

**OPINION 6**  
SPARE THE WORKERS

**WORLD 8**  
NEPALESE LAWMAKER SACKED FOR DEFYING HER PARTY'S DECISION TO ENDORSE COUNTRY'S NEW MAP

**AVENUES 10**  
DIGITAL SHIFT IN EDUCATION

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY JULY 8, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



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WE'VE TO GET ON TO BEN EARLY: SIMMONS  
12 SPORT

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# Chinese pullback progresses smoothly

Chinese troops withdraw 1.5 km from LAC; no patrolling in buffer zone for some time

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The disengagement process at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh progressed smoothly for the second consecutive day on Tuesday with the Chinese troops withdrawing more than one and a half kilometres at the all the face-off sites.

The complete disengagement, including arriving at modalities to maintain buffer zone to ensure distance between soldiers of the two armies, is expected to take three to four more days.

The military commanders of both sides are expected to review the situation after ten days. The two countries have also agreed to keep all lines of communication at the diplomatic level open to ensure quick de-escalation at the border.

The two armies were in an eyeball to eyeball confrontation for the last eight weeks at four sites in a frontage of 25 to 30 km in Eastern Ladakh. The disengagement began on Monday after talks between National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday to ensure



This combination of June 28, 2020, left, and July 6, 2020, satellite images provided by Maxar Technologies shows the Galwan Valley along the disputed border between India and China

- Complete disengagement expected to take three to four more days
- 2 countries have also agreed to keep all lines of communication at diplomatic level open to ensure quick de-escalation at border
- Military commanders of both sides are expected to review the situation after ten days
- As of now, the pullback is in full swing at the Galwan valley, which saw a bloody clash on June 15

peace at the earliest.

As of now, the pullback is in full swing at the Galwan valley, which saw a bloody clash on June 15. Hot Springs and Gogra, sources said here on Tuesday adding the complete withdrawal by both the armies is expected to be completed at the three locations in a few days. The Chinese also started dismantling temporary struc-

tures, including tents and bunkers, at the Pangong Tso (lake), signaling their intent to abide by the agreement to pull back from all the face-off sites in a gradual manner. This agreement was arrived at between the two Corps Commanders in three rounds of talks at the LAC on June 6, 22 and 30. Officials said under the



This combination of June 28, 2020, left, and July 6, 2020, satellite images provided by Maxar Technologies shows the Galwan Valley along the disputed border between India and China

mutual disengagement, both sides will disengage and move back by 1-1.5 km from the friction points. Thereafter, the two Corps Commanders are likely to meet again to hold further talks after the disengagement process is completed, they said.

They also said with the Chinese retreating, the Indian troops too have withdrawn an equal distance in all friction zones and the area in between is a buffer zone meant to separate the soldiers of both sides. A future decision on patrolling in the region will be taken after

the next round of military talks, sources said.

The buffer zone was now under electronic surveillance through drones and satellites. There will be no patrolling by the Armies of either side within the Buffer zone.

On Sunday, Doval and Yi spoke on the phone for two hours. According to an official statement, the two agreed that "it was necessary to ensure at the earliest complete disengagement of the troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and de-escalation from India-China

border areas for full restoration of peace and tranquility."

"They reaffirmed that both sides should strictly respect and observe the line of actual control and should not take any unilateral action to alter the status quo and work together to avoid any incident in the future that could disturb peace and tranquility in border areas," said the Government statement.

China said front-line troops are taking "effective measures" and making "progress" to disengage and ease the tensions in the Galwan

## Rahul fires 3 probing questions at Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after India and China announced disengagement and de-escalation at the Ladakh border, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday asked why India has not insisted on restoring status quo ante, allowed China to "justify" the Galwan Valley clashes and did not mention territorial sovereignty over the Galwan Valley.

Rahul, who has been constantly attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the China issue, said the Government of India was duty-bound to protect national interest.

"National interest is paramount. GOI's duty is to protect it. Then, why has Status Quo Ante not been insisted on? 2. Why is China allowed to justify the murder of 20 unarmed

jawans in our territory? 3. Why is there no mention of territorial sovereignty of Galwan valley?" Rahul tweeted.

Sharing the Indian and the Chinese press statements, Rahul highlighted a sentence from the China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs that read, "The right and wrong of what happened in the Galwan Valley on the western sector of the China-India boundary is very clear. China will continue safeguarding our territorial sovereignty as well as peace and tranquility in the border areas."

Former Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor too stressed on restoring status quo ante.

"Disengagement is welcome, but means little unless the status quo ante is restored."

Continued on Page 2

Valley. "China and India have made progress coming up with effective measures for frontline troops to disengage and de-escalate the border situation at

the third commander-level talks between the two militaries on June 30," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said.

## Intel officials in Nepal to turn tide for India

RAW, IB chiefs in hectic parleys with leaders of political spectrum

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Senior officials of the security and intelligence establishment are camping in Kathmandu to ramp up support for India ahead of the crucial meeting of the powerful Standing Committee of the ruling Nepal Communist Party on Wednesday to decide on the fate of Nepal's Prime Minister KP Oli.

Chief of Research and Analysis Wing Samant Kumar Goel and Intelligence Bureau chief Arvind Kumar are involved in hectic parleys with leaders of the political spectrum there. The Chinese ambassador in Kathmandu too is personally meeting the Nepalese leaders, top sources said here.

The confabulations by Goel and Kumar with the Nepalese politicians is being undertaken as a damage-control exercise post-Constitutional amendment to include Indian territories of Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura in the map of Nepal. The talks by the

Intelligence chiefs are being directly monitored by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, the sources said.

Talks have so far been held with Nepal Communist Party leaders Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, Madhav Kumar Nepal, Jhalanath Khanal, Narayan Kaji Shrestha and Keshav Prasad Badal among others. The officials also talked to Barsaman Pun, Shankar Pokharel (considered close to Oli) and Dr Rajan Bhattarai (Oli's advisor on foreign affairs).

Continued on Page 2

## Nepal Opp slams Oli for immature policy affecting ties with India

**Kathmandu:** Nepal's Opposition parties on Tuesday lambasted the KP Oli Government's "immature" foreign policy, saying it is hampering the country's relations with its neighbours. Prime Minister Oli has been facing intense criticism ever since his Government's move to update the country's political map by incorporating three strategically key Indian territories — Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura last month.

PTI

## CBSE to reduce IX to XII syllabi by 30% to make up for corona loss

HRD Minister tweets decision in big relief for parents, students

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after setting the academic standards of higher education for current academic session, the HRD Ministry on Tuesday directed the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to reduce its syllabus from Class 9 to 12 for academic session 2020-2021 by up to 30 per cent in order to make up for academic loss amid novel coronavirus pandemic.

While State Education boards will take their own calls



in framing the syllabus of the school education within their jurisdiction, another pan-India board, ICSE, which has affiliated schools across the country, last week announced reducing its syllabus by 50 per cent for the current academic year.

"Looking at the extraordinary situation prevailing in the country and the world,

CBSE was advised to revise the curriculum and reduce course load for the students of Class 9th to 12th," HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal took to Twitter to announce this decision, which came as a big relief for the schools, students, parents and all other stakeholders of secondary education.

The academic syllabus for primary section was already announced by the Ministry early this month.

The reduction in the syllabus will be in terms of retaining the core concepts, the HRD Minister added.

"Considering the importance of achieving the level of learning, the syllabus has been rationalised to the extent possible by retaining the core concepts," CBSE said.

Continued on Page 2

## Indian students to return from US if classes held only online

New Delhi raises issue, US assures India to mitigate visa rule impact

PTI ■ WASHINGTON/NEW YORK/NEW DELHI

In a move that will adversely impact hundreds of thousands of Indian students, the US immigration authority has announced that foreign students will have to leave the country or risk deportation if their universities switch to online-only classes in this fall semester due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said in a press release on



Monday that for the fall 2020 semester students attending schools operating entirely online may not take a full online course load and remain in the US.

Meanwhile, India on Tuesday raised with the US its decision to withdraw US visas from foreign students if their universities switch to online-

only classes, official sources said. The issue was raised by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla during an online meeting with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale.

The sources said the US side took note of it and said they will keep the best interests of the Indian students in mind and would try and mitigate the impact of the decision.

"The US Department of State will not issue visas to students enrolled in schools and/or programmes that are fully online for the fall semester nor will US Customs and Border Protection permit these students to enter the United States," the release said referring to the September to December semester.

Detailed report on P8

## Covid-19 IN INDIA

**TOTAL CASES: 7,43,475**  
**DEATHS: 20,653**  
**RECOVERED: 4,57,016**  
**ACTIVE: 2,65,677**

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	2,17,121	9,250	1,18,558
Tamil Nadu	1,18,594	1,636	71,116
Delhi	1,02,831	3,165	74,217
Gujarat	37,636	1,978	26,744
Uttar Pradesh	29,968	827	19,627
Telangana	27,612	313	16,287
Karnataka	26,815	417	11,100
West Bengal	23,837	804	15,790
Rajasthan	21,404	472	16,575
Andhra Pradesh	21,197	252	9,745
Haryana	17,999	279	13,645
Madhya Pradesh	15,627	622	11,768
Bihar	12,525	98	9,338
Assam	12,523	14	8,330
Odisha	10,097	54	6,703
Jammu & Kashmir	8,931	143	5,399

## India's Covid-19 fatality rate/mn population lowest in world: Health Ministry

**New Delhi:** Coronavirus may have been spreading like wildfire in India which has occupied the third slot among the worst-hit nations in the world, but the Government on Tuesday claimed that the country has one of the lowest Covid-19 deaths and cases per million population. Referring to the 'WHO Situation Report-168' dated July 6, the Union Health Ministry said India's Covid-19 cases per million population is 505.37 as against the global average of 1,453.25.

Detailed report on P4

## Dubey tried to be alter ego of 'Arjun Pandit'

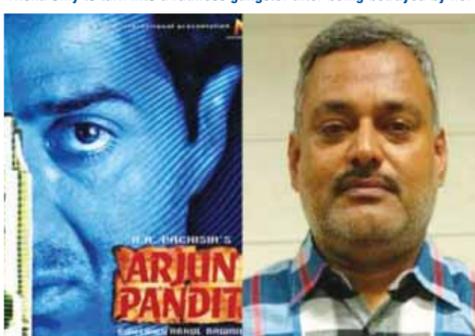
IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Vikas Dubey's plunge into crime coincided with Sunny Deol thriller "Arjun Pandit" which released in 1999. Taking a cue from the movie Dubey also became Vikas Pandit, and has been known so in political circles and even among the police personnel, who referred to him as 'Pandit'.

Local journalist who came to know him, on condition of anonymity said that he was fond of being called Pandit. The Bollywood thriller though panned out to be much different. In the film Arjun (Sunny Deol) became a puppet in the hands of a powerful man and kept quiet about a crime he witnessed.

He fell in love with Nisha only to turn into a ruthless

The Bollywood thriller though panned out to be much different. In the film Arjun (Sunny Deol) became a puppet in the hands of a powerful man and kept quiet about a crime he witnessed. He fell in love with Nisha only to turn into a ruthless



gangster after being betrayed by her. Vikas Dubey now absconding was fond of

this movie and had seen it hundreds of times says some of the local journalists, who have

been familiar with his modus operandi. He even called his victims and only introduced himself as Pandit.

However, after the June 3 killing of eight policemen in Kanpur's Bikru village in his own backyard, Dubey is a pariah both to the ruling and the Opposition.

While, the Yogi Adityanath Government has increased the bounty on his head to ₹2.5 lakh, and 300 teams are chasing him under the supervision of STF, the Opposition has also demanded a thorough probe. Posters of all his accomplices are out and even his wife Richa Dubey is being chased. The family of Vikas Dubey has turned away from the gangster and some have even called for his death, including his mother.

## Pompeo: US 'looking at' banning TikTok, other Chinese apps

**Washington:** Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said the US is taking the threat posed by Chinese social media apps like TikTok very seriously and is "certainly looking" at banning them, days after India blocked the popular video-sharing platform. India banned 59 apps with Chinese links, including TikTok and UC Browser, on June 29, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country. During an interview with Fox News' Laura Ingraham, Pompeo said he and President Donald Trump are taking the reports seriously after he was told by the host that India had already banned the app and Australia is considering doing so.

PTI Detailed report on P8

## Rajiv Gandhi Hospital gets ICMR nod for 200 plasma therapies

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government-run Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (RGSSEH), a dedicated Covid-19 facility, has received the nod from the ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) to conduct plasma therapy on 200 coronavirus patients.

The RGSSEH in East Delhi has treated over a thousand patients after being declared a dedicated facility, and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday felicitated the 1,000th patient who was discharged on July 3.

"We received the ICMR nod about 10 days ago, and



currently we have the permit to do plasma therapy on 200 recipients. We are making all arrangements before we can begin, but we are short of manpower as of now," said a senior doctor at RGSSEH. "A convalescent plasma therapy facility needs a lot of paraphernalia and trained staff.

We are trying to augment our infrastructure as well as in the process of hiring required staff, after which we will begin the process" a senior official said.

Recently, Kejriwal had inaugurated the country's first "plasma bank" at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), run by the city Government.

On the first day, 10 people donated and on the second day, seven donors showed up at ILBS, according to sources.

The Chief Minister has been appealing to people, who have fully recovered, to come forward and donate plasma to Covid-19 patients.

Continued on Page 2

# INDIA RAISES ISSUE WITH US

## American agency's decision on foreign students' visas

New Delhi: India on Tuesday raised with the US its decision to withdraw US visas from foreign students if their universities switch to online-only classes, official sources said.

The issue was raised by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla during an online meeting with US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale.

The sources said the US side took note of it and said they will keep the best interests of the Indian students in mind and would try and mitigate the impact of the decision.

It also conveyed to India that detailed guidelines for implementation of the decision are yet to come out.

In a move that will adversely impact hundreds of thousands of Indian stu-

The sources said the US side took note of it and said they will keep the best interests of the Indian students in mind and would try and mitigate the impact of the decision

dent, the US immigration authority announced that foreign students will have to leave the country or risk deportation if their universities switch to online-only classes in this fall semester due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The US immigration agency said that the students currently staying in the US and enrolled into such programmes "must depart the country or take other measures, such as transferring to an institute with in-person tuition to remain in lawful status".

# PM Modi to make major worldwide address to India Global Week in UK

London: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make a major worldwide address, expected to focus on India's trade and foreign investment prospects, at India Global Week 2020 organised in the UK from Thursday.

Modi, who will connect remotely to the event pitched as one of the biggest international events on India's globalisation, is likely to lay out numerous investment and manufacturing opportunities that India has on offer as the world emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic.

"As the world battles to emerge out of the shadows of Covid-19, India with its immense talent pool, its technological prowess, and growing appetite for leadership has a central role to play in global affairs. I am sure the Indian Prime Minister's message to the world will resonate with the #BeTheRevival: India and a Better New World theme of India Global Week," said Manoj Ladwa, Chairman and CEO of the India Inc. Group, the UK-headquartered media

house behind the annual event.

The three-day summit, being held on a virtual platform given the coronavirus pandemic lockdown, had earlier confirmed senior Cabinet ministers, including External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Railways and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, Civil Aviation and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and Skill Development Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey, among some of the prominent speakers from India.

On the UK side, Prince Charles will be making a special address at the event and the British government is lining up a high-profile set of speakers, including Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, Home Secretary Priti Patel, Health Secretary Matt Hancock and International Trade Secretary Liz Truss. Gaitri Kumar will also be addressing the event later this week, among her inaugural engagements as the new Indian High Commissioner to the UK.

# US military to stand with India in conflict with China, indicates WH official

Washington: The US military "will continue to stand strong" in relationship to a conflict between India and China or anywhere else, a top White House official has said, after the Navy deployed two aircraft carriers to the strategic South China Sea to boost its presence in the region.

"The message is clear. We're not going to stand by and let China or anyone else take the reins in terms of being the most powerful, dominant force, whether it's in that region or over here," White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows told Fox News on Monday.

"And the message is clear. Our military might stands strong and will continue to stand strong, whether it's in relationship to a conflict between India and China or anywhere else," Meadows said in response to a question.

He was told that India banned Chinese apps because Indian soldiers were killed by

Chinese troops last month and asked what's mission of the two aircraft carriers - the Ronald Reagan and the Nimitz - and what's America's mission.

The troops of India and China are locked in an eight-week standoff in several areas in eastern Ladakh including Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley and Gogra Hot Spring. The situation deteriorated last month following the Galwan Valley clashes that left 20 Indian Army personnel dead as the two sides significantly bolstered their deployments in most areas along the LAC.

The Chinese military on Monday began withdrawing troops from the Galwan Valley and Gogra Hot Spring after National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held lengthy talks on Sunday. Doval and Wang are also the special representatives on the India-China boundary talks.

The United States has sent

two of its aircraft carriers to the South China Sea. "Our mission is to make sure that the world knows that we still have the pre-eminent fighting force on the face of the globe," Meadows said.

President Donald Trump has invested more in the US military, more in not only the hardware, but the men and women who serve so sacrificially each and every day, he said. "He (Trump) continues to do so," he added.

China is engaged in hotly contested territorial disputes in both the South China Sea and the East China Sea. Beijing has built up and militarised many of the islands and reefs it controls in the region. Both areas are stated to be rich in minerals, oil and other natural resources and are vital to global trade. China claims almost all of the South China Sea. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counter claims over the area.

## INSHORT

### SC EXTENDS PROTECTION TO JOURNALIST DUA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday extended till July 15 the protection granted to senior journalist Vinod Dua from any coercive action in a sedition case filed against him by a local BJP leader in Himachal Pradesh over his YouTube show.

### SC GRANTS INTERIM BAIL TO SANJAY CHANDRA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to Unitech Ltd promoter Sanjay Chandra, who is in jail since August 2017 for allegedly siphoning off home buyers' money, on "humanitarian grounds" as both his parents have tested positive for Covid-19. A bench comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah directed that Chandra be released on interim bail for 30 days from the date of his actual release.

### SC REFUSES PLEA TO RAMP UP COVID-19 TESTING

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a plea by an economist seeking directions for ramping up Covid-19 testing across the country and a national testing policy to tackle the surging demand.

### AERIAL SPRAY OF PESTICIDE TO FIGHT LOCUST

New Delhi: The Ministry of Agriculture on Tuesday said that swarms of immature pink locusts and adult yellow locusts are still active in Barmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Ajmer, Sikar and Jaipur districts of Rajasthan State, Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh and in Tikamgarh districts of Madhya Pradesh. Indian Air Force also has conducted trials in anti-locust operation by using a Mi-17 helicopter.

### Rajiv Gandhi ...

From Page 1 Recently, the city Government-run LNJP Hospital had resumed plasma therapy at the facility after getting a fresh nod from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which gave it the permit to conduct the therapy on 200 patients.

Plasma therapy on a trial basis was permitted by the ICMR earlier but then it had put it on hold.

After the fresh nod from ICMR in June, LNJP Hospital and Max Hospital, Saket have done plasma therapy on novel coronavirus patients. Delhi Health Minister

# 5,134 afflicted, 224 die in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The total number of Covid-19 deaths in Mumbai crossed 5,000 mark on Tuesday, even as the infected cases dropped further in Maharashtra from Monday's 5,368 cases to 5,134 and as many as 224 people succumbed to coronavirus in various parts of the State.

With 224 new deaths and 5134 fresh infections, the total number of deaths in the state rose to 9,250 while the total number of infections jumped to 217,121.

Of the total deaths, Mumbai alone accounted for 64 deaths, taking the total number of deaths in the city to 5,002 now, while the number of Covid-19 positive cases went up by 785 cases to touch 86,509.

Significantly enough, Mumbai surpassed China in terms of total deaths and infections and. China has witnessed 4,634 deaths and 83,565 cases, ranking at no. 22 on the Worldometer, as against 5002 deaths and 86509 infected cases recorded in Mumbai.

Apart from 64 deaths recorded by Mumbai, there were 54 deaths in Thane, 37 deaths in Pune, 13 in Nashik, 10 each in Palghar and Solapur, nine in Raigad, eight in Jalgaon, five in Aurangabad, three in Latur, two each in Dhule, Yavatmal and Jalna, one each in Ahmednagar, Nanded, Osmanabad, Satara and one from another State.

Satyendar Jain, 55, after contracting Covid-19 was on June 20 administered plasma therapy at the Max Hospital, after which his condition improved and he was discharged on June 26. He too had appealed to people to donate plasma after fully recovering from Covid-19, and if permitted by doctors.

For donors, there are some strict criteria and counselling and screening is done before the donation process begins. So, about two to two-and-a-half hours is the total time per donor.

Each donor, a person who has recently recovered from Covid-19, develops antibodies, which are transferred to the recipient through plasma.

# Maha adds 3,250 beds in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Government on Tuesday added 3,250 beds to its Covid-19 health infrastructure in Mumbai, as he inaugurated four field hospitals at Mulund, Dahisar, Mahalaxmi Racecourse and BKC in the metropolis.

Among the four field hospitals that the chief minister threw open for public use is the dedicated Covid-19 health centre at Mulund which has the capacity of 1,700 beds. This Centre has been set up by the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO).

The second field hospital is a 900-bed centre in Dahisar (east) which has been set up with the help of the Mumbai Metro.

The third facility at Mahalaxmi Racecourse has the capacity of 700, while the one at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) has 112 ICU beds, which is developed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region

Development Authority (MMRDA). Similarly, a 108-bed facility has been set up at Dahisar (west).

The event at which the four hospitals were inaugurated online was attended among others by Maharashtra minister Aditya Thackeray, Aslam Shaikh and Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar.

Currently, the total Covid-19 bed capacity in the metropolis is 21683. Of the total beds, 12898 are occupied, while 8785 beds are available.

Similarly, of the 15,609 total Dedicated Covid hospitals (DCH) beds and Dedicated COVID health centres (DCHC), 10046 are occupied, while 5583 beds are available.

Out of the total 6074 Covid care centre-2 (CCC-2) beds, 2852 beds are occupied, while 3222 beds are available.

Similarly, out of the 1606 ICU bed capacity, 1482 beds are occupied, while 124 beds are available. "Earlier today, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray ji presided over the commis-

sioning ceremony of 4 field hospitals. These field hospitals adding a total of 3205 beds and 222 ICU/acute care beds were added from Mulund, Dahisar, BKC and Mahalaxmi racecourse," Aditya Thackeray tweeted.

### Robot Gollar introduced at Podar hospital

Mumbai: In an effort to eliminate contact and reduce risk to its medical staff, the Podar Hospital introduced Robot 'Gollar' at its facility at Worli in south-central Mumbai on Tuesday.

Announcing the introduction of Robot 'Gollar', Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray tweeted: "Robot 'Gollar' has reported on duty at Podar Hospital in Mumbai! It'll get you food, water & medicines. This is an important step in our #WarAgainstVirus as it will eliminate contact and reduce risk for our medical staff in Covid Facilities".

# CBSE to reduce IX to XII syllabi by 30% to make ...

From Page 1

The board also mentioned that the heads of schools and teachers may ensure that the topics that have been reduced are also explained to the students to the extent required to connect different topics.

"However, the reduced syllabus will not be part of the topics for Internal Assessment and year-end Board Examination," the statement read.

Alternative Academic Calendar and inputs from the NCERT on transacting the curriculum using different strategies may also be part of the teaching pedagogy.

Pokhriyal also added that he had received more than 1,500 suggestions from educa-

tionists across the country on the reduction of the syllabus under the hashtag #SyllabusForStudents2020.

According to CBSE officials, the comprehensive curriculum is aimed at ensuring online well-being of students and preparing them for the future of work.

Earlier, amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the educational board had told the Supreme Court that the pending board examinations for Class 10 and 12, which were scheduled to take place from 1-15 July, were now cancelled.

The education board said that it would conduct the remaining exams when the conditions become conducive.

# Rahul fires 3 probing questions for Govt

From Page 1

Otherwise we'll yet again see both sides declare peace, with China having changed the facts on the ground & moved the LAC closer to where it wants. The May-June status cannot become the 'new normal', tweeted Tharoor as the Congress insisted on restoring the status that existed on the borders before May 5.

