancer.

Some of the popular content creators on the app also have a significant presence on other social media apps such as Instagram or YouTube. However, those "who did not diversify will feel the heat," said Ashutosh Harbola, founder and CEO of influencer-market firm, Buzzoka, earlier.

Shamsuddin Jasani, Group MD, Isobar South Asia, told a national daily, "We don't know how long this ban is going to last for. But if it lasts for a few months, it is certainly going to have a big effect on the curated video space. And YouTube will be for sure the big gainer as well as other Indian apps in the space."

While these influencers are thankful to have got a platform to showcase their skills, many said the sole reason for their popularity is their talent. If not on TikTok, they will use some other platform to showcase their talent as it has been garnering "decent views". A few other Indian apps that are similar to TikTok and its interface are Mitron App, Bolo India, Roposo App, Dubsmash and Chingari.



Nature has inspired me to move from landscapes to abstraction. I have tried to depict the importance of our bounties through minimalist expressions," says he.

As he was confined to home, he shares that he would have painted anyway. "Our residential complex was sealed twice, so stepping out of the house was out of the question. This restriction may drive someone insane but being an artist is a blessing as we need solitude to work. We must always be hopeful and create positive energy through our art," adds Harsh. This "me" time gave him a reason to look within for answers and inspirations. What inspired him to paint amidst these chaotic times was the desire to give full play to his imagination and probably touch the topic of our existence in this world in harmony with nature.

Painted in acrylic medium, a forest view with medium-sized seven birch trees that have yellowish-green leaves, oval and elliptical in shape, is one of the artist's finest works created during the project — *Birches in Woods*. With no horizons, the unknown path seems to lead nowhere and has nobody around to walk over it. There are birds too, but are hard to spot. The trees stand so close that they give a feeling of warmth and unity in nature.

"The birch trees are seven because it is the number of completeness and perfection, both physical and spiritual. The bird which one could miss easily, symbolises freedom and future. For time immemorial, mankind has considered birds to be a sign of eternal life. This work was born after hearing about how nature is reclaiming its space, skies/rivers are clearer and birds are returning. So, it is dedicated to the supremacy and importance of nature in our lives; we have to live in harmony. It is also about hope and a more responsible future by caring for our planet," says he.

For most of the artists, art is a therapy as it helps you to connect with your inner self and reflect upon the pertaining issues. "It takes me away from the mundane life full of noises. It brings me closer to myself and keeps me sane and happy. It also raises your spirits and helps you evolve as a person," says artist Shuchi Khanna. She shares that lockdown made her realise the importance of human relationships and encouraged her to declutter her insecurities. Painting is all about expression and to express one needs to feel things. During the process of exploring herself, she realised that this forced slowdown had given her time to reflect on various aspects of life. "My day to day life is hectic. Managing between home, job, art, fitness schedule, I lost out on simple moments of sheer joy of introspecting and doing nothing. This lockdown helped me bounce back to my old natural self. I hope we heal soon from the situation, the panic, the pain and the scare," says she.

While artist Niloy Sen's *Deadly Game* captures the enormity of this global crisis, he says that the atmosphere within the group was positive and creative, with all the participants sharing their thoughts, interactions and experimentation. This inspired him to get up every morning and do a new piece or finish the old one. "Each painting is a creative expression and interpretation of my thoughts. There's me hiding behind every work," adds he.

The aim of the project is to continue the conversation on art and provide an ambience where the audience can sit back and enjoy looking at artworks by clicking a button. They can walk through the virtual gallery. "I disagree with the school of thought that this is not the right time to talk about art. We have become so materialistic that we only look at art as an end product, available for purchase and not as an intellectual source of inspiration. In fact, this is the best time to talk about it. Art reacts, responds and heals us in times like these," says Lubna. (The artworks will be showcased on thearttroupe.com from July 5 to August 15.)

RESET TO RESTART

The Spirit Remains Unlocked, an art project launched during the lockdown, celebrates the resilience and the unrestrained creative spirit of the artist community. It aims to continue the conversation on art as it reacts, responds and heals. By SAKSHI SHARMA

Every space
Every race
Seeks today
A safe abode
I am in my haven.....
My home and my soul.
May be the birds always chirped, I never had the time.
I evoke the memory of the clear skies.
Now that I see it and have the time.
In the muddy pond of dark noises,
my mind glows like a white lotus.
Spotless and calm, it brings me where I am.

Artist Shuchi Khanna quotes these lines which aptly sum up her state of mind while painting during the lockdown.

When the outside world came to a standstill, we were all forced to reboot, go slow and look within. By the very nature of their profession, artists have already developed this skill and attitude to introspect, reset and innovate, on a daily basis. Like each one of us, they too stayed locked down but certainly unlocked in spirit. If anything, they became even more free with the language of their expression.

The project — *The Spirit Remains Unlocked*, conceptualised and curated by The Art Routé founder Lubna Sen, launched on the first day of the lockdown, celebrates this resilience and the unrestrained creative spirit of the artist community.

It was launched with 30 artists who remained confined in their respective homes and studios across the country and abroad.

"The concept came intuitively to me. The idea was, art has to go on — for the creator and the beholder. Suddenly, we were all asked to stay at home, go slow and reflect. By the very nature of their work, artists do this every day. I felt here is a section of society from whom we can learn a lot at this time. Also, as a curator and promoter



of forthcoming artists, I felt this project could motivate them to live through the uncertainty of the market," adds she.

