

EVERY ROLE
HAS TAUGHT
ME: JACQUELINE
10 VIVACITY

Alternate LS, RS sittings in Central Hall

Parliamentary proceedings in ample space will ensure social distancing

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

If the current spate of corona pandemic goes unabated, then it is likely that both Houses of Parliament — Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha — may function from the Central Hall and that too on alternate days.

Well-placed sources said considering the need to maintain the social distancing norm, the Monsoon Session beginning next month will conduct its proceedings from the spacious Central Hall in a staggered manner and on a rotational basis. For instance, if the Lok Sabha meets on Monday then the Rajya Sabha will sit on Tuesday, in such a scenario, Parliament will function six days a week with three each for both the Houses.

Sources said the option of conducting Parliament sittings from the Central Hall is being worked upon. "This (Central Hall) is a bigger place which has a seating capacity of 776 members. While the Lok Sabha has 545 Members of Parliament (MP), Rajya Sabha has 250 MPs. While it will be easier to conduct the Upper House within



the social distancing norms in the Central Hall, feasibility to accommodate all Lower House members while maintaining social distancing norms is being looked upon," Parliament sources said.

A senior official said a separate SOP for the functioning of Parliament is also being deliberated.

The Central Hall for decades is being used for joint sittings of both the Houses addressed by President of India

(twice annually) or any visiting dignitary. In normal days, the space is used by members of both the Houses to spend time and interact and is also a coveted place for journalists who have restricted access to the Central Hall where they are privileged to exchange greetings.

As per the Parliamentary rules, both the Houses should be convened at least once in six months after the President prorogues it. The last time

when Parliament functioned was on March 23 after which the Centre imposed a complete national lockdown in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic. The Budget Session of Parliament which began on January 31 was supposed to end on April 2.

"The last Parliament was adjourned sine die on March 23 and we have time till September 22 to convene Parliament for the Monsoon Session. However this prerogative is with the Government of

India when to begin its legislative business. We will be prepared to welcome the members and keep the democratic norms ahead," sources privy to the development said.

The other option the Government and Parliament is also examining is to allow only half strength of each House on rotation basis and connect the remaining members through various virtual modes to the either House. Members will be able to present themselves on virtual screen mode and raise questions, discuss, participate all in normal functioning of the House.

"We just got to know that the United Kingdom Parliament conducted the proceedings in recent times through mix of virtual-real mode and it worked well," sources added.

In order to corner the Narendra Modi Government on issues like handling of coro-

na pandemic, labourers and migrants problem, the economic issue etc, the Opposition parties have been putting pressure on the Centre to call either a Special Parliament Session or an early Monsoon Session.

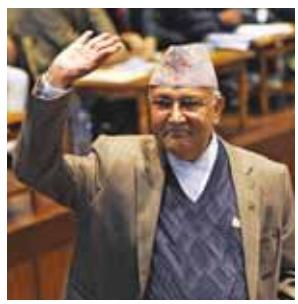
"We want to raise several issues and expose this Government on the floor of Parliament. Our constant demand is the Centre convene a Session at earliest and honour the democratic and social principles of our country and the Constitution above all," said Congress national secretary Sanjiv Singh.

After much pressure, the first meeting of a parliamentary panel on Home headed by Rajya Sabha member Anand Sharma is scheduled on Wednesday. Top officials of the Union Home Ministry are scheduled to brief the panel members on corona related issues.

Nepal tables Bill for new 'biased' map

Madhesi reject Nepal Govt's bid

PTI ■ KATHMANDU



The Nepal Government on Sunday tabled a Constitution amendment bill in parliament aimed at altering the country's map amid a border dispute with India.

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Shivamaya Tumbahangphe, on behalf of the Government of Nepal, tabled the Bill, a day after the main Opposition Nepali Congress also backed the legislation. Nepal's Madhesi parties refused to welcome the Bill as of now. It will be the second amendment to the Constitution.

Nepal recently released the revised political and administrative map of the country laying claim over the strategically key areas of Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura.

India reacted angrily to the move saying such "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims will not be acceptable and asked the neighbouring country to refrain from such "unjustified cartographic assertion". The Bill seeks to amend the political map of Nepal included in Schedule 3 of the

Constitution. The new map will be used in all official documents including the coat of arms after the bill is endorsed through parliament.

Parliament will now deliberate on the proposal before endorsing the bill.

After its endorsement by both the Houses of parliament, the President will order issuance of the bill.

The central committee of the main Opposition party Nepali Congress on Saturday decided to back the bill.

Last week, the proposed bill was removed from the business schedule of parliament at the last minute at the request of Minister KP Sharma Oli.

The discussion on the Constitution amendment bill was delayed as the Nepali Congress asked for more time to discuss the matter in its high-level body.

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UNPRECEDENTED TIMES!

- Monsoon Session beginning next month will conduct its proceedings from the spacious Central Hall in a staggered manner and on a rotational basis
- Central Hall has a seating capacity of 776 members
- Government is also looking at the UK Parliament where the House of Commons was functioning in April. There, the number of MPs physically present in the House was a bare minimum and a majority would remotely attend the House
- The other option the Govt is also examining is to allow only half strength of each House on rotation basis and connect the remaining members through various virtual modes
- As per the Parliamentary rules, both the Houses should be convened at least once in six months after the President prorogues it

Lockdown till June 30 in 9 States; varied rules for inter-State travel

No free entry to/from Maha, Chhattisgarh

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Police officials baton charge a youth who took a ride on a two-wheeler during lockdown in Dharavi slum, a Covid-19 hotspot in Mumbai, on Sunday

AIIMS, RML, LNJP, Safdarjung served notices for 'delay' in Covid death info

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has served show-cause notices on three Central Government-run AIIMS, Safdarjung Hospital, RML Hospital and Delhi Government-run LNJP Hospital for "delay in reporting Covid-19 death cases".

Show-cause notices have been issued to AIIMS, LNJP Hospital, RM Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital to explain the reasons for delay in reporting death cases and for violation of the directions issued by the Delhi Health Department," the department said in a statement.

Besides, memoranda have been issued to Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital also to explain the reasons for "delay in reporting death cases and for violation of the directions" issued by the health and other authorities.

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Mastermind of robbery training centre in Bawana among two held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man who was running a training academy for robbers in New Delhi's JJ Colony in Bawana was arrested, police said on Sunday. One juvenile too has been apprehended. The accused

He said the numbers will continue to spike. "The numbers will spike. The only way you can decrease the numbers from spiking is by aggressive isolation, community participation in terms of very strict wearing of masks, social distancing and handwashing."

"There's lockdown fatigue now, people have got fed up, they don't seem to be bothered (about infection spreading), and my fear is that people don't realise what we are headed for. There are still people who are dying, and the pandemic is yet to peak," he said.

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Floyd rage engulfs US

AP ■ MINNEAPOLIS

A nother night of unrest in every corner of the US left charred and shattered landscapes in dozens of US cities on Sunday as years of festering frustrations over the mistreatment of African-Americans at the hands of police boiled over in expressions of rage met with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Cars and businesses were torched, the words "I can't breathe" were spray-painted all over buildings, a fire in a trash bin burned near the gates of the White House, and thousands marched peacefully through city streets to protest the death of George Floyd, a black man who died Monday after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee on his neck until he stopped breathing.

His death is one of a litany of racial tragedies that have thrown the country into chaos amid the coronavirus pandemic that has left millions out of work and killed more than 100,000 people in the US,



A protester poses for photos next to a burning police vehicle in Los Angeles AP
including disproportionate numbers of black people. "We're sick of it. The cops are out of control," protester Olga Hall said in Washington DC.
Detailed report on P8

U'khand Minister Satpal Maharaj, family members test corona +ve

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj, his wife Amrita Rawat and 21 others, including members of his family and staff, tested positive for coronavirus, an official said on Sunday.

Satpal Maharaj had attended a meeting of the State cabinet on Friday.

Asked whether other Cabinet Ministers who attended the meeting will be quarantined, State Government spokesman Madan Kaushik told reporters that they will follow the advice given by the Health Department as per the guidelines of the Centre.

According to State Health Department spokesperson JC Pandey, the Minister's wife tested positive for the infection on Saturday while his two sons and their wives, along with 17 others, were found infected with the virus on Sunday.

Lockdown 1.0 to 4.0: 8-times corona jump

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

The fourth phase of the countrywide lockdown ending May 31 witnessed a much bigger jump in the number of cases compared to the previous three phases.

The number of positive cases went up by 10,828 in the first lockdown, 30,407 cases in second lockdown, and 49,624 cases in third phase of the lockdown. The fourth phase saw addition of nearly 80,000 cases between May 18 and 30.

The rise in cases during this period account for over 47.20 per cent of the total 1.90 lakh coronavirus infection cases.

India has reported over 5,400 fatalities, doubling in the last sixteen days.

When India went into the first lockdown on March 25, it had reported 618 confirmed cases and 13 deaths.

The number of infections

LOCKDOWN	DURATION	NO OF DAYS	CASES
1st	March 25-April 14	21	10,828
2nd	April 15-May 3	19	30,407
3rd	May 4-May 17	14	49,624
4th	May 18-May 31	14	78,000

is now twice what it was fourteen days ago, and given the rate of growth in this period, it could hit the 2,00,000-mark by Tuesday, according to experts who said enforcing the use of masks and social distancing norms and isolating everyone with cough and fever is the only protection against infection.

Dr Randeep Guleria, professor of pulmonology, and director of the Delhi-based All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) said while the lockdown 4 was stringent, the continuation of migrations of workers from the metros to their native towns led to steep rise in the cases.

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TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

Govt seeks ₹5K cr virus aid from Centre

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has sought an aid of ₹5,000 crore from the Centre. Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia has written a letter to the Union Finance Minister in this regard and highlighted how the lockdown induced by the Covid 19 pandemic has impacted the country's economy and also of Delhi.

Interacting digitally, Sisodia said, "We have reviewed Delhi Government's minimum expenses. According to that, we would need around ₹3,500 crore every month to pay salaries to our employees and to meet other office expenses. The GST collections in the past



two months have only been ₹500 crore, and after combining it with other sources, we have managed to collect ₹1,735 crore. But we actually need at least ₹7000 crore," said Sisodia. "Other States have received financial assistance from the Disaster Relief fund, but Delhi Government has not received any such aid yet. Even during usual times, Delhi does not receive any sort of aid from the Centre," said Sisodia, adding, "But now as Government's revenue is severely affected due to the COVID 19 induced lockdown, it is about time we received some financial relief from the Centre to be able to pay salaries of our employees- teachers, doctors, engineers, civil defence

personnel, and people involved in coronavirus relief work," he said.

In his letter dated May 26, 2020, Sisodia addressing the Union Finance Minister has written, The government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has been managing all its development and infrastruc-

ture expenditure within its means," "the financial year 2020-21, the Delhi Legislative Assembly has passed the budget of ₹65,000 crore. Out of which, ₹35,500 crore constitutes committed expenditure towards establishment, devolution to Local Bodies and interest & loan repayment liability to Government of India. In the normal course, Delhi is not only confident in managing its budgetary requirement but also results in budgetary surplus. However, due to the extraordinary situation prevailing in the country as well as the world, due to Covid 19 pandemic, there is a valid need for immediate help from the Centre. The one time grant of ₹5,000 crore will thereby help

According to the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Delhi government has also upgraded its hospitals to tackle Covid 19. PPEs, ventilators, testing kits, N 95 masks and sanitizers have been made available. Apart from providing cooked food, free ration and shelter to the needy, the Delhi Govt has also been working tirelessly to send migrant workers back to their homes through Special Shramik trains.



Policemen guard the dedicated lane for medical purposes in Patel Nagar, Delhi, on Sunday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Gurugram sees 457 cases in 5 days

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram district has reported 457 fresh corona positive patients in just last five days including 97 cases on Sunday. The district had also notified 63 containment zones on May 28.

As per data provided by Gurugram Health Department, 20 corona cases were detected on May 27, 68 on May 28, 115 on May 29 and the city also recorded 157 cases of coronavirus on May 30.

According to the health bulletin on May 31, a total of 774 people in the district have now tested positive for the infection. More than half of the total cases 457 have emerged in the last five days, of those who have tested positive, 284 have recovered and three have succumbed from the deadly infection.

Officials from the district administration, however, insist there is no reason for panic despite the sudden spike in cases. "The Health Department is working as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Meanwhile, people also complain about non-restricted movement in containment zones, areas not sealed despite in containment zones, non-identification of houses where coronavirus patients had isolated.

"We have initiated random Covid-19 sampling of vegetable vendors, health workers, police personnel, media personnel, pharmacists, depot holders, sanitation workers etc. Also, special campaigns for the screening of slum dwellers are also initiated in the city following the direction of Haryana

Government," said a senior health official.

Moreover, the administration has assured all the residents that there is enough medical preparedness in the district to deal with the current situa-

tion of Covid-19, one need not panic or fear about it.

Also, the district magistrate Amit Khatri imposed night curfew from 9.00 pm to 5.00 am till June 30 on Sunday.

"The district administration would soon issue a standard operating procedure regarding Covid-19, so that people would know what to do in-home isolation and if there is a positive case report in the neighbourhood then in that case what precautions are to be taken.

Apart from this, it will also be told

when it will be appropriate to do the sampling and when the patient needs to be hospitalized and what precautions should be taken by the people living in the Containment Zone," said a spokesperson of the district administration.

