

OPINION 6
LEARNING IN
TIMES OF CRISIS

MONEY 9
MARKETS RESUME RALLY
AS BANK STOCKS SPURT

SPORT 12
COPPA ITALIA SEMIS
ON JUNE 12-13

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DISCRIMINATION
IS INTOLERABLE:
ANGELINA JOLIE
10 VIVACITY



Send migrants home in 15 days: SC

Apex court says it intends to pass such order to Centre, State Govts on June 9

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave two-week time to the Centre and the States to complete the transportation of all stranded migrant workers to their native places and fixed June 9 as the date to pronounce its order on the issue.

A Bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan was hearing the matter in which it had



taken suo motu cognisance on the plight of migrant workers who were stranded across the country due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

The Centre informed the court on Friday that around one crore migrant workers across the country have already reached their destination — around 41 lakh by road

transport and 57 lakh by trains.

During the hearing, the advocates representing various States gave the figures of migrant workers as per which, over 11 lakh and 20.5 lakh people have gone back from Maharashtra and Gujarat respectively.

Counsel appearing for

Bihar and Uttar Pradesh informed the SC they have so far received 28 lakh and 21.69 lakh migrants respectively.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed the Bench, also comprising Justices SK Kaul and MR Shah, that so far 802 trains have been operated from Maharashtra for transporting migrant workers.

PLIGHT OF MIGRANTS

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○So far 802 trains have been operated from Maharashtra for transporting migrant workers

Gujarat told the SC that out of around 22 lakh migrant workers in the State, 20.5 lakh have already been transported back.

Senior advocate PS Narasimha, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, said that around 5.50 lakh migrants workers were brought back into the State from Delhi borders for which buses made over 10,000 trips.

The State Government told the Bench that 1,664 Shramik trains were organised and around 21.69 lakhs migrant workers were brought back in Uttar Pradesh.

It said they have sent back around 1.35 lakh migrants, who were in Uttar Pradesh, and 104 special trains were operated for this.

The counsel appearing for the Bihar Government told the court that around 28 lakh migrant workers have returned to the State.

The lawyer said that the Bihar Government is taking steps to provide them employment and so far, skill mapping of around 10 lakh migrants has been done.

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, representing the Delhi Government, told the top court that around two lakh workers are still in the national Capital and only around 10,000 of them have expressed their desire to return to their native places.

The counsel appearing for

No new scheme for year, Central Ministries told

Spending on only PM Garib Kalyan and Atmanirbhar Bharat allowed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Resource-starved as it is, the Government will not start any new schemes for a year, the Finance Ministry said on Friday making it clear that any spending will only be allowed in the Prime Minister's "Garib Kalyan Package" and the recent announcements made under "the Atmanirbhar Bharat package". No other scheme would be approved.

Schemes already approved under the Budget will also stay suspended till March 31, 2021.

The drastic move is to tighten spending amid rising coronavirus cases with no clarity on when the pandemic will peak in the country.

"It may be appreciated that in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, there is an unprecedented demand on public financial resources and a need to use resources prudently in accordance with emerging and changing priorities," the expenditure department, under the Finance Ministry, said adding that it has been receiving many new proposals for in-principle approval from various

Ministries or departments. All Ministries have been told to stop sending requests for new schemes to the Finance Ministry.

Spending will only be allowed in the Prime Minister's Garib Kalyan Package and the announcements made under the Atmanirbhar Bharat package, it said.

"No new proposals for a scheme/sub-scheme should be initiated this year (2020-21) except the proposals announced under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package, the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package and any other special package/announcement," a Ministry note said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced ₹1.70 lakh crore PM Garib Kalyan package on May 6 and 20 lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package on May 16 with emphasis on giving quick relief to poor and small scale industries and reviving economy with a new mantra of 'swadeshi' and self-reliance.



At 6th rank, India races ahead of Italy

Fourth straight day of 9,000+ cases, highest deaths in Maha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India climbed to the sixth spot in the world table of worst-hit coronavirus nations by leaving behind Italy after recording the fourth straight day of 9,000 plus new cases on Friday. Now the US, Brazil, Russia, Spain, and the UK are ahead of it.

The country recorded 9,045 new cases and 279 deaths on Friday, which took its overall count of new cases to 2,35,767 and deaths to 6,642.

Maharashtra sank into deep despair on Friday as the State recorded highest-ever day's tally of 139 deaths and as many as 2,436 new infected cases. With the fresh deaths and infections, the total number of deaths rose to 2,849, while the total infected cases jumped to 80,229.

Taking into the total number of deaths so far and the fact that 35,156 patients have been discharged from various hospitals so far, the State health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" at 42,215.

Of the deaths reported on Friday, Mumbai accounted for 54 deaths, while there were 30 deaths in Thane, 14 deaths each in Pune and Jalgaon, eight

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	80,229	2,849	35,156
Tamil Nadu	28,694	235	15,762
Delhi	26,334	708	10,315
Gujarat	19,119	1,190	13,011
Rajasthan	10,087	213	7,162
Uttar Pradesh	9,733	257	5,648
Madhya Pradesh	8,762	377	5,637
West Bengal	7,303	366	2,912
Karnataka	4,835	57	1,693
Bihar	4,598	29	2,233
Andhra Pradesh	4,250	73	2,565
Haryana	3,597	24	1,209
Jammu & Kashmir	3,324	36	1,086
Telangana	3,290	113	1,627
Odisha	2,608	10	1,604

deaths in Malegaon, seven deaths in Kalyan-Dombivli, five deaths in Ratnagiri, two deaths each in Solapur and Nashik, one death each in Vasai-Virar-1, Bhiwandi, and Aurangabad-1.

Tamil Nadu saw 1,438 persons testing positive for coronavirus on Friday, the highest ever number to be tested positive on a single day.

With the addition of 1,438 patients into the pool, Tamil Nadu has 12,697 active Covid-19 cases as on Friday. Till date 28,694 persons have tested positive for the pandemic in the State, according to a medical bulletin by the Tamil Nadu Government.

The death tally on Friday was 12 and this took the total

number of fatalities till date to 232. Out of the 12 who breathed their last on Friday, four were in the 80-82 age

group, three were in 70-72 group, one was 68, two were 56 and 50 years of age, and a 44-year-old person.

ELISA test kits can be used to determine infection exposure among public: Study
New Delhi: Indigenously developed ELISA testing kits for Covid-19 have been found to be sensitive and specific for the detection of novel coronavirus antibodies in human serum samples and can be used for determining infection exposure among the general population, a study said. *PTI*

Top court asks if pvt hospitals ready to charge Covid patients at Ayushman rate
New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday asked private hospitals whether they are ready to provide treatment to Covid-19 patients at the charges prescribed under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. The Ayushman Bharat is aimed at providing health cover to poor and vulnerable persons. *PTI*

Housemaid infects 20 with coronavirus, Delhi colony declared hotspot

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Twenty people, who were infected by a housemaid, have been found corona positive in the Tarun Enclave of Pitampura area of Delhi. The Enclave has now been declared as a containment zone.

The entire area was declared a containment zone on June 3 as cases increased. As a precautionary measure more than 750 people ranging from house number 130 to 340 in Tarun Enclave has been asked to live in self-quarantine.

According to the DM, the first case of corona positive was reported on May 24 and since then the 20 more cases have been registered here. It was on May 24 the area was sealed.

The root cause of the corona spread has been located to a house where a maid used to come regularly, infecting children and then all the people of the house got corona positive.

The area was sealed on 24 May only after the corona patients' case surfaced and DC, North MCD were asked to undergo sanitation in this regard. On June 3, seeing the corona case increasing, the entire area has been declared as a containment zone.

It is reported that the corona infection has taken place in this area from a house where a

maid used to come regularly. The children were infected and then all the people of the house got infected.

The infection from children occurred to other children playing in the colony and then from those children to their respective families.

Capital's recovery rate falls to 39.6%

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid surge in coronavirus cases in Delhi, for the first time in the past two weeks the trend in recovery rate from the virus has fallen below 40 per cent in the national Capital.

According to State health bulletin data, recovery rate of Covid-19 patients in the national Capital has gradually fallen in the last ten days to 39.58 per cent as reported in June 4 night health bulletin.

Prior to that the rate varied from 48.18 per cent on May 25 to 40.35 per cent on June 3.

On May 26, the rate fell marginally to 48.07 per cent, with a total of 14,465 cases being recorded on that day. The May 26 bulletin said there were 6,954 patients who had recovered, been discharged or migrated. The death toll on that day stood at 288.

Crucial India-China border meet today to ease tension on LAC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

All eyes are now on the talks on Saturday between senior military commanders of India and China on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to defuse nearly month-long multiple face-offs in Eastern Ladakh.

India is firm on a mutual and simultaneous pull-back of soldiers from the flash-points and an assurance from China to stop disrupting construction activities like roads and infrastructure development near the LAC.

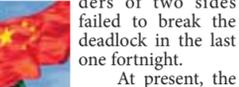
The talks will be held between Leh-based 14 Corps chief Lt General Harinder and his Chinese counterpart in Chushul-Moldo.

It is a mutually-agreed Border Personnel Meeting between the two countries to resolve such contentious issues.

The Indian commander will cross over the LAC to meet the Chinese senior commander. This level of talks will take place after seven earlier meetings between local commanders of two sides failed to break the deadlock in the last one fortnight.

At present, the two armies are in a stand-off at four points in Eastern Ladakh. The frontage is between 20 and 30 km but in small pockets where soldiers are in an eyeball to eyeball confrontation, sources said here on Friday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while admitting that China had sizably increased its troop strength on the LAC during the stand-offs, said two days back he was hopeful the talks at the Lt General level will pave the way for peaceful resolution of the ongoing dispute.



Raaj Tilak-famed producer Anil Suri succumbs to coronavirus

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Bollywood producer Anil Suri, who had backed films like Raaj Kumar-Rekha starrer "Karmayogi" and "Raaj Tilak", passed away due to coronavirus on Thursday.

He was 77. Anil's brother, film producer Rajiv Suri, said he had fever on June 2 but his condition worsened the next day with breathlessness.

"He was rushed to Lilavati and Hinduja, but both denied him a bed," Rajiv claimed.

"He was then taken to Advanced Multispecialty Hospital on Wednesday night. He had Covid-19. On Thursday evening, they said something is amiss and he was put on ventilator.

He died around 7:00 pm," said Rajiv. Last rites of Anil were held on Friday morning at Oshiwara crematorium ground

Bid to avert animals' death on highways

Road and Highway Ministry asks State Govts to identify accident blackspots

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

For the first time, the Road and Highway Ministry has woken up to the need of reducing animal mortality on State roads and national highways. For this purpose, the Ministry has asked State Governments and other stakeholders of wildlife and environment to assist it in identifying accident blackspots.

The Ministry is already rectifying identified blackspots to curtail human fatality on highways.

Sources said the Ministry has asked the Central road making agency NHAI and the States to replicate the same model. This includes conducting studies for road engineer-



ing favourable to animal movement, constructing underpasses, elevated corridors, via-ducts, cut and cover, guardwall, fencing, watchtower, solar pumps, ponds for drinking water for animals.

"Similar exercises are being undertaken in the forest area of MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand, as part of a campaign 'Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on Highways'.

There is a need for generating awareness and educating for the masses towards reducing or eliminating both human and animal fatality," Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said.

Strange tale of community spread

Minnows admit, giants refute it

NAVIN UPADHYAY ■ NEW DELHI

Famous for Africa's tallest mountain Kilimanjaro and Serengeti National Park, Tanzania has a population of around 5.63 crore out of which just 509 are infected by the coronavirus.

Known for its palm-fringed beaches, Liberia is another African nation with an equally impoverished population of mere 48 lakh — the average age is just around 18 — of which only 311 have tested positive.

Interestingly, both of these countries, like many other nations with minuscule coronavirus outbreak on their soils, have admitted to community transmission — a state in which the disease becomes so widespread that one can't pinpoint the source of infection, or where the contract-tracing was not possible.



Zoom to India, Russia, and China — the three countries hit hard by the virus. The world has rained obloquy on China over its dubious claim of arresting the growth of coronavirus at around 85,000 cases. Even if that number is accepted as

credible, China is placed as the 18 worst affected nation in the world, 12 places behind India (2.3 lakh cases), and 16 ranks behind Russia (2.5 lakh plus cases).

Despite such a huge number of cases, India, China, and Russia are the only three coun-

tries among the top 15 affected nations that have denied reaching the community transmission stage.

For its classification of the transmission stage, the World Health Organisation (WHO) relies solely on the reports it receives from respective coun-

tries. Now, let's go back to Tanzania. The African nation had just 480 positive corona cases on May 1. During the last 33 days till June 3, it added a trickling of 29 cases. Similarly, Liberia had 152 confirmed cases on May 1.

In 33 days from then, it added five cases every day to reach a figure of 316 on June 3. Both these countries are bracketed with dozens of nations such as South Africa (35,000 cases), Nigeria (10,819 cases), Algeria (9,626 cases), Ghana (8,297 cases), Cameroon (6,585 cases), Guinea (3,886 cases), Senegal (3,836 cases), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (3,325), Côte d'Ivoire (3,024), Gabon (2,803 cases), Kenya (2,093 cases), Mali (1,351 cases), which have admitted to community transmission.

Even in Europe, where the health system is far better than Africa and India, a majority of the countries have admitted to reaching the stage of community transmission.

Graduation ceremony held at IMA Dehradun

50 cadets of Army Cadet College were awarded degrees



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In a ceremony held at historic Chetwode hall of Indian Military Academy (IMA) on Friday, 50 cadets of Army Cadet College (ACC) were awarded degrees. The ceremony was presided over by the Commandant of IMA, Lieutenant General JS Negi. Among the Cadets awarded degrees, 31 were from humanities stream while 19 belonged to science stream. The cadets were conferred degrees of the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.

The Commandant, in his convocation address, congratulated the Course for successfully completing their challenging three years of training at the ACC Wing. He said "the degree that you all have just received represents a major milestone in your career and marks the end of an initial, but immensely important phase of your professional life". He also said that "I would like to remind you that former Army Cadet College cadets have excelled and done us proud over the years. The Principal of the Army Cadet College Wing, Dr Naveen Kumar while presenting the College report highlighted the high standards and commendable academic performance shown by the Cadets of the graduating course. He also appreciated the Cadets for successfully completing the course despite the challenges faced due to COVID restrictions. In the end, the Commandant complimented Brigadier V M Chaudhari, the

THE AWARD WINNERS LIST

- Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Medals**
- 1 Gold Medal : Arvind Bagoria
 - 2 Silver Medal- Shivjeet Singh
 - 3 Bronze Medal – Pawittarpal Singh
- Commandant's Silver Medals**
- 1 First in Service Subjects – Arvind Bagoria
 - 2 First in Humanities Stream: Arvind Bagoria
 - 3 First in Science Stream- Pawittarpal Singh

Commander Army Cadet College Wing, and his team of instructors, faculty members for their diligent efforts in shaping the Cadets into potential officers. On the occasion, the Commandant's Banner to the Champion Company was awarded to 'Kargil Company' which has won the banner fifth time in a row. The banner is awarded to the company, which excels in various competitions like sports, academics, camps, debates and interior economy. The Army Cadet College has a rich history of training

Remaining U'khand board exams from June 20

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The remaining examinations of the Uttarakhand Vidhyalay Shiksha Parishad (UVSP) would be held between June 20 to 23. On Friday the education secretary, R Meenakshi Sundaram directed the Uttarakhand board to conduct remaining examinations during this period. The education minister Arvind Pandey has also given his approval for the proposal. The examinations of class X and XII were suspended mid-way in March after the lockdown was enforced to prevent the infection of Covid-19 from spreading.

Tree plantations held to mark World Environment Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Tree plantations were held by various institutions on the occasion of World Environment Day on Friday. At the tree plantation in Uttarakhand Space Application Centre (USAC) its director MPS Bisht said that the centre is working consistently for the protection and betterment of the state's natural resources enable development while ensuring environmental protection. In the sphere of biodiversity, USAC has assessed the distribution, density and present status of more than 70 medicinal plants. It is also assessing the biodiversity of more than 280 sacred forests and studying various aspects of more than 80 bugyals (high altitude alpine meadows). The general public will have to

ensure its participation in maintaining the improvement in environment seen due to the lockdown enforced to contain the spread of Covid-19, added Bish. Sandalwood, Tejpatta, Rudraksh and other tree species were planted at USAC on the occasion. At the Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority (MDDA) too various types of trees were planted. The MDDA secretaries SL Semwal, Girish Gunwant, system administrator Sanjeevan Soontha, horticulture officer Asharam Joshi and others were present on the occasion. Uttaranchal University also commemorated the occasion with a tree plantation programme. The university chancellor Jitender Joshi informed that the entire university campus comes under Green Campus

Project as per the policy of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of the Central Government, in which all the energy is being obtained through solar energy in the first phase. The officiating vice chancellor Rajesh Bahuguna also expressed his views on the occasion. At the JB Institute of Technology, a webinar was held on the effect of Covid-19 on the environment. Speaking on the occasion, forest scientist Subhash Nautiyal spoke in detail about the effects on the environment of the Covid-19 pandemic. The institute director Amit Kumar Bansal, registrar Vishan Kumar along with chairman LD Singhal and vice chairman Sandeep Singhal were also present at the webinar. Later, a number of trees were also planted in the institute campus.

NOIDA READYMADE GARMENT UNITS TO UP GOVT NOIDA Need 2 lakh workers to resume operations

PTI ■ NOIDA

The Noida Apparel Export Centre (NAEC) has written to the Uttar Pradesh government, seeking attention towards the problem of labour shortage due to large-scale migration of workers in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. It said that readymade garment units in the city "immediate need" two lakh workers, including tailors, to run operations normally. The cluster had on

Thursday written a letter to MSME and Export Production Department Principal Secretary Navneet Sehgal seeking facilitation in arranging work force which has migrated to other parts of the country. "Sir, you are aware that Noida (Gautam Buddha Nagar) is a well-known readymade garment hub of the country. Noida cluster alone has approximately 3,000 readymade garment production-cum export units which are in operation

and currently employing around 10 lakh workers," NAEC president Lalit Thukral said. "Through these units our members export readymade garments worth ₹18,000 crore to ₹20,000 crore annually and whose credit goes not only to our work force but also to the local administration, the Government of UP and the Chief Minister, who have always stood by us and supported us," he wrote in the letter. Thukral said that

due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the operation of these units and production of readymade garments has stopped but simultaneously the NAEC appreciates the government's move to restart these units. "I wish to bring to your kind knowledge a matter of concern for us that readymade garment units in Noida are unable to resume the operations because of absence of manpower, despite the UP government order allowing restarting of the production units.

Haryana reports 316 new Covid-19 cases, tally rises to 3,597

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana on Friday reported 316 new cases of novel corona virus, 153 from Gurugram alone, raising the total of infected cases to 3,597. Faridabad accounted for 59 cases, the second highest district of the State followed by 22 new cases in Charkhi Dabri. Meanwhile, 86 patients have recovered from various hospitals of the State over the last 24 hours on Friday. The State has a recovery rate at 0.67 per cent, fatality rate at 0.67 per cent while tests per million being conducted are 5,422. The doubling rate in the State is six days. With 1209 people cured and discharged from the hospitals, there are 2, 364 active

COVID-19 cases in Haryana now. Gurugram total of the deadly disease is now 1563. Faridabad reported 59 new case of the deadly disease, taking the total in the district to 581. Jhajjar reported two new Covid cases, taking tally to 107. Nuh reported three more cases, taking total to 85. Six more corona virus case reported in Ambala, taking total to 76. Palwal reported 14 more cases, taking the tally to 100. One more case reported in Panipat, taking total to 67. Panchkula reported one more case, taking total to 28. Two new cases reported in Jind, taking count to 35. Karnal reported seven more cases, taking count to 81. Two more case has been reported in Sirsa, taking total

to 50. Three more cases reported in Fatehabad, talking total to 30. Four more cases have been reported in Rohtak, taking total to 114. Narnaul reported four more cases, taking total to 77. Hisar reported nine more case, taking the tally to 78. 11 more cases have been reported in Rewari, taking total to 45. Charkhi Dabri reported 22 more cases, taking count to 35. One more case reported in Kaithal, taking total to 34. Kurukshetra reported 12 more cases, taking total to 49. According to officials, a total of 86 Covid patients were discharged from various districts including 40 in Gurugram, three in Faridabad, three in Ambala, 11 in Karnal, one in Fatehabad, 12 in Narnaul, 10 in Hisar, one in Kaithal and five in Kurukshetra.

6 NEW CASES TAKE HIMACHAL TALLY TO 390
Six more people, including a couple and a 40-year old man who recently returned from Delhi, tested positive for coronavirus in Himachal Pradesh on Friday, taking the total number of COVID-19 cases in the state to 390. While three fresh cases were reported from Kangra district, two were detected from Hamirpur district and one from Shimla district, Special Secretary (Health) Nipun Jindal said. He said eight patients—six in Hamirpur and two in Kangra, recovered from disease on Friday. In Kangra, all the three fresh cases returned from Delhi on May 27, a district official said. A 34-year-old man and his 31-year-old wife from

Minigram in Nurpur tehsil in Kangra tested positive on Friday, he said adding that their two-year-old son had earlier tested positive and was admitted at the Baijnath Dedicated COVID care centre (DCCC). Similarly, a 40-year-old man from Kulhan village in Nurpur tehsil also tested positive. His son had also tested positive earlier and was admitted at Baijnath DCCC, he said. Meanwhile two persons in Kangra district, including a 42-year-old man from Barohal village in Panchrukhi tehsil and a 35-year-old man from Sarguni village in Palampur tehsil recovered from the virus, he added. Additional Chief Secretary (Health) R D Dhiman said the number of active patients in the state is 197. As many as 187 patients have recovered so far, he added.

SEVEN CASES IN CHANDIGARH, TALLY 309
Seven fresh cases of Coronavirus were reported on Friday in the city, taking the total tally to 309. Six positive cases were reported from Babu Dham colony while one was reported from Sector 21 here. "Seven new cases have been reported on Friday. Six cases from Babu Dham colony include a three year old female child, two boys aged 10 years

each, a 14 years old boy, a 35 years old woman and a 40 years old man. All are the contacts of already positive COVID-19 case," stated the Chandigarh Health Department's bulletin. "A 57 years old woman, a resident of Sector 21 is also tested positive for COVID-19. She has two family contacts and three community contacts," the bulletin stated. Apart from this, 50 residents of Babu Dham colony, Sector-26 have been cured and shifted to post discharge quarantine facility at Sood Dharmshala. The Babu Dham colony in Sector 26 here has till now reported 232 cases, which accounts for more than 75 percent of the total cases in Chandigarh. The city has reported a total of 309 cases out of which 31 are active. 273 are treated and cured, the bulletin added. Chandigarh has reported

ed five Coronavirus related deaths. Meanwhile, Chandigarh Administration on Friday took Sector 30-B off the list of containment zones in the city. With this, Chandigarh now has two containment zones including pockets of Babu Dham colony in Sector 26 and Kacchi colony Dhanas. Earlier, the UT Administration had decided to remove the containment zone tag from the area on June 4, but after the death of an elderly woman on Monday, the Administration decided to defer the decision. Angry over staying at home for the past more than two months, the residents of the area had held a protest on Wednesday following which the Administration had assured to review the status of containment zone.

