

**OPINION 6**  
LIBERAL AGENDA  
IN AMERICA

**MONEY 9**  
NIFTY RECLAIMS  
10K-MARK

**SPORT 12**  
3 WINDIES PLAYERS  
REFUSE TO TOUR ENG

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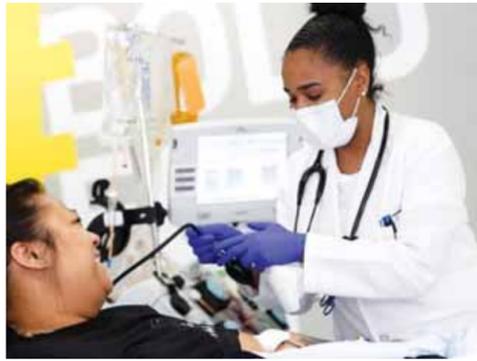
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## Plasma therapy raises hopes

Emerging as promising, safe treatment option for Covid patients in US

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Convalescent plasma therapy is emerging as one of the most promising and safe treatment options for patients with severe Covid-19 symptoms, a new trial in the US has found. The therapy involves taking anti-bodies from the blood of a person who has recovered from Covid-19 and transfusing those anti-bodies into an active coronavirus patient to help kickstart the immune system to fight the infection. Published in The American Journal of Pathology, the study conducted by the researchers from the Houston Methodist Hospital in the US said that the results of the trial showed that 19 out of 25 patients (76 per cent) improved with the treatment and 11 were discharged from the hospital.



There were no serious adverse side effects caused by the plasma transfusion. The findings have generated hopes in the global community rattled by the virulent virus which has claimed over 3

lakh people with over 63 lakh infected cases across the world. The clinical trials to transfuse plasma from recovered Covid-19 patients into critically ill patients started on March 28. "While physician-scientists around the world scramble to test new drugs and treatments against the Covid-19 virus, convalescent serum therapy emerge as potentially one of the most promising strategies," said study researcher Eric Salazar from Houston Methodist Hospital. Patients were treated under emergency use guidelines (eIND) from the US Food and Drug Administration and then received approval from the FDA to open up the trial to more patients as an investigational new drug (IND). According to the researchers, the therapeutic approach dates back to at least as early as 1918 when it was used to fight the Spanish Flu. Recently, the convalescent plasma therapy was used with some success during the 2003 SARS pandemic, the 2009

influenza H1N1 pandemic, and the 2015 Ebola outbreak in Africa. *Continued on Page 2*

## H1N1 trials to resume: WHO

Geneva: The World Health Organization on Wednesday said clinical trials of the drug hydroxychloroquine will resume, having been suspended pending a safety review in the search for coronavirus treatments. "On the basis of the available mortality data... the executive group will communicate with the principal investigators in the trial about resuming the hydroxychloroquine arm," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

## Bamiyan 2.0! Buddhist carvings defaced in POK

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over recent reported acts of vandalism of 800AD Buddhist heritage in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK), India on Wednesday asked Pakistan to "immediately vacate all illegally occupied territories". This strong reaction relayed by Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava here came after reports of vandalism, defacement and destruction of Buddhist heritage in Gilgit-Baltistan. Registering protest, he said "egregious activities" of this nature displaying contempt for the ancient civilisational and cultural heritage are "highly condemnable". "We have conveyed our strong concern at reports of vandalism, defacement and

Religious, cultural rights trampled with impunity, India condemns destruction of heritage, asks Pakistan to vacate POK



destruction of invaluable Indian Buddhist heritage located in Gilgit-Baltistan area of the Indian territory under illegal and forcible occupation of Pakistan," he said. He said India has sought immediate access for its experts to visit the area in order to restore and preserve the invaluable archaeological heritage. *Continued on Page 2*

## Sidhu's exit from Cong imminent, Prashant tries to woo him into AAP fold

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

It's likely to be the end of road for cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu in the Congress. Sources said Sidhu has been approached by Aam Admi Party (AAP) and poll strategist Prashant Kishor is believed to be mediating between Sidhu and AAP. AICC sources said that Sidhu has himself not been active in recent times within the party and has distanced himself from the cadre. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has never concealed his dislike for Sidhu's political posturing. Sources confirmed that poll strategist Prashant Kishor has spoken to Sidhu about his future in the AAP. Sources said Sidhu wants to be named as the CM candidate of AAP in Punjab for the next elections as a precondition for joining the party. AAP's Punjab unit chief Bhagwant Mann had on many



occasions tried to lure Sidhu saying he would be the first to welcome Sidhu in the AAP. The AAP contested Assembly elections in Punjab in 2017 and was the second largest party securing 20 seats. The Congress came to power with 77 seats of 117 Assembly seats by defeating the alliance of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and the BJP. The SAD got 15 seats and the BJP only three. Sidhu, who was twice a BJP MP, joined the Congress ahead of the Punjab election in 2017. He contested the polls and went on to become a Cabinet Minister. *Continued on Page 2*

## For first time, over 9K cases in a day

9,564 +ve, 259 deaths take corona cases to 2,16,752, total deaths to 6,088

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday for the first time went past 9,000 new cases in a day amid a Chinese study indicating that the countries could see around 15,000 new cases from June 15 onward. The country recorded 9,564 new cases and 259 deaths on Wednesday, which took its overall tally of cases to 2,16,752 and total death count to 6,088. National Capital Delhi saw a big spike with new cases rising to 1,513, the highest so far in a day, and as many as 59 people succumbing to the dreaded virus in day. So far, Delhi has 23,645 confirmed cases and 615 deaths. A Chinese study which had rightly predicted the growth of coronavirus in many countries, including the US, has painted an alarming picture, saying that India will add around 15,000 new cases every day from June mid. Maharashtra appeared to be peaking in terms of Covid-19-triggered fatalities and infections on Wednesday, as it notched the highest-ever day's

tally on 122 deaths and as many as 2,560 more people tested positive for the pandemic in various parts of the State. With the fresh deaths and infections, the total number of deaths in Maharashtra jumped to 2,587 while the total number of infected cases went up to 74,860 in the State. The worsening situation in the State can be evi-

dence from the fact that there have been a total of 816 deaths in Maharashtra during the previous nine days. On May 26 (Tuesday) the State had witnessed 97 deaths, while there were 105 deaths on May 27, 85 deaths on May 28, 116 deaths on May 29 and 99 deaths on May 30, 89 deaths on May 31, 76 on June 1 and 103 on June 3. Wednesday's toll was 122. *Continued on Page 2*

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	74,860	2,587	32,329
Tamil Nadu	25,872	208	14,316
Delhi	23,645	615	9,542
Gujarat	18,117	1,122	12,212
Rajasthan	9,652	209	6,744
Uttar Pradesh	8,870	230	5,257
Madhya Pradesh	8,588	371	5,445
West Bengal	6,508	345	2,580
Bihar	4,326	25	2,025
Karnataka	4,063	53	1,514
Andhra Pradesh	3,971	68	2,464
Telangana	3,020	99	1,556
Haryana	2,954	23	1,089
Jammu & Kashmir	2,857	34	1,007
Odisha	2,388	9	1,416



## Declare stock within six months: Govt to exotic species owners

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Government has asked animal breeders and owners of the exotic live species of animals such as fish and birds to voluntarily declare their stock/s within next six months as also ensure health cards of their subjects. The plan is to prepare an inventory and streamline the import of exotic animal/birds or fish species in the country, which is now being considered to be fraught with risk of zoonotic (animal to human) transmission. Exotic live species are animal or plant species moved from their original range (location) to a new one most often by people. This is for the first time that the Government has taken such a move. The officials at the Union Environment Ministry have asserted that precaution is better than prevention before any coronavirus kind of pandemic spreads here. In India as in the world, much of the exotic live species is currently legal. There exists a large demand and market for animals like ball pythons, pocket monkeys, crocodile skins, hissing cockroaches and a wide range of exotic birds. However, till now, there has been no detail about the population status, numbers poached, illegal trade hubs and dynamics of these species. This makes it difficult to know the impacts of illegal trade on the population status of many of these captured animals, said the officials. To plug the gaps, the Union Environment Ministry has issued an advisory enlisting dos and don'ts aiming to streamline

Inventory knowledge through voluntary disclosure to ensure CITES compliance



the trade. "Considering the significance of import and export of exotic live species, this Ministry is issuing an advisory to streamline the process for import and possession of exotic live species here. The aim is to develop an inventory of exotic live species through Voluntary Disclosure Scheme to streamline CITES compliance as well as streamline the import procedure," said the official about the guideline. As per the advisory, it will be mandatory for the owners/animal breeders to register/declare progenies of the imported exotic live species. The processes under this Advisory shall be dealt online through the Ministry's Parivesh portal. *Continued on Page 2*

## UP has proved experts wrong on Covid: Yogi

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Claiming to have proved experts wrong UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that because of the effective measures taken by the Government there are only over 8,000 corona positive cases in Uttar Pradesh against experts' grim projection of over 70,000 cases by the end of May. "The experts had claimed that by the end of May total corona positive cases in UP would be over 70,000. But, where we stand on June 3? Today, we have over 8,000 positive cases of which around 5,000 have recovered and technically the State of 23 crore has just 3,000 positive cases. Similarly at the national level the total cases are over 2 lakh whereas the experts had claimed there would be 32 lakh cases at this juncture," Yogi told The Pioneer here on Wednesday. "We are set to prove experts wrong again. Some are saying that as the corona pandemic is yet to touch peak in India it was wrong to unlock at this stage. They say the figures will skyrocket now. But because of awareness created among the masses, strengthening of the health system and the support the Government got from all section of the society, including the religious leaders, we will again prove these experts wrong." To buttress his point he

'Only over 8K cases in UP against their grim projection of over 70,000 cases'



said that the virus struck both India and the United States at around the same time. The US has better healthcare facilities but the pandemic devastated it while India was able to control the spread (of diseases) better. The number of positive cases in India is over 2 lakh while the USA has 17 lakh positive cases and the death toll in India is over 1 lakh. "It is all about management. We took timely steps to keep the cases low," he said and added: "Alertness and awareness about the pandemic has kept the figure down," he said. He admitted that contain-



ing this disease was a financial strain and said in April there was shortage of funds to meet the Government expenses. *Continued on Page 2*

## Don't do mistake of Tibet: Yogi to Nepal Govt

Lucknow: Drawing a parallel with Tibet, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath asked the Nepalese Government to consider the pros and cons before taking a decision on restructuring its political border because India and Nepal share one "atma" but two bodies. "It has an example of Tibet before it and Nepal should not

follow the same mistake. "India and Nepal has age old relations which cannot be severed by altering the boundaries. In fact, these two countries have one atma (soul). Both of them are culturally very strong because of their link...We are two bodies but the soul is one," the UP CM said. *Continued on Page 2*

## Tahir-led rioters killed IB staffer: Chargesheet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has filed the chargesheet in the brutal murder of Intelligence Bureau (IB) staffer Ankit Sharma. Police investigation has revealed that there was a deep-rooted conspiracy behind the riots and murder of Ankit Sharma during North-east Delhi violence in Chandbagh area as he was "specifically targeted" by a mob led by then AAP councillor Tahir Hussain. After killing Sharma, the mob had thrown his body into a nearby drain which was fished out the next day, police said. The Crime Branch had filed the chargesheet before Metropolitan Magistrate Richa Parihar, who fixed the matter for consideration on June 16. *Detailed report on P3*

## 8 dead, 50 hurt as boiler blast causes fire in Gujarat factory

PTI ■ BHARUCH

Eight workers were killed and 50 others were injured on Wednesday in a massive fire triggered by a blast in the boiler of a chemical factory at Dahej in Gujarat's Bharuch district, police said. The death toll may rise further as some of the injured workers are in a serious condition, according to police. As companies of methanol and xylene chemicals are located near the affected factory, authorities have shifted about 4,800 people from nearby Luvara and Lakhigam villages to safer places as a precautionary measure. About 230 workers were present inside the factory, Yashaswi Rasayan, located in Dahej Special Economic Zone-1, 42 kms from Bharuch, at the time of the incident in afternoon, they said. *Continued on Page 2*

## Nisarga blows itself out, Mumbai relieved

Landfall in Raigad, cyclone impact not severe in Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Mumbaikars and the people in the neighbouring towns and cities heaved a huge sigh of relief on Wednesday evening, as cyclone Nisarga skipped the country's commercial Capital and surrounding areas after making a landfall at Murud-Janjira town in Raigad district, triggering strong winds, heavy rainfall and raging sea surge in the coastal Konkan region. Reeling as they have been under a severe coronavirus crisis for the past ten weeks, anxious Mumbaikars were waiting with bated breath for the arrival of the severe



A tree fell on a house after rain and strong winds triggered by Cyclone Nisarga, in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra on Wednesday. PTI

cyclonic storm, but Nisarga — when it finally arrived in Maharashtra — changed its direction after its landfall between 12.30 pm and 2.30 pm at the historic Murud-Janjira town in Raigad district, on Wednesday and headed towards Pune. "It (cyclone) made the landfall at Latitude 18.5 N and Longitude 73.2 E, just north of the historic Murud-Janjira town. A slight of change of direction towards North Eastwards meant, the impact of the cyclone on Mumbai was less severe than originally expected,"

an official release said. One person was killed and seven others were injured in Raigad. Three persons sustained minor injuries when stones fell on the tin roof of their hutment at Santacruz in north-west Mumbai, while four others were injured parts of roof crashed on them at Walkeshwar in south Mumbai. While the metropolis witnessed minor incidents like tree falls and wall crashes as cyclone Nisarga by-passed it, the coastal districts of Maharashtra bore the brunt of rough weather conditions like strong winds, heavy rainfall and raging sea surge. Tidal waves measuring up to 6 to 8 feet lashed parts of coastal areas in Ratnagiri and Raigad districts, both of which bore the brunt of cyclone Nisarga. *Continued on Page 2*

## CAPSULE

**GOOGLE REMOVES 'REMOVE CHINA APPS' FROM STORE**  
New Delhi: Google has removed from its app store an Indian mobile application, "Remove China Apps" that allowed users to delete Chinese games and other software from their Android smartphones, citing violation of its policies. *P9*

**KOLKATA PORT NAMED AFTER SYAMA PRASAD**  
New Delhi: The Government on Wednesday gave the approval to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port.

**TRUMP ADMIN MOVES TO BLOCK CHINESE AIRLINES**  
Washington: The Trump administration moved on Wednesday to block Chinese airlines from flying to the US in an escalation of trade and travel tensions between the two countries. *Continued on Page 2*

# Protesting AIIMS Nurses' Union warn of strike

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The AIIMS Nurses' Union, which has been protesting for the last three days over its members' poor working conditions, on Wednesday warned the administration that they will go on strike if their concerns are not addressed, as the number of workers infected by COVID-19 at the hospital here rose to 329 including 47 nursing staff.

The nurses' body had put forth a number of demands including implementation of a uniform four-hour shift with personal protective equipment in COVID-19 areas of the Centre-run hospital, a uniform rotation policy between COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 areas, and establishment of proper donning and doffing area.

In a fresh mail sent to AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria, the Nurses Union said that no heed has been paid to letters and regular representations in task force meetings conveying the plight of COVID-19 healthcare workers.

"At this difficult juncture, the aggrieved nurses of AIIMS have decided to carry on with our protest until the administration pays enough heed... We are still left unheard by the AIIMS authorities. So we have been forced to resort to severe steps including mass casual leave on June 10 and still if our issues persist, we have decided to go for indefinite strike from June 15," the mail read.

Underlining that they are seeking a prompt meeting with the Director, the union said, "We also do not want to go for strike during this difficult time. But when it would become a predicament, we will be having no options but to go for strike and the sole responsibility of all consequences will be on the AIIMS administration."

President of the union Harish Kajla earlier during the

day said working at a stretch for six hours, which usually extended to seven to eight hours at times, while donning PPEs was adversely affecting the physical well-being of the nursing staff, especially the women.

"Several of our staff are facing health complications like body rashes and urinary tract infections, while several others have lost weight," Kajla said.

"Women are having issues related to menstruation as they cannot change sanitary pads with PPE on, neither can they go to the washroom. Once you wear a PPE you cannot take it off just like that and thus we are forced to wear adult diapers during duty, but it's very uncomfortable," he said.

He further said that as the health of nurses is adversely affected, they are getting prone to contracting the infection fast.

Kajla said since there was no response from the administration but clarified that the healthcare work is not getting hampered. "Nursing staff participate in the protest in rotation after their shifts get over."

Since February 1, as many as 329 healthcare workers including four faculty members, 17 resident doctors, 47 nurses, 86 hospital attendants, 62 sanitation staff and 77 security personnel among others have been infected by the virus.

AIIMS Medical Superintendent Dr DK Sharma said, "329 healthcare workers have so far contracted coronavirus since February 1. Several of those who had tested positive for COVID-19 have recovered and rejoined duty." So far three persons from the AIIMS succumbed to COVID-19. An electrician who had tested positive for the disease died on Sunday. A sanitation supervisor and a mess worker at the RPC canteen died due to the disease last week.

## Cabinet approves ordinance to amend insolvency law

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Cabinet on Wednesday cleared an ordinance to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) whereby fresh insolvency proceedings will not be initiated for defaults due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to sources.

Payment defaults from March 25 - the day when the nationwide lockdown to curb coronavirus infections began - would not be considered for initiating insolvency proceedings for a certain period of time, they said.

The sources said the ordinance to amend the IBC has been approved by the Cabinet.

Three sections of the Code - which provides for a market-linked and time-bound resolution process of stressed assets - would be suspended. The time period would be for six months and not exceeding one year, they added.

The sources said an enabling provision has been approved by the Cabinet wherein the corporate affairs ministry can decide about the time period for which the three sections should be suspended.

Defaults due to COVID-19 would not be considered for initiating insolvency proceedings. As a result, companies defaulting on repayment obligations due to disruptions on account of the pandemic would not be pushed into insolvency, they said.

As per them, defaults that are not related to the pandemic and applications filed for insolvency before March 25 would be dealt with under the Code.

On May 17, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government would provide various relaxations under the insolvency law, including suspending fresh proceedings for up to one year.

"After all, when lockdown gets lifted immediately, you are not sure how much of the businesses will get restored... No fresh insolvency proceedings will be initiated for up to one year," she had said.

## 7 days home quarantine for asymptomatic travellers in Delhi

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Government on Wednesday reduced the 14 days mandatory home quarantine period to seven days for all asymptomatic travellers arriving in the national Capital. In an order, the city government also instructed all district magistrates to keep a watch on the implementation of the norm.

The airport, railway and transport departments will submit passenger manifests to the office of the principal secretary of revenue department on daily basis, said the order by Delhi Chief secretary and chairman of executive committee of Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Vijay Dev.

"All asymptomatic passengers who enter/deboard in NCT of Delhi shall home quarantine themselves for 7 days (in place of 14 days of self monitoring of health...)" said the order, which came on a day Delhi recorded 1,513 fresh coronavirus cases, highest single-day spike.

The principal secretary (Revenue) will forward the passenger manifests to the district magistrates concerned to ensure that the passengers in their areas abide by the norm.

Last week, the Karnataka government had also reduced the mandatory 14 days of quarantine period to seven days for asymptomatic travellers coming to the state except for those coming from Maharashtra.

Meanwhile, the Uttarakhnad Government on Wednesday extended the 14-day quarantine period to 21 days for those returning from the country's 75 worst coronavirus-hit cities, which included Delhi, Noida, Agra, Lucknow, Meerut, Varanasi, Chennai and Hyderabad.

According to an order issued by Chief Secretary Utpal Kumar Singh, people coming from these cities will be quarantined at an institutional facility for a week. Thereafter, they will be home quarantined for 14 days.

## 8 dead, 50 hurt as boiler... UP has proved...

**From Page 1**

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat, Ahmed Patel, blamed the state BJP Government for the incident. He said factories need to undergo complete safety audit as there have been rising cases of industrial accidents in Gujarat.

Patel also expressed concern about recent changes in labour laws, which he said will encourage factories to create "unsafe working conditions."

"There has been a rise in industrial accidents in Bharuch district today and people lost their lives."

"The buck stops only with the State Government ensuring safe working conditions that factories have completed safety audits. We are concerned that recent changes in labour laws will incentivise unsafe working conditions," he tweeted.

About 18-20 workers were given a primary aid, local officials said.

It took about six hours for eleven fire tenders to bring the massive blaze under control, officials said.

**From Page 1**

"But in May the revenue collection started and we were able to earn ₹6,000 crore against ₹15,000 crore required to meet the monthly expense of the Government," he said.

"Despite the financial strain UP was able to pay salaries to its employees in April and in May. By June, with economic activities gaining grounds we will be able to generate more resources as all arms of economy are working now," he said.

Yogi Adityanath made it clear that his Government was committed to serve the people and would provide jobs to the migrants, who have returned to the State during the lockdown.

"We have made data of the skilled and unskilled migrant workers and process have started to give them jobs," he said claiming that around 32 lakh migrant workers and their family members have returned to the State.

"Every youth will get opportunity in the State and the Government will ensure that they get job as per their skill and ability," he said.

Hitting out at Opposition parties he said that they are spreading canards because "they are not aware of the ground realities and are discussing the pandemic sitting in their air-conditioned drawing rooms."

He said this crisis was a challenge for us. "We used this challenge to strengthen our health system. He said virus testing facilities have been increased from 10,000 samples a day sometime back to 15,000 samples at present and added that by the end of this month, it will be 20,000 samples daily.

Beds at the Covid hospitals have gone up to over one lakh. The health facilities at the district level have improved and now every district will have Covid testing machines. Besides, non-Covid hospitals too have started surgeries and attending emergency patients," he said.

When asked about the opening of the religious places, restaurants and shopping malls from June 8, he said that the Government was waiting for the Centre's guideline and thereafter the State would release its own guidelines before allowing the religious and other activities.

## Declare stock within...

**From Page 1**

"The animals named under the Appendices I, II and III of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora" will be part of the advisory and does not include species from the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972," said the officials.

They said any declaration made after six months of the date of issue of this advisory, the declarer shall be required to comply with the documentation requirement under the extant laws and regulations.

The Chief Wildlife Warden of the respective State shall, after physical verification, register the stock and maintain a record in their office and issue an online certificate of possession within six months of the date of the voluntary disclosure.

The owners will have to inform the CWLW about any acquisition/death/trade/change of possession, taken place after the declaration within 30 days of such acquisition/death/trade as also provide address where the exotic live species have been kept, said the advisory.

## Sidhu's exit from Cong imminent, Prashan tries...

**From Page 1**

But due to his differences with the "captain" he resigned from the Cabinet team.

Kishor's had been roped in by the Punjab Congress in the 2017 Assembly polls. AICC sources said that Amarinder

**From Page 1**

"It is a matter of grave concern that the Buddhist symbols are being destroyed and the religious and cultural rights and freedoms are being trampled with impunity in the Indian territories under illegal occupation of Pakistan," the spokesperson said.

He said Pakistan must vacate the illegally occupied territory which belonged to India. "We have once again called upon Pakistan to immediately vacate all illegally occupied territories and end gross violation of political, economic and cultural rights of people living there," Srivastava said.