On Monday, senior Congress leader Anand Sharma described it as a positive development but sought to praise the Armed forces for "standing firm to protect India's territory".

Hitting a different chord, party's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala asked why the Prime Minister had not wished Tibetan Spiritual leader the Dalai Lama.

"We waited for @PMOIndia to lead the nation in wishing HE the Dalai Lama a very Happy Birthday. Modi ji may have had his compulsions for not doing so. On behalf of the entire Nation, we wish HE @DalaiLama a long and healthy life. We are privileged for your blessings," Surjewala tweeted.

# Intel officials in Nepal to turn tide for India

From Page 1

President of Nepali Congress Sher Bahadur Deuba and other party colleagues Dr Minendra Rijal, Vimlendra Nidhi and Krishna Sitaula have also been contacted by the top officials of the Indian covert agencies, the sources said.

Leaders of Madhesi Party Mahant Thakur, Upendra Yadav and Dr Baburam Bhattarai have also been covered in the talks.

Amid the outreach by India, Chinese Ambassador in Kathmandu Hou Yanqi, a former intelligence chief of Europe Sector of Beijing's spy agency, also met a slew of lead-

ers including Prachanda, Nepal and Khanal among others.

India has a deep-rooted civilisational and cultural ties with Nepal but the amendment in the Nepalese map seeks to threaten the ties between the two nations even as New Delhi has initiated high-level communication to limit the erosion of trust and bring the ties on track, the sources added.

Meanwhile, the Nepal Samajbadi Party has decided to recall party leader Saraita Giri Giri for defying the party whip to endorse the constitutional amendment by Nepalese Parliament to revisit the map. The party has decided to sack

her from her position as a lawmaker and the party member.

During the last one year, India's external agency's role has been found to be wanting as it could not get an inkling of the introduction of six bills in the European Parliament against India over the CAA issue.

Likewise, the map issue in Nepal also went unnoticed as preemptive measures could not be taken. The agency also could not monitor the congregations of Tablighi Jamat held in the neighbourhood and extended neighbourhood and their suspected role in spreading Covid-19 in India.

# ASI monuments get footfall of less than 100 after 3-month hiatus

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after monuments reopened their doors for visitors following a gap of more than three months amid coronavirus-induced lockdown, only a handful of people visited these sites.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which opened its monuments and museums on July 6 has capped visitor entry at every site from 1,000-2,500 per slot --9 am to 12 pm and 12 pm to 6 pm, officials said.

Tickets to visit these places can be booked online.

ASI's top sites which generate the maximum footfall and revenue have been hit hard.

According to officials, around 60 visitors bought tickets for Qutub Minar in Delhi which had a capping of 1,500 visitors per slot, on Tuesday.

## THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

**R, Ramesh Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Saran, R/o D-188, Chattarpur Extension, New Delhi - 110074 declare that I have changed my name from Ramesh Rana to Ramesh Kumar for all future purposes.**

PD(8887)A

## PUBLIC NOTICE

I Asha Rani W/o Sh. Anand Raj R/o Flat no.37 Upper Ground floor New no.G-215 Vishwas Park Uttam Nagar Mohan Garden West Delhi declare that my son Rishi Kumar and his wife Neha are out of my control. So I disown them from my all movable/immovable properties. Any body dealing with them at own risk and responsibilities.

# Covid-19 death toll rises to 29, total cases near 3,000 in Noida

Noida (UP): Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar on Tuesday recorded one more death due to Covid-19 and 115 new patients, pushing the tally of cases in the district to 2,935 so far, an official data showed.

The district's death toll has now reached 29, while the number of active cases rose to 1,121, according to data released by the Uttar Pradesh Health Department for a 24-hour period.

Also, 23 patients were discharged during the period, taking the overall number of recoveries to 1,785 in the district, the data showed.

The recovery rate dropped to 60.81 per cent from 62.23 per cent on Monday and 63.61 per cent on Sunday, according to official statistics.

### कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून।

पत्रांक-3849 / मूभि-2020, दिनांक- 07.07.2020

सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत निम्नलिखित मार्ग पर लगे विद्युत पोलों पर पोल व्योस्क के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित करने हेतु दिनांक 01.09.2020 से दिनांक 31.08.2022 तक कुल 2 वर्ष हेतु विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित किये जाने हेतु निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि से दिनांक 23.07.2020 की अपरान्त 2.00 बजे तक ई0निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-

पोल व्योस्क स्थल का विवरण	कुल पोल	निगम द्वारा आरक्षित धनराशि(18% जी0एस0टी0 अतिरिक्त)
1 अन्व गली मोहल्लों में लगे विद्युत पोल,	15000	
2 लाल पुल से क्लेमेन्टारन पोस्ट आफिस तक डिवाइडर स्थित पोल,	103	
3 हरिद्वार रोड ई0सी0 रोड डिवाइडर के मध्य स्थित पोल	20	
4 बल्लूपुर चौक से केंट रोड डिवाइडर के मध्य स्थित विद्युत पोल	84	1,40,00,000/-
5 मेहरूकालोनी डिवाइडर के मध्य स्थित विद्युत पोल	41	
6 घन्टाघर अम्बेडकर पार्क से बल्लूपुर प्लाईओवर तक डिवाइडर के मध्य स्थित विद्युत पोल	71	
7 तहसील चौक से लालपुल पटेल नगर तक रोड डिवाइडर के मध्य स्थित विद्युत पोल	115	
8 जी0एस0टी0 रोड पोल व्योस्क	43	
<b>कुल विद्युत पोल</b>	<b>15477</b>	

समस्त मार्गों हेतु एक ही निविदा प्रपत्र होगा। निविदा के साथ निविदा सूचना प्रपत्र में अंकित निविदा धनराशि की 10 प्रतिशत धनराशि ₹0-14,00,000/- की सी0डी0आर0/एफ0डी0आर0 एवं निर्धारित निविदा फार्म का शुल्क ₹0-1,800/- का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट को दिनांक 22.07.2020 की सांघ 5.00 बजे तक मूल में निगम कार्यालय में जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा। जो नगर निगम, देहरादून के नाम लेंज होगी। निर्धारित सी0डी0आर0 तथा निविदा शुल्क का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट मूल में में संलग्न न होने की दशा में निविदादाता को असफल माना जायेगा। निर्धारित समय के उपरान्त प्राप्त निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदायें दिनांक 23.07.2020 को सांघ: 4.00 बजे गठित निविदा समिति के समक्ष खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्तें विज्ञापित प्रकाशन की तिथि से किसी भी कार्यदिश में दिनांक 21.07.2020 की सांघ 04.00 बजे तक नगर निगम कार्यालय में निर्धारित शुल्क जमा कराकर भी प्राप्त की जा सकती है तथा निविदा सम्बन्धी सार्वभौम विवरण नगर निगम की वेबसाइट [www.nagarnigamdehradun.com](http://www.nagarnigamdehradun.com) पर भी उपलब्ध है।

**नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून**

# Govt to provide free PDS ration till Nov

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In an important step to provide relief to people amid Coronavirus pandemic, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday decided to provide monthly free ration to all PDS (Public Distribution System) card holders till November 2020.

With an aim to mitigate the economic hardship caused by Covid-19 the Delhi government will continue to provide food grains free of cost to the National Food Security (NFS) beneficiaries in Delhi, the government said in a statement.

The decision was taken by the Chief Minister along with the Food and Civil Supply Minister Imran Hussain.

"The government will be providing PDS ration to NFS beneficiaries for the next five months including July, August, September, and October up to November, free of cost. The distribution of food grains for July



2020 is scheduled to start in a phased manner from 8th July onwards," it said.

PDS covered by the National Food Security Act in Delhi and more than 17.54 lakh households get ration. This scheme benefits nearly 71,40,938 and they get subsidized food grains from the Delhi government, it said.

"These include 68,465 Antodya Anna Yojna (AAY) households with 2,78,954 beneficiaries who are provided subsidized food grains. NFS beneficiaries are provided with five kg of food grain every month including 4 kg of wheat and 1 kg of rice," it said.

Regular entitlement under AAY category is 25 kg wheat

per household, 10 kg rice per household and 1 kg sugar per household, it said, adding that cost fixed for entitlement is Rs 2 per kg for wheat and Rs 3 per kg for rice, which shall not be charged from the NFS beneficiaries (including AAY benefi-



ciaries) while obtaining the ration for July 2020 to November 2020.

Hussain said, "During the lockdown the Department of

Food and Supplies has successfully made all-out efforts towards meeting the food requirements of the poor and vulnerable sections of the city including NFS beneficiaries. Delhi govt had earlier provided entitled ration free of cost to the NFS beneficiaries for April-June also."

The food minister cautioned the ration beneficiaries to be aware and not to pay anything for the foodgrains being provided to them as the Government of Delhi has decided to provide ration to the beneficiaries, free of cost for July-November. "In case beneficiaries face any problem in receiving ration free of cost at FPS, they may contact officers of the F&S Department for immediate redressal," he said.

The beneficiaries can make a complaint to the respective Assistant Commissioner, Food Supplies Officer (FSO) or Food Supplies Inspector (FSI). They may also complain about the

helpline number 1967 and other grievance redressal portals including PGMS.

Hussain also said that for effective management at Fair Price Shops, the government has deployed civil defence volunteers to ensure social distancing norms and orderly distribution of food grains.

The departmental officials including assistant commissioners, food supply officers and food supply inspectors have been deployed in the field round the clock to facilitate the distribution of food grains, he said.

"All department officials and the distribution team of FPS are working seven days a week without any weekly off. Members of the vigilance committee are also actively monitoring the distribution process. Area MLAs including ministers are also inspecting the FPSs from time to time to motivate the staff and to ensure smooth distribution," Hussain added.

# Gurugram reports one new Covid deaths, toll 102

**Gurugram:** The death toll due to Covid-19 in Gurugram has reached 102 with one more death, health officials said on Tuesday.

Gurugram, which has the highest number of coronavirus deaths among other districts in Haryana, also reported 123 fresh cases. The district has 6,183 patients and 5,117 of them have recuperated from their illness. Gurugram now has 964 active cases and 732 of them are in home isolation, officials added.

Virender Yadav, Civil Surgeon of Gurugram, said that the administration has intensified contact tracing in containment zones.

Also, the district health authority will soon get around 10,000 more rapid antigen kits. Earlier they had 8,000 antigen

kits.

"In the last 13 days, 10,000 people have been tested for corona in Gurugram through rapid antigen test kits and 347 of them were found positive. Now, for the prevention of corona, the district administration and health department of Gurugram have insisted on testing more and more persons," Yadav said.

Gurugram has eight such containment zones where infection rate was high. "We have initiated door to door screening in these zones to identify suspects. We are using the rapid antigen kit to test suspects," he said.

"We are offering free of charge tests in 13 centres in the city and have also appealed to residents who are having symptoms to reach these centres for testing," he added.

Staff Reporter

## DELHI RIOTS

# Suspended AAP Councillor was in touch with Pinjra Tod: Chargesheet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police in its chargesheet filed at a Delhi Court, has stated that Tahir Hussain, the suspended Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Councillor was allegedly in contact with Pinjra Tod members and Jawahar Lal Nehru University (JNU) students Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita to hatch a well planned and deep rooted conspiracy to cause widespread riots in north east Delhi in February this year.

The chargesheet, in a case related to communal violence in the area, was filed last month before Metropolitan Magistrate Rakesh Kumar Rampuri and it will next come up for hearing on July 20.

In the charge sheet police stated that a flow chart showing Hussain speaking and connecting with a host of other co-conspirators who were involved in organising protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in Delhi at various protest sites, is provided for the perusal of the court.

As per flow chart in the chargesheet, Hussain was allegedly in touch with Narwal and Kalita; Wajid Khan (allegedly involved in organising protest at Shaheen Bagh), Haji Ballo (allegedly involved in anti-CAA protests at Khajuri Khas area), Haji Mangta (allegedly involved in organizing the protest at Chand Bagh area) and Hasibul Hasan (allegedly involved in protests at Jafraabad area).

The chargesheet filed in the case of rioting named Hussain as the main accused along with ten others in connection with communal violence in north east Delhi during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act in February.

It further claimed that Hussain was also in touch with owner of Al-Hind hospital Dr M A Anwar, social activist and anti-CAA protestor Wasim Akram Tyagi, alleged Popular Front of India member Danish and some advocates.

"Call detail records analysis of accused Tahir Hussain

revealed that since the starting of the anti-CAA protests in Delhi, he was in touch with other accused persons namely Liyakat Ali, Irshad, Shadab, Abid, Mohd Rehman alias Arshad Pradhan, etc already arrested in the case and with Khalid Saifi (anti-CAA protester and arrested rioter in Jagatpuri area), persons who were involved in organising anti-CAA protests in various sites such as Haji Mangta (protest site at Chand Bagh Mazar), Haji Ballo (protest site at Shri Ram Colony, Khajuri Khas), Wajid Khan (protest site at Shaheen Bagh), Dr M A Anwar (protest site at Brijpuri Pulia near Farooqia Masjid) and with some advocates.

"All of these persons, along with Tahir Hussain, have hatched a well planned and deep rooted conspiracy to precipitate and cause widespread riots in north east Delhi. Together these persons are responsible for the death of 53 persons, injury to countless innocent individuals, destruction of properties worth crores of rupees and causing a tear in the social fabric of the nation as a whole," the charge sheet said.

Kalita and Narwal have not been arrested in this case. However, they have been arrested in connection with two separate cases related to rioting. Kalita was also arrested in connection with the violence in old Delhi's Daryaganj area in December last year during anti-CAA protests.

The charge sheet further claimed that disclosure statement of Hussain has revealed that he planned these riots with Khalid Saifi and former JNU student leader Umar Khaled in their meeting on January 8 at Shaheen Bagh and he was also in touch with other anti-CAA protest organisers and arranged/ distributed cash among anti-CAA protesters and rioters through transfers of money from his company accounts to shell companies.

Saifi was a member of United Against Hate, a citizens' campaign launched in 2017 to protest against series of lynch-

ing in the country and was allegedly involved in the violent protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act in which financial support was provided by the PFI, formed in 2006 in Kerala as a successor to the National Democratic Front (NDF).

The chargesheet also stated that Hussain allegedly transferred around Rs 1.10 crore from the accounts of companies owned by him to alleged fake companies.

He received the amount in cash in the second week of January, 2020 through a chain of transactions and thereafter distributed the money to anti-CAA protestors.

According to the chargesheet, the bank account details showed six suspicious transactions from Essence Cellcom Pvt Ltd. Amounting to Rs 92 lakhs to two other accounts.

"His (Hussain's) another company Show Effect Advertising Pvt Ltd showed a transfer of Rs 20 lakh on January 8... All these chains of transactions are being investigated," it said.

Pinjra Tod (Break the Cage) was founded in 2015 with an aim to make hostels and paying guest accommodations less restrictive for women students. In 2015, Jamia Millia Islamia University had issued a notice restricting female students to stay out after 8 pm.

When the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) questioned the Jamia administration on it, a group of women students decided to protest against the restrictions not only in Jamia but other universities in Delhi.

Later named as Pinjra Tod, the group mobilised people around several issues faced by female residents of hostels and PGs.

Police said Hussain along with the two women and several others were allegedly responsible for the death of 53 persons, injury to countless innocent individuals, destruction of properties worth crores of rupees and causing a 'tear in the social fabric of the nation as a whole'.

# Man held for duping AIIMS nursing officer of ₹34L on pretext of marriage

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a 36-year-old man for allegedly duping a nursing officer at AIIMS of ₹34 lakh on the pretext of marriage. Police said that the accused was nabbed from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh on Monday with the help of mobile phone and technical surveillance.

The accused, identified as

Mohammad Sadik Imran.

According to Atul Kumar Thakur, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South district, the matter was reported to them by the woman at the Mehrauli police station in South Delhi on March 3.

"The woman, who works as a nursing officer at All India Institute Of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, stated in her complaint that she received

a friend request from the accused on Facebook in 2018. After verifying his friend list, she accepted his request," said the DCP.

"She told police said during the course of their friendship, he also promised to marry her and even took her to Leh, Ladakh on a vacation. After winning her confidence, he induced her that he wanted to start a hotel business before

their marriage and asked her to transfer Rs 34 lakh in his bank account," said the DCP.

"After she transferred the amount, he started avoiding her calls and when she realised that she had been cheated by him, she reported the matter to police. Based on her complaint, a case was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including section 420 (cheating and dis-

honestly inducing delivery of property)," said the DCP.

"During investigation, it was established that the accused was in Vijayawada and a police team was sent there to arrest him. He was produced before the concerned court in Vijayawada and brought to Delhi on transit remand and produced before the Saket court on Monday," the DCP added.

# Covid recovery rate tops 70%, 25,449 active cases in Delhi

**New Delhi:** With 2,008 new cases and 50 deaths in the last 24 hours, the national capital's coronavirus tally has risen to 1,02,831 and toll to 3,165.

Till now, 74,217 people have recovered, almost three times the number of active cases that stand at 25,449. Over 3,165 deaths mean that the city's fatality rate is 3 per cent.

While the city crossed the grim milestone of 1,00,000 cases on Monday, the silver lining was the recovery rate that exceeded 70 per cent.

According to Delhi government's daily bulletin, 2,129 patients recovered in the last 24 hours.

IANS



Journalists protest against the death of 37-year-old Covid-19 positive journalist Tarun Sisodia who allegedly ended his life at AIIMS Trauma Centre, in New Delhi on Tuesday

# Sharpshooter of Hashim Baba gang arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested a 24-year-old alleged sharpshooter of Hashim Baba gang after a brief exchange of fire from east Delhi's Shahdara area.

The accused has been identified as Sachin Kumar, a resident of Nand Nagri.

According to Pramod Singh Kushwaha, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Special Cell, on Monday, information was received that Kumar, who was wanted in several cases of murder, attempt to murder and extortion, will come to Shahdara along with his associate.

"Later, a trap was laid near Shyam Lal College at Shahdara. At 11.25 pm, accused was spotted near the college. He was asked to surrender, but the accused took out his pistol and fired at police," said the DCP.

"Police team also fired and overpowered him. One pistol, along with three live cartridges, and a motorcycle were recovered from his possession, the DCP said.

"He was involved in several criminal cases. On May 28, Kumar, along with his associates, killed one Haider on the directions of Hashim Baba. Haider was related to their rival Nasir gang," the DCP added.

# Bio-medical waste treatment facilities grappling with increased Covid load

**NEW DELHI:** The two common bio-medical waste treatment facilities (CBWTF) in the city are grappling with increased load due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with their operators saying the pressure is set to increase with rising cases.

The two CBWTFs in Delhi are SMS Water Grace BMW Private Limited in Nilothi in west Delhi and Biotic Waste Solutions Private Limited in Jahangirpuri, with an operational capacity of 12 tonnes and 34 tonnes per day, respectively.

Together, these facilities have been disposing of around 19 tonnes of COVID and 16 tonnes on non-COVID bio-medical waste per day, according to their representatives.

SMS Water Grace collects COVID bio-medical waste from government hospitals, including LNJP and Safdarjung Hospital, quarantine centres, isolation facilities, testing centres, dispensaries, private hospitals and laboratories in six districts of Delhi -- west, south-west, central, Shahdara, east and northeast.

Biotic waste solutions cover north, northwest, New Delhi, south, and southeast districts. It collects COVID waste from AIIMS, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College etc.

Municipal corporations are responsible for collecting COVID-19 bio-medical waste from homes of patients undergoing home quarantine. This waste goes to the waste-to-energy plants, which have incinerators with large capacities.

Delhi has three waste-to-energy treatment plants, at Sukhdev Vihar-Okhla, Narela-Bawana and Ghaziipur. Amit Nilawar from SMS Water



Grace said before the coronavirus, his facility had been operating at 50 percent capacity. "Now, it is operating between 90 percent and 110 percent capacity due to the additional COVID-19 waste, which has increased the risk of shutdowns."

The incinerator is burning 13 tonnes of bio-medical waste (Covid and non-Covid) per day now against around six tonnes in the pre-coronavirus times. The machinery needs rest, he said.

Nilawar said the operation cost per day has increased manifold because of the "tremendous pressure" on the facility. "The plant is being operated in three shifts now as compared to two shifts earlier."

"We had 100 employees earlier. Due to the increased workload, we hired another 50. We have been providing personal protective equipment (PPE) kits, gloves, and masks to everyone," he said.

Besides alcohol-based sanitisers for employees, a large quantity of hypochlorite solution is needed to sanitise vehicles.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board's

guidelines for collection and disposal of COVID-19 waste, separate vehicles are needed to transport COVID and non-COVID bio-medical waste.

"We need help from the Delhi government. It should make it compulsory for waste-to-energy plants in the city to dispose of our surplus waste," he said.

PPE kits, masks, gloves, face shield, head cover, shoe cover, plastic bottles, sanitiser bottles and other such waste have high calorific value. It can be best used at waste-to-energy plants, can be autoclaved and shredded or recycled, Nilawar said.

SMS Water Grace has urged the government to allow it to expand in a nearby plot and increase the capacity, considering the increased load due to COVID-19 waste.

It has also demanded that the Directorate General of Health Services pay it Rs 50 per kg of COVID-19 waste as the "facility is struggling to meet the expenses".

The demands are being looked into at the appropriate level, according to a senior government official.

Vikas Gehlot of Biotic Waste Solutions said the facility had been treating 14 tonnes of bio-medical waste per day before the coronavirus outbreak.

"Now, we are disposing of around 22 tonnes of waste (12 tonnes COVID and 10 tonnes non-COVID) per day," he said.

The facility has requested the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to transfer waste to waste-to-energy plants for two-three days so that it can carry out preventive maintenance.

The pressure is going to increase as the number of cases grow, he said.

PTI

# E-passing out parade of new constables



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday organised its first ever Virtual Passing out Parade for constables at Police Training College, Jharoda Kalan, New Delhi.

G Kishan Reddy, the Union Minister of State (Ministry for Home Affairs) was the Chief Guest on this occasion. Chief Guest took the e-Salute from Vimarsh Hall in Police Head Quarters (PHQ). The event was streamed live on Facebook and YouTube page of Delhi Police. On the occasion, Delhi Commissioner of Police, S N Shrivastava welcomed the chief guest and congratulated the trainees on completion of their training.

The CP, Delhi underlined that during this training attention was paid to make them sound physically, mentally and technically. Apart from knowl-

edge of Law, they were specially trained in Police Science, Computer Science, Cyber Crime, Criminology, personality development and investigation related training.

The Chief Guest congratulated all the passed out trainees for choosing to join a social service like Police and called upon them to deliver their best to face the challenges of Police service and to work for enhancing the image of police. He also appreciated the work done by officers of training division while in parting training to the trainees.

According to Anil Mittal, the Additional Public Relation Officer (APRO), a total 1320 Recruit Constables including 407 Women Recruit Constables have passed out. "These include 47 (35 male and 12 female) Recruit Constables from DAMAN and DIU Police," he said.

# Remdesivir at ₹80K! Govt urged to act against hoarding



Masks, sanitisers no longer essential commodities in country  
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With the price of Remdesivir, the only antiviral drug that is currently known for treating Covid-19, shooting as high as upto ₹70,00-80,000 per vial in the black market in some cities, doctors have called upon the Government to step in urgently to check hoarding/pilferage of the medicine and ensure its adequate availability to save the lives. The maximum retail price of per 100 mg vial of Remdesivir is between ₹4,800 and ₹5,400, depending on the brand.

"There have been various reports from across the country that relatives of the Covid-infected patients have been running from pillar to post to get the vial and in many cases have to shell out as high as ₹80,000 per vial as well.

"Covid 19 is a humanitarian crisis and during these difficult times hoarding and black marketing can be big setback as well as demoralising for the doctors patients and families," said Dr Rajinder K Dhamija, Head of Neurology, Department at Lady Hardinge Medical College and SSK Hospital. He hoped that the Government would intervene at the earliest to ensure its availability in hospitals and open markets as well.