उत्तराखण्ड धारक कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
उत्तराखण्ड शासन द्वारा प्रदत्त विद्युत कार्यों के लिए उत्तराखण्ड शासन द्वारा प्रदत्त विद्युत कार्यों के लिए 'क' श्रेणी के लाईसेंस धारक एवं/पी.डब्ल्यू.डी./आर.ई.सी./इसीमेशन (जो भी लागू हो), जी.एस.टी., ई.पी.एफ. के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत, आयकर से निविदा खोली जाएगी। निविदादाताओं से मुद्रबद्ध निविदायें दो भागों में (प्रथम भाग में धरोहर धनराशि, नियम एवं शर्तें, उत्तराखण्ड विद्युत निरीक्षक द्वारा निर्गत 'ए' क्लास लाईसेंस एवं/पी.डब्ल्यू.डी./आर.ई.सी./इसीमेशन (जो भी लागू हो) की प्रतिलिपि, जी.एस.टी., ई.पी.एफ. पंजीकरण, पैनाकार्ड की प्रतिलिपि आदि एवं द्वितीय भाग में दरे जो कि निविदा खुलने की तिथि से कम से कम छः माह तक वैध हों) दिनांक 22.06.2020 को 14.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है जो कि उसी दिन 15.00 बजे उपस्थित निविदादाताओं अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधियों के समूहक अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में दिनांक 20.06.2020 (14:00 बजे) तक अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय से निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य नगद (अप्रतिवेद्य) जमा कर क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। प्रत्येक निविदा की धरोहर राशि किसी भी राष्ट्रीय कृत बैंक की एफडीआर/सीडीआर/सीडीआर के रूप में अधिशासी अभियंता, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड (उत्तर), 18-ईसी-20 रोड, देहरादून के पक्ष में बंधक होनी चाहिए। विना धरोहर राशि के निविदा मांग 2 नहीं खोली जायेगी। निविदा खुलने की तिथि में अवकाश होने/अधोहस्ताक्षरी के मुख्यलय से बाहर होने पर अगले कार्य दिवस को निविदा खोली जाएगी। अधोहस्ताक्षरी को यह अधिकार होगा कि वह विना कारण बताये समस्त अथवा किसी भी निविदा को निरस्त कर सकते हैं। विस्तृत नियम एवं शर्तें निविदा प्रपत्र में वर्णित हैं।
निविदा संख्या EDD(N)-10/20-21 विद्युत वितरण खण्ड (उत्तर) देहरादून कार्यालय में स्थित इलेक्ट्रिक पैनल इत्यादि का कार्य, धरोहर राशि रु. 30000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु.) 500.00+जी.एस.टी.
निविदा संख्या EDD(N)-11/20-21 विद्युत वितरण खण्ड (उत्तर) देहरादून कार्यालय के राजस्व अनुभाग में प्रिफेब पार्टिशन, काल्स सिस्टिम इत्यादि का कार्य, धरोहर राशि रु. 30000.00, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु.) 500.00+जी.एस.टी.
अधिशासी अभियंता पत्रांक-334 विविध(उ/वि) विद्युत वितरण खण्ड दिनांक: 05.06.2020 (उत्तर)
किसी भी विद्युत सम्पत्ता के लिए सम्पर्क के लिए वी. नं. 1800-419-9405 राष्ट्रीय विद्युत निरीक्षक द्वारा।

NORTHERN RAILWAY CANCELLATION NOTICE
1- Tender for the work of contract for pay and use toilets of Hardoi, Chandausi and Moradabad railway station of Moradabad division invited on 15.06.2020 is cancelled due to administrative ground. **Tender Notice- 9/Pay & Use/MB-Div/2019/C Dt-05.06.2020 1283/2020**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE
In Passport No M3139902, my daughters's name wrongly entered as Aprajita and in her Aadhar Card Aprajita Parmar whereas her correct and full name is APRAJITA SINGH PARMAR. She should be known by her correct name for all future purposes.
Ajay Singh Parmar, S/o Roshan Lal Parmar, R/o Dhakowali,

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For advertisement booking or any query contact-9045057787

46 fresh cases of Covid in Punjab

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

As one more corona positive Apatient from Tarn Taran succumbed to the deadly contagion on Friday, the state reported 46 fresh cases, taking the state's COVID-19 death tally to 48 and that of positive cases to 2461.

Of the 46 cases, more than half were the contacts of the already diagnosed positive cases, besides five of those who have returned to Punjab from other states or countries.

and Tarn Taran reported two cases each, While Kapurthala's both cases were new with no travel or contact history, Tarn Taran's one case has travel history, while another was a new case. Besides, omne cases each was reported from Patiala — with travel history to Chennai, Fatehgarh Sahib — Ili patient with travel history to Delhi, Bathinda — contact of positive case, Muktsar — with travel history to Delhi, Moga — a foreign returnee, Sangrur — a new case, Pathankot — a self reported new case, and Faridkot — a health worker (ANC).

er and father of an already diagnosed patient from Sector 78 with a travel history of Delhi. Gurdaspur has reported three cases, of which two are the contacts of positive case, while one is the new case. Kapurthala

to 127. Three of the four were contacts of already diagnosed cases and one was classified as a new case of a 61-year-old from Sector 70. The three patients from Sector 78 were the wife, mother

As many 26 more patients — 14 from Amritsar, five from Moga, three from Ludhiana, two from Pathankot, one each from Tarn Taran and SAS Nagar (Mohali) — recovered from the novel coronavirus, leaving just 344 active cases. In all, 2,069 patients have recovered in the State till date. Of the 46 cases, more than half were the contacts of the already diagnosed positive cases, besides five of those who have returned to Punjab from other states or countries. Maximum 16 cases were reported from Ludhiana, of which 12 are the contacts of positive cases, two are the new cases of Influenza Like Illness (ILI), while the source of infection of remaining two are unknown as of now. Jalandhar reported eight fresh cases of which four are the contacts of positive case, while four are new cases with no contact or travel history. Amritsar also reported three cases, all of which are the contacts of positive cases. SAS Nagar (Mohali) has reported four new coronavirus cases, taking the district's tally

to 127. Three of the four were contacts of already diagnosed cases and one was classified as a new case of a 61-year-old from Sector 70. The three patients from Sector 78 were the wife, mother

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice
Sr. DENC/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tender Notice, closing date & time are mentioned against each column. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc are not allowed.

Tender No.	43-DRM-MB-20-21	Date	04.06.2020
Name of Work	Reconditioning of Tamping tools of different track machines working over Moradabad Division.		
Tender Closing Date	02.07.2020		
Tender Closing Time	16:00 hrs		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	94,77,171.00		
Earnest Money (Rs.)	1,89,600.00		
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	5000.00		
Period of Completion	06 Months		
Bidding Start Date	18.06.2020		

No. 75-W/2/3/WA/DEN/HQT/Notice Dt. 05.06.2020 1282/2020
Serving Customers With A Smile

UTTARAKHAND POLICE HEADQUARTER DEHRADUN
Letter No: DG-III-363/2019 Dated: Dehradun Jun 02, 2020
NOTICE
As directed, E Tender No DG-III-363/2019 Dated 18.02.2020 for purchase of online UPS Battery (Amaron 26 AH, 28 AH, 42 AH- Total 876 Nos), Dated 30.03.2020 Total Amount Rs 20,37,473.28 issued in favour of M/s Arvind Enterprises, Upasana Complex, Shop No-3, GMS Road, Dehradun Email amaronquantasmf@yahoo.co.in. Contact No 09837891484 vide the said Purchase Order No for supply. Due to unavoidable reason the said purchase order for same quantity is cancelled with immediate effect at police headquarter level. The above stated purchase order will be summarily invalid under any purchase process of Uttarakhand state and other states and the related firm will not use the above purchase order at any level.
HQ, P&M Police HQ Uttarakhand, Dehradun
RO No 11865

Covid-19 count jumps past 1200

62 NEW CASES FOUND

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The number of novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) patients in Uttarakhand climbed to 1215 with the State health department reporting 62 new cases of the disease on Friday. One patient of the disease, a 73 year old man who was also said to be suffering from Asthma died in Almora district on Friday. With this the death toll from Covid-19 in the state has now climbed to 11.

On the day, 23 new patients of the disease were reported from Dehradun while 14 cases were reported from the mountainous district of Rudrapur. In Tehri, eight new patients surfaced while five patients were reported from Almora. In Nainital, four patients were found while three were reported from Champawat district. From Chamoli, three patients were reported while one patient each was found in Haridwar, Pauri and Udham Singh Nagar

districts.

On Friday, 47 patients of the disease were discharged from different hospitals of the state after their complete recovery.

Meanwhile, the staff members of the Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital, which is serving as the dedicated Covid-19 treatment centre have come under threat of infection.

On Friday, three members of the nursing staff deputed in the ICU and other wards were found infected with the disease. One doctor, a junior resident, a nursing staff and a female guard of the hospital had already been infected by the disease.

The additional secretary, state health department, Yugal Kishore Pant said that reports of 88 samples were found negative for the disease on Friday. He added that reports of 6623 samples are still awaited by the department. On Friday, a total of 566 samples were collected for COVID -19 testing. The authorities have so far taken each swab samples of 35967 suspected patients for COVID-19

test. Out of the total samples taken, 4.22 percent samples have been found positive for the disease.

The doubling rate of disease in the state is 10.34 days while the recovery percent in the state is now at 25.77. A total of 33454 persons are kept in institutional quarantine by the state health department.

Uttarakhand now has 855 active cases of the disease. Dehradun with 273 active cases is maintaining its position at top of the table of Covid-19 positive active patients. Nainital district is at second position with 183 active cases. The Tehri district is at third spot with 104 active cases while Haridwar has 58 active patients of the disease.

Almora district now has 46 active cases while Udham Singh Nagar has 39 active patients. Pauri and Pithoragarh districts have 32 and 27 active cases respectively while Champawat district has 31 active cases. With 14 new cases on Friday Rudrapur now has 19 active cases while Chamoli and Uttarkashi districts have 16

Now dial 104 for consultancy on Covid-19

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In an attempt to provide medical consultancy to the people for Covid-19, the National Health Mission (NHM) has started the Corona Tele consultation helpline.

The service would be available free of cost on the 104 helpline.

The additional secretary health and family welfare department and the Mission Director (MD) of NHM, Yugal Kishore Pant said that many doctors from different parts of the country have

and 15 active cases of the disease respectively. Bageshwar

been linked with the service who would clear doubts of the people for Covid-19.

Pant also made an appeal to all the doctors of the state (both Private and government) and asked them to provide their services for Corona e- consultancy. The doctors can register themselves at the site <http://bit.ly/IndiaTeleMed> for providing their services.

Pant also made an appeal to all the doctors of the state (both Private and government) and asked them to provide their services for Corona e- consultancy. The doctors can register themselves at the site <http://bit.ly/IndiaTeleMed> for providing their services.

with 12 active cases is now at the bottom of the table.

Gairsain to have e-Vidhan Sabha, announces CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat announced that summer capital Gairsain will have an e-Vidhan Sabha. He said this in a video conference with district magistrates on the occasion of World Environment Day.

Rawat said that the state government has already started e-cabinet. With the State Government deciding to turn its offices into e-offices, 17 offices have been turned into e-offices so far. The attempt is to make all offices upto the block level e-offices, he said.

He said that wide-spread tree plantation will be carried out while maintaining social distancing on the occasion of Harela. He directed the DMs to lay special focus on public participation in this tree plantation stressing on the requirement of public cooperation for making any campaign successful. Rawat also directed all DMs to work for revival of rivers, Naulas (traditional water sources) and other water

sources. The state government has set the target of mission Rispana to Rishiparna and revival of the Kosi. A project report has been prepared by IIT Roorkee for the Rispana project. Work will be undertaken on mission mode on this project, he added.

Forest and Wildlife minister Harak Singh Rawat said that Uttarakhand has an important contribution in maintaining the biodiversity of India. The state contains about 28 per cent of the nation's biodiversity, he said, adding that the state's biodiversity affects not only the nation but the whole world. The minister stressed on the need for humans to maintain environmental balance while moving forward.

Officials informed in the meeting that a city forest



'Anand Van' is being developed at Jhaura on the outskirts of Dehradun city. The Uttarakhand Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board is preparing a district level pollution control management plan for each district. Various officials concerned were also present in the meeting.

Earlier, the CM planted saplings at the CM residence. Jamun, mulberry, Bel and fig saplings were planted on the occasion.

HC issues notices to State, Cabinet Min for reported violation of home quarantine

PNS ■ NAINITAL

Issuing notices to the state government and cabinet minister Satpal Maharaj, the Uttarakhand high court has asked why no action can be taken for violation of guidelines by those occupying constitutional posts when cases are lodged against general citizens for violating quarantine regulations. The division bench of chief justice Ramesh Ranganathan and justice RC Khulbe asked this question while hearing a public interest litigation filed regarding alleged violation of quarantine rules by the cabinet minister who recently tested positive for Covid-19.

Dehradun resident Umesh Kumar had filed the PIL contending that the Dehradun district magistrate and chief medical officer had pasted a notice on the residence of Maharaj



directing home quarantine from May 20 to June 3. The petitioner contended that the minister had violated the quarantine rules and had attended cabinet meetings. The petitioner said that after Maharaj tested positive for Covid-19, other cabinet ministers had to go under self-imposed quarantine. Stating that cases are registered against common cit-

izens for violating quarantine, the petitioner has sought that the minister also be booked

1 booked for attempt to murder for hiding his medical report

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The police in Almora have booked one Covid-19 positive man for hiding his medical report from the authorities. Additionally, three persons have been booked for violating home quarantine rules in the district.

The police received a complaint about 33-year old Pratap Singh on the basis of which it booked him under IPC section 307 and other sections for concealing his Covid-19 positive report from the

authorities. Danya police station in-charge Santosh Tiwari informed that Singh had returned to his village Garuda on June 3 from Delhi after undergoing a medical test. He tested positive for Covid-19 but did not inform any official about it, putting the lives of others at risk.

Additionally, in Ranikhet the police booked Mohammed Gulsher who returned from Udham Singh Nagar to Ranikhet on June 4 and was directed to be under

home quarantine.

However, violating the quarantine he was found working at his seat-cover shop. Similarly, Sundar Singh who had returned to Thali village from Delhi was also found loitering in the public in violation of home quarantine. Another man, Bhikyasain resident Bharat Singh was also found violating home quarantine. Cases have been lodged against the three under IPC, Disaster Management Act and Epidemic Diseases Act.

to the State government and Maharaj, seeking their response within three weeks.

Mandi Samiti making vegetables available through mobile vans

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After Niranjanpur wholesale vegetable market was closed as several Covid-19 positive patients were found there, the Dehradun Mandi Samiti sent 20 mobile vehicles of vegetables on Friday to several wards to avoid the crisis of unavailability of vegetables in the city.

As informed by the head of Dehradun Mandi Samiti, Rajesh Sharma, twenty mobile vans were used on Friday to make the vegetables available for locals but if the demand will increase in coming days, the number of vans will be increased too.

He said these decisions were taken in a recent meeting with several other representatives of Samiti. On the question of how the trucks and other vehicles loaded with vegetables

were managed when they were about to reach Dehradun after Niranjanpur Mandi was closed, Sharma said that such vehicles were diverted to the wholesale vegetable markets of other cities like Haridwar and Rishikesh on their way to Dehradun.

Though, he added, sufficient supply of vegetables is ordered for local residents here.

He also informed that Mandi will remain closed till June 11 and all the vegetable wholesalers too will remain under home quarantine as per the Government orders. Meanwhile, several locals complained about some vendors selling vegetables at increased prices claiming that vegetables might not be available for the next few days due to closure of the Mandi.

MCD to begin two-day sanitation drive from today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) will sanitise the city in its two-day sanitisation drive on the directions of State Government from today. As the government has announced a closure of all non-essential services and activities

On Saturday and Sunday in Dehradun, the corporation will sterilise all the public places, quarantine centres and containment zones. The chief municipal health officer Dr Kailash Joshi informed that those sanitation workers who will sanitise the containment zones, quarantine centers, and Niranjanpur Mandi will do so wearing PPE kits and the remaining areas will be sanitised as usual. He said that the sanitisation will be done in morning and evening shift on Saturday and Sunday with the help of about 300 sanitation workers. According to the offi-



cials, the main focus of sanitisation will remain public places and those areas where the positive cases of Covid-19 were found recently.

To speed up the sanitisation process in city, MCD has even brought 25 tankers from Saharanpur, said Joshi.

He also informed that MCD has used about 1,25,000 litres of one percentage sodium hypochlorite solution for sterilising the city till now. Recently, the corporation has received 26,000 litres of one percentage sodium hypochlorite from a company based in Kota, Rajasthan. Joshi said that the

said disinfectant cost MCD Rs 13 per litre as per the expenses by corporation.

The MCD had also received a consignment of disinfectant few months ago from the same company. Joshi said that about 5000 litres of disinfectant is still left from the earlier quota. The corporation recently provided councillors with 100 litres of concentrated disinfectant for the sanitisation of their wards. Besides the provided share, councillors of wards have been taking sodium hypochlorite regularly from MCD as per the requirement to sanitise their areas.

DEDUCTION OF SALARY Consent of all MLAs received: Speaker

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The speaker of Uttarakhand Assembly Prem Chand Agarwal has said that all the members of the house have given their consent for 30 percent deduction in their salary for Covid-19 fund.

The speaker said that after the consent of ruling party members, the assembly secretariat has also received the letter of the leader of Opposition (LoP) Indra Hridayesh in which she has said that the Congress members are ready for the deduction in salary. Agarwal added that Hridayesh in her letter has mentioned that though the state government had not taken the opposition in confidence on the issue but the Congress is giving its consent in view of the greater public interest.

The speaker expressed his gratitude to all the members for giving their consent on deduction and said that now the nec-



essary deduction would be made in the salary of the members.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Uttarakhand government after announcing salary deduction of Chief Minister and other ministers for Covid-19 fund had declared that 30 percent deduction would also be made in the salary of the MLAs.

On the decision, the assembly secretariat had clari-

fied that the deductions can be made only after consent of the members.

Initially very few members gave their consent for the deduction in salary but when the issue came into public domain most of the MLAs belonging to the ruling party gave their acceptance for deduction.

On Thursday the Congress also gave its acceptance for deductions.

Prakash Pant remembered on death anniversary



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Tributes were paid to former cabinet minister and speaker of Uttarakhand assembly, Prakash Pant on his first death anniversary on Friday. The speaker, Prem Chand Agarwal garlanded the picture of the late leader

in the state assembly and paid glowing tributes to him. He said that Pant was soft spoken, simple hearted and a master of parliamentary procedures.

He was respected by everyone including the opposition members for his qualities.

Govt plays important role in destroying or conserving biodiversity: Activists

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

When one talks about protecting the environment, most appear concerned about the depletion of forests, greenery and biodiversity from rural or mountainous areas. However, such narrow focus leads to negligence towards environmental degradation in urban areas as seen in Dehradun since creation of Uttarakhand states.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, The Pioneer talked to some environmentalists and activists about the past, present and future of urban greenery in Dehradun. In the last few years, Dehradun has lost a substantial amount of urban green space. According to environmentalists, the administration plays an important role in destroying as well as protecting and conserving the biodiversi-

ty. While some said that greenery should be incorporated in city planning, others opined that it should be prioritised rather than being adjusted in some plan.

Himanshu Arora from Citizens For Green Doon (CFGD) said that the government has cut down thousands of trees in the name of development in the city.

"I do not consider cutting trees for constructing buildings as development.

True development is the coexistence of biodiversity with the development plans. In the name of development in Dehradun, the Government had cut the flourishing orchards of litchi and mango, the fields of basmati rice have disappeared and the canals were covered," said Arora.

According to experts, trees are the most important part of the biodiversity of any region.



When trees are cut down from an area, the lives around it get disturbed and creatures like birds and insects like butterflies gradually cease to live in that area and that leads to their steady disappearance from the whole city.

Activist Lokesh Ohri

informs that the government has cut lakhs of trees in the last twenty years which affected several living creatures existing around them but the government had hardly planted even half the number of the trees it had cut.

Some social activists and

conservationists proposed that by increasing the greenery of the urban areas, the environment can be made much healthier for the citizens and for other living beings.

Social activist Anoop Nautiyal stated that with the increasing urbanisation in the

city, it is more important to prioritise the existence of biodiversity before the development projects by the administration and the citizens. He added that a city's development should not be at the cost of its environment.

To revive the urban greenery of Dehradun, Ohri suggested that the government should leave the space wherever it can for the plantation of trees instead of completely paving the roads that does not allow even the percolation of rainwater to the ground.

He said that the government can issue some guidelines too so that citizens do not harm the biodiversity.

Other activists also suggested that if the citizens are aware and dedicated to save their environment, the government will not have much power to recklessly cut the trees as per its will.

CM trying to hide Covid-19 deaths: Pritam

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president, Pritam Singh has said that the Chief Minister (CM) Trivendra Singh Rawat is trying to cover up deaths due to the novel Coronavirus in the state.

In a statement, the PCC president objected to the claims made by the CM that no death from Covid-19 has occurred in the state so far.

He said on one hand CM is claiming no deaths from Covid-19 in the state while on the other hand the data released by the state administration informs that 10 people have so far lost their lives from



the Covid-19. The PCC president said that the declaration of ex gratia payment of ₹1 lakh for the family of those who died from Covid-19 is meager and the amount should be increased to ₹10 lakhs.

Home Min to procure arms/ammunition from pvt firms

RAKESH K SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Ministry is seeking to procure arms/ammunition from private firms besides State-run Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) for the Central paramilitary forces and Central Police Organisations.

A meeting was held via video conferencing last Friday with at least 17 private firms and the Ministry may float tenders to procure such items from non-state players, sources said.

The meeting under the subject head "Procurement of Arms and Ammunition by CAPFs/CPOs from Private Domestic Manufacturers" was

held under the chairmanship of Minister of State in the Home Ministry G Kishan Reddy with private sector industries having licence for manufacturing arms/ammunition. The meeting was held to explore the possibilities to enhance the procurement of these items from private companies besides the OFB.