Meanwhile, Gurugram district administration has served a show-cause notice to private hospitals which include Paras, Park and W Pratiksha for refusing admission of the corona-infected patient. The hospital has been asked to submit its reply within one day.

200 spl trains from today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has announced partially restoration of train services from June 1 as 200 special trains will run across the country in which more than 1.45 lakh passengers will travel on day one.

In order to board trains, passengers have to reach station at least 90 minutes in advance and only those with confirmed or RAC (reservation against cancellation) tickets shall be

allowed to enter the Railway station.

As per MHA guidelines all passengers shall be compulsorily screened and only asymptomatic passengers shall be allowed to enter/board the train. The decision was taken by Ministry of Railways after consultation with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

A senior railway official said that these are fully reserved trains having both AC and non AC classes. General (GS) coaches have reserved sitting accommodation and there will be no unreserved coach in the train.

"Normal class wise fare will be charged and for reserved GS coaches (General sitting), being reserved, second seating (2S) fare for reserved trains shall be charged and seat will be provided to all the passengers," he said.

Firing at farm house of Republican Party of India leader, security guard hurt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An unidentified man on Sunday opened fire at a Republican Party of India leader's Delhi farm house in which a security guard was injured. Police said the 50-year-old security guard, Hari Nath suffered bullet injuries in his legs and was shifted to Balaji Action Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment.

According to A Koan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), outer district, the incident occurred at the farm house of Mohd Shakeel Saifi, the national president of minority cell of Republican Party of India, in outer Delhi's Nihal Vihar area.

"The party is led by Ramdas Athawale, the minister of state for social justice and empowerment. Saifi lives at the farm house along with his family members," said the DCP.

"Police were informed about the incident at around 9.15 am following which a team immediately rushed to the spot. Police team found blood stains on the floor near the entrance of the farm house. Hari Nath was shifted to hospital where he is under going treatment," said the DCP.

"In his statement to police, Nath alleged that a person entered the farm house and started firing at him. Nath told police that the unidentified man opened at least four-five rounds of fire," said a police official privy to investigation.

Pinjra Tod condemns arrest of its members under 'draconian laws'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The 'Pinjra Tod' group, a collective of women students and alumni of colleges from across the Delhi, on Sunday condemned the "usage of draconian laws" against its members after two of their members were arrested in connection with violence during anti-CAA protests here in December.

While 'Pinjra Tod' activist and JNU student Natasha Narwal has been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) under the same FIR as filed against Safoora Zargar, Meera Haider, Umar Khalid and others, its other member Devangana Kalita booked in connection with violence during the protests in old Delhi's Daryaganj area.

This is the third case under which Kalita has been arrested by the police, of which two are related to northeast Delhi riots.

Condemning Kalita's arrest, the group said, "She has now been taken into police custody at the Daryaganj police station. This reveals the completely misinformed nature of the charges being made against the protesters."

The Daryaganj protest was among the first massive protests against the CAA in Delhi, where 'Pinjra Tod' members, among thousands of others joining the call, were caught in a "brutal lathicharge by Delhi police", the members alleged.

"They released an immediate witness account of the situation documenting the peaceful nature of the protest and the unprovoked brutal lathicharge on the same by the police and even got MLCS registered for the same. Apart from herself suffering injuries in the police lathi charge, it is important to note that the 16 other people accused in the Daryaganj FIR have all got bail," they said.

The police have shown a "total inability to produce evidence of involvement in violence".

"The use of draconian laws such as the UAPA, and their invocation against democratic activists is a clear abuse of the powers vested in the state," the activists said.

"We condemn the strategy being used by the police of invoking new and unsubstantiated charges on Devangana and Natasha as per the convenience of their narrative and without any basis," they said.



Dear Farmers... India Stands By You

To mitigate the losses owing to the Corona pandemic

- Rs. 2 lakh crore have been allocated to provide additional concessional credit through Kisan Credit Card.
- Rs. 6000 is being given in three equal installments of Rs. 2000 each under PM-KISAN.
- 9.72 crore farmer families have been given Rs. 19,457 crore during the lockdown period.

Strengthening Farm-gate infrastructure, to increase farmers' income

- A scheme worth Rs. 1 lakh crore launched to strengthen cold storage chain and supply chain.

Creating better pricing structure for farmers

- In addition to the APMCs, several agriculture market reforms carried out to provide better market options. Farmers can now sell their crops anywhere and avail better prices.
- Amendments announced in Essential Commodities Act, APMC Act, Mandi Act to offer better price to Farmers.
- A scheme worth Rs. 10,000 crore is dedicated to over 2 lakh unorganized Micro Food Processing Enterprises. This will help in them establishing their own brand.

Standing by Fishermen

- A provision of Rs. 20,050 crore financial assistance has been made under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana to give an unprecedented boost to marine and inland fisheries.

For the Animal Husbandry Farmers

- A total of Rs. 15,000 crore have been allocated to revive the animal husbandry sector.

War Against Corona - Nation's Victory lies in your victory



**The crisis the world is facing today
teaches us that way forward is
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat (A self-reliant India)**

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



For more information, visit transformingindia.mygov.in/aatmanirbharbharat



One year of ills

The PM may be still popular in the afterglow of last year's verdict but he needs to take bold moves in managing a pandemic-hit nation



The best part about "forces of nature" is that they obfuscate human effort or even the lack of it. They are simply too tidal and overwhelming, swamping our reason, judgment and mind. They are an opportunity to prove ourselves and excuse our failings at the same time. Which is why the shroud of the Corona pandemic, which has left our nation distraught, has kept us busy grappling with the "before" and "after" scenario that could spare Prime Minister Narendra Damodar Modi from a rigorous assessment of his first year in office. Perhaps, his familiarity in an upending, unfamiliar scenario is the reason why he continues to be the preferred leader in opinion polls of the moment. And it is this familiarity which could be his biggest shield for what he could not deliver, saying he tried his best, despite the tokenism of empathising with the migrants and common people. Under the shadow of India's biggest health and economic crisis, he is still drawing on his "before" seen muscularity to retain popularity among the masses, which is desperately looking to clutch on to a reassuring and paternal figurehead in the "after" phase. And having won a monolithic verdict last May, he is playing up his perceived deliverer image by addressing the nation, writing letters to his citizens, relying on shared emotions and even praising and consulting Chief Ministers in a new-found spirit of cooperative federalism. Except such optics are not enough for a nation gasping for breath, squeezed by the pandemic on one side and a collapsing economy on the other. And the mammoth surge of a human tragedy unfolding, in the form of deaths due to disease, joblessness, starvation and migration, clearly needs superhuman action, not just humane reactions. Truth be told, India's pandemic is now a people's war, being waged by not just the Government but cumulatively by doctors, scientists, police, Samaritans, activists, citizens, NGOs and corporates. And it is this combined "let's save our nation" spirit unitedly and inclusively that has triumphed over the imposed idea of "One India" that thrives on eliminating and filtering all kinds of otherness. So yes, the memories of attacks on minorities, dissenters and students are off the board at the moment, excused even in the pandemic era as aberrations of a party that has to feed its core majoritarian voter base rather than being an assault on democracy. That's what the "after" scenario does, pushes back the "before."

But the after-effects of what is not done now could be disastrous. The nation will have to pay for the gross insensitivity of an ill-planned lockdown to contain the pandemic in the long-term. The Prime Minister may be commiserating with migrant woes but did not plan a concrete relief and rehabilitation package that could have stopped an urban exodus of people who depend on daily wages to just survive. Unannounced fallback during the lockdown has pushed them to penury. Had evacuations by trains and buses been planned even back then, when the infectivity curve hadn't shot up, we could have saved on passing the disease burden to the hinterland as is happening now. We could have easily avoided the deaths on roads and highways and even trains, which are now chronically under-served in terms of food and water provisions. The economy is whooshing down the sink hole with the RBI admitting our GDP could go into negative territory, the demand horribly low and joblessness at an all-time high. Then there is spiralling inflation. Frankly, the Modi Government's self-sufficient growth model, released with fanfare over days with credit-based offerings and structural changes in many sectors, is gestational and not responsive to the current calamity. It must increase spending and put money in people's hands. That alone would close the demand-supply gap across all sectors. Without this infusion now, any reformatory plan, no matter how well-intentioned, won't make sense at all, particularly to the 12 crore people who lost their jobs in April alone. More people have slid below the poverty line over the last two months and inequity is at its sharpest. The Government was anyway carrying the albatross of a slowing economy before the pandemic, the GDP at five per cent in 2019-20, lower than what it was in 2018-19. So if not now, then when? Not to forget that self-sufficiency or *atma nirbharata* has to begin with sound health and education, both of which need a lot of investment and reprioritising. And no matter how opportune a moment this is to woo the West to shift its bases from China to India, we still do not have enough ease of business. In fact, for all the "vocal for local" talk and even convincing international companies to "Make in India" and lend their expertise, China still has the manufacturing edge and we will need some time to catch up. Yes, we have done well with agriculture, with a good output and now enabling policies on agri-businesses but without feeding urban hubs and demand, there could be a problem of too much for whom. As for our engagement with the world, the abrogation of Article 370, the reorganisation of Kashmir and the religion-based citizenship law have not been accepted very well by our Western allies, including the US. And now we have an enraged China snapping at our heels. Perhaps in notching up too many firsts, the Government has been in a bit of a hurry that has cost us the battle of perception. Even now, when most conservative economies are loosening their purse strings, we are still holding back. And this saviour-like will cannot be ascribed to the "forces of nature" if legacy is what Modi wants.

Racist attack

The White supremacist police force in the US never seems to change. And it acts brutally because it has societal sanction



There's a sense of *déjà vu* about the Minneapolis protests that come on the back of the use of excessive force by a White policeman Derek Chauvin, resulting in the death of a peaceful, 46-year-old Black man George Floyd, who was not resisting arrest. Remember the 2014 death of unarmed Black teenager Michael Brown by the police in Ferguson, Missouri and the race riots that it sparked off? Nothing seems to have changed since then. White supremacists in the US police force continue to slaughter innocent law-abiding Black people with impunity. Floyd's death has also prompted action in other US cities like New York City, Denver, Columbus and particularly Louisville in Kentucky, which witnessed the death of an innocent Black woman Breonna Taylor in March. Here the victim was shot in her own apartment by police officers for an investigation that she wasn't involved in. Relations between police and citizens of colour have been bad for years in the US, yet only one in every 100 citizen complaints leads to disciplinary action. So, the big question is when will America learn its lesson and reform the police force? Or practise diversity from the heart and not as a ritual?

It is not enough that the video of Chauvin kneeling on the neck of a prostrate, handcuffed, dying Floyd, pressing his considerable weight down with a bland, almost bored look on his face has drawn condemnation from police departments across the US. What matters is the indifferent attitude of the officers standing next to the murdering cop with a past record of brutality and use of excess force against Blacks and their failure to stop the cold-blooded killing. What is even more chilling is the fact that his sadistic act was being recorded on a mobile phone by a bystander and it did not worry Chauvin one bit. He just assumed that he could get away with murder! This episode reeks of a systemic cultural rot, one that is being fanned by supremacist President Donald Trump who called the protesters "thugs." He even suggested that they'd be shot for looting. What is even more worrying is the fact that the Minnesota Department of Public Safety has said that State leaders have intelligence that White supremacist groups and drug cartels are possibly playing a big role in the anarchy. Maybe to turn a genuine outpouring of public anger over injustice into a more sinister "us" vs "them" confrontation. All this as a nation battles COVID-19, the management of which has robbed the sheen off Trump's presidential campaign. Little wonder then that he is aggressively playing to his own gallery.

Reset ties with Nepal

India-Nepal relations are too precious to be damaged by territorial nationalism. It's time for New Delhi to break the ice

ASHOK K MEHTA

Some back-channeling and rethinking between Nepal's ruling party and the Opposition (despite the Nepali Congress agreeing to support the amendments) has deferred the Constitutional Amendment Bill to sanctify the country's new map. This has created an opportunity for it to return to diplomacy. It's for the first time that Nepal has altered the geography of its map. Its Foreign Minister "summoned" the Indian Ambassador and its Prime Minister even used unkind words for us. New Delhi, too, was high-handed: It dragged its feet in giving a date for talks, announced a tarmac road to Lipulekh Pass while the Army Chief, who is the honorary General of the Nepal Army, made unwanted comments on Nepal's internal affairs, too. This certainly is not the civilisational bonding that defined relations between India and Nepal. The Kalapani dispute has to be settled politically, too. Any further delay will only widen the trust deficit.

In my 60th and counting treks from Mahakali to Mechi since 1959, I have come across scintillating names of villages and places: Chisopani, Tatopani, Ratopani, Jumlepani, Pokhripani and also the contested Kalapani, not Kalopani. In India, Kalapani is a curse and is associated with banishment, jail or exile. Still, it has been the bone of contention between India and Nepal for many years and for Kathmandu, it denotes an area of 335 sq km, encompassing Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh Pass and Kalapani. For it, the source of the Mahakali river, which delineates its western boundary, is Limpiyadhura.

For India, Kalapani is the origin of the river near where military posts have existed since the mid-1960s and from where the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) patrols regularly up to the Lipulekh Pass. When King Tribhuvan invited the Indian Military Mission in 1952 to Nepal, besides training the Royal Nepal Army (RNA), it had established, according to border expert on Nepal, BN Shrestha, 18 border check-posts on the Tibet border start-

ing from Tinker Pass in the west to Chhayangthap in the east. These posts were vacated in 1969 under pressure from the communist lobby in the palace. Conspicuously, Kalapani and Lipulekh Pass were not part of the border surveillance scheme and, therefore, there was no question of India vacating them. Trade between India and China across Lipulekh Pass started in 1954 and an agreement in 2015 ratified the border trade.