In the absence of any other proven medicine it is being used as the main drug along with Tocilizumab and, unfortunately, both are in short supply, he pointed out.

While four-fifths of the Covid-19 cases in India are asymptomatic and mild, the remaining 20 percent are moderate, requiring oxygen support. Remdesivir has been

From scarcity to abundance. Against the backdrop of sufficient supply of masks and sanitisers in the country, the Government has now taken out the two items from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. In other words, the Government hopes that the huge volume will automatically check prices of these two items that are considered important for maintaining hygiene during the Covid-19 pandemic. Consumer Affairs Secretary Leena Nandan said on Tuesday that there is sufficient supply of the two items now and the 'essentials' tag was no longer required. On March 13, the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry had declared face masks and hand sanitisers as essential commodities for 100 days to boost supply and prevent hoarding of these items in its fight to check the spread of coronavirus.

approved by the DCGI, country's drug regulator, for treating such moderate cases with oxy-

## India has one of lowest Covid-19 deaths: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Coronavirus may have been spreading like wildfire in India which has occupied the third slot among the worst-hit nations in the world, but the Government on Tuesday claimed that the country has one of the lowest Covid-19 deaths and cases per million population.

Referring to the 'WHO Situation Report-168' dated July 6, the Union Health Ministry said India's Covid-19 cases per million population is 505.37 as against the global average of 1,453.25. The recovery rate has also increased to 61.13 per cent, it said.

As per the WHO report,

the US, Brazil, Spain, Russia, the UK, Italy and Mexico have 8,560.5, 7,419.1, 5,358.7, 4,713.5, 4,204.4, 3,996.1 and 1,955.8 cases per million, respectively.

Similarly, even small countries like Chile has witnessed 15,459.8 Covid-19 cases per million population, while Peru has 9,070.8 cases per million people, it said.

"The WHO Situation Report also shows that India has one of the lowest deaths [due to Covid-19] per million population. India's cases of death per million population is 14.27 while the global average is more than its four times, at 68.29," the Ministry said in a statement here.

"Early detection and time-



ly effective clinical management of COVID-19 cases have resulted in increasing daily recoveries," said the Ministry adding that India has ramped up its hospital infrastructure adequately and effectively.

Regarding Covid-19 related deaths per million,

the WHO report said that the United Kingdom has 651.4, while the metric for Spain, Italy, France, the U.S., Peru, Brazil and Mexico is 607.1, 576.6, 456.7, 391.0, 315.8, 302.3 and 235.5 deaths, respectively.

The preparedness includes arrangement of oxy-

gen support, ICU and ventilator facilities. As on July 7, there are 1,201 dedicated COVID hospitals, 2,611 COVID healthcare centres and 9,909 COVID care centres to look after patients with 'very severe' to 'very mild' coronavirus symptoms, it said.

"Such level of preparedness has shown results in continuously improving the recovery rate and resulting in low case fatality rate," the Ministry said.

"As on date, the number of recovered cases exceeded that of the active cases by 1,80,390 on Tuesday. The recovery rate among COVID-19 patients has increased to 61.13%," it said.

gen support. "Presently, Remdesivir is not available in the free market and is only distributed through hospitals and that creates a gap between demand and supply," said Dr Dhamija.

The Government had recently revised the dosage of the Remdesivir being administered to hospitalized Covid-

19 patients from the earlier six-day to five-day treatment course, informed Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director and Head, Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplant, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram.

He too stressed on increasing the production and check on pilferage. He explained the

modus operandi being used by the hospitals too. In some cases, we have got reports that doctors avail Remdesivir for even those Covid patients who do not need it and then sell it in the open market to make money. There should be a mechanism to check this pilferage, he said adding that currently the drug is not under

Schedule H.

Prof Bejon Misra, Founder Director, Patients Safety and Access Initiative was of the view that there is a need to reduce the price of each vial because in India affordability is itself an issue especially during the pandemic situation.

Along with Cipla, Hetero, and Mylan, Gilead has licens-

ing deals with Jubilant Life Sciences, Dr Reddy's, Zydus Cadila and Syngene to manufacture and distribute Remdesivir in India and 126 other countries. The DCGI, meanwhile, has also approved Mylan's version of Remdesivir while Hetero has been allowed to supply the drug to hospital pharmacies.

## No 'herd immunity' sans high fatality rate news jolt for India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In what could come as a disappointment to India, which has been looking towards achieving "herd immunity" as a way to tackle the Covid-19, a Spanish study conducted on more than 60,000 people has shown that just about 5 per cent of them developed antibodies.

Herd immunity is achieved when enough people become infected with a virus to stop its spread.

"Only 5 per cent from a total of 61,000 patients that participated in the research in Spain developed antibodies to be able to fight the Covid-19 respiratory disease debunking the concept of "herd immunity", according to a population-based seroepidemiological survey in a study published in the Lancet Journal.

Experts found that Spain

was "very far" from reaching the 60 per cent rate of infection within the community for the herd immunity to work, with the challenge of one-third of its population asymptomatic after contracting the virus.

The study found that SARS-CoV-2 antibodies were not developed in all of the 35,883 households infected with the coronavirus. "At present, herd immunity is difficult to achieve without accepting the collateral damage of many deaths in the susceptible population and overburdening of health systems," researchers said.

Despite the high impact of Covid-19 in Spain, prevalence estimates remain low and are clearly insufficient to provide herd immunity, the study authors said.

Additionally, the researchers observed that for the herd immunity to develop, over

70 per cent to 90 per cent of the total population had to build resistance to coronavirus, which implied most people in the community had to be infected. With coronavirus symptoms for each patient different, there was a huge risk factor involved. Moreover, the study found that Covid-19 antibodies were less than 3 per cent in the coastal regions, the large stretch of areas in Spain.

The study holds importance in the context of India where the Government had been banking on achieving 'herd immunity' sooner or later to control the virus that has infected over seven lakhs people and killed over 20,000 in the country. In this situation, social distancing measures and efforts to identify and isolate new cases and their contacts remain imperative for future epidemic control.

## Rajnath reviews construction activities in border areas

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday directed the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) that work on the strategic Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DSDBO) road in Eastern Ladakh be fully completed by October this year. This was conveyed at a meeting to review the progress of construction activities in border areas with BRO Director General Lt General Harpal Singh.

"On the 255 km Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DSDBO) road, the ongoing construction is almost done. About 45 km of black topping work is pending. Rajnath directed that this has to be completed by October 2020," they said.

Stating that an alternate route is also being made here, they added there is full focus on connectivity termed it a top priority. China has been objecting to Indian road and infrastructure development at several points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). A road branching from the DSDBO



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviews the ongoing projects with Border Road Organisation Chief Lt Gen Harpal Singh and other senior officials at a meeting in South Block

road towards the Galwan Nalah is believed to be one of the reasons for Chinese objections here.

In May as the standoff was underway, the BRO stepped up efforts to fully resume construction work on all border roads which was delayed due to COVID pandemic. It is also building the 61 strategic Indo-China Border Roads (ICBRs) measuring 3323.57 Km in length under the direction of the China Study Group (CSG). With COVID restrictions easing and also obtaining special permission, construction

labour were moved in large numbers to forward locations by special trains.

In March this year, the Parliamentary standing committee on defence was informed that the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has completed 75% of the construction work on the 61 Indo-China Border Roads (ICBRs) of length 3323.57 km. Of these 12 roads measuring about 1,064 km are in the Union Territories of 'Jammu and Kashmir' and Ladakh while three roads measuring about 62 km are in Sikkim.

## BJP's RS member Shiv Pratap Shukla seeks apology from Cong for flaying Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The bitter trading of charges between the BJP and the Congress continued uninterrupted on Tuesday on the stand-off on the India-China border with BJP's Rajya Sabha MP Shiv Pratap Shukla seeking apology from the Congress for repeatedly criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his statement on China.

Asserting that India has given a clear message to China under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP leader said, "I feel that India has succeeded in both diplomatic and military level talks. The Prime Minister's recent visit to Leh also boosted the morale of jawans," he said.

Shukla slammed Congress for seeking apology from the Prime Minister for his last statement on China and called for a reverse apology from the opposition party.

"I think Congress should apologise to the country for accusing PM Modi so many times, who is deeply associated with the public", the RS MP was quoted by news agency ANI as saying.

The Congress demanded an apology after the reports that Chinese troops were moving back from their current held position at Galwan valley in Eastern Ladakh. Congress sought to contrast the development with "no incursions" statement of the Prime Minister in the all-party meet, last month.

BJP and the Congress have been verbally clashing with each other on the daily basis on the India-China face-off on the Line of Actual Control with BJP portraying the latest developments on the border as victory for the Modi Government whereas the Congress doubting government assertions and demanding "restoration of status quo ante".

## Asthmatic patients should not fear Covid

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The debate whether asthmatic patients are more prone to Covid-19 or safer ranges on.

Does inhaled corticosteroids, which are commonly used to protect against asthma attacks, a saviour for asthmatic patients? Researchers have found that while older age and conditions such as heart disease, high blood pressure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes and obesity are reported risk factors for the development and progression of Covid-19," said Reynold A. Panettieri Jr, a pulmonary critical care physician and director of the Rutgers Institute for Translational Medicine and Science.

But then, asthma is not yet proven as one such risk factor. "There is limited data as to why this is the case - if it is physiological or a result of the treatment to manage the inflammation," said Panettieri Jr.

Children and young adults with asthma suffer mainly from

allergic inflammation, while older adults who experience the same type of airway inflammation can also suffer from eosinophilic asthma -- a more severe form.

In these cases, people experience abnormally high levels of a type of white blood cell that helps the body fight infection, which can cause inflammation in the airways, sinuses, nasal passages and lower respiratory tract, potentially making them more at risk for a serious case of Covid-19.

In addition, an enzyme attached to the cell membranes in the lungs, arteries, heart, kidney and intestines that has been shown to be an entry point for SARS-CoV-2 into cells is increased in response to the virus.

"This enzyme is also thought to be beneficial in clearing other respiratory viruses, especially in children. How this enzyme affects the ability of Covid-19 to infect people with asthma is still unclear," said the study.

Children and young adults with asthma suffer mainly from

## Agreement inked to conserve genetic resources of medicinal, aromatic plants

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) and ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) have signed an agreement to conserve genetic resources of medicinal and aromatic plants.

According to the Agriculture Ministry, the objective of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed on Monday, is to conserve genetic resources of medicinal and aromatic plants at designated space of ICAR-NBPGR in long-term storage module (as per availability) in the National Gene Bank, and or at Regional Station for medium-term storage module. The agreement also aims to provide hands-on training on plant germplasm conserva-

tion techniques to the working group of NMPB under the Ayush Ministry.

As per the MoU, NMPB and ICAR-NBPGR, on behalf of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), would develop detailed modalities for seed storage of genetic resources of medicinal and aromatic plants, and submit periodic progress reports to their respective organisations.

Both NMPB and ICAR-NBPGR are committed to serve the national interests through conservation of germplasm on a long-term basis, safely and cost-effectively for present and future generations to ensure social and economic security, it said. Medicinal plants are regarded as rich resources of traditional medicines and are

being used for thousands of years in the health care system. India has a rich diversity of medicinal plant resources, the ministry said. The natural resources are gradually getting depleted due to various developmental activities in its habitat. There is a need to conserve these resources and make sustainable utilisation of them, it added.

The conservation of plant genetic resources is an integral part of bio-diversity conservation. The purpose of conservation is to make sustainable development by protecting and using natural resources in ways that do not diminish the variety of genes and species or destroy important habitats and ecosystems, it said.

## SC seeks report from UP on status of Covid-positive minor girls of Kanpur shelter home

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Uttar Pradesh government to file a status report on news articles that 57 minor girls of Kanpur-based shelter home have tested positive for COVID-19.

The top court has taken suo motu (on its own) cognizance of the condition of children in protection -- be it

juvenile, foster or kinship homes across the country -- amid the coronavirus or COVID-19 pandemic.

Recently, lawyer Aparna Bhat moved a plea seeking proper "medical treatment and facilities" to 57 minor girls, who have tested positive for COVID-19 in a Kanpur-based shelter home in Uttar Pradesh.

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CENTRAL CIRCLE (R&B) NIRMAN SOUDHA, PHASE-II, 2ND FLOOR, BHUBANESWAR**  
**Mail I. d. seccbbsr@gmail.com**  
**E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.1 of 2020-21**  
 No. (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 1st July 2020  
 The Superintending Engineer, Central Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for one number of Composite Building work to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in: <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 5.00 PM of 10.07.2020 to 5.00 PM of 24.07.2020. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 11:00 AM of 27.07.2020 in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in).  
**Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.**  
 Sd/-  
**Er.G.C.Sahu Superintending Engineer Central Circle (R&B) Bhubaneswar**  
 OIPR:34005/11/0003/2021

**IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 This is notified for information of all concerned that Train no. 05483/05484 Alipurduar Jn.-Delhi-Alipurduar Jn. Special will Short terminate at/Short originate from Katihar railway station instead of Alipurduar Jn. w.e.f. 10.07.2020 as per following details :-

Train No. & Train Name	Train to short terminate at / originate from	Train Partially Cancelled between Stations	Date from originating station
05483 Alipurduar Jn.-Delhi Spl.	From Katihar	Alipurduar Jn.-Katihar	10.07.2020
05484 Delhi-Alipurduar Jn. Spl.	At Katihar	Katihar-Alipurduar Jn.	09.07.2020

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website [www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in](http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in).  
 Integrated Helpline No. 139 Security Helpline No. 182

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Total lockdown in WB containment zones again

TRAINS TO KOLKATA REDUCED TO ONE IN A WEEK

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA
Alarmed at the steep rise in Corona cases the Bengal Government on Tuesday decided to re-impose lockdown in containment zones which in any case went up by at least 11 digits in Capital Kolkata alone.

ing North 24 and South 24 Parganas, Malda, North Dinajpur the State Government has decided to slap lockdown once again in all the containment zones where no business apart from essential services will be allowed to remain open. The new phase of lockdown will begin from July 9 the Government circular said.

highest number of cases which had crossed the 4,000 marks. "At present only the urban areas of the district will remain under lockdown," sources said adding large parts of Malda including Ingrez Bazaar municipality, Old Malda and Kaliachak had once again been brought under lockdown. Dalkhola region at the junction of NH 31 and 34 connecting west of India to the North East too have been brought under lockdown, sources said.

of cases was because of the "wayward attitude of the upper echelon of the society." "There are reports that the people living in high rise apartments and private mansions are not following the guidelines which is why Kolkata is witnessing a steep rise in corona cases... if this is not stopped here and now then things can take uglier turn," Atin Ghosh a senior member in the KMC's administrative team and former Deputy Mayor said.

slums where as the remaining cases came from the rich and middle class families meaning thereby that they are not following the norms, Ghosh said. The total number of cases in Bengal has crossed 23,000 with only one inspiring news that the recovery rate has gone as high as about 69 percent, sources said. As of Monday evening, there were 6,973 active cases in the State, while the total tally is at 22,987.

quency of trains coming to Howrah. With Bengal seeing a spike in corona cases the Indian Railways have decided to reduce the number of special trains to Howrah from Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Delhi. The special trains will now run weekly instead of daily, sources said adding the decision was taken following requests from the State Government to the Railway Ministry. State Chief Secretary had earlier written a letter in this regard to the Chairman of the Railway

Board. Accordingly the Howrah Ahmedabad Special will run once a week instead of daily, from July 10 and reverse from July 13, while the Howrah-Mumbai CSMT Special will run weekly from July 15 and reverse from July 17. The Howrah-Delhi via Patna will run once a week from July 11 and reverse from July 12, whereas, Howrah-Delhi via Dhanbad will run weekly from July 16 and reverse from July 17. Flights to Kolkata from hotspot zones would remain suspended till July 16.

Good news for TN as Covid cases come down

But 65 die on Tuesday

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI
There was some relief for Tamil Nadu on Tuesday as the State saw a small fall in the number of persons tested positive for coronavirus. According to the bulletin issued by the

Tamil Nadu Government, 3,616 persons were diagnosed with the pandemic on Tuesday while the fatalities continued to be on the higher side. The State saw 65 persons succumbing to Covid-19 on Tuesday. On July 2, the total number of persons tested positive for Covid were 4,343 and since then there has been a fall in the number of cases, though small. As on Tuesday, there were 45,839 active patients in the State

while the total number of covid-19 cases tested till date reached 1.18 lakh. The 96 laboratories across the State tested 35,423 persons on Tuesday while the total number of persons tested positive till date reached 1.3 million. The day also saw 4,545 getting discharged from the hospitals across the State and this took the number of patients cured of the disease to 71,116.

The decrease in the number of positive cases over the last five days is in synch with the statement by Health Minister Dr Vijaya Baskar that the flattening of the infection curve has begun in the State. "Due to measures taken by the Government, the curve is not peaking but flattening in Chennai," the minister had told local journalists. Chennai tested 1,203 persons with Covid on Tuesday

and this is an important development. The Metropolis had tested 1,747 persons with covid on Monday. Similarly, Chengalpatt registered 87 persons on Tuesday against the figure of 213 on Monday. The number of persons tested positive in Kancheepuram too showed a major change on Tuesday. While 106 persons in the district were found to be positive on Tuesday, there were 182 cases tested on Monday. Only Thiruvallur district showed an increase in the number of persons (217) afflicted with covid on Tuesday.

FEB '19 ATTACK ON CRPF CONVOY

NIA arrests Pulwama resident

SRINAGAR: The NIA has arrested a Pulwama resident for allegedly providing logistical support to terrorists involved in planning the attack on a CRPF convoy that left 40 jawans dead in the south Kashmir district in February last year, officials said on Tuesday. Bilal Ahmed Kuchey, a resident of Kakpora of Pulwama district, is the seventh person to be arrested in connection with the attack. The sawmill owner was on Monday produced before a designated court in Jammu which sent him to National Investigation Agency custody for 10 days, the officials said.

They said he had allowed the terrorists to use his house as a hideout and also provided them with high-end mobile phones used for communication with Pakistan-based handlers of the Jaish-e-Mohammed. The same mobile was used by Adil Ahmed Dar, the suicide bomber, for recording his video, they said. On February 14 last year, the suicide bomber blew himself up next to a CRPF bus, which was part of a 78-vehicle convoy carrying over 2,500 personnel on their way from Jammu to Srinagar. Forty CRPF personnel were killed. PTI

Kerala sees record number of Covid cases in a day

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI
An unprecedented situation has emerged in Kerala, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. Briefing media persons in a virtual press meet, the septuagenarian Vijayan who looked visibly upset said that Tuesday saw 272 persons getting diagnosed with Covid-19. "This is the highest number to be tested positive on a single day in the State. While 157 of those who diagnosed with Covid-19 on

Tuesday were from foreign countries and 38 are those from other parts of the State, it has been noted that 68 persons got infected of the pandemic through transmission," said Vijayan. The Chief Minister spent most of his briefing time pleading with the people of the State to cooperate with the government in observing the rules and regulations like social distancing and wearing of face masks to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

"It is time for us to observe maximum caution and safety measures to prevent the spread of the disease. As on today, there is no sign of community transmission in Kerala though the number of people who are afflicted through social contacts is on the higher side," said Vijayan. The chief minister said as on date there were 3,034 persons undergoing treatment in the hospitals in Kerala. "On Tuesday, 378 persons were hospitalised because of coron-

avirus affliction. The number of hotspots in the State have gone up to 169 on Tuesday," he said. According to the chief minister, the State has collected 2.85 lakh samples till Tuesday for testing for Covid-19. He also said that till date 4.99 lakh persons have come back to the State since the announcement of lockdown. "Out of this, 1.85 lakh are from abroad and the remaining from other parts of India," he said.

TMC, LF, Cong lunch stir against Rlys privatisation

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA
In an apparent precursor to its future plans of making the Central Government's "sweeping privatisation" exercise as one of its main electoral planks in the next year's Assembly elections the ruling Trinamool Congress on Tuesday launched campaigns throughout Bengal against the BJP demanding immediate roll back of what its leaders called "a conspiracy to privatise the Indian Railways."

Senior party leaders including MP Mala Roy, Firhad Hakim led hundreds of slogan shouting demonstrators at various places of Kolkata including Khidderpore, Tollygunge and Behala. The district and block units protested at Purulia, Hooghly, Birbhum, Malda and other parts of the State. "This BJP Government has a defined policy of dividing India along religious lines and taking advantage of a divided electorate create a dictatorship of the capitalist forces... India will henceforward be divided into a capitalist India and poor man's Bharat where the capitalists will rule through their puppets in the BJP," Hakim a senior Minister in

the Mamata Cabinet said. In what looked like statements taken directly out of the Left leaders' mouths he said "the privatization goes hand in hand and through privatization of Railways and other profit-making institutions this Government will mortgage the country into the hands of Indian and foreign capitalist powers." Demanding immediate roll-back of the decision to run 159 private trains throughout India Roy, the South Kolkata MP said the "As has been the practice Mamata always takes up a cause while other parties follow it. In this case too we have launched this movement... we will not let a sale-out of the public wealth like this."

Door-to-door Covid-19 testing launched in Guwahati

Guwahati: A door-to-door Covid-19 testing programme has been launched here on Tuesday following a surge in Covid-19 cases in the past two weeks. Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is personally monitoring the programme in the Pandu area of the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC), and is asking people to cooperate, not panic.

"In the state, 786 new cases were detected on Monday night. Of this, 598 were from Guwahati alone. We aim to conduct 3,000 tests in the Ward No 2 (Pandu area) in two days," he said. According to the Health and Family Welfare Department officials, the state government has procured 200,000 rapid antigen testing kits for quick testing. The pilot project was launched in the

Pandu area as it turned into a hotspot of "community transmission". "Among the 33,000 population, majority have no travel history," said an official. After withdrawal of travel restrictions, 3,11,217 people returned to Assam by road, trains and air from different parts of the country, which raised the number of coronavirus cases, they said. IANS

back," said CPI(M) politburo member Biman Bose. Congress MP Pradip Bhattacharya too attacked the Centre for taking "arbitrary decisions by-passing the people's representatives and by taking advantage of the handicap that the opposition suffers from during the corona period. The Congress and the Left firmly demands its roll back."

CM Pinarayi blames Centre for gold smuggling through diplomatic channel

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI
Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala, who is in the eye of a storm over reports about gold smuggling through diplomatic channel via Thiruvananthapuram Airport with the connivance of the Chief Minister's Office, put the blame on the Central Government for its failure to check such activities. "Airports in the country are all managed by the Central Government. The Customs officials deployed in these airports are Central Government officials and if smuggling of gold is happening in airports, it shows the incapability of the Centre. The Kerala Government has no role in it and we are always ready to help the investigating agencies with any help," said the Chief Minister when he was asked the alleged role of his trusted official in the incident of gold smuggling through diplomatic channel. Vijayan pointed out that the parcel which arrived at the airport was addressed to the UAE Consulate and not to the

Kerala Government. "The name of a lady (Swapna Suresh) has been roped in by some people to discredit the Chief Minister's Office. She has no role in the CMO and she is not a staff of the CMO," said the Chief Minister who decried the attempts by the Opposition to defame him by spreading fake news. The Chief Minister said that Swapna Suresh was hired by a placement agency to work for the IT Department based on her previous experience in the UAE Consulate and Air India SATS (Singapore Airport Terminal Services). "You have to find out who helped her to get a job in Air India SATS, a Central Government owned enterprise. We in Kerala Government do not have anything to do with her," said the Chief Minister. He reiterated that Swapna Suresh was working on contract basis for the IT Department of Kerala and she has no direct dealings with the Government. Vijayan blamed a section of the media was trying to distort his image in the backdrop of the upcoming

election to the legislative assembly. Kerala will go to the polls in April-May 2021 to elect a new legislative assembly. On Sunday, the Customs officials had seized a consignment of 30 kg gold (valued at Rs 15 crore in Indian market) addressed to the UAE Consulate in the capital city which was booked as a diplomatic baggage. Sarith, a former UAE Consulate staff has been arrested in connection with the incident while Swapna Suresh, the kingpin is missing since then. M Sivasankar, principal secretary in the CMO who was also the IT Secretary is reported to have close liaison with the controversial woman. Sivasankar has been shunted out of the CMO and removed from the post of IT Secretary on Tuesday. Meanwhile Ramesh Chennaithala, leader of opposition has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking CBI probe into the whole affair. The name of Swapna Suresh has been linked to some of the top CPI(M) leaders in the State.