The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) or the Central paramilitary forces with a combined manpower of about 10 lakh include the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National

○ A meeting was held via video conferencing last Friday with at least 17 private firms and the ministry may float tenders to procure such items from non-state players, sources said

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Security Guards (NSG) and Assam Rifles. The CPOs include organisations under the Home Ministry like Bureau of Police Research and

Development (BPR&D). The CAPF and CPOs were also represented in the meeting. The online meeting connected to 40 locations

○ The meeting was held to explore the possibilities to enhance the procurement of these items from private companies besides the OFB

○ The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) or the Central paramilitary forces with a combined manpower of about 10 lakh include the Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), National Security Guards (NSG) and Assam Rifles

across the country also had participation from industry bodies like ASSOCHAM, CII, FICCI and PH DCCI besides representatives of the domestic

arms/ammunition industry.

The list of invited companies with industrial licence to manufacture arms/ammunition included Indtech Construction Pvt Ltd (small arms and ammunition like 5.56 mm, 7.62 mm, 9 mm, 12.7 mm and 14.5 mm calibre)Larsen & Toubro Ltd (armament including ammunition/ordnance like missiles, rockets and torpedo land/naval mines), Vem Technologies Pvt Ltd. (Assembly, Integration & checkout of arms and ammunition, rockets and missiles), Sec Industries Pvt Ltd. (static and mobile launchers for air launch missiles of short, medium and long range, rockets,

bombs & ammunitions) and Hyt Engineering Company Pvt Ltd (manufacture of shells for ammunition of various calibres).

Other companies included Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Ltd(empty shells and required fuses for ammunition and explosive such as bombs, mines, missiles and torpedoes excluding the filling of explosives), Lords Vanija Pvt Ltd (manufacture and assembly of ammunition, empty fuses, primers and switches), Micron Instrument Pvt Ltd (weapon systems like mortars, rocket launchers, grenade launchers and missile launchers besides

ammunition for anti-aircraft guns, artillery guns, tank guns etc as also sub assemblies weapon systems).

The list also included Premier Explosives Ltd, BF Elbit Advanced Systems Pvt Ltd, Solar Industries India Ltd, Kalyani Strategic System Ltd, Himachal Futuristic Communication Ltd, Continental Defence Solutions Pvt Ltd, Shan Arms Industries Pvt Ltd, Pipav Defence and Offshore Engineering Company Ltd and Hughes Precision Manufacturing Ltd.

An official privy to the discussions said tendering for procurement of these items outside OFB.

Cong names Kcharge as RS candidate from K'taka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/BENGALURU

The Congress on Friday announced veteran party leader Mallikarjun Kcharge as its candidate for the June 19 elections to the four Rajya Sabha seats from Karnataka.

"Congress President Sonia Gandhi has approved the candidature of Mallikarjun Kcharge as Congress candidate for the ensuing biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka," All India Congress Committee Press release said.

The four seats represented by Rajeev Gowda and BK Hariprasad of the Congress, Prabhakar Kore of the BJP and D Kuppendra Reddy of the JD(S) will fall vacant on June 25 with their retirement. June 9 is the last date for filing nominations. The Congress, with 68 MLAs in the Assembly, can win one of the four seats easily on its own, so Kcharge's victory is said to be certain.

Kcharge, who was popularly known as "solilada Saradara", (a leader without defeat) faced his first electoral loss in his political life spanning several decades against BJP's Umesh Jadhav in Gulbarga by a margin of 95,452 votes in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

A nine-time MLA and two-term Lok Sabha member, he had served as Congress' floor leader in the previous Lok Sabha, and also as Union

Railway and Labour Minister in the UPA Government. Kcharge (77) had also been a Minister in several Congress Governments in the State in the past and had also served as KPCC president and Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly.

His son Priyank Kcharge is currently MLA representing Chittapur constituency and had served as a Minister during the previous Congress and coalition Governments.

While the ruling BJP with 117 members (including Speaker), can ensure victory in two seats, the JD(S), with just 34 seats in the Assembly, is not in a position to win a seat in the Rajya Sabha on its own, as a minimum of 44 votes are required for a candidate to win.

Speculations are rife that the Congress is likely to support the JD(S) with its surplus votes for the remaining one seat if the regional party fields its supremo and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, and in return may seek favour during the legislative council polls slated later this month. No final decision has been taken in this regard yet, party sources said.

The JD(S) will hold its legislative party meeting to decide on the strategy for RS polls and decide on a candidate. The BJP too, with several aspirants, is yet to finalise its candidate for the RS polls.

IgG Elisa kits to conduct sero-survey to find virus exposure on Covid warriors

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has validated IgG Elisa kits of three companies — Gujarat-based Zydus Cadila Healthcare Ltd, Euroimmun US Inc and Calbiotech Inc, both from the USA to conduct sero-survey to measure Covid-19 exposure in the vulnerable population like healthcare workers, front-line workers and people living in containment zones.

The IgG ELISA kits are the first indigenous antibody detection kits for coronavirus. Zydus had licensed the Covid Kavach Elisa IgG test kit developed by the ICMR. The medical research body had earlier claimed that its test kit has an impressive 100 per cent specificity and 98 per cent sensitivity.

Three batches of 'Covid Kavach ELISA IgG kits' developed by Zydus Cadila Healthcare Ltd, one batch of Euroimmun Anti-SARS-COV-2 ELISA IgG by Euroimmun US Inc, USA, and a batch of Erbalisa Covid-19 IgG ELISA manufactured by Calbiotech Inc, USA have been approved.

The ICMR said "responsibility for batch to batch consistency lies with the manufacturer".

"Depending upon the level of sero-prevalence of infection, matching public health interventions can be implemented for prevention and control of the disease," the research body said. Further, it should be used for survey in high-risk or vulnerable populations like healthcare workers, frontline workers, immune-compromised individuals, individuals in containment zones, to know who have been infected in the past and have now recovered. The ICMR has also provided details of seven pharma companies to whom it has transferred the technology to undertake the production of indigenous Covid Kavach



ELISA IgG kits which help in the antibody detection for Covid-19. These test kits have the advantage of testing 90 samples in a single run of 2.5 hours so that healthcare professionals can proceed quickly with the necessary next steps.

"The ELISA tests have been validated in the laboratory. However, the performance of the test may be subject to variation under field conditions," the ICMR added.

The IgG ELISA/CLIA tests which are US-FDA approved can be used directly after due marketing approval from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

Famotidine drug may reduce symptoms of non-hospitalised Covid-19 patients: Study

Researchers report on 10 people (6 men; 4 women) who developed Covid-19 infection, all of whom happened to have been taking famotidine during their illness

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A widely available and inexpensive drug, Famotidine (Pepcid AC) that is used to ease the symptoms of indigestion may prove a worthy contender for treating coronavirus in those whose disease doesn't require admission to hospital, as per a finding, published online in the journal Gut.

The effects were felt within 24 to 48 hours of taking famotidine, and a rigorous clinical trial is now warranted to see if the drug could be an effective treatment for Covid-19, the researchers said.

It belongs to a class of drugs known as histamine-2 receptor antagonists, which reduce the amount of stomach acid produced. Famotidine can be taken in doses of 20-160 mg, up to four times a day, for the treatment of acid reflux and heartburn.

The researchers report on ten people (six men; four women) who developed Covid-19 infection, all of whom happened to have been taking famotidine during their illness.

The severity of five cardinal symptoms — cough; shortness of breath; fatigue; headache and loss of taste/smell



as well as general unwellness — was measured using a version of a 4-point scale normally applied to assess the severity of cancer symptoms (ECOG PS).

Seven of the patients tested positive for Covid-19, using a swab test; two had antibodies to the infection; and one patient wasn't tested but was diagnosed with the infection by a doctor.

Their ages ranged from 23 to 71 and known risk factors for Covid-19 severity, including high blood pressure and obesity.

All started taking famotidine when they were feeling very poorly with Covid-19, the symptoms of which had been going on from 2 up to 26 days at that point.

Improvement was evident across all symptom categories assessed, but respiratory symptoms, such as cough and shortness of breath, improved more rapidly than systemic symptoms, such as fatigue.

Int'l Yoga Day to go social this year

This year's theme will be 'Yoga at Home and Yoga with Family'



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid Covid-19 pandemic, International Yoga Day this year would be celebrated on digital media platforms and there would be no mass gatherings, the Government said on Friday. This year's theme will be "Yoga at Home and Yoga with Family".

People will be able to join Yoga Day celebrations virtually at 7 am on June 21. Indian Missions abroad are trying to reach out to the people through digital media as well through the network of institutions which support yoga, officials said.

The AYUSH Ministry had earlier planned to hold a grand event at Leh which, however, had to be cancelled because of the pandemic.

Besides, through the "My Life My Yoga" video blogging competition which was launched by the prime minister on May 31, the Ministry of AYUSH and ICCR seeks to raise awareness about yoga and to inspire people to prepare for and become active participants in the observation of IDY 2020.

UPSC Civil services preliminary exam to be held on Oct 4

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The civil services preliminary examination 2020, postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, will be held on October 4, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) announced on Friday.

It said the personality test of the candidates selected through the last year's civil services preliminary and main examinations will resume from July 20. This year's preliminary test was originally scheduled to be held on May 31, but was deferred due to the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said the announcement of fresh date for the civil services preliminary exam would allay apprehensions in some quarters of it being cancelled. "It would also allay apprehension from the minds of some quarters who thought that they would become overage by the next year in case the exam was postponed. Candidates need not worry. The examination will be held as per the UPSC's

schedule," he said.

The civil services examination is conducted annually in three stages — prelims, main and interview — by the UPSC to select officers for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS), among others. Lakhs of aspirants take the examination every year to be part of the country's coveted civil services.

The decision on announcement of fresh date was taken in a meeting held by the Commission to review the prevailing situation due to Covid-19 lockdown. "Taking note of the opening of lockdown and progressive relaxations being announced by the Central government and various states, the Commission decided to issue a revised schedule of examination/recruitment tests," the UPSC said in a statement.

According to the revised calendar, the civil services preliminary examination 2020 will be held on October 4 (Sunday). The main examination 2020 will begin from January 8, 2021 (Friday) for five days, it said.

Cong dubs Modi's 'vocal for local' call, stimulus package as jumla

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday dubbed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "vocal for local" call and the economic stimulus package to make the country self-reliant as yet another jumla to divert the attention of the people from "real issues".

Addressing a video Press conference, senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal asked how can India become self-reliant till it creates innovation and intellectual property in its universities.

"This is an act of self-deception. This is another 'jumla' (rhetoric) that you sell to the people of the country. We are only manufacturing 'jumlas', statements and slogans. That is the only thing we make in India and we are masters at that under this government," he said, taking a swipe at the BJP-led government.

Sibal said while the Prime Minister calls for "Atmanirbhar Abhiyaan", his Government

has failed to help make the poor, the farmers, the migrant workers, the industry or the States to become self-reliant.

Similarly, his exhortation to industry to push "Made in India, Made for the World, to expand globally, not be dependent on another country in the strategic sector, did not have a clear roadmap as to how this goal should be achieved, the former union minister said.

The Rs 20 lakh crore 'Atmanirbhar' package does not lead to expansion of Government expenditure, as it includes measures already announced by RBI and the budget and amounts to less than 1 per cent of GDP, as against 10 per cent claimed by the Government, he noted.

"The reality is that Modi's 'Atmanirbhar' idea is merely a slogan like innumerable others," Sibal said. He also called for private investment in the universities to create innovation and ideas, which he said did not amount to privatisation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mrs. Hemlata Kaushik had entered into an Agreement to sell for the purchase of freehold Residential House No. 386, (Ground Floor), under LIG Category, measuring 39.38 Sq. Yards, in the residential colony known as Housing Board Colony, Sector-7 Extn, Gurgaon, Haryana from Mrs. Rama Bajaj who is registered owner on the basis of Conveyance 24.09.2018 and Original Allotment Letter dated 22.05.1989 and Possessive Deed dated 22.06.1989 in favour of Mrs. Rama has been lost/misplaced and our client is mortgaging the above property to LIC Housing Finance Ltd. If anybody has any claim, right, interest in the said property shall also inform within 15 days to the undersigned on Telephone No:- 011-24324137, 9953683363 & 9811163363.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all through this public Notice that my clients Sh. Harjit Singh Sethi S/o Late Sh. Ram Singh Sethi and Smt. Harbans Kaur W/o Sh. Harjit Singh both R/o 9/12A, 3rd Floor, Vijay Nagar, Double Storey, Delhi-09, have severed all kind of their relationship and disowned & disinherited their elder son Kuldeep Singh Sethi and his wife Harvinder Kaur Sethi and their son Indpreet Singh Sethi and their daughter Japneet Kaur Sethi from their hard earned movable and immovable properties, i.e. 9/12A, 3rd Floor including roof, Vijay Nagar, Double Storey, Delhi-09, due to their misconduct, misbehavior and disobedient behavior. Anybody dealing with them in any manner, shall do the same on their own risk and my clients shall not be responsible for any act, deed and omission of their son Kuldeep Singh Sethi and his wife Harvinder Kaur Sethi and their son Indpreet Singh Sethi and their daughter Japneet Kaur Sethi.

G.S. Ahuja, (Advocate), Ch. No.151, First Floor, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

COVID19 - PARCEL CARGO EXPRESS TRAINS

BOOK YOUR PARCEL IN TIME-TABLED PARCEL CARGO EXPRESS TRAINS (PCETs)

Northern Railway is operating Parcel Cargo Express Trains to ensure the faster and Time-Tabled delivery of parcel containing important and essential commodities. Interested rail users may book their parcels in these trains for its designated destinations and stoppages enroute. List of PCET Trains Originating/Terminating over Northern Railway is as under:-

Parcel Spl. No.	Station From	Dep. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Days of Run	Dates of run
00309	Howrah	08:15	New Delhi	07:00	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat	Upto 15.06.2020
00310	New Delhi	16:45	Howrah	16:30	Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat	Upto 17.06.2020
00311	Sealdah	07:40	New Delhi	10:00	Wed, Fri, Sun	Upto 14.06.2020
00312	New Delhi	16:45	Sealdah	19:30	Sun, Tue, Fri	07.06.20 to 16.06.20
00401	Guwahati	01:30	New Delhi	13:15	Daily	Upto 30.06.2020
00402	New Delhi	14:30	Guwahati	02:30	Daily	Upto 30.06.2020
00403	New Delhi	21:45	Jammu Tawi	08:15	Daily	Upto 30.06.2020
00404	Jammu Tawi	18:10	New Delhi	04:40	Daily	Upto 30.06.2020
00463	Howrah	17:30	Amritsar	08:30	Daily	Upto 03.07.2020
00464	Amritsar	18:40	Howrah	07:30	Daily	Upto 30.06.2020
00625	KSR Bengaluru	16:45	Hazrat Nizamuddin	17:45	Friday	12.06.2020
00626	Hazrat Nizamuddin	09:00	KSR Bengaluru	10:30	Monday	08.06.20 & 15.06.20
00761	Renigunta	06:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	15:20	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun	Upto 07.06.2020
00762	Hazrat Nizamuddin	06:00	Renigunta	16:24	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun	Upto 09.06.2020
00763	Hyderabad Deccan	19:30	Amritsar	09:10	Friday	12.06.2020
00764	Amritsar	05:00	Hyderabad Deccan	18:20	Monday	08.06.20 & 15.06.20
00901	Bandra Terminus	20:00	Ludhiana	03:00	Mon, Wed, Thu, Sat	Upto 28.06.2020
00902	Ludhiana	23:30	Bandra Terminus	06:30	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat	Upto 30.06.2020

The parties interested to book their Parcels in these trains may contact the concerned Divisional Officer / Parcel Supervisor. Division wise contact numbers of concerned Officers / Supervisors are available on Northern Railway's website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in at About us>Covid Corner>Covid_19 Parcel Trains section.

NOTE The time table and operation status of all the above mentioned trains can be seen on the National Train Enquiry System (NTEs)

Note: (1) Parcel have to be loaded/unloaded within allowed halt/time. (2) No passenger is permitted to travel by these trains. (3) The trains will be escorted by security officials.

Security Helpline No. 182

Integrated Helpline No. 139

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Rain likely to pick up pace from next week: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday said rainfall activity in central and south India is likely to pick up pace from next week due to a cyclonic circulation which is likely to form over the Bay of Bengal and aid in the progress of the monsoon.

The low pressure area will form somewhere near the coast of Myanmar. A low pressure area is the first stage of a cyclonic disturbance; not all low pressure areas intensify into cyclones.

IMD director general Mrutunjay Mohapatra said a low pressure area is likely to form over the Bay of Bengal and move towards Odisha next week. "A low pressure is a cyclonic circulation and the

first stage of any cyclone. However, it is not necessary that every low pressure intensifies into a cyclone. This will help advance monsoon and bring good rainfall during the next week," Mohapatra said.

In its tropical cyclones bulletin dated June 5, the IMD said the low pressure area has a "low", or 1-25 per cent, chance of turning into a 'depression' by mid next week. A depression is the second stage on the IMD's eight-level cyclone classification system.

If this predicted weather disturbance reaches the fourth stage — 'cyclonic storm' — on the IMD's scale, it will be given a name — Cyclone Gati.

Monsoon had hit Kerala on June 1 on its normal onset date. The IMD had earlier predict-

ed that the monsoon would be delayed by four days, but Cyclone Nisarga helped push the monsoon to reach Kerala on its normal onset date.

"Conditions are becoming favourable for further advancement of Southwest Monsoon into some more parts of central Arabian Sea, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal, southwest and east central Bay of Bengal, entire southeast Bay of Bengal and some parts of west central Bay of Bengal during next 2 days," the IMD said.

According to the IMD, the country as a whole has received 9 per cent more rainfall than the normal since June 1.

The north Indian plains will also witness rainfall due to a western disturbance, the IMD said.

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

noida Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.) Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A) 12/SPE/PE(PH-II)/ET/2020-21 - Supply of Green Fodder in temporary Gauvansh Ashray Sthal, Vill-Nagli Wajidpur, Sec.-135, Noida, Cost - Rs. **6898500.00**

2. 09/SPE/PE(PH-II)/ET/2020-21 - Cleaning & Desilting of main drain from Expressway Sec.126 to Irrigation drain via Sec.-127, 128, 129, 130 & 135 Noida, Cost - Rs. **5362058.90**

The above tenders can be uploaded by date **12.06.2020** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date **15.06.2020** at **11.00 AM**.

(S.C. Mishra)
Sr. Project Engineer (Public Health), Noida

Office : Sector-39

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

One held for pregnant Kerala jumbo's death

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI
Wilson, a farmer from Edavanna in Malappuram district was arrested on Friday by Kerala Police in connection with the gruesome death of a pregnant elephant which was fed coconut stuffed with explosives.

police late this evening or on Saturday. Sources in the investigation team said that both Kareem and Riazuddeen were into poaching of wild animals in a big way. Wilson was an expert in assembling explosives and stuffing it in fruits to trap the animals.

who broke the news to the outside world through his social media posting. He said it was not with any ulterior intention that the Forest Department said the incident might have taken place in either Malappuram or Palakkad districts. "When we understood that the incident happened at Mannarakkadu, we corrected the same immediately," he said.

TN: 1,438 more test positive

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI/CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu saw 1,438 persons testing positive for coronavirus on Friday, the highest ever number to be tested positive on a single day. With the addition of 1,438 patients into the pool, Tamil Nadu has 12,697 active Covid-19 cases as on Friday. Till date 28,694 persons have tested positive for the pandemic in the State, according to medical bulletin issued by Tamil Nadu Government.

which 5,31,295 samples were found negative. Chennai continued to be the district which tested the highest number of positive cases - 1,116. Thiruvallur, Chengapattu, Kancheepuram and Cuddalore continued to the districts closely following Chennai in the number of positive cases detected in the State.

Situation tense along LoC in J&K following intense shelling

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU
Situation along the line of Control in frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu division remained tense with continuous exchange of intense shelling in the area for the last couple of days.



Havaldar Mathiazhagan P

holed up in the area. However, security forces could not establish fresh contact with the hiding terrorists in the area till late evening. According to police, "the entire area has been kept under tight cordon while efforts were on to ascertain the identity of the terrorist". The security forces had also recovered 1 AK 47 rifle, three magazines, hand grenades (Chinese make), four Anti personnel mine, detonators, mobile handset with SIM card and other items.

Urbanisation, slums main cause of virus surge in Chennai: CM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI/CHENNAI
The unabated increase in the population of slums and failure in the programmes launched to eradicate slum areas are the reasons behind Chennai being the epicenter of coronavirus pandemic in Tamil Nadu, according to Edappadi Palaniswamy, Chief Minister.

made Chennai a volcano which could explode at anytime. "We have opened a Pandora's Box and I doubt whether we would be able to restore Chennai to its lost purity," he told The Pioneer.

continuous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining urban Out Growth or two or more physically contiguous towns together and any adjoining urban outgrowths of such towns," he explained.

reached 93.06 million in 201. The slum population of Chennai could be somewhere near the 25 lakh mark. Another 25 lakh stay in narrow lanes in unhygienic conditions without basic facilities like toilet," he said.

1 more dies, 182 new infections in J&K

PNS ■ JAMMU
The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Friday recorded 182 fresh cases of coronavirus, taking the total tally of cases to 3,324 and active cases to 2,202.

74 cases were reported from Jammu division while 108 cases were reported from Kashmir division. Moreover, 38 more Covid-19 patients were recovered and discharged from various hospitals, 16 from Jammu division and 22 from Kashmir division.

Goa active cases climb up to 130: CM

Panaji: Goa's active coronavirus cases have increased to 130 in the wake of detection of 96 positive cases in South Goa's Mangor hill area, already declared a containment zone, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said on Friday.

Bengaluru Covid infection rate 0.003%: Minister

IAN S ■ BENGALURU
The Covid infection rate in the city is a minuscule 0.003 per cent compared to a population of 1.2 crore people, said a minister on Friday.

Mamata slams BJP for playing 'dirty politics' in crisis situation

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA
Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday attacked the BJP for playing dirty politics at a time when the State is passing through bad times.

of people?" She said, "They (BJP) are talking of throwing me out of power. But have I said the same thing about Prime Minister Narendra Modi? Have I called for throwing Modi out of power? I have never said that Modiji should be removed. So why are they disturbing me here... This is not the time to play politics"

was politicizing the issue and not the BJP. Senior BJP leader Rahul Sinha said, "the Chief Minister's Government is stopping the BJP men from traveling to the cyclone-hit areas whereas they are allowing the CPI(M) and Congress to reach relief because she is afraid of our growing popularity.