Kalapani has a spiritual and strategic value since it is the gateway to Kailash Mansarovar, dominates Lipulekh Pass and can monitor the People's Liberation Army (PLA) camp at Taklakot. It appears in Nepal's official and tourist maps and its adverse military possession a highly emotive issue. Twenty-six years of field reconnaissance by a joint technical boundary committee and negotiations since 1997 have failed to find a mutually-acceptable solution. Protests in Nepal over Kalapani started in the mid-1990s when a communist Government was in power. It has since become a political football.

India's new map in November last year, after the nullification of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir, showed Kalapani in Uttarakhand without any change in the boundary with Nepal. It was very much similar to the old map. But this triggered countrywide protests and exchange of diplo-

matic notes. India announcing the black-topping of the road to Lipulekh Pass in May reignited protests at a time when the power struggle in the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) peaked.

It was only with Chinese intervention that Prime Minister KP Oli was able to retain his seat. Adept at using ultra-nationalism for India-bashing and reviving his political stock, Oli published a new map of Nepal, incorporating claimed areas. He wants a national consensus on the legitimacy of the new map through a Constitutional amendment. The Bill should pass muster as the Government needs just nine lawmakers to secure a two-third majority but that will damage irreparably India-Nepal relations, which have been on the mend since 2015 following the economic blockade.

Nepal has deployed its armed police force on the western border near Kalapani with the Nepal Army building a new road to Tinker Pass. These developments, coupled with a parliamentary resolution to reclaim all land and the Constitutional Amendment Bill are likely to escalate tension. The beneficiary from this diplomatic stand-off will only be a third country with whom troubles along the India along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) are mounting. Nepal's political class must realise that the move to unilaterally alter, validate and internationalise

the new map, especially at the height of a pandemic, is unwise. Both sides need to cool off.

Any adverse and escalatory steps will also undermine the long-standing and embedded Army-to-Army relations, which were initiated by King Tribhuvan and his son, King Mahendra, for modernising the RNA. The Chiefs of the two Armies are honorary Generals in each other's armies, an unprecedented exchange of military honour started by the legendary Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw in 1969. Gorkha soldiers from Nepal have served the Indian Army with valour during all the wars post-independence, winning high gallantry awards. More than 40,000 Gorkha soldiers serve the Indian Army and another 1,50,000 ex-servicemen are privileged by unique welfare services in Nepal that are not available to other soldiers in India. These are 22 district soldier boards, two pension paying offices along with the Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), Kendriya Vidyalayas and numerous other assistance and grants projects. Gorkha remittances are upwards of ₹15,000 crore (NC), almost one-third of Nepal's total remittances of \$8 billion.

India-Nepal relations are at a tipping point due to map-making and the political row it has generated is at the height of a pandemic. Nepal's new map has broken the agreement between the two countries to maintain status quo till negotiations help resolve the border dispute. India had initially said it would resume Foreign Secretary-level dialogue mechanism after the COVID-19 emergency. After Nepal issued its new map and Oli's impudent reference to India in Parliament, New Delhi has urged Kathmandu to create a positive atmosphere for dialogue. After deferment of the Bill, New Delhi says it is open to engaging to solve border row.

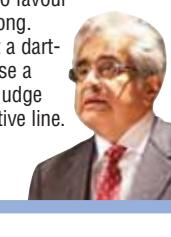
The media on both sides should call a truce. On Wednesday afternoon, Nepali TV channels were playing patriotic music centred on Kalapani and showing clips of its legendary military prowess that extended the Himalayan Kingdom from the rivers Chenab to Teesta, inducing fears of "Greater Nepal." Nepal's decision to put on hold the second Constitutional Amendment Bill is a prudent step welcomed by India that has averted a showdown. Already, strained India-Nepal relations are too precious to be damaged by territorial nationalism. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla must call up his counterpart Shankar Das Bairagi and break the ice.

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

SOUND BITE

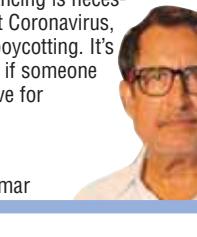
To say judgement is to favour a political party is wrong. Supreme Court is not a dartboard. You can criticise a judgment saying the judge has taken a conservative line.

Jurist
—Harish Salve



Social distancing is necessary to beat Coronavirus, not social boycotting. It's not a crime if someone tests positive for COVID-19.

Actor
—Kiran Kumar



We're talking about doing a lot of things and we're very, very saddened by what happened to our relationship with China. They should have never allowed this to happen.

US President
—Donald Trump



India's policy has been clear that we should have good relations with all neighbours. But sometimes, circumstances arise with China and things like this happen.

Union Minister
—Rajnath Singh



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No end to woes

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Labour woes" (May 29). It was surprising to note that over 91 lakh migrants have been sent back to their home States since May 1. Arranging basic screening facilities for the safety of passengers in trains has been a Herculean task. Besides, the migrants need not just protection from the pandemic but jobs, too.

By the Government's own admission, we simply do not have data on the migrant workers. This reason is often cited by officials for their failure to provide generous cash relief in the economic package to the migrant workers. It is welcome that several States are setting up migrant commissions. This will not only capture data on the number of workers but also generate employment for workers. State Governments must ensure that they provide adequate wages, a safe work environment, a sound skill development ecosystem and universal social safety coverage.

—Srivana Ramachandran
Chennai

Mounting problems amid pandemic

I t has been a worrying time for us all. First came the Coronavirus pandemic, then cyclone Amphan and now the plague of locusts that has spread into five States across the country. Crisis after crisis has been blighting the country, causing immeasurable suffering to the people, especially the poor. The invasion of swarms of desert locusts in western and central India in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic is the latest challenge for us to contend with. The damage to the crops caused by burgeoning swarms of locusts is inestimable. Still, there is some comfort due to the fact that the standing crops are now not very abundant for them to feast on. The eastward flight of the locusts will be barricaded by the east-to-west blowing winds. At the same time, rains could result in their proliferation and "dampen" the attempts made to stamp them out.

The Coronavirus lockdown restrictions have hampered efforts made for the control of "migratory pests." Drones are being used to spray pesticides over the infestation zones, otherwise inac-



cessible to tractors and trucks. We cannot afford to be complacent because of overflowing granaries. All efforts need to be made to eliminate the plague of locusts lest we run out of food supplies or even face a famine. Meanwhile, scientists are probing the possible link between the outbreak of locusts and the rise in temperature.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Open colleges

Sir — With the easing down of lockdown norms, life is limping back to the new normal. But schools and colleges remain closed. Online education system has become the norm. The side effects of long exposure to

screens on children are known. Besides, the poor have been left out of the ambit of online learning due to the digital divide. A classroom environment provides equal learning opportunities. Schools and colleges must reopen with caution.

Sritoma
Via email

Look back at home

Sir — New Delhi was right to reject US President Donald Trump's offer to mediate between India and China to end border stand-off. It is always wiser to settle burning issues with China amicably and individually without bringing in an outsider or introducing irritants. It is better for India to strengthen ties with China with sobriety of mind.

Prakash Saini
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Besides, he has the pandemic to tackle, too. While the number of new cases is declining in parts of the US, several models indicate the death toll will continue rising in the next weeks.

The Indian Government must be complimented for making it clear to China that it would not settle for anything less than the withdrawal of its troops from the LAC. New Delhi must stand firm.

SC Agrawal
Delhi

Border matters

Sir — India has done well to not pay heed to US President Donald Trump's offer to mediate between India and China to end border stand-off. It is always wiser to settle burning issues with China amicably and individually without bringing in an outsider or introducing irritants. It is better for India to strengthen ties with China with sobriety of mind.

Prakash Saini
Via email

FIRST COLUMN

Making hay during a crisis

Venture capitalists are seeking stronger deal terms as the leverage has shifted back to investors during the pandemic



SONAM CHANDWANI

The nationwide lockdown has dealt a severe blow to the economy of the country. The consequent fall in stocks, which in turn has affected the private equity (PE) market, has resulted in conspicuous devaluation of companies. Start-ups are currently in a strong presence of leverage on the side of investors as the weakness in the market has led to a fall in fund-raising by 78.6 per cent as compared to last year. In such a scenario, it is smart to conserve energy otherwise expended in fund-raising to manage liquidity and the current cash flow. As monetisation of assets through exit activities will see a consequential hold before their prices recover and economic activity returns to normal, investors will want to protect their assets through insertion of restrictive covenants. Owing to the pandemic, venture capitalists are seeking stronger deal terms as the leverage has shifted back to investors.

For the purpose of hedging the risk that presents itself during this time, it is important that both the investors and the start-ups cooperate to maximise efficiency and solve the liquidity crisis that has hit the market currently. The contractual clauses so drafted depend upon the factual matrix of each start-up, made up of the bargaining power of either side. Often, it is a tussle between either side to include clauses that are more favourable either to the start-up or the investor. Such bargaining power resides in the potential of the assets that the start-up creates. There is an inverse relation between the strength of the company and the bargaining power of the investors to introduce such clauses that hedge the risk faced by the lender at the cost of the company. For those companies that are doing well amid the Coronavirus pandemic, these investor-friendly terms come up less. The strongest companies don't see those tough provisions.

Such methods that hedge the risk by cannibalising the control of the start-up and inserting provisions that dilute the risk for the investor are detrimental to the relations between the two parties. Mostly, the survival of the firm shall be determined by various factors. Among them is the low burn rate through liquidity, adaptability and the basic strength of the start-up and its baseline health before the pandemic hit the world.

However, unique times require unique solutions and the same is reciprocated by legal measures so sought to reflect the mood of the start-ups and the venture capitalists. Conservative measures are on the rise across various industries to either protect the existing values/assets or to drive the economic activity up once the lockdown ends. Therefore, the conservative protective clauses that were prevalent during the dotcom phenomenon are rising again.

Full ratchet anti-dilution protection: This prevents the dilution of the shareholding of the investor in different scenarios. It is a form of protection against the dilutive events that the companies might face, as it completely protects the value for the investors by new stock issues at a price that is lower than the investor's original investment. It changes and updates the price of conversion in order to maintain the investor at the same level of ownership stake in terms of the percentage owned.

Liquidation preferences: This gives one class of shareholders the right to be paid back first in the event of an exit. Though investors exiting during this time period will be exceptionally harmful but the fact remains that many firms will not survive this pandemic. Then in the case of exit by the investors such a provision would be an area of conflict, especially in this scenario.

Pay-to-play provisions: This enables a firm to penalise investors that don't invest in later rounds. It is done to assure an investor that his/her firm isn't the only investor in future rounds.

Pull-up provisions, discounts on bridge loans: Similar to the pay-to-play provisions, these are designed to provide a strong incentive for existing investors to participate in future financing. Heightened rewards are only affirmative of the unequal bargaining power of the investor against the start-up.

Blocking rights on exits: This gives investors more control of a company so that they can block an acquisition of a firm. This can be used if an investor thinks his/her firm isn't making enough money in an exit.

At this stage of the Coronavirus pandemic and its resultant impact on the economy of the country, it is imperative for the investors and the firms to amicably cooperate in order to effectively guide the firm out of troubled waters. The devastating effect that the pandemic has had on the bottomlines of firms, especially start-ups is not something that can be wished away overnight.

It will take a concerted effort, on the side of the investors, the start-ups and all stakeholders to steer companies out of the current storm. More measures aimed at reinforcing the moral fabric of the company by providing the right treatment to the employees should be adopted and the firm should not be seen as a lamb being fattened up only to be slaughtered at the apt time.

(The writer is the Managing Partner at KS Legal and Associates)



NAHEED PARACHA

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The American attorney Keenan Kmiec writes that the first time the term "judicial activism" was used was by US historian Arthur Schlesinger Junior in 1947. But since he was a staunch liberal and supporter of the Democratic Party, one can conclude he was vaguely criticising the Supreme Court judges who had initially overturned the many unprecedented economic policies outlined by President Franklin Roosevelt to address the economic depression in the US in the 1930s.

Ever since the 1950s, there have been at least seven well-known cases in the US which experts have described as being influenced by judicial activism. But even though some of these judgments have been hailed as bold and timely, the idea of judicial activism has largely been criticised by law experts and many sitting governments. The Black's Law Dictionary, one of the most used law dictionaries in the US, explains judicial activism as a deci-

sion-making process whereby judges allow their personal views about public policy to guide their decisions.

Other critics have claimed that it intrudes in the workings of the executive and legislative branches of the Government and disturbs democratic order.

But there are also those, such as the US professor of law Brian Tamanaha, who says that an absolutely objective interpretation of law is impossible and, therefore, a judge's personality and/or views are bound to influence his/her judgments.

The debate around the idea and act of judicial activism is now decades old. But many commentators are of the view that, instead of aiding the judiciary to come to a middle-ground, judicial activism has broken away and sprinted towards populism. Eight years ago, the Pakistani academic and author Mohammad Waseem more-than-hinted that judicial activism in Pakistan was transforming into "judicial populism" in his essay for the 2012 edition of the *Journal of Contemporary South Asia*.