Neyveli plant blast: Death toll 12 now

PNS ■ KOCHI
The death toll in the July 1 boiler explosion mishap at Neyveli Lignite Corporation's power station reached 12 as six more persons admitted to a corporate hospital in Chennai succumbed to the injuries during July 3 to 5, said a release issued by the public sector giant. The dead include one deputy chief engineer, two junior engineers, a foreman and two contract staff. Six contract workers had lost their lives in the accident site itself on July 1. The release said that the NLC management has declared a solatium of Rs 30 lakh to the families of the deceased. The compensation is given by the Ministry of Coal and the NLC. A deputy general manager and an additional deputy general manager have been suspended as part of the inter-departmental inquiry ordered by the company into the factors which led to the boiler blast and the loss of lives.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one female namely Guddi, W/o Anil Kumar, R/o H.No. 270, Allahabad Bank Wali Gali, Nehru Enclave, Alipur, Delhi-36, Age: 45 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Strong, wearing Green colour Night Suit, has been missing from her house since 23.06.2020 at 10:00 AM. In this regard a DD No. 189A, dated 23.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. Alipur, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned. Website: http://cbi.nic.in E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Alipur, Delhi DP/310/ON/2020 Ph. No.: 011-27202290, 27202265

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found on 29.06.2020 at Under Chhata Rail flyover, Kashmir Gate, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 56-A, dated 29.06.2020 U/s 174 Cr. P.C. has been lodged at Police Station Kashmir Gate, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under: Name: Unknown, Age: 45 Years, Height: 5'4", Face: Long, Complexion: Brown, Built: Medium, Wearing: Uppar naked body and grey colour pant. If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned. SHO Police Station Kashmir Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown was found on 04.07.2020 8:28 a.m. from the back of Talkatora Stadium bus stand, Shankar Road, New Delhi. In this regard a wide has been registered with DD No. 12-A dated 04.07.2020 at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under: Sex: Male, Age: about 45 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Hair: Bald, Wearing: T-Shirt and brown pant and bare foot. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Mandir Marg, New Delhi. E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 SHO P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi Ph. No. 011-23364100, 23366730

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 45 years of age whose name, residence and family is unknown had been found dead on 04.07.2020 8:28 a.m. from the back of Talkatora Stadium bus stand, Shankar Road, New Delhi. In this regard a wide has been registered with DD No. 12-A dated 04.07.2020 at P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under: Sex: Male, Age: about 45 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Hair: Bald, Wearing: T-Shirt and brown pant and bare foot. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Mandir Marg, New Delhi. E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax: 011-24368639 SHO P.S. Mandir Marg, New Delhi Ph. No. 011-23364100, 23366730



NORTHERN RAILWAY E-Notice Inviting Tender

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Security Commissioner (CORD) RPF/Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites 'E-Tender' in prescribed tender form for the following work. Name of the work: Hiring of one multi utility road vehicle (Innova Crysta, Tata Hexa, Scorpio or equivalent) along with vehicle driver for movement of RPF Personnel day & night (24 hrs.) under jurisdiction of Divisional Security Control Room/RPF, Delhi Division on monthly basis for a period of Two years. Office Address: Sr.DSC (Co-ordination)/RPF, P.K.Road New Delhi. Approx. Cost of work (Tender value) Rs: Rs.13,53,600/- + GST as applicable. E.M.D. (Rs): Rs.27,100/- Date and time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender: Rs.27,100/- on 07.08.2020 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in Cost of tender documents: Rs.2000/- + 360 GST 18% Total Rs.2360/-payment of tender document Fee in respect of e-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. Tender Notice No.-4Sr.DSC(C)-RPF-DSCR-RE,DLI-E-2019-20 Dt.06.07.20 1514/2020 Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that our client has been negotiating to purchase from Mr. Parmod Kumar Rai & Mrs Usha Rai for 1st Floor, A-37, Block-A, Suryanagar, Sector-7, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, UP-201011 (property) free from all encumbrances and charges. ALL PERSONS having any claim by way of inheritance, mortgage, Sales, exchange, gift, lease, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easements, possession, attachments, Lis pendence, or otherwise howsoever on the said property is hereby required to make the same known in writing to the undersigned at my office 108, Sehkar Nagar, Ghaziabad, within 10 days from the date hereof failing which the sale shall be completed without reference to such claims and such claims if any shall be considered as waived. Nagendra Singh Advocate Date this 8th July, 2020 M-9818750061

MEYER APPAREL LIMITED

CIN: L1810HR1993PLC032010 Regd. Office: #412, 4th Floor, Orient Bsech Business Tower, Khandas, Sector-34, Gurugram -122004, Haryana, India NOTICE Pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the meeting of the Board of Directors of Meyer Apparel Limited scheduled for Wednesday, 07 July 2020 is postponed and will now be held on Saturday, 18 July, 2020 at 1:00 PM at #412, 4th Floor, Orient Bsech Business Tower, Khandas, Sector-34, Gurugram -122004 to be considered and approved, amongst other items, the audited financial results of the Company for the fourth quarter and year ended March 31, 2020. Arrangement will be made for participation of Board members electronically through video-conferencing facility. This notice is also available on the website of the company @ www.meyerapparel.com and on the website of BSE Ltd @ www.bseindia.com, where the company's shares are listed. For Meyer Apparel Limited Sd/- Place : Gurugram R.K. Sharma Date : July 7, 2020 CFO & Company Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is informed in General Public by my client Mr. Shruel Mehra D/o Late Sh. Jagal Mehra R/o A-2/280, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058 upon persistent & consistent requests allowed his brother-in-law Mr. Sahil Bhandari S/o Shri Narender Bhandari R/o H.No. C355, 1st Floor Sector-5, Rohini, New Delhi-110086 to purchase a second-hand bike (Vehicle bearing no. DL45-BQ-5812, Model No. 2011, Chassis No. 8076338 & Engine No. 0205778 make Honda CB Twister green in colour) in 2013 and the same was in continuous possession of the brother-in-law till 08.10.2019. The same has been sold by Mr. Sahil Bhandari to Mr. Indralal S/o Shri Kishor Lal through his brother / agent / broker / buyer / authorized representative Mr. Sanjay both R/o H.No. 177A, 1st floor, New risk and responsibility on my behalf Mohalla, Jaitpur, South Delhi-110044 on 06.10.2019. Mr. Sanjay came on 06.10.2019 carrying all ID & Documents of Mr. Indralal and took the possession of the bike from Sahil Bhandari and also handed over the entire sale consideration amount to him. The transfer documentation / process was not completed by the above-said person even after repeated request of my client an in-between without the prior intimation / consent / approval / authorization of my client the bike has further been sold to the person named in the above-said person in the name of Mr. Suroob S/o Mohd. Naim R/o B-212, Gali No. 12, Mandawali, Fazalpur, Shakarpur, Delhi-110022 on 20.12.2019. That my client shall in no way whatsoever be responsible / liable for any act of misdeeds, unlawful, illegal & terrorist activities or any act of omission or commission by the above-said person in the name of Mr. Suroob S/o Mohd. Naim R/o B-212, Gali No. 12, Mandawali, Fazalpur, Shakarpur, Delhi-110022 on 20.12.2019. That my client shall in no way whatsoever be responsible / liable for any act of misdeeds, unlawful, illegal & terrorist activities or any act of omission or commission by the buyer or any other person(s) who directly or indirectly uses the bike for such misdeeds, unlawful, illegal & terrorist activities or any act of omission or commission. The liability of such acts shall solely rest with the buyer of the bike or the person(s) using and having the possession of the same. My aforesaid client has no concern with them at all, anyone dealing with them for the above-said bike shall do so at their own risk and responsibility. My client shall not in any manner be liable for any act and deed of said person(s). Sagar Sharma (Advocate) 28-D, D.A. Flats, Gurgaon, Haryana, Delhi-110027

INDO COTSPIN LTD

REGD. OFFICE : Delhi mile stone, 78 K.M, G.T. Road, N.H. 1, Post Box No. 3, Post Office Samalkha, Village Jhappipur, Panipat-132103, (Haryana), India NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 of the Securities Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, A meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on 17th July, 2020 at the registered office of the company, inter alia to consider & approve and take on record Unaudited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2020. CIN:-L17111HR1995PLC032541 EMAIL:-rupalagardwal2000@yahoo.com info@indocotspin.com www.indocotspin.com FOR INDO COTSPIN LTD Sd/- Place : Panipat Bal Kishan Aggarwal MANAGING DIRECTOR Din No.:00456219

WESTERN RAILWAY CANCELLATION NOTICE

Please refer to this office Tender notice no. (1) BCT/20-21/133 dt. 12/06/2020 which is to be opened on 14/07/2020 may be treated as cancelled. Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल पर्यावास नगर, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) / सर्व संबंधित को सूचना /

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी ई.आई.ए.नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (तथा-संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स श्री शारदा मिनिस्ट्रल्स, मंडिर हसीद चौक स्टीन वकारी (श्री आशीष विवारी) ग्राम-मंडिर हसीद, तहसील-आरंग, जिला-रायपुर द्वारा खसरा नं.-699, कुल लीज क्षेत्र-4.048 हेक्टर पर नूना परब खदान (गौण खनिज) सहायी 2,96,670 टन/वर्ष के पर्यावरणीय सौकरित हेतु लोक में आपत्ति/सुझाव/विचार/टीका टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, व्यवसायिक परिसर, कबीर नगर, रायपुर के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परिचयोजना के लिए लोक सूचनाई दिनांक 10/08/2020 को समय दोपहर 12:00 बजे से परिचयोजना स्थल- श्री रामचन्द्र स्वामी नागरीदास मंडिर परिसर मंडिर हसीद, तहसील-आरंग जिला-रायपुर में निवसत की गई है। यह भी सूचित है कि:-

- 1. लोक सूचनाई के दौरान सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को फिजिकल/सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
2. लोक सूचनाई में सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों द्वारा मास्क का उपयोग किया जायेगा तथा समय-समय पर सेनेटाइजर का उपयोग किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
3. लोक सूचनाई स्थल पर सम्मिलित होने वाले व्यक्तियों को बैक व्यवस्था कम से कम 02 मीटर की दूरी रखना अनिवार्य होगी।
4. कोरोना वायरस के नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 14 सितम्बर, 2006 (तथा-संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन/पहन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (सायट कॉपी) डायरेक्टर, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा बना रोड, ईस्ट दिल्ली, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (डब्लू. सी जेड) पर्यावरण, वन, एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, प्रायग्द फ्लोर, ईस्ट विंग, न्यू सेक्टरिएट बिल्डिंग, सिविल लाईन्स, नागपुर (महाराष्ट्र), कार्यालय कलेक्टर रायपुर, जिला-रायपुर, मुख्य कार्यालय अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत, जिला-रायपुर, मुख्य महाभबंदक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केंद्र, जिला-रायपुर, मुख्य कार्यालय अधिकारी, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर विकास नगर, जिला प्राधिकरण, जिला-रायपुर, सर्वपल्ली, ग्राम पंचायत-मंडिर हसीद, तहसील-आरंग, जिला-रायपुर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, जिला-रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावरण नवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर में रखी गई है। सद्यः सचिव छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छग.)

## UP crime spiral

Yogi Adityanath may claim to eliminate the mafia but cannot break out of a system that has been endorsed by his party



Uttar Pradesh has always had the dubious distinction of being the badlands of the country, with politically connected criminals having a run of the place and the line between the lawmaker and lawbreaker almost blurring due to the collusion between the two. This political patronage of rowdies and thugs, ostensibly to help consolidate a party's position by way of coercion, show of strength and to expediently deepen social and caste schisms for remunerative vote banks has been on for decades. So much so that underworld

dons themselves, over time, became elected representatives of the people. In such a scenario, the police as a tool of the executive, that has anyway been compromised, has played along rather than risking the lives for trying to decriminalise the system. Both the caste parties, be it the Samajwadi Party (SP) or the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), had legitimised the political worth of ganglords to such an extent that even mainstream parties, the BJP included, were not immune to following the unstated grammar of muscling up. Any party in power needed unofficial *bahubalis*. In fact, current Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath soared to power primarily claiming he would cleanse the politics of the State once and for all and end the "goonda raj." People trusted his *mahant* image, hoping he would clean up his own party in the process. A series of "encounters" and elimination followed, too, till one of them backfired and cost the lives of policemen instead. It shows that the determination to tame the underworld isn't enough so long as the system isn't disinfected. Or sacrificing some minnows in the public eye to protect the big fish wouldn't pass off for showmanship. The recent case of Vikas Dubey, the don of Shivli, has only fortified that perception. It's been nearly a week since he has been on the run after his henchmen killed eight UP policemen, who had gone to conduct a raid on his house. Turned out they had walked into a trap as Dubey was tipped off by moles in the forces itself and he stage-managed a "reverse encounter" of sorts. That senior officers ignored warnings that the gangster was being aided and abetted by people within the force is testimony to the man's clout. The police are still clueless about his whereabouts despite Adityanath himself supervising the probe. Dubey's life is a saga of crime fuelled by brazen political patronage by the BJP and the BSP alike. Of late, he was even trying to make his way back into the ruling BJP despite knowing Yogi's severe intolerance for criminality and murdering senior BJP leader Santosh Shukla in cold blood inside a police station with several policemen as eye-witnesses, all of whom later turned hostile. Some in the BJP are even keen to use his services now, going against Adityanath's zero tolerance towards organised crime and claim to put the mafia either in prison or in the house of Yamraj. So were his statistics just meant for optics? By the end of December 2019, there were 5,178 encounters in which 103 criminals were killed and 1,859 were hurt. There were reports about terrified criminals "surrendering" in order to escape encounters with the police claiming that 17,745 criminals had surrendered or cancelled their own bails to go to jail. There were much-publicised "surprise" visits by Yogi to police stations. In such a scenario, it is difficult to imagine that Dubey would get even more adventurous unless he was sure of his protection.

If the crime chart of the State is anything to go by then nothing that the cops claim to have done on the ground has made much of a difference. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) figures for 2018 released at the beginning of the year, UP tops the charts in crimes against women in the country, and offences against children, particularly girls, and the elderly have only grown. According to the report, the State topped the list with 59,445 cases, with an average of 162 being reported every day. A case of rape is registered with the UP police every two hours while crime against a child is reported every 90 minutes. Let us not forget the BJP's own legislators booked for rape, Kuldeep Sengar and Ravindranath Tripathi, both of whom were able to buy time due to their claimed proximity to the senior leadership and their hold in local party units. For all of Yogi's protestations, the BJP tops the State list with 37 per cent legislators having a criminal history. In the current Vidhan Sabha, 143 of the 403 legislators have "impressive" criminal antecedents. The BJP, which had won 312 seats, has 114 MLAs facing criminal cases and 83 already booked for heinous crimes. So how much hope does the State have of catching the likes of Dubey and his political masters and holding them accountable for their crimes and misdeeds? Not at a time when our elected representatives have overturned a democratic lineage for a mutually agreed upon peerage. Can the ascetic Adityanath deny that he has allowed some baggage to occupy his asset space?

## Opening up pitfalls

Crowds at pubs across London are a warning to authorities across the world that an unplanned opening is a stupid idea



Crowds at pubs across the UK were enough to put the fear of God into an atheist bureaucrat as that nation attempted to open up. But this should not have come as a surprise to the authorities as similar things have happened in the US. Part of this is seen as privilege in these nations where young White people have deliberately been abusing their rights to go out, egged on by politicians pandering to them. However, as a result of the massive crowds, it is now becoming apparent that possibly hundreds and

maybe thousands of new Coronavirus cases might spread.

As authorities in several Indian cities plan how to open up restaurants and bars, they should look very carefully at what has been happening in Western nations that have tried to open up. Even though the Government of India has been relatively successful in spreading a fear of the virus among the population, economic necessity has led millions to go out into the streets. However, while malls and restaurants in Delhi are open, footfalls have been very limited. In crowded Mumbai, locals might want to go out to escape the confines of their small houses. Is the city prepared for a subsequent increase in its caseload? There is little doubt that the dining and drinking business has been affected more than most by the lockdown and social distancing norms. They can do with the patronage but that does not mean that opening up should be done without any precaution. It seems that major Indian cities are almost at the peak of the virus; things seem to be improving slowly and the total number of cases, too, appears to be coming down. We do not know for sure how much the virus has spread to India's interiors but the urban situation is improving. Governments are keen to get the economy running again but as the spread of the virus at Bajaj Auto's factory proves, we have to be careful about how we open up operations. India cannot afford a badly planned opening and the privileged classes will have to see how bad the scene in London has been before they start going out.

# Spare the workers

India requires a labour law structure that is stable and secure rather than one which changes every few years. The Govt must strike a balance and implement investor-friendly reforms



MEKHALA PANDE

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the fault lines, vulnerabilities and infirmities that exist in India's labour law and policy framework. On the surface, the country's legal structure boasts of 200 State laws and around 45 Central rules that govern the employer-employee relationship. India is a labour surplus country with 47 million unemployed below the age of 24 years and 12-13 million youths joining the labour market every year. Almost 93 per cent of India's labour force works in the unorganised sector, the majority of whom are unskilled and poorly educated. Nearly 90 per cent of India's estimated 47 crore workforce is not benefitting from the existing labour law provisions.

But the irony is that the multitude of laws have neither uplifted the socio-economic conditions of the workers nor have they incentivised economic development. This because they "over regulate" and create legal hurdles at every stage of running an enterprise.

Last year, the Union Government drafted four labour codes as part of a process to streamline these laws. They were the Code on Wages (approved by Parliament), the Industrial Relations Code, Code on Social Security and Welfare and the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions. These codes will subsume within themselves various legislations related to specific areas of labour law. The Government's move guarantees transparency and accountability. But this is also an opportune time to revisit these laws in the light of the health, safety and livelihood challenges faced by the workers.

Another striking feature of the Indian labour landscape is that the proportion of informal workers in the total participating labour force is a staggering 90 per cent. In other words, 90 per cent of the work force does not have job security or a social safety net.

This became apparent when migrant workers, who form part of the circular economy, were left in the lurch without any social security net to tide over the COVID-19-induced lockdown. Left with no guarantee of shelter, their next meal or any certainty as to when the lockdown would end, the workers started a long and perilous walk back to their home States. It is paramount to consider the link between the inadequacies in an existing law, its implementation and accountability vis-à-vis the State and the enterprise that has to abide by it. Let us first examine the laws and regulations that are already in place.

For the workers' benefit, the Government has created certain social security nets like the Employees' State



Insurance Scheme (ESI) and the Provident Fund (PF) for labourers who work in the organised sector. It is the duty of the employers or the contractors to register their employees under these schemes but in practice, they grossly under report the number of such workers to reduce compliance costs. As a result, the JAM trinity-linked direct transfer schemes are difficult to implement because a large number of employees are invisible.

Further, schemes such as the Building and Other Construction Workers (BoCW), a welfare fund set up under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, meant for the largest section of the migrant workers and informal labour also rely on registration. The Labour Ministry reported that around ₹31,000 crore was lying unspent in BoCW funds. Several activists have also highlighted that migrant workers did not receive any benefit and that the BoCW fund has registered many bogus workers.

In this context, the need for an accountability and fair work ombudsman has been very much felt. Such an institution would ensure that worker ben-

“  
**UNCERTAIN TIMES CALL FOR DRASTIC CHANGES TO THE LABOUR LAWS IN ORDER TO DELIVER STAKEHOLDER BENEFITS. HOWEVER, IN THE PAST MONTH, SEVERAL STATES HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO SUSPEND EXTANT LABOUR LAWS RATHER THAN STRENGTHEN THEM. THE PRIMARY LOGIC, BEHIND THIS MOVE IS TO INCENTIVISE ECONOMIC GROWTH**  
 ”

efit schemes are better implemented and utilised so that their true beneficiaries receive the required social safety net, especially in times of crisis.

Uncertain times call for drastic changes to the labour laws in order to deliver stakeholder benefits. However, in the past month, several States have taken steps to suspend extant labour laws rather than strengthen them.

The primary logic, rather the zeal, behind this move is to incentivise economic growth on the assumption that deregulation through labour law reforms will enhance economic prospects. The Uttar Pradesh Government has proposed the suspension of all labour laws for the next three years. Only those that are related to payment of timely wages, prohibition of bonded labour and health and safety of workers are excluded.

The Madhya Pradesh Government's amendments focus on new factories and establishments which would be exempted from the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. These State Governments have also suspended the working of the Act, which hampers the rights of a worker to approach the Industrial Tribunal in case of an industrial dispute or seek compensation in case of layoffs and

retrenchments.

However, a conjoint reading of Article 246, 213 and 254 of the Constitution demonstrates that a Governor cannot promulgate any ordinance without the assent of the President in relation to an ordinance which suspends labour laws. As of date, the President has not granted such assent to these changes proposed by various States.

One cannot do away with the labour law regulations just to ease pressure on economic growth. Their removal is antithetical to the idea of a social net that makes the workers feel secure at their workplace. Most importantly, these labour changes will last for only three years. Such a sunset clause is bound to detract rather than attract investments due to the short-lived nature of these incentives. Industry requires a labour law structure that is stable and secure rather than one which changes every few years.

The need of the hour is that Governments, while continuing the process to streamline existing laws, strike a balancing act and implement beneficial and investor-friendly labour reforms, which address the deep-rooted problems for the workers' welfare.

(The writer is a Delhi-based lawyer)

## SOUNDBITE

The BJP is the LeBron James of election management and organisational agility. By comparison, we (Congress) look like dilly-dallying dilettantes. It is an asymmetrical war.



Congress member —Sanjay Jha

When I review my work, I find many flaws that need to be rectified. I am not the person who says 'well done, good job', I find flaws everywhere. I think there is room for improvement.



Actor —Abhishek Bachchan

The message is clear. Our military might stands strong and will continue to stand strong, whether it's in relationship to a conflict between India and China or anywhere else.



White House Chief of Staff —Mark Meadows

We will wait for the vaccine to come out. Till then, yes, we will have to be a little more careful...we know what's happening and we don't want to fall sick.



BCCI president —Sourav Ganguly

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Strategise well

Sir —This refers to the editorial, "Too long a distance" (July 4). Indeed, it is good to see reforms taking place in Indian Railways. They were long overdue. The Railways do not generate profit and are barely able to meet their yearly expenses due to various reasons. Privatisation of 109 routes will not only improve efficiency but also passenger experience.

Now, the bigger question is whether private companies would be able to make this a viable project. The private players are likely to charge more for tickets and they will have to share their profits with the Railways. Also, the Railways will run on the same routes within an hour of the private trains. So, the Railways will have to come out with a strategy which should be long-term and sustainable for both the private players and the public enterprise.

Bal Govind  
 Noida

### Why this hurry?

Sir —The proposal to launch an indigenous COVID-19 vaccine is

### Efficacy of Covid vaccine must not be compromised

This refers to the editorial, "The vaccine race" (July 6). The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which has steadily fought the Coronavirus pandemic, is letting down its guard either to please the Government or giving in to the latter's arm-twisting methods. Its letter to 12 hospitals to conduct clinical trials for the Bharat Biotech-developed Covaxin by August 15 is bizarre and against the rigours of scientific inquiry. Defending itself from the backlash by the scientific community and health activists, the ICMR's contention that it meant only to cut down on red tape is unsustainable. The World Health Organisation mandated three phases for the development of a vaccine. Dismissing them as red tape shall promote medical quackery. The human body takes its own time to react to vaccines and generate immune responses. Such a biological process is not red tape. Clinical trials may take years and also fail in the final phase. To cite an example, the HIV vaccine has been failing tests for the last three decades and is still in its final phase.