She further says that the daily online interactions among artists injected a positive spirit. Yes, life and its ups and downs happened to all of us but there was a purpose in life which shielded us from the negative news outside and an end goal which helped us ride through the troughs.

Also, as a student of art history, Lubna shares how the historical context in which art is created has always fascinated her. As chroniclers of their time, artists are always the first responders to a crisis like this. "We are at a pivotal point in history, the effect of which we

will see in coming years. There was, hence, an impulse to capture this snapshot through this project," adds she.

The artists were asked some common questions to be answered through their works. "The personal journey is imprinted into each of their works — some are more explicit than others. Since I have known most of these artists for years, it was interesting for me to see those deviations in their languages — some subtle, some not so subtle," says Lubna.

For a few, the pandemic itself served as a subject — be it the virus, the deaths or the plight of the migrants or the silent victims of domestic abuse taken up by feminist artist Nitasha Jaini.

For some, who had no resources available for existing media of practice, this was an opportunity to work on new media and keep the creativity going. Sculptor Neeraj Mittra turned to drawings and sketching, printmaker Pranjit Sarma turned into water colours and digital art. Gayatri, who is inspired by the colour of textiles, made use of the only available resource that she had at home — charcoal.

For some, the journey of confusion to peace is very clearly stated in their works, such as Usha's ceramics. Yet for others, self quarantine is exactly what they needed to focus on their own existing language because the experience reaffirmed their own artistic inquiry.

The paintings give us a glimpse into the artists' solitary worlds as they have shared their ongoing works, thoughts, hopes and aspirations. Artist Ritu Aggarwal says, "Art is always a meditation for me as it helps me unclutter my mind. During lockdown, art was the only source to keep my mind stable and positive. Though I was already working, this project gave me the direction and inspiration to do work with more positivity which was really important for me at that moment. It made me realise that the doors can be locked but the spirit is always unlocked."

Her painting, *Silent Spaces*, which is one of her favourites too, is very different from her previous works. The pandemic forced her to think about the environment and atmosphere around her which grew cleaner, more peaceful and silent. "Everything seems to be connected with nature and breathable. And this gave me the new theme for my forthcoming works," adds Ritu.

Artist Harsh Inder Loomba's *Nueva Vida*, depicts flowers blooming out of the cracks of a wooden log. The idea behind his work was to portray the current happenings and their impact on him and surroundings through colours. "I paint nature and surrealistic figures.



'OTT release an experiment'

Veteran producer Anand Pandit who is co-producing Abhishek Bachchan-starrer *The Big Bull* along with Ajay Devgn says an OTT release for *The Big Bull*, was definitely not his first choice.

"I believe in the big theatre experience. It is the ultimate for any cinema lover. But, in the challenging times that we live in, we are all learning to adapt and more importantly,

experiment. An experiment to understand what the future holds for films and their audience. I would say this release is a new evolutionary tool in the growth of cinema and its audience."

The veteran producer was commenting on the decision of releasing the thriller on OTT platform Disney+ Hotstar that was announced by the platform. *The Big*

Bull is one of the films in the OTT platform's roster to be released this year.

Not one to look at things from just one prism, Anand says it also gives Hindi films an immediate reach with international audience in newer markets. "With an OTT release, the film will reach newer markets and newer international audience."

He adds that the theatrical experience will be back soon, "Theatrical experience will be back soon and that I assure you. In the meantime, let's not stop enjoying the one thing we are passionate about — films," he smiles and signs off.

Interestingly he is working with both the Bachchans currently — with Big B in *Chehre* and Junior Bachchan in *The Big Bull*.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

Be Vocal for Local and Go Digital — TRIFED embarks on a massive digitisation drive to connect tribals with the mainstream

The unprecedented situation due to the ongoing pandemic has affected all segments of our society. The livelihoods of the poor and marginalised communities have been seriously impacted and the tribals are some of the most affected in these trying times.

To ease the burden of the tribal artisans during such troubled times, TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs has initiated several immediate initiatives to re-energise the lagging economic activity for sustaining the livelihood development of tribals.

"The team of TRIFED warriors will take Tribal Commerce based on forest produce, handlooms and handicrafts to a new high for transforming tribal lives and livelihoods," says Union Minister Arjun Munda. Addressing a video conference to launch the Trifed Digital Platforms, through VC, he stated that with more and more people going online to meet their various needs, be it for business operations, shopping and communication, an important strategic push has been to adopt an all-encompassing digitisation drive to map and link its village based tribal producers to the national and international markets setting up state of art, e-platforms benchmarked to international standards.

This was the key focus area of the webinar *TRIFED Goes Digital and Be Vocal for Local #GoTribal* which was organised by TRIFED on June 27. It was attended by over 200 participants. The main highlight was the launch of the TRIBES India products on the Government e-Marketplace and TRIFED's new website (<https://trifed.tribal.gov.in>) by Munda.

Ramesh Chand Meena, Chairman,



TRIFED, Pratibha Brahma, Board Member, TRIFED, Rajeev Kandpal, JS& CFO, GeM and Nanu Bhasin, ADG, PIB also attended the launch.