Dr Waseem was writing when Chaudhry Iftikhar was the country's Chief Justice (CJP), brought back to this position by a "lawyers' movement" against the Pervez Musharraf regime that had ousted him on charges of corruption.

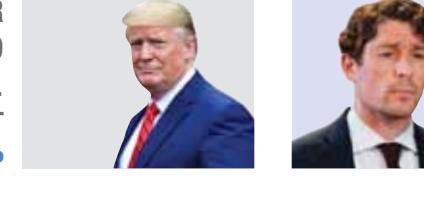
On the former CJP's style of judging, Dr Waseem says: "Confrontation between the executive and judiciary under him led to speculation about the imminent collapse of the democratic system. The use of judicial review by him was widely criticised as an attempt to encroach on the territory of the legislature. The court's pursuit of public interest litigations through frequent *suo motu* actions taken in a populist mode led to brinkmanship on the part of the judiciary. However, the court's pursuit of judicial reform relating to speedy justice and accountability of the higher judiciary remained far from satisfactory."

In order to explain what a "populist" judge is, SOAS University of London's Yasser Kureshi in an essay for *Dawn* writes: "The populist judge embraces a more aggressive form of

POINT COUNTER POINT

EITHER THE VERY WEAK MAYOR GET HIS ACT TOGETHER AND BRING THE CITY UNDER CONTROL OR I WILL SEND IN THE NATIONAL GUARD AND GET THE JOB DONE RIGHT.

—US PRESIDENT
DONALD TRUMP



TRUMP KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF MINNEAPOLIS. WE ARE STRONG AS HELL. THIS IS A DIFFICULT TIME BUT WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS.

—MINNEAPOLIS'S MAYOR
JACOB FREY

Make (in) India great

Self-reliance in defence could have the best advantages for us as, besides the economic benefits that will accrue, it will also result in strategic independence, which is a key ingredient of national security



ANIRUDDHA CHAKRAVARTY

Every war brings death and destruction in its wake. It also opens windows of opportunities for those who seek it. Though the global war on the COVID-19 is by no means over it has brought a host of opportunities with it. So, do we Indians continue to remain in the abyss of poverty or do we take a plunge into the new world that is opening up? It needs to be remembered that in the past, India was a leader in manufacturing. As per William Dalrymple's book *The Anarchy*, in 1608, India "was producing about a quarter of global manufacturing; indeed in many ways it was the world's industrial powerhouse and world's leader in manufactured textiles." Whatever happened thereafter is history and during the British rule, India lost the leadership role in manufacturing. We missed the Industrial Revolution and it had a telling effect on impoverishing India.

Thankfully, we did catch the train of Digital Revolution but the gains were not inclusive enough to pull us out of poverty. The opportunity that the COVID revolution is presenting needs to be grabbed with everything that we have. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi put across to the country, his vision of "Atma nirbhar (self-reliant)" India and rolled out financial packages to support the vision, many opportunities could open up, particularly in defence production.

India is one of the biggest arms importers in the world. In 2013-2017, India topped the list as it accounted for 12 per cent of the world's arms imports. The US was the highest arms exporter amounting to 34 per cent of the global share. Even Netherlands, which is 79 times smaller in size than India, was the tenth-largest exporter of arms, accounting for 2.1 per cent of the global arms exports. Surely, a renewed Make in India will provide the country with unparalleled benefits. Self-reliance in defence could have the best advantages for India, as, besides the economic benefits that will accrue, it will also result in strategic independence, which is a key ingredient of national security.

Threat perception is mostly what drives force structuring and weaponisation. With the break-up of the USSR, the threat perception reduced significantly and it was possible for some European nations to scale down their armed forces. However, in the Indian context, the perceived threat from the Northern and Western neighbours does not appear to be reducing in the foreseeable future. While the spectrum and type of conflict that may manifest can be debated, what is of importance is that the preparedness has to be long-term in the interest of overall national security.

Though there has been indigenisation in the field of defence production for the last decade, its output has obviously not been as desired. Also, in terms of quality, there have been instances of the product not being suitable for combat conditions. One can take the case of the INSAS rifle with problems of moving parts and magazines. Time taken for developing a product is also important — as in the case of MBT Arjun.

Indigenisation for defence is simply not "Made in India" or "Manufactured in India." To be successful, "Make in India" has to include the entire process and this includes: Identification of the weapon or equipment or platform to be manufactured; technology; design; patent/IPR and related issues; manufacturing ecosystem and operational maintenance and logistics.

THROUGH 'MAKE IN INDIA,' WE CAN ACHIEVE TO GET WHAT WE NEED FOR OUR OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS AND NOT WHAT SOME OTHER COUNTRY WANTS TO SELL, WHICH COULD BE QUITE UNRELATED TO OUR REQUIREMENTS. NO OTHER COUNTRY WOULD BE FIGHTING WARS IN THE VARIED TERRAIN AND OTHER CONDITIONS THAT PREVAIL ALONG OUR BORDERS



Identification of the weapon/equipment/platform: Based on the threat perception and a long-term integrated plan, each weapon/equipment/platform is to be decided. This is an important process, needing strategic perception and long-term capability development and would be in the realms of the armed forces, with inputs from sources as desired by them. The process also includes formulation of General Service Qualitative Requirements (GSQR), which need to be realistic while meeting the operational requirements of the armed forces.

I am reminded of the days when I was serving in the Siachen glacier, in one of the most challenging posts, in 1992. Since our post was on an ice-wall and was partially under enemy observation, the helipad was located some distance away. Due to the restriction of the valley width as also very limited availability of landing ground, only the smallest helicopter, the Cheetah (French Alouette engine) could fly there. In its first sortie, with full fuel load, all that it could carry was either one man without his equipment or his equipment or a jerrican (20 litres) of kerosene oil.

I wondered at that time as a young Major, that, whereas a sizeable portion of our army is deployed in high altitude and super high altitude areas, why is it that we don't have an Indian helicopter to meet our operational requirements?

Through "Make in India," we can achieve to get what we need for our operational conditions and not what some other country wants to sell, which could be quite unrelated to our requirements. No other country would be fighting wars in the varied terrain and other conditions that prevail along our borders.

Technology and Design: For the success of "Make in India," the process of technology and design would probably be the

most significant one. This applies equally to both, i.e. platforms made by large industries or smaller sub-systems manufactured by MSMEs. Technology must drive the equipment to be unfailingly combat-effective, be it a platform like the aircraft carrier, an aircraft, main battle tank; or a small part like the magazine of a rifle; each needs combat-worthy technology.

Fortunately, India has enough technology experts in this field but their expertise needs to be harnessed in a highly organised manner.

A conducive ecosystem needs to be created, wherein they can contribute to national security as a matter of pride, while their individual aspirations are also taken care of. There is also a need to harness Indian technology experts who may have moved to the US/Europe or other countries, giving them the option of repatriating, including those who may have lost their jobs in the current situation. Alternatively, they could work on a project basis in India. An opportunity can thus be created for them to "give back" to their country which, in a large number of cases, would have given them basic education to achieve success.

There are, of course, products utilising very high-end technology, which may not be readily available. There is a need to acquire such technology leveraging India's other strengths. For the long-term success of "Make in India," such borrowed/acquired technology cannot be an answer. Dedicated investment must be made on R&D of short and long-term defence equipment requirements, taking advantage of the technology experts of the entire country, on a project basis. Such research projects and their byproducts could also be utilised for civilian purposes, in the long-term.

Patent/IPR: All existing patent/IPR rules/regulations must be fully implement-

ed. Excellence/innovation needs to be honoured and rewarded. Even individual interests of scientists, where applicable, in relation to patents must be respected. Clauses of national security, where desirable can be enunciated.

Manufacturing Ecosystem: With the "Make in India" friendly packages announced by the Government, including items that cannot be imported, both large industrial houses and MSMEs have an unprecedented opportunity. However, to compete, their standards have to be really world-class. For long-term success, the manufacturing capabilities need to be upgraded where required, to supply fail-proof combat equipment. Promising manufacturing units, including start-ups, could be provided appropriate efficiency and output-based support.

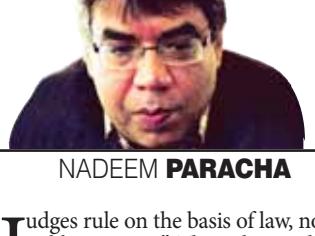
Operational Maintenance and Logistics: In the varied terrain conditions that Indian Armed Forces operate in, including a major portion in high altitude and super-high altitude areas, operational maintenance and logistics would play a significant role. In situations where feasible, the original equipment manufacturer could take on the responsibility of logistics and sustainment. The design of the weapon/equipment must take into consideration the requirements of field maintenance in extremely challenging situations and terrain.

The 21st century has presented India with an unique opportunity, which could fulfil the requirements of inclusive growth as well as meet many other existing challenges. Through 'Make in India', the country gains strategic independence, the industry makes progress, jobs are created and most importantly the soldier gets indigenously-manufactured equipment meeting world standards.

(The writer is former Director-General of the National Cadet Corps)

The age of judicial populism

How did judicial activism evolve into populism? And does the judiciary really represent the people's will and interests more than the elected politicians?



NAHEED PARACHA

the term "judicial activism" is much older but it was not used as frequently as it is being now.

The American attorney Keenan Kmiec writes that the first time the term "judicial activism" was used was by US historian Arthur Schlesinger Junior in 1947. But since he was a

staunch liberal and supporter of the Democratic Party, one can conclude he was vaguely criticising the Supreme Court judges who had initially overturned the many unprecedented economic policies outlined by President Franklin Roosevelt to address the economic depression in the US in the 1930s.

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In order to explain what a "populist"

judge is, SOAS University of London's Yasser Kureshi in an essay for *Dawn* writes: "The populist judge embraces a more aggressive form of

judicial activism, prioritising not only policy over precedent but also outcomes over processes. The populist judge is unbound by precedent and procedure, interpreting away any constitutional limitations on what the judge can and cannot do."

Indeed, a lot has been written on judicial populism in Pakistan since the return of Chaudhry Iftikhar. Saqib Nisar, who was CJP from December 2016 till January 2019, was also described by many as a populist judge. Only recently, when the current CJP, Justice Gulzar Ahmad, ordered the Sindh Government to allow the opening of shopping malls in Karachi — when the number of COVID-19 infections were on the rise — critics of the decision explained it as populist and even ill-informed.

But is judicial populism squarely a Pakistani phenomenon? Not quite. A similar decision was delivered by the Supreme Court of the US State of Wisconsin. The US has the highest number of COVID-19 cases and deaths. So it was understandable that this decision was roundly criticised.

The Supreme Courts of Israel and Brazil are also seen as dealing in judicial populism, even though they haven't yet said much on the COVID-19 pandemic. The Brazilian professor of law, Diego Werneck, published an insightful essay, exploring why judicial activism mutates and becomes judicial populism. According to Werneck, courts have traditionally been targets of populists who criticise them for being elitist and bureaucratic. To counter this, especially in an era of rampant populism and unabashed populists heading governments in various countries, Werneck writes that courts have begun to preserve their authority by adjusting their decisions to trends in public opinion.

Werneck then adds: "By adopting the populist vocabulary, the courts claim to represent and vindicate current majority sentiment against what are perceived as corrupt politicians."

Werneck writes that this can be triggered by general discontent or a protest movement. He gave the example of the mass 2015 protests in Brazil, during which its Supreme Court

judges and some trial judges did not back in castigating "corrupt politicians" in the media and gained significant popularity. This encouraged their populist style.

This scenario is remarkably similar to how the higher judiciary evolved in Pakistan after the 2007 lawyers' movement and then again, after the 2014 protests held by Imran Khan's PTI. But Dr Waseem adds another dimension to this. He writes that when elected representatives clash in developing countries, non-elected State institutions are invited by both to mediate. In the past, the military used to be that sole mediator, despite the fact that it often ended up getting rid of both the bickering parties. Waseem then adds that, ever since the time of Iftikhar, the judiciary, too, has been approached by politicians to settle scores against opponents. But, the more this happens, the more space the executive and the legislative lose, because the judiciary now believes it represents the people's will and interests more than the politicians.

(Courtesy: Dawn)

'We're sick of it': Anger over police killings shatters US



A Los Angeles Police Department kiosk is seen ablaze in The Grove shopping center during a protest over the death of George Floyd AP

— adding to deaths in Detroit and Minneapolis in recent days.

In Minneapolis, the city where the protests began, police, state troopers and National Guard members moved in soon after an 8 pm curfew took effect to break up protests, firing tear gas and rubber bullets to clear streets outside a police precinct and elsewhere.

"The mistakes that are happening are not mistakes. They're repeated violent terrorist offenses and people need to stop killing black people," Brooklyn protester Meryl Maklinski said.

People set fire to police cars, threw bottles at police officers and busted windows of storefronts, carrying away TVs and other items even as some protesters urged them to stop.

In Indianapolis, police were investigating multiple shootings, including one that left a person dead amid the protests

two NYPD cruisers lurching into a crowd of demonstrators who were pushing a barricade against one of them and pelting it with objects.

Several people were knocked to the ground, and it was unclear if anyone was hurt.

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Few corners of America were untouched, from protesters setting fires inside Reno's city hall, to police launching tear gas at rock-throwing

demonstrators in Fargo, North Dakota. In Salt Lake City, demonstrators flipped a police car and lit it on fire. Police said six people were arrested and a police officer was injured after being struck in the head with a baseball bat.