139 die, 2,436 cases in Maha on Fri

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI
Maharashtra sank into deep despair on Friday, as the state recorded highest-ever day's tally of 139 deaths and as many as 2,436 new infected cases.



seven deaths in Kalyan-Dombivli, five deaths in Solapur and Nashik, one death each in Vasai-Virar -1, Bhiwandi and Aurangabad-1.

high-risk co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease," a state health bulletin said.

are in home quarantine. There are 72,375 beds available in quarantine institutions. As many as 30,291 people are in institutional quarantine now.

No need for CBI probe in Tablighi Jamaat event: Centre to SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The Centre on Friday told the Supreme Court that probe into assembly of people at Anand Vihar Bus Terminal in east Delhi and at Tablighi Jamaat event in Nizamuddin Markaz is being conducted on day-to-day basis by the Delhi police and there was no need for CBI investigation.

ple at Anand Vihar Bus Terminal and Markaz in Nizamuddin after nationwide lockdown was announced alleging that Delhi police has failed to control the people and the Nizamuddin Markaz chief Maulana Saad was still evading arrest.

Top court asks if pvt hospitals ready to charge Covid patients at Ayushman Bharat rate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday asked private hospitals whether they are ready to provide treatment to Covid-19 infected patients at the charges prescribed under the Government's Ayushman Bharat Scheme.

Ayushman rates," the CJ observed during the hearing which was conducted through video-conferencing.

Day tally dips, but no respite as AP corona count reaches 3,427

Amaravati: Yet another fluctuation was witnessed in Andhra Pradesh when the state's single-day count of Covid-19 cases dipped to 50 on Friday.



ranked 10th among the states of India, according to figures issued by the Andhra Pradesh government on Wednesday.

On a positive note, 14 persons from this category were discharged during the day. With four new cases detected among foreign returnees, their cumulative tally climbed to 123 on Friday.

PAPER WITH PASSION

Delhi reeling

Witnessing a surge in COVID cases, the Delhi Government has put in place new triage rules but this may not be enough



Increasing instances of potential Coronavirus patients lying for hours outside the hospital before admission or even dying before they see a doctor in Delhi are being shared on social media. This has grabbed media attention, too. Unfortunately, some are using such instances to score political points about Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's handling of the pandemic. But the fact remains that despite the national capital boasting about having the best urban healthcare infrastructure in the country, it is getting thoroughly overwhelmed. It would have been so no matter who or which party had been in power. With more than 25,000 cases, Delhi, like Mumbai, is seeing a surge given its dense population as a result of India's uneven development over the past seven decades. While the virus has started a conversation around public health and the lack of it all across the country, it will not take away the fact that despite Indian doctors and nurses being at the forefront of treatment across the world, Indian healthcare itself is all but a flaky shell.

As such, India should have begun large-scale testing weeks ago when more testing kits were made available. While testing numbers have gradually increased now, given the country's population, it remains woefully inadequate. Those who want to be tested are denied one. Even those patients who need to go to a hospital for other emergency procedures are not being tested, either at admission or when discharged. The Delhi Government's decision to "triage" all those patients who show signs of COVID-19 symptoms will not be effective until more tests are done. This will also help it understand the future course of action. Should school yards and stadia be turned into treatment centres or not? To what extent should the lockdown be eased? Where should non-critical patients be sent? And if there is a substantial number of asymptomatic carriers, can Delhi or any other city consider opening up of malls and restaurants and add to a bursting bulge? There is a prevailing anxiety as doctors and virologists warn that public engagement should be minimal in the viral storm months of June and July. The fact of the matter is that in India and in other countries across the world, the response by Governments to the pandemic has been woeful. Of course, hindsight is 20-20 (ironically) but many things should have been and could have been done differently. One thing that can still be done differently and that should be done is to test, test and test to establish a pattern. At the same time data must be used to calibrate further actions. There will be many more cases in the next few days of people dying from the virus and many more tragic stories will be written about. The question that Kejriwal and, in fact, every other Chief Minister in India needs to ask is: When will these stories end? By July or by 2021?

Cong crisis in Gujarat

Party loses more MLAs before Rajya Sabha polls, a steady slide since it won 81 Assembly seats in 2017



The Congress, for all its attempts to appear as a responsible Opposition, is not quite being able to hold on to its own members and convince them of its leadership or its political capital. Just as the party was recovering from the exit of Gandhi loyalist and aspirant leader Jyotiraditya Scindia over a Rajya Sabha ticket, its MLAs in Gujarat have resigned in quick succession days before the Rajya Sabha polls. Two legislators, Akshay Patel and Jitu Chaudhary, resigned on Wednesday. And yesterday, it was Brijesh Merja, the MLA from Morbi constituency. The latter even gave up primary membership of the Congress. With

this, a total of eight Congress MLAs have resigned since March. Before the polls were announced, the Congress had 73 MLAs in the Gujarat Assembly and was looking to win two of the four seats. Now that looks remote. The ruling BJP, which has 103 MLAs in the Assembly, is now eyeing a third seat. What is sad is the Congress had put up a determined show against an ascendant BJP, winning 81 seats in the 2017 Assembly elections, notching up its best performance in the State in years. Although the BJP had won, the Congress did deliver a psychological blow back then. It was expected to consolidate after this booster shot but since then the party has only seen a steady stream of exits, losing 16 MLAs. It is all too easy to blame the BJP for poaching MLAs but then the ruling party has made no bones about Operation Lotus or its attempt to avenge and wrest the psychological edge the Congress had in 2017. Knowing this full well, the Congress should have been vigilant and proactive, considering it wanted to make Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home State, a prestige issue. Instead it rested easy on the verdict without realising that the BJP's mammoth Lok Sabha showing and its near decimation would require more groundwork in State units and at least holding on to them. The rural vote did work for the Gujarat Congress then but it didn't build on it by breaking into Thakor voters for instance or work on the aspirations of its MLAs.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi may be crafting an image change in the middle of a pandemic, appearing to contribute to the national revival effort by holding conversations and dialogues with eminent men friendly to him, but it's not reaping results on the ground. Particularly at a time when capable leaders of the Congress have proved their mettle as Chief Ministers in the battle against the disease spiral, be it Rajasthan's Ashok Gehlot or Punjab's Amarinder Singh. It would have worked had he focussed on COVID-19 management in Gujarat, one of the worst-hit States, and done more on-the-grounds, like he did with migrants. Even his think tank-like advisories seem too tutored and self-serving than well-meaning. He may want to rebrand himself as a serious ideologue but webinars and conversations with public intellectuals will not help him if he wants to stay relevant in electoral politics. It is not that Gandhi hasn't tried to strip down his dynastic entitlements but he needs to be seen as a leader who has a grasp on issues. More importantly, he must make himself available to local units. Both the Scindia and Gujarat fiascos have shown that he needs to keep the party herd immune from political inducements. What Rahul and his strategists must do is to diminish the trust deficit in him as a deliverable leader, build on his natural strengths like when he did padayatras and entered people's homes and localise his appeal. The Congress is not short of advisors, he needs to show that he can be a leader of the masses, not of the podium.

Learning in times of crisis

The COVID pandemic has impacted education the most, compelling nations to embrace e-learning. India needs to invest in infrastructure and put right policies in place



MJ WARSII

Nations across the world have taken different yet significant measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. The most immediate one taken by almost all countries was to cancel physical face-to-face teaching in schools and higher education institutions. All kinds of social and religious gatherings and public events, too, were banned. With a sudden shift from the classroom to e-learning, many wondered whether the adoption of online education would continue to persist post-pandemic and how such a shift would impact the education market.

Indeed, in India, too, physical classrooms have replaced online classes. The transition has mostly been smooth in private universities though public institutions are yet to adapt to the changes. This has led to widespread debates on the future course of classes — whether they should be conducted online or not. Realising the long-term impact of COVID-19, faculty members, too, are finding it hard to conduct online classes with ease. On the other hand, students have been left clinging on to their mobile phones, laptops and computer screens. What, however, is certain is that a post-COVID world must gear itself to adapt to some changes. Being physically present in a classroom may not be the only learning option anymore — not with the rise of the internet and new technologies, at least. As long as there is access to a computer with a robust internet connection, students can attend live sessions or watch pre-recorded classes. Does this mean that online education will soon replace classroom education? It should be kept in mind that even though there have been huge technological advancements, they aren't flawless. E-learning comes with its own set of challenges.

Challenges and possibilities: In the case of traditional classrooms, lack of engagement is problematic for teachers and students alike. Unlike online education, here, they cannot pause or rewind the classes in case they miss out certain chapters. On the other hand, online education is not as easy as speaking into the microphone at the one end and connecting a laptop or phone and listening on the other. There are other challenges with this form of education that have to be faced by both — faculty as well as students. While the former will have to put in extra labour to generate lectures, it will be difficult for the latter to make sense of it online. Then, how will this form of education compensate for the academic loss suffered by students? Practically speaking, there is no alternative to classroom activities.

Most important of all, even after so much digitisation, rural India will face unprecedented challenges due to poor connectivity and frequent power cuts that would affect the productivity of the classroom. Talking about access to electricity, according to Mission Antyodaya, a nation-



wide survey of villages conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2017-18, 16 per cent of India's households received one to eight hours of electricity daily, 33 per cent received 9-12 hours and only 47 per cent received more than 12 hours a day. Further, according to data collected by the National Sample Survey as part of the Survey on Education (2014), only 27 per cent of households in India have some member with access to internet. Access to internet does not necessarily mean that a household actually has internet at home.

While increasing ethernet connectivity should be the larger goal, in the short term, data on mobile phones must be subsidised. Device ownership, too, is a problem and for this, the Government must provide for cheap smartphones for students to get on with the business of teaching. Organisations such as the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), IGNOU and other such bodies offering distance education as well as the Government must assess current and future infrastructure requirements for digital age and bridge the gap.

But what if e-learning becomes the way of life for education? What would be the major issues and areas that

require introspection? And what does this mean for the students going forward?

Most universities are now offering web-based file-sharing services to their faculty members and research communities. However, there are several other ways to make multimedia resources accessible over the internet. Certainly, the most familiar one is YouTube, which though ubiquitous and easy-to-use, does present challenges to classroom use that must not be ignored. The most glaring one is the comments section. The instructor can take it for granted that some comments will not be suitable for projection on a classroom screen.

Similarly, advertisements found lining the video could be a problem, too. Regardless of the product being promoted, the classroom need not be turned to a search service in order to access multimedia resources. To avoid this, a number of web browser extensions are available that provide for an unsullied viewing experience, hiding comments, menu side bus and advertisements from the view. A number of cloud-based tools, too, are available that allow files to be stored and shared across a remote host, which at the very least offer the instructor the flexibility to adapt. Foremost among these are Dropbox, which is a file hosting service that offers free

data storage across several operating platforms. Amazon cloud drive offers 5 GB of free storage and provides a straight forward web-based interface for uploading and retrieval of files. Similarly, GoogleDocs allows for the uploading of entire folders to the cloud, making remote storage of a set of organised files quite easy.

Make the digital transition: Technological prospects for classrooms have evolved in remarkable ways since the COVID-19 pandemic. We have witnessed the successful introduction of smartphones that are capable of running audio-visual clips and interactive language drills; tablets are now replacing the laptop as an essential classroom gear; and there has been a rich array of online dictionaries. Further, news media and unicode blogs are now searchable in original scripts; a sea of websites are dedicated towards the study and dissemination of literature. The worldwide popularity of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google classroom, Zoom, Cisco Webex and the user-centred design of web has addressed concerns of language use. Even mini tablets are now equipped with built-in digital camera. In fact, they allow students to use audio and video editing software immediately upon recording. All of these advancements offer promising

ways for the students to do their homework, going far beyond just a paper and pen.

The time has come for us to adapt to new and innovative teaching methods. So, what next? Most experts and researchers across academic institutions agree that there is a need to create standardised online education platforms. Besides students and teachers must be trained to get accustomed to using digital technologies. Others highlight the necessity to introspect on the nature of these platforms and how students must be taught using different online tools and methods while keeping accessibility and the challenges in mind.

To look for possibilities, there is lack of clarity among teachers and researchers about the plan of action, especially with respect to teaching, examination, results, internships and placements. Challenges are many that need to be overcome. Some students without reliable internet access and technology struggle to participate in digital learning. This gap is seen across countries. Education is going to be digital in the foreseeable future. We will be better prepared to handle it only with the right kind of infrastructure and policies in place. The Government must pay heed.

(The writer is a linguist, author and columnist)

SOUNDBITE

We are only manufacturing *jumlas*, statements and slogans. That is the only thing we make in India and we are masters at that under this Government.



Congress leader
—Kapil Sibal

People have had the time to introspect and understand that there is no planet B. This is the only world we have and it's our only chance at survival.



Actor
—Bhumi Pednekar

Issues of human dignity will not abide standing on the sidelines. To the Black community — we see you. You matter and your lives matter.



Apple CEO
—Tim Cook

In the context of China, they (the Congress) started finding fault without realising that China is a baggage left by Rahul Gandhi's great grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru.



Union Minister
—Jitendra Singh

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cowardly act

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Elephantine problem" (June 4). It was heart-wrenching to know about the horrific death of a pregnant elephant in Kerala's Palakkad district after she ate a pineapple filled with firecrackers that was allegedly left by some locals. Amid the Corona crisis, one had expected that this would be the time for nature to reclaim its lost space. The death of a wild elephant in Kerala serves as a reminder that we humans have long forgotten what humanity is.

In Kerala, which boasts a literacy rate of 93.91 per cent, it is a practice for locals to use explosive-laced traps to get rid of wild animals, especially boars. And this wasn't the first time that such traps have claimed the life of an elephant here.

Though one arrest has been made in the present case, it is a travesty of justice that the maximum punishment for the murderers would be just seven years in jail. There's an urgent need to strengthen animal and wildlife protection laws, too.

Tushar Anand
Patna

A turning point for America

George Floyd, an Afro-American, had been living in Minneapolis for several years after moving there from his native Houston, Texas. Handcuffed at gunpoint, he was pinned to the ground as the police officer, Derek Chauvin, kept his knee pressed hard on his neck for eight minutes and 46 seconds. "I can't breathe," he cried repeatedly but his cries fell on deaf ears. About six minutes into that period, Floyd fell silent. Why did Chauvin do the unthinkable? Years ago, Rohith Vemula, a Dalit PhD candidate at the University of Hyderabad, found himself ousted from the hostel and was forced to live in a tent. A distraught Vemula committed suicide. In the searing note he left behind, he said, his "birth was his fatal accident." Floyd was Black, born to parents of African origin in a racially divided America. His birth, too, "was his fatal accident."

Martin Luther King Jr, the redoubtable civil rights leader, reached Memphis, Tennessee on April 3, 1968, to support the striking African-American city sanitation workers, who were facing crass racial discrimination there. He was shot when standing in the hotel balcony the next day. Addressing an angry crowd, Senator Robert F Kennedy said, "For those of you who are Black and are tempted to be filled with hatred and mistrust of the injustice of such an act, against all White people, I would only say that I can also feel in my own heart the same kind



of feeling. I had a member of my family killed but he was killed by a White man." He was referring to his slain brother John F Kennedy. It calmed the crowd, albeit temporarily. Floyd was no Martin Luther King Jr. Yet, the killing in cold blood highlighted the deep-rooted prejudices persisting in American society. And for US President Donald Trump, Floyd's death "on the streets of Minneapolis" was just "a grave tragedy." His open threat to deploy the US military reservists of the National Guard against the angry anti-racism protesters to "dominate" the streets, was, by no means, a healer's touch. Perhaps, this may well be a defining moment for America's racial politics.

Haridasan Rajan
Kozhikode

Reconnect with nature

Sir — Coronavirus has elicited varying degrees of response from nation-states. Weeks after the

spread of the virus, it was more than evident that even countries with the best medical and public health infrastructure could find no match to this biological invad-

er. Containment through isolation was seen to be the lone weapon.

By virtue of the progress made in science, we may find a

cure for COVID-19 but like every other microbial onslaught till date, we have to pay a heavy price. When will mankind learn the universal tenet of simple living and high thinking as advocated by our *rishis* of yore?

R Narayanan
Navi Mumbai

Mired in confusion

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Trump's expansionism" (June 4). US President Donald Trump's call to transform G-7 into G-11 lacks clarity. He has failed to convince nations on the need to upgrade the grouping. He has only said that it has become outdated. Besides, an analysis needs to be done on the failures of G-7. Given that the US would be going to polls in November, it remains unclear how this would shape up. India has taken the right step by showing willingness to attend the G-7 summit but it must be impartial as it has till now on international affairs.

Manisha
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Firms need a new perspective

Business processes will change due to the pandemic and so should the way valuations of companies are done



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Coronavirus cases are rising exponentially in India even as the country is in the midst of unlocking the economy. With the Government allowing almost all sectors to restart, companies are faced with the new challenge of valuing their businesses as a consequence of the pandemic. Nothing is the same now. The financial markets, the economy, real estate and almost all sectors have seen major turbulence and the uncertainty will not end anytime soon. According to the 2020, *Brand Finance India 100* report, during the pandemic, the combined valuation of India's top 100 brands dropped by \$25 billion as compared to the start of this year. The uncertainty in future cash flows is now a hard reality. Organisations have to renew ways of measuring risks associated with the cash flow of their businesses as the categories of risk may have increased in the light of COVID-19.

The elements which are a part of the discount rates used in valuations, including the risk-free rate and unsystematic risks, may have changed, altering the way businesses approached valuations before the crisis. All business valuations are done on projections. However, in these unprecedented times, there is every chance that these projections might change. It has become difficult to quantify the short-term and long-term financial projections and the shape of economic recovery is also uncertain. It may be 'V' shaped, 'U' shaped or even 'W' shaped. Moreover, some industries may bounce back faster than the others. Even though governments across the world are providing economic stimulus, the fact remains that consumer demand may still be slow and may possibly see a paradigm shift in the long-term.

So, during these times, selecting a valuation model relevant to one's own business is imperative. All three valuation methods — income, market and asset — are available to business managers and analysts. However, in the present situation, some methods may be more appropriate as compared to others. For example, of the two income-based approaches that are used to value a company, one may be more appropriate than the other now. The first method, the Capitalisation of Cash Flow (CCF) method is used by mature firms, which are relatively stable in their growth expectation and cash flows. Under this method, the valuator assumes a steady growth rate, picks a single income stream and predicts future income based on historical numbers.

On the other hand, the Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) method is more flexible and allows for more variations in the future cash flows based on varying growth rates, changes in the interest rates of debt repayments and any other factors that may change in future and could affect cash flows. Given this rising economic uncertainty and market disruption, DCF, with its flexibility to allow modelling of performance of future years of a business individually, with varying growth rates and cash flows till businesses stabilise, may be a more useful method. This method will not be devoid of challenges as valuers may still have to consider multiple scenario analysis to capture the growing uncertainty in the next 18 to 24 months.

Organisations can value their business using other methods as well. However, additional considerations need to be applied in doing so. For example, if a company was using the market approach of valuation earlier, it needs to make relevant adjustments in the financial parameters now. It may not just use an average of the previous three or five-year period, as it may not be applicable in these uncertain times. So usage of previous years' financial metrics during these times needs more analysis and adjustments.

Cash flows and the ability of a business to continue its operations and generate cash flows are important for business valuation. In addition, cash balance and the rate at which money is being used by an organisation also determine its survival and ability to continue doing business. So any changes that help a firm to preserve capital and cash flows, now and in the near future, will help in the valuations as it can give a good idea of how long a company can survive in these turbulent times.

The longer-term prospects of any organisation are also important in assessing its value. However, every dark cloud has a silver lining and tough times help some companies to thrive or re-engineer themselves, like grocery and food delivery, manufacturers of PPE and digital businesses. These and similar other businesses by virtue of their relevance in these times, or because of timely reinvention, are actually booming during the outbreak. With world economies going through disruptions and maybe permanent changes in consumer behaviour, some companies would take advantage of the situation and do better than pre-pandemic times. Going forward, due to the unpredictability of the business environment and future cash flows, valuations cannot be done by just numbers. Stories of survival, tales of flexibility and the ability to either scale up or scale down at a short notice should be definitely part of valuations. Many things may not remain the same in the aftermath of the outbreak. Business processes will change and so should the way valuations of companies are done. (The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

DELHI GOVERNMENT RE-TESTED 30 SAMPLES FROM RML HOSPITAL WHICH WERE DECLARED COVID-19 POSITIVE. THE RESULTS OF 12 SAMPLES WERE NEGATIVE. —AAP SPOKESPERSON RAGHAV CHADHA



IT IS NOT RIGHT TO DO POLITICS OVER THE COVID-19 SITUATION IN DELHI AS IT WEAKENS THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DISEASE. —UNION HEALTH MINISTER HARSH VARDHAN

Give back to 'city makers'

The absorption of jobless migrant workers in newer fiscal activities with dignity would significantly depend on the nature and type of Government policies put in place to jumpstart economies of cities



ARJUN KUMAR

Symmetric to global trends, COVID-19 has had multi-dimensional impacts on the Indian economy and society. Amid rising concerns over the lives and livelihoods of the poorer sections of the population due to the nationwide lockdown, the Government announced seemingly bold economic packages. However, with a few exceptions, lack of coordination in the official sphere at the ground level has had appalling consequences, especially on the millions of "city makers", the urban informal workers, who represent a significant share of the workforce and contribute in multiple ways to the economy.

Employed mostly in the unorganised sector and living in informal settlements in cities, they have borne the major brunt of the lockdown. They have no job contracts, no regular work, are often employed casually and are without any social safety nets to support them and their families during exigencies. Moreover, their livelihood opportunities are constrained by multiple barriers that include deplorable housing conditions, inadequacies of urban services, in-built socio-economic disparities relating to caste and gender and also the policies and practices of governments.

The challenges during the lockdown: An IMPRI survey to understand the impact of the lockdown on the lives of migrant workers revealed that almost three-fourth of the 3,121 respondents from over 50 cities of India were engaged in informal employment, i.e. daily wage work, petty trades/business and as temporary workers without any social security benefits. It was found that six out of 10 workers had lost their jobs during the lockdown, with unemployment being highest among the casual labourers and self-employed respondents. A whopping 74 per cent of the casual labourers lost their jobs while 67 per cent of the self-employed workers could not pursue their economic activities due to the lockdown.

The workers, who had no other option but to remain confined within their houses without any work, could neither realistically practise social distancing, nor could they afford it. The inability to earn during the shutdown translated into 54 per cent of the people being unable to pay rent for their accommodation.

The loss of jobs had a spillover impact on the education of children, too, as most city-makers send their offspring to Government schools. In the prevailing new normal of online teaching methods and reliance on digital modes of learning, education has become a distant dream for the children of migrant labourers because they have no smartphones for accessing such education, forget about computers.