India's surge ahead as the third worst COVID-hit country lends a sense of urgency to develop and mass



produce a vaccine. In terms of trials, the Oxford University vaccine is far ahead of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin but even it does not see the vaccine becoming a reality any time before the end of the year. The ICMR must stand by the regulatory processes. It must resist Government-peddled populism with all the might at its disposal.

SK Prabhakar  
 Gurugram

will do a fair job. The nation awaits the right vaccine at the right time.

Harshal Suresh Desale  
 Pune

### Iconic choreographer

Sir —The deaths of Irrfan Khan, Rishi Kapoor, Sushant Singh Rajput and now Saroj Khan are great blows to the Hindi film industry. All of them have left behind memorable pieces of work that will continue to set standards for Indian cinema. Khan, who had a career spanning four decades, was an iconic choreographer and a teacher who made dancing look easy. Credited for over 2,000 dance numbers, she created signature moves for actors like Madhuri Dixit in *Tezaab*, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan in *Taal* and Sridevi in *Mr India*. Khan also mentored a few aspiring choreographers who became successful in their own right. Her death is an immeasurable loss to the film industry.

Jubel D'Cruz  
 Mumbai

Send your feedback to:  
 letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Embrace the new

The UK Parliament took the lead in changing its 800-year-old practices and met virtually a few weeks ago. India, too, is considering following suit



KALYANI SHANKAR

India, for the first time in its more than seven-decade-long parliamentary history, will have its Monsoon Session with some Members of Parliament (MPs) attending physically and others virtually. This hybrid experiment is necessitated by the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The lawmakers will be failing in their assigned role by the Indian Constitution namely law-making, holding the executive accountable and budget scrutiny if they do not meet. The Constitution stipulates that Parliament should meet at least once in six months and that six-month-period ends on September 22. With the curtailed Budget Session adjourned *sine die* on March 23, it is difficult for the legislature to question the executive on so many burning issues like the pandemic and its handling, the crumbling economy, the Chinese face-off in Ladakh and so on.

However, virtual Parliament sessions are not new now as many countries have resorted to this method since the outbreak of the deadly Coronavirus pandemic. Parliaments around the world are adapting to the unprecedented outbreak with new experiments. Egypt, Germany, Israel, Sweden and the European Union (EU) have all gone virtual. Countries like the United Kingdom (UK) and the Philippines have adopted a hybrid model of both physical and virtual attendance.

Many may ask why should the Parliament meet in the middle of a contagion? Did not the Opposition demand an adjournment in March citing the COVID-19? How has the situation changed now? Well, the fact remains that apart from the Constitutional requirement, it is necessary for the executive to place before the legislature the measures taken to handle the crisis. Second, certain emergency measures might require legislation. There are various ordinances, which need to be introduced in Parliament. Third, a Parliament session will become a two-way street for the Government and the members to exchange ideas and communication.

With the Congress-led Opposition demanding a session and the Constitutional provisions stipulating such a meeting, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Venkaiah Naidu and the Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla have had three meetings. But a final decision is awaited because it is for the Government to decide. The presiding officers of both the Houses are aware of the challenges in holding this hybrid session. The first is the venue. Several options are before them, including holding the meeting of the Lok Sabha in the Central Hall, with the Rajya Sabha, which has less members than the Lower House, shifting to the chamber of the Lok Sabha to enable the requisite social distancing. The Rajya Sabha will seat 127 members and the rest will be in the galleries. Screens would have to be arranged both within the House and outside to enable virtual participation. There will be space constraints until the new Parliament complex comes up in 2022.

The second challenge is the feasibility of such a session. The Indian Parliament, like many other countries including the UK, is slow in adopting 21st century modern technologies. But now the Coronavirus has given everyone the impetus to experiment with the new digital methods of communication. The UK Parliament took the lead in changing its 800-year-old practices and met virtually a few weeks ago. India, too, is considering following the UK model with a healthy mix of a virtual and physical presence of MPs.

For the hybrid session to take place successfully, the Parliament should be ready with an uninterrupted power supply, a secure broadband connection for the members, immediate translation devices and so on. To connect the members virtually even at the district level, it is going to cost ₹25 crore and a three-month time frame to prepare. Then what about members who are not tech-savvy? The total number of people for the session would be about 3,500, including the staff, security, media, the MPs and their staff. It would be a risk to expose them to the pandemic. The third issue is that the House has to be ready to enable the members to vote, administer oaths to new members and put in place effective measures for physical distancing, sanitation as well as transportation of members.

As a prelude to that, the Lok Sabha Secretariat has permitted physical meetings of parliamentary panels. This will be a first of its kind, with the members being given soft copies of the papers and asked to follow social distancing and other guidelines. Ministries have been advised to keep at five the maximum number of members appearing before a committee.

As preparations are in full swing, the million dollar question is how effective would the hybrid session of Parliament be? What impact would physical distancing and confinement have on the Parliament's functioning? How will the Opposition function? They would not be able to protest, make noisy scenes, wave placards or walk out like they usually do. Will they somehow change their style of functioning? Only time will tell. One thing is for sure. The presiding officers are aware of the risks they would be taking in getting 750 MPs together. Overcoming the challenges is important and the system has to be perfected. Despite the pandemic, the people's representatives should have an opportunity to voice the concerns of the common man. We have to move with the times and adapt ourselves to the new situations. No time is better than the present one.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

## RAHUL CONTINUES TO QUESTION THE VALOUR OF OUR ARMED FORCES AND DO EVERYTHING THAT A RESPONSIBLE OPPOSITION LEADER SHOULD NOT DO.

—BJP PRESIDENT  
**JP NADDA**



## INSTEAD OF RESPONDING TO THE SERIOUS QUESTIONS RAISED BY RAHUL GANDHI (ON THE COUNTRY'S DEFENCE), THE BJP HAS CHOSEN TO ATTACK HIM.

—CONGRESS SPOKESPERSON  
**PAWAN KHERA**

# Fuel prices are burning

We have an abhorrent situation whereby taxes alone account for about two-third of the price at the pump. The high fuel price contributes to high inflation and higher costs of fertilisers and food



UTTAM GUPTA

During the last three weeks of June, the oil marketing public sector undertakings (PSUs), namely the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), increased the retail prices of petrol and diesel continuously almost daily. The cumulative hike works out to about ₹9 per litre of petrol and ₹11 per litre in case of diesel. As a result, the current price of both the fuels in Delhi is ₹80.5 per litre. In April/May, petrol was selling at ₹71 per litre whereas diesel was ₹69 per litre.

The prices of these fuels are deregulated (petrol since June 2010 and diesel since October 2014). Under the subsisting arrangement, oil marketing PSUs calculate their prices at the pump by adding four components, viz. the refinery price (ERP), freight charges, dealer commission and taxes. The ERP in turn is linked to the import parity price (IMPP) and export parity price (EPP) of respective fuels in the ratio of 80:20. The price is fixed on a daily basis taking into account the variation in IMPP/EPP. Changes in the other components, if any, are also reflected as and when these happen.

The IMPP/EPP or international prices (as understood in common parlance) of these products move in tandem with the movement in international prices of crude oil — the basic raw material that is processed in refineries to get a variety of petroleum products (POL), including petrol and diesel. The price of crude oil depends on the global supply and demand balance. If the demand exceeds supply, the price increases; in case supply exceeds demand, the price decreases.

In January, when the international price of crude was ruling at about \$60 per barrel, the price of petrol (in Delhi) was ₹76 per litre and that of diesel ₹68. In February/March when the COVID-19 crisis was building up, leading to a contraction in global demand, the OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) and non-OPEC suppliers wanted to clinch a deal to reduce supplies but failed. As a result, the crude price plunged to around \$30 per barrel in March. In that month, even as the price of petrol was down to about ₹70 per litre, diesel continued to hover around the same level as it was in January.

By April the devastation caused by the contagion reached its zenith. This resulted in destruction of global oil demand by an unprecedented 29 million barrels per day (MBPD). This time around, the OPEC and others reached an agreement to cut supplies by 10 MBPD. However, the agreed cut being far short of the contraction in demand, the deal failed to stem the slide in crude prices which plummeted to a low of \$17 per barrel. Despite this, the price of petrol and diesel more or less remained unchanged at ₹71 per litre and ₹69 respectively.

During May/June, with calibrated unlocking in different parts of the world and easing of excess supply, the crude price firmed up to about \$30 per barrel in May and further up to a little above \$40 per barrel in June. Correspondingly, the retail price of petrol and diesel has escalated to about ₹80.5 per litre each. The above trends point towards brazen violation of the underlying principle of pricing. Despite the price of crude in April being nearly one-fourth of its level

IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRICE SCENARIO (WHETHER LOW OR HIGH), THE NARENDRA MODI GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN A CONSCIOUS POLICY DECISION TO KEEP THE CED HIGH AND THAT, TOO, MOSTLY IN THE FORM OF RAIC, WHICH ENABLES IT TO RETAIN AN OVERWHELMING PORTION OF THE COLLECTION WITH ITSELF. NOT TO BE LEFT BEHIND, THE STATES ALSO EXTRACT THEIR POUND OF FLESH



in January, the consumers in Delhi were paying for diesel at the same rate whereas, for petrol they paid marginally less by ₹5 per litre. By June, when crude increased to \$40 per barrel (which is two-third of the January level), they are paying more than ₹80 per litre for both — significantly higher than January level. The blame lies squarely with the Centre and States, which raised taxes when the international prices were moving south (up to April) but did not lower them when the prices reversed the trajectory (May/June). On March 14, the Central Government increased Central Excise Duty (CED) on petrol and diesel by ₹3 per litre each. In May it resorted to another hike in CED, this being much steeper at ₹10 per litre on petrol and ₹13 per litre on diesel. In a short span of less than a month, it has increased duty on petrol by ₹13 per litre and on diesel by a whopping ₹16. The States, too, increased Value Added Tax (VAT) substantially; e.g. Delhi by as much as ₹7 per litre.

Faced with a steep decline in tax revenue during the current year (this could be as high as ₹4,00,000 crore) and ballooning expenditure commitments, including health as well as livelihood-related and given the compulsions of avoiding a major slippage in fiscal deficit, the Centre saw a golden opportunity to raise extra resources by hiking the CED. This could pass muster as long as it didn't result in higher price to consumers. But, this wouldn't be acceptable if it starts pricking them. And this is precisely what happened in June. The Government could have rolled back a portion of the hike in CED

when crude prices firmed up in May/June. But that was not done leading to a steep increase in prices at the pump.

Under the scheme of sharing Central taxes with States as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission, the Central Government is required to transfer 42 per cent of its collection to them. However, the Road and Infrastructure Cess (RaIC) — a part of CED — is kept out of the divisible pool. In other words, the former can keep the whole of RaIC with itself. No wonder, out of the steep increase in CED at ₹10 per litre on petrol and ₹13 on diesel in May, the Centre collected ₹8 per litre each in the form of RaIC. Out of the current CED on petrol at ₹33 per litre, ₹18 per litre comes from the cess whereas, out of ₹32 per litre CED, RaIC is ₹12 per litre.

It is abundantly clear that irrespective of the international price scenario (whether low or high), the Narendra Modi Government appears to have taken a conscious policy decision to keep the CED high and that, too, mostly in the form of RaIC, which enables it to retain an overwhelming portion of the collection with itself. Not to be left behind, the States also extract their pound of flesh.

We thus have an abhorrent situation whereby taxes alone account for about two-third of the price at the pump. The high fuel price contributes to high inflation and higher cost of fertilisers and food. Since the Government controls their prices at a low level to make them affordable to users, a good slice of extra revenue is given back as higher subsidy. To that extent, the revenue gain from higher CED is imaginary. The cost of fuel is a major component of operational cost of any firm including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). It is ironic that on one hand, the Government is making all out efforts (moratorium on loan repayment, additional working capital, lower interest rate and so on) to ensure that they come out of the crisis. On the other, it increases their cost of operations (courtesy, steep hike in CED).

The high taxes are also a major bottleneck in the way of removing the current tag of "zero rating" under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) which is a jargon to continue petrol, diesel (besides natural gas, crude and aviation turbine fuel or ATF) under the erstwhile regime of CED, VAT and other local taxes. Even if these fuels were to be put under the highest tax slab, the applicable rate will be 28 per cent. Against this, the current incidence of tax under CED/VAT being more than double the cost of supply, the Centre and States will shudder at the very idea of including these products under the GST dispensation.

The Government must not become too dependent on oil taxes for increasing its revenue and maintaining the fiscal balance. With 2020-21 being an excruciating year, it may continue with current CED for now, but from next year, the hikes affected in March/May should be rolled back. Thereafter, it should gradually reduce it to reasonable rates preferably to a level less than ₹10 per litre (in 2014, CED was ₹9.8 per litre on petrol and ₹3.8 per litre on diesel). (The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

# How close are we to the silver bullet?

Science cannot be rushed and the development of a reliable vaccine or drug by any institution will need to follow the highest standards of rigour. That will take time



SUNIT MEDIRATTA

The world is constantly being fed news and reports focussed on COVID-19-related matters. The most exciting among them is any news about the possible discovery of a wonder drug or a vaccine against COVID-19 that would help mankind get rid of this pandemic and solve all problems resulting from it.

People get excited as soon as a new drug development is announced and TV channels grab eyeballs by breaking news about newer vaccines having been developed by scientists from around the world. Let me reassure you that no drug or vaccine

can be developed overnight. In fact it takes years of research and clinical trials before any new drug or vaccine can be made available for commercial use. Most people would wonder why. The answer lies in understanding how any vaccine discovery process works.

The first step is the exploratory stage, where the scientists identify natural or synthetic antigens that might help prevent or treat a disease. These antigens could include virus-like particles, weakened viruses or bacteria, weakened bacterial toxins. This stage alone usually takes at least two years but with COVID-19, scientists have a head start because this isn't the first Coronavirus they have tried to make a vaccine for. Vaccine trials for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) had already begun in 2003 and 2012 respectively but were abandoned when those outbreaks receded on

their own. Then comes the pre-clinical stage where animal testing is undertaken using rats, rabbits or monkeys. Scientists may vaccinate the animals and then try to infect them with the target pathogen, to test the immune response of the candidate vaccine as well as its safety. These studies give an idea of the response they might expect in human bodies and help arrive at a safe starting dose as well as a safe method of administering the vaccine.

Many candidate vaccines never progress beyond this stage because they fail to produce the desired immune response. This process takes at least a year. On successful completion of animal trials, an institution, private sponsor or company puts up applications to regulatory authorities for approval of the investigational new drug. Human trials can only begin after such approvals are granted.

The vaccine now enters phase I

of human trials, which may have a small group of 20 to 50 participants. Participants are injected with the vaccine to assess the type and extent of immune response in humans. A small minority of participants may be injected with the pathogen after they have been vaccinated.

Promising results in this phase allow the drug to enter into the Phase II of testing. Several hundred volunteers participate in Phase II testing. These are randomised trials and include a controlled group of people that are given the drug and a placebo group of people that are given saline or water.

The objectives of Phase II testing are to further evaluate the vaccine's safety, immunogenicity, proposed doses, schedule of immunisations and method of delivery.

Successful Phase II candidate vaccines move on to larger trials or Phase III. This phase involves thousands of people and the experimen-

tal vaccine is tested against a placebo. These trials are randomised and double blind which means that neither the volunteer nor the health officials are aware of who received the vaccine and who got the placebo. To fully assess the protective efficacy and safety of a vaccine, this phase of testing usually requires hundreds of thousands of participants. The Salk polio vaccine was tested on over 1.3 million people. On successful completion of this phase the vaccine gets licensed for commercial production.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that if a vaccine contains genetically modified organisms (GMOs) an Environmental Risk Assessment should also be undertaken and approved by the appropriate agency.

In general, non vaccine drugs are developed, tested and regulated in a manner almost similar to vaccines except that the number of human

subjects in vaccine trials is usually larger.

Scientists caution that less than 10 per cent of the drugs that enter clinical trials in the US are approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The rest fail because they are not effective or have too many side effects. Because of this high failure rate, we must have multiple potential vaccines to test.

To put things in perspective, the history of vaccine development worldwide is not encouraging. The record in the US for developing an entirely new vaccine is four years. Despite all the efforts under way to fast track administrative clearances, experts in the US believe that a vaccine against the Coronavirus could be developed in 12 to 18 months.

And beyond this point lie the challenges of production and distribution at scale. All vaccines require maintenance of the cold chain to preserve their efficacy. Setting up scaled

production and distribution infrastructure will require collaboration between the public and private sectors which in turn will add to the time to market.

So one must not get too excited by the frequent breaking news on TV and our WhatsApp groups. Any claim of an instant breakthrough in COVID-19 care is a sham for sure. And any Government or organisation claiming that they would have a drug or vaccine ready in a matter of months should be taken to task for spreading false hope and making irresponsible claims. The truth is that science cannot be rushed and the development of a reliable and safe vaccine or drug by any institution, no matter where, will need to follow the highest standards of rigour, and that will take time. In the meantime, social distancing is the only protection you need from the pandemic. (The writer is a neurosurgeon at Apollo Hospital)

# US says foreign students must leave if classes go fully online

## Indians to be hit badly

**Washington/New York:** In a move that will adversely impact hundreds of thousands of Indian students, the US immigration authority has announced that foreign students will have to leave the country or risk deportation if their universities switch to online-only classes in this fall semester due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said in a press release on Monday that for the fall 2020 semester students attending schools operating entirely online may not take a full online course load and remain in the US.

"The US Department of State will not issue visas to stu-

dents attending schools operating under normal in-person classes are bound by existing federal regulations. "Eligible F students may take a maximum of one class or three credit hours online," it said.

Nonimmigrant F-1 students attending schools adopting a hybrid model—that is, a mixture of online and in-person classes—will be allowed to take more than one class or three credit hours online, it said.

These schools must certify to the Student and Exchange Visitor Programme that the course is not entirely online, that the student is not taking an entirely online course load for the fall 2020 semester, and that the student is taking the minimum number of online classes required to make normal progress in their degree programme.

The above exemptions do not apply to F-1 students in English language training programs or M-1 students pursuing vocational degrees, who are not permitted to enrol in any online courses, the ICE said.

The guidance is certain to

cause severe anxiety and uncertainty for the hundreds of thousands of international students who are studying in the country and for those who were preparing to arrive in the US to begin their education when the new academic session begins in September.

The US is the worst-hit country by the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus has infected more than 2.9 million people in the country and killed over 130,000, according to Johns Hopkins University data.

International travel restrictions in place due to the pandemic have made it increasingly difficult for foreign students in the US to return to their home countries, while those outside America are uncertain if they will be able to travel to join their courses in American colleges and universities. **PTI**

## US academicians, lawmakers call foreign student guideline as horrifying

**Washington:** Prominent American academicians and lawmakers have reacted sharply to the new US guideline to kick out foreign students pursuing degrees in the country if their universities switch to online-only classes, calling it as "horrifying" and "cruel."

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on Monday announced that foreign students pursuing degrees in America will have to leave the country or risk deportation if their universities switch to online-only classes in this fall referring to the September to December semester.

The decision will adversely impact hundreds of thousands of Indian students in the US. It said that for the fall 2020 semester students attending schools operating entirely online may not take a full online course load and remain in the US. The new regulation drew widespread backlash with many taking to social media to vent their anger.

The American Council on

Education (ACE), which represents university presidents, said the guidelines are "horrifying" and will result in confusion as schools look for ways to reopen safely.

"On its face, the guidance released by the ICE is horrifying. While we would welcome more clarity about international students studying in the United States, this guidance raises more questions than it answers and unfortunately does more harm than good," ACE President Ted Mitchell said in a statement. **PTI**

## US looking at banning TikTok, other Chinese social media apps: Pompeo

**Washington:** Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said the US is "certainly looking" at banning Chinese social media apps, including TikTok, days after India blocked the popular video-sharing platform.

India banned 59 apps with Chinese links, including TikTok and UC Browser, on June 29, saying they were prejudicial to sovereignty, integrity and security of the country.

During an interview on Monday with Fox News' Laura Ingraham, Pompeo said that he and President Donald Trump are taking the reports seriously after he was told by the host that India had already banned the app and Australia is considering doing so.

"We are taking this very seriously and we are certainly looking at it. We have worked on this very issue for a long time, whether it's the problem of having Huawei technology in your infrastructure -- we've gone all over the world and we are making real progress getting that out -- we had declared ZTE a danger to American national

security," Pompeo said.

"With respect to Chinese apps on people's cell phones, I can assure you the United States will get this one right too," he said, adding that he did not want to dive into specifics and potentially "get ahead" of any presidential announcement.

"But, it is something we are looking at," he said, going on to warn Americans that they should be cautious in using TikTok, lest they want their private information "in the hands of the Chinese Communist Party." Pompeo's remarks on the Chinese social media apps came amid growing tensions in bilateral ties with Beijing on a range of issues, including on the coronavirus outbreak and the controversial national security law imposed in Hong Kong.

The US has banned Huawei from their 5G networks over

## Russia will impose counter-sanctions on UK, says Kremlin

**Moscow**

**Moscow** will apply counter-sanctions against Britain, the Kremlin said on Tuesday, after London blacklisted Russian officials for their alleged involvement in the death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky.

"We can only regret such unfriendly measures," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"Obviously the principle of reciprocity will be applied," he added, without elaborating.

The 25 Russians included on the sanctions list drawn up by Britain's Foreign Office were included for their alleged involvement in the death of Magnitsky.

Magnitsky, a tax consultant for British financier William Browder, died in prison of untreated illness in 2009 after accusing Russian officials of tax fraud of \$230 million.

## Hong Kong grappling with future under national security law

**Hong Kong:** Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam offered scant reassurance on Tuesday over a new national security law that critics say undermines liberties and legal protections promised when China took control of the former British colony.

A year ago, Hong Kong residents felt secure enough in their freedoms under the territory's "one-country, two-systems" regime to bring their children to mass protests.

Now, after the June 30 implementation of the security law, some are worrying they might be punished for what they post in their Facebook or Twitter accounts.

The legal system left in place when the British left Hong Kong on July 1, 1997, allowed the city's 7 million residents a free press and other freedoms forbidden in the communist-ruled mainland, for at least 50 years. Many of Hong Kong's older generations fled political upheaval on the Chinese mainland. Younger Hong Kongers grew up expecting to achieve more democracy in their lifetimes.

All are struggling to understand the implications of the new law, which prohibits what Beijing views as secessionist, subversive or terrorist activities or as foreign intervention in the city's internal affairs.

"I didn't have a strong view against formalizing a national security law but the way it was implemented is intrusive and disrespectful," said Jen Au, who works in the banking industry. "It's basically just bullying. Hong Kong has come a long way in

## GLOBE TROTTER

**CHINA: 21 DIE, 15 HURT AS BUS PLUNGES INTO LAKE**

**Beijing:** At least 21 people died and 15 others were injured when the bus they were travelling in plunged into a lake in southwest China's Guizhou Province, official media reported. At around noon, the bus crashed through a railing and plunged into the Hongshang Lake in Anshun city, state-run news agency Xinhua quoted local officials as saying.

**CHINA'S VARSITY EXAM BEGINS AFTER DELAY**

**Beijing:** Almost 11 million students began taking China's university entrance exam on Tuesday after a delay as the country worked to bring down coronavirus infections. The grueling two-day university entrance exam can be a key determinant of a student's future and was pushed back weeks from its scheduled date.

**7 POLICEMEN DIE IN AFGHAN BOMB ATTACK**

**Kabul:** A suicide car bomber targeted an Afghan police convoy in eastern Nangarhar province on Tuesday morning, killing four officers, including a police commander, a local official said. Three other officers were killed in an attack in the country's south.

**VIEW MASK REFUSERS LIKE DRINK DRIVERS: SCIENTIST**

**Paris:** People who refuse to wear face masks during the coronavirus pandemic should be stigmatised the same as drink drivers, the head of the prestigious Royal Society science journal said.

**WHO DOESN'T SEE BUBONIC PLAGUE IN CHINA AS RISK**

**Geneva:** An apparent outbreak of bubonic plague in China is being "well managed" and is not considered to represent a high risk, a WHO (WHO) official said.