Police have arrested at least 1,669 people in 22 cities since Thursday. Nearly a third of those arrests came in Los Angeles, where the governor declared a state of emergency and ordered the National Guard to back up the city's 10,000 police officers as dozens of fires burned across the city.

The damage in US cities came as many Americans plan to return to in-person church services on Sunday for the first time in several weeks since the pandemic forced a ban on large gatherings. Pastors in pulpits across the country will likely be urging peace amid the rubble of riots. Trump appeared to cheer on the tougher tactics Saturday night, commanding the National Guard deployment in Minneapolis, declaring "No games!" and saying police in New York City "must be allowed to do their job!"

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden condemned the violence as he continued to express common cause with those demonstrating after Floyd's death.

"The act of protesting should never be allowed to overshadow the reason we protest," Biden said in a statement Saturday night.

Overnight curfews were imposed in more than a dozen major cities nationwide, including Atlanta, Denver, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, San Francisco and Seattle.

This week's unrest recalled the riots in Los Angeles nearly 30 years ago after the acquittal of the white police officers who beat Rodney King, a black motorist who had led them on a high-speed chase.

The protests of Floyd's killing have gripped many more cities, but the losses in Minneapolis have yet to approach the staggering totals Los Angeles saw during five days of rioting in 1992, when more than 60 people died, 2,000-plus were injured and

thousands arrested, with property damage topping \$1 billion.

But not all protests were marred by violence. In Juneau, Alaska, local police joined protesters at a rally in front of a giant whale sculpture on the city's waterfront.

"We don't tolerate excessive use of force," Juneau Police Chief Ed Mercer told a gathering where most people wore masks and some sang Alaska Native songs.

The show of force in Minneapolis came after three days when police largely avoided engaging protesters, and after the state poured in over 4,000 National Guard troops to Minneapolis and said the number would soon rise to nearly 11,000.

AP

National Guard called in to quell violence in Los Angeles

ed to arrive early Sunday.

Garcetti said the soldiers would be deployed "to support our local response to maintain peace and safety on the streets of our city." Firefighters responded to dozens of fires, and scores of businesses were damaged. One of the hardest-hit areas was the area around the Grove, a popular high-end outdoor mall west of downtown where hundreds of protesters swarmed the area, showering police with rocks and other objects and vandalizing shops.

AP

Biden condemns violence overshadowing protests

Washington: Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden condemned the violence in a statement, as he continued to express common cause with those demonstrating after Floyd's death.

"The act of protesting should never be allowed to overshadow the reason we protest," Biden said in a statement Saturday night.

"It should not drive people away from the just cause that protest is meant to advance."

Officials in Minneapolis

say they've succeeded for now in stopping the violent protests that ravaged parts of the city for several days after the death of George Floyd.

Police, state troopers and National Guard members moved in to break up protests after an 8 p.m. Curfew took effect, firing tear gas and rubber bullets to clear streets outside a police precinct and elsewhere.

The show of force came after three days where police mostly declined to engage with protesters. It also came after

to "quell this situation."

Floyd, a handcuffed black man, died after

a Minneapolis police officer kneeled on his neck for several minutes.

AP

Trump postpones G7 summit, wants to expand it to G10 or G11, including India

Washington: US President Donald Trump has postponed the G7 Summit till September and expressed his desire to expand the "outdated" bloc to G10 or G11, including India and three other nations to the grouping of the world's top economies.

Trump has been over the weeks suggesting that there is "no greater example" of reopening amid the COVID-19 pandemic than holding an in-person G7 summit in America by the end of June.

The president, in an interview with reporters traveling with him aboard the Air Force One from Florida to Washington DC on Saturday, said that he is "postponing it (the summit) until September"

and plans to invite Russia, South Korea, Australia and India.

"I don't feel that as a G7, it properly represents what's going on in the world. It's a very outdated group of countries," he said.

"So it might be a G10, G11, and it could be after the election (in the US) is over..."

Trump said the G7 Summit could happen before the UN General Assembly session in September. "Maybe I'll do it after the election. I think a good time would be before the election," he said. The presidential election in the US is scheduled for November 3.

Trump is seeking a second term in the White House. PTI

Communal tension in Quetta over mob lynching of youth

Karachi: Communal tension and protests have erupted in Pakistan's Quetta city after a mob, most of them believed to be from Shia Hazara community, allegedly lynched a Pushtun youth and severely injured his two friends. The capital city of the restive Baluchistan province remained tense and partially shut down on Sunday after the brutal lynching of the youth named Bilal Khan at a hair dresser's shop in Hazara town area on Friday night.

The incident was filmed on mobile phones and the footage was shared on social media, triggering protest. Police have arrested 12 people in connection with the lynching which is said to have occurred over a monetary dispute while another version is that the three youths had filmed some women of the Hazara community on their mobile phones.

PTI

Israeli Def Min apologises for Palestinian's death

Athens: Greek officials said Sunday that the country will not limit incoming tourists to those from a list of 29 nations, but travelers from countries not on the list will be subject to mandatory testing on arrival and a period of quarantine depending on test results.

The policy will only be applied during the final two weeks of June, although Greek authorities left open the prospect of additional restrictions after that date.

The list announced on Friday includes Albania, Australia, Austria, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Estonia, Japan, Israel, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lebanon, New Zealand and others.

While the latest number in applications for good citizenship is not yet available, analysts expect them to rise with political temperature, the report said.

"People who were just engaging us on basic information before are now firmly committing by putting down deposits," Gillott said, citing one customer who asked to move his "millions and millions of dollars" to Portugal. "Never seen that before."

The political factor has encouraged some high-net-worth individuals – defined as those having more than HKD 10 million (USD 1.29 million) of wealth – to diversify their assets into other cities like London, Singapore and Taiwan.

Taiwan, which is having a stormy relationship with China

as Beijing claims the territory to be part of the Chinese mainland, is an attractive destination for many seeking to flee the turmoil in Hong Kong. The self-ruling island allows foreigners to gain citizenship with USD 199,680 in investments in a business that hires local staff.

Almost 2,400 Hongkongers filed residency applications for Taiwan from January to April this year, compared to 948 last year in the same period, said Midland's director of strategy Tina Cheng, citing government data. In all, 5,585 people left Hong Kong for Taiwan in 2019, an increase of 41 per cent, the government said.

Despite the interest in Taiwan, the top destinations remain English-speaking countries such as Ireland, Canada, and Australia. PTI

"I am sure this subject will be investigated swiftly and conclusions will be reached."

Halak's relatives said he had autism and was heading to a school for students with special needs where he studied each day when he was shot.

In a statement, Israeli police said they spotted a suspect "with a suspicious object that looked like a pistol." When he failed to obey orders to stop, officers opened fire, the statement said. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld later said no weapon was found. Israeli media reported the officers involved were questioned after the incident as per protocol and a lawyer representing one of them sent his condolences to the family in an interview with Israeli Army Radio.

PTI

Decoding of black box of crashed Pak plane to begin on June 2: Investigators

PTI ■ KARACHI

The work on the flight and the cockpit voice recorders of the Pakistani airplane that crashed in a densely populated area, killing 97 people, will start from June 2 in France, the French aviation investigation authority has said.

The Airbus A320 aircraft of the national carrier Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) had 91 passengers and a crew of eight when it crashed into the Jinnah Garden area near Model Colony in Malir on Friday, minutes before its landing.

Ninety Seven passengers were killed. Eleven people on the ground were injured.

An 11-member team of

experts from an Airbus facility in the French city of Toulouse arrived in Pakistan last week to conduct an independent probe into the crash involving its aircraft.

"@Airbus #A320 AP-BLD @Official_PIA. Technical work on FDR & CVR will start at @BEA_Aero 02/06/20. @BEA_aero thanks a lot AAIB from Pakistan for the coordination, organization and support provided," BEA, France's Civil Aviation Safety Investigation Authority, said in a tweet on Saturday.

The flight data recorder (FDR) records time, altitude, airspeed, heading, and aircraft attitude and other in-flight characteristics.

New York Governor signs bill granting death benefits to deceased front-line workers

New York: New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a bill Saturday granting death benefits to the families of police officers, public health workers and other front-line workers who have died of the coronavirus.

The bill passed by state lawmakers provides an accidental death benefit that is more substantial than the regular death benefit that public workers' families receive.

Dozens of police officers, public health workers, transit workers and paramedics

have died of COVID-19 in the months since

New York became the epicenter of the

pan-epidemic in the United States.

Cuomo said 67

people died of COVID-19 in the state on

Friday, the same number as Thursday and a

steep drop from the height of New York's out-

broke in April, when more than 700 people

were dying of the disease daily.

PTI

Nawaz Sharif's leaked photo sparks debate over his health

Lahore: A fresh picture of Pakistan's 'ailing' former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif taking tea at a London cafe along with some members of his family went viral on social media, sparking a debate on his health with the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf members demanding his return to face corruption cases.

In the picture, the 70-year-old three-time premier is seen sitting at a roadside cafe with his granddaughters. He sported a blue shalwar kameez and a cap and apparently looked in better health.

Some ministers got skeptical about the serious nature of his health, saying Sharif is roaming on London streets and he even did not bother to wear mask in this COVID-19 testing time.

"This picture of Sharif having tea in cafe is exposing our law, justice and judicial system. This picture also tells how

much people can trust on the accountability system in the country," Science Minister Fawad Chaudhry said.

Prime Minister's adviser Shahbaz Gill said that Sharif had gone abroad after lying in the court. "The Sharifs think the people are fool," Gill said and asked Mr Sharif to return to Pakistan to face corruption cases against him.

Punjab Information Minister Fayyazul Hasan Chohan said that how come Sharif roams on London's streets without a mask. He should be brought back to face corruption cases against him.

As the picture went viral on social media on Saturday it became top trend, sparking a debate about Sharif's health with his detractors asking why he does not return to Pakistan if he is well while his supporters expressed joy at seeing their leader in good health and spirits.

PTI

Spanish PM wants state of emergency extension



control over health care to the regions that have shown the most progress in containing the virus.

"We have almost reached safe harbor," Sanchez said.

The central government is slowing rolling back confinement measures depending on which areas have fewer infections and are better prepared for a possible second outbreak.

The lockdown measures have succeeded to reining in a COVID-19 outbreak that has claimed at least 27,000 lives in Spain.

Sanchez says this final stretch of the lockdown will include the handing back of

Greece to allow incoming tourists from 29 countries

Athens: Greek officials said Sunday that the country will not limit incoming tourists to those from a list of 29 nations, but travelers from countries not on the list will be subject to mandatory testing on arrival and a period of quarantine depending on test results.

The policy will only be applied during the final two weeks of June, although Greek authorities left open the prospect of additional restrictions after that date.

The list announced on Friday includes Albania, Australia, Austria, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Estonia, Japan, Israel, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lebanon, New Zealand and others.

Pathogen Reduction Technology System to treat nine plasma and three whole-blood products.

"We eliminated a huge amount of virus and we could not detect the virus post-treatment," said Izabela Ragan, study co-author from CSU.

The device, invented by Ray Goodrich, senior author of the study from CSU, works by exposing the blood product or plasma to UV light.

Heather Pidcock, another co-author on the study, explained that the blood product or plasma is placed in a specially designed storage bag, following which riboflavin solution is added to this, and the mixture

is then exposed to UV light.

The device gently shakes the bag to circulate the blood cells, so the cells come to the surface where they are exposed to the UV light, the study noted.

However, the authors caution that this is not an experiment to try at home.

They said the light does not penetrate the entire bag, so it's not the same as exposing body parts to UV light. The researchers said the device may help avoid what happened in the 1980s, when HIV was transmitted through blood and blood products while scientists were still trying to isolate and identify what might be causing the spread of the virus.

PTI

ITR forms for 2019-20 notified

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government has notified income tax return forms for 2019-20 and made it mandatory for entities to file ITR if deposits in a current account exceed ₹1 crore or electricity bill in the fiscal is over ₹1 lakh or spent above ₹2 lakh on foreign travels.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Saturday notified Sahaj (ITR-1), Form ITR-2, Form ITR-3, Form Sugam (ITR-4), Form ITR-5, Form ITR-6, Form ITR-7 and Form ITR-V (Verification) for the assessment year 2020-21 (income earned between April 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020). The new ITR forms require

entities to furnish details of specified high spend transactions, such as deposit of ₹1 crore or more in a current account, expenditure of ₹2 lakh or more on foreign travel or spending of ₹1 lakh or more on consumption of electricity. Also, joint owners of a house property can file ITR-1 Sahaj.

The CBDT has introduced new column in ITR-1, 2, 3 and 4 wherein it has asked three specific questions to the assessee - have you deposited amount or aggregate of amounts exceeding ₹1 crore in one or more current account during the previous year? Have you incurred expenditure of an amount or aggregate of amount exceeding ₹2 lakh for travel to

a foreign country for yourself or for any other person?

Have you incurred expenditure of amount or aggregate of amount exceeding ₹1 lakh on consumption of electricity during the previous year?

Hence, any entity, that is otherwise not required to file ITR, will have to file it for the financial year 2019-20 if the answer to any of the above questions is 'Yes'. The CBDT, which is the apex policy-making body on direct taxes, has also revised the ITR return forms to allow assesses to avail benefits of various timeline extension granted by the Govt following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Accordingly, the new ITR forms have introduced

Schedule DI which requires taxpayers to furnish details of tax-saving investments or donations made between April 1, 2020, and June 30, 2020, for 2019-20 separately.