With 88 per cent of the city makers depending on household income, savings, financial help from relatives and friends and so on, for meeting their health-related expenditure, this temporary job loss has added to their anxieties that any kind of health emergency, including COVID-19, would exacerbate.

What they want: Quite understandably, most people want to return to work and almost three-fourth of the respondents said that they would join the same job in which they were engaged prior to the lockdown, if possible. In other words, this loss of jobs or livelihood options was considered as a temporary phenomenon.

However, the absorption of jobless migrant workers in newer fiscal activities with dignity would significantly depend on the nature and type of Government policies put in place to jump-

“ IN THE US, A SUM OF \$300-\$400 IS BEING GIVEN WEEKLY TO THE UNEMPLOYED AS AN ALLOWANCE. THEREFORE, TO ENSURE A DIGNIFIED ASSISTANCE TO THE POOR, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CAN AFFORD TO GIVE \$1 (ABOUT ₹75) A DAY TO EACH POOR PERSON. IF WE GIVE ₹2,000 PER MONTH ASSISTANCE TO 12 CRORE PEOPLE (THE BOTTOM QUARTILE POPULATION IN THE URBAN ECONOMIC LADDER), IT WILL TRANSLATE TO ₹24,000 CRORE A MONTH AND ₹72,000 CRORE FOR THREE MONTHS. THIS IS CERTAINLY DOABLE



start economies of cities. This can mostly be done by providing boosts to local businesses and small and micro-enterprises.

The challenges: A defining challenge for devising appropriate mitigating policies for the city makers is the lack of data about them both prior to and during any kind of emergency. So, preparedness and early action by the communities are essential. To benefit from any Central and State Government relief measures — both cash and non-cash — people must possess Government documents (ration card, Aadhaar card), bank account and be enrolled in different Government welfare schemes and so on.

The survey revealed that coverage of and eligibility for Government support programmes was a major concern, as evident from the possession status of various important documents by the respondents.

About 23 per cent of the respondents did not have ration cards, 32 per cent did not have zero-balance Jan Dhan bank accounts and on an average only one out of 10 respondents were covered under the Government of India's flagship public health as well as life insurance schemes — Ayushman Bharat, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima and PM Suraksha Bima Yojna.

About 65 per cent of the surveyed respondents were aware of the AarogyaSetu App and among them 62 per cent reported use of the app. Only 38 per cent respondents were aware of State WhatsApp helplines. For other apps and e-initiatives, the awareness levels of the respondents were very poor. Roughly about 20-30 per cent of the respondents were aware of State e-coupons for rations, State e-pass or other different State apps and use of these apps among them turned out to be even more pathetic.

Lack of access to smartphones and unstable internet connectivity were the major impediments in using the apps and portals.

Regarding their awareness on eligibility for Government support programmes, only 37 per cent of the respondents thought that they were eligible for benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana (having an outlay of ₹20 lakh crore for the COVID-19 response). However, only 34 per cent of the respondents could avail benefits like cash transfers and free ration under this scheme.

The solutions: In the light of the above evidence, it becomes extremely important to think of precise policy improvements to tide over the crisis. To start with, the stringent Aadhaar-requirements for accessing different schemes must be relaxed for at least the next six months. Another option could be a job assurance programme that would give needy households livelihood security during health crises.

Essentially, the COVID-19 crisis requires extremely localised and coordinated responses. So, city governments and their elected representatives should decide on vigorous delivery of basic urban services that might be the most effective in their contexts. Financially-empowered city governments with clear functional domain and adequate institutional capacity can respond rapidly and contain the outbreak of COVID-19.

It is equally important to improve and expand the coverage of the Public Distribution System (PDS). Bridging the awareness gap regarding available Government support programmes, especially the PDS, through timely and reliable information and expanding the coverage of such programmes to the needy but non-registered segments via certain temporary forms of authentication as alternatives, can be very useful.

The last Economic Survey (2019-20) spoke of "Thalinoomics", which says that a good vegetarian and non-vegetarian platter costs a minimum of ₹25 minimum and ₹40, respectively. Therefore, in order to ensure that the

poorest sections of the population are able to fulfil their dietary requirements, each identified needy person must be provided with a dollar a day (around ₹2,000 per month).

Further, for everyone to be vigilant about the spread of COVID-19, digital literacy for children belonging to poor families, and smooth transfer of digital payment of welfare schemes, poor households should be provided an Android phone either for free or at a subsidised rate through PDS shops. In addition, the private sector (under the CSR component) should come forward and provide free SIM and data coupons to Below Poverty Line households. It is the most opportune time to ensure digital literacy among the people.

In the US, \$300-\$400 are being given weekly to the unemployed as an allowance. Therefore, to ensure a dignified assistance to the poor, the Government of India can afford to give \$1 (about ₹75) a day to each poor person. If we give ₹2,000 per month assistance to 12 crore people (the bottom quartile population in the urban economic ladder), it will translate to ₹24,000 crore a month and ₹72,000 crore for three months. This is certainly doable.

Moreover, if we can give an Android phone in a graded manner to around five crore people (prioritising the elderly, women and children going to Government schools) in the cities, it would amount to around ₹30,000 crore (cost per handset around ₹6,000). Overall, this would amount to ₹100,000 crore and would be crucial as India moves into the "unlock" phase. Such provisioning is certainly doable and would just need a reorientation of the Budget 2020-21. And to this, the ₹35 lakh crore worth of forex reserves could be rightly utilised to pay for the war against COVID-19, as it would help distribute the pain similar to the Keynesian tenets during World War-II and create a better society. (The writer is Director, IMPRI)

Enlarge role of local govts in handling crisis

The lockdown exit plan will gradually give way to decentralised responsibilities to panchayats and municipalities. The sooner this shift takes place the better it will be



VN ALOK

executive orders. In fact, the subject "disaster management" is not specifically mentioned in all the three lists of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Therefore, the Parliament exercised its power to enact a law on the subject.

Other entries like "Public Order" and "Public Health" were included in the State List when the Constitution was framed. Further, consequent upon the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution in 1993, "Public Health" found place in the 11th and 12th Schedules. As a result, panchayats and municipalities have been assigned civic powers to render "public health" to citizens in their respective jurisdictions.

Rightly so, as democratic and cooperative organisations at the local level are arguably the best to render preventive and prophylactic measures like inoculation and vaccination. The

main function of these local self-governments is to make the people understand what change or innovation benefits them, why it does so and how it can be introduced. It is for the community to participate in all the activities which lead to such change or innovation.

Panchayats and municipalities were brought into the statute book to promote better living for the community with the active participation of the community. Here, the word "community" means a local society in a geographical rural or urban area, cutting across caste, religious and economic differences.

Ironically, these key institutions have not found their rightful place in the DM Act. A passing reference is made to "local authorities" under Section 41 of the DM Act. As per the section, these panchayats, municipalities and cantonment boards are

mandated to carry out "relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities" only under the "directions of the District Authority." The DM Act stipulates, under Section 25, the setting up of a "District Disaster Management Authority" under the stewardship of a District Collector/Magistrate, who is assisted by the chairperson of the district council in the capacity of co-chairperson of the district authority.

Further, Section 31 of the DM Act provides for a "plan" by the district authority in consultation with local authorities subject to approval by the State. The provision is akin to Article 243 ZD, a mandatory constitutional provision, which envisages a district planning committee (DPC) for spatial planning, infrastructure development and environmental conservation.

States have given the provision of DPC in their respective Acts but seem to be reluctant to make them

operational. As a result, the process of decentralised planning is hampered and associated capacity-development is completely denied.

On the other hand, the DM Act is unambiguous in assigning powers to Union and State Governments. Section 62 of the Act stipulates extraordinary powers to the Centre by which any authority in Union Ministries, statutory bodies and State Governments is bound to take direction from the nodal Central Ministry. In addition, a national plan is drawn up under Section 11.

At the State level, under Section 14, a State Disaster Management Authority is required under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister of the State. This authority is assisted by a State Executive Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the State. The committee prepares the State Disaster Management Plan after following the

guidelines of the National Authority and a select consultation with the district and local authorities.

Penal provisions in Chapter 10 of the DM Act pave the way for security personnel to take coercive measures against offenders. However, medical professionals are not covered under this provision. Recent incidents of stone pelting and misbehaviour with doctors and nurses compelled the Government to introduce penal provisions protecting healthcare personnel and their property against violence. For the purpose, an Ordinance was promulgated on April 22 to amend the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 in the light of the current pandemic. This could be a permanent provision to maintain the morale of the healthcare professional and discipline miscreants.

It may be observed that the pandemic till date is being controlled through centralised institutional

arrangements with remarkable cooperation of all State Governments and public servants and security forces have been enforcing the lockdown effectively. The lockdown exit plan will gradually give way to decentralised responsibilities to panchayats and municipalities. The sooner this shift takes place the better it will be.

The Government has prominently pronounced the role of local self-governments to combat COVID-19, which can only be prevented by changing human attitudes and behaviours. Local governments and the community are best placed to bring this change and inculcate social distancing on a sustainable basis. Hence, the role of local governments must be prominent, at least, in the DM Act.

(The writer is faculty, Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal)

Thousands gather across country to remember Floyd

Washington: Thousands of Americans carrying placards reading "black lives matter" and raising slogans such as "no justice, no peace" took to the streets in many US cities, demonstrating peacefully against the killing of unarmed African-American George Floyd by a white police officer in Minneapolis on May 25.



Demonstrators protest near the White House in Washington over the death of George Floyd

The 46-year-old victim, a native of Houston, was handcuffed and pinned to the ground on May 25 by a white police officer who knelt on his neck as he gasped for breath.

Floyd's death has triggered nationwide violent protests with a section of the protesters resorting to looting and rioting across the country, leaving behind a trail of destruction.

Mourners gathered in huge numbers across the country on Thursday night to remember Floyd after a private memorial service in Minneapolis.

Seeking justice for Floyd, they are demanding urgent reforms in the police and criminal justice system.

Several cities including New York, Washington DC,

Chicago and Los Angeles have reported large-scale violence and looting in the last few days.

More than 10,000 Americans have been arrested across the country for violent protests.

Protesters chant slogans as they march, with music and drum beats blaring in the back-

ground in Los Angeles. Cars were seen moving slowly along with the marchers, with many drivers and passengers holding protest signs or raising fists out of their windows to show support.

In New York, city Mayor Bill de Blasio was booed at an event.

"It will not be about words in this city. It will be about a change," he said.

Reverend Al Sharpton, who delivered the eulogy, said that the reason "why we're marching all over the world is because we were like George, we couldn't breathe. It's time for us to stand up in George's

name and say get your knee off our necks".

He also asked mourners to stand in silence for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time Floyd lay pinned to the pavement by the police officer.

"At the end of the day, my brother's gone, but the Floyd name lives on. I thank god for you all," his brother Terrence Floyd told another massive gathering in Brooklyn.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi described this as a day of great sadness.

"They are having the first service for George Floyd. It is a national day of mourning, I see, for George Floyd, and we pray for his family and pray for healing for our country," she told reporters at the US Capitol.

With placards reading "black lives matter", protesters chanted "no justice, no peace."

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison on Thursday announced to elevate charges against the former Minneapolis police officer who killed Floyd while adding the charges of aiding and abetting murder against the other three officers at the scene. **PTI**

Floyd case restokes anger over French custody death

Paris: Churning US protests over the death of George Floyd have revived anger in France over police violence, systemic racism and the complicated case of Adama Traore, a black Frenchman who died in police custody in July 2016.

For Traore's family, the Floyd protests have also revived their hopes for change.

"During the coronavirus, people had a pause in their lives. They filmed scenes of police violence and they realized they

were living in a country where there is violence every day against people of color," his sister, Assa Traore, said.

Over 20,000 people flouted a police ban and protested vociferously Tuesday in Paris to call for justice for both Traore and Floyd, and similar protests are planned around France this weekend. "As long as police aren't convicted, we will keep coming out in the streets," Traore's sister told The Associated Press. **AP**

California mayor resigns over email about police killings

Temecula (US): The mayor of a Southern California city resigned following an email in which he stated he didn't "believe there's ever been a good person of color killed by a police officer" locally.

Temecula Mayor James Stewart had apologised Thursday for the email, saying he never meant to use the word "good." He had said he is dyslexic and so used voice text to send his late-night Tuesday message but failed to notice the added word.

"Unfortunately I did not take the time to proofread what was recorded. I absolutely did not say that," Stewart told the Riverside Press-Enterprise on Thursday.

"What I said is and I don't believe there has ever been a person of color murdered by police, on context to Temecula or Riverside County. I absolutely did not say 'good.' I have no idea how that popped up."

Stewart said he was replying to someone "concerned about our police officers and their sensitivity training." **AP**

TWITTER DISABLES TRUMP CAMPAIGN'S GEORGE FLOYD VIDEO TRIBUTE

Washington: Twitter has blocked a Trump campaign video tribute to George Floyd over a copyright claim, in a move that adds to tensions between the social media platform and the US president, one of its most widely followed users.

The company put a label on a video posted by the @TeamTrump account that said, "This media has been disabled in response to a claim by the copyright owner."

The video was still up on President Donald Trump's YouTube channel and includes pictures of Floyd, whose death

sparked widespread protests, at the start.

"Per our copyright policy, we respond to valid copyright complaints sent to us by a copyright owner or their authorized representatives," Twitter said in a statement. It did not say who made the complaint.

The three minute and 45 second clip is a montage of photos and videos of peaceful marches and police officers hugging protesters interspersed with some scenes of burning buildings and vandalism, set to gentle piano music and Trump speaking. **AP**

US airstrikes hit Taliban; 10 Afghan cops killed in ambush

Kabul: US forces carried out two sets of airstrikes against the Taliban, in western and southern Afghanistan, a US Military spokesman said on Friday.

Elsewhere in the south, the Taliban set off a roadside bomb and ambushed a police convoy, killing 10 Afghan policemen.

The US strikes against the Taliban were the first following a brief cease-fire declared by the insurgents for a major Muslim holiday last month.

A US military spokesman, Colonel Sonny Leggett, said one set of airstrikes took place on Friday afternoon in western Farah province, targeting 25 Taliban fighters who were attacking Afghan forces.

Hours earlier, on Thursday night, the US air forces struck an unknown number of Taliban in southern Kandahar province, he said. There was no

immediate comment from the Taliban.

Since the signing of the US-Taliban peace agreement at the end of February, US forces have only once before announced a strike against the Taliban, in defence of Afghan forces. Leggett did not elaborate on the latest airstrikes or their targets.

However, an Afghan government official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to talk to the media, said three senior Taliban commanders and at least 13 other fighters were killed in the Farah airstrikes.

Meanwhile, Afghan officials in southern Zabul province said the Taliban there ambushed an Afghan police

convoy after setting off a roadside bomb on Friday, killing 10 policemen. **AP**

White House calls on China to honour Tiananmen Square massacre victims

Washington: The White House has called on China to provide a full accounting of those who were killed, detained or remain missing in connection with events surrounding the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

"The Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) slaughter of unarmed Chinese civilians was a tragedy that will not be forgotten," White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said in a statement on Thursday, joining the global condemnation of the massacre.

The American people reflect on the courage and optimism of the hundreds of thousands of Chinese citizens who gathered peacefully 31 years ago in Beijing and throughout China to protest widespread official corruption and demand a greater say in the governance of their country, she said. **PTI**

German bomb experts to defuse WWII-era bomb in Frankfurt

Frankfurt: German police and firefighters are clearing a section of Frankfurt around the convention center to defuse a World War II-era bomb that was discovered during recent construction work.

Authorities say some 2,700 people are being asked to leave their homes as they cordon off the area as a precaution to defuse the 500-kilogram (1,100-pound) bomb. Buses and trains through the area were also shut down and bomb experts were expected to get to work on the bomb about noon Friday.

They say they hope the work will be finished by around dinnertime. Even 75 years after the end of the war, such finds are still relatively common in Germany. **AP**

Gunmen Kill 21 in fresh Northwest Nigeria Attacks, say police

AFP ■ KANO, NIGERIA

Armed gangs have killed 21 people in the latest bloody assaults on villages in restive northwest Nigeria, police said.

Assailants trying to steal cattle shot dead 15 people in clashes with local residents in six remote communities of Zamfara state on Tuesday, regional police spokesman Mohammed Shehu.

The gunmen — dubbed "bandits" by the authorities — returned the next day and shot dead six mourners at funerals for the earlier victims, the statement released Thursday said.

Nigeria's northeast has been wracked by years of violence, involving clashes between rival communities over land, attacks by heavily armed gangs and retaliation strikes from vigilante groups.

EU, UK still at loggerheads in post-Brexit negotiations

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Another round of trade discussions between the European Union and the UK ended Friday — and once again there were no signs of real progress ahead of a looming deadline on whether a transition arrangement can be extended.

Following four days of video discussions because of the coronavirus pandemic, the two sides remained at loggerheads on a number of issues, including on regulations for businesses. Their positions on fisheries also remain distant, with the UK adamantly

opposed to EU demands for long-term access to British waters.

"The truth is there was no significant progress this week," the EU chief negotiator Michel Barnier said during a press conference.

The UK left the political institutions of the EU on January 31 but remains inside the EU's tariff-free economic zone until the end of the year. That so-called transition period can be extended by two years but a request to do so has to be made by July 1. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has repeatedly said he won't ask for an extension.

Around the Globe

Kathmandu: Nepal reported 278 new COVID-19 cases on Friday, taking the total number of infections in the country to 2,912. The coronavirus has spread to 68 of the 77 districts in the country, the ministry of health and population said.

Berlin: German authorities say a Catholic priest who came into contact with many people during church services in several cities has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. The dpa news agency reported Friday that health authorities in the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania said the priest was involved in services in Demmin, Stralsund and Grimmen, among other places.

London: British Airways is considering legal action against the U.K. Government's plans to force anyone arriving into the country to quarantine themselves for 14 days in order to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

London: Britain's official human rights watchdog is to mount an inquiry into the racial inequalities exposed by the coronavirus pandemic. The Equality and Human Rights Commission said it was a "once in a generation" opportunity to tackle deep-seated inequalities and create a fairer country.

NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed through this notice that **Dr. Attam's Nursing Home** situated at 19 Bhera Enclave, New Delhi-110087 is going to destroy its Medical admission records from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017, as per record destruction rule, if any body is interested in obtaining the records of this period. Please contact the Nursing Home within 7 days of appearance of this notice. After that administration will not be responsible for the records.

Thanks Hospital Manager

Pak reports record 4,896 new cases, tally reaches 89,249

Islamabad: Pakistan on Friday registered a record spike of 4,896 new coronavirus cases, taking the total tally to 89,249, even as Prime Minister Imran Khan asserted that over 175,000 volunteers have helped to enforce the official guidelines to contain the spread of the deadly virus in the country.

The Ministry of National Health Service said 68 coronavirus patients died in the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 1,838. Friday was the third consecutive day when a record number of COVID-19 cases were reported in Pakistan after the Eid holidays and easing of lockdown restrictions at the end of May.

With 4,896 new infections, the total coronavirus tally in Pakistan now stands at 89,249, the health ministry said. **PTI**

Sindh province reported 33,536 infections, Punjab 33,144, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 11,890, Balochistan 5,582, Islamabad 3,946, Gilgit-Baltistan 852 and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir 299.

Addressing the Corona Relief Tiger Force via a special television briefing, Prime Minister Khan said over 175,000 members of the force have helped to enforce the official guidelines to contain the spread of the coronavirus in the country. A record one million volunteers have registered for the force. "They have played an important role after the lockdown was eased. More than 1,75,000 were active in Ramadan who went to different mosques to ensure compliance with the safety guidelines," he said. **PTI**

3 million jobs loss expected in Pak due to virus outbreak

Islamabad: Cash-strapped Pakistan is expected to record around 3 million jobs losses due to the coronavirus outbreak, the finance ministry told the country's Senate on Friday.

In response to Senator Mushtaq Ahmed's question on estimated damage to the economy due to the pandemic, the finance ministry said the industrial sector is likely to lose 1 million jobs and the remaining 2 million will be lost in the service sector. **PTI**

EU hopes to free borders of virus restrictions by June-end

AP ■ BRUSSELS

Europe could have its free travel zone up and running again by the end of the month, but travellers from further afield will not be allowed in before July, European Union Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson said Friday after talks among the bloc's interior ministers.

Panicked by the coronavirus outbreak in Italy in February, countries in the 26-nation Schengen area — where people and goods move freely without checks — imposed border restrictions without consulting their neighbours to try to keep the disease out. The moves caused traffic jams and blocked medical equipment.

Free movement is a jewel in Europe's crown which helps

business flourish, and many European officials feared that the very future of the Schengen area was at threat from the restrictions. These added to pressures already caused by the arrival in Europe of well over 1 million migrants in 2015.

"I personally believe that we will return to a full functioning of the Schengen area and freedom of movement of citizens no later than the end of the month of June," Johansson told reporters after the video-conference meeting.

She said Europe's Centre for Disease Prevention and Control believes that confinement and other health measures are working. The center says that more than 168,000 people have been killed by the coronavirus in Europe, mostly in Britain, Italy, France and Spain.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one female **Namely: Rehana Khatun, D/o Mohd. Rabbani, R/o: H.No. 3098, Street Sushila, Turkman Gate, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped from her house since **31.05.2020** at 3:00 pm. from her house from the area of P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi In this regard a case vide **DD No. 25A, dated 01.06.2020** has been registered at P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped female is as under: **Age: 23 years, Height: 4'5", Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Built: Normal, Wearing: Black colour suit-salwar, black-white colour dupatta and grey colour shoes in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following. **Website: http://cbi.nic.in**
E-mail id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi**
DP/141/CD/2020 **Ph.: 011- 23279338, 8750870423**

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2020RSI1741TC New Delhi, dated 01.06.2020
E-TENDER NO. 2020RSI174TC

Executive Director, Railway Stores (Steel), Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), Government of India, invites e-Tender for procurement of **36,000 Nos.** Upgraded High Tensile CBC Freight Stock for Indian Railways to RDSO specification No. WD-70-BD-10/Rev.02) with latest revision, if any.

2.0 The interested suppliers are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.
3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.
5.0 Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 15.07.2020.