In his address, Munda spoke about the unprecedented situation and how the migrant labour have suffered a lot. He expressed his pleasure at the efforts being put by "the TRIFED Warriors" and the Ministry officials to revive the flagging economic condition of the tribal artisans and tribal gatherers. He emphasised that empowering the tribal communities and utilising their skills, which has so far been disconnected from the mainstream, should be of prime focus and we should capitalise on opportunities that have been thrown open during the unprecedented situation. Munda opined that TRIFED plays a major role in connecting the tribals to the mainstream and congratulated the team for their two major initiatives being launched.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Pravir Krishna, Managing Director,

TRIFED thanked the Minister for his presence at the formal launch of the two digital initiatives. He spoke about TRIFED's ambitious digitisation drive and how this is aimed at creating a level playing field for more than 50 lakh tribals (artisans, gatherers, dwellers) who will be connected with the mainstream using state-of-the-art technology.

Rajeev Kandpal, JS& CFO, GeM addressed the webinar next. In his address, he spoke about how the TRIFED and GeM teams have worked hard under the overall guidance and leadership. He pointed out that social inclusion was a major focus in GeM and that niche supplier segments such as start-ups, rural entrepreneurs, tribal entrepreneurs, women, tribals have been encouraged.

Post this speech, a presentation was made about the all-encompassing digital transformation strategy embarked upon by TRIFED and the various measures put forth to help ease the situation of the tribal community.



Keeping every aspect of tribal lives and commerce in mind, TRIFED has also commenced the digitisation of the procurement of MFPs through government and private trade and the related payments to tribals. Leveraging the e-commerce boom, TRIBES India products are available at www.tribesindia.com with all regions working together to ensure that varieties and offerings of all kinds are readily accessible at other platforms too.

In addition, the Tribes India eMarketplace, coming on the heels of the Retail Inventory Management System which has automated the sourcing and sale of stocks, is an initiative to on-board almost five lakh Tribal Artisans on the e-market platform to provide them access to national and international markets. This is likely to be commissioned by end of July.

TRIFED's VanDhan Integrated Information Network facilitates the pooling of all information pertaining to forest dwellers engaged in Minimum

Support Price Operations and its VanDhan Yojana linking them up to Village haats and warehouses. This scheme has been implemented in 22 states touching the lives of almost 3,61,500 Tribals. The tribal clusters identified and mapped across the country are eligible beneficiaries under *Atmanirbhar Abhiyan*. The aim is to work in convergence with various ministries and agencies and help bring the benefits to these vulnerable and distressed communities.

Post the presentation on TRIFED's activities, Meena, congratulated the TRIFED team for its sustained efforts and was positive that the ₹ 2 lakh crore tribal economy will definitely get doubled or trebled. Also, he was certain that these efforts would result in the products and produces of tribal gatherers and artisans would get maximum coverage — both in the country and abroad.

Anil Ramteke, ED, TRIFED concluded this inspiring and informative session with his Vote of Thanks.



KG Hospital celebrates National Doctors' Day

National Doctors' Day observed in KG Hospital of CLW by garlanding the portrait of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy on his birth anniversary. Doctors took oath on this day. General Manager, Praveen Kumar Mishra, and senior officers witnessed this programme from administrative office conference room through WebEx video conferencing. Praveen inaugurated and dedicated four numbers of medical equipment of ICU through e-opening for the service of the patients, which are very beneficial for the treatment in the present COVID-19 situation. Equipment costing ₹1.7 crore, mainly motorised ICU beds, modular multi parameter monitor, BiPAP machine and echocardiography with colour doppler machine are provided in the hospital.

Praveen appreciated the efforts of medical team for successfully providing these essential medical equipment for fighting against pandemic for the betterment of CLW Railway employees and others.

IN SHORT

Government-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) announced the appointment of Parminder Chopra as Director (Finance) of the company. She succeeds NB Gupta, who superannuated on June 30. With over 32 years of rich and varied experience, she specialises in handling crucial and core finance functions such as fund mobilisation, corporate accounts, banking and treasury, asset-liability management, stressed asset resolution.



Metro Railway has developed a user-friendly method of recharging smart cards online for its commuters. In order to avail this facility, smart card users will have to visit Metro Railway Kolkata website and click on the 'online recharge' option. No transaction charges have to be paid. However, they will continue to get a 10 per cent bonus on the recharging amount of their smart cards as earlier. Manoj Joshi, General Manager, Metro Railway, said that it will fulfill long standing demand of online recharging of smart cards. He also thanked State Bank of India and CRIS for their support and cooperation



New appointments in GAIL

M V Ravi Someswarudu has taken over as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GAIL Gas Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of GAIL (India) Limited, engaged in the city gas distribution business. Prior to this assignment, he was serving as Executive Director & Officer-In-Charge of the Petrochemical Project at GAIL, Pata. He has taken over the charge from AK Jana, who is now the Managing

Director for Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL). Someswarudu has diverse experience encompassing more than 34 years in the Oil & Gas and Petrochemical Sectors covering diverse functions like Project Development, Operations and Maintenance, Technical Services, Process Design and Engineering, Design of Pipelines & Gas processing plants, Technology Selection and R&D.

He has also served in the Exploration & Production, Petrochemical Group at GAIL Corporate Office and also held additional charge of Project Development Department.

He played a significant role in formulating the policies and procedures in various divisions of the company. He has also played a significant role in conceptualising and taking up LNG Terminal projects in India.

Another important appointment is that of E S Ranganathan, who took charge as Director (Marketing), GAIL (India) Limited.