The Govt had extended various timelines under the Income Tax Act, 1961, through the Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation of Certain Provisions) Ordinance, 2020. Accordingly, the time for making investment or payments for claiming deduction under Chapter-VIA-B of IT Act that include Section 80C (LIC, PPP, NSC etc.), 80D (Mediclaim) and 80G (Donations) for the financial year 2019-20 had been extended by 3 months till June 30, 2020. Nangia

Andersen Consulting Director Shailesh Kumar said the Govt has introduced seventh proviso to the Section 139(1) under which a person will be required to file ITR though not liable under 139(1).

"The ITR forms are modified in line with new disclosure requirements made in the Income Tax Act for AY 2020-21. Taxpayers would need to be careful of these new disclosure requirements, before filing their ITR and to select an appropriate ITR form," Kumar said. AKM Global Tax Partner Amit Maheshwari said this comes as a relief as now joint owners of house properties and big spenders can use the same Sahaj and Sugam forms,

which are easier to fill.

The Government has already extended the deadline for filing all ITRs for the financial year 2019-20 till November 30. Also the deadline for filing the tax audit report has been extended by a month till October 31.

Currently, individuals and other non-corporate taxpayers not subject to tax audit and transfer pricing are required to file ITR by July 31. Corporate taxpayers and other non-corporate taxpayers subject to tax audit (including partners/directors of firms/companies subject to tax audit) but not subject to transfer pricing are required to file ITR by October 31.

Indian economy is on path of revival: Pradhan

Women to play leading role in post Covid-19 economy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday said Indian economy is on the path of revival and women will play a leading role in the post Covid-19 economy.

Covid-19, technology has brought equalisation in the society. There will be an exponential growth in the use of technology for conducting business. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and with the stimulus packages being announced, the Central and State governments are working towards securing both lives and livelihoods of people. He also spoke about the city gas distribution network in the country.

Jahnavi Phookan, President, FLO said for 'Amanirbhav Bharat: Inclusive Growth for Transforming India', Pradhan said, "With

women along."

UNLOCK 1

India Inc welcomes norms, expects revival

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

India Inc welcomed the Centre's norms — Unlock 1 — meant to ease restrictions on businesses and other daily aspects of life.

Accordingly, the fifth phase of the nationwide lockdown was announced which would last in the containment zones from June 8-30.

The guidelines said that only a limited number of activities will remain prohibited throughout the country, including international air travel till June-end.

However, baring essential services, no activity will be allowed in the containment zones.

Industry body Assocham's Secretary General Deepak Sood said the phased re-opening of activities from June 1, termed as 'Unlock 1' with an economic focus, has come in as a great relief for the industry and trade, including millions of MSMEs which should steadily return to normalcy while maintaining vigil against the spread of Covid-19.

"After a stringent lockdown of over two months, the economic dimension of the pandemic had to be considered ensuring both life and livelihood," Sood said.

"The Central Government has taken a right call, freeing a

Hotel industry welcomes move, will follow health safety SoPs

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

India's hotel industry has welcomed the Centre's norms under 'Unlock 1', which allow them to re-commence operations.

These norms are part of the fifth phase of the nationwide lockdown which was announced on Saturday for the containment zones till June 30, providing relaxations for the hotel industry from June 8 onwards.

This phase relaxes many

restrictions on businesses.

Hotel Association of India Vice President K.B. Kachru said: "The pandemic and consequent lockdowns have had disastrous impact on the hotel sector." "We welcome the government's decision to allow restaurants, hotels and malls to open in areas outside the containment zones from June 8. We hope this landmark decision will pave the way for graded resurgence of the hotel industry," Kachru said.

He urged the Centre to

consider setting up of a Tourism COVID 19 Fund for enabling the tourism industry to meet its salary and working capital needs.

Major Industry player such as Ritesh Agarwal, Founder & Group CEO - OYO Hotels & Homes said: "We welcome the government's decision to reopen hotels. We are excited and prepared to host guests with the new sanitised stay experience. Similarly, Nakul Anand, Executive Director, ITC, and Chairman of the

Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality, thanked the Centre for realigning the commencement of business operations of hotels, restaurants and other hospitality services under Unlock 1.

"We welcome the government's decision to reopen hotels. We are excited and prepared to host guests with the new sanitised stay experience. At OYO, our topmost priorities are maintaining health, hygiene & well-being of our guests and staff.

bilateral FTAs, if any roadblock or unfair competition is being noticed, the Government may be informed and prompt remedial action will be taken".

Pharma exports in 2019-20 grew by 8 per cent to USD 20.7 billion as against USD 19.14 billion in 2018-19.

Eastern European nations include Romania, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Moldova.

Calling upon a collaborative route in the R&D efforts, Goyal said academicians, universities, ICMR and private sector should join hands.

He said this while interacting with representatives of pharmaceutical industry, and office-bearers of pharma associations, through video conference.

The Minister said, "They should look at large untapped market in Eastern Europe and Russia and in case of ongoing

tions presented in the meeting will be quickly examined and wherever required, the inter-ministerial consultations will be completed at the earliest.

The Minister also said that the country should become self-reliant in APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredients) as early as possible, as the Government has taken a number of steps in this regard.

It has already approved the scheme on promotion of bulk drug parks for financing common infrastructure facilities in three such parks.

Also, production linked incentive scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical KSMs (key starting materials)/drug intermediates and APIs in the country has been given a go ahead, he said.

CAIT supports call to boycott Chinese products

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Trader's body CAIT on Sunday expressed solidarity with Ladakh-based educational reformer and visionary Sonam Wangchuk's appeal to boycott Chinese goods.

Amid tensions between India and China, Wangchuk, the man who inspired the Bollywood block-buster '3 Idiots', has appealed and asked Indians to boycott all Chinese companies.

In a statement, Zubin Saxena, Managing Director and Vice President, Operations, South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group, said: "We are looking forward to resuming operations within government guidelines.

"Apart from hygiene, our go-forward business model is concentrated on leveraging the synergies of our network which we believe will work in a sustainable manner to ensure business uplift overtime. We remain dedicated to exceeding guest expectations in the new era of hospitality that awaits us."

Traders, which claims to represent 7 crore traders, said it has identified about 3,000 categories of heavily imported Chinese products which must immediately be replaced by Indian products as good quality Indian replacements are available for such products".

CAIT Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal said it will educate traders across the country to stop importing as well as selling these products, and more products will soon be verified and added to the list. The trader's body said, "The whole country understands the importance of hurting China economically and therefore we wholeheartedly welcome this great initiative."

Toyota Kirloskar sales dip 86% in May

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Toyota Kirloskar Motoron Sunday reported a 86.49 per cent decline in domestic vehicle sales to 1,639 units in May. Company had posted sales of 12,138 units in May 2019, TKM said in a statement. "We are conscious of the dealer business conditions in various parts of the country and we have been prioritising production at our end as per dealer requirements, both in terms of quantity as well as the grades that they require," TKM Senior Vice president, Sales & Service, Naveen Soni said.

MFs invest ₹1,230 crore in equities during lockdown

Keeping high liquidity for possible redemptions

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mutual funds have invested just ₹1,230 crore in stock markets during the lockdown and industry experts believe they are still waiting for a good "entry point" and maintaining high liquidity for any possible redemptions by corporate houses.

Going ahead, the primary factor that will determine mutual fund (MF) investment into equity will be their own inflows from investors. This will be put to test as many retail

investors are facing risk of pay cuts and job loss over the next quarter or so, said Vidya Balaji, co-founder of Primeinvestor. In Overall, mutual funds have made a net investment of ₹1,230 crore in stocks since the nationwide lockdown was announced on March 24 to tackle the coronavirus, latest data available with the Securities and Exchange Board of India showed.

MFs invested ₹6,363 crore in stocks in the last week of March, while they pulled out ₹7,965 crore in April. Reversing the selling trend in May, they put in ₹2,832 crore, the data showed. Amit Jain, co-founder and CEO at Ashika Wealth Advisors, said mutual funds are not investing big amounts in equities as they are waiting for a good entry point, which he believes will come within two months.

The recommendation on prefixing '0' for calls from fixed line to mobile numbers will generate 2,544 million additional numbering resources for mobile services to

RIL- REs: Big game window opens Mon

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The rights entitlements created nearly ₹9,500 crore wealth for Reliance Industries Limited shareholders. This has set the tone for the final leg of

cater to the future requirements, it said. As per Trai recommendation, the country will continue to follow a 10-digit numbering for mobile services, and the regulator has "categorically rejected" shifting to an 11-digit mobile numbering plan.

"Trai has not recommended 11-digit numbering scheme for mobile services," the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) said in a statement. Trai has recommended a dialling prefix '0' while making a call from a fixed line number to mobile number, the statement said, adding that sufficient numbering space can be created by various methods, including prefixing '0' for all fixed line and mobile calls.

Trai says not recommended 11 digit mobile numbering plan

10-digit numbers to continue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom regulator Trai on Sunday said it has not recommended 11 digit mobile numbers but only suggested prefixing '0' when mobile numbers are called from landlines.

The recommendation on prefixing '0' for calls from fixed line to mobile numbers will generate 2,544 million additional numbering resources for mobile services to

introduction of a dialling prefix for a particular type of call "is not akin to increasing the number of digits in the telephone number".

"This change in dialling pattern will generate 2,544 million additional numbering resources for mobile services to cater to the future requirements," it added. The regulator on Friday had said that migration to unified or single numbering scheme for fixed line and mobile services is not required for now and that sufficient numbering space can be created by various methods, including prefixing '0' for all fixed line and mobile calls.

Comprising of AC, Sleeper Class and General class coaches, the 02232 New Delhi-Lucknow Mail Special train will depart from New Delhi at 10.05 pm on June 1 to arrive at Lucknow at 06.55 am the next day.

New Delhi-Lucknow one-way Lucknow Mail Special train

New Delhi-Lucknow one-way Lucknow Mail Special train today

New Delhi: It is notified for the information of the all concerned that Northern Railway shall run one way Lucknow Mail Special train on 01.06.2020 from New Delhi to Lucknow as per the following programme: The 02232 New Delhi-Lucknow Mail Special train will depart from New Delhi at 10.05 pm on June 1 to arrive at Lucknow at 06.55 am the next day.

Under the provisions, the Govt covers 80 per cent of salaries of furloughed staff, up to the value of GBP 2,500 a month, in order to prevent companies having to resort to redundancies. In a latest set of announcements earlier this week, Sunak had added more

flexibility into the programme so that employers can make use of the scheme in the most effective way.

The scheme was unveiled by the Indian-origin Finance Minister, married to Sunak's daughter Akshata, at the peak of the crisis and is set to gradually wind down until it is fully closed at the end of October.

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PM Modi to share his vision on 'Getting Growth Back' with India Inc on Tue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will share his vision on 'Getting Growth Back' with India Inc during an address at the annual session of industry body CII on Tuesday, sources said. The address comes at a time when companies are resuming operations following relaxations and gradual easing of the nationwide lockdown, which was imposed on March 25 to curb spreading of coronavirus infections.

The Prime Minister will deliver the inaugural address at the Annual Session of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to mark 125 years since its inception in 1895, sources in the industry chamber told PTI.

The day-long virtual event on the theme 'Getting Growth Back' will also witness participation from top corporate honchos.

However, strict restrictions will remain in place till June 30 in the containment zones.

"Phased reopening of the economy, in line with global trends,

will go a long way in boosting business confidence apart from opening opportunities for jobs and incomes. It is important to understand that the unprecedented high global unemployment is the product of the Great Lockdown and not due to any economic crisis.

"Therefore, we can expect jobs and incomes to bounce back sharply. However, managing the spread of the disease arising out of opening would be a challenge," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

Bourses may also react to the GDP numbers released post market hours on Friday.

India's economic growth

slowed to 3.1 per cent in January-March and to an 11-year low of 4.2 per cent for the full fiscal 2019-20, reflecting the early impact of the coronavirus crisis.

Fiscal deficit soared to a seven-year high of 4.6 per cent of GDP in 2019-20 mainly on account of poor revenue realisation. "Auto monthly sales data for the month of May will start coming from Monday which would reflect consumer sentiment. On the positive side, as per IMD, monsoon is likely to reach Kerala early this week which would be closely tracked," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

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Trend Slayer

Salman donates hand sanitiser

Actor SALMAN KHAN has donated hand sanitiser to the Mumbai Police department.

Praising the actor, Yuva Sena member Rahul Kanal tweeted: "Thank you @BeingSalmanKhan bhai for being there for our frontline warriors."

Fans were moved by Salman's gesture.

He has been doing his bit all through the COVID-19 lockdown. A while back, he provided financial help to 32,000 daily wage workers and helped 90 vertically challenged wage workers associated with All India Special Artistes Association (AISAA).



'I feel blessed to have worked with renowned people from the industry. Additionally, I'm ecstatic

and grateful to have got the opportunity to do different, exciting and challenging roles. I have learned a lot with every role and film I have done so far, which has further helped me evolve as an artiste and an individual.'

—Jacqueline Fernandez

Actor ALI FAZAL is standing by theatre artistes in Mumbai who have been rendered jobless owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.



He is backing an initiative that has put together a video raising awareness towards the plight of theatre actors in current times. The music for the video has been scored by Nishant Raja. It is written by Amitosh Nagpal, who has also conceptualised the video with Maneesh Verma.

Speaking about it, Ali said: "It was important to talk about the situation of theatre actors at a time when the lockdown has gone on for almost eight weeks."