Reaction from the MEA came amid reports that 800 AD Buddhist rock carvings were damaged by some unknown elements and the pictures of the same were posted on social media by some residents of Gilgit Baltistan.

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As per Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company has been convened for Saturday, 6th June 2020, inter alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and financial year ended 31st March 2020 & Recommendation of Dividend for the financial year ended 31st March 2020, if any.

The above intimation is available on the Company's website www.internationaltravelhouse.in and also on the website of the stock exchange www.bseindia.com.

for International Travel House Limited  
Sd/-  
Janaki Aggarwal  
Company Secretary

Date : 3rd June 2020  
Place : New Delhi

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"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, www.centralcoalfields.in), CIL e-procurement portal https://coalindiatenders.nic.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in"

## Plasma therapy...

**From Page 1**

Following a study early on in the Covid-19 pandemic, where a handful of critically ill patients in China showed an improvement, an interdisciplinary team of Houston Methodist physician-scientists and healthcare workers rapidly targeted the Covid-19 virus with convalescent serum therapy.

The research team also concluded that any observed complications were consistent with findings reported for Covid-19 disease progression and did not result from the plasma transfusions.

The overall findings were consistent with several other small case studies of convalescent plasma use for severe Covid-19 that has been recently reported.

Although the convalescent plasma therapy administered on the frontlines at Houston Methodist was implemented for

## Nisarga fizzles out...

**From Page 1**

India Meteorological Department (IMD) said cyclone Nisarga was set to move North Eastwards and weaken into a cyclonic storm later on Wednesday night.

Ahead of the arrival of the severe cyclone storm, various agencies had shifted nearly 40,000 people living in coastal areas of Konkan region to safer places.

Mumbai received a rainfall of 46.7 mm, while the city suburbs registered 22.8 mm which was hardly of any significance for Mumbai which is used to heavy rains during the monsoons.

Not wanting to take any chances, the Maharashtra Government had made elaborate preparations to take on the

cyclonic storm. While the police had clamped section 144 of CrPC to ensure against the presence of people on roads, the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) had suspended the traffic on the Bandra-Worli Sea Link.

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport shut operations for nearly three hours. The flight operations resumed at around 7 pm.

The Central Railway, Western Railway and Konkan Railway either rescheduled or cancelled several special trains that they are running during lockdown. Four long distance trains on the Konkan Railway route connecting Kerala with Mumbai and New Delhi were re-routed via Madgaon - Belgavi - Miraj of the South Western Railway. The lockdown norms-regulated movement of vehicles returned to normal in Mumbai and suburbs at around 5.30 pm.

Meanwhile, at some places in Raigad and Palghar districts, tin roofs erected on the terraces of residential apartments flew away, while Raigad's district headquarters, Alibag, witnessed wind speeds of 120-130 kmph.

Power utilities had shut down electricity supply in some parts of Ratnagiri district as a preventive measure. Mobile services were affected in parts of Raigad district. Alibag recorded a rainfall of 45 mm till 4 pm, while the neighbouring Ratnagiri district registered 38 mm rainfall till 4 pm.

"There have been tree falling incidents on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway too, but the traffic flow was not affected," National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Commander Anupam Srivastava said.

Meanwhile, in Mumbai, there were nine incidents - three in Island city and six in the suburbs, in which walls and roofs of houses crashed. However, no one injured in these incidents.

**CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION**  
1, NAWAB YUSUF ROAD, CIVIL LINES, PRAYAGRAJ-211001

Tender No.: ELCOREHETSSGR318-19-20M1 Closing Date/Time: 29.06.2020, 15:00

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

CAO/RE acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No. ELCOREHETSSGR318-19-20M1 closing date 29.06.2020 15:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

**1. NIT HEADER**

Name of Work	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV, 50 Hz, Single Phase, AC Electrification including OHE & TSS as Composite Electrical Work" in Adipur (Excl.) - New Bhuj (Incl.), Jhund (Excl.) - Patdi - Kharaghoda (Incl.) & Mehsana (Excl.) - Patan - Bhildi (Excl.) Sections, Gr.318, 319 & 320 of Ahmedabad Division of Western Railway, under RE Project Ahmedabad, Total 163.95 RKM/ 197.90 TKM.		
Bidding Type	Two Stage Reverse Auction	Bidding System	Two Packet
Tender Type	Open	Date, Time of Uploading Tender	02.06.2020, 17:12
Tender Closing Date, Time	29.06.2020, 15:00	Pre-Bid Query Date Time	Not Applicable
Pre-Bid Conference Required	No	Tendering Section	OHE
Advertised Value (Rs.)	₹ 617000114.89	Validity of Offer (Days)	60
Bidding Style	Single Rate for Each Schedule Item.	Period of Completion	18 Months
Earnest Money (Rs.)	₹ 3235000.00	Contract Category	Expenditure
Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.)	₹ 25000.00	Are Joint Venture (JV) Firms allowed to bid	Yes
Contract Type	Works	Expenditure Type	Capital (Works)
Bidding Start Date	15.06.2020		
Ranking Order for Bids	Lowest to Highest		
IPAS Accounting Unit	5201-ALLAHABAD RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION		
Auto Elimination rules applicable	Yes	Minimum rate of decrement (%)	0.20
Initial Cooling off Period (HH:MM)	04:00	Subsequent Cooling off Period (HH:MM)	00:20
PR/386/2020/ANU	"Serving Customers with a Smile" website: www.ireps.gov.in		

**Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly**

Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice No.-MCF/RBL/ Tender/ Shell assembly activity (LSCN/LGS coaches) with partition/2020-21/C174 dt. 29.05.2020 is invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Shell, MCF/RBL through IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in for and on behalf of president of India for the following work:-

**Description of Work** Shell assembly activities on Jig-I for LSCN/LGS coaches with partition as per scope of work Approx. Value (₹) 93,65,328.00 EMD (₹) 1,87,300.00 Cost of Tender document - ₹. 5,000.00 only Quantity of Work- 300 Coach. Completion period of Work- 12 Months or earlier. Period of Submission of tender document- From 06.06.2020 to 20.06.2020. Date & time of closing of Tender-20.06.2020 at 11.45 hrs. Date & time of opening of Tender- 20.06.2020 at 12.00 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in in tender document.

**Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Shell.**

Tender No.-Install-Tank-2020-21-01, Due on:-26/06/2020 Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/M&P Modern Coach Factory, Raebareilly, for and on behalf of president of India, invites ONLINE open tender based on single packet system from reputed firms through Indian Railways portal www.ireps.gov.in for Tender notice no. Install-Tank-2020-21-01, Due on:- 26/06/2020 on prescribed format for the under mentioned work-

**Description of Work** Supply, installation & commissioning and prove out of Argon Tank (40KL), CO2 Tank (13KL) & conversion of 01 no existing Argon tank (13 KL) to O2 Argon Tank along with mixers and gas analyzers. Approx. Value (In ₹) Rs. 3,72,18,608.00 (Rs. Three Crore Seventy Two Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Six Hundred Eighty only) Earnest Money rounded off to nearest multiple of 100. (IN₹) Rs. 3,36,100.00 (Rs. Three Lakhs Thirty Six Thousand One Hundred Only) Cost of Tender document: ₹10000.00 Completion period from the date of commencement of work: 210 Days. Date and time of closing of tender- 26.06.2020 at 15:30 Hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility Criteria, Terms & conditions are available in tender document at Indian Railways portal : www.ireps.gov.in

**Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (M&P)**

Open tender based on Single packet system Tender Notice No.-MCF/RBL/ Shell assembly activity on Jig-IV for LWSCZ & LWCBAC coaches with partition as per scope of work Approx. Value (₹) 62,89,920.00 EMD (₹) 1,25,800.00 Cost of Tender document - ₹. 5,000.00 only Quantity of Work- 240 Shells. Completion period of Work- 12 Months or earlier. Period of Submission of tender document- From 10.06.2020 to 24.06.2020. Date & time of closing of Tender-24.06.2020 at 11.45 hrs. Date & time of opening of Tender- 24.06.2020 at 12.00 hrs. Detailed Tender Notice, Eligibility criteria, Terms & conditions are available at IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in in tender document.

**Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Shell.**

IREPS CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## For first time, over 9K cases...

**From Page 1**

Of the deaths reported on Wednesday, Mumbai accounted for 49, while there were 19 deaths, 16 in Aurangabad, 10 deaths in Solapur, four in Dhule, three each in Ulhasnagar, Navi Mumbai, two deaths in Thane, Jalgaon, Akola and Kolhapur and one death each in Bhayandar, Vasai-Virar, Ahmednagar, Bhiwand, Nandurbar, Jalna and Osmanabad. In addition, one resident each of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal died in Mumbai.

With 32,329 patients having so far been discharged after full recovery from various hospitals, the health authorities pegged the total number of "active cases" in the State at 39,935.

Maharashtra was followed by Tamil Nadu, which saw 1,286 persons testing positive for the pandemic on Wednesday, the highest number to be tested on a single day. The 11 persons who died on Wednesday were victims of co-morbidity (they had other medical issues along with coronavirus when they were admitted to the hospitals).

Till date, 25,872 coronavirus cases have been identified in the State, said the bulletin. Taking into account the number of persons who have been discharged from hospitals, there are 11,345 Covid-19 patients in the State as on Wednesday evening. But the speed with which the pandemic is spreading is definitely a matter of concern, according to Dr CV Krishnaswamy, the octogenarian physician-cum-diabetologist.

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Follow us on @SCRailwayIndia  
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C.Railway can be seen on our website : www.scri.indianrailways.gov.in

**TENDER NOTICE No. 07/2020 E-Procurement Tender Notice**

Tender pertaining to Track Procurement Section of South Central Railway, Engineering Headquarters (PCE/OL/SC) invites e-tender under Single Bid System on behalf of the President of India for the following P-way track fitting supply. The detailed Terms and Conditions of the Tender may be seen and downloaded from www.ireps.gov.in in IREPS website.

**SI. No. 1, e-Tender No. : SCRL JFPB213. Brief Description :** Manufacture and supply of newly Developed Improved Switch Expansion Joint for 2 to 4 Degree curve for both 60 Kg (UIC) & 52Kg Rail Section for long welded Rail on PSC sleepers along with all parts as per Raheeb and Bina make Drawings excluding E.R.C.s, Liners & Rubber Pads for field trial.

**Estd. Cost/EMD/Tender document cost/closing date and time: Advertiser Tender value: Rs. 40565258.76/-, EMD: 811310.00/-, Cost of tender document: Nil, Date and time of closing of tender: 16.06.2020 @ 15.30 hours.**

All corrigendum shall be issued online only at website http://ireps.gov.in

**Chief Engineer/TP/Secunderabad**

**A0683**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scri.indianrailways.gov.in

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Information is given to general public at large that my client Smt. Suresh Devi owner of Freehold Residential Plot no. 17 area measuring 100 Sq.yds. out of KhawalKhata no. 264/3/4 Khola no. 3/7 mu no. 8 Kila no 26(6-0) situated in waka moja Besawala Telal & Des. District Haryana. By virtue of Sale Deed dated 19.12.2019 as Doc. No. 11673 SR FDB till date and has lost/missed his Original sale deed dated: 03.02.1992 as Doc. no. 10456 & Sale Deed 24.01.1992 as Doc. No. 10202 SR FDB & Sale Deed dated 22.11.1999 as Doc. No. 7627 SR FDB which was executed in favour of Smt. Simi Choudhary and same property is going to be financed by Avas Finance NBFC. We give this public notice that if any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property then contact us within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by any one.

**Naveen Kumar Verma, Advocate**  
F-211, Sector-3, Vashi, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010, Mobile: 0995871432

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given by Ms. Kanchari Sinha who is purchasing Freehold Residential Built-up Entire First Floor without roof rights, area measuring 60 Sq. Yds., built on Property Plot No.-WB-154-A (Constructed on Old Plot No.173-B), out of Kharsa No.305/212, situated at abadi of Gail No.6, WB-Block, Ganesh Nagar-II, Shakarpur Khari, Alsea Shalada, Delhi-110092 from Mr. Chitresh Kumar Nagar who got the ownership rights of the property vide Relinquishment Deed dated 05.02.2019 and further will be mortgaging the same against the financial Assistance from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. To comply the requirements of bank/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of the notice, at below address.

**Lucien Legal LLP**, 269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Mott, Opp. Uday Park, South Extn., New Delhi - 49 Contact: 011 - 40046316

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

# New Covid testing guidelines issued

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid rising cases of coronavirus in the national Capital, Director General of Health Services (DGHS) issued an order with a new set of guidelines for Covid-19 testing. The new guideline stated that all symptomatic individuals with a history of international travel in the last 14 days, those who are contacts of laboratory-confirmed cases, healthcare workers, or frontline workers in containment areas will be tested.

All patients of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI), direct and high-risk contacts (diabetic, hypertension, cancer patient and senior citizen) of a confirmed case to be tested once between day 5 and day 10 of coming into contact with a confirmed case. SARI case is defined as "one with acute respiratory infection with fever more than 38C and cough and require hospitalization".

All symptomatic, ILI within hotspots/containment zones; all hospitalized patients who develop ILI symptoms; all symptomatic ILI among returnees and migrants within seven days of illness will be tested for covid-19. No emergency procedure (including deliveries) should be delayed for lack of test. However, samples can be sent for testing if indicated as above (1-8) simultaneously. LI case is defined as "one with acute respiratory infection with fever more than 38C and

cough". All testing in the above categories is recommended by real time RT-PCR test only.

The new guideline says that migrants or returnees from other places will only be tested if they are symptomatic, within 7 days of illness. The focus in the current guideline has been given to symptomatic cases amid reports about shortage of beds in Delhi hospitals.

Earlier on Sunday, the Delhi government issued a new standard operating procedure (SOP) for handling the bodies of Covid-19 patients. It stated

that no coronavirus test will be conducted if patient after death.

The new guidelines mentioned three requirements to identify an individual as a Covid-19 fatality 'the person tested positive for Covid-19 before death, the positive test was based on a sample taken when he/she was alive and the person was admitted to hospital with severe symptoms of Covid-19 or doctors categorised him/her as a Covid-19 suspect. However, it mentioned: 'no sample for COVID-19 test will be taken of the dead body'.

## 5-member committee to strengthen healthcare infra

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government has constituted a five-member committee for healthcare infrastructure augmentation and strengthen overall preparedness of hospitals to battle Covid-19.

The order to set up the panel was issued on Tuesday, the day Delhi recorded its highest single-day spike of 1,298 coronavirus cases.

The members include Dr Mahesh Verma, Vice-Chancellor of IP University; Dr Sunil Kumar, Medical Director of GTB Hospital; Dr Arun Gupta, president of Delhi Medical Council; Dr RK Gupta, former president of Delhi Medical Association; and Dr

Sandeep Budhiraja, Group Medical Director, Max Hospital, the order said.

The committee will guide the Delhi Government on healthcare infrastructure augmentation and strengthen overall preparedness of hospitals to battle Covid-19, it said.

It will also guide the Government on any other area where strengthening of infrastructure is required to better manage the pandemic in Delhi. The panel has been directed to submit its report by June 6, the order said. A record single-day spike of 1,298 fresh cases took the tally in Delhi to over 22,000 on Tuesday and the death toll due to the disease mounted to 556, authorities said.

# Mob led by Tahir killed IB staffer: Police

Deep rooted conspiracy behind riots, says chargesheet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has filed the chargesheet in the brutal murder of Intelligence Bureau (IB) staffer Ankit Sharma. Police investigation has revealed that there was a deep-rooted conspiracy behind the riots and murder of Ankit Sharma during North-east Chandbagh area as he was "specifically targeted" by a mob led by suspended AAP councillor, Tahir Hussain.

After killing Sharma, the mob had thrown his body into a nearby drain which was fished out the next day, police said. The Crime Branch had filed the chargesheet before Metropolitan Magistrate Richa Parihar, who fixed the matter for consideration on June 16.

"A witness standing on a terrace had captured a video on his mobile phone, in which a group of persons are seen dumping the dead body in the drain. During post mortem, the doctors found 51 sharp and blunt injuries on Ankit's body," the chargesheet said.



The chargesheet was filed under various sections of the IPC for the offences including murder (302), kidnapping (365), rioting (147 and 148), Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race etc. (153-A), criminal conspiracy (120-B) and destruction of evidence (201).

Ten persons, including Tahir Hussain, were arrested in this case. "Investigation has revealed that there was a deep rooted conspiracy behind the riot and murder of Ankit Sharma, who was a familiar face in the area. He was specifically targeted by a mob led by Tahir Hussain, a sitting councillor in EDMC, Delhi.

"It has been found that Tahir Hussain is the main person who had been instigating the mob, both on February 24 and 25, in the Chand Bagh area," the charge sheet said.

It added that during the investigation, "the blood stained knife used to stab

Ankit Sharma and the blood stained clothes of the killer (with Ankit's blood) were recovered. Another knife used in the crime was also recovered. Tahir Hussain's licensed pistol was seized in a separate case".

"An accused Haseen alias Salman was instrumental in the murder of Ankit. He is the person who had assaulted him with knife. During his interrogation, he revealed that he had heard about the killing of a 4 years old Muslim Boy by a Hindu, he became angry and took a knife and along with his accomplices, Sameer, Kasim, Sabir and others came to Chand Bagh Pulia on February 25," the police said.

The charge sheet said that "Salman further disclosed that he had stabbed Ankit Sharma a number of times with knife which he was carrying. His accomplices also stabbed with knife and hit him with dandas (sticks) and after killing him, threw his dead body in the nala". During police custody remand, the weapon of offence, i.e., blood stained knife and the blood stained clothes of the accused worn at the time of incident were recovered at his instance from his house, it said. The recovered knife and the clothes of the accused have been sent to FSL, Rohini for comparison with the blood of the deceased and the report is still awaited, it said.

"Accused Tahir Hussain

was leading the mob from his house and also from the Masjid near Chand Bagh Pulia on February 24 and 25 and gave it a communal colour," stated the chargesheet.

"He provoked and instigated the Muslims against Hindus saying that Hindu people have killed a number of Muslims and has set fire in their shops at Sherpur Chowk and no Hindu go scot free. On his provocation/ instigation, the Muslims turned violent and volatile on February 24 and 25 and started burning the shops and pelting stones and petrol bombs on Hindus people and also targeted their houses," according to chargesheet.

"The uncontrolled mob turned into rioters and in the process of rioting turned caught hold of Ankit Sharma and dragged him to Chand Bagh Pauli and caused his death by inflicting injuries using sharp blunt objects and threw his dead body in a nulla (sewage drain)," stated the chargesheet. During the course of investigation, a person wearing red colour shirt is visible in the video footage along with 2 other persons and they are throwing the body of Ankit Sharma in the drain near Chand Bagh Pulia," stated the chargesheet.

"Though the faces of the persons throwing the body of Ankit Sharma in the nala are not clear and visible in the footage, which had been cap-

tured about 300 metres away from Chand Bagh Pulia by one Neeraj Kasana. "It is important to mention here that one red colour shirt had been recovered from the accused Haseen at his instance which he had worn at the time of incident. Further, the accused Haseen had disclosed that he along with his associates and others had thrown the body of Ankit Sharma in the drain after killing him.

"All these circumstances shows that the accused Haseen alias Salman is the same person who is appearing in the footage with red colour shirt in the nala near Chand Bagh Pulia, Main Karawal Nagar Road, Delhi at the time of dumping the body of Ankit Sharma," the final report said. It further added that "Tahir Hussain, in the intervening night of February 24-25, had removed his family and shifted them to his parental house at Mustafabad but he rather kept staying there so that he could keep an eye on the whole situation and stand with the Muslims against the Hindus on the next day."

The call location of Tahir Hussain near Jama Masjid, Munga Nagar, Delhi on the spot where Ankit Sharma was brutally murdered by the rioters on February 25, at about 5 to 5.30 PM speaks of his evil intentions which ended with the murder of a Hindu boy besides other cases of arson and loot, police said.

## AAP MP Sanjay Singh to fly 34 migrants to Patna on flight quota

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A leader Aammi Party (AAP) Sanjay Singh said on Wednesday he would use the air tickets he is entitled to as a Member of Parliament to help stranded migrant workers reach Patna from Delhi by flights. He would take migrant workers on two flights to Patna on Thursday.

In a tweet, Singh, a Rajya Sabha MP, said he will use 34 flight tickets received by an MP during the year to send migrants to Patna with the help of colleagues and voluntary organisations. An MP is entitled to 34 business class tickets in domestic flights annually.

The decision was praised by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who said it would be an inspiration for



Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

everyone. "Everyone will be inspired by this unique initiative of Sanjay ji. Those whom God has given means, it is their responsibility to put their resources in the service of others. Sanjay ji deserves to be congratulated," Kejriwal said in a tweet.

Responding to the compliment, Singh said these were the ideals with which he entered politics. "Thank you Arvind

Kejriwal ji. These are the ideals with which we entered politics with you and I will try to follow them throughout my life," he said in a tweet.

The coronavirus-triggered lockdown has had a devastating impact on the economy as well as on the livelihoods of lakhs of migrant workers. The plight of migrant workers, walking hundreds, sometimes thousands of kilometres, cycling or clambering onto buses and trains, to go from urban centres to their villages has been the focus of concern for almost two months.

The Centre has said around four crore migrant labourers are engaged in various jobs across the country. And so far, 75 lakh of them have returned home in trains and buses since the nationwide lockdown was imposed

## BJP worker shot dead in Mandawali

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) worker was shot dead by unidentified people near a park in east Delhi's Mandawali area on Wednesday morning.

The victim identified as Rahul Nagar alias Bhuru suffered four gunshot wounds. The police said Nagar was declared a "Bad Character" of Mandawali police station.

According to a senior police official, police were informed about the incident at around 7:30 am. "He was rushed to Max Patparganj hospital where he was declared brought dead. During initial investigation, it was revealed that he was walking near his house in the morning when a group of unidentified men approached him and fired bullets at him," said the

senior police official.

"His neighbours and family members came out and found him lying on the floor. The accused escaped on their bikes. Over six bullets were fired at him and Nagar sustained four bullet injuries," he said. "A case of murder has been registered and an investigation has started, he added.

Police said that last year, around November, Nagar was attacked by another group of men, a case of attempt to murder was registered. Nagar has been involved in cases of violence, attempt to murder and criminal intimidation. He contested from Vinod Nagar ward as a National Congress Party candidate supported by the BJP in 2017 MCD polls. He lost the election and later joined BJP, a Delhi BJP leader said.

## Self meter reading feature introduced

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power -Delhi Distribution Limited has introduced a smart feature of self meter reading for its consumers during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The feature has been launched in line with the DERC's guidelines to ensure safety of consumers.

Under this initiative, consumers can get their bills based on the actual meter reading as opposed to the provisional bills, a senior discom official said, adding that consumers will be sent self-meter Reading SMS alerts on their registered mobile numbers, as per their billing cycle.

## 200 shanties gutted in fire at Tughlaqabad

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A fire broke out in the slums Aof southeast Delhi's Tughlaqabad area in the early hours on Wednesday. Fire officials said that around 200 huts were gutted in the fire.

According to the Delhi Fire Services, a call about the blaze at Valmiki Mohalla was received at 1.30 am and 22 fire engines were rushed to the spot.