An Instrumentation & Control Engineer from NSS College of Engineering, Palghat in Kerala, Ranganathan is an MBA with specialisation in marketing. He has close to 35 years of rich and diverse experience in Oil and Gas sector, particularly in project exe-

cutation along with Operation & Maintenance of natural gas pipelines, gas marketing, business development and business information systems entailing engineering and planning, process management, scope management, resource management, schedule management, enterprise resource planning, technology upgradation, vendor management and quality assurance.

A firm believer in leveraging technology for business solutions, Ranganathan played a pioneering role in using technology towards SMART working in the field of O&M and project Management.

IOC gets new chairman

Shrikant Madhav Vaidya has taken over as the chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. He will also be the chairman of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd, a stand-alone refining subsidiary of IndianOil and Indian Oil tanking Limited.

Prior to his elevation, Vaidya was the Director, Refineries, IndianOil Board, since October 2019. A chemical engineer from the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, he has over 34 years of experience in refining and petrochemicals operations. He has had a decade-long association with India's largest cracker plant — the Panipat Naphtha Cracker Complex, a major driver of IndianOil's petrochemicals business.

He has always laid emphasis on ensuring smooth supply of products, eco-friendly business operations and healthy refining margins. During his tenure as Director, Refineries, he presided over several refinery expansion and petrochemical projects. He also steered the timely rollout of BS-VI grade auto fuels across the country, commenced supply of IMO-compliant bunker fuel (0.5 per cent Sulphur) and a special winter-grade diesel for the high-altitude regions of the Himalayas, and expanded the Corporation's green energy offerings with projects related to biofuels and 2G/3G ethanol-blended fuels at its refineries.

With proven technological prowess, future-ready business acumen and people-centric leadership style, Vaidya nurtures a strong vision of leveraging technology and innovative, sustainable fuel solutions for the Corporation's growth as an integrated energy major.



Since Lok Nayak hospital and Sthen GTB hospital were declared dedicated COVID hospitals, more than 400 Thalassemia patients registered with these hospitals were facing a lot of hardship financially and physically.

Patients and attendants had to visit other hospitals for blood transfusions and drugs therapies. Sometimes they were referred to other hospitals due to the shortage of blood during this crisis. It is worth mentioning that Thalassemia major patients require repeated blood transfusions every two to four weeks for their survival.

Big relief to thalassaemics

"We had initially made arrangements in other Thalassemia managing hospitals in Delhi but patients were finding a lot of difficulties in travelling long distances from one to another hospital. They were also finding problems in arranging blood. So, the Delhi government issued instructions to shift GTB hospital Thalassemia branch to Delhi State cancer Institute and Lok nayak hospital Thalassemia branch to



GB Pant hospital," said Dr SK Arora, Additional Director Health with the Government of Delhi.

"Now we have started services from Delhi State Cancer Institute for GTB hospital Thalassemia patients from Monday and from GB Pant hospital for LNH patients from Tuesday," added Dr Arora.

He further said that due to blood shortage, patients are requested to bring blood donors

also till the present crisis due to COVID-19 is over. We are also requesting all the hospitals to call a small number of donors on a daily basis. For the donations, hospitals can take help of registered NGOs and Rogi Kalyan samiti apart from other community Volunteers.

"We should get our Thalassemia minor test done before marriage so that one Thalassemia minor doesn't marry another such which is the only Primary Preventive Strategy if we want our country to be free from this major disease, which is practically untreatable," he added.



Sachin Ashok Sharma takes over as secretary of Western Railway

Sachin Ashok Sharma (IRTS) took charge of Secretary to General Manager of Western Railway. Sachin is an officer of the Indian Railways Traffic Service of 2009 batch and has worked in important assignments pertaining to train operations in previous positions as Senior Divisional Operations Manager of Nagpur and Bilaspur Railway Divisions under South East Central Railway.

His role particularly holds distinction for having made an all time record of highest freight loading and earning by any division over Indian Railways. Sharma's contribution towards improving Average Speed of Freight Trains and successfully implementing the concept of Mega Integrated Corridor blocks over Nagpur Division, won him the Railway Board's National Award in 2016.

He has also been the recipient of

Gold Medal for Best IRTS probationer in Academy, COM's Award and General Manager's Award. An officer with wide experience of Passenger and Freight Train Operations, Sachin has successfully facilitated more than 50 non-interlocking works for creation of new infrastructure augmentation projects. Recently, Alok Kansal, General Manager of Western Railway, has lauded his efforts and issued appreciation letter for his role during lockdown period, especially with regards monitoring of Shramik Special Trains.

Outgoing Secretary to GM and CPRO/Western Railway, Ravinder Bhakar has joined as CEO of CBFC. Ravinder in his tenure as managed his double responsibilities with utmost efficiency. Ravinder is also a recipient of the Railway Board's National Award along with many other prestigious awards at various levels.

THE MAGIC OF WHEELS

All of us have seen double-decker passenger trains, at least in pictures. However, Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (Prayagraj) has made possible that a double-stack electric goods train can now ply on railway tracks. Major hurdle in running such goods train was insufficient clearance available with overhead electric wires. However, CORE unit of Ahmedabad the unique distinction of introducing and opening for freight traffic, the 25 KV AC Electric traction with High Rise OHE having contact wire height of 7.57 meters, which is a first of its kind in Indian Railways and a world record. The feat was achieved by the team of railway electrification, Ahmedabad unit under Central Organisation for Railway Electrification. The High Rise OHE route was opened for Freight traffic after a mandatory and intense safety Inspections by Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle.