## TikTok to leave Hong Kong as security law raises worries

**Hong Kong:** TikTok said on Tuesday it will stop operations in Hong Kong, joining other social media companies in warily eyeing ramifications of a sweeping national security law that took effect last week.

The short-form video app's planned departure from Hong Kong comes as various social media platforms and messaging apps including Facebook, WhatsApp, Telegram, Google and Twitter balk at the possibility of providing user data to Hong Kong authorities.

The social media companies say they are assessing implications of the security law, which prohibits what Beijing views as secessionist, subversive or terrorist activities or as foreign intervention in the city's internal affairs.

In the communist-ruled mainland, the foreign social media platforms are blocked by China's "Great Firewall." Critics see the law as Beijing's boldest

step yet to erase the legal divide between the former British colony and the mainland's authoritarian Communist Party system.

TikTok said in a statement that it had decided to halt operations "in light of recent events."

Facebook and its messaging app WhatsApp said in separate statements Monday that they would freeze the review of government requests for user data in Hong Kong, "pending further assessment of the National Security Law, including formal human rights due diligence and consultations with international human rights experts."

Hong Kong was convulsed with massive, sometimes violent anti-government protests for much of last year as the former British colony's residents reacted to proposed extradition legislation, since withdrawn, that might have led to some suspects facing trial in mainland Chinese courts. **AP**

## Nepalese lawmaker sacked for defying her party's decision to endorse country's new map

**Kathmandu:** A Nepalese lawmaker was sacked by her party on Tuesday for defying its decision to unanimously endorse the constitutional amendment to revise the country's map to include three strategically key Indian territories, according to media reports.

The Opposition Janata Samajbadi Party (JSP) decided to sack Sarita Giri for breaching the party whip to withdraw her amendment registered at the Parliament Secretariat against the Nepal government's second amendment to the Constitution.

A three-member panel led by party general secretary Ram Sahay Prasad Yadav recom-

mended that the party sack Giri from both as a lawmaker and the party member, and the meeting of the officer bearers of the party took the decision on Tuesday, the Kathmandu Post said.

The Constitution amendment, which was aimed at updating the new administrative and political map of the country on the national emblem, was unanimously endorsed by the House of Representatives on June 18.

The JSP and the main Opposition Nepali Congress had backed the move by the government of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli. **PTI**

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Digitally signed online bids for Two Part, Open Tender through Central Public Procurement Portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app/>) are invited for the following Works.

1. Tender No. NALCO CGPP/2020/CHIMNEY/02 : Construction of 150M tall RCC Chimney with Single Steel Flue at Damanjodi, Odisha. BDD: 05.08.2020. For query E-mail at [nalcocgpp.chn@dastur.com](mailto:nalcocgpp.chn@dastur.com) or [anirban.b@dastur.com](mailto:anirban.b@dastur.com)

2. Tender No. TNCC-034 / 2020 : Providing Photocopy Service with Installation of Machines at NALCO Offices in Bhubaneswar.

For details please visit [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in) or [www.nalcoindia.com](http://www.nalcoindia.com). Any Updates / Amendments / Extension/Corrigendum will only be hosted in above websites. **AGM (Elect.) & T&C**

**DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004**

**Bid No. E-17/2020-2021 E-TENDERS** Dated : 01.07.2020

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence :- S. No. - Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. (1) 05205057A (21.07.2020), One set of tube cutter & cutter blade, 10 Set. (2) 05205125A, (21.07.2020), One set consists, 10 Set. (3) 05205207, (21.07.2020), Stainless steel tube cutter, 18 Set. (4) 05205208 (21.07.2020), Stainless steel tube cutter, 18 Set. (5) 05205128A, (29.07.2020), Outlet box with cover Part No. 12523057, 18 Nos. (6) 05205129A, (29.07.2020), Micrometer torque wrench, 2 Nos. (7) 05205209, (29.07.2020), Kit for 18 UN Internal Thread Mill Insert, 2 Set. (8) 05205211, (29.07.2020), HSS T/S Subland Reamer, 1 Set. (9) 05205212, (30.07.2020), Pneumatic Valve, 1 Set. (10) 05201015A, (23.07.2020), Tyre with tube size, PL No.67010120, 14 Nos. (11) 05195162C, (23.07.2020), Electric portable eccentric valve seat 30 degree, 1 Set. (12) 05195190C, (23.07.2020), Electric portable eccentric valve seat 45 degree, 1 Set. (13) 05205067A, (31.07.2020), Abrasive shot blasting helmet with breathing tube, 3 Nos. (14) 05205068A, (31.07.2020), Abrasive shot blasting helmet with breathing tube, 3 Nos. (15) 06201208, (27.07.2020), Outlet box with cover Part No. 12523057, 18 Nos. (16) 06201105, (27.07.2020), Cooling fan for cab Part No.18650016, 65 Nos. (17) 06201098, (22.07.2020), Set of Rating plate Part No.29618411, 515 Set. (18) 06201087, (30.07.2020), Guard battery switch Part No.12470016, 20 Nos. (19) 06201073, (30.07.2020), Connection box complete Part No.12523483, 07 Nos. (20) 06201139, (30.07.2020), Cond. Fitting kit Part No. 12520627, 04 Set. **Note:** For Complete details of EMD and downloading of tender documents and Hindi Version also available at website [www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in) and [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). **P.R. OD/LWS-21** On the behalf of PCMM

Website :- [www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in)

**Covid-19 TRACKER**

**TOTAL CASES: 11,840,187**

**DEATHS: 5,43,424**

**RECOVERED: 6,810,825**

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
USA	3,058,006	1,33,339
Brazil	1,643,539	66,093
Russia	6,94,230	10,494
Peru	3,05,703	10,772
Chile	3,01,019	6,434
Spain	2,98,869	28,388
UK	2,86,349	44,391
Mexico	2,61,750	31,119

**WESTERN RAILWAY**

**VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS**

Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Engg. Deptt. Mumbai-400 008, invites E-Tender as per details given as follows

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and location	Approx. cost of work in ₹	EMD ₹
1	BCT / 20-21 / 164 dtd.07.07.2020	Virar-Surat Section:- Repairs to Pway under SSE(Valsad) Section for 12 month.(Re-invite-4)	₹1,90,47,198.05	₹2,45,200/-
2	BCT / 20-21 / 165 dtd.07.07.2020	Virar-Surat Section:- Valsad-Chlorination of drinking water under jurisdiction of SSE/WBL. (For Two years)	₹32,55,691.97	₹65,100/-
3	BCT / 20-21 / 166 dtd.07.07.2020	Virar- Surat Section:- ADEN/Valsad (i) TRR(P)=7.274km TSR(P)=7.683, (ii) Thick Web Switch Renewal (iii) Casual renewal of rails for a section of under ADEN-BL (iv) Painting of AT weld collars & rails under ADEN/Valsad Section.(Re-invite-6)	₹3,27,38,108.47	₹3,13,700/-
4	BCT / 20-21 / 167 dtd.07.07.2020	Virar- Surat Section:- ADEN/Valsad (i) Complete Track Renewal of existing 60kg rails on PRC sleepers at 1660 No./km including deep screening and recoumpment of ballast to 300mm on various location i.e Total CTR(P) = 5.854km, CTR(S)= 3.110kms, (ii) Deep Screening of P&C (iii) TFR= 56.04km & TBR= 4.523km (iv) Rectification of bad layouts and TBR of P&C by use of T-28, JCB, Crane etc. under ADEN/Valsad Section.(Re-invite-6)	₹3,16,55,349.83	₹3,08,300/-

Sr. No. 1 - 2 Date & Time of submission: On 04.08.2020 till 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: on 04.08.2020 at 15.30 hrs. Sr. No. 3 - 4 Date & Time of submission: On 11.08.2020 till 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: on 11.08.2020 at 15.30 hrs.

Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) Manual offers will not be considered.

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

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Gauri @ Munni, D/o: Usseshar Paswan, R/o: L-153, Vijay Vihar, Phase-1, Rohini, Delhi** has been reported missing since **15.02.2020** at from the area of **PS North Rohini, Delhi**. In this regard **FIR No. 66/2020, dated 15.02.2020** has been registered at P.S. North Rohini, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under.

**Name: Gauri @ Munni, Age: 16 Years, Height: 157 cm, Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Hair: Black, Wearing: Red colour Jacket, Pink colour jeans and hawai chappal in feet.**

If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. North Rohini, Delhi.

**Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)**  
**Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639**

**SHO**  
**Police Station, North Rohini, Delhi**  
**Ph: 011-27048210, 8750870330**

**DP/202/RD/2020**

**Govt. of Bihar**

**Animal & Fisheries Resources Department**

**Walk in Interview for recruitment of Manager (Finance & Accounts)**  
**In the World Bank assisted Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project**

Govt. of Bihar has received a loan from International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project (BKBDP). Animal & Fisheries Resource Department, Govt. of Bihar, has been accredited to implement the part of project i.e. activities related to animal & fish resources. The project will be implemented in Saharsa, Madhepura, Supaul, Purnea and Araria district of Bihar.

The AFRD wish to recruit the Manager (Finance & Accounts) as per the details given below.

Post	No. of Post	Essential Qualification	Salary
Manager (Finance & Accounts)	1	<p><b>Job Descriptions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prepare and examine the consolidated budget and any revisions thereto.</li> <li>To review and approve the financial progress reports.</li> <li>Preparing sanction orders for approval by the secretary for release of funds based on scrutiny of the IJFR's Utilization Certificate etc.</li> <li>Authorizing the processing of invoices for 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.</li> <li>Overseeing that external audits happen for the component in a timely manner and overseeing the timely submission of external audit reports for the component. The appointment of external auditor will be done by BAPEPS.</li> <li>Handing and resolving component audit issues.</li> <li>Looking after the daily functioning of the SPIU and the support.</li> <li>Any other work assigned by State Project Coordinator.</li> </ol> <p><b>Required Qualification &amp; Experience</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CA/CWA/MBA (Finance) or equivalent degree from any recognized University.</li> <li>Should have minimum 5 years of Post-Qualification experience in finance department in any Govt. Organization/any project funded by state or central Govt.</li> <li>Working knowledge of computer particularly – Ms-Word, Ms-Excel, Ms-PowerPoint.</li> </ol>	Rs. 60,000/- consolidated per month.

No TA/DA or any other expense will be reimbursed for attending the selection process at any stage. To know more about detailed eligibility criteria and related details and to apply online please visit: <http://jobs.afrd.in> and click on "job openings". Last date for submitting online application will be within 21 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in news papers.

(डाँठो रिवाकर प्रसाद)  
**सहायक निदेशक**

PR. No. 003475 (Animal) 2020-21

नोवल कोरोना के संघर्ष में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहायता हेतु Toll Free No. **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।  
चाय सामग्री-संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।  
श्रमिकों के सहयोग एवं सहायता हेतु हम संसाधन विभागा का Toll Free No. **18003456138**

# Sensex, Nifty log 5th session of gains

## FINANCIALS STEAL THE SHOW

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Market gauges Sensex and Nifty extended gains for the fifth straight session on Tuesday, helped by intense buying in financial stocks as investors brushed aside surging domestic COVID-19 cases to focus on monsoon progress.

After swinging between gains and losses during the session, the BSE Sensex finally ended 187.24 points or 0.51 per cent higher at 36,674.52; while the NSE Nifty settled with 36 points or 0.33 per cent gains at 10,799.65 - the longest winning streak for both gauges in a month.

On the Sensex chart, Bajaj Finance was the top gainer, rallying around 8 per cent, followed by IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Infosys, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and HCL Tech.

On the other hand, NTPC, ITC, PowerGrid, Tata Steel



and ONGC were among the laggards.

Sectorally, BSE IT, bank, finance, teck and auto indices ended up to 2.10 per cent higher; while oil and gas, utilities, metal, energy and telecom indices fell up to 2.42 per cent.

Broader midcap and smallcap indices rose up to 0.58 per cent. "Bulls were in complete control as evident in the breadth of the market with financials leading the charge. A good monsoon also cheered a host of companies in auto parts and farm equipment as a feel good factor returned with more participation seen from investors," S Ranganathan, Head of Research at LKP Securities, said.

Analysts also attributed the Indian equities performance to easing tensions between India and China at

## ₹ tumbles by 25 p to 74.93 on \$ buying by banks

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee declined by 25 paise to end at 74.93 against the US currency on Tuesday due to dollar buying by foreign banks and gains in the greenback in overseas markets.

Forex traders said foreign fund inflows and easing crude oil prices supported the rupee while factors like strong dollar and rising COVID-19 cases dragged down the local unit.

The rupee opened weak at 74.74 at the interbank forex market and fell further to touch an intra-day low of 74.97.

The unit settled at 74.93 against the US dollar, down by 25 paise over its previous close of 74.68, marking its second straight day of losses.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.26 per cent to 96.97.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex ended 187.24 points, or 0.51 per cent, higher at 36,674.52.

# Green shoots visible, India will bounce back: Kant

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on Tuesday said green shoots are visible and the economy, which has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, will bounce back soon.

The pandemic has impacted economic activities severely as the country had to go through a nationwide lockdown to check the spread of coronavirus. The Government had to announce a slew of measures, including fiscal package, to boost the economy. "I am a great believer that India will bounce back. We are already seeing green shoots in the economy.

We are seeing that key sectors like FMCG (fast-moving

Ladakh border.

The Chinese military on Monday began a limited pull-back from a number of friction points in eastern Ladakh, a day after NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi agreed on completing the ongoing disengagement process along the LAC "expeditiously". Government sources and officials said. Investor sentiment was further boosted by other positive factors like sustained foreign fund inflows.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market on Monday, purchasing equities worth ₹ 348.35 crore, provisional exchange data showed. Though, experts cautioned that rising COVID-19 cases will continue to weigh on investors' risk appetite going ahead.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered a money laundering case against the GVK group, the Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) and others to probe violations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to the tune of ₹705 crore in the Mumbai airport operations.

The ED has filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (FIR in police parlance) under the PMLA after taking cognisance of a recent CBI FIR

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Government and the World Bank on Tuesday signed a loan agreement to enhance support for the Namami Gange programme that seeks to rejuvenate the Ganga.

The Second National Ganga River Basin Project will help stem pollution in the iconic river and strengthen the management of the river basin which is home to more than 500 million people.

The \$400 million operation comprises a loan of \$381 million and a proposed guarantee of up to \$19 million.

The agreement for the \$381 million loan was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary, Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on

behalf of the government, and Qaiser Khan, Acting Country Director (India), on behalf of the World Bank. The guarantee instrument will be processed separately.

Khare said that the Ganga is India's most important cultural, economic and environmental resource, and the government's Namami Gange programme seeks to ensure that the river returns to a pollution-free, ecologically healthy state.

The new project will extend the government's and World Bank's engagement in this critical national programme to make the Ganga a clean, healthy river.

The World Bank has been supporting the government's efforts since 2011 through the ongoing National Ganga River Basin Project, which helped set

up the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) as the nodal agency to manage the river, and financed sewage treatment infrastructure in several riverside towns and cities.

Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, said that the continuity provided by the Second National Ganga River Basin Project will consolidate the momentum achieved under the first World Bank project, and help NMCG introduce further innovations, and benchmark its initiatives against global best practices in river rejuvenation.

"The government's Namami Gange Programme has revitalized India's efforts to rejuvenating the Ganga," Junaid Ahmad, World Bank Country

Director in India, said. "The first World Bank project helped build critical sewage infrastructure in 20 pollution hotspots along the river, and this Project will help scale this up to the tributaries. It will also help government strengthen the institutions needed to manage a river basin as large and complex as the Ganga Basin."

The sprawling Ganga Basin provides over one-third of India's surface water, includes the country's largest irrigated area, and is key to India's water and food security. Over 40% of India's GDP is generated in the densely populated basin. But the Ganga river is today facing pressures from human and economic activity that impact its water quality and flows.

Over 80 per cent of the pollution load in the Ganga comes

from untreated domestic wastewater from towns and cities along the river and its tributaries. For this, sewage networks and treatment plants in select urban areas would be built to help control pollution discharges. These infrastructure investments and the jobs they will generate will also help India's economic recovery from the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) crisis.

To ensure that these infrastructure assets function effectively and are well maintained, the project will build on the innovative Hybrid Annuity Model of public private partnership introduced under the ongoing NGRBP, and which has become the solution of choice for sewage treatment investments in the Ganga Basin.

# IRREGULARITIES IN MUMBAI AIRPORT OPERATIONS ED files money laundering case against GVK group, MIAL

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has registered a money laundering case against the GVK group, the Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) and others to probe violations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to the tune of ₹705 crore in the Mumbai airport operations.

The ED has filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (FIR in police parlance) under the PMLA after taking cognisance of a recent CBI FIR

that booked these entities to probe criminality in terms of criminal conspiracy and graft.

The agency will probe if genuine funds were laundered to amass personal assets by illegitimate routing of funds or proceeds of crime, sources said.

The CBI case in this connection relates to the alleged siphoning off Rs 705 crore from the funds of the Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), a joint venture under public-private partnership between the GVK Airport Holdings Limited and the Airports Authority of India

(AAI) besides other investors, by showing inflated expenditure, under-reporting of revenues, fudging of records among others.

The CBI has booked Gunupati, a director in MIAL, his son GV Sanjay Reddy, Managing Director in MIAL, the companies MIAL, GVK Airport Holdings Limited (a GVK group company) and nine other private companies allegedly used to camouflage the inflated figures of expenditure through sham deals and unidentified AAI officials, the sources further said.

# Property prices fall 1-5% in April-June across top cities: Report

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Property prices across top eight cities in the country declined 1-5 per cent in April-June quarter amid the coronavirus pandemic, according to the Magicbricks Propindex Report Q2.

The report said that in April prices slumped by 2-9 per cent, but later recovered.

It said that as India's economy has started getting back to a 'new normal' following the COVID-19 outbreak and the national lockdown, the real estate sector has also started to witness some green shoots as homebuyers are back in the market, though in lower numbers across tier-1 cities.

It suggests that the property buyer market sentiments are on the path to recovery with the buyer searches on the property portal set to surpass the pre-COVID levels, indicating robust underlying fundamentals on the demand side.

Commenting on the Propindex, Sudhir Pai, CEO, Magicbricks, said: "India's real estate sector is on road to recovery. Prices have shown a marginal decline whereas demand has been steadily coming back.

Actions have been taken by the Government on the recovery package and the RBI has also reduced repo rates by more than 100 basis points since the lockdown.

This augurs well for the industry.

"Our data suggests that search activity is almost back at

pre-COVID levels and this is therefore the right time for developers to grab the attention of the homebuyers through attractive deals and offers," he added.

The markets of Hyderabad, Chennai and Bengaluru - India's best-performing markets in the pre-COVID-19 phase - witnessed maximum price decline but least drop in consumer demand, indicating that homebuyers are now active in these markets and are looking for exciting deals.

Gurugram and Noida in the National Capital Region (NCR), which were already facing headwinds for quite some time, resisted downward pressure on price.

Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) fared slightly better compared with other regions, despite being worst-hit by COVID-19.

The average price decline was in the range of 0.4 and 0.8 per cent.

The Chennai residential market clocked a 2.3 per cent year-on-year growth, but the recent pandemic brought a 3.1 per cent decline in prices in Q2 2020.

Around 87 per cent of the city's demand falls under the 2- and 3-BHK configuration, showing domination of mid-segment consumers.

In Delhi, prices dropped across most budget categories, with the highest price decline witnessed in the premium properties costing more than ₹15,000 per square feet.

# JioMeet unveils additional security features to prevent hacking

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries' unlimited free video conferencing app JioMeet on Tuesday added additional security features to prevent Zoom-like attacks where hackers posted obscene images on screens.

JioMeet, which allows up to 24 hours of free video conferencing that are encrypted and password-protected, has added a safety feature that gives the conference host to disallow guests from joining a meeting without sign-in and disclosing their identity.

The feature, company

sources said, was added particularly in light of reports of obscene images appearing on screens during an online class being conducted on video-conferencing tool Zoom.

JioMeet, in the very first week of going live, unveiled six features and enhancements including new functionalities for enterprise customers, sources said adding the new features prevent hackers from entering a conference.

The enhanced feature app is available on Google's Play Store and will be shortly available on iOS, they said.

# Diesel price scales new high after 25 paise increase

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Diesel price in the national capital on Tuesday touched an all-time high following a rate hike after a week-long hiatus. Diesel price on Tuesday was increased by 25 paise per litre, according to a price notification of state-owned oil marketing companies.

This took the retail selling price of diesel to ₹80.78 per litre in the national capital - the highest ever. There was no change in petrol price for the 8th straight day, and it continues to be priced at ₹80.43 per litre. Rates vary from state to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or VAT. Petrol and diesel price were last revised on June 29.

In the last one month, diesel price has been increased on 23 occasions while petrol rates have risen 21 times.

The cumulative increase since the oil companies started the cycle on June 7, totals to ₹9.17 for petrol and ₹11.39 in diesel. In Mumbai, petrol is priced at ₹87.19 - unchanged since June 29, while diesel was hiked to ₹79.05 a litre from ₹78.83.

Under the ECLGS, the loan amounts sanctioned by PSBs increased to ₹65,863.63 crore, of which ₹35,575.48 crore has been disbursed as of July 4, she said. At the same time, private

# Banks sanction about ₹1.14 lakh crore loans to MSMEs under credit guarantee scheme

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday said banks have sanctioned loans of about ₹1,14,502 crore under the ₹3-lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for MSME sector reeling under the economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, disbursements against this stood at ₹56,091.18 lakh crore till July 4 under the 100 per cent ECLGS for micro, small and medium enterprises. The scheme is the biggest fiscal component of the ₹20-lakh crore 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' package announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in May. The latest numbers on ECLGS, as released by the Finance Ministry, comprise disbursements by all 12 public sector banks, 20 private sector banks and 10 non-banking financial companies.

"As of 4 July 2020, the total amount sanctioned under the 100% Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme by PSBs and private banks stands at ₹1,14,502.58 crore, of which ₹56,091.18 crore has already been disbursed," the finance minister said in a tweet.

Under the ECLGS, the loan amounts sanctioned by PSBs increased to ₹65,863.63 crore, of which ₹35,575.48 crore has been disbursed as of July 4, she said. At the same time, private

sector banks have sanctioned ₹48,638.96 crore and disbursed ₹20,515.70 crore. Compared to 1 July 2020, there is an increase of ₹4,158.51 crore in the cumulative amount of loans sanctioned and an increase of ₹3,835.65 crore in the cumulative amount of loans disbursed, by both PSBs and private sector banks combined as on 4 July 2020," Sitharaman said. Market leader SBI has sanctioned ₹20,628 crore of loans and disbursed ₹13,405 crore. It is followed by Punjab National Bank, which has sanctioned ₹8,689 crore. However, its disbursements stood at ₹2,595 crore as of July 4. The business units of Maharashtra have got the highest cumulative sanction of ₹6,856 crore from banks, while disbursement was to the tune of ₹3,605 crore as of July 4. It is followed by Tamil Nadu, with sanction of ₹6,616 crore loans and disbursements of ₹3,871 crore. On May 21, the Cabinet approved additional funding of up to ₹3 lakh crore at a concessional rate of 9.25 per cent through ECLGS for MSME sector. Under the scheme, 100 per cent guarantee coverage will be provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company for additional funding of up to ₹3 lakh crore to eligible MSMEs and interested Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency borrowers in the form of a guaranteed emergency credit line facility.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Amina Nisha D/o Chandlu Ansari R/o A-212, Gorav Nagar, Prem Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 09.06.2020. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 202/20 dated 12.06.2020 has been registered at Police Station Prem Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Age :** 14 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion :** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing :** Orange colour suit and salwar and hawai chappal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Prem Nagar, Delhi at E-mail Id - [ci@cbi.gov.in](mailto:ci@cbi.gov.in) or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

**Phone:** SHO 011-24368638, 24368641  
P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi  
Rohini Distt., Delhi  
Ph. No. 011-25489080, 9315164042

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this boy **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 13-14, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Fair, **Buit:** Thin, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Blue colour Jeans and without shirt. has been found dead on 19.06.2020 in the area of PS Burari, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 78A, dated 19.06.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Burari, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this boy but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this boy may kindly inform to the following.