"The fire was brought under control by 3.30 am. No one was injured in the blaze that gutted 120 huts," said a senior DFS official.

## Gurugram Police PRO tests positive

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram police Public Relation Officer (PRO) tested positive for coronavirus on Wednesday.

He has undergone the test six days ago and since then he was undergoing home quarantine.

The police PRO office is located in the Gurugram police headquarters and the offices of all the senior police officers including commissioner of Gurugram police are situated in the same building.

"I have no idea when I got infected with the virus. A few days ago I was not feeling well so I got myself tested and the report was positive and now I am recovering well," the Gurugram police PRO said.

The Gurugram district reported 132 more Covid-19 positive cases on Wednesday. The situation is alarming now since the tally has zoomed up to 1195. The city has also reported four deaths.

"Some of our policemen have got infected with Covid-19 but they prevented a much bigger infection outbreak in the district," said a senior police officer adding that the entire police headquarters building has been sanitized and they are conducting extensive contact tracing.

He said the morale of the police personnel is high and everyone is busy in their respective duties.

The spike in numbers keep rising in the city with 779



cases registered in the last week. Some of the places like Sarhaul, Dundehera, Rajendra Park, Khandasa, Hari Nagar, Rajiv Nagar, Sector-10, DLF and Basai are turning out to be hot spots in the district.

It is worrying for all age groups especially senior citizens as cases of coronavirus infection have appeared from all over the district.

As per the data of the health department, 33 infected persons were detected on May 26, 20 on May 27, 68 on May 28, 115 on May 29 and 157 on May 30, 97 on May 31, 129 on June 1, 160 on June 2 and 132 on June 3.

Earlier, 12 police personnel deployed at the Udyog Vihar police station were also admitted in different hospitals after they were found positive. All the policemen were on duty at the Delhi-Gurugram border at Kapashera.

Apart from police personnel, Two Border Security Force (BSF) personnel were found infected with coronavirus in Gurugram on May 27.

The BSF personnel are deployed in a camp located in Bhandosi village. They were infected after contact with high-risk patients.

## NDMC launches disinfection drive for its commercial building

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After more than 30 staff members of the civic body tested positive for Covid-19, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) launched an extensive sanitisation drive in all its commercial buildings, including its headquarters -Palika Kendra.

A senior NDMC official said that sanitisation of all NDMC office premises other than NDMC's commercial Buildings are being done and undertaken by the public health department of NDMC.

"In all NDMC offices other than those located in commer-



cial buildings and from where Covid-19 positive cases are reported, the concerned Head of the Department would intimate the public health department who shall get intensive disinfection of the office premises, done immediately," he said.

The particular room, which belongs to the employee who was reported Covid-19 positive, would remain closed for the day of disinfection, he said.

## Kejriwal Govt lying about virus management: Gupta

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

At times when Delhi Government has claimed to be four steps ahead in its preparedness to tackle Covid-19, Delhi BJP president Adesh Kumar Gupta said that the Delhi Government has been continuously lying about its shortcomings and mismanagement in the health sector and from time to time, with a new lie, it has been veiled.

On Tuesday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has launched an App - 'Delhi Corona App' to bridge the gap between patients and hospitals

by providing beds, ICU and ventilator details of hospitals, Gupta said that app launched by Delhi government is revealing the truth.

Hitting out at Aam Aadmi Party supreme Kejriwal, Gupta said AAP government launched an app which gives information about the availability of beds in hospitals, stating that 100 percent beds are available in 7 hospitals. "A few hours later, a reality check revealed that 4 out of 7 hospitals included in the app are not admitting Covid-19 patients, while the remaining three hospitals reported being full of beds." "Even during the time of

the Covid-19 epidemic, the Kejriwal government has increased the pain of the people of Delhi by lying about death statistics, testing and now the availability of beds in hospitals," Gupta alleged.

He said, "Delhi Government not worked for the interests of the workers, on the contrary, they were forced to migrate by depriving them of food and ration."

Citing migrants' plight, the BJP leader said, "The workers who remained here are also in miserable condition. About 6 thousand laborers working in Aazadpur Mandi have also become helpless".

## Shramiks ferry 58L migrants: Rly

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has operationalised 4,197 "Shramik Special" trains from various States across the country till June 3 and ferried more than 58 lakh migrants through these trains in the last 34 days.

The ministry said that these 4197 trains originated from various states. The top five States/UTs from where maximum trains originated are Gujarat (1026 Trains), Maharashtra (802 Trains), Punjab (416 Trains), Uttar Pradesh (294 Trains) and Bihar (294 Trains).

"These 'Shramik Special' Trains were terminated in various States across the country. The top five states where maximum trains terminated are Uttar Pradesh (1682), Bihar (1495), Jharkhand (197), Odisha (187) and West Bengal (156)," it said.



Subsequent to the Ministry of Home Affairs order regarding movement of migrant workers, pilgrims, tourists, students and other persons stranded at different places by special trains, Indian Railways is operating "Shramik Special" trains from 1st May.

It may be noted that trains running now are not facing any congestion.

In addition to Shramik specials, Railways are running 15 pairs of special Rajdhani type trains connecting New Delhi and started 200 more time tabled trains on 1st

June, it added.

Meanwhile, the Indian Railways has refunded Rs 1885 Cr to passengers against cancellation of tickets during the period of March 21 and May 31.

"Indian Railways had suspended its regular passenger train services during the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of the highly contagious Corona virus (COVID-19) in India. After these trains were cancelled en masse, Railways faced the challenge to return a huge amount of money towards refund to the rail passengers," it added.

All these tickets are booked through the online mode. The entire cost of ticket purchased has been refunded, it said, adding that the money has been transferred in the account from where the payment was earlier made at the time of the booking of the ticket.

## CIABC for 70% reduction in corona tax on alcohol

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Worried over decline in sale of liquor, the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) has written to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urging reduction of 70 per cent corona pandemic tax on alcoholic beverages to a "realistic and sustainable level".

In a letter to Delhi CM, the CIABC pointed out that despite initial surge, the sale of liquor has fallen drastically in Delhi by 58 per cent in the month of May over same period last year. Whereas sales in neighbouring states seem to be bouncing back in sharp contrast to Delhi. It may be noted that both UP and Haryana have effected a tax increase of not more than 10-15 per cent. Also, it is an established fact that with such increase in prices, consumers start to down trade to cheaper



products. That means that not only do total sales come down, the Government's tax collection per bottle sold also comes down," it said.

According to CIABC Director General Viond Giri, liquor distribution and retailing employ about 13,000 people in Delhi. The decline in sales is bound to lead to some shops shutting down and layoffs at the wholesale and retail level. Even at best estimate, 3,000 to 4,000 people may end up losing their livelihood.

At pan-India level, the Indian Made Foreign Liquors (IMFL) industry contributes over ₹1 lakh crore in taxes every year, supports the livelihood of 35 lakh farmers directly provides direct employment to thousands of people in manufacturing.

It also employs over 10 lakh people in the distribution chain and supports hundreds of ancillary industries in glass, tin, plastic and paper with a turnover of ₹6,000 crore to ₹7,000 crore.

"We had highlighted that the initial rush at liquor shops was misleading as the pent-up demand due to one-and-half months of lockdown was too high for barely 20 per cent liquor shops which had opened at that time. We had also pointed out that Delhi has porous borders and the prices in neighbouring states were much lower, thus creating scope for unlaw-

ful smuggling of liquor and depriving Delhi Government of its legitimate tax revenues," CIABC said its letter.

Delhi's falling liquor sales was not the only example as in Andhra Pradesh too, which had also implemented a price increase of 75 per cent, liquor sales have plummeted. "All this further substantiates our contention that the price increase of such proportions is simply unsustainable," he added. Giri pointed out that "borders of Delhi are porous, the price difference between Delhi and neighbouring states is too high with 70 per cent cess, and once the supply lines in neighbouring states fills up one may apprehend large scale smuggling to Delhi." "One must also bear in mind that with lockdown restrictions easing up, interstate traffic will become easier, further aiding unlawful smuggling of liquor to Delhi," it added.

# Govt OK's change in Essential Commodities Act

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to ensure barrier-free trade by farmers and help raise their income, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an amendment to the six-and-a-half-decade-old Essential Commodities Act 1955 to deregulate food items, including cereals, pulses, onion and potatoes. It also noded the promulgation of an Ordinance to allow farmers to engage with processors, aggregators, large retailers, exporters, to pave the way for creating "One India, One Agriculture Market".

The EC Act, which empowers Government to impose curbs on stocking of farm produce, will be amended to make it in tune with the times and to attract investments into the farm sector. Besides, the "Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020" will empower farmers for engaging with processors, aggregators, large retailers, exporters on a level playing field without any fear of exploitation.

However, the Act will be invoked during inflation, war, or any other unforeseen circumstances.

Addressing a media briefing later, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the Cabinet had approved the Ordinance to



ensure barrier-free trade in agriculture produce. It will not bind farmers to sell their crop only to licensed traders in the APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) mandis of their respective talukas or districts.

"The proposed amendment will allay fears of private investors of excessive regulatory interference," he said adding it will also allow clamping of stock limits on agricultural commodities only under "very exceptional circumstances" like natural calamities and famines.

Besides enabling better price realisation for the country's farmers, the amendment ensures no such stock limit shall apply to processors or value chain participant, subject to their installed capacity or to any exporter subject to the export demand. The amendment announced will help both farmers and consumers while bringing in price stability. It will also prevent wastage of agri-

produce that happens due to lack of storage facilities.

The Ordinance, for its part, basically aims at creating additional trading opportunities outside the APMC market yards to help farmers get remunerative prices due to additional competition.

On May 17, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution had circulated a draft of the Ordinance to amend the EC Act. The ECA draws from the days of the Bengal famine and the Defence of India Rules of 1943. Describing the EC Act as "anachronistic", the Economic Survey 2019-20, too, recommended the "jettisoning" of this law.

The Ordinance will empower farmers for engaging with processors, aggregators, large retailers, exporters etc., on a level playing field without any fear of exploitation. It will transfer the risk of market unpredictability from the farmer to the sponsor and also

## Eye to WB polls: Centre renames Kolkata Port Trust after Syama Prasad Mookerjee

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Keeping the West Bengal Assembly polls next year in mind, the Centre on Wednesday renamed the Kolkata Port Trust after Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder leader Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who hailed from the State. The Cabinet also approved the formation of new Pharmacopoeia Commission and Empowered Group of Secretaries to enhance investments in India.

On a high since it bagged 18 seats in the Lok Sabha elections last year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had just on Tuesday asserted that the BJP will form the next Government in the State.

"The Board of Trustees of Kolkata Port Trust in its Meeting held on 25th February, 2020 has also passed a Resolution to re-name Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata considering his multifaceted

enable the farmer to access modern technology and better inputs. It will reduce cost of marketing and improve income of farmers, the Government

genius as an eminent jurist, academician, thinker and leader of the masses.

"On the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of Sesquicentenary Celebrations of Kolkata Port on 12th January, 2020, keeping in view the sentiments of the people of West Bengal, it was announced that Kolkata Port will be renamed after Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, one of the most deserving sons of West Bengal and a front-runner in national integration, dreamer of Bengal's development, inspiration for industrialisation and ardent votary of one law for one nation," the Government said in a statement.

Further, the Cabinet approved the setting up an "Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) and Project Development Cells (PDCs)" in Ministries/Departments for attracting investments in India. This high-level body, headed by Cabinet Secretary, will look into the proposals to enhance

investments in India. The other members in the EGoS are CEO of Niti Ayog, Secretaries in charge of Industry, Commerce, Revenue, Economic Affairs. The concerned Department's Secretary will be co-opted.

The Cabinet also approved Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) as Subordinate Office under Ministry of AYUSH by merging into it Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine (PLIM) and Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory (HPL).

The merger is aimed at optimising the use of infrastructural facilities, technical manpower and financial resources of the three organisations for enhancing the standardisation outcomes of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs towards their effective regulation and quality control.

This Ordinance will act as a catalyst to attract private sector investment for building supply chains for supply of

Indian farm produce to global markets. Farmers will get access to technology and advice for high value agriculture and get ready market for such produce.

## Lt Gen Singh to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart to defuse LAC tension on June 6

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Leh-based 14 Corps chief Lt General Harinder Singh will hold parleys with his Chinese counterpart on June 6 to pave the way for the likely backing off of troops from four flashpoints on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh. The two Lieutenant General-rank officers will meet at a designated meeting point on the LAC.

Ahead of the meeting, Northern Command chief, Lt General Y K Joshi, visited Leh on Wednesday and reviewed the situation with Lt General Singh, sources said here on Wednesday.

Incidentally, Army Chief General M Naravane had visited Leh about a fortnight back to take stock of the situation in the backdrop of the four stand-offs now between the Indian and Chinese armies in a frontage of 25 to 30 km in Ladakh. The Chinese have intruded three kms into the Hot Springs area of the Galwan valley and pitched tents besides building bunkers and enhancing force levels.

Admitting that the Chinese had raised its troop strength in sizable numbers, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in an interview to a private television channel on Tuesday, had said diplomatic and military level talks were on to defuse tension on the LAC.

He also said the Army chief had told him that the next round of senior level talks will be held on June 6 and he was hopeful of a peaceful resolution following the upcoming parleys.

The groundwork for the June 6 meeting was laid at the level of Major Generals held on Tuesday, sources said. Almost daily discussions are on between the military on the ground at various levels including at the Brigadier level and twice by Major Generals earlier but no breakthrough was achieved.

As of now, there is no let



up on the four confrontation sites with soldiers from both sides on high alert. As China increased its troops and vehicle strength, India too responded in the same manner by ramping up its troops. Moreover, all the advanced landing grounds in Ladakh are now ready to share increased load of take offs and landing of transport aircraft ferrying more troops and logistical back up.

India is also holding strict vigil on the 250 km-long road in Eastern Ladakh near the Galwan valley as the Chinese are objecting to the construction of a bridge. The strategic road runs parallel to the LAC and India says it does not breach the LAC as claimed by the other side. The Galwan valley saw pitched battles between India and China during the 1962 war.

As infrastructure all along the LAC has vastly improved in both the countries, troops increase patrolling especially during the summer months. The Indian security establishment is now wary of the growing Chinese aggressiveness during the ongoing face-offs and is prepared for any challenge, sources said.

In order to address such face-offs, India and China had agreed some years back to have a hotline between the director generals of military operations (DGMO) on the lines of an existing mechanism between India and Pakistan.

However, the proposed hotline is held up due to procedural differences. In January this year, the Army Chief had said all issues have been resolved and the procedural aspects have been ironed out. He said the hotline would be between the DGMO from India and China's Western Theatre Command.

## Anti-India Bill in Nepalese Parl: R&AW's 2nd failure in 6 mths

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The introduction of the anti-India Bill in Nepalese Parliament is the second such instance in the last six months when the external Intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) was caught off guard.

In January, six anti-CAA resolutions were introduced in EU Parliament but the discussions were deferred only after reactive diplomacy set in motion by New Delhi to wriggle out of the embarrassment when the mandate and role of RAW was

to work in a preemptive manner and gather inputs on such developments in timely manner for course correction.

While the move to bring in a Constitution amendment Bill to include Indian territories Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh was afoot in Kathmandu, the Indian agencies could not get to know about the developments there and the undercurrents that are set to impact the ties between the two countries.

The slip was more so conspicuous when a foreign government and its agencies were

on overdrive to push the amendments in the Nepalese map through their links with the political parties and the leaders in Kathmandu.

Sources said a slew of top officials had to rush to Kathmandu to delay the introduction of the Bill in Nepal Parliament but no political party there could afford to distance from the nationalistic move. The Bill was tabled in Nepal Parliament on Sunday to endorse the amended map.

Apart from the changes in the map, Nepal has also decided to man the border with

India by its army which will open the door for training to the armed forces there for border guarding by third country which can exploit the situation to monitor the frontier with India.

India should propose deployment of Indian training team in border guarding to avoid landing of such teams from a third country. India is already training Bhutanese border guarding forces.

The EU move against the amendments in the citizenship law that went unnoticed by RAW is more serious as about

600 lawmakers out of 751 members in the European Parliament had moved six resolutions against CAA. Not only this, even the diplomatic corps was seen wanting in the absence of any advance assessment of such an impending move.

Every Indian embassy or high commission abroad has a political desk that is mandated to assess political situations and report to the ministries of home as well as external affairs. Those manning the political desks are supposed to cultivate relations with the politicians of the host countries.

## Maoist funding: NIA searches construction firm's premises in Ranchi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA has conducted searches at the premises of a construction firm in Ranchi in connection with a case relating to Maoist funding.

The searches yielded cash book and several bank account details used for channelizing the "levy" for the banned CPI (Maoist).

The NIA conducted the searches on Tuesday at the office premises of Ram Kripal Singh Construction Private Limited Company at Panchwati Plaza, Kutchary Road, Ranchi in connection with NIA case relating to terror funding of CPI (Maoist), Giridih registered on July 9, 2018.

The case was originally registered at Dumri Police station in Giridih district of Jharkhand on January 22, 2018 after the arrest of accused Manoj Kumar with cash amounting to ₹6 lakh and other incriminating documents.

Kumar was alleged to have collected 'levy' from contractors on the instructions of absconding accused Krishna Da alias Krishna Hansda of Mandladih Ledha village under Pirtand police station in Giridih, Hansda was a J h a r k h a n d Regional Committee member of CPI(Maoist).

"During investigation, it was revealed that the arrested accused Manoj Kumar was an employee of RKS Construction Private Limited Company and was acting as conduit between the construction firm and the Maoists in Giridih area, the NIA said in a statement.

The probe also revealed that accused Hansda was going to make levy payment of ₹6 lakhs to the operatives of CPI (Maoist) when he was apprehended.

## MHA allows entry of certain sets of foreign nationals like bizmen, healthcare professionals, techies

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Ministry on Wednesday allowed the entry of certain categories of foreign nationals including businessmen, healthcare, technical and managerial experts to India.

These people are allowed to enter India through commercial or chartered flights and have to apply for fresh business or employment visa. "Government of India has considered the matter regarding relaxation of the visa & travel restrictions for certain categories of foreign nationals who need to come to India.

Foreign businessmen coming to India on a Business visa (other than on B-3 visa for sports) in non-scheduled commercial/chartered flights, Foreign Healthcare professionals, health researchers, engineers and technicians for technical work at Indian health sector facilities, including laboratories and factories. This is subject to a letter of invitation from a recognized and registered healthcare facility, registered pharmaceutical company or accredited University in India, said MHA.

"Foreign Engineering, Managerial, Design or other Specialists travelling to India on

behalf of foreign business entities located in India. This includes all manufacturing units, design units, software and IT units as well as financial sector companies (banking and non-banking financial sector firms).

Foreign Technical specialists and engineers travelling for installation, repair and maintenance of foreign-origin machinery and equipment facilities in India, on the invitation of a registered Indian business entity. These could be for equipment installation, or is under warranty, or for after sales servicing or repair on commercial terms," said MHA.

"The above categories of foreign nationals would have to obtain a fresh Business visa or Employment visa, as applicable, from the Indian Missions/ Posts abroad. Foreign nationals holding a valid long term multiple entry Business visa [other than B-3 visa for sports] issued by the Indian Missions/ Posts abroad would have to get the Business visa re-validated from the Indian Mission/ Post concerned. Such foreign nationals would not be permitted to travel to India on the strength of any electronic visa obtained earlier," said the MHA's circular.

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (U.P.) Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

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

S.No.	Job No./Work Name	Amount
1	19/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Green Belt (R/o boundary wall & footpath) sector-119 & 120.	Cost Rs. 27.84 Lacs
2	49/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2020-21, M/o Park in sector -62 small D tyap park, C-56 and Village Navada park with two year maintenance	Cost Rs. 52.03 Lacs
3	54/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Green Belt in Sector-121 Village Basai T point and Sector- 123 along FNG and both side of Hindan Pusta with two year maintenance	Cost Rs. 28.11 Lacs
4	55/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2020-21, M/o Park A-50, A-219, A-451, A-680, B-127A, B-127B, B-300, C-624. C-block in front of Sanatan dharm Mandir and along with Sanatan dharm Mandir park Sector-19 and Sector-20 All Parks with two year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 67.12 Lacs
5	70/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-41 All Park with two year maintenance	Cost Rs. 56.47 Lacs
6	35/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-36 All Park with two year maintenance	Cost Rs. 41.64 Lacs
7	31/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-31 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 42.59 Lacs
8	32/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park Sector-130 Between Farm House with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs. 27.21 Lacs
9	61/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park (Sh PF Open gym) Sector-127 Village Bakhtawarpur with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.84 Lacs
10	60/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park (Sh PF Open gym) Century Apartment MIG sector-100 with Five Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 30.84 Lacs
11	85/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park & RSP LIG Flates, E.W.S. Flates sector-99 with Two Year Maintenance.	Cost Rs. 39.90 Lacs
12	82/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Green Belt (R/o boundary wall and embankment of soil between Mihaas sweet & coast guard in sector-52)	Cost Rs. 56.70 Lacs
13	84/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Green Belt (R/o boundary wall and gate) in sector-75.	Cost Rs. 63.03 Lacs
14	83/D(H)/DD(H)-II/2020-21, M/o Park (Repairing and raising of boundary wall in front of HIG/MIG flats. Green View sector-99)	Cost Rs. 51.15 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 17.06.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 18.06.2020 at 11.00 AM.

Office Director (Hort.)  
Sector-39 Noida

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Dhruv, D/o Sarwan, R/o H.No. A-1/307, Janakpuri, New Delhi, Age: 14 Years, Height: 4'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, wearing Black Jeans Pant and Black T-Shirt and Plastic Shoes, has been missing from his house since 20.03.2020. In this regard a FIR No. 109/2020 U/S 363 IPC, dated 23.03.2020, has been registered at P.S. Janakpuri, New Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him, please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) P.S. Janakpuri,  
Fax: 011-24368639 New Delhi  
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641  
DP/101/WD/2020 Ph.: 011-25551410, 25553166

**SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE**

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely **Asiya Naaz D/o Kamar Hussain R/o H.No.2647, Mangal Bhawan, Gali Badliyan, Churiwalan, Delhi Aged-28 Years** has been reported missing since 29.05.2020 at about 11.00 AM from her residence vide **DD No.6A Dated 29.05.2020** registered at Police Station Chandni Mahal, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

**Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 4'6", Face: Round, Built: Thin, Clothing: Yellow coloured kurta, Cream coloured kurta and slipper in feet.**

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Chandni Mahal, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Chandni Mahal, Delhi  
DP/134/CD/2020 Tel.: 011-23279338, 23271751, 23263967

**Appeal for Identification**

General public is hereby informed that one person **Name: Narayan, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 50 Years, Height: 5'6", Sex: Male, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Black T-Shirt and Black Jeans, Place of Recovery: Found dead on 29.05.2020 at Patri Bada Bazar Kashmere Gate, Delhi.**

In this regard **DD No. 04A, u/s 174 CrPC, Dated 29.05.2020** has been lodged at **Police Station, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.** Any clue come to notice please inform undersign.