Further, for the first time, the hauling of (DSC) double stack container with electric traction was successfully introduced between Palanpur and Botad in Gujarat involving 270 kilometers. The electrification with High Rise OHE and subsequent hauling of double stack container by electric traction will boost the *Green India* initiative over Indian Railway.



The maiden operational run of Double Stack Container with Electric Traction was introduced on June 10 from Palanpur to Botad via Mahesana, Viramgam & Surendranagar. YP Singh, General Manager of Central Organisation for Railway Electrification, has expressed his pleasure on this historical milestone despite the tough challenges and congratulated entire team of Railway Electrification, Ahmedabad Unit consisting of Railways officials pertaining to Technical and Non-Technical both.

Conventional over head equipment (OHE) was designed for Electric Traction hauling with contact wire height of 5.60m and was catering to the existing demands of Indian Railway. Subsequently, Indian Railways with an eye on maximising freight traffic and at the same time keeping carbon emission to minimum with existing track capacity, it was imperative to run the freight trains with Double Stack containers with same Line capacity and increased hauling capacity thereby necessitating the adoption of High Rise OHE with contact wire height of 7.57 meters.

share of technical problems with regard to operational issues with existing Electric Locomotives and also negotiating existing over line structures suited for conventional OHE.

To offset the problem, Pantograph pressure was adjusted suitably after several Locomotive Run trials at various speeds and study of the results by Research Design & Standard Organisation (Research Wing of IR). Studies based on Locomotive trial runs are still going on for further improvements.

The project involved 34710 Cu.mof Concrete, 12015 MT of steel, 1386.62 MT of copper conductor & 93 No's of Bridge masts with an approximate cost of ₹ 566 crore for Electrical, Civil and Signaling & Telecom works.

The electrification of Botad to Pipavav is almost in advance stage of completion and after mandatory CRS inspection, the Freight trains will be introduced with Electric Traction shortly up to Pipavav Port which is a very major connectivity to India's first port build in Public Private Partnership model and a gateway port on the west coast India for handling containers, bulk cargos & Ro-Ro cargos. The facilitating of easy access to rail network at Pipavav port provides logistical advantage connecting the port to critical markets in the northwest part of India.

BETTER CALL SAUL

Niguez converts twice from spot to cancel Barca's advantage as holders title hopes take another blow

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Lionel Messi scored his 700th career goal but Barcelona suffered another blow to their La Liga title hopes after a 2-2 draw with Atletico Madrid on Tuesday.

Messi chipped in a penalty to reach another astonishing milestone at Camp Nou but Atletico hit back twice with spot-kicks of their own, Saul Niguez converting both after Barca took an early lead through Diego Costa's own goal.

The result gives Real Madrid the chance to move four points clear at the top of the table if they can overcome Getafe at home on Thursday, a formidable lead with five games left. Atletico stay third, two points ahead of Sevilla, who won 3-0 at Leganes.

With a superior head-to-head, it would take a dramatic capitulation for Real Madrid not to lift the trophy from here but there is no guarantee Barcelona can finish strongly enough even to create pressure.

This was their third draw in four matches and with suggestions of disharmony between the players and coaching staff, the future of coach Quique Setien looks bleak too.

"From the dressing room I feel supported, yes," he said. "And regarding the meeting with the board, I will not say



Saul Niguez celebrates after he scores Atletico Madrid's second goal against Barcelona. La Liga/Twitter

what was said in that."

Setien was also asked about his job on Monday and had to play down the significance of a frank exchange of views in the dressing room following Saturday's draw at Celta Vigo.

Messi had also caused a stir by appearing to ignore Setien's assistant Eder Sarabia during a water break at Vigo and on Tuesday it was impossible to ignore the contrast with Atletico's players, who huddled around Diego Simeone while 50 metres away Setien stood alone.

At full-time, Setien stared into space with the look of a coach that is running out of time but he had taken bold decisions, leaving 120-million-euro signing Antoine Griezmann on the bench and handing another start to 20-year-old Riqui Puig.

"It's true that taking him out of the team like that is hard for a player of his level but the circumstances forced me to

do it," said Setien of Griezmann. "Tomorrow I will speak to him, not to apologise, but it is a decision he has to understand."

COSTA NIGHTMARE

Yet it started well for them as Costa endured a nightmare first quarter of an hour, first diverting Messi's corner into his own net after misjudging the flight of the ball at the near post.

Then he missed a penalty, won after the excellent Yannick Carrasco left Gerard Pique for dead and then cut back inside Arturo Vidal, who stuck out a leg.

Costa's shot was saved but VAR showed ter Stegen had sprung off his line too early and Atletico were given a second chance. This time Saul took the ball and he scored the equaliser.

Messi dinked over the sliding Renan Lodi and then whistled a curling effort past the far post. His deflected free-kick

FIGURATIVELY

700 Lionel Messi has scored his 700th first-team goal for Barcelona (630) and Argentina (70)

2 Atlético de Madrid have scored two goals in a LaLiga game against Barca for the first time under Simeone

3 Barcelona have drawn three of their last four LaLiga games (W1), as many as they had in their previous 26 matches in competition (W19 D3 L4)

1 Diego Costa has scored an own goal for the first time in the top-flight (194 appearances in LaLiga and 89 in Premier League)

2 Takefusa Kubo has become the youngest foreign player to assist two goals in a La Liga game in the 21st century (19 years & 26 days)

100 Lago Aspas has become the second player to reach 100 goals for Celta in LaLiga, after Manuel Hermida (104)

forced Jan Oblak to adjust his feet and palm over.