Director, Railway Stores (Wagon), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India

1230A/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride

ZONAL CONTRACT FOR ZONE 8

Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Metro Rail Bhavan, 33/1, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700071 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Tender Notice for e-tendering for the following work:

Name of work : Zone No. 8, i.e., Zonal Contract for arresting seepage on track bed, treatment of expansion/construction joints of RTS Box/Elevated Structures/Circular Tunnel/Stations/Ventilation Shaft, box walls, floors, mezzanine & ceilings by grouting with cement admixed with non-shrinkable water proofing compound and with cementitious grout on both UP & DN track including pit lines and ballastless track from Noapara Car Depot Complex (In.) to Kavi Subhas Car Depot Complex (In.) i.e., upto Km. 25/11 of Metro Railway, Kolkata **Tender Value : ₹ 4,19,98,030.90 (approx.). Cost of Tender Document : ₹ 10,000/- Earnest Money : ₹ 3,60,000/- Completion Period :** The contract shall be in force for a period of two years starting from 01.07.2020. **Date of Closing :** 26.06.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://ireps.gov.in). The bidding for the tender is to be submitted only through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer, if received, shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: CIVIL-2329-2020-Recall (Open)

FASTER SAFER SMOOTHER CLEANER

Beijing further relaxes curbs, Wuhan clears all patients

Beijing/Wuhan: Beijing on Friday decided to lower its COVID-19 emergency response, marking the return of normalcy in China's capital following the coronavirus outbreak, while the central city of Wuhan, the origin point of the pandemic, cleared all its confirmed cases.

Wuhan recorded zero cases of the virus following testing of 10 million people.

Beijing city will lower its emergency response to the novel coronavirus epidemic from the second level to the third level starting Saturday, a local official announced on Friday.

On May 17, the Beijing Centre for Disease Prevention and Control said it was not necessary to wear masks. **PTI**

B'deshi courts freeing child suspects due to virus risk

AP ■ DHAKA

Authorities in Bangladesh have been releasing hundreds of children suspected of committing mostly petty crimes as they try to keep the coronavirus from spreading in overcrowded detention centers, officials said Friday.

The orders for their release on bail came from virtual courts set up by the country's Supreme Court with the help of UNICEF, officials said.

About 400 children have been granted bail in recent weeks and more than 300 of them have already been reunited with their families, said Natalie McCauley, chief of child protection at UNICEF in Bangladesh. She said the decision came as public health experts said children living in the country's detention centers

face a higher risk of getting infected, mainly because of overcrowding and poor conditions.

Bangladesh has a protracted system of delivering justice, with some cases for petty crimes taking years to conclude. According to UNICEF, some 23,000 cases involving children under 18 are currently pending with courts across the country.

Saifur Rahman, a special officer of the Supreme Court and additional district judge who is involved with the release program, said the program was crucial as with inadequate staff and utilities in detention centers, it was extremely difficult to minimize the risk of infection from COVID-19.

"In all fairness, maintaining social and physical dis-

tancing is next to impossible in such a situation," he said. Mohammed Rakib, 15, was accused of beating a man in Dhaka nearly two months ago. A judge from a regular court denied him bail and he was eventually sent to an overcrowded detention center just outside Dhaka that UNICEF says houses nearly 700 children even though it has the capacity for about 300.

Late last month he was finally granted bail through the new virtual court.

"It feels great to be freed and get united with my parents," Rakib told The Associated Press on Friday. "I am very happy. I have suffered in the jail a lot. That's a bad place." The reunion was special for Rakib and his family as they were able to celebrate the end of Ramadan together.

Switzerland to lift travel limits on EU, UK

AP ■ BERLIN

Switzerland says it plans to lift restrictions on travel from European Union countries and Britain on June 15.

The Swiss government previously had announced that it would completely reopen the country's borders with three of its neighbours — Austria, Germany and France — in mid-June.

On Friday, a government statement said "in view of the current epidemiological situation" it can now expand that to all countries in the EU and the European Free Trade Association, as well as Britain.

Switzerland is not a member of the EU but is part of Europe's usually passport check-free Schengen travel area.

Markets resume rally as bank stocks spurt

LOG WEEKLY GAINS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices resumed their upward march on Friday as investors piled into banking and infrastructure stocks amid robust foreign fund inflows and a firm trend in global markets.

Reversing the previous session's decline, the BSE Sensex zoomed 306.54 points or 0.90 per cent to end at a three-month high of 34,287.24.

The broader NSE Nifty rose 113.05 points or 1.13 per cent to 10,142.15.

State Bank of India (SBI) was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 7.90 per cent, after the country's largest lender reported an over four-fold jump in standalone net profit for the March quarter at ₹3,580.81 crore.

Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, NTPC, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank also ended with gains of up to 6 per cent. On the other hand, TCS, HUL, Bajaj Auto and Infosys were among the laggards, skidding up to 2.19 per cent.

Reliance Industries (RIL) succumbed to profit-booking, ending flat after touching its one-year high in intra-day trade. Continuing its deal-



making streak, the company announced sale of 1.85 per cent stake in its digital unit Jio Platforms to Abu Dhabi-based sovereign investor Mubadala for ₹9,093.60 crore.

During the week, Sensex surged 1,863.14 points or 5.74 per cent, while Nifty advanced 561.85 points or 5.86 per cent. According to traders, besides stock-specific action, persistent foreign fund inflows and positive cues from global markets led to bullish sentiment here.

On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors bought equities worth ₹2,905.04 crore on Thursday, provisional exchange data showed. "The current week has been a good one for

SBI records historic profit in FY20 on stake sale in subsidiaries

Q4 net jumps over 4-fold

PTI ■ MUMBAI

State Bank of India on Friday registered its highest ever yearly profit in 2019-20 and logged a four-fold rise in March quarter profit at ₹3,581 crore as one-time gains from stake sale in subsidiaries and decline in bad loans bolstered the country's largest lender.

The bank reported a stand-alone profit after tax of ₹838 crore in January-March, 2019-20, according to a regulatory filing. For 2019-20, the bank reported its highest ever yearly profit of ₹14,488 crore as against ₹862 crore in the previous year. SBI said exceptional items during 2019-20 included net profit of ₹3,484.30 crore on sale of certain portion of investment in subsidiary SBI Life Insurance in the second quarter and net profit of ₹2,731.34 crore on sale of some stake in SBI Cards and Payment Services in March quarter.

"Despite not so easy circumstances even before COVID-19, the bank has declared a record profit of ₹14,488 crore in FY20, which is the highest ever profit for SBI in its history. We have consistently been able to improve our

asset quality as well as the provision coverage ratio quarter after quarter," bank's chairman Rajnish Kumar told reporters.

Close to 21 per cent of the bank's retail borrowers have availed the three-month moratorium announced by the RBI. Kumar said in spite of the bank extending the moratorium to all its customers, nearly 82 per cent have paid two or more instalments and about 92 per cent have paid one or more instalments during March to May. The central bank had initially allowed banks to offer moratorium on repayment of term loans till May 31 but later extended it for another three months. "The three-month period has just started but my feeling is that our numbers would not be significantly different than what they were in the first three months. It may even improve (in June-August period) as we exit the lockdown," Kumar said. He said the bank has extended the standstill benefit, in terms of asset classification, to accounts with an outstanding loan of ₹6,200 crore. It has made a provision of 15% aggregating ₹938 crore on these loans. Domestic net interest margin (NIM) stood at 2.94 per cent in January-March, 2019-20 as compared to 3.02% in the year-ago period.

Freeze Govt employees' salaries to cut public debt: IMF to Pak

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

The IMF has asked cash-strapped Pakistan to freeze salaries of Government employees and adhere to the fiscal consolidation path by showing a nominal primary deficit in the new budget due to the unsustainable public debt that is set to hit 90 per cent of the total value of the national economy.

Pakistan is finding it hard to concede to the two demands but the IMF is insisting that the country should continue to follow the fiscal consolidation path due to the high and unsustainable public debt, the Express Tribune reported on Friday.

Owing to the prevailing tight fiscal situation, growing public debt and Pakistan's decision to seek debt relief from G-20 countries.

The International Monetary Fund has asked Islamabad to freeze salaries of Government employees, the daily reported, citing sources in the Ministry of Finance.

However, the Government is resisting the demand due to high inflation that has eroded people's real income. Nonetheless, it is inclined to abolish over 67,000 posts that have remained vacant for over one year and is also ready to further squeeze current expenditures including a ban on purchase of vehicles.

The IMF's key demand, which was also the reason for seeking to freeze the salaries, was that the government should announce a primary budget deficit target - total deficit excluding interest payments - of only ₹184 billion or 0.4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Pakistan has its own reasons for resisting the IMF's demands as it does not see a significant jump in revenue collection in the next fiscal year due to the prevailing economic conditions.

The Government is also inclined to give a raise in salaries due to high inflation that has eroded the real income of people, the daily reported.

Discoms' debt to hit ₹4.5 lakh crore by FY21: CRISIL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Power distribution utilities' debt will hit an all-time high of ₹4.5 lakh crore by the end of the ongoing financial year, CRISIL Ratings said on Friday.

The liquidity package of ₹90,000 crore announced by the Government last month offers a breather, but structural reforms have become critical to sustainability of discoms, the rating agency said in a statement. The package will help state power distribution companies (discoms) settle a significant portion of their overdue bills to generating companies, it said.

However, it noted that with power demand weak and cash losses high amid the COVID-19 pandemic, discoms would end up owing lenders a staggering ₹4.5 lakh crore by the end of 2020-21, or 30 per cent more than that in the last fiscal. Such a material increase in debt would deteriorate the credit profiles of discoms and make structural reforms critical to their sustainability, a study of 34 State discoms (from 15 states), which account for over 80% of India's power demand, shows, CRISIL stated. According to it, presently, only one in five discoms is capable of servicing debt through own cash flows and budgeted subsidies. The scenario would worsen this fiscal because of weak demand for power.

Reliance strikes 6th deal Sells 1.85% in Jio Platforms for ₹9,093.60 crore to Abu Dhabi's Mubadala

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries on Friday announced the sale of 1.85 per cent stake in its digital unit to Abu Dhabi-based sovereign investor Mubadala for ₹9,093.60 crore, the sixth deal in as many weeks that will inject a combined ₹87,655.35 crore in the oil-to-telecom conglomerate to help it pare debt.

"Mubadala Investment Company (Mubadala), will invest ₹9,093.60 crore in Jio Platforms at an equity value of ₹4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of ₹15.16 lakh crore," the company said in a statement. With this investment, Jio Platforms has raised ₹87,655.35 crore from leading global technology and growth investors including Facebook, Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners, General Atlantic, KKR and Mubadala in less than six weeks.

Facebook picked up 9.99 per cent stake in the firm that houses India's youngest but largest telecom firm on April 22 for ₹43,574 crore. Within days of that deal, Silver Lake - the world's largest tech investor - bought a 1.15 per cent stake in Jio Platforms for ₹5,665.75 crore.

On May 8, US-based Vista Equity Partners bought 2.32 per cent stake in Jio Platforms for ₹11,367 crore. On May 17, global equity firm General

Atlantic picked up 1.34 per cent stake in Jio Platforms for ₹6,598.38 crore.

This was followed by US private equity giant KKR buying 2.32 per cent for ₹11,367 crore. Jio Platforms, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd, is a next-generation technology company. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, with 388 million mobile subscribers, will continue to be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Jio Platforms.

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries, said Mubadala is one of the most astute and transformational global growth investors. "Through my longstanding ties with Abu Dhabi, I have personally seen the impact of Mubadala's work in diversifying and globally connecting the UAE's knowledge-based economy.

We look forward to benefiting from Mubadala's experience and insights from supporting growth journeys across the world," he said. Khaldoon Al Mubarak, Managing Director and Group CEO, Mubadala Investment Company, said: "We are committed to investing in, and actively working with, high growth companies which are pioneering technologies to address critical challenges and unlock new opportunities."

India's forex reserves surge to all-time high of \$493.48 billion

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The country's foreign exchange reserves surged \$3.43 billion to a fresh all-time high of \$493.48 billion for the week ended May 29 on a handsome accretion of the core currency assets, the RBI said. The reserves, which are counted as a key strength as the country faces the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, had risen by \$3 billion to an all-time high of USD 490.044 billion in the previous week. During the week ended May 29, foreign currency assets, a major component of the overall reserves, increased by \$3.50 billion to \$455.21 billion, data from the RBI showed.

US unemployment drops unexpectedly to a still-high 13.3%

AP ■ WASHINGTON

US unemployment dropped unexpectedly in May to 13.3 per cent as reopened businesses began recalling millions of workers faster than economists had predicted, triggering a rally on Friday on Wall Street and giving President Donald Trump something to boast about amid his reelection bid.

The jobless rate is still on par with what the nation witnessed during the Great Depression. And for the second straight month, the Labor Department acknowledged making errors in counting the unemployed during the coronavirus outbreak, saying the real figure is even worse than the numbers indicate.

Still, after weeks of dire predictions by economists that unemployment in May could hit 20% or more, the news that the economy added a surprising 2.5 million jobs last month was seen as evidence that the collapse may have bottomed out in April at 14.7% and that a recovery is well underway as states loosen their lockdowns and let stores, restaurants, gyms and other businesses reopen.

"We are witnessing the easiest phase of growth as people come off temporary layoffs and come back to their employers," said Harvard University economist Jason Furman, who led the White House Council of Economic Advisers during the Obama presidency. "And once employers are done recalling people, the much harder, longer work of recovery will have to proceed."

Most economists had

expected rehiring to kick in as shutdowns were increasingly lifted and people gradually resumed shopping and eating out.

"The surprising thing here is the timing and that it happened as quickly as it did," said Adam Kamins, senior regional economist at Moody's Analytics.

On Wall Street, the S&P 500 was up 2.6% around midday on the news.

An exultant Trump seized on the report as evidence that the economy is going to come back from the coronavirus crisis like a "rocket ship."

"This shows that what we've been doing is right," said the president, who has pushed governors aggressively to reopen their economies amid warnings from public health officials that the country is risking a second wave of infections on top of the one that has killed over 100,000 Americans.

Still, the job market is in such a deep hole that it could take years to dig out, economists say. Most are forecasting unemployment in the high single-digits or low double-digits by the end of this year.

Economists had expected the government to report that employers shed 8.5 million more jobs in May on top of the 21.4 million loss in March and April.

Instead, nearly all industries added jobs, a sharp reversal from April, when almost all cut them. Hotels and restaurants added 1.2 million jobs in May, after shedding 7.5 million. Retailers gained 368,000, after losing nearly 2.3 million in the previous month.

World stock markets rise on US jobs data

Washington: Global markets rose on Friday and Wall Street futures as investors awaited the US jobs report for May, which is expected to show another surge in unemployment in the world's largest economy.

Germany's DAX gained 1.7 per cent to 12,643 and the CAC 40 in Paris added 1.9 per cent to 5,108. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 1.3 per cent to 6,421. Futures for the Dow were up 1.3 per cent while those for the S&P 500 were 0.8 per cent higher. Economists expect the Labor Department's monthly jobs report for May to show employers slashed 8.5 million jobs last month, down from 20.5 million in April. That would push the unemployment rate to nearly 20 per cent from about 15 per cent.

GST Council to meet on June 12

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The GST Council is scheduled to meet on June 12 and likely to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tax revenues, sources said.

The 40th meeting of the GST Council, headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state counterparts, will be held via video conferencing. The meeting would discuss the impact of the pandemic on revenues of the Centre and states and ways to bridge the revenue gap, sources said. Faced with dismal collection and extended deadline for filing returns, the Government has refrained from releasing the monthly GST revenue collection figures for the months of April and May.

Chittaranjan Locomotive Works observes World Environment Day

New Delhi: The World Environment Day was observed in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW).

In view of prevailing Covid-19 situation, e-posters & e-presentation on "Celebrate Biodiversity" theme are prepared for raising awareness amongst the CLW employees and family members.

No gathering, community programmes are organised. CLW employees and their family members are informed to save our mother earth and join in large numbers to build it back for a better tomorrow through electronic and social media.

Works of Noapara-Bimanbender Metro extension project going on smoothly

Kolkata: During the lockdown, works of Noapara-Bimanbender Metro Extension Project have been going on smoothly. Excavation of tunnel of this Metro project has been started. Base concrete of Grade M-20 for bottom slab of the tunnel has been completed recently. Casting work of the top slab is in progress.

Two numbers of PSC Box Girders of 20-22 m span have been safely unloaded in this period with the help of a main crane of 600 MT capacity. Casting of five numbers of PSC 1 girder of 20-22 m span has been completed during the lockdown period. Social distancing, sanitization, covering faces with masks.



crane of 600 MT capacity. Casting of five numbers of PSC 1 girder of 20-22 m span has been completed during the lockdown period. Social distancing, sanitization, covering faces with masks.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-PROCUREMENT (IREPS) TENDER NOTICE NO. 03 UBL 2020 OF 29.05.2020

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-tenders for the following works:

Sr. No.	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1	Annual Repairs Contract for Walkie Talkie sets and VHF 25 Watt base stations of Kenwood make over Hubballi Division. (for a period of two years).	Rs. 4,42,314/-
2	Annual Repairs Contract for Walkie Talkie sets and VHF 25 Watt base stations of Motorola make over Hubballi Division. (for a period of two years).	Rs. 5,53,788/-
3	Sub Work-1: Londa - Vasco Da Gama & Londa - Miraj Section - Proposed rebuilding of Bridge No. 47 at Km 618/500-600. Sub Work-2: Londa - Vasco Da Gama & Londa - Miraj Section - Proposed rebuilding of Bridge No. 75 at Km 625/400-500. Sub Work-3: Londa - Vasco Da Gama & Londa - Miraj Section - Proposed rebuilding of Bridge No. 122 at Km 38/200-300. Sub Work-4: Londa - Vasco Da Gama & Londa - Miraj Section - Proposed rebuilding of Bridge No. 188 at Km 59/300-400. Sub Work-5: Londa - Miraj Section - Proposed construction of LHS in lieu of LC No. 411 at Km 639/900-900 between Suladhah - Pachhapur stations. Sub Work-6: Londa - Miraj Section - Proposed construction of LHS in lieu of LC No. 458 at Km 734/400-500. Sub Work-7: Londa - Miraj Section - Proposed construction of LHS in lieu of LC No. 451 at Km 725/200-300 (Telecom Portion). Sub Work-8: Londa - Miraj Section - Proposed construction of LHS in lieu of LC No. 441 at Km 702/3-4 between Raybag - Chinchli stations (Telecom Portion).	Rs. 48,39,786/-
4	Sub Work-1: Shifting of Signal cable in connection with "Rebuilding of bridge No. 55 at Km 620/400-500 between Sambre - Sulehavi section. Sub Work-2: Proposed rebuilding of bridge by insertion of new precast RCC boxes (2x2 m) by cut and cover method for Br. No. 58 at Km 621/200-300 between Sambre - Sulehavi stations. Sub Work-3: Proposed rebuilding of bridge by insertion of new precast RCC boxes (2x1.8 m) by cut and cover method for Br. No. 93 at Km 635/400-500 between Sambre - Suladhah station. (Telecom portion). Sub Work-4: Shifting of Signal cable in connection with "Rebuilding of bridge No. 104 at Km 645/600-700 between Pachchapur - Suladhah section". Sub Work-5: Proposed rebuilding of bridge by insertion of new precast RCC boxes (3x2 m) by cut and cover method for Br. No. 228 at Km 80/00-100 between Chancar - Madgaon stations.	Rs. 8,93,667/-
5	Annual Maintenance Contract for Diesel Generator sets of different capacities of acoustic type of Mrs. Eicher Make (12 Nos of DG set for 02 Years and 08 Nos of DG sets for 1 1/2 years (Total-20 Nos).	Rs. 7,26,839/-

Last Date of submission of bids: Up to 11:00 hrs of 29.06.2020
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager
(Signal & Telecommunication), Hubballi
PUB/63/AAL/PRB/SWR/2020-21

WESTERN RAILWAY (CONSTRUCTION)
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy Chief Engineer (Construction) I, Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara - 390 004, invites E-tenders as per the details given below:-

Sr. No.	E-Tender No.	Name of the work	Approximately cost work (₹)	Earnest Money to be deposited (₹)	Availability of online Tender for bidding
1	Dy.CE/CI/ BRC/CTD-Dhar/109R	Construction of Subway at Motilsadali & Padaliya Station in connection with CTD-DHAR New Line project	9756829.36	637800.00	From 26.05.2020 at 15.00 hrs to 09.06.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs
2	Dy.CE/CI/ BRC/CTD-Dhar/112	Maintenance of Broad gauge track laid with 60/52 kg rails on PSC sleepers including points and crossing between Alirajpur to Khandala Stations (including yard) in connection with new line project between Chhotaudepur to Dhar	1641416.16	32900.00	04.06.2020 at 15.00 Hrs to 18.06.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs
	Dy.CE/CI/ BRC/502	Housekeeping of Officer Rest Houses under Dy.CE(C) I BRC's Jurisdiction and office of Dy.CE(C)H along with sub ordinates offices of SSE (W) and (P) Ward under Dy.CE (C) I BRC for the period 24 (Twenty Four) months	1905480.00	38200.00	
3	Dy.CE/CI/ BRC/KB-CDD-37	Fabrication & Fixing of 60/52 kg. in situ glued joints on Gauge Conversation, New line & Railway Electrification Project of Vadodara Division of Western Railway under jurisdiction of Dy.CE(C)/BRC's unit	27390890.58	287000.00	From 03.06.2020 at 15.00 Hrs to 17.06.2020 upto 15.00 Hrs

Note:- 1) Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, Similarly Nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in; 2) Opening of price Bid will be advised later on, after Technical suitability of the Bidders Manual offers will not be considered.

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

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM/ADDENDUM

In Tender No. 558-Sig/16M/Tender/1342 which is scheduled to be opened on 17.06.2020, following changes are made:

S.No.	Item No.	Description	As per NIT drawn	To be read as
01	02	Unit	Day	Per Km.

All other terms and condition will remain unchanged.
Tender No. 558-Sig/16M/Tender/1342 Dated 05.06.2020 1281/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Metro Railway, Kolkata
Kolkata's Pride

ZONAL CONTRACT FOR ZONE 1

Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Metro Rail Bhavan, 33/1, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700071 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Tender Notice for e-tendering for the following work:
Name of work : Zone No. 1, i.e., UP-keep of track at Noapara Car Depot Yard from Km. (-) 01/3-4 including ballastless track upto KNPAP station, upto and including Dakshineswar Station and link line from Noapara Car Depot Yard to Belghoria Station of Eastern Railway of Metro Railway, Kolkata, Up-keep of track and track bed of both UP & DN line from Km. (-) 1/3-4 to Km. 7/14 between KNPAP (Ex.) to KCEN (In.) including "Y" siding at KDMI & KGPK Stations of Metro Railway, Kolkata and Up-keep of track and track bed of both UP & DN line from Salt Lake Sector V (In.) to Phool Bagan Station (In.) including Central Park Depot and Yard of East West Metro Corridor of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value :** ₹ 7,79,01,877.41 (approx.). **Cost of Tender Document :** ₹ 10,000/-. **Earnest Money :** ₹ 5,39,600/- **Completion Period :** The contract shall be in force for a period of two years starting from 01.07.2020. **Date of Closing :** 26.06.2020 at 12.00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website www.ireps.gov.in. The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer, if received, shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2330-2020-Recall (Open)

FASTER SAFER SMOOTHER CLEANER

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
NIFT Campus, Karwar, Jodhpur - 342037, Rajasthan, India Ph. 0291-265920

E-TENDER NOTICE

NIFT, Jodhpur invites E-tenders for under mentioned various services at campus at Karwar, Jodhpur:-

1. Housekeeping Services	2. Manpower Service
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Detailed information such as E-Tender forms, pre-bid meeting, submission of tender, opening of Technical Bids & Financial Bids etc will be available in NIFT Jodhpur website www.nift.ac.in/jodhpur & <https://nifttenders.eproc.in>. The date of issue /receipt of E-tenders etc. will be valid as per the tender uploaded on website.