'This time has brought balance'

Pop star KATY PERRY says the lockdown has helped her bond with her family at a deeper level.

"This time has brought in some balance. Probably necessary balance. It is in a way good for me, to have brought this kind of mindset because even after quarantine is done, and probably when everyone goes out and celebrates, I will be still at home," Perry said.

Amid the lockdown, Perry, who is expecting her first child with fiance and actor Orlando Bloom, is also keeping herself busy with work.

THEATRE IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC

Artistes tell SAIMI SATTAR that the stage will have to be reinvented and built anew for this social art to thrive and continue

*In the dark times
Will there also be singing?
Yes, there will also be singing.
About the dark times."*
—Bertolt Brecht
(German theatre practitioner,
playwright, and poet)

At no other time in living memory do these lines hold as much truth as they do now for art, but, a reflection of life. Or so they say. And theatre, more than any art form has tried to hold up a mirror to the society. But then, it is also a social medium, where people come and perform while the audience congregates in an auditorium to witness something live as it happens. But in Covidian times of staggered visits, little circles on the floor to ensure social distancing, how would theatre unfold? Would there be masks and sanitisers on stage or will we see plays on the migrant misery?

EFFECTS ON THE ART FORM
Bhanu Bharti, theatre director, playwright and the founder of Aaj Rangmandal theatre group is of the view that the pandemic will affect it positively in a big way. "Modern society was disintegrated and we were becoming self-centered. Ironically, it was social distancing that made us realise the worth of society and the importance of social interaction. Whenever the threat of the pandemic ebbs, people will return to the theatre with a vengeance because they have realised its value."

However, playwright and director M Sayeed Alam, who leads the Pierrot's Troupe, a dance ensemble, says that there could be masks which match the outfits of the actors. The other change that she sees is, "Solo performances taking centre stage for sometime to come. The ones with ensemble cast would pick up slowly after the audience gains confidence and starts coming in."

Mauraya Sharma, Director, Painting Tongue Productions agrees that masks would be the new accessory and a prop during performances. Foreseeing

REFLECTION OF TIMES
Theatre is often the first to tap into any significant occurrence in history whether it is the Partition of the country or wars that we have fought with our neighbours. It is certainly the go-to art form to experience the time in depth.

Shivani Wazir Pasrich, founder of Commonwealth Cultural Forum and director of Study School, says, "Theatre is a reflection of life. It is a way of cataloguing history. It evolves according to the time. The first theatre performance was the dance in a temple, which was a prayer to God, and these evolved over time to be put on stage. So theatre, as it existed, would change according to the times."

Bharti says that theatre would not step back when documenting the misery that is being witnessed among the migrant labourers during the lockdown.

Alam on the other hand points out that existing plays would have to incorporate changes to reflect the new reality.

"One of our most popular comedy, *Ghalib in New Delhi* will see the poet take rebirth in Corona times and would probably be seen with a mask in the first scene itself," he says with a laugh. Besides masks becoming a new normal on stage, there could also be change in the script to include no shaking of hands, sitting at a distance and certainly no touching, feels the director.

Papiha Desai, theatre artist, dancer and choreographer who leads the Indian Revival Group, a dance ensemble, says that there could be masks which match the outfits of the actors. The other change that she sees is, "Solo performances taking centre stage for sometime to come. The ones with ensemble cast would pick up slowly after the audience gains confidence and starts coming in."

However, she feels that theatre really can't bring the despair of the people on the roads to life — for a reason. She says, "For me, no play can equate with even one shot of masses of people walking in heat. Should we duplicate it when we can see what is happening so blatantly in

that these might prove to be a hindrance in delivering dialogues, he says, "We have tools which can pre record dialogues though, I agree, the seal of authenticity might go from a performance."

He goes on to add that there could be a new form of theatre where the audience will be the spectacle. "Theatre based organisations in New York are releasing reading materials and performance clips for people to watch at home and take part in. Actors ask questions in a pre-recorded performance and the audience has to respond to it."

However, Amal Allana, theatre director, scenic and costume designer who was the chairperson of National School of Drama for two consecutive terms believes that there would be innovation with technology which would lead to different kinds of performances that might be more exciting. "One can easily use technology, light and music for creating visuals."

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front of our eyes? Can it be encapsulated? There are too many questions."

REHEARSALS

To put together any production needs at least a month of practice with the ensemble cast and the interactions during it are likely to be affected. Alam says, "It is not like I go on stage one day and use a sanitiser or keep washing hands frequently. We would be rehearsing for days in a smaller space as compared to a theatre. Earlier, a drawing room was enough for the rehearsals. But now the RWA or my neighbours could object to it. We would have to rehearse in park or hire a large space so that social distancing can be maintained."

SOCIALLY DISTANT AUDIENCE

For any play to be successful or for that matter just be put together on the stage requires an audience which would applaud the effort and also, fund it. However, the days of packed shows, where two people sitting besides each other were jostling for space on the arm rest, can be considered a scene of yore. Alternate seats to ensure some distance in between two people is an option. However, Alam points out, "The auditorium

would have to reduce the rent if we do enforce something like this. If that is not done and we sell 100 tickets instead of 300, we would be incurring a loss unless we are funded by the government or have a sponsor."

IS ONLINE AN OPTION?

When the lockdown started, many of the popular theatre companies started putting their content online. So one could see Bolshoi Theatre's *Swan Lake* or the past performances of National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai sitting in the comfort of our homes. Allana says, "Theatre is a lived experience. But given the times, art, dance performances and more can be put online with the help of technology. There are multiple things we can actually do in theatre. Musicals, where musicians are at different locations or even solo performances online are some options that are already being explored."

Pasrich feels that this time is a tremendous opportunity for theatre to go online. "Be it the actor or the audience, the opportunity lies in curation. It is a tool to be integrated in people's lives and to further the profession. As an economic activity, we have to reinvent this space. Now is the time to see what will people do sitting at home. Maybe, you can start online theatre or reading and have fees or contributions for those."

Desai says that discussions with artistes, performances and more has already moved to the web space and that is the way forward. "Sangeet Natak Akademi is getting senior artistes for discussions as it is evident that there would be no performances for at least a year and a half. Moreover, countries are closing borders, so there wouldn't be any performances abroad as well. Humankind knows how to innovate and adapt in order to survive and that is the way forward."

However, many feel that, while this option is fine for the time being, it is not viable in the long run. Bharti says, "I see a lot of my friends doing things online and even though it is something very interesting but that is not theatre. Theatre is coming together for putting up a deeper and more meaningful play."

Alam too has reservations about the online path which he feels, "is a poor alternative and won't survive as there are so many things to watch online. The specialty of an auditorium is that you cannot watch anything else."

He also points out that he made a three-minute film which many people, who love his two-hour plays, found long and lacking in pace. "So, logically how can they watch a two-hour online play?"

REINVENTION: WILL THAT BE THE BYWORD?

Will theatre be born in a new avatar or will the pandemic give it a new direction? The practitioners believe that changes are inevitable. Sharma says, "Theatre has been something very temporary. So the big question is whether it wants to remain transient or record itself?"

Pasrich on the other hand is all for a stepping up of content.

She says, "In order to sustain their passion and homes through the love they have for theatre, artistes would have to come out with exceptional work which usually happens during challenging times and situations. This is the time to write and create and reinvent. We have the tools, which are unbelievable, to do so."

Beyond the economic dimensions, the creator of plays like *Draupadi* and *Tiger* says that at home theatre can offer the option to heal. "By means of role play you might be able to react differently to a situation and keep your sanity in these trying times by scripting your response and being in control."

Allana too feels that the activities around theatre do not have to be centered around just putting a performance on stage. "This is a good time to create archives of theatre, engage in research, write books, discuss plays — all of which theatre needs. It will give us a good time to reflect on the art and see the direction we want to take."

We all look forward to that.



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Allies from 28 nations come together for 21 mini-challenges to

create a global movement for equal rights of the LGBT+ community

In a first of its kind initiative, corporates, academia and individuals from across the world have signed up to advocate for inclusion of the LGBT+ community. The #21DaysAllyChallenge, an initiative by Pride Circle, aims to bring a holistic social change by building a community of passionate allies, across the world. The campaign will start from today as it marks the beginning of the Global Pride Month.

As the world is trying to stabilise in the current circumstances, this is an effort to push forward for inclusion. The movement is joined by individuals, influencers from 28 nations and 70 organisations, and also academic institutions such as IIMs, IITs, NMIMS, MICA, Tagore International School. This will also lead to creating safer schools, workplaces and society for the next generation.

Under the initiative, allies from across the world will engage in a series of 21 mini-challenges spread over a period of 21 days in the month. This is

Push for inclusion



based on science that it takes 21 days to form a new habit.

"We know that the future of workforce inclusion is dependent on culture change — made of seemingly small but vital everyday acts of allyship and support. The challenge is a fun and innovative way to spur individual action for change," says Deena Fidas, Managing Director, Chief Programme and Partnerships Officer, Out & Equal Workplace Advocates (USA).

"People across the world can come together in support of equality for lesbian, gay, bi and

trans people. Visible allies to the LGBT community make a huge difference, whether that's championing LGBT rights in your work, or supporting LGBT family members or friends.

Now, more than ever, we encourage everyone who believes in their equality to come out for equality and find out more about how they can be an ally," says Pete Mercer, Head of Global Programmes, Stonewall (UK).

"In our country where homosexuality legalisation is yet to complete two years, this is our leap of faith to create a

large-scale, global movement to advocate for equal rights and fair treatment for the LGBT+. We believe that allies are some of the most effective and powerful voices for this movement. The contribution of allies in terms of helping create a space of comfort, help bridge the gap in understanding of others with respect to the importance of equality, fairness, acceptance and mutual respect, can be vast," says Ramkrishna Sinha, Co-Founder, Pride Circle, commenting on this empowering initiative.

WEBBED

SPELLING THE DREAM

Following four hopeful competitors, this documentary explores Indian Americans' decades-long success at the biggest spelling contest in the US. The film releases on June 3 on Netflix.



CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Three friends in a low-income neighbourhood find humour and hope in their lives as they grapple with bad boyfriends and their dysfunctional families. Starring Mélissa Bédard, Ève Landry and Florence Longpré, season 1 releases on June 4 on Netflix.



THE LAST DAYS OF AMERICAN CRIME

A bank robber joins a plot to commit one final, historic heist before the government turns on a mind-altering signal that will end all criminal behaviour. Starring Edgar Ramírez, Michael Pitt and Anna Brewster, the film releases on June 5 on Netflix.

BEYOND BORDERS

The training provided to Self Help Groups has not only helped members but also the vulnerable sections of society across the country, says NARENDRA SINGH BISHT

According to a recently published World Bank report, "Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in India have risen to the extraordinary challenge of COVID-19 pandemic. They are meeting the shortfalls in masks, sanitisers and protective equipment, running community kitchens, fighting misinformation and even providing banking and financial solutions to far-flung communities." The data from the same report suggests that around 20,000 SHGs across 27 Indian states had produced more than 19 million masks, over 1,00,000 litres of sanitiser and nearly 50,000 litres of hand wash by April 11.

This is not the first time that SHGs have come forward to help the nation in dealing with a disaster. In four decades, they have helped our country survive through droughts, floods, famines, earthquakes and riots. Started with the purpose of promoting financial independence among rural communities, especially among women, and offering them loans on special rates, SHGs have come a long way.

It was in 1980s that the self-help group movement had begun in India when several NGOs mobilised and organised poor communities in rural areas to provide formal channels for social and financial support." According to researchers, Misha Sharma and Shreya Chatterjee, "This programme gained momentum with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) linking a small number of groups with banks. Called the Self-Help Group Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP), the revolutionary initiative connected group members — many of whom never had a bank account before — to formal financial services in a sustainable and scalable manner."

Today, SHGs are at the core of development in rural societies, helping those below poverty line secure loans to sustain their micro and small-scale agriculture and agriculture-allied endeavours. In hilly areas, where earning opportunities are meagre (and even lesser for women), SHGs have become a platform synonymous with financial independence. According to Ministry of Rural Development's website, of the total 64,53,268 SHGs in the country, 30,802 groups are working in the hill state of Uttarakhand.

They have changed the outlook of women in this state. "Earlier, my family could not afford to fulfill even the simplest of its wishes. Whatever little we earned, was spent on meeting our basic needs. After becoming a member of the SHG, I learnt the art of saving money and that has helped me become financially independent," shared Parvati Devi, an active member of Parvati Self-Help Group which is active in Toli, a small vil-



lage.

With over two decades of existence, the SHGs have become more than just a medium for securing loans and savings. Several livelihood schemes are launched by government every financial year to empower women economically — these groups act as delivery mechanism for implementation of such programmes.

Their active presence in every village helps both, government and non-government organisations, to reach out to maximum number of women and encourage them to participate in livelihood and skill trainings, community development programmes and much more.

One of the many organisations in Uttarakhand, the Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA), Nainital adopted 33 women SHGs in Almora and Nainital districts in 2018 under its project funded by Department of Science and Technology. With the participation of 345 women, these adopted groups were able to save ₹4,75,000 under this project. This money was then

offered as a loan to its group members to fulfill their urgent household needs. A part of the amount was also borrowed by members for agriculture-related activities. The low-interest rates and smooth process of returning money through EMIs without going to the banks helped villagers pay back their loans on time.