Finally, it was laid on a plate for him shortly after half-time. Felipe clipped Nelson Semedo and Messi, with the 700th in sight, chipped the ball delicately down the middle.

But every time Barca pulled away, Atletico pegged them back. Another penalty was awarded, again instigated by the speedy Carrasco, who made the most of the slightest touch from Semedo.

Saul took responsibility again and while Ter Stegen got a hand to it, the ball squirmed into the corner.

Vidal twice went close, the second time heading wide Jordi Alba's cross, and Thomas Lemar might even have won it for Atletico in injury-time. For Barca, the draw was damaging enough.

Earlier, Sevilla's Oliver Torres scored twice and Munir El Haddadi added a third to see off Leganes and boost their hopes of holding onto fourth place.

Sevilla sit five points ahead of Getafe, having played a game more. Leganes stay 19th, nine points adrift of safety.

Juve win. Again

Dybala, Ronaldo & Costa score brilliant goals to keep Sarri's men on course of ninth straight title

AFP ■ GENOA

Juventus maintained their four-point lead at the top of Serie A on Tuesday after strolling to a 3-1 win at Genoa that keeps chasers Lazio at bay despite their comeback triumph at Torino.

Three stunning individual goals from Paulo Dybala, Cristiano Ronaldo and Douglas Costa downed relegation-threatened Genoa and kept Maurizio Sarri on course to deliver Juve's ninth straight league title in his first season as coach.

Andrea Pinamonti pulled one back with 14 minutes left for the struggling hosts, who stay just one point above the drop zone and third-from-bottom Lecce, who host Genoa's local rivals Sampdoria on Wednesday night.

Pinamonti's strike was the first goal Juve have conceded since losing at Lyon in February, and it wasn't enough to stop the champions from cruising to their sixth straight league win.



Juventus' Douglas Costa, second right, celebrates after scoring a goal. AP

"It was a good team effort and we scored three brilliant goals," said Sarri. "The team have recovered well after the disappointment of losing the Italian Cup final, it was only a matter of time."

LAZIO COMEBACK

Earlier, Lazio had done their part when they came from behind again to win 2-1 against struggling Torino.

Ciro Immobile's 29th league goal of another remark-

able season for the Italy forward and Marco Parolo's deflected strike in the 73rd minute completed a deserved second-half comeback for Lazio, who had clawed their way to a 2-1 win over Fiorentina in similar fashion just two days earlier.

Andrea Belotti gave the hosts an early lead from the penalty spot after Immobile handled but spent the rest of the match on the back foot and are 14th on 31 points.

Ravindrasinh Jadeja @irmjadeja · 5h
Thank you Wisden India for naming me the 'Most Valuable Player'. I would like to thank all my teammates, coaches, fans and well wishers for your support as I aim to give my best for our country. Jai Hind. 🇮🇳🇮🇳🇮🇳

Flamboyant all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been named as India's most valuable Test player in the 21st century by the Wisden magazine. With an MVP rating of 97.3, the 31-year-old Jadeja was also rated as the second most valuable Test player worldwide, behind only Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan

Burno at the wheel

Fernandes continues scoring run as Greenwood impresses in Utd's 3-0 win

AFP ■ BRIGHTON

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said Bruno Fernandes has brought a winning mentality to Manchester United after his brace inspired an impressive 3-0 win at Brighton on Tuesday.

Cajoled by the dazzling Fernandes, United produced one of their best performances of the season at the Amex Stadium.

Mason Greenwood opened the scoring early in the first half and Fernandes doubled the lead before the interval.

Fernandes netted again after half-time with a fine volley as United climbed above Wolves on goal difference to take fifth place in the Premier League.

"Bruno has come and been fantastic. He has brought that winning mentality with him, that 99 percent is not good enough. It has to be 100 percent," Solskjaer said.

"I've got more than one game-changer. The third goal was a great team goal. To see so many players sprinting forward to get on the end of it was fantastic. A great finish by Bruno."

Solskjaer's side are two points behind fourth-placed Chelsea, who play their game in hand at West Ham on Wednesday.

With fifth place secur-

ing qualification for the Champions League if second-placed Manchester City's European ban is upheld, United are in a strong position to return to the continent's elite club competition.

If they make it, United will owe a huge debt of gratitude to Fernandes, who has scored six goals since arriving from Sporting Lisbon in January.

The Portugal midfielder's role in revitalising United cannot be understated.

They were mired in a major slump before Fernandes' signing, but are now on a 15-game unbeaten run in all competitions, including three successive wins.

"It's a joy to watch them when you see them express themselves like that," Solskjaer said.

"The confidence comes from performances. They worked hard during the lockdown and we know we have loads to play for."

"I don't care about making a statement, I know we are a good team."

United are also looking more solid at the back with eight clean sheets in their last 13 league matches.

With a run-in that includes games against

Next season we will not defend anything, we will attack it: Klopp

MANCHESTER: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said the Premier League champions will not rest on their laurels and continue to attack teams and not just defend their crown.

Liverpool recently ended their 30-year long wait for a top-flight title.

"As long as we stay humble and greedy, we have a good chance to remain a really uncomfortable opponent," Klopp told *Sky Sports*.

"When you are an uncomfortable opponent, you have a chance to win. And when you have a chance to win, then sometimes you have to win."