**SHO** P.S. Burari, Delhi  
DP/333/N/2020(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23812734, 23814421

**BVCL**  
BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED  
CIN: L01403AS1999PLC005741  
Regd. Office: Debandra Nagar, Jhombasthi, P.O. Badarpurghat, Badarpurghat Karimganj Assam-788803  
Corp. Office: 281, Deepali, Pilmamura, New Delhi-110034  
Email: [cs@barakcement.com](mailto:cs@barakcement.com),  
[Website:www.barakcement.com](mailto:Website:www.barakcement.com)

**NOTICE**  
Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirement) Regulations, 2015, Notice is and is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> Day of July, 2020, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Audited Standalone & Consolidated Financial Results of the Company for the Fourth Quarter and Year ended March 31, 2020 along with other items of Agenda. The said notice may be accessed on the Company's website at [www.barakcement.com](http://www.barakcement.com).  
Further, in accordance with the BVCL Code of Conduct to Regulate, Monitor and Report Trading by Designated Persons the "Trading Window" for dealing in the securities of the Company has been already closed for all Directors, Officers, Designated persons and their immediate relatives of the Company w.e.f. April 01, 2020 till the end of 48 hours after the Audited Financial Results for the fourth quarter and year ended March 31, 2020 are approved and filed with the Stock Exchanges.  
For and on behalf of the Board  
**BARAK VALLEY CEMENTS LIMITED**  
Sd/-  
Place: New Delhi Rajesh Aggarwal  
Date: 07.07.2020 (Chief Financial Officer)

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS**  
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Engg. Deptt. Mumbai-400 008, invites E-Tender as per details given as follows

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and location	Approx. cost of work in ₹	EMD ₹
1	BCT/20-21/161 dtd.07.07.2020	Virar Surat section (i) TFR =28.02 km & TBR=1.684 km (ii) Thick web Switch Renewal & Deep screening of P&C (iii) Rectification of bad layouts and TBR of P&C by use of T-28, JCB Crane etc (iv) Painting of AT weld collars & rails under ADEN/ Surat in connection of sanctioned track work under CPWI/NAVSARI	₹1,36,62,443.61	₹2,18,300.00
2	BCT/20-21/162 dtd.07.07.2020	Virar Surat section (i) TFR =28.02 km & TBR=1.684 km (ii) Thick web Switch Renewal & Deep screening of P&C (iii) Rectification of bad layouts and TBR of P&C by use of T-28, JCB Crane etc (iv) Painting of AT weld collars & rails under ADEN/ Surat in connection of sanctioned track work under CPWI/SURAT	₹1,26,83,084.93	₹2,13,400.00
3	BCT/20-21/163 dtd.07.07.2020	Virar Surat: Section (i) TRP(P) 1.711km CTR (S) 3.90 kms (ii) casual renewal of rails for a section of under ADEN SURAT (iii) Painting of AT weld collars & rails under ADEN/ Surat (iv) Providing slack gauge sleepers and check rails on curve No.TV- between uhdna & chalthan in the jurisdiction of ADEN/SURAT in connection of sanctioned track work under CPWI/SURAT	₹1,70,28,649.32	₹2,51,200.00

**Sr. No. 1 - 3 Date & Time of submission:** On 04-08-2020 till 15:00 hrs **Date & Time of opening:** On 04-08-2020 at 15:30 hrs  
Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in) Manual offers will not be considered.  
Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) | Follow us on: [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)



**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
**Reading, after a certain age, diverts the mind too much from its creative pursuits. Any man who reads too much and uses his own brain too little falls into lazy habits of thinking.**  
— **Albert Einstein**

## Vocational programmes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Bhartiya Skill Development University, Jaipur (BSDU) adopts contactless admission process and invites applications for Bachelor of Vocational programmes in multiple disciplines.

The BVoc degree is a UGC approved degree, equivalent to any other graduate degrees, and is based on the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) to address the critical requirements of skill sets in the country.

The duration of the programme is three years.

**Eligibility:** Candidates must have passed Class XII or equivalent. They should have two years of ITI after Class X. Polytechnic Diploma holders will be considered for lateral entry into the second year of BVoc.

**Program specifications:** The programme is modular in nature and offers multiple entry and exit points at certificate, advanced diploma and BVoc. It has six semesters with 30 credits each resulting in a total of 180 credits to earn a BVoc degree. The last date for submission of applications is July 31, 2020.

## Campaign on disability empowerment

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Sarthak Educational Trust and National Ability Association of India in collaboration with flagged off-Dhristikone: Level up Strategy 2020 for Disability Empowerment to initiate a dialogue with national and international leaders to give an impetus on required initiatives to empower the disability sector.

The advocacy campaign focusses on combating the effects of COVID-19 on various segments of disability namely healthcare, Inclusive Education, vocational skilling and Employment. The panel of key speakers from NITI Aayog, NSDC and representative from GOI came together to address 12 years journey of inclusion & empowerment which highlighted the journey of Sarthak Educational Trust and the developments in the disability sector in the verticals of healthcare, inclusive education, vocational skilling, sustainable

employment, advocacy and Abilitympics. This three month long series of virtual symposiums organised by Sarthak Educational Trust will give the much needed impetus to the problems faced by PwDs during COVID-19. The campaign will highlight CSR support for strengthening disability sector and Global Prospective of COVID-19 on disabled community era of online intervention services for children with special needs and road map to strengthen Inclusive Education and ending with topics like Dharma for persons with disability, parental role in shaping future of a person with disability and RDSM: Collaborative Action towards empowered nation.

"People with disabilities can positively contribute to the national economy if they are provided with resources and adequate opportunities to build themselves", shared Dr Jitender Aggarwal, Founder CEO, Sarthak Educational Trust.

# ONLINE IS HERE TO STAY

Institutional education, that is confined within the four walls of classrooms, have transformed into virtual classrooms aided by digital environments and this digital shift will bring positive changes in the system, says APARUP PAKHIRA

**This pandemic is helping to develop the online infrastructure which will bring about a revolution in the education system. This virtual shift will pave way for skill-based education system**

The Ministry of Information Technology recently disclosed that number of internet users are more in rural India as compared to urban. In terms of consumption of data, rural India has surpassed the urban hubs. It's very indicative and has a lot of impact in every sector. The lockdown has affected each and every sector and education sector is also not an exception. There is no doubt that students are getting badly affected due to this unwarranted crisis.

However, the alternate side of the coin merits to be scrutinised. There is a bright side too. Institutional education, that is confined within the four walls of classrooms, have transformed into virtual classrooms aided by digital environments and this change in the education structure will bring positive changes in the system.

Education includes research, study and evaluation. Classes are being conducted through different video conferencing applications like Skype, Zoom, Google Team, Google Hangout, Google Classroom, Cisco-WebEx and the list will increase. Many universities are tying up with IT companies to develop digital platform for the students. IT companies are also competing with each other in the field of developing user friendly and interactive platform for the education sector.

Students and teachers will be connected through such platforms for interacting and learning. This form of education will continue to gain muscles as educational institutes would aim to reap the most out of the investments they make. Therefore, an exten-

sive database of video lectures is being developed which would cater to the needs of students and prove to be a valuable asset in the near future. In India majority of the students are from rural areas and they are joining in the virtual classroom through smartphones. This is the reason the number of internet users is now more in rural India than urban. The day is not far away when internet will be considered as an intrinsic part of everyday life, i.e right to life. As right to education is a fundamental right in India and when that will be dependent on internet then it will obviate the State to declare as fundamental right, as is the case in numerous Scandinavian countries.

This pandemic is helping to develop the online infrastructure which will bring about a revolution in the education system. Innovative methods are being implemented to conduct classes virtually which will help the students to come out of the boring monotonous classroom lectures. There will be a shift from knowledge-based education system to skill-based

education system. Needless to say, students will be benefited out of that and they would have enough time at their disposal to multitasking. They can earn and continue education simultaneously. Also, the attendance of students in virtual classrooms is more than classrooms in colleges which exudes the technologically dependant nature of the present generation in

schools and colleges. In the post COVID-19 era, teachers would be compelled to have a fragment of the syllabus to be covered online. The online evaluation pattern will also witness substantial reformation. Teachers have to frame application based question intelligently so that answers will not be available directly either from book or online. Naturally, students will be more analytical in answering those questions and will be more innovative. Education wouldn't be only degree centric. Skill and value-based education would gain muscles in the aftermath of the lockdown. It is observed that many famous universities are offering online courses. In future also students will like to have knowledge through webinar or some other means. Distance education would thrive once again. Information is already available in the digital platform so students will not come in the class for the same information again and would rather dedicate that time elsewhere. Rather they will prefer skill as well as value based education.

Artificial Intelligence (AI), would further consolidate the use of virtual classrooms and promote online education. AI will substitute those administrative posts where archetypal administrative work is done by humans. It will open the floodgates of research in interdisciplinary fields. Teachers spend a lot of time in administrative work and evaluating copies. AI can perform all those work and teachers will get more time to devote in research. Collecting data from in-app or following online movement of a teachers AI can easily figure out what method of learning will be best for a teacher. In such way the efficiency of the teacher will be increased and the same will be output-oriented.

If the academicians are thinking that this is temporary, they are living in fool's paradise. This change will make a great impact on the education system even when the world will breathe fresh air bereft of any viruses.

The writer is Associate Professor, Law and Justice, Adamas University

## MAKE YOUR BEST BET

The IIM-IPM is one of the most sought after course for management aspiring students. ANKIT KAPOOR tells you what makes the course standout and how students can prepare for it

With this current situation full of uncertainties and surrounded by the pandemic crisis, students after Class XII are definitely seeking for a stable career. And with all the odds in the favour, the five-year integrated management programme at IIM is worth the bet. The IIM IPM is one of the most sought-after courses for any management aspiring student.

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) conducts its national aptitude test once every year and over 20,000 students appear annually. The aptitude test facilitates admission to their five-year integrated programme in management. The admission process consists of the IPM Aptitude test, on clearing the cut-off for which students proceed for the next round, Written Ability Test (WAT) and Personal Interview (PI).

IPM is a unique course structure that provides a holistic development rather than just the managerial skills. This is a unique combination that no other graduate programme can match.

**Preparing for the entrance exam IPMAT:** IIM is no rocket science and to understand how, it is always better to start the preparation a year before, than to have last-

minute stress. Once you are clear about the career you want to get into, the syllabus looks humongous but when segregated and planned perfectly it becomes much easier.

IPM selection is a rigorous process of selecting students with diversified portfolios. They choose crème de la crème from the applications received. This potpourri in itself provides a unique fragrance that is a priori. Yes, it requires hard work to sustain in the program but at the end it is reflected in your personality, once you are ready to face the world with challenges.

**Five-year integrated programme for management**  
**A multi-dimensional perspective:** The entire five-year course is divided into two parts — three years and two years. The first three years are the intensive foundation stones/pillars that are laid with utmost precision. This would include understanding of humanities subjects as philosophy, psychology, mathematics, statistics and economics. Next two years are in sync with the CAT selected students. The IIM IPM believes in shaping managers who are socially conscious and relevant in today's scenario. The five-year duration is so meticulously designed that it provides high analytical rigour through mathematics & economics and socially responsible managers

by understanding of humanities. This opens a multi-dimensional perspective.

**Social internships:** As most of the students in India, after Class XII, do not have exposure to working, IPM provides a unique opportunity to understand the working culture & ethics with the help of social internship after the end of first year. To sync, after the end of each year, a student goes for different internship programmes. Students of IPM also have the opportunity to go for sabbatical for a maximum of two years. These two years may be used to acquire experience, earn or anything else that would help a student grow.

**Foreign exchange programmes:** Foreign exchange program is another feather in the hat. Not many programmes, apart from IPM, have such articulated exchange programs. These universities are in part of Europe, Taiwan and Brazil. This programme ranges from three to five months and the student derives a new dimension to his understanding process. Mind it, a student has to earn this programme and it does not come as a suo-motu function.

The writer is Managing Director, Pratham Test Prep

Globalisation and increased competition in the market has intensified the need for a highly skilled workforce in the food processing industry, says SUNIL MARWAH

COVID-19, the dreaded pandemic of the century has torn asunder the fabric of the world economy. It has affected every industry and the food industry is no exception.

Despite being one of the largest agricultural producers in the world, India is facing low levels of production and also in its other related facets like packaging, processing, storage, cold chain and transportation. This is mainly due to lack of skilled man power and due to this food safety and quality of the food has suffered immensely.

Adverse effects are being noted on the growth of the industry which is vital in delivering its true potential to strengthen the agricultural economy of India. The importance of this industry has been highlighted during the lockdown phase.

However, one must remember that new opportunities spring out of every dire situation. COVID-19 too has given birth to new ideas for growth of business and industries adopting and adapting new technologies and measures for the safety of their employees as well as their consumers by limiting the spread of the virus.

Automation will help face these challenges faced by the sector and is gaining traction, particularly in packaging, warehousing and distribution

operations. Rapidly advancing artificial intelligence technologies and automation process brings in more efficiency and helps removes human error. As demand for fresh foods increases, distribution and warehousing facilities will need to be in closer proximity to consumer markets.

Further, demographic and economic resources of India has to be backed by a highly skilled workforce to achieve its true potential. This is imperative in this age of globalisation where competition is the hallmark. This will also ensure quality on a global scale and the success of this will lead to a better working environment, health and a brighter future for the workforce.

**Skill Development to act as the driving force**  
The Government is focusing on developing the requisite skills in the food processing sector. In fact, the Ministry of food processing has collaborated with several skill development organisations such as the Food Industry Capacity and Skill Initiative



(FICSI) to bridge the skill gap in the food processing industry. The council introduced some special courses related to safe hygiene practices to be followed during COVID-19, to spread awareness in the industry and among stakeholders associated in the food chain on how to prevent the spread of the virus.

It is indispensable for the food industry to reinforce personal hygiene measures and provide new training on food hygiene principles to wipe out or reduce the risk of food surfaces and food packaging materials becoming contaminated with the virus from food workers.

Globalisation and increased competition in the market has intensified the need for a highly skilled workforce in the economy to meet global standards of quality and such industry bodies are tirelessly working to create a better future by providing a skilled workforce.

The writer is CEO, Food Industry Capacity & Skill Initiative (FICSI)

## Learn at home course JSES team up with 20 organisations

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads across the globe, a majority of countries, including India, have announced temporary closure of schools, impacting the education of children worldwide. With a mission to improve the learning experience and outcomes for children in these difficult times, Navneet has launched Mom I Know, a learning programme to help parents at home.

The programme caters to children in the age group three to five plus, and has customised boxes for each age group. Each box contains seven books of literacy skills, three-

books of numeracy skills, two books of general awareness and reward or motivational stickers.

With schools starting late for children or getting disrupted due local lockdowns, the programme serves as a perfect support to school program, reinforcing learning at home. The MIK kit includes child-friendly pictorial activities aligning to the school curriculum, a comprehensive and methodical programme for independent learners, and easy-to-use school readiness kits which are designed for families to help children build essential foundation skills. The programme spans over a year.

The Jindal School of Environment and Sustainability (JSES), the newly established ninth school of OP Jindal Global University has forged substantive collaborations with 20 international and Indian organisations working on environmental and sustainability issues for its undergraduate students. These collaborations will enable the students to get a practical understanding of ecological and conservation issues through work experience and will result in internship and placement opportunities.

JSES has confirmed collaborations with 20 leading organisations, which will provide research and internship opportunities to the students enrolled in the BA (Hons) in envi-

ronmental studies. The world is headed towards a climate crisis and students must have hands-on experience in working towards a greener future.

The 20 organisations in collaboration with JSES are: The World Wildlife Fund, Pacific Environment, World Resource Institute, MC Mehta Foundation, Environment Support Group, Global Policy Insights, Toxics links, Tagore Society for Rural Development, Navdanya Foundation, Indian Council for Enviro — Legal Action, Delhi Greens, Envipol, Green Munia, Dhiway — Research, Uneako, Centre for Science & Environment, Rajputana Society of Natural History, Future group — CSR, Hyundai Electric and the Directorate of Environment & Climate Change.

These collaborations will enable JSES students to undertake internships at these organisations, thereby adding to their understanding of environmental and sustainability issues. Consequently, graduates of JSES will have multifarious career opportunities at international, national, regional, state and local government institutions and agencies, NGOs and the private sector, where corporations and industry also need expertise in developing projects that require environmental impact assessments.

The curriculum incorporates seven aspects of environmental studies: ecology and biology; demography and science; human and environment interaction; climate change; renewable energy; environmental laws; and forests and wildlife.

## Digital classroom

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Overcoming the uncertainties and disruptions caused by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, Ansal University, Gurugram gears up to conclude its admission process for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

The registrations are on-going and the last day of the application submission is August 14, 2020. The university is all set to implement education the right way by digitising the curriculum. Encouraging distance learning for those who cannot make it to the university, the institutions take one step forward to make sure online education reaches out to every inquisitive mind. Following the guidelines by UGC, the university has digitised the curriculum so that it doesn't affect the regular studies.

There are a few critical aspects to keep in mind while starting your venture — get moving, think big but start small, hire smart people and quality over quantity matters, says MITHUN BHARDWAJ



# GET CREATIVE

Now, returning to the way things were before the pandemic is not part of the plan as nothing will really be normal again. The key is to be flexible between each scenario, and prepare for multiple realities. If the worst-case scenario becomes reality, the newly turned-aspiring entrepreneur will know whom to call about the excess and which arms of the business to eliminate.

The critical ingredient to start a business is getting on the saddle. A lot of people have ideas — but few decide to do something about them. Not tomorrow. Not next week, but today. The true entrepreneur is a doer, not a dreamer.

You are an aspiring entrepreneur. That means that you aren't taking the easy road. You rise to meet challenges head-on. Now's the opportunity to kind of see what you can create in the midst of all this downtime. Creativity often comes out of the most challenging of scenarios.

**THINK BIG, START SMALL**  
Great ventures start from small beginnings. Always dream big, but that doesn't mean you have to start big and there is nothing wrong with starting small. To win a boxing match first thing is to enter the

boxing ring. To live your dreams, you must start working on it. Every great organisation starts with a handful of like minded people, every great author starts with a single paragraph. You don't have to be afraid of the situations; neither you have to wait for the perfect situation.

In the business sense of the word, adaptability entails being open to new ideas and concepts, being able to work on an independent basis or with a team as the situation demands, and juggling multiple projects without getting flummoxed when conditions abruptly change. The ability or degree of willingness to which one adapts in such situations essentially determines one's level of flexibility — and possibly the heights they will achieve in the future.

**INVEST IN SMARTS**  
Customers come second, employees first. Invest in clock-changer employees who are willing to go the extra mile to accomplish a task that everyone else is skirting. People can make anything possible. Building a successful business won't be anything like you imagined. You will face failures, even when things are bloomy and economy is doing great. You have to rise to the

**Body language in business sets the foundation for people to communicate with others at a deeper level. The unspoken language you portray in conversation, can make or break your business future**

occasion however, rising to the occasion can be fun for day-dreaming, but in the real world it rarely plays out with a fairy-tale ending.

**REMOTE WORK OPTION**  
As things are rapidly moving digital, remote work is becoming easier than ever. Having remote employees can be cost-effective, especially without renting office space each month. The talent pool for potential employees can grow to include anyone around the world. And with fewer cars on the road at rush hour, remote work is the more sustainable option.

**BODY LANGUAGE**  
Pandemic or no pandemic your body language and vision should always be in sync. Body language in business sets the foundation for people to communicate with others on a deeper level. Your body language, the unspoken language you portray in conversation, can make or break your business future.

**READY FOR UNEXPECTED**  
Shouldn't you have more reason to be scared of the uncertain scenario? Yes, you should, and that's a good thing, for you. It's wise to stop assum-

ing the most likely outcome will turn up at the conclusion of every situation. A successful company prepares for multiple outcomes regardless of what's expected. Foresight enables you to respond effectively in all circumstances. The best way to prepare is to include all departments and employees in the planning process. You'll get fresh, unique perspectives that are more likely to result in critical and innovative thinking.

In every crisis, there's opportunity to engage, innovate, and connect. If you sit and wait for the right opportunity, you may lose out on the precious time that you could have invested in working. Know that now is as good a time as any to initiate a business. Instead of contemplating for 24 hours work for 24 minutes, that shall yield more results.

**QUALITY VS QUANTITY**  
You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep and don't feel hungry because reality is finally better than your dreams. It's sleepless nights, early mornings and one too many late nights out. It's forgetting to sleep, eat and dream. A good business will make you forget about sleeping and eating. The writer is director, Zashed Fashiontech

## 'Set rules even for online classrooms'

The present pandemic has shifted offline classroom learning to online. This doesn't mean we should compromise on discipline, says ANANT GOYAL

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended our lives in many ways, bringing a rapid, dramatic shift towards everything virtual. Education has undergone a complete digital overhaul, with students turning to e-learning after the viral outbreak resulted in schools shut in most parts of the world. According to a recent report released by the World Economic Forum, more than 1.2 billion children across 186 countries have been affected by school closures due to the pandemic.

While advocates of edtech believe that this new arrangement will reshape education, others would argue that the unprecedented move to online learning with little planning and preparation can significantly harm the learning progress. Taking into account these challenges, it becomes imperative that educators follow certain guidelines when imparting lessons online.

**Implementing ground rules for students will establish discipline:** Discipline is an indispensable part of any classroom, be it physical or virtual. Hence, students must follow basic etiquette. They should be punctual, dress appropriately and avoid eating during class. Ask them to find a distraction-free area or preferably a separate room to avoid disruptions and make it mandatory to keep their videos on throughout the duration of the class. Remote learning is only effective if all students contribute to classroom discussions. As a teacher, encourage active participation from everyone by allocating the last 10-15 minutes for questions and answers.

**Muting the entire class can be a good idea and a bad idea:** It goes without saying that controlling a class of around 40-50 students is difficult, and even more so through a laptop screen. Muting the entire class is an easy way to eliminate the chatter, background noises, and anything that might disrupt the flow of your lesson, but it can also put you at a disadvantage. As such, student engagement might get affected as it sets a less welcoming tone for participation. If you find yourself conflicted, you can choose to unmute the class only during questions or interactive sessions.

**Posting lessons online before the class will help students keep up:** It is important to remember that some students may need more time than others. Hence, they will find it more challenging to learn lessons virtually and cope with the pressure. While giving students individual attention is not feasible, you can post lessons online before the class starts so that they get an overview. Establish a dig-



Anant Goyal  
Director-founder, Bright Tutee

ital home base where both students and teachers can refer to digital content, MCQs, past year papers and assignments.

**Creating a student-centric classroom will lead to improved learning outcomes:** As a teacher, the responsibility lies on your shoulder to ensure your students are not lagging behind. Focus on their learning needs, their capacity to comprehend complex topics and then set a pace of teaching at which every student feel comfortable to pick up notes. Once you understand the purpose of the lesson, modify or break the content in parts to help them better understand difficult areas. Longer student-driven assignments also tend to be more effective in an online learning environment, allowing students to apply their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

**Practising cyber hygiene:** Maintaining proper cyber hygiene is critical as educational institutes have become particularly vulnerable to cyber-attacks with the sudden rise of online learning. Try to keep your work PC separate from your personal PC, and if not possible, then secure the network with a virtual private network (VPN) while teaching the class. It is advisable to keep original passwords for different applications. You can use a password manager to maintain a diversity of passwords.

Rise of social media platforms, greater adoption of local language interfaces are opening up new avenues for women to become entrepreneurs. And whether you're looking for a respite from your 9 to 5 job or if in the wake of the current pandemic you are staying home, or have some other constraint that prevents you from finding a full-time job, there's no need to waste your earning potential.

There are plenty of platforms available just a click away that allows you to work from home and earn money. Here are a few options you can consider:

Mompresso is India's largest user generated content sharing platform for women, that allows them to create content and express themselves to like-minded

women in 10 different languages including English, Hindi, Gujarati, Bengali, Marathi, Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, Punjabi and Kannada.