"In the last two years, CHEA has helped us to grow — right from educating and encouraging us to save money and invest the borrowed amount in livelihood generation activities — and guided us at every step. Attending their group meetings has improved our knowledge about several schemes. We are informed about different government and non-government projects running in our areas and have benefitted from them," shared Deepa Devi, a member of a SHG group adopted by CHEA.

The SBLP has helped rural communities in Uttarakhand and in other states, especially the women, become financially empowered. Women and men working as small and marginal farmers, farm labourers, artisans have found guidance



in these SHGs which promote the concept of mutual support among the communities. Their collective strength becomes even more visible during difficult times such as these when the entire country is fighting the pandemic. It is the SHGs across the country which have come forward to help the most vulnera-

ble sections of their respective societies. This proves that the training provided to them over the years is not only for 'self-help' but to serve others in difficult times like the ones we are witnessing.

(This article has been written under Sanjoy Ghose Media Fellowship 2019-20.)
—Charkha Features



SEARCH YOUR SOUL

Humans need cordial relations with their fellow beings based on rights and duties, says RAJYOGI BRAHMAKUMAR NIKUNJ JI

We live in a society that appears increasingly numb to the causes and effects of human suffering," pens popular author Michelle Mary Lelwica. So what exactly is ailing the world we live in? Today, if one turns on the television to watch news, the level of misery shown through the visuals is simply unprecedented. Despite so much distress around, we still fail to take any action. Our hearts ache for the tragedies, we witness, but only temporarily. For if we were to absorb the misery, then we would no longer be able to function in everyday life. Isn't it?

Many people have tried to diagnose the present ailments of society from their own stand-point based on their discipline. For example, if you ask an economist, he would say that all the present-day social, political and biological maladies emerge mainly from economic disparities and inequalities. The two economic systems are mainly responsible for poverty, malnutrition, armament race, political strife and what not. He might say that the rest of the problems are the offshoots or the other sufferings could be eliminated once humans are free from their economic burdens. Some other person would emphasise that a proper political system is the need of the hour as it, alone, can act to remove economic inequalities, end armament race, safeguard human rights and eliminate disharmony between various sections of society.

Similarly, others will give their point of view and explain their own theories and justify their significance for eliminating the present miseries. However, most of these views are quite illusory and depressing. In response to these, we have become defeatist regarding complex issues, yet we jump on to the more trivial causes to deliver equally trivial solutions. Our perceptions have been so undermined that the most pertinent issues remain as they are. Whereas, the bulk of activism that gains mass attention and hype focuses on the superficial. The media provides ridiculous distractions, which the public responds to with excitement. At a time where we, as a society, should be discussing about real issues affecting lives of millions of our brethren, we entertain ourselves watching the so-called important people fight during news channel debates.

Amid this chaos, the real issues are being swept under the rug because they are too complex and they require some critical analysis. The mainstream media avoids tackling these because they are too boring and puzzling for the audience. A spectacle has seeped into our culture and into our very way of life. We are constantly inundated with illusions and pretense. In front of the curtain is entertainment, distraction and superficiality, while behind the curtain lurks the truth and the critical voice that is often silenced. So who is to blame for this? If we go deeper within, our analysis would reveal that the root cause of all these sufferings is identity crisis. Yes, it's a truth that man does not know himself, nor does he correctly know his place in the cosmic scheme. As a result, he does not know his correct relationship with other human beings. This, in turn, leads to a lack of moral or spiritual values and it is that which has ultimately led to the break-down of all the systems. We should understand that nothing can work unless man has a cordial relationship with his fellow beings based on some values, which determine his rights and duties. So what is utmost necessary in the present crisis is the rational, practical knowledge of the self that can serve as the correct basis for all human relationships. So start some soul searching and embark on a wonderful journey of self discovery.



Journey through the self

Through his film, *Yoga for Health & Global Harmony*, filmmaker, art historian and photographer BENOY K BEHL found that the ancient system has helped to restore a sense of balance and happiness in practitioners



the biological changes in the brain and other organs of the body. It should be conducive for better emotional recovery as well as mental health promotion.

Yoga can help repair the brain. There is an inbuilt system by which the brain could dynamically keep getting 'repaired' and one of the chemicals required for this is called the 'brain derived

neurotropic factor'. We have demonstrated that the practice of yoga produced an increase in its level. So it means that the brain started developing some inherent strength to repair itself.'

Esther Seegers, Teachers Training Course Student, Sivananda Yoga Farm, USA, explains, "I have seen the chaos among teenagers, especially the substance abuse in high schools.

They need help. They have no idea about whom they should turn to and they are basically numbing their feelings and their true nature because they feel that they are not able to be who they

are. And yes, there is not enough compassion or it's just that they need help at the end of the day. It is yoga that can give us that."

Yoga researcher and expert, Dr Sat Bir Khalsa from Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, USA, believes that yoga has a relevance. "It provides skills and outcomes that society currently doesn't have. These are essentially behavioural skills that allow us to manage our minds, bodies and emotions in very effective ways," shares he.

In another interview, Landon Gallant, sportsman and Teachers Training Course Student, Sivananda Yoga Farm, USA, says, "I played soccer for 28 years and the last half of that time was very aggressive. The physical nature of game called for a certain body type. So as I have slowly evolved away from that, I have completely surrendered to the practice of yoga. I was able to transform myself from an animal warrior to a spiritual warrior. This allows your ego to soften and become like water. Your life, your heart will open up and so will your mind."

Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world straight in the eye.

—Helen Keller

DRINK COFFEE TO CUT DIGESTIVE DISORDERS

Drinking coffee may help reduce the risk of certain digestive disorders, including gallstone disease and pancreatitis, a new study has suggested.

The study from the Institute for Scientific Information on Coffee (ISIC) also highlighted other beneficial effects that coffee consumption may have on the process of digestion, including supporting gut microflora and promoting gut motility.

"Data indicates benefits against common digestive complaints such as constipation as well as a potential reduction in the risk of more serious conditions like liver diseases," said study author Carlo La Vecchia from the University of Milan in Italy.

While the mechanism by which coffee may protect against gallstone disease is not yet known, it has been observed that the risk for the condition declines with increasing daily consumption of coffee, the researchers said.

LACK OF VENTILATION UPS AIR TRANSMIT RISK

Researchers have found that the lack of adequate ventilation increases the risk of airborne transmission of COVID-19.

In a study, published in the City and Environment Interaction journal, experts from the University of Surrey (UK) said that preventing airborne transmission should be the next front of the battle against the virus.

"These past months, living through the COVID-19 crisis, has been truly unprecedented. But we must turn this global tragedy into an opportunity to better prepare for similar threats," said study author Prashant Kumar, Professor at the University of Surrey.

The study highlights improving building ventilation as a possible route to tackling indoor transmission of COVID-19. "We discuss the need to acknowledge the airborne spread inside built spaces under eased movement restrictions and the potential steps to control it," the study authors wrote.

YOUNGSTERS MORE LIKELY TO BE LONELY

Loneliness may decrease as you age. The study carried out by Exeter, Manchester and Brunel universities, found that a young man living in an individualistic society — such as the UK or the US — is more likely to report feeling lonely than an older woman in a collectivist society — such as China or Brazil.

"Contrary to what people may expect, loneliness is not a predicament unique to older people. In fact, youngsters report greater feelings of loneliness," said study researcher Manuela Barreto from the University of Exeter.

Since loneliness stems from the sense that one's social connections are not as good as desired, this might be due to the different expectations younger and older people hold. "There is an awareness that admitting to feeling 'lonely' can be especially stigmatising for men," said study author Pamela Quater from the University of Manchester.

10% DIABETIC-COVID CASES DIE WITHIN 7 DAYS

One in 10 COVID-19 patients with diabetes die within seven days of hospitalisation, a new study has claimed.

The findings, published in the journal 'Diabetologia', show that two-third (65 per cent) of COVID-19 patients with diabetes are men and the average age of the patient is 70 years.

According to the researchers from France, the presence of diabetic complications and increasing age raises the risk of death, while increased Body Mass Index (BMI) is associated with both heightened risk of needing mechanical ventilation and with higher risk of death. However, worse blood sugar control doesn't seem to impact a patient's outcome.

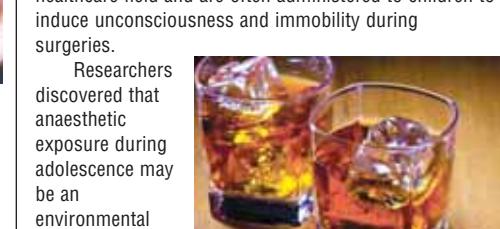
Across all the patients in this study, by Day 7 one in five (20.3 per cent) had been intubated and were placed on a ventilator in intensive care, and one in 10 (10.3 per cent) had died.

ANAESTHETIC TRIGGERS ALCOHOL USE DISORDER

Early exposure to anaesthetics in life may make adolescents more susceptible to developing alcohol use disorder (AUD), warn researchers.

Anaesthetics are commonly used drugs in the healthcare field and are often administered to children to induce unconsciousness and immobility during surgeries.

Researchers discovered that anaesthetic exposure during adolescence may be an environmental risk factor that leads to an increased susceptibility to developing AUD later in life. Although not all adolescents who drink alcohol develop AUDs, the research team said it's important to identify risk factors that contribute to an increased susceptibility to alcohol abuse.



AFP ■ PADERBORN

Jadon Sancho celebrated his return to the Borussia Dortmund starting line-up by scoring a hat-trick in his side's easy win at relegation-threatened Paderborn.

In a lacklustre first half, a brilliantly blocked Raphael Gurreiro's effort following a swift counter-attack was as good as it got for either side.

But the game exploded into life after the break when a tame Eme Can cross was spilled by Leopold Zingerle, allowing Thorgan Hazard to pounce for the opener and open the floodgates.

A second quickly followed from the returning Jadon Sancho, back in the starting line-up, as he tapped in following a Julian Brandt lay-off and marked the goal with an important message.

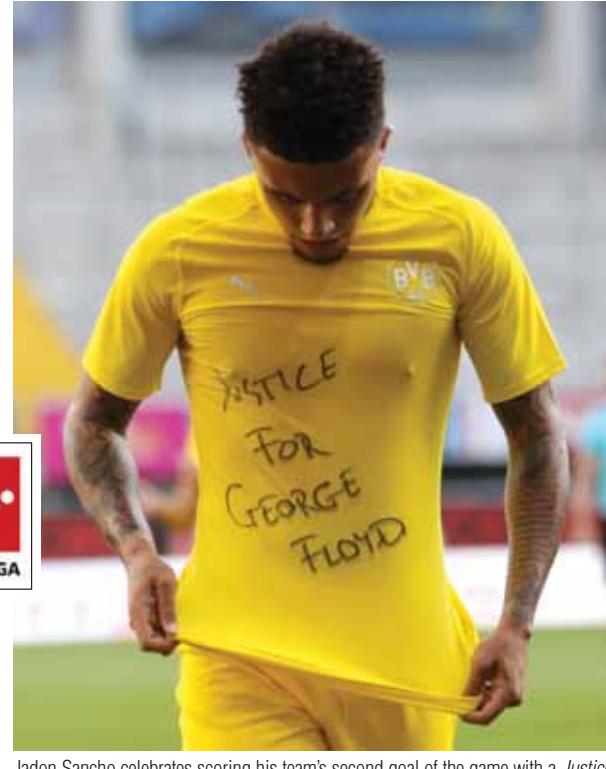
Sancho was celebrating again when, after Paderborn gave them a scare via a harsh Uwe Hünemeier penalty, he added his second, showing how important he is to this side.

The winger took his goal tally for the season to 16 in the league, equalising his assist amount, with a curled left-foot finish that Zingerle couldn't turn away from goal.

Marcel Schmelzer then took centre stage in the closing stages, coming off the

MADE IN DORTMUND

Sancho celebrates first team return with hat-trick against Paderborn



Jadon Sancho celebrates scoring his team's second goal of the game with a *Justice for George Floyd* shirt during the Bundesliga match against SC Paderborn 07 AP



Mönchengladbach players celebrate in front of the cardboards with photos of fans displayed on the stands at the end of match against Union Berlin AP

sition having inexplicably committed everyone forward.

It keeps BVB in with a faint shot at the title, while Paderborn look certain for a return to the second tier.

GLADBACH BEAT UNION

After picking up one point from their last two games, Borussia Mönchengladbach picked up a much-needed win in their fight for Champions League football with a classy showing.

Union Berlin proved to be no match whatsoever for Marco Rose's men, rarely

Marcus Thuram, who steered his header home for number two, before poignantly taking to his knee in celebration.

The capital club did give themselves hope five minutes after the break another set-piece of theirs caused problems and inevitably ended with Sebastian Andersson heading past Yann Sommer.

That hope lasted just 10 minutes though before Union shot themselves in the foot again, Grischa Pömel being caught in possession on the edge of his own box, allowing Plea to turn provider with a fine cross for Thuram again.

Plea got in on the act himself with a fourth in the closing stages, being afforded the freedom of the penalty area to direct the ball into the corner before a touching injury time substitution rounded things off perfectly.

What happened next was historic as his strike on the stretch which made its way in off the post goes down in the record books as Die Fohlen's 3,000th Bundesliga goal.

That lead was doubled before the break when a deep Allassane Plea cross to the far post picked out strike partner

AP putting them in any danger and looking suspect defensively.

A poor clearance on the

right after 17 minutes saw the ball break for Florian Neuhaus,

who doggedly darted into the area at an angle.

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