SHO  
PS. Kashmere Gate, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-23967889 & 23968730  
DP/248/N/2020

## Politburo raps Modi Govt for imposing lockdown 'abrutly'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) Politburo meeting on Wednesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for declaring lockdown "abruptly" in an unplanned way. The politburo which first time convened through video conferencing also said that the 20 lakh crore financial package is just a re-packaging of the existing schemes and essentially a loan providing activity and no bearing on Government's expenditure to help the people.

"In contrast, the central Government has now virtually left the Indian people to fend for themselves in combatting the pandemic. PM Modi, having declared an unplanned, unilateral, abrupt lockdown, has neither used the period of sixty three days (before easing restrictions) for either augmenting the health facilities required to combat the pandemic nor in providing relief to the people who have been agonized cruelly by not getting any time to prepare to meet the consequences of the lockdown. Having unilaterally declared, without consulting the state governments, the central Government is now shifting the burden of bearing the consequences of the lockdown, particularly the humungous humanitarian issue of crores of migrant workers with their families moving across the country on to the shoulders of the State Governments. Modi refuses to part with the thousands of crores of rupees he is collecting in a private trust fund under the PM's name, to the states," said polit bureau in statement.

The CPI (M) polit bureau also criticised the BJP Governments for implementing harsh Acts like UAPA, NSA during the lockdown period to target those who oppose them, especially people from Muslim community.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER HYDRAULIC DIVISION KISHTWAR.**  
**Show Cause Notice**

M/S T.A Infra Project LTD.  
Corporate Office H-251/4/B  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Trimulia Heights behind Shoppers.  
Stop Begumpeth Hyderabad  
No. - HDK/Accts/2020-21/88 Date: 26-05-2020  
Subject :- Inordinate delay in providing Water Supply of 07 MLD to Kishtwar Town from Naigadh Source comprising of various components complete job on turnkey basis. Whereas you have been allotted the contract for providing of water Supply of 07 MLD to Kishtwar Town from Naigadh Source comprising of various components complete job on turnkey basis which was started by you during January 2013.

Whereas proposed Timeline completion of the scheme as per contract signed by you was January 2015 with one year successful trail run of the scheme upto January 2016 but despite lapse of time various components of the scheme are yet to be taken up or are incomplete which include :-

1. Completion of 32 Km Long Compound G/Main Line of 300mm and 250mm dia pipe line which has been laid up to RD 29600Mtrs only up to new proposed Filtration Plant only.
2. Submains to a length of 10.4 KM. Not taken up.
3. Construction of 05 No OHT's not taken up.
4. Construction of 06 No GSR's not taken up.
5. Construction of Filtration Plant not taken up.
6. Construction of Intake Structures (Diverson Chhanel, Supply Chhanel, Sedimentation Tank etc) of required designed and Capacity not taken up.

Whereas the land for Water treatment plant stands handed over to you since long and you have not submitted the drawing and design of the structures for its vetting from: DIOC department, Jammu which clearly shows your non-seriousness. Whereas you have been served with 13 No of Notices last being dated 13.05.2020 but you neither responded nor are you bothered to take up the balance components of the scheme. Whereas your non-seriousness to respond to our notices & to take up balance components of WSS Naigadh is altogether violation of the terms of contract & has resulted into unfruitful expenditure which has caused huge loss to public exchequer.

Now, therefore you are called upon show cause as to why the contract signed in your favour is not terminated, and retendered at your risk & cost & why should not you be black listed. Your written reply to show cause Notice should reach to undersigned within 15 days positively failing which, it will be presumed that you have no defence to offer or you have declined to offer the same and accept the charges.

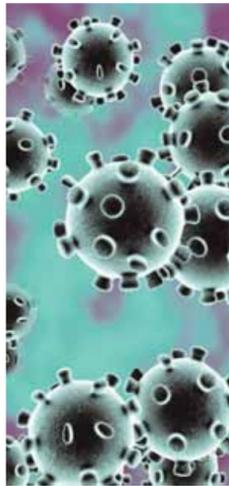
No. D/IPI-1035/20 Sd/- Executive Engineer  
Dated: 01-06-2020 Hydraulic Division, Kishtwar

# 1,286 more test +ve in TN, total reach 25,872

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Number of people in Tamil Nadu tested positive for Covid-19 is increasing on an hourly basis, if the bulletin released by the Government of Tamil Nadu on Wednesday is any indication. The State saw 1,286 persons testing positive for the pandemic on Wednesday, the highest number to be tested on a single day. The bulletin further stated that coronavirus is not that dangerous as the 11 persons who died on Wednesday were victims of co-morbidity (they had other medical issues along with coronavirus when they were admitted to the hospitals).

Till date, 25,872 coronavirus cases have been identified in the State, said the bulletin. Taking into account the number of persons who have been discharged from hospitals, there are 11,345 covid-19 patients in the State as on



Wednesday evening. But the speed with which the pandemic is spreading is definitely a matter of concern, accord-

ing to Dr C V Krishnaswamy, the octogenarian physician cum diabetologist.

The fatalities in Tamil Nadu reached 208 with 11 persons succumbing to the pandemic on Wednesday. Out of the 11 who breathed their last on Wednesday, four were in the 60-68 age group, two were 47 and 48 years of age, two persons of 50 and 58 years, two of 70 and 75 years, and an 80 year old person. Except for a 66 year old person, the rest were having co-morbid problems like Type 2 diabetes mellitus, chronic kidney diseases, hypertension, TB, and CAD.

The details of the persons who died on Wednesday prove that covid-19 was not the lone factor which hastened their death. The bulletin further stated that till Wednesday, Tamil Nadu Government has tested 5,28,534 persons for the pandemic and there are 73 laboratories operating in the State.

# Pregnant jumbo dies after being fed 'explosive' fruit in Kerala, FIR filed

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A first information report (FIR) was filed on Wednesday by Forest Department officials against unidentified persons under relevant sections of Wild Life Protection Act over the incident in which a 15-year-old pregnant elephant died in Kerala's Malappuram district after it was fed with a pineapple stuffed with explosives. This was disclosed by Divisional Forest Officer, Malappuram to *The Pioneer* over telephone.

Mohan Krishnan, Section Forest Officer, Nilambur and leader of the Rapid Response Team of the Forest Department, who was the first to reach the spot on hearing about the injured elephant, told this newspaper that it was the most heart-wrenching scene he has seen in his life. "I would like to forget the sight at the earliest. It is haunting me. When I went to the forest, the injured elephant was standing in the Velliyar River to ward off the flies, worms and insects from attacking her. She had accidentally bitten fruits in which someone had stuffed explosives. When she bite the fruit, it burst with force and her mouth was completely damaged incapacitating her from taking any food. The animal ran helter-skelter all over the region but she was careful not to attack anybody," said Krishnan, yet to recover from the shock.

Though the rescue team managed to bring the elephant out of the river with the help of kumkris (elephants trained in rescuing and con-

trolling wild elephants) she died within minutes on May 28. It was through autopsy that the forest officials came to know that she was on the verge of motherhood.

Krishnan and Divisional Forest Officer Raveendranath said that the elephant had entered the agricultural fields at Mannarakkadu from the Silent Valley National Park, a reserve forest. "Wild animals like pork and boars used to come in search of food to these farms once in a while. But the farmers keeping fruits stuffed with explosives is a violation of wild Life Act. This is all because of man-animal conflict because the farms are very close to the reserve forest," they told this newspaper. Local environmentalists said that since pork was anathema to a community it was natural for them to resort to explosives to keep the animal away from the agricultural fields. "But the poor elephant ended up as a victim," they said. This is not the first time elephants fall prey to dubious means employed to kill them. Kerala has seen many wild tuskers losing their lives when they bite fruits stuffed with explosives planted by poachers who are in search of tusks.

Cruelty to animals have become a routine affair in Kerala, according to Prasant Arya, social activist. "Authorities of Kollam's famous Oachira temple sold off to slaughter houses nearly 30 bulls offered to the presiding deity by devotees. This has hurt the devotees and I could see many of them weeping standing in front of the temple," said Arya.

# Didi asks Centre to pay ₹10,000 each to labourers

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

At a time when the nation is battling corona crisis which has jeopardized the life and livelihood of crores of people, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has appealed to the Centre to transfer funds directly into the accounts of the migrant workers so as to help them tide over the financial hardship they are in today.

Asking the Centre to provide one-time financial help of ₹10,000 to each migrant worker Banerjee has written on the Twitter "People have been facing economic hardship of unimaginable proportions because of the ongoing pandemic. I appeal to Central Govt to transfer ₹10,000 each as one-time assistance to migrant labourers including people in unorganised sector."

Suggesting the Centre to utilize a portion of the PM-CARES fund for the purpose she wrote PM-CARES fund "could be used for this" purpose.

The Chief Minister who had earlier said that there should be a fund similar to the PM-CARES too for the Chief Ministers said that the migrant workers were in a deep financial crisis from where they needed to be rescued. She said the State Government would itself had provided the help if there were adequate funds in its hands.

In an apparent reference to the repeated allegation by the top BJP leadership that the Bengal Government was stopping migrant workers from entering Bengal by not receiving trains provided by the Centre she said the allegation was totally false.

"If we had stopped the people from coming back to Bengal then how could 6.5 lakh workers return to the State by buses? If we had stopped trains then how could 2.4 lakh workers return by the trains... this is in addition to the 1.5 lakh more workers who are scheduled to return in a few days," she said claiming that the State Government had paid ₹25 crore as train fare of those who were returning to the State.

On the measures taken after the large-scale devastation left behind by the super cyclone Amphan she said her Government had been able to kickstart major relief and rehabilitation work to repair the damages left behind by "the fiercest storm in our recent memory."

She said, "Through the resilience of Bengal and its people, along with a determined effort" by the Government machinery, "we have been able to kickstart major relief and rehabilitation work for the distressed, with an immediate announcement of a ₹6,250 crore package as first tranche."

The cyclone had claimed 98 lives and felled more than 2 lakh trees in the fragile Sunderbans delta considered to be the "weather shield" of Kolkata. It had also uprooted about 15,000 trees in and around the State Capital.

Earlier she said that her Government had released ₹1,444 crore towards the rehabilitation process adding money had been transferred to nearly five lakh affected people for repairing their houses. About 23.3 lakh farmers too have been provided with crop damage assistance she said.

# Academic calendar for Classes 11, 12 released

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday released the alternative academic calendar for Classes 11 and 12, prepared by the NCERT to ensure unhindered studies of the youngsters amid the coronavirus crisis.

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, besides announcing the academic session of senior secondary education, also shared the proposed internship plans for lakhs of students devised in partnership between HRD and Housing and Urban Affairs Ministries. The academic calendar will be issued on a week-

ly basis, announced Nishank. New technology and social media have been given priority while drafting the academic calendar, so as to ensure seamless imparting of education.

"As many students may not be having mobile phones and Internet connections at their homes or may not be active on the social media, teachers have been asked to instruct the students through SMSes and even phone calls. WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, Google Hangout, and Gmail can be used to impart education to the students," the Minister said. Academic problems faced

by students would also be resolved through audiobooks and radio programmes. English, Hindi, Sanskrit and Urdu languages have at present been included in the academic calendar. The academic calendar prepared by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will be broadcast through DTH channels and videoconference with the help of SCERT, state education boards, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti.

The alternative calendar for classes till 10th was released early last month to facilitate an

**HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, besides announcing the academic session of senior secondary education, also shared the proposed internship plans for lakhs of students devised in partnership between HRD and Housing and Urban Affairs Ministries**

unhindered academic session. Nishank also announced that along with Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep S. Puri they will jointly launch 'The Urban Learning Internship Programme' on Thursday.

The programme aims to provide "experiential learning" opportunities to the engineering students. "This new internship programme has been developed jointly by the All India Council for Technical Education, or AICTE, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, or MoHUA. The programme will be supported under Smart City initiative of the Government of India," said a senior HRD Ministry official.

At the State level, TULIP will be supported by the Urban Development departments in providing a clear roadmap for the Urban Local Bodies (ULB) or smart cities to adopt TULIP

in their respective organisations. The programme is designed to provide engineering students "exposure to the functioning of cities." The developers believe that new solutions for the city ecosystem will evolve through the programme and "a pool of talent" will get "created for absorption in the market."

The programme, which is now known as TULIP, was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Union Budget 2020. The one-year internship programme was introduced with an aim to improve 'employability' of engineering students.

# Want to resolve it, spoke to Mamata on pro-VC selection: Guv

PNS ■ KOLKATA

After an unprecedented situation arose in the wake of the Bengal Government and the State Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar appointing separate nominees to the post of Pro Vice Chancellor of Burdwan University the latter on Wednesday seemed to relent saying he had put a lid on the issue and that he was "leaving it all on the good conscience of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to handle the situation."

In a high voltage drama the State Government had on

Tuesday overruled the Raj Bhavan's decision and appointed Professor Ashis Panigrahi as the Pro-VC of the prestigious institution hours after Dhankhar had issued an appointment letter to Professor Gautam Chandra.

Even as things threatened to take an uglier turn the Governor on Wednesday beat a hasty retreat and told the media that he was "putting a lid on the issue" as he had a conversation with the Chief Minister during which he found that "both of us are on the same page." He did not want to precipitate the issue further as and hence he "put a

lid on the issue" because "the State is going through a crisis."

He said "I had a telephonic conversation with Mamata Banerjee today in the morning. The State is going through a crisis and I want this (pro-VC appointment issue) to be resolved. I want to put a lid on the controversy as of now," adding that he had requested the Chief Minister to see that such avoidable situations did not recur." He said "things have been taken to a level where the Chief Minister will take a call," relying heavily on "her good conscience."

The Governor and the State Government had been at

loggerheads ever since Dhankhar joined his last year with the ruling Trinamool Congress repeatedly accusing him for "taking BJP's side". Even the Chief Minister alleged on more than one occasion that he was acting like a BJP agent and not a Governor questioning the existence of the post itself.

The battle between Nabanna (the State secretariat) and the Raj Bhavan reached an unprecedented scale early this year when the two constitutional heads engaged in a letter war slapping letters filled with allegations on more than one occasion early this year.

# JeM ultras killed in Pulwama encounter

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

An IED expert of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terror outfit and an Afghan war veteran was eliminated along with two other terrorists by the joint teams of security forces in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday.

The dreaded terrorist has been identified as Abdul Rehman alias Fauji Bhai, a resident of Multan in Pakistan.

He is believed to have played a key role in fabricating vehicle borne IED, detonated by the security forces last week in Pulwama. Addressing a press conference after the successful operation culminated, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar told reporters, "The killing of Abdul Rehman alias Fauji Bhai, a Pakistani national, is a big success for security forces. Fauji Bhai was working in Kashmir valley as an IED expert of JeM, IGP added."

According to police records, Fauji Bhai was active in south Kashmir since 2017 and was involved in series of strikes on security forces.

According to police, Fauji Bhai had managed to give a slip to the security forces when the IED laden car was intercepted by the security forces in Pulwama on May 28.

Referring to the series of successful anti-terrorist operations conducted in Kashmir valley, IGP said "We have had major successes this year as we have eliminated top commanders of Hizbul Mujahideen Reyaz Naikoo and poster boy Junaid Sehrai, Lashkar chief Haider in Handwara and now Fauji Baba".

According to official sources, Fauji Bhai had infiltrated along with JeM terrorists to revive the outfit and initiate spectacular attacks on security apparatus.

Responding to another query about the presence of IED experts in Kashmir valley, IGP said there were at least two more IED experts among the Jaish ranks in Kashmir, Walid Bhai and Lambu Bhai, and the security forces were working to get them too.

When asked about the identity of two other terrorists, IGP Vijay Kumar said efforts were on to identify the other two terrorists. "If they are identified, their family will be allowed to participate in the funeral at Baramulla. We are in the process of conducting the autopsy and collecting DNA samples in case they are not identified," he added.

# Tiruppur Exporters demand more liberalised loan from banks, financial institutions

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI/TIRUPPUR

Twenty-four hours after the Union Government decided to tweak the definition of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) units in the country, the cotton knitwear exporting units in Tamil Nadu's Tiruppur has come out with a demand for more liberalised loan from banks and financial institutions.

Raja M Shanmugham, president, Tiruppur Exporters' Association (TEA), the powerful body of the knitwear exporters based in Tiruppur, while congratulating the Centre for restructuring the MSME units, has demanded more liberal loan facilities for the units in the region. The TEA units earn ₹200 billion per year on an average through exports and employs 6,00,000 workers.

"With the upward revision of MSME definition on June 1, 2020, more number of knitwear garment exporting units will fit into the definition of MSMEs and now the concern is that due to stipulated conditions some of the MSME units whose credit exposure is more than ₹25 crore are deprived of receiving the Emergency Credit Line Fund, as their outstanding exceeds ₹25 crores," said Shanmugham.

As per a directive issued by the Centre on February 29, 2020, MSME units were eligible for Emergency Credit Line of up to 20 per cent of their entire outstanding credit from Banks and Non-Banking

Financial Companies. This was applicable to borrowers with a turnover of ₹100 crore and had unpaid loan amounting to ₹25 crore.

As per the new norms announced by the Centre, units with investment of ₹one crore and turn over of ₹5 crore have been categorised as Micro, while units with an investment of ₹10 crore and annual turnover of ₹50 crore are small units.

Companies which were having an investment of ₹20 crore and turn over worth ₹100 crore were hitherto classified as medium units. But the government announced on Monday that units with ₹50 crore investment and which have annual turnover of ₹250 crore would be considered as medium units.

"Now that the Government has redefined micro, small and medium enterprises by hiking the investment and turnover limits, many companies have become eligible to be included in these categories. They have outstanding loans exceeding ₹25 crore and hence should be made eligible for the concession," said Sakthivel secretary, TEA.

According to Shanmugham, it has become increasingly necessary to extend liquidity support to the non-included MSMEs also, having credit exposure of more than ₹25 crore mainly to bring them back to operationalize their units to the normalcy level, do exports and continue provide employment.

# 139 new cases in J&K, total tally mounts to 2,857

PNS ■ JAMMU

With 139 fresh cases detected across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday, the total tally of coronavirus cases is inching closer to touching the 3,000 mark soon.

According to the media bulletin, 30 cases were reported from Jammu division while 109 cases were reported from Kashmir taking the tally to 2,857 cases. Moreover, 54 more Covid-19 patients were recovered and discharged from various hospitals, 01 from Jammu division and 53 from Kashmir division.

According to the media bulletin, out of 2,857 positive cases, 1,816 are Active Positive, 1,007 have recovered and 34 have died; 04 in Jammu division and 30 in Kashmir division. In Kashmir valley, out of 109 positive cases, 16 were returnees while 93 were others. In Jammu, out of 30 cases 28 were returnees and only two others tested positive on Wednesday.

Three districts of Anantnag, Kulgam and Srinagar in Kashmir valley have so far recorded over 300 positive cases and two districts of Kupwara and Baramulla have recorded more than 250 positive cases. In Jammu division, Ramban and Jammu districts have followed over 150 cases so far followed by Kathua which has recorded 80 cases while the frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch have reported 40 and 59 cases respectively.

# 122 die, 2,560 test +ve in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra appeared to be speaking in terms of Covid-19 triggered fatalities and infections on Wednesday, as it notched the highest-ever daily tally on 122 deaths and as many as 2,560 more people tested positive for the pandemic in various parts of the State.

With the fresh deaths and infections, the total number of deaths in Maharashtra jumped to 2,587 while the total number of infected cases went up to 74,860 in the State.

The worsening situation in the State can be evidence from the fact that there have been a total of 816 deaths in Maharashtra during the previous nine days.

On May 26 (Tuesday) the state had witnessed 97 deaths, while there were 105 deaths on May 27, 85 deaths on May 28, 116 deaths on May 29 and 99 deaths on May 30, 89 deaths on May 31, 76 on June 1 and 103 on June 3. Wednesday's toll was 122.

Of the deaths reported on Wednesday, Mumbai accounted for 49, while there were 19 deaths, 16 in Aurangabad, ten deaths in Solapur, four in Dhule, three each in Ulhasnagar, Navi Mumbai, two deaths in Thane, Jalgaon, Akola and Kolhapur and one death each in Bhayandar, Vasai-Virar, Ahmednagar, Bhiwandur, Nandurbar, Jalna and Osmanabad. In addition, one resident each of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal died in Mumbai. With 32329 patients having so far been discharged after full recovery from various hospitals, the health authorities pegged the total number of "active cases" in the state at 39935.

Of those whose death was reported on Wednesday, 71 were men while 51 were women. Sixty

nine of them were aged over 60 years, 46 were from the age group 40 to 59 years and 7 were aged below 40 years. "Eighty eight out of 122 patients (72%) had high-risk comorbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease," the state health bulletin said.

Out of the total deaths reported on Wednesday, 57 deaths occurred in the last two days and the rest are from the period April 30 to May 31. With 49 new deaths and 1276 positive cases, the total number of deaths in Mumbai mounted to 1417, while the total number of infected cases rose to 43492. The authorities pegged the "active cases" in Mumbai at 24597.

Some of key observations made in Wednesday's health bulletin were: The recovery rate in the state is 43.18 per cent. The case fatality rate in the state is 3.45 per cent. Currently, 5,71,915 people are in home quarantine. There are 71,912 beds available in quarantine institutions. As many as 33,674 people are in institutional quarantine now.

In a related development, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has apprehended that post cyclone and rains, there could be rise in cases like monsoon related diseases in addition to corona virus illness.

In its health bulletin issued on Wednesday, the BMC advised the citizens not to ignore any fever and not to self-medicate "Please watch out for any symptoms for next 7 to 10 days. If any symptoms appears like fever, chills, joint pains, rashes, cough, breathlessness, diarrhoea, vomiting, sore throat, jaundice, then immediately visit nearby dispensary or inform the Community health Volunteer or consult your doctors, the BMC told Mumbaiers in its advisory.

# 47 more test positive, Goa's active cases at 69

Panaji: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said, here on Wednesday, 47 new coronavirus cases had been identified and any decision on further lockdown relaxations would depend on whether transmission had spread out of the cluster or not.

The case count, the biggest on a single day, takes the number of active cases to 69. Of the new cases, 40 had been reported from South Goa's Mangor hill area, he said and added, it had been declared a containment zone and tests were being carried out. "Of the 200 people tested at Mangor hill, 40 came out Covid-19 positive," Sawant told the media at the state Secretariat.

The first Covid-19 cases in the Mangor hill area were detected on Monday, when several members of a family tested positive. Sawant said the family was not coming clean on how they got infected.

"The family is trying to hide something. We suspect a couple of reasons. Either somebody from outside came in contact with them or one from the family returned from outside the state," Sawant said.



The Chief Minister denied community transmission in Goa saying the spread of infection was localised at present. Nearly 2,000 people live in the Mangor hill area.

"There is local transmission. We have converted it into a containment zone. We are trying to get in touch with persons whom residents of the containment zone may have met. Our next strategy depends on the test results of these contacts," Sawant said. IANS

# 76 new cases, active cases 967 in Andhra

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday reported 76 new coronavirus cases, taking the state's tally of such cases to 3,279. However, the active cases are 967, as 2,244 patients have so far been cured and discharged in the State.