In future any information regarding corrigendum/addendum, extension of time etc. of above tenders would be uploaded in above mentioned website only.

Purchase Officer

मुख्यमंत्री नि:सुल्क दवा योजना

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Government of Rajasthan

"Mukhyamantri Nishulk Dava Yojana"
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur-302005, India
Phone No: 0141-2228066, 2228064 Website: <http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in>
CIN:U24232RJ2011SGC035067 E-Mail: edprmsc@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) & NOTICE INVITING BID (NIB)

NIT F.02(75)/RMSCL/PROC./N-95 Mask/NIB-07/2020/2 Dated:-05.06.2020

Name & Address of the Procuring Entity	Name: Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation (RMSCL) Document No. Address: Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005 (Rajasthan)
Officer/Incharge	ED(Procurement) & Address:RMSCL, Swasthya bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005 (Rajasthan) & Email: edprocurement@gmail.com
Subject Matter of Procurement	N-95 mask
Bid Procedure	Single-stage: two part (envelop) open competitive eBid procedure at http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in
Bid Evaluation Criteria (Selection Method)	[Least Cost Based Selection (LCBS)-L1
Websites for downloading Bidding Document, Corrigendum's, Addendums etc.	• Websites: http://sppp.raj.nic.in , http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in , http://www.rmscl.health.gov.in • Bidding document fee: Rs. 2000 (Rupees One Thousand only) in Demand Draft in favour of "Managing Director, RMSCL" payable at "Jaipur". • RSL Processing Fee: Rs.1000 (Rupees One Thousand only) in Demand Draft in favour of "Managing Director, RSL" payable at "Jaipur".
Estimated Procurement Cost	Rs 500 Lacs
Bid Security and Mode of Payment	• Amount (INR): o 2% of the estimated procurement cost (Rs.10.00 lacs) o 0.5%, for MSME of Rajasthan o 1% for Sick Industries, other than MSME, whose cases are pending with Board of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction. • Mode of Payment: Banker's Cheque or Demand Draft of a Scheduled Bank in favour of "Managing Director, RMSCL" payable at "Jaipur"
Date/Time/Place of Pre-bid Meeting	• Date/Time: 10.06.2020 at 11:00AM • Place: Meeting Hall, RMSCL, Swasthya Bhawan, Jaipur
Manner, Start/ End Date for the submission of Bids	• Manner: Online at Proc website (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) • Start Date: 08.06.2020 upto 09:00 AM • End Date: 16.06.2020 at 03:00 PM
Submission of Banker's Cheque/ Demand Draft for Tender Fee, Bid Security, and Processing Fee*	16.06.2020 at 03:00 PM
Date/Time/Place of Technical Bid Opening	• Date: 16.06.2020 • Time: 04:00 PM • Place: RMSCL

Raj.Samwadi/C20/734 Executive Director (Procurement)

SHORT CIRCUITS

AMITABH BACHCHAN

The prosthetic make-up is always an issue during hot weather. It tends to melt away the sticking glue and destroy the prosthetic. Adequate care on the sets of *Gulabo Sitabo* was taken to keep the face cool. It's a requirement. If you want to be an actor, it's important get on with it and stop complaining.



TAHIRA KASHYAP

Seeing the current situation and the world we are living in right now, it's pretty much the reflection of the causes that we have created. From not littering the streets to not destroying plants and doing some gardening and adapting glass and wood for our necessities, everyone should follow some tips in their lives to keep nature beautiful.



ANURAG KASHYAP

Casting the role of Sarita for *Choked: Paisa Bolta Hai* was a big challenge for me. It's a unique role that has to be delivered in a very organic way. She is a young housewife and mother who aspires for more than what her current basic life can provide. And her need for money alters the trajectory of her life and that of her family.



KIRTI KULHARI

Respecting nature is to know when to stop. We as humankind have been exploiting nature, this lockdown has definitely taught us that we need very minimum resources to live and I hope we all now have understood its importance. It is like a default setting in all of us. There is a lot for us to learn and to change in ourselves.

ANGELINA JOLIE

Rights don't belong to any one group to give to another. Discrimination and impunity cannot be tolerated, explained away or justified. I hope we can come together as Americans to address the deep structural wrongs in our society.



CONVERSATION 45 MINUTES

PREMIERE FLASHBACK

Conceptualised and directed by SUJOY PROSAD CHATTERJEE, an inter-disciplinary artist and actor, the docu-film *Spotlight* aims to highlight the lost charm of commercial Bengali theatre and how its revival can create a conduit for empathy and a community of support, says CHAHAK MITTAL



On a typical Sunday evening of 1990s in the then Calcutta, the streets of Hatibagan were spilling with people and there was no place to park the car. The reason was not far to be sought. The seven theatre houses surrounding the street were holding their public premieres, the tickets of which sold out quickly. The auditoriums were decorated with flower garlands and some playhouses even distributed sweets. Sujoy Prosad Chatterjee had gone to watch *Bhaalo Kharap Meye* that starred the much-acclaimed Aparna Sen in the lead. His father, "a typical South Calcutta man," always found it difficult to park his car in the rather congested theatre alley. His mother walked out of the car to speak to the box-office person and she managed to get the tickets. "How did you do that?" asked Sujoy with a surprised look. Well, she said, "Look, I am a North Calcutta-bred girl. I may not speak like your father but I do carry an artsy smile!" The three burst into a hearty laugh and together walked into the Biswarupa theatre.

Cut to today, when one takes a walk through the area, the erstwhile 'Theatre Para' or the 'Broadway of Bengal,' one is only met by the dilapidated abandoned playhouses that line the streets of North Kolkata. From the 1970s till the late 1990s, these theatres were very popular. These cultural spaces thrived on making a difference, yet held on to a unique tradition. However, their decline came by soon. Actors would be greeted by empty halls, producers started facing great losses, the funds saw crunches, the TV era had hugely set in. Later, in early 2000s, while Rangmahal (a theatre house in then Calcutta) was converted into a wedding hall, mysterious fires gutted halls like Star Theatre and consumed the remains of Biswarupa. Perhaps, the fires, ironically, meant the decline of this once-famed culture of the city.

Sujoy's docu-film *Spotlight* reflects on how moving from the big stage to the little screen, it is now more important than ever to realise the power of theatre and how it can create a conduit for empathy, be nudged towards compassion for the downtrodden, and be constituted as a community of support.



EXCERPTS:

How did you conceptualise the film?

My Montreal-based friends Abhishek Ghosh and Shyamosee Ghosh and I have been hugely interested in cultural archiving and we have been thinking of many ideas to approach this.

Meanwhile, I had also been reading *The Firebird* by Saikat Majumdar and found it quite intriguing. The book, told through the perspective of a 10-year-old boy named Ori, looks at the heydays of the commercial Bengali theatre and its subsequent death. What's interesting is that the narrative touches upon the heritage through the eyes of a boy whose mother was a part of it. I think this was primarily the muse of *Spotlight*, the docu-narrative that I have conceptualised.

What was the research work involved? How long did it take for you to complete the film?

The research and the build-up has been done by a young theatricalian, Rudrarup Mukhopadhyay. I, too, contribute often and it's been a month that we are trying to collate as much as we can. A very important part of this research is the posters, advertisements, lobby cards of the plays, which have been provided by Sounak Chacraverti, an acclaimed art curator and archivist. I am also speaking to a lot of insiders and audience for the

documentation.

What do you think was the cause of Broadway of Bengal's decline and how have you reflected that in your film?

The main cause of the decline is the paradigm shift in the pattern of entertainment. Going to the theatre for a Sunday matinee and catching the evening train back was an important practice for the audience who lived in the hinterland. People were willing to pay to watch a Sabitri Chatterjee or a Soumitra Chatterjee play within the social distance of the proscenium. The idiot box or the television began showcasing these actors with regular viewing in soaps and, of course, the whole experience of going to a playhouse became secondary, gradually.

The crunch for funds became a pertinent reason too. Theatre producers never had an organised cartel and what spelled the doom finally was the rise of multiplexes. I think the government also did nothing absolutely to preserve or support this very important part of our cultural history. Can I say that theatre was also not a "social responsibility" for corporates?

In the film, what we have reflected through the interview of contemporary theatre practitioner Sohag Sen, is the birth of an alternative theatre movement that drove the audience to the Academy of Fine Arts.

The documentary features many known thespians and actors with whom the youngsters would connect better. Do you think this will help them know the Bengali theatre's essence in a more nuanced way?

Well, I'd say, yes and no, both. Heritage doesn't require celebrity endorsements. I had requested actor Neeraj Kabi to read from *The Firebird* in the film because of his artistry and not just his stint in the reel world. But yes, if today a millennial watches the film and buys a copy of the book after hearing Neeraj, no harm is done.

Another interesting aspect is that we have the legendary Soumitra Chatterjee and theatre actress Poulami Bose reading the play, *Neelkantho*, that ran to packed houses in Rangmahal.

We also have Ratna Ghoshal reading from *Nohobot*, which ran for 1,600 nights in Tapan Theatre. She had essayed the central character Keya, in the play, directed by the veteran Satya Bandopadhyay.

I think today's generation of young actors can also look forward to thespian Bratya Basu, who has done the prologue for the film. We have actually used a clipping from his popular play, *Awdoyo Shesh Rajani*, based on the life and times of Ashim Chakraborty. His play, *Barbodhu* is a pivotal point in the history of the Broadway of Bengal. Daminee Benny Basu also sings the closing song from the play.

Given today's scenario, what do you think is the future of theatres since social distancing and self-quarantine are here to stay for some time now?

I have been myself a part of an online play, *Lockdown Diaries*, directed by Souptic Chakraborty and will soon be acting in its sequel called *Unlocked Diaries*, which will be streamed online on June 14.

The first edition turned out to be hugely successful and that's why the sequel was planned. Yes, we have to think of digital productions keeping in mind the pandemic but the struggle for the other people in theatre fraternity still remains unsorted.

Many light designers have resorted to selling vegetables and casual workers are looking for alternative professions to earn their livelihood. The future looks bleak unless we move into the intimate

format completely with select audience.

How do you think theatre will be able to fight the current pandemic because such places might be shut for a long time?

I sincerely pray and hope that theatres open, maintaining the safety protocol and the sanitisation. It's too early to say that the future belongs to the digital space completely. Yes, it can be explored as an interim option but how can one experience the illusions of darkness and light on the stage on the internet? The third bell pumps up an actor's adrenaline and the applause from a live audience is a moment that can never be replaced by 2,000 likes and 100 comments.

Many world theatres have now brought the stage home for people through online shows. Do you think Broadway of Bengal might have the chance to revive itself digitally now?

The Broadway cannot be enlivened digitally. One can talk about it and even share videos of legends. I would like to mention here that Theatre Sansriti, led by Debesh Chattopadhyay, is doing some phenomenal archive work by sharing documentaries on Bengali theatre legends like Ramaprasad Banik, Tripti Mitra, Utpal Dutta, Asit Mukhopadhyay and the likes, who were essentially a part of the alternative theatre movement that the intelligentsia adhered to. There's practically nothing on the Broadway.

You had earlier mentioned that you have experienced a large part of this Broadway and have a trove of memories. Could you share some of your personal anecdotes associated with the theatres in Bengal?

Oh yes! My maternal home was in the northern fringes of Calcutta, precisely Beadon Street. This was very close to the theatre district. I remember the huge cut-outs of characters from plays like *Asleel*, *Bibor*, *Kone Bibhrat* and many others right at the junction of the street. My maternal grandmother had a deep interest in plays and she used to organise complimentary passes for us to watch the premieres.

(The film will release on Youtube by the channel, GhoshCompany.)

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES

Believable moments

Actors BRANDON ROUTH and KATE BOSWORTH share their experiences from the sets of *Superman Returns*.
By TEAM VIVA



you put on the harness, the body suit and the costume over that, you feel restricted in a lot of ways. But when you're hooked up and actually doing those flying scenes, it's all so worth it.

Did you research as to how the character has been portrayed in the past?

Kate: I actually made a very conscious decision not to watch past performances before I played her. I had seen the 1978 version when I was six or seven, so it was years ago. I remember the magic of that, the essence of Lois but the character was so different in the scripts given to me. That was Bryan's vision and I thought that it was interesting. I really wanted the audience to feel that she's changed.

How was your experience working with Brandon?

Kate: Brandon is one of the kindest and loveliest people you will ever meet. He does have the quality of being a Superman. He has that pure look in his eyes and carries the kindness in his heart. People might underestimate his ability but I think it's one of the hardest roles to play because it can be so easily overdone. He played it with much confidence and subtlety.
(Watch the film on June 7 at 9 pm on Sony PIX.)

What was it playing Lois Lane?

Kate Bosworth: My favourite thing about her was that she appears to be such a modern-day woman, no matter which era she's been depicted in. I love that she is respected by so many different people and is attractive to men because of her intelligence. She is feisty and passionate. What I enjoyed the most about playing this role was that she does seem so different than the past performances. Lois has a son and a fiancé. Her heart is broken by Superman, so she has got more battle wounds. She feels a little more grown up now.

What was it like being rigged up to fly?

Kate: Initially, it was a pretty awkward experience. To be honest I'm kind of claustrophobic. So when

What was it like working with Bryan Singer? How is he as a director?

Brandon: He is great personality. Bryan has an amazing ability to be creative on the spot. He is open to changing the shot or a line, if he feels it is not working. There were some discrepancies because it was a huge script and

sometimes things didn't quite translate well, so we were able to change those. It was great of him for communicating that with me. He was so passionate about the characters in the script and knew he had an opinion. He could give me his views and I had mine so it helped.

What was the best thing about your character in *Superman Returns*?

Brandon Routh: The best thing was that I get to play 'Superman'. It was fun to portray this character, who has so much history. The character had many layers to it. Sometimes when I meet kids or even grownups for that matter, who have seen me in the suit, they seem nervous while shaking hands. Kids barely can look at you because, you are The Superman, who saves the world from falling apart. It feels amazing to be people's favourite.

How did you manage to bring out the differences between Superman and Clark Kent?

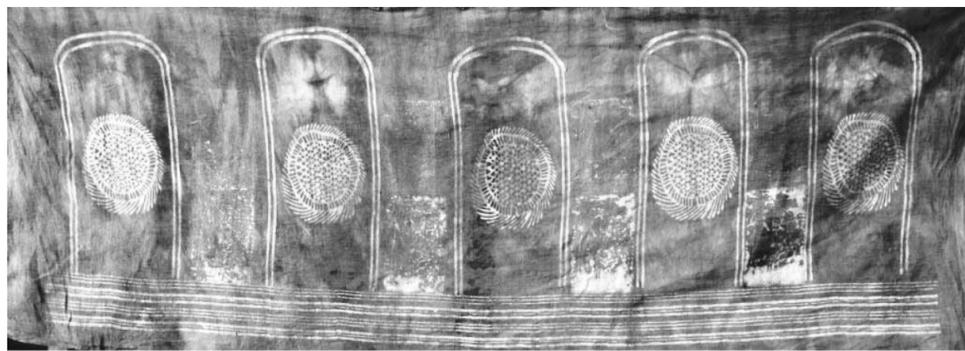
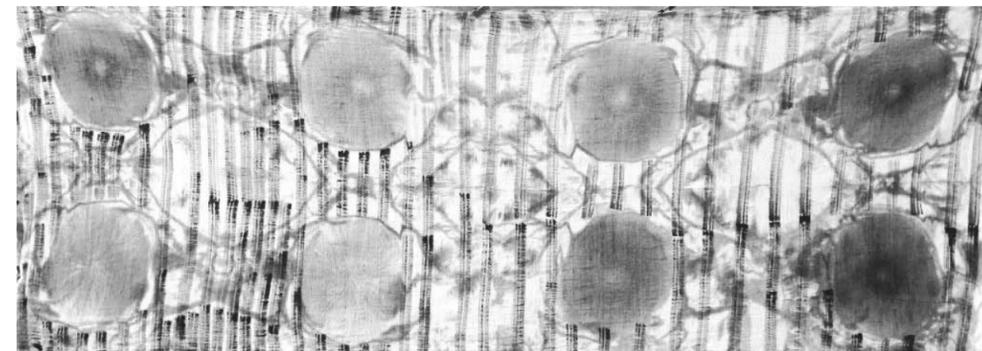
Brandon: Well, as you know, they're the same person but they serve different purpose. We first made a difference between the two physically. We had Superman move very gracefully, kingly and have a great presence. And as for Clark, some people would describe him bumbling. He is just very excited to be around and talk to Lois because this is the only way Superman talks to anybody, through Clark. He is the social face for Superman. So that's the difference I guess, one is calm and other one is very excited. And playing two characters in a single film

was a similar experience as playing two different characters in two films.

How did you prepare for the role?

Brandon: We did a lot of preparation including physical weight training and putting on muscles. I worked with a movement coach, moving the two characters differently and how to make flying look cool. We also indulged in a lot of conversation with Bryan about the story, plot points, the motions involved in the film, imag-

ARTS&CULTURE 45 MINUTES



PAST GLORY OFFERS HOPE

Artist, poet and filmmaker SANGEETA GUPTA creates a massive painting, *Adiyogi Shiva: A Journey in Cosmic Indigo*, to send out a positive message about sustainable living, clothing, textile art and our age-old natural dyes and colours. By TEAM VIVA

A true revival means nothing less than a revolution," Andrew Murray once said. We are known for our rich heritage and culture. Handmade art and craft is intrinsic to these. But overtime, some of our unsung, hidden treasures such as *dabu* printing and indigo dyeing, are fading. They need slight propelling to come out in open and make their place. Artist, poet and filmmaker, Sangeeta Gupta, explores both the techniques to create a massive 606 feet painting bathed in Indigo — *Adiyogi Shiva: A journey in Cosmic Indigo*, as she believes we have to return to the basics if we want to survive peacefully.

◆How did you conceptualise the idea?
I wanted to create a positive impact about sustainable living, clothing, textile art and our age old natural dyes and colours, especially, indigo. During a visit to Jaipur in December last year, I had an opportunity to visit Ratelia Village in Sanganer, where I painted a fabric with natural indigo. It was exciting. Since then, I have been conceptualising this painting. I had made all related sketches in great detail before executing this project. I am an abstract artist and Shiv is pure abstraction. Therefore, I decided to work on the, *Adiyogi Shiv*, who combines the masculine and feminine energies within himself as he is the *Ardhnarishwar*, (half-male and half-female) which I find unique and appealing as a woman and an artist.

◆What went into its making?
The theme of the painting is Shiv, as I am drawn towards *Mahamrityunjaya Mantra* and *Nirvana Shatkum* composed by Aadi Shankaracharya. The text is painted in natural indigo and the 200 metres, of hand spun *khaddar* is painted with *dabu*, traditionally used by block printers of Rajasthan. After painting it with *dabu*, it was sun-dried. Post that it was soaked in drums of indigo dye and then washed and dried again.

I completed 185 metres in nine days at Sanganer and then had to return to Delhi in March because Coronavirus had started spreading in areas close to Jaipur. I will get this registered for a world record. Though it was not a conscious decision when I started. It happened while I was in the process of executing it on account of my passion for sustainable development. Art and literature are



my lifeline. Both bring pure joy to me.

◆What does *A Journey in Cosmic Indigo* signify? Did you blend the native Indigo with some modern techniques?

We have to return to the basics if we want to survive in peace. Handmade fabric, natural colour and dye are environment-friendly and chemical-free. I have created this abstract, conceptual, mini-

malist painting through organic ways to promote sustainable living and natural indigo as this aims at its revival. I want to encourage this cash crop as a mass movement to make it a commercially

viable venture for farmers, dyers and craftsmen.

◆How was it possible to create a 606 feet masterpiece joining 71 *khaddar* paintings in mere eight days?

We are on this planet to experience life in its entirety. Each one of us has our own share of struggles and challenges and it wasn't different for me. But I faced it with grit and determination.

I was secretive about the whole process as it was pretty much about my endurance too. It was a challenge to my physical limitations because I had met with an accident in March last year when I smashed my right wrist. Though, I could paint and do all that was required but making a 100 metre painting at a stretch was my ultimate test. I was not competing with anyone or for any world record but was challenging myself to explore the physical and mental boundaries that I had.

It seemed that Shiv and the whole universe was on my side because to my surprise I found that I intended to paint 100 metres but went on to finish 185 metres. That just happened by accident. I kept on asking my workers about the measurements of the fabric. The same day I checked the world records and was amused to realise that I had created a new one by making the longest painting. That is the power of one's spirit.

◆The painting depicts the various aspects of *Shiv Shakti* in a nuanced way. Did you do any research for it?

I have always been a spiritually inclined person but with maturity, my interest in the eternal cosmic entity — Shiv — became deeper. He is omnipresent, both inside and outside us. We are all connected and originate from one source, god.

It all started during my early child-

hood. My grandfather had a great influence on my spiritual upbringing. Kashmir reiterated my faith in the universal principle of *Shivohum*, while I was posted there for two years. I realised that the whole universe is Shiv, there is no beginning, no end. I believe in oneness of the whole, *Ekam*.

When an artist is at peace with herself, subject and medium merge. If you are experiencing love, compassion and bliss, the medium doesn't bother you. If you are connected with the universe, every thing unfolds before you. I just had to train my hands a bit to use *dabu* as a medium on fabric. When artists work they are in solitude, preoccupied with their creativity.

◆There is a growing concern that our ancient crafts are dying. What has been your experience?

Yes, it is a serious concern. Artisans and craftsmen need not only the support of the government but people too. Their creative ventures need to become commercially viable. This is one of the reasons why I took it upon myself to revive the age old techniques by making it contemporary and innovative.

◆Since there will be a rise in Indian brands in the post-pandemic world, do you think it will bring out more age-old techniques?

Yes, hopefully it should, provided, we make all the right moves and sincerely work for it. It will be a great revival of our rich heritage and the restoration of our creative labour too. Handmade art and craft is so intrinsic to our culture and abundantly available in our country. The intent to promote it in a big way has been lacking so far. However, I am optimistic and enthusiastic about it and shall do what I can for its survival and revival, both.