"There are a lot of challenges, and our challenge is now being champions and playing seven games against teams that will fight for everything. We can show that we don't run because we have to, we run because we want to."

"Next season, you can write stories about us being the defending champions or whatever, but that is why I say — we will not defend anything, we will attack it." **LANS**

Bournemouth, Aston Villa and West Ham, Solskjaer's men could enjoy a memorable conclusion to the campaign as they also chase success in the FA Cup and Europa League.

Manohar steps down as ICC chairman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Shashank Manohar on Wednesday stepped down as the International Cricket Council's first independent chairman, ending a stint which coincided with the BCCI losing its influence in the world body.

Manohar took charge as ICC Chairman in November 2015. His deputy Imran Khwaja, from Hong Kong, will be the interim chairman.

"ICC Chairman Shashank Manohar has stepped down after two, two-year tenures at its helm. The ICC Board met today (Wednesday) and agreed that Deputy Chairman Imran Khwaja will assume the responsibilities of the Chairperson until a successor is elected," ICC stated in a release.

The process for the election of the next chairperson is expected to be approved by the ICC Board within the next week.

Former ECB chairman Colin Graves and India's Sourav Ganguly are the main contenders even though the former India skipper's candidature depends on the whether Supreme Court would allow him to continue as BCCI President by relaxing the cooling off norms mandated by the Lodha administrative reforms.

Former Cricket West Indies head Dave Cameron, New Zealand's Gregor Barclay, Cricket South Africa's Chris Nenzani have also shown interest at different times.

As per the current constitution, Ganguly's six years as office-bearer in state and BCCI end on July 31 and he is qualified to take over the ICC chairmanship.

According to local newspaper *Daily Mirror*, which quoted SSP W A J H Fonseka, a Special Investigation Division of the Ministry of Sports has asked Sangakkara to record his statement.

Sangakkara has been asked to appear before the unit on Thursday at 9 am, according to the report.

The special unit also recorded statements from Sri Lanka batting legend Aravinda De Silva, who was chairman of the selection committee at that time, and the opening batsman of that match Upl Tharanga.

On June 24, the Special Investigation Division recorded a statement from Aluthgamage, who said that his early assertion was actually a suspicion which he wants thoroughly probed. **PTI**

Sanga asked to give statement in Lanka's 2011 WC probe

COLOMBO: Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara has been asked to record his statement in front of a special investigating unit of the Sports Ministry probing allegations that the country's 2011 World Cup Final loss to India was fixed, local media reported.

Sangakkara was captain of the Sri Lankan team at that time.

According to local newspaper *Daily Mirror*, which quoted SSP W A J H Fonseka, a Special Investigation Division of the Ministry of Sports has asked Sangakkara to record his statement.

Sangakkara has been asked to appear before the unit on Thursday at 9 am, according to the report.

The special unit also

CWI official calls for coach Simmons' removal

LONDON: A Cricket West Indies board official has sought the "immediate removal" of head coach Phil Simmons for moving out of the team's bio-secure location to attend his father-in-law's funeral ahead of the three-Test series against England.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) board member Conde Riley, who also heads the Barbados Cricket Association (BCA), called Simmons' actions reckless despite the fact that the former West Indies all-rounder had taken CWI's permission and has now quarantined himself.

"I am being bombarded by concerned parents and members of the BCA. This behaviour is inconsiderate and reckless. It endangers the lives of those 25 young men in the UK and in fact the entire management team and cannot be tolerated," Riley was quoted as saying by *ESPNCricinfo*.

"The English press will have a feast on his judgement and I suggest we act swiftly," he added. **PTI**

Live cricket in SA from July 18

JO'BURG: The postponed 3T Cricket competition, which would mark the resumption of Live cricket in South Africa following the coronavirus-forced break, will be held on July 18.

The Solidarity Cup, which will see 24 of South Africa's top cricketers feature in three teams playing two halves in a single match, was scheduled to be held on June 27 but was postponed indefinitely after CSA felt more work was needed to stage it.

The teams that will take part in the match are the Eagles, to be captained by AB de Villiers, Kingfishers, to be led by Kagiso Rabada and the Kites, which will have Quinton de Kock as skipper.

The announcement of the new date comes a day after South Africa's 44 cricketers, who are part of a men's high performance squad, returned to training amid after getting approval from the country's sports ministry. **PTI**

2015 WC loss played huge role in sudden retirement: AB

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former South Africa skipper AB de Villiers said that the semifinal loss to New Zealand in the 2015 World Cup wore him down for a year and played a huge role in his sudden decision to retire from international cricket.

South Africa were left heartbroken when they suffered a four-wicket loss to New Zealand via D/L method in a rain-affected 2015 World Cup semifinal and de Villiers accepted that he had struggled to come to terms with it.

"That was a really horrible moment down a touch but I kept playing, I tried to bite the bullet, I tried to be there. I was batting really well. I still had incredible friendships and

memories," de Villiers said during a *Cricbuzz* in *Conversation* show hosted by Harsha Bhogle.

The 36-year-old, regarded as one of the greatest batsmen of all time, had called time on his 14-year-old international cricket in 2018 despite being at the peak of his game.

De Villiers had then said that he ran 'out of gas' and 'was feeling tired' as the reasons behind his retirement.

However, the former Protea skipper said that the New Zealand defeat played a role in his sudden decision.

"From a personal point of view, it played a huge role," said de Villiers, who has scored 8765 runs in 114 Tests and 9577 runs in 228 ODIs respectively for South Africa.