With the death of four patients, the state's death toll rose to 68 on Wednesday morning. Krishna district reported 2 deaths, while Chittoor and Kurnool districts reported 1 death each. As of 9 am on Wednesday, the state Nodal Officer said, 8,086 samples were tested over the preceding 24 hours, compared with 12,613 in the preceding cycle.

Andhra Pradesh's mortality rate of 1.69

per cent ranked 10th among the states, as per latest figures of the state government.

On Wednesday, 35 more patients were discharged from hospitals, taking the total in this category to 2,244 in Andhra Pradesh. The state's recovery rate of 63.49 per cent.

The corona cases among returnees from other states climbed to 573 from 479, even as the tally of active cases among them jumped to 362 from 282 cases reported on Tuesday. Meanwhile, with the addition of 7 cases, the corona patients among foreign returnees to the state increased to 119 on Wednesday. With one person discharged, the active cases among them dropped to 118. IANS

## Trump's expansionism

US wants to expand G7 by including India and Russia, hoping to encircle China. How will the two hold their own?



At any other time, US President Donald Trump's call to expand the Group of Seven (G-7) would have been seen as reformatory considering it has gone past its sell-by date. Formed in the 1970s, its main objective was to ensure the supremacy of the Western democratic and liberal economic model in the Cold War era. But with emergent economies, China and Southeast Asian powers coalescing around G-20, it lost clout with only five of its members — the US, Germany, Japan, UK and France — figuring among the

top seven global economies. Italy and Canada have been upstaged by China and India. So now Trump's move to invite India, Russia, South Korea and Australia into the club is not just about correcting geo-strategic realities of the contemporary world but to stifle China for the COVID-19 outbreak by encircling it with a comity of nations and diminishing its global dominance. And though he has been attempting this for quite some time, considering that both Russia and India don't want to upset China too much given their market dependencies, the US President wants to make a show by postponing the summit to September, when hopefully the COVID-19 crisis abates. The intent is clear, capitalise on all reports emerging that Beijing hid crucial information, play upon collective anxieties of affected nations and make them allies in the larger US design to isolate China. Already, he has gone ballistic with the World Health Organisation (WHO) for allowing itself to be taken in by China's versions of the truth, withdrawn the special status to Hong Kong in response to a new Chinese security law there and is limiting Chinese students above undergraduate level from enrolling in US institutions. It is also trying to cut off China from global supply chains, hoping to cripple it in the long run. In fact, soon after Trump's announcement, the UK Government said it wanted a group of 10 countries to develop its own 5G technology and reduce dependence on China's tech major Huawei.

For India, this is an opportunity to be a key player in the Western bloc. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has established a rapport with Trump and the recent 25-minute phone conversation between the two did dwell on Chinese incursion in Ladakh with the US administration being sympathetic to India's predicament along the Himalayan border. Modi also took up race riots, hoping that the US hypocrisy on the violence would blunt the stereotypical edge of its propaganda on India's rights situation. But India needs to walk the line carefully without appearing to be endorsing a polarising move that runs counter to its multilateral worldviews. It has, therefore, rightly refused the US offer to mediate in Ladakh and upheld bilateral mechanisms. It cannot afford to be played by both China, which is into heavy duty posturing to intimidate us against being party to any anti-China narrative, or the US, which dangles trade tariffs now and then to get things done its way. Besides, India still doesn't have the manufacturing edge to cut off China and is dependent on its factory floors for sourcing. But India can certainly negotiate better for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, considering that it has surpassed France and the UK in terms of the GDP, both of which hold a permanent seat on the global panel. India has support from France, too, as its President Emmanuel Macron had invited Modi to the G-7 Summit at Biarritz last August as a special invitee. The entry of Russia, though it has given an in-principle nod to the idea, is also going to be complicated considering that it has grown closer to Beijing ever since Trump's predecessor Barack Obama expelled it from the original grouping following its takeover of Crimea. But Putin and Trump have an equation going and preliminary reports indicate that Moscow has shown its interest in accepting the invitation to attend the G-7 meet but will confirm only when the agenda is decided. Besides, it stayed away from joining the global defence of human rights in Hong Kong. This is one of the reasons why existing G-7 members, particularly Canada, have reservations. But Trump is pushing Russia, without which it would be difficult to isolate or even censure Beijing. Australia, for example, features high on Trump's scale of preferences simply because it called for an impartial investigation into the Wuhan outbreak. Trump may want an expanded G-11 in this new age cold war with China but its success will depend on how the new hopefuls leverage their power.

## Elephantine problem

Laws make no sense if not enforced. And people will play with animals till we realise the right to co-existence



All of humanity needs to hang its head in shame for an inhuman deed that took place on May 27 in Malappuram, Kerala. A 15-year-old pregnant tusker, looking for food, strayed into a village where the trusting and unsuspecting creature was fed a pineapple stuffed with crackers. The fruit exploded in the elephant's mouth ripping off a part of its face and tongue. The poor pachyderm, despite being in intense pain, ran through the streets without harming a soul till it came to the river. It stood in the water for hours,

defeating all attempts by the forest department to help it, before dying a slow and excruciating death due to the injuries and asphyxia as water had gone into its lungs and trachea. Sadly, this is not the first incident of such unspeakable cruelty inflicted on animals in India. A similar incident had happened in Kollam with another elephant in April where the animal had eaten fruits laden with explosives and died a slow and painful death. So, the question is how is it that the perpetrators of such heinous crimes go unpunished when cruelty against animals is a cognisable offence under Section 428 and Section 429 of the Indian Penal Code and the country also has one of the strictest wildlife protection laws in the world? While some countries are now waking up to regulating trade in wildlife, India leads the prohibition on ivory trade. Some of the biggest triumphs for animal welfare here in the last decade saw the ban of dolphinariums in 2013, prohibition on animal testing for cosmetics in 2014, followed by a ban on the import of cosmetics tested on animals. India also prohibited the export of shark fins for use in soup and does not allow wild animals in circuses.

Yet we are confronted with heart-wrenching stories of depraved behaviour towards animals. For this to stop, we must make our law enforcement agencies aware about the rights of animals to be treated with kindness and dignity and about how grave an offence it is to subject an animal to cruelty. Punishment should be quick and stringent. Law enforcement agencies must not always wait for activist judges to lead the way in this regard. Plus, we, as a society must teach our children the basic truth that the world is meant to be shared by all God's creations and we must learn to live together with them. They have as much right to live on this planet as we do. In fact, animals form a vital part of the biodiversity and each creature has a role to play in the circle of life. If we disrupt that, we will have to bear the consequences of it.

# Liberal agenda in America

Like the White rioters, the Democrats and their media supports are also exploiting the most disadvantaged among their fellow Americans with hopes of winning the November polls



DOMINIC GREEN

There was no rest for the wicked on the seventh day. The shooting of police officers on Monday night in St Louis, Missouri and Los Angeles opens a new phase in the disorder that began in Minneapolis on May 26. On Monday, Terrence Floyd, the brother of George Floyd, the Minneapolis man murdered on camera by a police officer, called for calm. So did US President Donald Trump, incongruously waving a Bible in front of Washington DC's St John's church, where every President since 1815 has prayed and which rioters set on fire on Sunday night. But on Monday night, America's tragedy moved closer to catastrophe.

It's not just that race is the American agony and that African American men are disproportionately likely to be targeted by the police. A particular chain of events turned the initial protests in Minneapolis into nationwide protests, which turned into violent riots. Some filmed evidence appears to suggest that the crucial second phase of these events, the phase in which protests in poor and majority-Black neighbourhoods turned into confrontation with the police and assaults on civic symbols, was inflamed and exploited by the far Left.

This is why the violence must stop. Not just because lives and property are being lost. Not because it takes decades for an inner-city neighbourhood to recover from an assault by its own residents. Not because it shreds the tendrils of racial amity that have grown since the civil rights reforms of the 1960s. But because the course of events has at crucial moments been directed by affluent Whites. And they know that the butcher's bill will not be delivered to their suburban communities. The Americans have a name for this: White privilege. A few weeks ago, White men protested the COVID-19 shutdown by storming the Michigan statehouse in military fatigues and carrying assault weapons. The police allowed them to rampage around the Statehouse while White protesters shoved the police lines on the statehouse steps and no one was injured. Pass a fake \$20 bill as George Floyd did, however, and you risk a rapid escalation, which may end in injury or death.

The same inequality of risk attaches to the White grad student who dons the black hoodie of Antifa and throws fireworks and bottles at the police and the Black women and children, who standing on the porch of their home in Minneapolis, were shot at by the national guard as one of the guardsmen shouted "Light 'em up!"

It is inaccurate to say that all of Black America is on the streets. Fifty years of deindustrialisation and drugs have created a Black underclass but 50 years of civil rights and affirmative action have accelerated the growth of the Black middle class. In Atlanta, Georgia, the capital of the Black



middle class, initial protests did not lead to open-ended rioting.

The Mayor, who is White, ventured onto the streets and talked to protestors as equals. In a further instance of the civic responsibility that has been lacking in most Democratic-run States and cities, the local rapper, Killer Mike, the son of a police officer, issued an emotional plea "not to burn your house down."

This kind of plea works best if you have a house to burn down. It doesn't work on people who have no property and no prospects as in the heavily Black neighbourhoods of western Philadelphia, where helicopter footage showed the police abandoning their cars to entirely Black mobs.

Nor does this appeal work on people who have the luxury of burning down other people's homes and businesses — and those people, the White rioters, are the ones who commandeered the initial protests and forced them towards violent confrontation.

Nearly half of the population of Washington, DC is Black. Yet some footage appears to show hardly any non-White

NEARLY HALF OF THE POPULATION OF WASHINGTON, DC IS BLACK. YET, SOME FOOTAGE APPEARS TO SHOW HARDLY ANY NON-WHITE FACES AMONG THE MOB WHO ATTACKED POLICE OUTSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE AND SET FIRE TO ST JOHN'S CHURCH

faces among the mob who attacked police outside the White House and set fire to St John's church. Here in Boston, we saw an orderly march from a heavily Black neighbourhood to the city centre, led by church leaders. It was black-clad Whites who fought the police after the curfew. I observed teenagers from my suburban neighbourhood, students at Ivy League colleges and exclusive private schools, setting off in the black costume of Antifa.

"It happens most often that a people, which has supported without complaint, as if they were not felt, the most oppressive laws, violently throws them off as soon as their weight is lightened," Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of the French Revolution.

The radicalism of the American Left is rarefied and spoilt: More troubled by student loans and an absence of exciting jobs than failed schools and police violence. Antifa's revolution, like that of 1968 and most other Western revolutions, is a "revolution of rising expectations." The concerns of the young White men and

women, who are attacking the police, are not those of the young Black men who will be killed in the nights to come.

Most of the media endorse the radical Left's political costume drama. So do prominent figures on the Democratic Party's Left, like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Keith Ellison, the ex-Nation of Islam agitator who was second-in-charge of the Democratic National Committee and is now Minnesota's Attorney-General.

Like the White rioters, the Democrats and their media supports are also exploiting the most disadvantaged among their fellow Americans. They are exploiting the suffering of Black people in the hope of winning November's elections by painting Donald Trump as the second coming of George Wallace.

This strategy is unlikely to succeed. No candidate ever harmed his chances by running on a law and order ticket. Its greater failure is, however, moral.

(The writer is Life & Arts editor of The Spectator (US). (Courtesy: The Dawn)

## SOUNDBITE

Some owners are looking to sell their franchises. I would be more than happy to provide financial and non-monetary support to keep the PSL alive and to thrive.



Former Pakistan pacer —Shaob Akhtar

Boredom is the most common disease that afflicts all people. It is the root of a lot of mental, emotional and physical disorder. So I learned: To be bored or not, is a choice.



Actor —Mliind Soman

China and India have a full-fledged border related mechanism and communication channel. We have capability to resolve this issue through dialogue and negotiations.



Chinese spokesperson —Zhao Lijian

There is no need to panic looking at the increasing number of COVID-19 cases. The Centre and State Governments have done the planning. We have increased testing.



MoS for Health —Ashwini Kumar Choubey

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Unjust act

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Boots on the street" (June 3). Massive protests have erupted in the US following the death of George Floyd after a police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes while he was handcuffed and his face pushed to the ground. The officer, Derek Chauvin, was responding to a call about an alleged counterfeit bill used at a store. He refused to relent even though Floyd cried out for help saying that he could not breathe. Chauvin was fired from his job the next day, along with three others.

It is true that racial discrimination is still prevalent all over the world. Racism has contaminated the idea of solidarity in the US, making it difficult for White people from the underprivileged sections of society to empathise with their compatriots from other races, even though they are threatened by the same social problems.

This incident is especially shocking, given the American ethos of being liberal towards African-Americans or people from diverse races. It is likely that the officer's actions were racially

### The better side of humanity

This refers to the editorial, "Boots on the street" (June 3). The social media was flooded with images of protests in the US against the killing of George Floyd that has engulfed the country. Horrific images of police using brutal force against peaceful protesters, looters and rioters causing wanton property damage and toxic insults being hurled with abandon emerged. Against this backdrop, one video from Houston, Texas, stood out. Instead of violence or hate, it showcased solidarity and understanding. The video was of a "prayer test" being held in Houston where parishioners of a local church gathered to join hands and pray to bring an end to the troubling events.

The gathering was held in Houston's 3rd Ward Cuney Homes where Floyd grew up, giving it an added significance. At one point during the "prayer test", the White attendees stood opposite to their Black counterparts and knelt down to ask forgiveness for "years and years of racism" from their brothers and sisters. The visuals were powerful, signalling a way out for a just future where stereotyping is replaced by compassion. The video quickly went viral, drawing praise from across the world for it showcased the better side of humanity. This does not mean that there were no doubters. Some saw the ges-



ture at the "prayer test" as pandering and called it cringe-worthy for the way it depicted White people asking for forgiveness for crimes of their ancestors. However, those who chose to call out the video for perpetuating inequality, did not have all the information as shortly after the White parishioners took a knee, their Black counterparts joined them, going down on their knees as well and participated in joint prayer. Though its undeniable that the US has a problem with systemic racism, incidents like these light the way to a better and a more just future.

Javvadi Lakshmana Rao  
Andhra Pradesh

motivated — many White Americans still believe in racial supremacy. The US Government is often found to denounce instances of discrimination in other countries but its own response to Floyd's death has

been rather tepid. Is the US regressing into the dark days when African-Americans were enslaved? This is indeed an affront to Abraham Lincoln.

TK Nandanani  
Kochi

### Flouting rules

Sir — As the country emerges from a two-month lockdown and with a gradual ease in movement, it has been seen that peo-

ple are not maintaining social distance at market and public places. The dangers of the spread of infection from Delhi to regions in the NCR have increased significantly. Strict guidelines as issued by the Delhi Government to seal the border need to be taken by other State Governments. The Government has relaxed some rules after lockdown 4.0 but this does not mean that people should flout rules. Bypassing the rules will be harmful to all.

Yugal Kishore Sharma  
Faridabad

### Knee-jerk reaction

Sir — There has been a growing rhetoric on social media to boycott Chinese goods and apps. But a groundswell of anti-China opinion may not be enough to take on China for it has a good hold on the Indian market. A sudden ban will badly affect several sectors. We must enhance economic competitiveness and build capacity for innovation to make the shift.

Shambhavi  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Chinese are the neo-imperialists

India should not do any appeasement of the Chinese as Chamberlain did towards Hitler but boldly confront them like Winston Churchill



MARKANDEY KATJU

The Chinese Army recently penetrated about four kilometres into Indian territory in the Galwan area of Ladakh. Many people in India may think that this incident was only due to some small misunderstanding about the border between the two countries but that is not so. The incident is part of a much larger imperialist design of the Chinese, so let me explain. In the 1930s-1940s, Nazi German imperialism was the real danger to the world and not British or French imperialism. This was because German imperialism was rising and expanding and hence was an aggressive imperialism while British and French imperialism were only defensive. While the latter two nations only wanted to hold on to their colonies, the Nazis wanted to conquer and enslave other countries. Hence the Nazis were the real danger to the world at that time. Similarly, today the real danger to the world is not from the US but from China, because the Chinese are on the road of aggressive expansionism in the world. With their massive industry seeking markets for its goods and with their huge \$3.2 trillion foreign exchange reserve hungrily seeking avenues for profitable investment, the Chinese are today aggressive imperialists and the greatest danger to the world. It is true that they are not expanding militarily like Nazi Germany at the moment but they are aggressively expanding economically by penetrating and undermining the economies of many countries of the world.

In the last decade, Chinese overseas investment has skyrocketed. Today the Chinese are almost everywhere, Asia, Africa, Latin America and of course the US and Europe. Their Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a network of roads, railways, oil pipelines, power grids, ports and other infrastructure projects connecting China with the world. It aims at improving infrastructure and connectivity between China and the rest of Eurasia in order to dominate it. China's focus is often on vital infrastructure like ports, for instance, Gwadar in Pakistan, Piraeus in Greece and Hambantota in Sri Lanka, the aim being to get a strategic foothold in these countries.

By selling goods at less than half the price at which the American or European manufacturer can afford to sell (in view of his higher labour cost), the Chinese have destroyed many American and European industries. Now the Chinese are seeking to capture the markets and raw materials in underdeveloped countries by dumping goods at very low prices so as to make the local products uncompetitive. Pakistan, for instance, is flooded with cheap Chinese goods.

While capturing foreign markets, the Chinese were carefully protecting their own industry by putting high tariffs. It has to be said to the credit of US President Donald Trump that he called the Chinese bluff and bluntly told the Chinese that this strategy won't do. You can't have 25 per cent tariff on import of automobiles into China when the US imposes a tariff of only 2.5 per cent for import of cars into its territory. Trump has imposed tariffs on several Chinese goods and has announced more in the future. To this, the Chinese announced retaliatory tariffs but that will hurt the Americans little. It is well-known that the Chinese have no business ethics and that is why many US and European companies are reluctant to hire Chinese from mainland China as they often commit espionage and steal industrial secrets.

Let us now look at China's economic relations with India. As is well-known, India was a British colony till 1947 and the British policy was broadly to keep India unindustrialised. However, after Independence, a certain degree of industrialisation took place in India and we started manufacturing goods which we had earlier imported.

Now the Chinese have, to a certain extent, penetrated our market at the expense of our domestic industries. An article entitled *How Chinese companies are beating India in its own backyard*, published in *The Economic Times*, gives some interesting details. Indo-Chinese trade is heavily skewed in favour of the Chinese. Indian exports to China are to the tune of \$16 billion, mainly of raw materials. But its imports from China are worth \$68 billion, mainly of value added goods like mobile phones, plastics, electrical goods, machinery and its parts. This is typical of the relation between a colony and an imperialist country. Chinese companies use aggressive pricing, State subsidies, protectionist policies and cheap financing. In certain industries, Chinese companies dominate the Indian market, for instance the telecom sector, 51 per cent of which has been captured by the Chinese. Indian homes are full of Chinese goods like fittings, lampshades, tubelights and so on. The Indian Government and the citizens of the country must seriously start opposing Chinese imperialism. To ignore this danger will be behaving like an ostrich, just like Neville Chamberlain who kept thinking that Adolf Hitler was no danger until it was almost too late. Apart from opposing the aggressive Chinese moves at the border, the Indian Government should ban the entry of Chinese goods into the market and get rid of Chinese firms from the country. India should not do any appeasement of the Chinese as Chamberlain did towards Hitler but boldly confront them like Winston Churchill. Appeasement only whets the appetite of the aggressor.

(The writer is a former Judge, Supreme Court of India)

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**

YOU WON'T FIND IT (ACCUSATION THAT INDIA LOST DELIBERATELY TO ENGLAND) BECAUSE I HAVE NEVER SAID IT. IT'S TWISTING OF WORDS OR CLICK BAIT.

—ENGLAND ALL ROUNDER

BEN STOKES



THEY DID IT. I SAID IT AT THAT TIME AND EVERYONE FELT THE SAME. A PLAYER WHO CAN HIT A SIX OR A FOUR IS DEFENDING THE BALL, YOU JUST KNOW.

—FORMER PAKISTAN ALL ROUNDER

ABDUL RAZAQ

# Opening doors to prosperity

The changes announced in the rules of agriculture marketing might provide women and vulnerable sections easier access to markets but we need a wider social security net and modernisation



ARIJIT DAS

Given the agrarian crisis that the country had been going through, which got exacerbated by the pandemic, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced 11 measures to boost the farm sector, ranging from the amendment to the Essential Commodities Act to a ₹1 lakh crore fund to boost agriculture infrastructure. The changes announced in the rules of agriculture marketing might provide women and vulnerable sections easier access to markets.

The existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee or APMC Act was planned to protect the interests of the British Government, which wanted to ensure the supply of pure cotton at reasonable prices to the textile mills of Manchester. The first regulated market (Karanja) under the 'Hyderabad Residency Order' was established in 1886 and the first legislation was the Berar Cotton and Grain Market Act of 1887, which empowered a British Resident to declare any place in the assigned district as a market, for the sale and purchase of agricultural produce and constitute a committee to supervise the regulated markets. In 1928, the Royal Commission on Agriculture proposed a regulation of marketing practices and the establishment of regulated markets. The Government of India prepared a 'Model Bill' in 1938 and circulated it to all the Indian States. It became the guiding force for our APMC Act. So, it is not difficult to infer why the spirit of the APMC Act favours buyers rather than farmers. Of course, some would argue that it allows States to protect the farmers, as procurement is done under the supervision and surveillance of the State. But many mechanisms are available to protect the interests of farmers rather than being discriminatory against them.

The APMC Act designates a few patches as formal procurement centres. Currently, there are only 6,746 pockets in a vast country like ours and this allows limited buyers to purchase from farmers. This is a classic case of a State-backed oligopsonistic market structure, in which the number of buyers is small while the number of sellers is large. This gives enough power to buyers to pay the minimum price to farmers. Ironically, the maximum distance between a farmer and the *mandi* is five kilometres (km) but our field information suggests a minimum of 30-40 km travel for a farmer out to sell his produce. This means the APMC Act not only gives oligopsonistic power to buyers but also creates a geographical monopoly for them.

Further, the small number of APMCs and traders poses a challenge for farmers to sell their produce as they have to wait for days for their turn. This makes some sense for big farmers but not for small producers. Field data from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana shows a minimum of three to five man-day loss for small farmers.

**How the proposed changes will help:** An independent country should favour the marginalised and protect their interests. This proposed change in agri-marketing rules is a step in that direction. Hopefully, new rules will encourage big-aggregators and start-ups to use technology in a better way to procure directly from farmers. These channels may be existent in pockets but operate informally due to stringent market rules (procurement and cross-border trade). A big push is necessary to bring the changes on the ground.