Ayushmann urges water conservation

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana is widely regarded as the socially-conscious star who stands up to raise his voice on issues that affect him deeply. The star is now urging people to be judicious in terms of water consumption and battling for preserving the resource at a time when water scarcity is plaguing people across the globe.



The actor has come forward to support actress Bhumi Pednekar's initiative Climate Warrior that is trying to raise awareness on several important issues plaguing our climate through a campaign called *One Wish For The Earth*. Bhumi's campaign will see Bollywood's thought leaders come forward to

discuss climate justice. The platform will see the stars urge citizens to take climate change seriously and, along with them, also do their bit to protect the planet.

"These are exceptional times that we have seen in the last few months. It's time to wake up, take notice and participate," he says, adding, "This environment day my one wish for the earth is or rather request for all of us to use water wisely. It is a scarce resource and right now we are even more dependent on it to wash our hands at regular intervals to battle this pandemic."

He asks citizens to be conscious that they need to preserve water because it impacts many. He urges for unity in protecting people's right for water. The star says, "In the endeavour to keep ourselves safe, we should not forget about the bigger goal. We need to use water wisely so that our future generations have it enough and more. It's my humble request to all of you to become climate warriors and work towards a clean and a green future."

CAUSE 30 MINUTES

A world of extremes

The producer of Asian and Australian episodes of *Stories Behind Stories*, EMMA NAPPER, elaborates on the research and preparation that go into capturing every small shot, the life-risking challenges while shooting wildlife and much more. By TEAM VIVA



◆Why did you choose Asia for shooting?

It is the largest continent on earth, covering one third of the world's surface. It presents a lovely but massive challenge when it comes to finding stories. Right from the jungles of Indonesia to the high Arctic in Russia, you've got absolutely everything to choose from. What we wanted to focus on was how the animals coped with living in such vast landscapes. Asia's geological history is also a key part of the story. Around 30 million years ago, India crashed into the rest of Asia, forming the Himalayas which changed the landscape entirely. As a result, Asia, today, is a world of extremes. It has the hottest deserts, the highest mountains and all of it stems from its geology. We made a real effort to look at those different environments and most importantly, to find stories that have never been done before. In addition, we wanted to show the impact that people are having on the environment and the wildlife living there today because that are a really important part of every continent's story.

◆What was it like filming the golden snub-nosed monkeys in central China?

The high mountain ranges in central China are remote and have been largely inaccessible to film crews. Yet for hundreds of years, stories of the 'Abominable Snowman' have emanated from this region. This is where the story of the Yeti (strange, scary-looking people that nobody knew anything about) comes

from. Actually, Yeti is a golden, snub-nosed monkey. They're absolutely incredible because they walk upright like we do and the males have got enormous feet. They like little people and they've got phenomenal colours on them. The monkeys are a little bit of a holy grail for sir David. It's something that he had heard described in scientific papers in the early 60s but has never had the opportunity to see. So it was really cool to be able to come back and show him that footage because he was just blown away by how they looked and survived. They have these big, shaggy coats and cuddle to stay warm. The families are bonded and reliant on each other as without somebody to cuddle, the babies would die very quickly in the winter there. They were a joy to be able to film and a joy to be able to show David.



◆What did you find out about the Sumatran Rhino Serenade?

For me, the most important thing about making these films is where you see something in the natural world, and you just can't believe it's true. That's where the joy comes from. One real highlight was our story about the Sumatran Rhino. The jungles of Indonesia are rich and dense, which means the animals there have a real problem finding each other. I've been to lots of jungles before, but here, while I was looking at the way animals talk to each other, I came across this sound, which sounded like a whale. I played it to the team and made everyone guess what it was. Nobody guessed it correctly. It turned out to be a Sumatran Rhino. We filmed them mostly because of their way of communicating but also because they are one of the rarest species on earth. The rhino we filmed was born in 2000. They used to be widespread across Southern Asia and now, there are only 300 left. The upper estimate is 70. The lower estimate is 30. The decline in the number is a combination of poaching and loss of habitat to timber and palm oil production.

We filmed them in a protected area, which is the only place you can possibly see them. All I had heard of the singing rhino was an old bit of sound footage that

was recorded at a zoo in America. There's almost nothing known about why they do it or the meaning of their vocalisations, other than that the females and the males use the song as part of their way of meeting up. So I wasn't sure what we were going to experience when we went in the field but almost as soon as we got there, we could hear the female singing. It was quite loud.

◆What do you have to say about Australia?

Australia's story across time is that it used to be attached to Antarctica. Then it split from Antarctica and it has been moving north. When it split, a raft of animals — marsupials, reptiles, birds — were separated off and marooned. As a result, most of the animals in Australia are found nowhere else. It's a continent of weirdos, beautiful animals, things you haven't seen in other places. What I loved at the beginning of this process is you ask a lot of people what lives in Australia and they'll say kangaroos and koalas... and then they get stuck. Yet there's this amazing array of animals that have been stranded there for millions and millions of years. Australia over time has been getting hotter and hotter. When it separated from Antarctica, it was basically all forest. Now it's almost all desert. That's quite a story to tell in itself.

◆Can you tell us more about cassowaries?

The cassowary is Australia's ostrich. It's the world's deadliest bird and it lives in the deep jungle in the north of Australia, which is the oldest jungle on earth. That jungle was walked by dinosaurs and basically when dinosaurs became extinct, cassowaries took their place. We filmed a cassowary, but they are incredibly secretive and very hard to spot. You don't see them until you've stood next to them and then they get cross. You wouldn't accidentally walk up to a lion but you might accidentally walk up to a cassowary. The females stand about six feet tall, the males more like five feet. But they rear up above head height and they have claws on their feet that are longer than velociraptors. They can run up to 30 mph, jump five feet in the air and can swim too. So if you surprise them, you're done for. That's why they're the world's deadliest bird. Two of our Australian cameramen staked out the forest for a long time until we worked out where this male cassowary was going to be. We had to put out camera traps and do our own fieldwork, but we managed to film this male looking after his chicks in this forest. I've wanted to film them for several years and that forest is just quite a magical place for me. The audience would be literally looking at what dinosaurs would have seen.

◆How did drone technology help you make *Seven Worlds, One Planet*?

On Planet Earth II, we were using drones, but even three or four years ago, they were quite heavy-duty things. Now the technology is so much better that we're able to use the drones with almost all of the animals that we've filmed. It can make a big difference in the behaviour you can see. In the Australia episode, for example, we filmed a shark aggregation which only happens every 15 years. It's sharks on a bait ball off the West coast of Australia on Ingle, and if you were filming that from the sea on about, you would just see a hell of a lot of splashing around and some fins. Get a drone up in the air and suddenly you can see the shark's tactics, what they are doing and not just that, you can see the bait ball at one point got up to something like 15 kilometres. We have shots of thousands of sharks all at once coming together. For me, that's the magic of drones.

(Tune in to *Stories Behind Stories* on June 8 at 9 pm on Sony BBC Earth.)

AFP ■ LIVERPOOL

Premier League leaders Liverpool could claim a first title for 30 years at Anfield after the initial batch of fixtures of the restart was announced on Friday.

Jürgen Klopp's men, with a commanding 25-point lead at the top of the table, were just two wins away from clinching the title before coronavirus forced the suspension of football in March.

Liverpool's first match back is against Everton on June 21. The Merseyside derby is due to take place at Goodison Park, less than a mile from Anfield, but a venue has not been confirmed by the Premier League.

Crystal Palace will then visit Anfield three days later.

Wins in both of those matches would guarantee Liverpool's first English top-flight title since 1990.

But if Manchester City lose at home to Arsenal on June 17, the Reds would be champions if they beat Everton.

Liverpool City Council's safety advisory group will meet next week to make a decision on whether the game can go ahead at Goodison or should be moved to a neutral venue.

All remaining 92 Premier League games this season will be played behind closed doors, but there are fears that hosting the game in Liverpool could encourage supporters to congregate around stadiums.

Palace's trip to Anfield will kick off at 2015 local time (1915 GMT).



LIVERPOOL COULD WIN TITLE AT ANFIELD

Premier League announce schedule for first three match days

The only other match that could be moved to a neutral venue from the first three rounds of fixtures is Liverpool's visit to City on July 2.

The mayor of Liverpool, Joe Anderson, voiced fears that "there would be many thousands of people who would

turn up outside Anfield" on the day Liverpool's long wait for a league title was ended.

That has been disputed by the club, who said they have engaged with supporters' groups to make sure social-distancing guidelines are followed.

Aston Villa will host

Sheffield United in the first match of *Project Restart*, followed by Arsenal's trip to City on June 17.

Manchester United's visit to Tottenham will spearhead the first full round of matches spread over four days from June 19 to 22.

Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said: "We know it won't be the same without our loyal supporters in stadiums but, together with our broadcast partners, we are able to ensure fans can watch or listen to each match live from home."

"I am delighted we are able to take another positive step towards the season returning in just under two weeks' time," he added.

Werner close to Chelsea move



AFP ■ LONDON

Chelsea are closing in on a deal to sign striker Timo Werner from RB Leipzig, British media reported on Thursday.

The 24-year-old had been thought to be attracting interest from Premier League champions-elect Liverpool but it appears Chelsea have in fact met the German's reported release clause of some £53 million (\$67 million).

Were Chelsea to bring Werner to Stamford Bridge it would be a major feather in the cap of the west London club.

For the past year there has been speculation linking Werner with a move to Anfield but time appears to be running out for the Reds, with the forward's release clause expiring on June 15 — two days before the Premier League is set to restart.

The Germany international has scored 31 goals for Leipzig in all competitions.

Chelsea have already agreed a deal to sign Ajax winger Hakim Ziyech.

Barca confident Messi can face Mallorca

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Lionel Messi has sustained a "minor" thigh injury, but Barcelona remain confident he will be fit for the team's first game back against Mallorca on June 13, the club said on Friday.

Messi has not trained with the rest of the squad since Tuesday after working separately in the gym on both Wednesday and Friday, while on Thursday all the players were given the day off.

Barcelona said Messi should return to training "in a few days' time", but his absence raises doubts over his fitness ahead of the trip to Mallorca.

Like all La Liga teams, Barca will have had only 10 days to train together when competitive matches resume on June 11, following the



essential risks with just eight days remaining before Barca finally get back to playing matches, a club statement read.

"He should be able to rejoin his team-mates in a few days' time."

Messi has endured an injury-interrupted season. The 32-year-old was out for six weeks between August and September with a calf injury and then at the end of September missed another week with a problem in his left thigh.

Barca added the team will train on the pitch at Camp Nou on Saturday as coach Quique Setien "works to get his players ready for the return to football, but with games being played behind closed doors."

three-month break due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Leo Messi has a minor right quadriceps injury and trained in isolation, doing specific exercises to avoid un-

Barty wary of US Open return

SYDNEY: World number one Ashleigh Barty voiced caution on Friday about resuming tennis too soon, saying she needed more information before committing to the US Open in August. The Australian, who surged to the top of the rankings last year and has stayed there since, said it was not just her but her entire team she must consider in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. "It's exciting that tennis is being talked about again and things are moving in the right direction for us to start competing," she told the *Sydney Morning Herald*. "But I'd need to understand all of the information and advice from the WTA and the USTA before making a decision on the US events." Barty said she is concerned about travel exemptions for her support staff. While players could be exempt from a 14-day quarantine period, it remains unclear whether that also applies to their teams. "It's not just me, it's my team I have to consider," she said.

Paes wants to complete 100 Slam appearances

NEW DELHI (PTI): Leander Paes is just three shy of completing a century of Grand Slam appearances but is now unsure whether uncertainty caused by Covid-19 pandemic will allow him to complete the coveted milestone or for that matter compete at the next year's Tokyo Olympics.

Paes had announced that 2020 would be his last season as a professional player but his plan to bid adieu on a high with a record eight appearance at the Olympics, was stalled by the pandemic, which has wrecked the sporting calendar.

"Olympics is still far away. As of now, I find it difficult to believe that sports will start by July or August. Would it start October or November, who knows. But my team and I are very well prepared that when the lockdown opens up, we will reevaluate then and look at *One Last Roar* as season whether we should look at 2021 or not," Paes told table tennis player Mudit Dani on his chat show *Sportlight*.



Further talking about his plans, Paes said there one piece is statistics he would like to get.

"I have played 97 Grand Slams so far and if I play 3 more, it will be 100 so that moves me. Also getting to the eighth Olympics to make sure India is forever on the top as the most number of Olympics played by a tennis player. That is the benchmark I would like to push. But even if I don't get there, still I'm happy with what I've done and the career I have," he said.

India to host 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Asian Football Confederation has awarded the hosting rights of the 2022 Women's Asian Cup to India for the first time since 1979.

In a letter to the All India Football Federation, Dato Windsor John, General Secretary, AFC wrote: "The Committee awarded the hosting rights of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 Finals to the All India Football Federation."

The tournament will likely be held in the second half of the year. In the 1979 edition, India had finished as runners-up.

"I need to thank the Asian Football Confederation for finding us suitable to host the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022," AIFF President, Praful Patel said. "The tournament will galvanise the aspiring women players and bring in a holistic social revolution as far as women's football in the country is concerned," he added.

The tournament will feature 12 teams, expanded from the previous slot of eight teams. India qualify directly as hosts. The event will also serve as the final qualification tournament for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.

AIFF invites bids for new I-League clubs

NEW DELHI: The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Friday invited bids for new clubs who would take part in the Hero I-League from 2020-21.

The bids have been invited from non-Hero I-League cities and includes names of several cities like New Delhi, Ranchi, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bhopal, Lucknow and Ahmedabad, amongst others, according to an AIFF media release.

Prospective owners will be

able to purchase the invitation to tender from the Football House in Delhi between June 10 and June 20 upon payment of ₹4 lakh.

The previous season of the I-League saw 11 clubs, including AIFF's developmental outfit Indian Arrows, take part in the competition.

However, champions Mohun Bagan are set to merge with ATK and will play in the Indian Super League (ISL) next season.

PTI

Coppa Italia semis on June 12-13

MILAN: Italian football will resume with the second legs of the Italian Cup semifinals on June 12 and 13.

Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora announced on Thursday that the competition can resume one day earlier than previously scheduled.

While league officials had

not yet officially released the schedule, Juventus is expected to host AC Milan on June 12 followed by Napoli vs Inter Milan a day later.

Juventus and Milan drew 1-1 in the first leg while Napoli beat Inter 1-0. The final is scheduled for June 17.



ICC should wait for a 'suitable time' to host T20 WC: Akram

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan pace legend Wasim Akram cannot visualise a T20 World Cup happening behind closed doors and believes the ICC should wait for a "suitable time" to host the big-ticket event after the Covid-19 pandemic subsides.

"Personally, I don't think it's a good idea. I mean, how could you have a cricket World Cup without spectators," Akram told *The News* on Thursday.

"A World Cup is all about big crowds, spectators coming from all parts of the globe to support their teams. It's all about atmosphere and you cannot get it behind closed doors," he said.

"So I believe that they (ICC) should wait for a more suitable time and once this pandemic subsides and restrictions are eased then we can have a proper World Cup," he said.



PCB to seek Govt clearance for prep camp

PTI ■ KARACHI

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) will seek Government clearance before setting up a training camp for its players to prepare for the tour of England in July amid the rising threat of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Top PCB officials are busy formulating a plan to make the training camp possible at a time when the cases and deaths from Covid-19 are on the rise in Pakistan.

"Different plans are being looked at but the most important thing is that the board will have to get the final nod from the Government before it goes ahead with the tour to England or even the training camp," an official in the board said.

The High Performance Centre in Lahore where the board is planning to keep the players and officials does not have the capacity to house 20 players at one time and this is causing a big



problem for the officials.

"Head coach and chief selector, Misbah-ul-Haq understandably wants at least 25 players in the training camp

and a list is being finalised but before it is announced the board wants to create a proper bio-secure environment at the high performance centre so that everyone is safe from Covid-19," the official said.

The players and officials, once they move into the high performance centre, will not be allowed to go out or meet anyone including their family members because of the bio-security measures.

A reliable source in the board said some players had told Misbah that they would prefer to have a short training camp in Lahore.

"Some players are reluctant to stay away for a three-week period in Lahore and then again for more than two months in the UK," the source said.

The board has said that it has left it on the players to decide whether they want to tour England or not and if anyone makes himself unavailable, there will not be any disciplinary action.

SA 'not far away' from a WC win: Phehlukwayo

IAN S ■ JOHANNESBURG

South Africa cricketer Andile Phehlukwayo believes Proteas aren't too far away from ending their World Cup drought despite their woeful performance in the showpiece event in England and Wales last year.

South Africa managed to win just three matches out of nine and crashed out in the league stage itself with just seven points.

Phehlukwayo, who was part of the South Africa World Cup squad in 2019, feels the younger generation is hungry to perform on the biggest stage and that might turn their fortunes around at the multi-national ICC events in the future.

"I really believe it will happen. Maybe it didn't look like it at the 2019 World Cup, where we really didn't look after situations that on normal occasions we would take care of, but if you look at the current generation, it's a lot of new players who are really hungry to perform," Phehlukwayo was quoted as saying by *ESPNcricinfo*.

"Even in our current rebuilding phase, we have managed to beat strong teams who already have their formula set. It's all about the mindset. Our brand is work in progress but we all know where we want to be. We are fully committed."

The 24-year considers himself to be an all-rounder, despite him doing better with the ball in recent times. In 58 ODIs, he has managed to score just 563 runs while he has scalped 69 wickets. In 27 T20Is, he has scored just 92 runs but picked 35 wickets.

"I believe I'm a genuine all-rounder because I can win games with bat or ball, but I understand that those arguments about the kind of player someone is would look at the stats," Phehlukwayo said.



Former India star Yuvraj Singh on Friday apologised for making a casteist remark against Yuzvendra Chahal during an *Instagram* chat, saying he "unintentionally" hurt public sentiments. It was during one of the *Instagram Live* sessions with Indian vice-captain Rohit Sharma that Yuvraj made the offensive comment about Chahal while talking about his regular social media posts. In fact, an advocate from Hisar filed a police complaint against India's twin World Cup hero, who was forced to issue an apology on his *Twitter* page. The veteran of 304 ODIs, 58 T20Is and 40 Tests also clarified that he has "never believed" in any kind of discrimination.

Burns expecting 'stiff test' against WI

LONDON: England is bracing up for a "stiff test" in the three-match series against the West Indies next month, according to opener Rory Burns who is wary of the visiting team's potent pace attack.

"They've got a lot of good cricketers there and it's going to be a stiff test no matter who comes," Burns said on the *Sky Sports* podcast *The Cricket Show*. West Indies



had handed Joe Root's men a 2-1 defeat when England travelled to the Caribbean last year. "The last time we played each other, they won, so they're no slouches certainly," Burns said.

"Their bowling attack caused us a lot of problems. They're very skilful; they've got some pace. I remember walking around on the pitch of the first Test and seeing their bowlers going and thought, 'this is going to be quite tasty!'" PTI

Mortaza hurt by 'rush to push' him out



DHAKA: Former Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza has accused the country's cricket board of trying push him into retirement after a couple of underwhelming series, claiming that he was even offered a farewell match.

Mortaza said he has been left hurt by the "lack of respect" towards his achievements.

"Honestly speaking, it seemed that there was a rush to bid me farewell and it was certainly hurting," Mortaza told *Cricbuzz*.

"Firstly, they had to arrange a match to bid me farewell and it was not a normal match — a normal bilateral series is something and arranging a special match in a hurry is something else," he said without divulging when exactly

the game was offered to him. "Secondly, they were prepared to spend BDT (Bangladesh Taka) 2 crore for that match. From an ethical point of view it is not right considering our first-class cricket players are not getting paid enough," he added.

The 36-year-old, one of the most popular captains in Bangladesh cricket history, had a horrible 2019 World Cup where he got only one wicket in the entire tournament.

Recently coach Russell Domingo had said that Mortaza is not in his plans going forward. "All of a sudden there was this rush to push me (out). All I know is that I have given my life to cricket even though I was torn apart and bleeding inside," Mortaza said.

"I have played cricket by giving my life and maybe I could not become such a great player. But at least I expect some kind of respect."

He didn't want to divulge the details but Mortaza admitted that he thought of hanging up his boots after Bangladesh's last World Cup game against Pakistan at the Lord's.

"I wanted to retire after the last game in the World Cup but it did not happen. I don't want to go into the details of why I didn't do it there but I had put forward my intention (of retiring) in England." PTI

Cricket is nothing without diversity: ICC

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council on Friday said "cricket is nothing without diversity" as racism remained a topic of global debate following the death of African-American George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The ICC on Friday posted a 90-second video clip of the final moments of England's 2019 World Cup victory with Barbados-born Jofra Archer bowling the thrilling Super Over against New Zealand.

"Without diversity, cricket is nothing. Without diversity, you don't get the full picture," read ICC's message on *Twitter*.

The England team that won the ODI World Cup had an Irishman captain (Eoin Morgan) at the helm. The best performer was a New Zealand born all-rounder (Ben Stokes), spinners were of Pakistani origin (Moeen Ali & Adil Rashid) and the innings got a headstart from an opener of South African heritage (Jason Roy).

In fact, Morgan after World Cup triumph spoke about how the team found unity in diversity which became the secret of its success.

"It actually epitomises our team. Quite diverse backgrounds and cultures and guys grow up in different countries and to actually find

humour in the situation we were in at times was pretty cool," Morgan had said back then, referring to the Super Over bowled by Archer.

World's leading cricketers including West Indians Chris Gayle and two-time World T20 winning skipper Darren Sammy have spoken about racism in the game.

Sammy had even urged the ICC to come out in support of the black cricketers. "Right now, if the cricket world not standing against the injustice against people of color after seeing that last video of that foot down the next of my brother you are also part of the problem," Sammy had said on Tuesday. PTI



Tokyo to skip one-year Olympic countdown

TOKYO: Tokyo will scrap events marking a year to go until the postponed 2020 Olympic Games, organisers said on Friday, citing the "current economic situation" caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Games have been pushed back until July 23, 2021 because of the disease outbreak, though it remains unclear whether even that delay will be sufficient.

Last year, the city and organisers held a series of events to mark the one-year countdown, including unveiling the newly designed medals.

But given the global crisis, organisers ruled out a similar celebration. "In view of the current economic situation, Tokyo 2020 will not be holding any events to mark the new year to go milestone for the Games," the organisers said.

"But we will consider what we can do to show our solidarity with the people."

The confirmation came after reports in the Japanese media that organisers would scrap the event, fearing it was inappropriate given the global pandemic and the ongoing risk of infection inside Japan. PTI