The content can be created in different formats like text, video, audio and 100 word stories format. Mompresso acts as a catalyst for self-discovery, giving women an opportunity to earn and as an engine for them to reinvent their own identities along the way. The brand has extended its commitment to further empowering Moms financially, with the introduction of MyMoney, a simple way to make money by participating in campaigns by brands they love and use.

Women entrepreneurs are emerging as dominant resellers via social commerce platforms and attract a new wave of

## MINDIT

customers. Brands like OTIPY — the social commerce venture of Crofarm (farm to fork startup) works closely with women reseller partners to fulfill the demand of end consumers and facilitates doorstep delivery of fresh produce. The company is working with 500-plus partner resellers mainly women across Delhi-NCR and is already serving over 50,000 consumers and further plans to take on board 5000 women within Delhi NCR and provide them opportunities to earn from home.

JobsForHer is an online job portal dedicated to helping working women achieve

their full potential. Describing itself as India's largest online portal for women,

The platform helps women enter the workforce, re-enter it after a gap, and reach new heights of professional success through various features such as reskilling training, advanced job searches, and networking opportunities. The portal is also renowned for its MentorHer programme, which sees experienced female industry leaders pass on their knowledge to applicants hoping to accelerate their careers. Jobsforher has recently come up with a new platform HerTech this platform is for women in

technology across the globe. The platform offers opportunities to upskill, take challenges, network, search for jobs, and explore resources for career growth and will help women to stay.

Oween empowers women empowers women by providing work from home jobs and business. It is the brainchild of three super busy, and supercharged mothers, who, after motherhood, bounced back into their careers with more vigour and passion than ever before. What struck them hard was the fact that though they were able to make the transitions smoothly, there were (still are) thousands of women who don't get a platform where they can explore possibilities. It enables them to restart their careers by connecting them to mentors,

peers and flexible opportunities by networking, upskilling and help them become financially independent person.

GharSeNaukri.com is the company that stands for innovation, optimism, and above all for women. It has come up with a comprehensive platform devoted exclusively for women to serious, legitimate ways to make money from home. Females who are passionate about work get access to career resources, information and community sharing here. We help women attain career success on their own terms. The platform has been working on making women independent and empowered. And they also focus on jobs for women nationally and internationally as well empowering women from the remote areas of the country.



come to campus by January 2021.

**The Clark (Mile-End) Bursary Fund** is looking for high achieving applicants who have the potential to complete higher education in the UK.

**Eligibility:** They can pursue a subsequent degree and PG degree offered by the University of Glasgow and University of Strathclyde. The educational awards will only be paid to applicants who at the time of payment are resident in the UK. Non-UK students may apply to the award in advance of their arrival in the UK but will only be eligible for consideration if they are residing in the UK prior to the closing date for applications. The participants are expected to already have obtained an honours degree from abroad and are now studying for, or applying to study at the universities. If the applicant's national language is not English, then they need to demonstrate the English language ability through the IELTS or TOEFL test.

**The University of South Florida** has gone a step ahead and announced **We Got U-SF Scholarship** and waiver programme, a one-time scholarship to support students who are enrolled full-time in the Fall 2020 semester — for online or on-campus classes. While most students from India admitted for UG programmes are already on USF's merit-based scholarships (making them ineligible), several hundred graduate admits from India have been offered over \$2,060. The USF has taken a flexible approach and is offering students various enrollment options if they can't come to campus by the opening Fall 2020 date of August 20. They can enroll in online classes and

### POWER BI DASHBOARD MANAGEMENT AT HINDUSTAN UNILEVER

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹25,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/4576991](http://internshala.com/i/4576991)  
Application deadline: July 19, 2020

### FRONT END DEVELOPMENT (ANGULAR/REACT) AT IIRATECH INNOVATIONS & TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Delhi  
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹12,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/4577000](http://internshala.com/i/4577000)  
Application deadline: July 29, 2020

### MARKETING AT CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

Location: Delhi  
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/4577001](http://internshala.com/i/4577001)  
Application deadline: July 29, 2020

### CONTENT WRITING AT ZORGERS HOME HEALTHCARE

Location: Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula  
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹10,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/4577003](http://internshala.com/i/4577003)  
Application deadline: July 29, 2020

### WEB DEVELOPMENT AT SPIDER INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Bhubaneswar  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹16,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/4577005](http://internshala.com/i/4577005)  
Application deadline: July 28, 2020

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT A3GATE SOLUTIONS

Location: Lucknow  
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹7,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/4577002](http://internshala.com/i/4577002)  
Application deadline: July 29, 2020

### GRAPHIC DESIGN AT IN A NUTSHELL

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹12,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/4576997](http://internshala.com/i/4576997)  
Application deadline: July 30, 2020

## STUDY ABROAD

### 'Important to ascertain help students need today'

Student support is the only way that universities can battle this crisis, says PROFESSOR RICHARD DAVIES

There were many students who chose to stay at the university abroad for many reasons: some didn't want to put a family member at risk, others were on placement as a key worker or they couldn't return home because airports were closed. This meant there was need to take extraordinary measures to keep staff and students safe.

We, at Newcastle University, started by putting together a package of virtual support and then, with a team of staff and willing volunteers, we undertook the task of reaching out to, and tracking down these students, in order to provide both practical and emotional support. We are still working with the Students' Union (NUSU) to provide the support required. This includes the 181 international students who indicated they had not returned home and received support from out student health and wellbeing team. Any student

with academic concerns also received follow-up calls.

These teams are continuing to deliver support remotely via phone and video service including counselling and study skills sessions. The move from face-to-face to online counselling means that the students are able to be given more support with longer hours.

The team of volunteers have taken part in a calling campaign within university managed and partner/private halls of residence to be able to ascertain where students were and what support they needed, including over 360 international students in university accommodation and 575 international students in partner and privately managed halls.

The university has agreed to waive all third term rent payments for students who have left their university-owned accommodation, to assist the students financially. We have been working closely with the large private student accommodation providers and the City Council to agree support and approaches for students.

The writer is Pro-VC, Global, Newcastle University



## IN BRIEF

### INITIATIVE TO EMPOWER STUDENTS FOR FUTURE JOBS

The NIIT Limited has announced virtual FutureReady Fest, an initiative to encourage students to enhance their knowledge on new-age skills through future ready programs, together with their regular studies and academic curriculum.

It will organise virtual sessions on NIIT Digital for students wherein industry experts will deliver sessions on new age career programmes including Full Stack Java Programming, Digital Marketing and Branding, Python Programming and Data Exploration in Python, Programme in Banking & Finance, amongst others.

### AI-BASED PROCTORING SOLUTION

The Stratbeans, a company that drives digital transformation through AI-based online learning has introduced AI-based proctoring solutions for educational institutions to help them seamlessly conduct rigorous examinations. For educational institutions scouting for online examination solutions, the platform provides an array

of benefits right from live invigilation to online evaluation to e-results; thereby eliminating the need for any manual intervention.

The process begins with the school/university creating question bank(s) with difficulty levels. Post this, the AI engine picks the desired number and type of questions as per the command and creates

multiple sets with MCQs, true and false and fill-in-the-blanks. Since there is no manual intervention, chances of bias are eliminated. The assessment platform also helps in authentic invigilation by providing intelligent alerts to the institution to track the candidate's movement across multiple browser windows.

### JAIPURIA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS LAUNCHES STTAR

The Jaipuria School of Business has announced the launch of Saamarthya Teachers Training Academy of Research (STTAR). With the ongoing pandemic affecting the education sector, teachers have shifted to the online medium.

The role of teachers is undergoing a subtle and distinct transformation. They have to deliver high level content, become facilitators and teach age-appropriate skills. Hence, STTAR has been launched with the vision of becoming a premier institute that will enable educators to meet the global requirements of the

profession by developing competencies based on extensive research in all aspects of education. It is all set to regularly engage with teachers at all levels and guide them in areas like curriculum progression and alignment, effective teaching strategies and content development.

# NEW ERA FOR CRICKET

## All-rounders take centre stage as cricket returns with Eng-WI series

PIANS ■ SOUTHAMPTON

International sport finally returns to Britain on Wednesday when England plays the West Indies in the world's first cricket test match since the start of March because of the coronavirus pandemic.

It's clear the match being staged at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton is about much more than just cricket.

A smoothly run test series, played in a strict isolated environment featuring repeated COVID-19 testing and social distancing, can lay the blueprint for future matches and tours in cricket but also events in other sports targeting a resumption.

"If you get one thing wrong, it might blow this whole 'getting sport back onto the radar' further back," England stand-in captain Ben Stokes said on Tuesday in his eve-of-game news conference.

Stokes also spoke about the "responsibility on our shoulders" to deliver a "massive occasion" for TV viewers who have been without international cricket for four months.

A BLM logo will be on the collar of the test shirts worn by players from both teams and there is set to be a "gesture" made by the teams before the game. West Indies players have said the movement is a source of motivation on this tour.

"Not only has this been a



Jos Buttler of England takes part in a wicketkeeping drill during a nets session AP

period for us getting ready for a test match," Stokes said, "it has also been great for us to have educational chats as a team around this and it has been really beneficial for a lot of our members.

"I feel as a team we have an opportunity to send a real powerful message and I am really excited as an individual, and the team is really excited, that we are able to be a part of that."

Cricket's oldest format kicks

## Roach can achieve 300 Test wickets: Walsh

PTI ■ KINGSTON

West Indies fast bowler Kemar Roach is a "genuine great" and can "easily" achieve the milestone of 300 Test wickets with proper "workload management", says legendary pacer Courtney Walsh.

Roach will be a key bowler for West Indies when they begin the three-Test series against England at Ageas Bowl in Southampton on Wednesday. "Workload management is something that they can look at. I don't think he has played a lot of shorter versions of the game. But it's up to him as an individual as well to set the stan-



Walsh e told 'ESPNcricinfo'.

"He will get 300 quite easily once the workload management is good and he is playing consistent cricket. What you don't want to happen to him is

that every time he comes back he starts all over again."

The 57-year-old Walsh is impressed by the work ethic and patience shown by Roach in his bowling over the years.

"... His patience shows he will stick around, and he knows what to do and how to go about achieving that. To me that is what has got him to be as consistent as he is now. His work ethic has gone up as well and he's doing all he can do to be one of the greats.

"He's a genuine great. His achievement shows that. What I like about him is his mannerism: he's always cool and collected and he's prepared to work"

off a very new era for the sport. One where there are no spectators at matches, one-way systems inside venues to maintain distancing, twice-weekly testing for coronavirus,

and players not allowed out of their hotels.

Players from the two teams will come into vaguely close contact with each other only on the field of play.

TV viewers will have the choice of adding a so-called "Lord's hum" during coverage, but there will be no artificial crowd noise in the ground or

music between overs, ensuring an eerie silence once the match begins except for selective announcements over the public address system about things such as milestones or bowling changes.

The big screens around the venue will show key highlights, DRS and sponsor messages.

The West Indies squad has been here since June 9 in order that the players could first quarantine at Manchester's Old Trafford ground and then practise there in lockdown condi-

tions. They had two intra-squad matches - England has had only one - before the squad travelled to Southampton for the match.

"We're about to show that other places can start putting things together," West Indies coach Phil Simmons said.

"The England and Wales Cricket Board have to be commended for all the work they have done to get the series on the road and let's see what other countries take from it." Simmons has had to self-isolate in his hotel room for a period after leaving camp to attend his

## WI can't last five days, says Lara

PTI ■ LONDON

Batting legend Brian Lara believes West Indies will need to adopt a proactive approach in the upcoming three-Test series against England and consider the matches as four-day games as the visitors don't have the firepower to last five days.

The 51-year-old former skipper said while West Indies' boast of a formidable bowling attack, their batting department is a concern, which is precisely the reason behind his statement.

The three-Test series between England and the West Indies starts on Wednesday at Southampton in a "bio-secure" environment, marking the resumption of international cricket which was shutdown in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"They (West Indies) have to be able to pounce immediately. England are not beaten very easily at home and are overwhelming favourites," Lara was quoted as saying by BBC Sport.

"They have to hit the

road running and stamp their authority on England. I don't think they can last five days, so they have to take these games in four days. They have to establish a lead and keep it."

Lara, who has scored a record 11,953 runs for the West Indies in 131 Tests, said adaptability to the English conditions would be key for West Indies, who are the holders of the Wisden Trophy after winning 2-1 in the Caribbean last year.

The former left-handed batsman said it would be a great achievement for West Indies if they can win the series as they have not won a series in England since 1988.

"It's going to be a series that's watched all around the world and everybody is hoping to see a competitive series," said Lara, who scored 34 Test centuries.

"It would mean a lot to all West Indians if they could win. If they play good cricket on the first day of the Test series, show they have the mettle to perform against England, that's the key."

father-in-law's funeral last week.

England's buildup has been interrupted, too, by captain Joe Root having to leave camp to be at the birth of his second child. He will not feature in the first of three tests, meaning Stokes has the captaincy for the first time.

"I haven't had much advice but there has been a lot of opinions flying around," Stokes said.

"The best message that I have received was when I got my photos done yesterday in the blazer. Rooty just left a message on the hanger which said: 'Do it your way.'"

## We've to get on to Ben early: Simmons



PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

West Indies coach Phil Simmons believes the opening Test will be a battle between two all-rounder captains in which he expects his skipper Jason Holder to "get on top" of his England counterpart Ben Stokes.

Holder and Stokes, both top all-rounders, will lead their respective sides with the latter standing in for regular captain Joe Root who will miss the opening 'bio-secure' Test for the birth of his second child.

The three-Test series begins with the opening match at Ageas Bowl here on Wednesday.

"I think that it's going to be a toss-up between these two all-rounders and hopefully Jason can do what's necessary to get on top of Ben in this first Test," Simmons told reporters on the eve of the opening Test.

"Ben is one of them who leads from the front. That's been shown by all his exploits before in cricket, (so) we will have to make sure that we get on to him very early, because he likes to do what is necessary for his team."

The 57-year-old also doesn't necessarily see Root's absence

as an advantage.

"You have to be careful how you use an advantage because, with Root not being there, you have some youngster who wants to make a name for himself.

"And sometimes that's even harder than the players you know, so you have to be very careful about saying that it's an advantage," he said.

Simmons said Stokes lack of experience as a captain would be an issue as veterans like Jimmy (Anderson) and (Stuart) Broad to turn to for suggestions.

"Ben has not had that time (as captain) but they've had a successful team for a while, and that helps," he added.

"With the experience that he has behind him - Jimmy (Anderson) and Broad and people like that, there's a lot of experience to help him on the field if he comes a cropper. But it's hard to really say if that's a big advantage."

Simmons also said he is not worried about his batting unit as they will have to produce the goods in all three facets of the game to outwit England at home.

Batting is often considered to be the weakling of the West Indies team, which had lost the opening Test against England in Birmingham by an innings and 209 runs during their last tour in 2017 due to the failure of the batsmen.

Simmons said the batters have prepared well and it is all about mindset now.

"I'm not concerned about the batting. The batsmen have worked very hard on getting to where they are now, and all that it takes now is for their mindset to be right for the Test match," Simmons said.

"We keep talking about the batting, and the bowling has been strong, but we must field well and catch well also to give ourselves that chance. Our frame of mind is that we have to play well in all three facets of the game in order to beat England."

## BWF cancels China Masters and Dutch Open

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) on Tuesday cancelled two more international tournaments - China Masters and Dutch Open - from its revamped 2020 calendar because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Two BWF Tour Super 100 tournaments have been cancelled on the revamped BWF Tournament Calendar for the year - the Lingshui China Masters 2020 and YONEX Dutch Open 2020," the governing body said in a release. The Lingshui China Masters was earlier scheduled to be held from February 25 to March 1 but was

postponed twice due to the COVID-19 outbreak. "It was initially postponed until May and then moved again to 25-30 August 2020," the BWF said.

The Dutch Open was due to take place from October 6 to 11 in Almere, Netherlands.

"Badminton Netherlands announced the cancellation of their flagship tournament citing continued risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic," the international body said.

In May, the BWF had unveiled a revised international calendar to salvage the remainder of the season, disrupted by the global health crisis which is showing no signs of abating.

## Always wanted Dhoni to bat up the order: Ganguly

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Mahendra Singh Dhoni went on to become one of the best finishers in the game but on his 39th birthday, former India captain Sourav Ganguly said the World Cup winning skipper would have been even more lethal if he batted higher in the order.

Ganguly, the current BCCI president, led a barrage of birthday wishes for 'captain cool'.

"He's one of the great players of the world cricket, not just a finisher. Everyone talks about the way he

finishes lower down the order. I always believed that he should bat up the order because he was so destructive," Ganguly said in a chat show hosted by young India opener Mayank Agarwal on BCCI's Twitter handle.

Most of Dhoni's India and IPL teammates, including Virat Kohli, too paid glowing tributes to him on his birthday.

A BCCI source confirmed that Pandya brothers, Hardik and Krunal, are on a charter flight from Baroda to Ranchi to wish Dhoni in person. "Hardik has always looked up to



Dhoni and they share a special bond. Flight connectivity is limited due to the COVID-19 situation, so they have taken a charter flight and should be landing in Ranchi soon," the source told PTI.

Ganguly, who had handed Dhoni his international debut against Bangladesh on December 23, 2004, recalled how he rose to fame with his 148 against Pakistan batting at Number three.

"It was fantastic. If you look over a period of time in the history of one-day cricket, the best players can find the fence under pressure con-

sistently. MS Dhoni was one of them and that's why he was special," said Ganguly in his chat with Agarwal.

Asked whether it was him who picked Dhoni in the team, Ganguly said: "Ya that's true, but that's my job isn't it? That's every captain's job to pick the best and make the best team possible."

"You go by your instincts, you go by the faith on that player that he'll deliver for you. And, you know, I'm happy that Indian cricket got a Mahendra Singh Dhoni, because he's unbelievable," Ganguly said.

## Mourinho delighted by Lloris-Son clash during Tottenham win

AP ■ LONDON

When Tottenham captain Hugo Lloris confronted Son Heung-min on the field at halftime, Jose Mourinho was far from annoyed.

The manager renowned for his own flashpoints and volatility was delighted to see tensions between teammates erupting in public view. "It was beautiful," he said. "Probably it's a consequence of our meetings."

Angered by the timidity of a 3-1 loss at Sheffield United in the previous English Premier League round, Mourinho saw the passion he wanted as Tottenham this time secured a 1-0 victory over Everton on Monday.

Just before the break, with Tottenham leading, Son



lost the ball which led to Richarlison having a chance to equalize but striking wide of Lloris's post.

"I think to concede a chance a few seconds before halftime because we don't make the pressing properly,"

split the clashing teammates before they headed into the dressing room.

Son had created the goal in the 24th minute. The South Korea forward knocked the ball forward to Harry Kane who squared for Lo Celso to strike on the turn and Everton defender Michael Keane deflected the ball into his own net.

"An amazing kid that everyone loves like Sonny, a team boy," Mourinho said. "But in that situation the captain thought the last minute of the first half you have to do more for the team. You have to give a different effort than you give. A couple of bad words but I think it's something very important for the team to grow up."

Lloris said, "that annoys me but it's part of football. Move on."

Only, Lloris didn't when the whistle blew for halftime, shouting as he raced over to Son. Giovanni Lo Celso and Harry Winks intervened to

## Ocampos scores and makes winning save for Sevilla



AP ■ MADRID

It was a night to remember for Sevilla forward Lucas Ocampos in the Spanish league on Monday.

The Argentine led his team to a crucial victory by scoring the winning goal early in the second half and making the winning save deep in stoppage time while replacing his team's injured goalkeeper.

The 1-0 victory over Eibar strengthened Sevilla's grip on fourth place and kept the

team on track to secure the final Champions League berth. With four rounds to go, Sevilla opened a six-point gap to fifth-placed Villarreal, which lost to Barcelona on Sunday. Sevilla was within two points of third-placed Atlético Madrid.

Ocampos scored in the 56th minute, then had to put on the goalkeeper's gloves and jersey after Tomás Vaclik hurt his left leg while colliding with an opponent in the final minute of stoppage time. Vaclik could not continue and Sevilla had already made all five substitutions.

Eibar had a throw-in for the last play of the match and Ocampos ended up having to make a big save - from a shot by the opponent's goalkeeper - to secure his team the home win.

Eibar goalkeeper Marko Dmitrovic had gone toward the area for the final play and received an open shot from close range after picking up a loose ball inside the box. But his attempt went toward Ocampos, who battered the ball away just before the final whistle.

Ocampos scored with a right-footed touch from close range after Jesús Navas cleared a couple of defenders and made a well-placed cross toward the far post.

Eibar nearly equalized when Kike Garcia's shot hit the post in the play in which he collided with Vaclik as the goalkeeper charged from his net.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

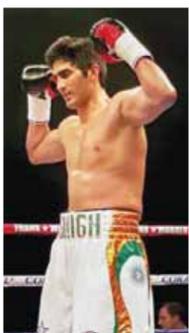
About 12 years ago, a young boxer from Haryana wrote his name in the history books of Indian sport after winning the country's maiden Olympic medal in boxing. Vijender Singh's bronze medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics changed the face of Indian boxing and inspired many to take up the sport.

However, while talking during India's rising table tennis player Mudit Dani's online lockdown live chat show 'In The Spotlight', Vijender revealed how watching his fellow countryman Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore finishing on the podium at the 2004 Olympic Games inspired him and made him hungry for the medal. Shooter Rathore clinched India's first-ever Olympic medal in an individual category

when he won silver in Athens where Vijender had appeared in his first Olympics at the age of 18.

"It's an amazing feeling to represent your country at the Olympics and for me 2004 was a lot like that as I was happy and satisfied being present there, witnessing the opening ceremony and watching the contingents from other countries; inspecting the villages and enjoying the food and atmosphere. But it was only when I saw the medal ceremony and saw Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore winning the silver medal is when the urge of winning a medal hit me too and the realisation that more than participation, it's winning the medal that matters," Vijender said.

"After winning that medal, the adulation he got from everywhere only convinced me to work



harder and then four years later, despite a tough qualification, I managed to win that medal and everything changed for me. Since then there has been no looking back," he added. The 34-year-old Vijender, who turned professional in 2015, is hopeful of sporting action resuming soon, which has halted due to COVID-19 pandemic. However he's

enjoying spending time with his two kids at home which seems impossible normally due to a busy schedule.

"I enjoy spending time with my kids. I'm watching web series, movies and listening to Punjabi songs as there is nothing much to do. I'm hopeful of getting back in the ring in the next two-three months," said the Asian Games Gold medalist.

After having tasted great success on the professional circuit, Vijender is now aiming to win the world championship title.

21-year-old Mudit Dani, who clinched his first senior international medal at the US Open last year, started the lockdown online live Instagram chat series - In The Spotlight - with the sole purpose of delivering inspiration to other young athletes and fans.

## Bremen hangs on for Bundesliga survival on away goals

AP ■ HEIDENHEIM

Werder Bremen hung on to seal Bundesliga survival on away goals by drawing at second-division Heidenheim 2-2 in the second leg of their relegation-promotion play-off.

A own goal forced by American forward Josh Sargent in the third minute and Ludwig Augustinsson's strike in the fourth minute of injury time were enough for Bremen to keep its place in Germany's top 18-team division.

Tim Kleindienst equalized in the 85th minute to give the home side some hope of an upset before Fin Bartels set up Augustinsson on a counterattack to keep Bremen safe.

Kleindienst's penalty in the eighth minute of injury time was too late for the home side. Heidenheim would have needed



another goal to clinch its first promotion to the Bundesliga.

The playoff pitted the side that finished third from bottom in the top division, four-time champion Bremen, against the third-place finisher in the second division, Heidenheim.

There were no goals in the first leg between the sides in Bremen on Thursday.

Bremen made a good start and Sargent was poised to strike when Heidenheim's defender Norman Theuerkauf attempted clearance ended up in his own net after two minutes of the second leg.