**MOST WOMEN, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS, ARE ENGAGED IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR AND DERIVE THEIR LIVELIHOOD FROM ACTIVITIES RELATING TO AGRICULTURE, HANDLOOMS AND ARTISANAL PRODUCTS. UNFORTUNATELY, THESE WOMEN REMAIN AT THE LOWEST END OF THE VALUE CHAIN, WITH THEIR SHARE IN EARNINGS BEING LOW OUT OF MARGINS WHICH ARE EVEN OTHERWISE VERY MINUSCULE. IN THIS CONTEXT, THERE IS SCOPE TO INCREASE THEIR INCOME BY CONTINUING IN THE EXISTING ACTIVITY AND BECOMING ORGANISED AS A COLLECTIVE, SO AS TO POOL THEIR OUTPUT**



The pandemic is an opportunity to deregulate agri-marketing effectively to ensure social distancing. A perfect model of social distancing could be doorstep collection of agri-produce or at least at the village/cluster level. As an experiment, local collection centres were set up in parts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra to procure agri-produce at the doorstep. These also acted as local storage and sorting facilities. All procurement activities were done by women farmers who were otherwise absent in post-harvest management. The process was iterated with *tur daal*. Calculations show that through this process small farmers save about ₹175 per 50 kg of tur or approximately 10 per cent of its price; which means a marginal farmer can gain up to 10 per cent from doorstep collection. A similar experiment was done in other parts of Maharashtra and other States like Telangana and Karnataka. The outcome in those areas was also on a similar line; of course with a little variation.

Farmers can also minimise wastage in the direct procurement system. For example, a year ago the India Development Foundation (IDF) studied a vegetable value chain in Siddipet in Telangana and found big savings when Big Basket and Reliance Fresh started procuring vegetables directly from the farmers for their shops in Hyderabad. Farmers used to get the order one-day in advance and usually pluck the exact amount and quality of vegetable demanded. These are some out-of-the-box experiments that reveal huge benefits for small and marginal farmers through local collection.

New marketing rules should encourage such initiatives which are resilient in the current context, efficient and pro-farmer.

**Gender aspect:** The rising participa-

tion of women in farm work in India — a phenomenon commonly referred to as the feminisation of agriculture — is a huge reality now. According to OXFAM 2018, the agriculture sector employs 80 per cent of all economically productive women in India. They comprise 33 per cent of the agricultural labour force and 48 per cent of self-employed farmers. Despite their large contribution, women continue to remain invisible in the rural economy of India. Our critical evaluation suggests that women are acting as non-paid workers in agriculture or any other traditional sector; be it handicraft or weaving. Men are in control when it comes to selling their products to *mandis*/APMCs or handicrafts to local traders.

A vast majority of women, particularly in rural areas, are engaged in the informal sector and derive their livelihood from activities relating to agriculture, handlooms and artisanal products. Unfortunately, these women remain at the lowest end of the value chain, with their share in earnings being low out of margins, which are even otherwise very minuscule. In this context, there is scope to increase their income by continuing in the existing activity and becoming organised as a collective, so as to pool their output.

Others can be helped by getting them involved in some productive activity that is or can be popularised in the locality, and then selling the output as a group of women producers.

Doorstep selling/localised procurement will be liberating for women farmers. It will open up an opportunity for women farmers to participate in the selling activity and directly deal with the buyers. Our experience shows that exposure to agri-marketing made women aware of the information inputs and

upgrades that could make their work more gainful. It made them receptive to new skills and knowledge on good agriculture practices and agri-markets. Communities witnessed that the traditionally-gendered division of agricultural work has changed. Women farmers are more confident, deciding on crop-related activities like the choice of crop, selection of fertiliser, taking loans or even children's education.

**Putting Women Self-Help Groups at the forefront:** SHGs are a great way of empowering women in villages. However, the sustainability of such groups is a challenge as limited contribution from women and frequent defaults make them fragile. SHGs are formed and get dissolved in a few years. Connecting these SHGs to value chains is a great way to sustain them in the long-run. With the changed law, the SHGs now can participate in selling activities effectively, directly contact end-buyers and get a five per cent hike in the value of their produce. This amount is enough to sustain them for most of the year. And more importantly, it will increase activities in SHGs, encouraging women to meet others regularly. It has been observed that once the SHGs are linked to value chains, beneficiaries actively participate in entrepreneurial activities and have a much better understanding of their profits and savings.

In the end, one must understand that changing marketing laws is not a panacea to all of our farm woes. Agriculture is a delicate area which needs continuous attention and care. Reforming a colonial-era marketing practice will definitely help the disadvantaged section of farmers but a wider social security and modernisation of agriculture is needed.

(The writer is Fellow, IDF. The views expressed are personal)

# Trump must create an alternative to the WHO

The US must also ensure that Beijing does not start its 'Health Aid Diplomacy' to fill the leadership vacuum



GAURIE DWIVEDI

US President Donald Trump, who has been a vocal and strident critic of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) handling of the Coronavirus epidemic and the deferential treatment it meted out to Beijing, finally made good on his threat recently and exited the 72-year-old global body the US had co-founded. The US' withdrawal will severely impact the overall functioning of the WHO and there has been concern over the timing of the President's decision as well.

First, it comes at a time when countries continue to see a huge upsurge in cases. Second, global efforts to discover a vaccine have

never been as united as they are right now. The US' efforts to fight or find a cure/drug/vaccine for the Coronavirus, not just on its own soil but around the world, need to further intensify after it chose to exit the WHO. In failing to do so, it will create a leadership vacuum that Beijing will exploit to further cement its position not just as a global alternative to the US but as its possible replacement.

China did so at the time of the initial outbreak when it sent PPEs to Europe, Africa, America, Asia including India, as part of Beijing's "Mask Diplomacy" despite being accused of deliberately misleading the world. This public relations exercise was part of a larger design where even the pandemic was identified as an opportunity to score points for global supremacy, make big money by selling standard medical equipment/PPE and cover up its failure to contain the outbreak.

Xi Jinping projected himself as the world's saviour by sending aid which was a complete eyewash dri-

ven by propaganda. In the first 35 days (March 1-April 5) of the outbreak in Europe, China exported medical equipment worth \$1.45 billion. These were commercial contracts that Chinese companies entered into with nations that were most severely hit by the virus.

Agencies like the USAID (United States Agency for International Development), which helped Africa fight the Ebola outbreak in 2016, are not around to help countries fight the Coronavirus this time. Caught up in a deep crisis itself, the US, for the first time since World War-II (WW-II), is not at the forefront of relief and aid measures.

Beijing's propaganda machinery — which aimed to position China as a benign global power, more so in poor CIS countries like Belarus — was helped by the US' virtual absence from the world stage during the pandemic. Beijing is aware that several countries may start viewing it as a friendly power, which would in turn reduce the resistance that Chinese corporations

like Huawei face and also provide fresh impetus to its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative initiative.

The US' exit from the WHO raises many questions. How significantly will the WHO's functioning be impacted due to reduced funds? Will the US' exit lead to a reform of the UN and its key agencies like the WHO? Is the announcement a precursor to setting up of an alternate organisation or will the US spearhead all its aid efforts independently? Will Beijing step in to fill the leadership gap left by the US?

The WHO — for all its noble causes, including eradication of polio and other diseases — has an overall budget of \$5.62 billion (2018-2019). Of this, 80 per cent comes from voluntary sources and only 17 per cent comes from assessed sources, with others accounting for the remaining three per cent. In 2019, the US' contribution was \$419 million, which includes \$119 million in assessed and \$300 million in voluntary contributions. The other top donors to the WHO are

the UK, Germany, Japan and the EU. China comes in at number 15.

The WHO reports that the US contribution of \$450 million represented nearly 16 per cent of its total revenue in the 2018-2019 biennium and almost a fifth of its programme budget. Compare this to the nearly \$12 billion annual budget of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — the US' leading federal agency for national public health that is working to save American lives. The CDC has over twice the budget of the WHO which has a charter to save all mankind from disease. Clearly, the WHO's role and scope, in spite of its exalted image as the world's leading health agency, is practically limited due to its existing funding constraints.

The US' withdrawal from the agency will impact its functioning to some extent but a part of the gap will be filled by other resources.

While the WHO may be further hamstrung in running its programmes across least developed

countries (LDCs) and the developing world, it can be expected to sustain itself, albeit with some interim constraints. This move by the Trump Government appears to be more of political posturing, since the President is set to face an election in five months. For the domestic audience, it is an unequivocal expression of displeasure by the US Government indicating that Trump will focus on policies that protect American interests.

The message to the UN is also clear that the US will not watch from the sidelines if its interests are either compromised or not fully addressed by multilateral agencies like the WHO. Reform and course correction is long due for the UN and its agencies and the US' exit from the WHO could be the trigger to undertake those tough reforms, including accountability and transparency from the organisation and its top bosses.

To ensure that the US, as the world's richest country, does not abdicate its responsibility towards

low income and poor countries, Trump should immediately announce substantial increase in resources of the USAID from the present \$2.7 billion to at least \$4 billion. Additional funds should be directed to LDCs in Africa that will be most significantly impacted due to any budget cuts in WHO projects. It will also ensure that the US will focus on providing aid directly to vulnerable and smaller nations and regain some of the leadership vacuum created since February. It will also ensure Beijing does not start its "Health Aid Diplomacy."

Another major fallout of Trump's announcement will be the urgent need for most countries to beef up their health infrastructure and create more capacity. It will be the first time since WW-II that low-income countries will have to almost exclusively rely on their internal strengths to tackle healthcare issues due to greater uncertainty around the WHO's future prospects.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

# Deploying forces to DC shows how to quell protests: Trump

Washington: President Donald Trump on Wednesday took credit for a massive deployment of National Guard troops and federal law enforcement officers to the nation's capital, saying it offered a model to states on how to quell protests nationwide.

Trump argued that the massive show of force was responsible for protests in Washington and other cities turning more calm in recent days and repeated his criticism of governors who have not deployed their National Guard to the fullest.

It was a striking contrast to the harsh crackdowns outside the White House on Monday night, advocated by the president who wanted to make the aggressive action in the nation's capital an example for the rest of the country, a senior White House official said Tuesday.

"You have to have a dominant force," Trump told Fox News Radio on Wednesday. "We need law and order." He quickly pivoted to the politics of the moment, adding, "You notice that all of these places that have problems, they're not run



Protesters reenact the scene where George Floyd was restrained by police while marching in a solidarity rally calling for justice after the death of George Floyd in New York on Wednesday

by Republicans. They're run by liberal Democrats."

The Defense Department has drafted contingency plans for deploying active-duty military if needed. Pentagon documents reviewed by The Associated Press showed plans for soldiers from an Army divi-

sion to protect the White House and other federal buildings if the security situation in the nation's capital were to deteriorate and the National Guard could not secure the facilities.

But interest in exerting that extraordinary federal authority appeared to be waning in the

White House. Though the crackdown on the Washington demonstrations was praised by some Trump supporters Tuesday, a handful of Republicans expressed concern that law enforcement officers risked violating the protesters' First Amendment rights. AP

## Johnson says Floyd's death 'inexcusable'

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says the death of George Floyd was "inexcusable" and he understands why people are protesting.

In his first public comments on the turmoil roiling the US, Johnson told lawmakers "what happened in the United States was appalling, it was inexcusable, we all saw it on our screens and I perfectly understand people's right to protest what took place." He added "protest should take place in a lawful and reasonable way."

Johnson, who has sought to nurture close ties with President Donald Trump as he leads the UK out of the European union, deflected calls from the opposition to suspend exports of tear gas and rubber bullets to the United States. AP

## Trump preening and sweeping away all guardrails that have protected US democracy: Biden

Washington: Accusing the US President of fanning the flames of hate for political gain following the custodial killing of George Floyd, Democratic presumptive presidential nominee Joe Biden has said that Donald Trump was preening and sweeping away all the guardrails that have long protected the American democracy.

The US is in the midst of the biggest civic unrest in the history of the country following the death of 46-year-old African-American Floyd who was pinned to the ground as a white police officer knelt on his neck, killing him on the spot in Minneapolis on May 25.

Curfew was imposed in several cities on Tuesday as most protests turned violent during the night. In some

cases, peaceful protests turned violent resulting in large scale looting, damage to properties and monuments, and vehicles being set ablaze.

"The president held up the Bible at St. John's Church yesterday. I just wish he opened it once in a while instead of brandishing it. If he opened it, he could have learned something. They're all called to love one another as we love ourselves. It's really hard work but it's the work of America," Biden said in a major policy speech on Tuesday. "I won't traffic in fear and division. I won't fan the flames of hate. I'll seek to heal the racial wounds that have long plagued our country, not use them for political gain. I'll do my job and I'll take responsibility," Biden said. PTI

## Statue of divisive ex-Philadelphia Mayor Rizzo removed

AP ■ PHILADELPHIA

Workers removed the statue early Wednesday of controversial former Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo, which was recently defaced during a protest following George Floyd's death.

As National Guard troops deployed in the wake of recent protests watched, a crane lifted the 10-foot-tall (3-meter-tall) bronze statue and workers shook it from its stand outside the Municipal Services Building, across from City Hall. It was loaded onto the back of a truck.

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney said he "never liked" the statue Monday and announced a plan to move the statue later this month.

"I can't wait to see it go away," Kenney said.

## Bus strikes roadside bomb in southern Afghanistan, 9 killed

Kabul: A roadside bombing in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday killed nine passengers travelling on a bus through Kandahar province, a spokesman for the provincial governor said.

Another five passengers were wounded in the explosion, said the spokesman, Bashir Ahmadi. The passengers were all civilians travelling from one district to another when the bus hit the bomb.

He said this was the third roadside bombing since a brief cease-fire declared by the Taliban for a major Muslim holiday had ended last month.

The Taliban have not claimed responsibility for any of

those attacks but they did say they carried out one attack on Afghan forces since the Eid holiday. The truce was not officially extended but neither of the warring sides appears to want a return to an all-out fighting.

On Tuesday night, a bomb exploded inside a mosque in the Afghan capital of Kabul, killing two people, including the mosque's prayer leader, and wounding eight others.

Also Tuesday, the IS group claimed responsibility for a deadly roadside bombing over the weekend that hit a bus belonging to a local TV station in Kabul, killing at least seven civilians, including a woman and several children. AP

## Johnson OK's visa plans for 3 mn Hongkongers

London: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday reiterated the UK's plans for some of the "biggest changes" to the country's visa system in order to allow around three million Hong Kong nationals a path to British citizenship if China does not back off over a new controversial law.

Writing in 'The Times', the UK prime minister said the offer would be triggered only if China presses ahead with the new law which threatens to strip the former British colony of its traditional freedoms.

An estimated 3,500,000 Hongkongers hold British National (Overseas) passports and another 2.5 million would be eligible to apply for them. At present, these BNO passports only allow visa-free access to the UK for up to six months.

"If China imposes its

national security law, the British government will change our immigration rules and allow any holder of these passports from Hong Kong to come to the UK for a renewable period of 12 months and be given further immigration rights, including the right to work, which could place them on a route to citizenship," writes Johnson.

"This would amount to one of the biggest changes in our visa system in history. If it proves necessary, the British government will take this step and take it willingly," he said.

The offer was laid out by UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab in the House of Commons on Tuesday and Johnson stressed that he hopes things don't have to come to it as China risks "inflaming" the situation in Hong Kong with the new law. PTI

## Carrie Lam accuses foreign critics of double standards

Beijing: Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam accused foreign critics on Wednesday of displaying "blatant double standards" over moves by Beijing to strengthen control over the semi-autonomous territory.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced earlier that his country is ready to open the door to almost 3 million Hong Kong citizens if China enacts a national security law for the city.

Following talks with officials in Beijing, Lam said China has the same right as the US and Britain to enact legislation protecting its national security and that foreign criticism and threats

of sanctions could not be justified. She also said China was compelled to take the step at the national level because opposition in Hong Kong's own legislature and among government critics made it impossible to do so locally. "I can only say that the international community and some of the foreign governments have been adopting blatant double standards in dealing with this matter and commenting on this matter," Lam said.

"It is within the legitimate jurisdiction of any country to enact laws to protect and safeguard national security. USA is no exception. UK is no exception," Lam said. AP

## With wins in 7 States, DC, Biden closes in on nomination

Washington: Joe Biden is on the cusp of formally securing the Democratic presidential nomination after winning hundreds more delegates in primary contests that tested the nation's ability to run elections while balancing a pandemic and sweeping social unrest.

Biden could lock down the nomination within the next week as West Virginia and Georgia hold primaries. On Tuesday, voters across America were forced to navigate curfews, health concerns and National Guard troops after election officials dramatically reduced the number of in-person voting sites to minimise the spread of the coronavirus outbreak. AP

## US to suspend flights by Chinese airlines from June 16

AFP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States on Tuesday ordered the suspension of all flights by Chinese airlines into and out of the country after Beijing failed to allow American carriers to resume service to China.

"US carriers have asked to resume passenger service, beginning June 1st. The Chinese government's failure to approve their requests is a violation of our Air Transport Agreement," the US Transportation Department said in a statement. The suspension order takes effect June 16, but could be implemented sooner if President Donald Trump orders it to be.

## COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## Virus forges rare accord among bitter Venezuelan rivals

Caracas: President Nicolás Maduro and Venezuela's opposition, led by Juan Guaidó, have agreed to a measures for battling the new coronavirus to be overseen by international health workers, a first step toward cooperation between bitter political rivals for the benefit of the country.

While focused narrowly on the pandemic response, experts said Wednesday the agreement opens a small window of hope for tackling Venezuela's overarching political stalemate that has left the once-wealthy oil nation in deepening economic and social crisis.

"It's hard to overstate how important this is for Venezuela," said Geoff Ramsey of the Washington Office on Latin America think tank.

"It seems like both Maduro and the opposition are beginning to see that they can't simply sit back with their arms folded and blame the other side."

Venezuelans are increasingly losing patience with the lack of progress in finding a

political solution, he said, adding that this agreement could next lead to more badly needed humanitarian assistance and create momentum for negotiations for a political solution to the crisis.

"If they can negotiate a humanitarian accord, the next step would be to negotiate conditions for free and fair elections," Ramsey said.

The one-page agreement signed June 1 says both sides will work in coordination to find funds for fighting the coronavirus. It is signed by Maduro's health minister, Dr Carlos Alvarado, and Dr Julio Castro, who represents the Guaidó-led National Assembly.

It was also signed by Dr Gerardo de Cosío, the head of the Venezuela office of the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization, which will oversee the cooperation.

"This document is, I hope, a step to move forward to a level of collaboration of both sides," Dr De Cosío told The Associated Press. AP

## Two Pakistani lawmakers die from Covid

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Two Pakistani lawmakers died from the novel coronavirus here on Wednesday, a day after a provincial minister succumbed to COVID-19 in the southern Sindh province.

Mian Jamsheed Kakakhel, 65, a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Member Provincial Assembly (MPA) from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, died here while undergoing treatment after having tested positive for the coronavirus 10 days ago.

"Mian Jamsheed was on ventilator for the last three days and passed away this morning," an official said.

"His son Mian Omar has recovered from coronavirus while other family members have tested negative for it," he added.

Kakakhel was elected from the constituency of PK-63 Nowshera in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 2018.

Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) MPA from from Gujranwala Shaukat Manzoor Cheema also died after being on ventilator since Eid, Geo News reported.

## BRITAIN

## Ethnic minorities face higher proportion of lockdown fines, arrests

PTI ■ LONDON

Scotland Yard on Wednesday released its first set of data from policing action taken to impose the coronavirus lockdown across London, which reveals a high proportion of ethnic minorities being fined or arrested for breaches.

The Metropolitan Police said it had issued 973 fines, or Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), between March 27 and May 14. Those categorised as Asian, which would include people of Indian origin, received 220 fines reflecting 22.6 per cent of FPNs compared to their 18 per cent share of London's population.

Black people received 253 fines, reflecting 26 per cent of FPNs compared to their 12 per cent share of the UK capital's population. This compares with 444 fines for those categorised as White British, making up 45.6 per cent of the FPNs while making up 59 per cent of London's population. "When compared with the

composition of the resident population, higher proportions of those in black and minority ethnic (BAME) groups were issued with FPNs or arrested across London as a whole," the Met Police admitted.

"The reasons for this are likely to be complex and reflect a range of factors. This includes interactions between the areas subject to significant proactive policing activity targeting crime hot-spots and both the variation in the age-profile and geographical distribution of ethnic groups in London," it said.

Of a total of 711 arrests made in connection with COVID-19 legislation, the largest group of arrested people were white at 38 per cent, followed by blacks at 31 per cent and 14 per cent Asian. When taken just in terms of total numbers without proportionality, more white people received FPNs or were arrested than other individual ethnic groups. AFP

## Italy reopens to tourists from Europe

Rome: Italy reopened to travellers from Europe on Wednesday, three months after the country went into coronavirus lockdown, with all hopes pinned on reviving the key tourism industry as the summer season begins.

Gondolas were ready to punt along Venice's canals, lovers will be able to act out "Romeo and Juliet" on Verona's famed balcony, and gladiator fans can pose for selfies at Rome's Colosseum.

But there were fears many foreign tourists would be put off coming to a country still shaking off a vicious pandemic.

"Come to Calabria. There's only one risk: that you'll get fat," the southern region's governor Jole Santelli said on Sunday as the race began to lure big spenders -- or any spenders -- back to Italy's sandy shores.

Italy was the first European country to be hit hard by the coronavirus and has officially reported more than 33,000 deaths.

It imposed an economically crippling lockdown in early March and has since seen its contagion numbers drop off dramatically. AFP

## Yemen programmes fighting virus might stop by end of June, warns UN

Cairo: The United Nations warned on Wednesday that its programmes to fight the coronavirus in war-torn Yemen might have to stop by the end of the month unless they get an immediate injection of cash.

The warning comes a day after a UN appeal for countries to fund emergency aid in the Arab world's poorest nation fell a billion dollars short of what aid agencies needed — USD 2.41 billion — to cover essential activities from June to December.

"This will severely handicap efforts to contain the outbreak, which is already spreading rapidly," said Hayat Abu Saleh, a spokesperson for the U.N. Officer for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

At least 31 major UN programmes in Yemen, covering essentially every sector, from food to health care and nutrition, were at a "serious risk of significant reduction or closure," she said.

The coronavirus is threatening to decimate Yemen's health care system, already ravaged by more than five years of civil war. AP

## Around the Globe

Islamabad: Pakistan has reported a record 4,132 fresh cases of the coronavirus in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of infections to 80,463, the health ministry said on Wednesday.

Madrid: Spain's nat'l statistics body says nearly 44,000 more people have died since the beginning of 2020 than in the same period a year earlier — an increase of 24%.

Singapore: Coronavirus cases in Singapore crossed the 36,000-mark on Wednesday as 569 new cases, mostly foreign workers living in dormitories, were confirmed, a day after low-risk businesses resumed operations with the end of the two-month long "circuit-breaker" period.

Berlin: Germany's government says it plans to lift a travel warning for European countries on June 15 — but it may still advise against travel in some cases, for example to Britain if quarantine rules there remain in place.

Seoul: South Korea has reported 49 new cases, continuing a weeklong resurgence that has alarmed a nation where millions of children have begun returning to school. The figures announced by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday brought national totals to 11,590 cases and 273 deaths.

### SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN



General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Saazdaa Parveen W/o Md. Salim R/o H.No. H-221, J.J. Colony, Shakurpur, New Delhi Age : 18 years 4 Months, Height : 5'2", Face : Round, Complexion : Sallow, Build : Medium, wearing light blue colour suit, yellow colour salwar, red colour dupatta and green colour chapple in feet, has been missing since 25.04.2020 from her house from the area of P.S. Subhash Place, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 12-A dated 26.04.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Subhash Place, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing woman may kindly inform to the following:-

E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO : P.S. Subhash Place, New Delhi  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Fax: 24368639, Tel. No. : 011-27356336

### SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN

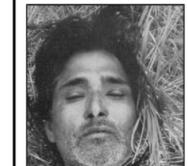


General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Neetu W/o Suresh R/o H.No. G-691, J.J. Colony, Sawda, Delhi Age : 30 years, Height : 5', Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Identification: A tattoo of Star on right hand, wearing pink colour full sleeves suit-Salwa and ladies hawaii chapple in feet, has been missing since 30.04.2020 from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 43-A dated 30.04.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing/ Kidnapped woman may kindly inform to the

E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO : P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> Ph. : 011-25951485, 25951486  
Fax: 24368639, Tel. : 24368638/24368641

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody male namely Age : 40 years, Height : 5'7", Complexion : Sallow, Identification : One tattoo mark of heart with arrow on the dorsal of right hand, wearing only grey colour lower (one sky blue colour shirt, one pair of slippers and one white towel found near body) was found dead on 24.05.2020 at 300 ft road, near underpass, agriculture land, village Bakkarwala, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 08-A dated 24.05.2020 has been lodged at PS Mundka, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone numbers.

SHO - P.S. Mundka, Delhi  
Tel. No. 011-28352010, 28352011

### APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male Age : Approx. 35-40 years, Height : 5', Complexion : Sallow, Build : Thin, Face : Long, wearing blue colour lower, was found dead on 31.05.2020 in front of D-Addiction Centre, Near P.S. Kotwali, Chandni Chowk, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 13-A dated 31.05.2020 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi. The dead body was preserved for 72 hours for identification in the mortuary of Subzi Mandi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Kotwali, Delhi  
Tel. No. 011-23977100, 8750870121

# NIFTY RECLAIMS 10K-MARK

## SENSEX CLIMBS 284 PTS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Sensex climbed 284 points while the Nifty finished above the 10,000-mark on Wednesday as risk-on sentiment remained in full gear amid supportive global cues.

Banking and finance counters saw heavy demand, helping the benchmarks close in the green for the sixth straight session. After hitting a peak of 34,488.69, the 30-share BSE Sensex shed some gains in fag-end trade to finish at 34,109.54, up 284.01 points or 0.84 per cent.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty jumped 82.45 points or 0.83 per cent to end at 10,061.55. The index closed above the crucial 10,000-level for the first time since March 11, 2020.

M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, spurring 4.82 per cent, followed by Kotak Bank, Bajaj Finance, SBI, Nestle India, ICICI Bank, ONGC and HDFC Bank. On the other hand, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Maruti and Hero MotoCorp were among the laggards, slipping up to 2.12 per cent.

Global markets soared to three-month highs as investors cheered the gradual reopening of economies the world over, even as the rising coronavirus cases and US-China tensions remained an overhang.

The domestic markets were also aided by robust foreign



fund inflows, analysts said. On a net basis, foreign portfolio investors bought equities worth ₹7,498.29 crore on Tuesday, provisional exchange data showed.

"The buoyancy of the global markets triggered gap up opening and it traded range-bound thereafter. However, profit-taking in the last hour trimmed the gains. Amid all, Nifty reclaimed 10,000 mark and settled above the hurdle of 10,050 as well.

"Mixed trend was witnessed amongst the sectoral indices wherein sectors like metal, banking, and capital goods were the top gainers while sectors like IT and telecom ended in the red," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

BSE realty, bankex, finance, capital goods, oil and gas, industrials and consumer durables indices rallied up to 3.07 per cent, while telecom, power, teck and IT shed up to 0.95 per cent.

Broader BSE mid-cap and small-cap indices surged up to 1.24 per cent.

Meanwhile, India's service sector activities declined sharply in May as the coronavirus pandemic continued to impair business operations, restrict consumer footfall at shops and resulted in job losses, PMI data showed on Wednesday.

On the currency front, the rupee surrendered all intra-day gains to provisionally settle 11 paise lower at 75.47 against the US dollar.

## AMRAPALI CASE

# ED: Morgan used sham deals, shell firms to launder homebuyers' funds

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Employees of JP Morgan India Ltd, who were on the board of various Amrapali real estate group companies, "laundered" deposits worth ₹187 crore of homebuyers' funds "diverted" them to the multinational financial advisory firm's entities based in Mauritius and Singapore by undertaking sham transactions and using shell companies, the Enforcement Directorate has found in its probe.

The central probe agency submitted to the Supreme Court these findings of its investigation as part of a reply-affidavit after it attached ₹187,34,92,519 in bank deposit of JP Morgan India Pvt Ltd at a bank branch in Mumbai on May 26 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The company, during the last hearing of the case in the Supreme Court on May 27, had denied any wrongdoing and said that this attachment of properties by the ED was blatantly illegal as it was not part of any kind of financial dealing with the Amrapali Group.

The SC had asked the central agency to file a reply on this grievance raised by the company. The ED, through Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, filed the reply in

which it described the modus operandi of the company to allegedly launder the hard-earned money of homebuyers who wanted to purchase an abode in Amrapali real estate projects.

The apex court, which is monitoring this case, had in December last year directed the ED and its Lucknow zone Joint Director Rajeshwar Singh, who was present in the court, to take action against JP Morgan under the anti-money laundering law and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

The top court had first cracked the whip in July last year on errant builders for breaching the trust of home buyers and ordered cancellation of Amrapali Group's registration under the real estate law RERA and ousted it from its prime properties in the national capital region by nixing the land leases.

The ED probe in the case found the role of "shell companies" and "dummy directors" in perpetration of the alleged money laundering crime.

"It is revealed in the PMLA investigations that the employees of JP Morgan India Ltd on board of Ms Amrapali Zodiac Developers P Ltd and Ms Amrapali Silicon City P Ltd were not only in complete control of the material decision of

the respective companies and securing interests of the funds but they also indulged prima facie in money laundering to divert the homebuyers' funds to the tune of ₹187 crore to JP Morgan India Property Mauritius Company-II in Mauritius and Ms JP Morgan IPF-I Singapore 2 PTE Ltd in Singapore," the agency said in its affidavit that was accessed by PTI.

The employees have been identified as Gunjan Bahl, Hrushikesh Kar and Chanakya Chakravarty.

The agency said the Mauritius company "was an active participant in the conspiracy from the very outset" and that JP Morgan India "played a key role in the remittance of diverted funds of the home buyers to Mauritius and Singapore."

These employees of JP Morgan India P Ltd, it said, serving on the board of Directors of Amrapali Zodiac Developers P Ltd "got arranged the cash flow in the company through funds arranged from other companies of Amrapali group, diversion of the funds of the home buyers, staged valuation of shares, creation of shell companies with dummy directors and sham transactions to finally get accrued about ₹140 crore to JP Morgan India Property Mauritius Company-II."

## Global stock markets continue to rise as economies reopen

AP ■ TOKYO

Global stock markets rose Wednesday, extending three days of gains, as more economies reopened from shutdowns they had imposed to stem the coronavirus pandemic.

Asian indexes closed higher and European markets were up in midday trading, while Wall Street futures pointed to gains on the open in the US.

"The theme of reopening optimism has its stronghold on markets going into the mid-week," said Jingyi Pan,

market strategist for IG in Singapore. So far, the markets' momentum has not been derailed by the wave of protests across the US.

That began last week in Minneapolis after a black man, George Floyd died with a Minneapolis police officer choking off his air. President Donald Trump has threatened to send troops to quell the unrest.

Investors appear to be focused instead on hopes that the worst of the pandemic downturn has passed, or will soon, as Governments slowly lift the restrictions that

left broad swaths of their economies at a standstill beginning in March.

France's CAC 40 was up 1.8 per cent to 4,947, while Germany's DAX gained 2.2 per cent to 12,288. Britain's FTSE 100 rose 1.1 per cent to 6,290. The futures for the Dow industrials were up 0.7 per cent and those for the S&P 500 picked up 0.4 per cent.

Economic data in Europe was mixed, with a small increase in unemployment due both to Governments' efforts to keep workers on payrolls as well as a drop out of the labor market by discour-

aged jobseekers.

The rate edged up to just 7.3 per cent in April, the first full month when pandemic lockdowns hit the continent, from 7.1 per cent in March.

The US jobless rate was near 15 per cent that month and is expected to hit almost 20 per cent when the May figures are released on Friday.

Payroll processor ADP is due to issue its May survey of hiring by private US companies on Wednesday.

The Government's weekly tally of applications for unemployment aid, meanwhile, comes on Thursday.

## India saves ₹5,000 crore on filling strategic oil reserves

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has saved ₹5,000 crore in foreign exchange after it capitalised on the global low oil prices to fill its underground strategic oil storage to shore up insurance against any supply or price disruption, the Petroleum Ministry said on Wednesday.

While the 5.33 million tonnes of emergency storage - enough to meet India's oil needs for 9.5 days - was built in underground rock caverns in Mangalore and Padur in Karnataka and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh by the Government, state-owned oil firms were in April asked to buy import oil when global rates fell to a two-decade low.

"Taking advantage of low crude prices due to the COVID-19 situation, India filled its strategic reserves to full capacity," the ministry said in a tweet adding this led to a forex saving of ₹5,000 crore. Oil prices globally had slumped after coronavirus pummeled demand.

The storages at Mangalore and Padur were half-empty and there was some space available in Vizag storage as well. These were filled by buying oil from Saudi Arabia, the

UAE and Iraq.

The Ministry said crude and LNG sourcing has been further diversified to strengthen India's energy security.

Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, in 2019-20 entered into a long-term contract for sourcing crude oil from the USA.

It also signed a first-ever term contract for importing 2 million tonnes of Urals grade crude oil from Rosneft of Russia in 2020, the Ministry. "First Russian cargo of 2 million barrels under the contract was received by IOC at Paradip on April 8, 2020," it said.

In just over two years, bilateral hydrocarbon trade with US increased from almost negligible in 2017 to 11 per cent of total two-way trade, it said. "US is the 6th largest source of crude oil imports while India has become the 4th largest export destination for the US crude," it, however, did not give details.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve entity of India (ISRPL) built the underground storages at Mangalore and Padur in Andhra Pradesh and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh as insurance against supply and price disruptions.

## WEF Davos summit to focus on 'The Great Reset' in 2021; will be open to all online

PTI ■ NEW DELHI/GENEVA

The World Economic Forum (WEF) will adopt a new twin-summit format for its next annual Davos meeting in January 2021, by bringing together leaders from across the globe for in-person as well as virtual dialogues with a theme of 'The Great Reset'.

The gathering of the world's rich and powerful, held every year in the Swiss ski resort town, will also open its doors virtually for everyone across the world online and through a network of more than 400 hubs globally.

The 50th WEF Annual Meeting, which was held from January 21-24, 2020, was one of the last high-profile gatherings this year before the coronavirus pandemic brought almost the entire world to a halt.

In a statement, Geneva-based WEF said its 51st Annual Meeting will again bring together global leaders from government, business and civil society, and stakeholders from around the world, but this time in a unique configuration of both in-person and virtual dialogues. "The Great Reset" will be the theme of this unique twin summit in January 2021, it added. The WEF, which

describes itself as an international organisation for public-private partnership, said 'The Great Reset' is a commitment to jointly and urgently build the foundations of economic and social systems for a more fair, sustainable and resilient future.

"It requires a new social contract centred on human dignity, social justice and where societal progress does not fall behind economic development," it said.

The WEF said the global health crisis has laid bare long-standing ruptures in economies and societies, and created a social crisis that urgently requires decent, meaningful jobs.

The twin summit in January 2021 will be both in-person and virtual, connecting key global Governmental and business leaders in Davos with a global multi-stakeholder network in 400 cities around the world for a forward-oriented dialogue driven by the younger generation. These would include cities in India, among other countries. The announcement of "the great reset" summit was made by the Prince Charles of Wales and WEF founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab during a virtual meeting.

## Only 5% Asia Pacific infra firms highly exposed to Covid-19 disruptions: Moody's

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Barely 5 per cent of the rated project and infrastructure companies in Asia Pacific have high exposure to coronavirus disruptions, Moody's Investor Service said on Wednesday.

Pressure has eased for Chinese toll roads, while a small number of utilities face moderate exposure, it said. A high proportion (67 per cent) of rated project and infrastructure companies in Asia Pacific continue to have low exposure to the coronavirus-related disruptions, supported by their essential nature and predictable cashflows, Moody's Investors Service said in a statement.

The number of companies with high exposure has reduced in recent months, particularly the Chinese toll road sector following the end of the toll-free period and with recovering traffic volumes," said Arnon Musiker, senior vice president and manager at Moody's.

Airports now make up

most of the high exposure category, he said.

Whereas Moody's in April estimated 9 per cent of project and infrastructure companies had high exposure to coronavirus disruptions, this number has now declined to 5 per cent.

"On the other hand, a small number of power utilities now have moderate exposure to coronavirus disruption, given rising pressure from falling power prices and lower demand, which is only partly offset by lower fuel costs," the statement said.

Following the reclassification of these toll roads and utilities, the number of companies with moderate exposure has increased to 28 per cent from 23 per cent in April.

"Moreover, a limited number of projects with exposure to commodity risk - particularly energy-related - also face rising challenges following the recent material fall in oil, gas and coal prices," Musiker said.

**UJVN Limited** (An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)  
 H.O. "UJJAWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
 Telephone: 0135-2763508/2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507  
 CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025886, Website: www.ujvn.in

**Date Extension Notice-03**  
 Due to unavoidable circumstances, the date of submission & opening of the e Tender No. 02/EE(Gen./JCHILLATN/2019-20 is hereby extended as, Last Date & Time for submission of Bid in the e-Portal : June 11, 2020 Upto 17:00 Hrs  
 Last Date & Time of Submission of hard copies : June 11, 2020 Upto 17:00 Hrs  
 Date & Time of Opening of Tender in the portal : June 12, 2020 At 11:00 Hrs.

For full & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "https://uktenders.gov.in".  
 Executive Engineer (Gen.) Chilla Power House  
 पत्र सं. 349 दिनांक: 03.06.2020

**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**"Notice"**

Sub: - Sh. Rahul Yadav S/o Sh. Ram Charan/pointsman/ DEE/Delhi division/Northern Railway address, R.O. 187-B, Railway colony, basant lane, Paharganj, New Delhi-110055

You are running absent w.e.f. 23.09.2017 without any information to this office. Please report within 10 days of publication of this notice to this office of the under signed, otherwise administration would be bound to take ex-party decision/removal from the service.

1252/2020 DOM/Chg/DLI.

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male **Age** : About 48 years, **Face** : Oval, **Height** : 165cm, **Complexion** : Sallow, **Build** : Thin, wearing blue colour shirt and black colour trouser, was found unconscious on 26.05.2020 outside of gynae department, Safdarjung hospital, he was admitted in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi vide MLC No. 153864/20. Where doctor declare him brought dead. In this regard a DD No. 17-A dated 26.05.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on following address or telephone nos.

**SHO : P.S. Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi**  
 Tel. No. : 011-24106345, 24106346

DP/153/SW/20

**HARYANA AWARDS**

**OUTSTANDING SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF PREVENTION OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Applications are invited from individuals/Institutions under "State Awards for Outstanding Services in the Field of Prevention of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse" Scheme for the year 2020-21. 1st, II and IIIrd prizes are Rs. 50,000/-, Rs.30,000/- and Rs.20,000/- respectively.

**Awards Categories**

- Best Drug De-Addiction Centre - Providing services to alcoholics & drug users.
- Best Panchayati Raj Institution - Working for prevention of alcoholism & substance abuse.
- Best Municipal Body- Working for prevention of alcoholism & substance abuse.
- Best School- For outstanding work in awareness generation and prevention of alcoholism & substance abuse.
- Best College- For outstanding work in awareness generation and prevention of alcoholism & substance abuse.
- Best Curative Campaign- open category
- Best Awareness Campaign- open category
- Outstanding individual Achievement- By a Professional.
- Outstanding individual Achievement- By a non-Professional.

Interested Individuals/Institutions/Organizations may apply along with complete data as well as details/evidence of achievement to the District Social Welfare Officer of their district along with all enclosures, by 4:00 pm on or before 20.06.2020. Details of conditions can be obtained from District Social Welfare Officer concerned.

**DIRECTOR**  
 SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT DEPARTMENT,  
 HARYANA

RO NO. 81115 Dt. 02-06-2020

**5paisa.com**  
 announces hikes,  
 advance bonuses  
 for employees

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid pay cuts and layoffs across sectors, discount broker 5paisa.com on Wednesday announced salary hikes of up to 15 per cent and advance bonus pay-outs to boost employee morale.

The move is also aimed at helping employees tide over the difficult times amid the COVID-19 outbreak, the country's only listed discount broker said in a statement.

As the startup ecosystem undergoes revenue losses and client attrition, 5paisa.com had a good quarter recently in terms of client addition, continues the streak of business growth in the April-June period so far, it added.

Company said it on-boarded over 1.2 lakh customers in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2019-20.

"Within a span of four years, 5paisa.Com has become a well-managed fintech firm with focus on efficient cost management and advanced technology. While we face uncertainties, we are also aligning ourselves to prioritise on employee benefits," the company's CEO Gagdani said.

**Govt. of Bihar**

**DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL & FISHERIES RESOURCES**  
**DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, BIHAR, PATNA**  
**TENDER NOTICE FOR SUPPLY OF VETERINARY MEDICINES**  
**FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 and 2021-22**

Sealed tenders are invited (for selection of firms and rate fixation) under Two-bid system from reputed MANUFACTURER with strong market standing and having an in-house Research and Development (R&D) facility duly registered with Department of Science and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India (Relaxable for SSI unit of Bihar or Govt. undertaking/Govt. Enterprises) alongwith valid registration of the product and appropriate license for manufacturing or from their Authorized distributors/Authorized agencies/Authorized representatives in conformity with details contained in tender documents for "Tender for Supply of Veterinary Medicines - 2020-21 and 2021-22" for Animal Husbandry Directorate, Bihar, Patna as per the specifications mentioned in detailed tender document.

The interested manufacturers and their authorized distributors/authorized agencies/authorized representatives are required to submit the technical and financial bid separately for items (Veterinary Medicine) which they intend to supply and then these two envelopes are to be put in one common envelope super-scribed "Tender for supply of Veterinary Medicines - 2020-21 and 2021-22". Bids should be submitted in the office of The Director, Animal Husbandry, Bihar, New Secretariat, Vikas Bhawan, Patna-800015 by dropping in prescribed tender box or by Registered post/Speed post by or before 01.00 PM on 26-06-2020. The bid received after due date and time will not be entertained whatsoever may be the reason. The technical bids shall be opened on the same day at 04:15 PM in the office of The Director, Animal Husbandry, Bihar. In the event of the above mentioned date being declared as a holiday/closed day, the tenders will be received and opened on the very next working day at the scheduled / appointed time. The date of opening of financial bid of technically qualified agencies will be announced later.

The detailed tender notice and tender document containing technical bid form, financial bid form, technical description/ specification and terms & conditions can be downloaded from official website of the Department i.e. www.ahd.bih.nic.in.

The amount of bid security (EMD) as mentioned in the detailed tender document should be paid by Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee of any scheduled bank in favour of "Director, Animal Husbandry, Bihar, Patna" payable at Patna and will be placed in cover-1 with technical bid.

The authority reserves the right to reject / cancel any or all the tenders received without assigning any reason thereof.

Any legal dispute is subject of Patna jurisdiction only.  
 Any future clarification and/ or corrigendum(s) shall be communicated through Director, Animal Husbandry, Bihar, Patna on the departmental website: www.ahd.bih.nic.in. For future details please visit website www.prdibihar.gov.in

**Director, Animal Husbandry Bihar, Patna.**

PR. 001833 (Animal) 2020-21

नोवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहायता हेतु Toll Free No. **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।  
 चावल समग्री- संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।  
 भ्रष्टाचार के संरक्षण एवं सहायता हेतु अभ संसाधन विभाग का Toll Free No.: **18003456138**

Trend Slazer

Bhumi launches anti-spitting campaign

**BHUMI PEDNEKAR** is a socially conscious star who has come forward strongly to raise awareness on Coronavirus during this lockdown. The versatile actor is now urging the entire nation to fight the COVID-19 pandemic through an anti-spitting campaign that aims to educate people.

The actor says, "We have to defeat Coronavirus and everyone has to join hands. Leave the habit of spitting. Currently, our country is under the threat of Corona and the fatal disease spreads even by spitting."



**'I am not my child's friend and don't think I need to be. I am his parent and why can't I be a friendly**

**parent and have a great time together. There are certain things he will speak with his father, with his aunts, with his friends, with his grandparents, there needs to be an outlet for healthy relationships.'**

—Sonali Bendre

Actor **MALAIKA ARORA** has shared her various stages of lockdown in a hilarious new post on social media.

She took to Instagram, and she shared a photo collage of four images of herself.

In the first picture, Malaika is seen playing with her hair, the second features her flaunting flawless skin, the third picture has her hair on her face and in the fourth she is seen lying in bed.

"My various stages of lockdown... #stayhomestaysafe #staysane," Malaika captioned the image.

Tom builds Corona-free village

Hollywood star **TOM CRUISE** is reportedly planning to build a 'coronavirus-free village for the cast and crew of *Mission: Impossible 7* so that they can complete the shoot of the film without contracting the virus.

"Cruise is planning to create a makeshift village at an abandoned RAF site in Oxfordshire. It is being reported that the actor and producer along with his A-list cast will stay in VIP Winnebago trailers so they can protect the crew from catching Coronavirus," said a source.

Everybody has their own vision of what a happy home filled with love looks like. However, this year more than the past ones, we have been practically forced to spend more time confined to our houses. Earlier, we believed that life would bounce back to normal but now are learning to live with the virus in order to survive and embrace the new conditions. So it is time to redesign our houses to fit the needs of the current times, where safety against diseases, is the prime focus.

Adettee Sawhney from Altus Interio says "This is the time where we have no option but to stay home. So, we need to make relevant changes, especially, in the areas where we spend a lot of time like the kitchen, bedroom, living area and bathroom. They would need a change to begin with." On the other hand interior designer Punam Kalra, creative director of I'M the Centre says, "We have been reminded that our lifestyle is nothing but an ode to nature and hence it's essential to embrace the green movement by shifting our focus to biophilia and easy to recycle elements like wood, vegetable fibre, jute, sisal, hemp, stone, metal, terracotta and many more. We have to also become more sensitive to the sourcing of our materials, the manufacturing process and the end design, so that our interiors are environment conscious, heartfelt and inspiring."

Since there is a stronger focus now on cleanliness and sanitation, there will be emphasis on incorporating uncomplicated, easy to maintain and innovative surfaces within the house for easy upkeep in the future. "The role of interiors has always been to aid daily routines and lifestyle of the inhabitants. It can't build immunity on its own, but provides its users with a safe space and convenience to successfully achieve it," says Kalra.

This intimate relationship between spaces and the human experience needs new terminology like immunity assisting décor, modern essentialism, interior hygiene and resilient interiors.