"We got beaten by sport on the night and it was actually a beautiful thing but it

was difficult for me to get through that year and to specifically meet up with the team again a few months later, having to go again.

"Here we go again, we have to restart but I am like hold on, I am not over this World Cup. It hurt too much. So yes, I am sensitive and those kinds of things play a huge role in how I feel and my ambitions," de Villiers said.

South Africa have been perennial under-achievers at the World Cup, having faced massive disappointments in the 1992 and 1999 editions.

De Villiers said he struggled to cope with the 2015 loss for about a year and regrets not opening up about his emotions.

"The next 12 months was really tough for me. Maybe I should've been more honest about it when I look back and communicated about it. I felt like I was a little bit alone at the time but it's silly to say that you're alone if you don't seek help, if you don't talk about it," he said.

Stokes will do great job as skipper: Silverwood

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

England coach Chris Silverwood believes star all-rounder Ben Stokes will make up for a great leader when he replaces Joe Root as captain for the first Test against the West Indies starting here at Ageas Bowl on July 8.

Having never led a side in first-class cricket, star all-rounder Stokes will be captaining the national team for the first time in his career.

"I think he will do a great job. He is a talisman, isn't he? He leads from the front anyway. He is conscious of the people around him as well so I think he will do a great job in Joe Root's absence," Silverwood was quoted as saying by *The Guardian*.

"We know he has got an aggressive nature but equally there is a good cricket brain in there as well. I think he will be quite vocal about what moves he



Ben Stokes bowls during England's training session ahead of WI series. AP

is making out there.

"I'm looking forward to working with him from a coaching point of view. I will extend him the same courtesies I do Rooty. He will have a lot of say in what is going on and he will play a big part in giving his opinions in selection as well," he said.

Silverwood also revealed that Jos Buttler will be Stokes deputy in the opening Test.

SINGLES

'SANE BELIEVE HE WILL BE HAPPIER AT BAYERN'
MANCHESTER: Man City manager Pep Guardiola on Wednesday conceded that forward Leroy Sane is on his way to Bayern Munich. Speaking during pre-match conference, Pep revealed that the transfer is almost done and Sane is on his way back to Germany. "Looks like, if not already, done" Guardiola told reporters. "There are still some little issues. Wish him all the best on his new chapter. He will have another chapter at a fantastic club in Bayern Munich. He wanted to leave. Everyone has their own life and he decided to move on. I would have loved for him to stay but he believed he would be better and happier there," he added.

INDIA SUBMIT BID TO HOST 2027 ASIAN CUP
LONDON: India has bid for the 2027 Asian Cup hosting rights along with four other countries — Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan. "The AFC will now work with each Bidding Member Association on the delivery of the necessary bidding documentation in accordance with the bidding process and will announce the host for the 19th edition of the AFC Asian Cup in 2021," said the AFC in a statement.

CSL SEASON WILL START ON JULY 25
BEIJING: Chinese Football Association on Wednesday announced that the postponed Chinese Super League 2020 season, which was originally scheduled to begin on February 22, will kick off on July 25. Suzhou, in south China's Jiangsu Province, and Dalian, in the northern Liaoning Province, have been selected as the two host cities to start the season, said the CFA, without mentioning a specific league format in the statement.

SAKA SIGNS LONG-TERM ARSENAL DEAL
LONDON: Premier League side Arsenal have signed a new long-term deal with 18-year-old winger Bukayo Saka. Saka has been at the club since the age of seven. He made his debut in a Europa League match on Nov 18 and has since made 34 first-team appearances. Saka has assisted 11 goals and is the first teenager to do so for Arsenal since Cesc Fabregas in the 2006/07 season.

BELL EXTENDS WARWICKSHIRE STAY TILL 2021
BIRMINGHAM: Veteran England batsman Ian Bell has signed one-year contract extension with Warwickshire that will see him tied down to the club till 2021. Bell has been one of the most decorated cricketers in club's history having won six domestic trophies and scoring 17,350 runs, with 38 centuries, across all formats.

NAGAL WINS PSD BANK NORD OPEN TOURNEY
BERLIN: Rising tennis star Sumit Nagal has become the first Indian to win an international tournament in the Covid-19 era after he lifted the PSD Bank Nord Open trophy, a locally organised clay court tournament in Germany. Nagal, who is currently India's highest-ranked singles player at 127, recently defeated second seed German Daniel Masur 6-1, 6-3 in the final match at the tournament held at the Pinneberg tennis club.

TI STARS EXTEND HELP TO FRATERNITY MEMBERS
NEW DELHI: India players Sharath Kamal & G Sathiyan will be extending financial help to more than 130 needy members of the table tennis fraternity amid the Covid-19 pandemic after raising more than Rs 13 lakh for charity. The needy will receive a one-time grant of ₹10000 each. Former player Neha Aggarwal is helping Sharath and Sathiyan in the initiative. Financial help will be provided to players, coaches and umpires who have been hit hard by the financial impact of the pandemic.

REAL MADRID TO LAUNCH WOMEN'S TEAM
MADRID: After 118 years, Real Madrid will launch a professional women's team by absorbing CD Tacón and launching a fresh Galactico project at the club. Madrid, the best team of the 20th century according to FIFA, has so far been one of the only elite clubs to resist the creation of a female team. By taking over Tacón, the women's club based in Madrid & created in 2014, 'Real Madrid Femenino' will become a reality. **Agencies**