HEALTHY INTERIOR

Curtains and carpets are always integral part of interior décor. But they also attract dust which is harmful, especially during these times. "These are essential part of the décor which we can't remove from our houses. But now we have to choose light and natural fabrics which are easier to clean on a daily basis. The upholstery should be in distinctive, natural fabrics like linen and silk, bamboo mats, and woven rugs which can add an organic feeling of luxury and intimacy," says Sawhney.

Curtain are essential to maintain our privacy and make the interiors look beautiful. Interior designers, Pooja and Arbaysis Ashley, co-founders of Ashley, say, "Curtain fabrics can be coated with special technology to make them easy to maintain. Anti-microbial coating can be used on any upholstery and carpets too. These make the furnishing more hygienic. Rather than curtains one can opt for tech-based switchable glass films too which can be used over any glass surface. These technologically advanced films can be dimmed by a wave of hand, voice or by a remote. These can even be smart and automated to change the intensity of opacity depending upon sunlight."

Our home is our safe haven and a healthy interior is all about eco-friendliness. The world is now realising the importance of designing spaces which



BRING OUTSIDE INSIDE

Clean lines, uncomplicated easy-to-maintain and innovative surfaces will dominate homes in the future, says PRIYANKA JOSHI

connect well with our state of mind while creating a balance between our physical and mental health. Sawhney says, "This is the time to choose environment-friendly options for our houses. For instance, we can use all natural fabric for sofa and other covers, bamboo chairs and tables, indoor plants, wooden furniture and natural lights. Secondly, we can use energy saving devices like eco-friendly kitchen appliances and solar lights."

INVOKEMOTIONS

Using a combination of colour in décor means introducing various shades of emotions. The work from home culture brings in the opportunity to reimagine both, how we live and how we work, as colours can influence our moods and thoughts. Kalra says, "A combination of materials, patterns, textures and colours within a space will be necessary to create an interesting and inspiring ambiance, that is also acoustically sound, multi-functional, easy to maintain and comfortable". Colour can also be added in the form of wallpaper, photographs, memorabilia and big art work, used as feature walls, statement ceiling finishes, wall art and installations.

"Bold and dramatic, or soft and understated, or an eccentric mix of the two; the freshly coloured walls, ceilings and furniture immediately make the interiors look new. The Pantone Colour of the year — classic blue — paired with earthy and neutral tones, highlighted with bolder shades like orange and terracotta create an elegant and artistic ambience. Pastel and muted shades of pink, green and lilac give the space a hint of cheery pop and modern vintage glamour. Adding deep forest tones to the upcycled furniture creates a fresh natural look. Nature-inspired motifs and vivid colours like mauve, black, purple and yellow in wallpapers, tiles and



statement accessories create a vibrant interior," says Kalra.

SPACE MANAGEMENT

With homes doubling up as offices a dedicated space to work in may become the new trend. Pooja and Arbaysis said, "People have learnt that working from home is a possibility and more people may engage in it. It may be more advisable to look at furnishing options which are natural and comfortable to body contact and health as you spend longer hours at home. Quieter spaces with sound absorption and soundproofing are going to be important".

Since we might be spending more time at home in the future, our private spaces need to change in their fundamental use. We need to make more space for daily activities like exercising and soaking in the sun, create dedicated work spaces and accessible healing areas which facilitate easy disinfection and natural ventilation.

The existing spaces have to be decluttered and reorganised to accom-

modate new open furniture layouts, personal working and relaxation corners which can be conveniently sterilised at the entrance. These areas also need to incorporate minimal exposed surfaces, clean forms, hygienic surface treatments like brass and copper and more automation with touchless technology like automatic doors, motion-sensor lights and temperature control. Kalra says, "The dedicated space should be inspiring, well-lit and quiet. Personalising a small corner with comfortable furniture and chic accessories like lamps, small planters, vibrant art, tea coasters, speakers and cosy rugs, throws and cushions, can create an ideal work environment. The colour tones and materials can be balanced with a healthy dose of neutrals and wood, along with bolder accent colours and highlight accessories, while also ensuring minimal clutter and visual conflict of the arrangement".

In a small space choose a corner in your living room or bedroom to create a compact desk so that it does not occupy too much of floor area. Create space

THINGS TO DO

Convert the rooms into art galleries, libraries and personal memoirs.

Creating orderly yet more personalised and intimate spaces within the home is required. Sculptures, artwork, books and photographs, can be stitched together scrupulously to create new mood boards and spatial arrangements. Refashioned in moderation, *avant garde* rugs can be used as wall art and rugged woven fabric as throws, while paintings and installations can be create a statement wall, or even a ceiling. Grouping similar objects in clusters of three further creates a natural symmetry and a sense of luxury within the space.

GREEN FINGERS

A mix of modern aesthetic planters and recycled household items like old ceramics and glass jars, can be upcycled to create an interesting green space. Huge corner planters are a calm and lively highlight, while smaller succulents and bonsai plants make the space look classy and delicate. Simple vases with fresh flowers, along with lamps, poufs, Ottomans, benches, bean bags, coffee tables and artwork add a dreamy, charming, cozy and relaxing look.

NOVEL FURNITURE

Furniture in natural materials, with accessories in macramé, rattan and wicker add an effortless charm to the space. Reclaimed furniture, designed with a skillful use of lines, forms and artwork, paired with upcycled experimental accessories, in a combination of modern bio-synthetic and recyclable materials, radiate an affable, ultra-modern vibe. Soft curves and solid, rounded, irregular shapes, along with sharper geometric shapes, expressed in furniture, pillows, prints, modern artwork, contemporary accessories and statement lighting, create indulgent and mesmerising interiors.

Bringing in the decorative glory of maximising with an understated expression, subtle metallic details in rose gold, copper, steel, tin and brass, with delicate surface finishing like patina, rust, mercury glass, give a raw and intimate textural feel to the décor. These details can be added in the form of discreet upholstery patterns, luminous metallic fabrics, lighting details, sleek furniture details, crockery, wall hangings and screens for a more dramatic space with an enhanced ornamental look.

—Punam Kalra

for your pens, pencils and other paraphernalia along with some small potted plants. Decorate the wall behind the desk with inspirational quotes and miniature artworks.

Sachin Gupta from Beyond designs says, "By choosing a sofa that will double up as a bed whenever needed, a centre table with storage and floating shelves on the wall for your memorabilia and accessories, the living room can have space for all essentials with minimal furniture. Similarly, you should go for furniture pieces that also offer storage in all rooms so that you can do without separate storage units that occupy precious floor space."

No boundaries for toxins

Discovery and Discovery Plus will showcase *The Story of Plastic* on World Environment Day. It focusses upon man-made pollution and its worldwide effects



This World Environment Day, June 5, Discovery, Discovery HD and recently launched Discovery Plus app will showcase, *The Story of Plastic*, a look at the man-made crisis of pollution and the effect it has on our planet and the people that inhabit it. Spanning three continents, the film illustrates the ongoing catastrophe: fields full of garbage, veritable mountains of trash; rivers and seas clogged with waste; and skies choked with the poisonous emissions from plastic production and processing.

It features interviews with experts and activists on the frontlines of the fight, revealing the disastrous consequences of the flood of plastic smothering ecosystems and poisoning communities around the world — and the global movement rising up in response. With engaging original animation, archival industry footage starting in the 1930s and first-person accounts of the unfolding emergency, the film distills a complex problem that is increasingly affecting the planet's and its residents' well-being.

"The issues highlighted in the film illuminate how the decisions made locally can affect us globally. We are eager to highlight the solutions laid out in the film that will help make our world a cleaner and healthier place to live in," says Nancy Daniels, chief brand officer, Discovery and

Factual. "It was always a priority for us to find the film a home that would amplify the important messages and voices," states filmmaker Deia Schlosberg. "I have been passionate about this issue for over 10 years. *The Story of Plastic* showed us the truth of what plastic is doing to our planet," explains co-executive producer and award-winning musician Jackson Browne.

It shines a light on the environmental damage and human rights abuses that occur throughout the life cycle of plastic — not just once it's disposed off. The message around plastic has, for decades, been controlled by its producers, who have deliberately focussed on waste. The film reveals how the plastics' industry is simultaneously blaming consumers for pollution and aggressively investing to produce more single-use plastic than

ever before. It highlights, that while cleanup is important, the real solution lies in stopping the mass production of plastic in the first place. "The crisis doesn't start when the plastics enter the ocean. It starts when the oil and the gas leave the wellhead, and it keeps on being a problem at every step along the way," says film subject Carroll Muffett of Centre for International Environmental Law.

Beyond illuminating the nature of the crisis, the film also puts the spotlight on the global resistance and network of every-day heroes working internationally to combat this urgent problem, including Charlie Moore (Algalita Marine Research & Education) who discovered the North Pacific Garbage Patch, Ellen and Elise Gerhart of Pennsylvania who protested the construction of a fracked gas pipeline through their family's property and Yvette Arellano (Texas

Environmental Justice Advocacy Services), who supports communities sitting at the fence-line of the petrochemical corridor along the Gulf Coast.

*The Story of Plastic* forcefully identifies a pressing global challenge which first surfaced around 15 years ago. It highlights how the actions of one group can affect not only their world but that of their neighbours on the other side of the globe too. As activist Shibu K Nahir explains, "Look at our globe: it's a water world... So if you imagine that we are in a womb filled with water, whatever I do here is going to affect every single life form on this earth... Whether a person in Europe or US or India or Africa or Philippines, it's a life... We need to bring in that kind of a spirit of unity across boundaries, because these toxins do not understand political boundaries."

Anushka urges strict hygiene



Anushka Sharma has come forward to raise awareness on the need to maintain hygiene and sanitation during the pandemic. She is urging people to stop open defecation and is making them aware of the health hazard associated with it. The superstar has been associated with the *Swachh Bharat Mission* and the new campaign aims to tell the citizens that the COVID-19 crisis can be curbed through strict sanitation.

The actor says, "When women all over the country had decided that they would educate everyone on the lesson of close the door, shun the disease, no one had thought that their initiative would turn into such a huge wave. Today, we all have to remember that and remind others about the lesson of cleanliness."

She urges her fellow citizens by saying, "If we take care of cleanliness around us, by not defecating in the open, we will keep ourselves healthy and India clean. We will become strong to fight against any kind of disease. Drive the disease out of the country by stopping defecating in the open and closing the toilet door at all times."

# A NOTCH HIGHER

The government of Rajasthan and its Department of Information and Public Relations primarily have set new dimensions in fighting the pandemic



DIPR Commissioner and Special Secretary, Mahendra Soni

In the ongoing fight against Coronavirus, all departments of Rajasthan Government played a vital role. The main Corona warriors were doctors, paramedical staff, police, district administration, revenue officers, teachers, sanitation staff, media personnel newspaper hawkers, NGOs and philanthropists.

When people of the entire state were sitting at home, scared of coming in contact with the virus, these corona warriors were busy treating people (doctors and paramedical staff), maintaining law and order (police), making people abide by the lockdown guidelines and helping people by addressing their problems (administrative personnel, teachers, revenue officers and others), maintaining cleanliness (sanitation staff), delivering news through newspapers and electronic media and distributing newspapers (media personnel and hawkers), helping people stuck due to lockdown by providing food and water (NGOs) and helping the society by providing food, sanitisers and masks (philanthropists).

In the government departments, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) was silently playing its role and was keeping people of the state and media informed about the developments of the state government including the announcements and decisions through various platforms.

According to DIPR Minister, Dr Raghu Sharma, the department was



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot

quite alert and gave every piece of government information to the people through press releases, advertisements in newspapers, social media posts and electronic media through scripts on television channels and jingles on FM radios.

The department also arranged 11 video conferences (VCs) of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot with media and his interviews with national and regional media including print and electronic. Media veterans believe that 11 daily VCs with media is perhaps a historic initiative.

After the first Corona positive case was reported in Jaipur on March 2, the DIPR immediately sprang to action to make people aware about this pandemic. Till now, more than 50 advertisements have been published in newspapers starting from March 5. "The decisions taken by Gehlot were published so that the people get to know about them and benefit from various schemes announced during the lock-



down," informed DIPR Commissioner and Special Secretary, Mahendra Soni.

It is notable that Rajasthan was the first state to announce lockdown from March 22 and since then people were kept informed about the routine decisions.

Some of the major decisions and

announcements include: only chemists, provision/grocery and vegetables and fruits shops to remain open during lockdown; distribution of free wheat to National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries; distribution of free packets of food items to daily wagers, street vendors and other needy people who do not

come under the ambit of NFSA; food for all as no poor should sleep hungry; one-time assistance of ₹ 2500 to 33 lakh needy people; important helpline numbers at the state level and district level for assistance to people during the Corona pandemic; payment of outstanding pension up to March to more than 78 lakh social security pensioners including the precise communication of vital information during the entire period of lockdown 1.0 to 4.0.

"As per the commissioner and special secretary, the department substantially enhanced the activities on social media and was continuously updating its website, facebook, twitter and instagram accounts with latest information, decisions and announcements that helped the general public and media. As a result, the followers on twitter touched 2 lakh. The timely decisions taken by Gehlot were praised by one and all in the state as well as the country," he added.

## IN SHORT

Virendra Nath Datt, director (Marketing), NFL, has taken over the additional charge of chairman and managing director (CMD) of the company. An MBA from Maharshi Dayanand University, Datt has a rich professional experience of over 35 years with premier CPSEs such as GAIL and ONGC besides the fertilizer industry. Datt is credited with sustained growth in fertilizer sale of company from 43 lakh MT in 2017-18 to 57 lakh MT in 2019-20, an increase of 32 per cent over past two years. During this period, NFL established a pan India footprint in the fertilizer industry.



Indian Railways had suspended its regular passenger train services during the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of the Coronavirus. As the trains were cancelled en masse, railways faced the challenge to refund

huge amount of money to the rail passengers.

Railways has successfully refunded ₹ 1885 crore towards cancellation of tickets to passengers from March 21 to May 31 on tickets booked online. The entire cost of the ticket purchased has been refunded in the account from where the payment was made during the booking of the ticket. Due to the initiative taken by the national transporter, the passengers got their refund in time and did not face the inconvenience of visiting a PRS counter for collecting their amount.



Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Steel, Petroleum and Natural Gas, chaired a video conferencing with officials from Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Railways, INSDAG, SAIL and steel fabricators from Bhilai to work out a detailed plan for developing a steel fabrication cluster around the Bhilai Steel Plant.



The steel fabrication cluster envisaged will give boost to the MSME sector in the region, facilitate employment generation and give impetus to the local economy. This is in line with the spirit of PMS call for an *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*.

Pradhan directed the CEO of the Bhilai Steel Plant to ensure that the steel plate requirement of the steel fabricators is fully met and any restrictive conditions coming the way of such procurement be removed.



NHPC has diversified its portfolio to include Solar Power business. It has given Letter of Awards (LOA) to solar power developers for interstate transmission system (ISTS) grid connected photovoltaic projects aggregating to 1,600 MW installed capacity. Previously, NHPC had successfully conducted the e-reverse auction for ISTS grid connected solar PV project to be set up anywhere in India. As part of the LOA, NHPC shall purchase the power generated from the proposed ISTS-connected solar PV power project at tariffs of ₹2.55 and ₹2.56 per unit. The 800 MW Parbati-II Hydroelectric Project, located in Himachal Pradesh, is a run-of-the-river scheme proposed to harness hydro potential of the river Parbati. NHPC has successfully completed awarding of the above-mentioned works amid nationwide lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic, following all guidelines of the government.



In yet another step to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, state-owned Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has come forward to provide financial assistance of ₹ 1.23 crore to the Uttarakhand government. The fund will be utilised for procurement of 500 PPEs kits for frontline staff and six fully equipped ambulances which will be handed over to health department of Uttarakhand. The CSR initiative by PFC will further support the preparedness of the state in its fight against the spread of COVID-19.

## Faculty project at GGSIPU

University School of Environment Management (USEM), IP University, organised a six-day faculty development programme (FDP) on environmental impacts of COVID-19 pandemic: challenges and future research. Eminent Environmentalists and experts from various fields like professor CK Varshne, professor Emeritus, School of Environment Sciences, JNU; Padma Shri professor Dr Mahesh Verma, Vice Chancellor, GGSIPU; Ravi Dadhich, Registrar, GGSIPU; professor VK Jain, Vice Chancellor, Tezpur University, Assam; Dr M Mohapatra, DG, IMD, New Delhi; Dr Anand Krishnan, professor of Community Medicine, AIIMS, actively guided the FDP.

Professor NC Gupta, Dean, USEM, IP University, inaugurated the programme. The FDP covered many themes including origin of COVID-19, lessons learned from the crisis,

healing of earth and ecosystem during the lockdown period, impact on small holding farmers/MSMEs, reverse migration and future sustainable environment, Sendai framework for disaster risk management, climate change agenda and action for post-COVID scenario.

In welcome address, professor NC Gupta enlightened the audience about importance of resources and how the water and air quality has shown significant improvement during the lockdown period. Professor Dr Mahesh Verma and Ravi Dadhich congratulated Dean, USEM and organising team for organising such an important faculty development programme. Professor Mahesh Verma said that the outbreak of COVID-19 has forced us to alter the way of understanding life. Eminent speakers and experts including professor Anubha Kaushik, professor Prodyut Bhattacharya, professor

Jens Rydell, Dr Abi T Vanak, Dr Mukesh Thakur, Dr Faiyaz Khudsar, Dr Meenakshi Arora, Dr Ravinder Khaiwal, Dr Apoorva Ratan Ghosh, professor HP Garg, professor Sas Biswas, professor Agni Mitra, Dr Sanjeev Sarangi, Bharti Chaturvedi, professor NC Pant, professor CP Kaushik, professor Anil Kumar Gupta, professor Arun Kumar, Dr Amarnath Chatterjee, professor Shyamala Mani, professor M Afzal Wani and Dr Suman Mor, share their experiences on environment and biodiversity, climate, rural livelihood, medicine, wildlife and so on.

Professor Amulya K Panda, director of National Institute of Immunology, gave the keynote address during valedictory ceremony. All deans and directors of various university schools, faculty members and research scholars were present and contributed to the successful organisation of FDP.



## KIIT, KISS and KIMS salute Corona warriors through a song

Staff of KIIT, KISS and KIMS sang *Bande Utkala Janani* to honour and motivate Corona warriors at KIMS Campus on Saturday. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik on Thursday urged people of the state to show solidarity with COVID warriors by singing this song on May 30 at 5:30 pm. Showing solidarity with the frontline COVID warriors including doctors, nurses, paramedical staff and others, Dr Achyuta Samanta,

founder, KIIT, KISS and KIMS said that it is the duty of all Odia people to honour them. He thanked all the doctors and other staff of KIMS who are treating COVID patients, putting duty above their families. He also thanked staff of KIIT, KISS and KIMS who are dedicatedly preparing and distributing food and other essential commodities to the needy people, including police personnel on duty till date.

## The healing power of Vedas

Coronavirus has indeed turned the whole world upside-down. Everybody — the government, intellectuals, scientists, doctors, social workers — have put in their best efforts to control the pandemic. They all deserve much appreciation for their selfless efforts. But it's still very much true that it may take a long time to find out the antidote of the disease. And when all the sources to overcome any problem are not readily available then we the human-beings ultimately remember god.

It shall not be out of place to mention here — a very few people know that almighty nurses the whole universe and his preach for the same exists in Vedas. So it's clearly understood that everybody will have to pay their attention towards the eternal vedic path for a healthy and happy life.

I would like to mention the *Rigved* mantra wherein the god states, "The earth is meant for spreading happiness. All the innumerable matters — the sun, moon, forests, mountains, food



crops, vegetation, rivers — are meant to give us pleasure. But what a wonder that in the present scenario, human-beings have been experiencing unlimited problems, mental stress, anxiety and destruction. Isn't it because we human-beings have deviated ourselves from the eternal path followed by our

ancient ancestors. Another *Rigved* mantra tells us that in the beginning of the creation, knowledge of the four Vedas emerges directly from god and is originated in the heart of four *rishis*. Brahma served these four *rishis* and he alone obtained the knowledge of Vedas. It is utmost important to

possess the knowledge of Vedas and until it's given by a *guru*, it cannot be gained.

For the last several decades, human beings have ignored vedic knowledge. As a result, we have indulged in one-sided materialistic progress only. Therefore, we must pay our attention towards the ideas of the mantras and Vedas. If you only gain progress in science, leaving behind the *Brahma vidya* then the power required to understand and destroy sins such as anger, pride, ego, greed, injustice, would leave you. Thus, you would not be able to gain the main motto of human-life i.e. to realise the existence of god.

Therefore, to attain healthy and joyous life, spiritualism along with science is required. If anybody follows vedic preach and performs daily *yajyen/agnihotra*, the whole universe is purified, automatically destroying all diseases and problems of life.

(The author, yogacharya Swami Ram Swarup, is the chief editor of *Ved Ishvareeya Vani*, a bi-annual magazine.)

## EESL and GAIL sign MoU for trigeneration projects

GAIL (India) Limited and Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in development of trigeneration projects in the country.

The MoU aims at building a closer strategic partnership between the two companies by jointly exploring business opportunities in Trigeneneration business segment. Under this MoU, GAIL and EESL shall jointly undertake studies and if found viable, 50:50 joint venture will be incorporated.

Santanu Roy, executive director (Business Development and Project Development) signed the MoU on the behalf of GAIL, while Amit Kumar Kaushik, executive director (Strategic Growth) inked the MoU on the behalf of EESL.

Trigeneneration or Combined Cooling, Heat and Power (CCHP) typically involves natural gas-fired generators to produce electricity. The waste heat from flue gas is recovered to produce hot water/steam which in turn used for heating purpose and also



in absorption chillers for cooling.

During the signing ceremony, Manoj Jain, CMD of GAIL, stated, "There is a significant market potential for trigeneration projects in India, particularly small industrial and commercial sectors and office buildings. As trigeneration business is at initial stage, the collaboration would enable to take first mover advantage in the business similar to GAIL's city gas business. Further, it would also push gas usage in new applications which is in line with GAIL's Strategy 2030.

Accordingly, the strategic partnership between GAIL and EESL is a win-win situation for both the companies."

Saurabh Kumar, MD of EESL, added, "The intervention potential of trigeneration technology in revolutionising India's energy landscape is significant. EESL is proud to pioneer the effort towards harnessing this potential with GAIL which will set a precedent for forthcoming trigeneration projects. I wish both the parties all the very best for the successful implementation of this initiative."

# 3 WI players refuse to tour Eng

## Hetmyer, Keemo and Darren Bravo will not participate in three-match Test series as Caribbean squad also include 11 reserves



West Indies batsman Shimron Hetmyer and all-rounder Keemo Paul

**PTI ■ ST JOHN'S**

Three West Indies players – Darren Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer and Keemo Paul – on Wednesday refused to tour England for next month's proposed three-match Test series, which will be conducted in a bio-secure environment to combat Covid-19 threat.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) announced a 14-man squad for the

series, which is expected to mark resumption of international cricket if it gets the final approval from the UK Government.

"Darren Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer and Keemo Paul all declined the invitation to travel to England for the tour and CWI fully respects their decision to choose to do so," Cricket West Indies said in a statement.

"As previously stated, CWI will

not hold this decision against these players when considering future selection," it added.

The specific reasons for their withdrawal were not given by CWI. The West Indies squad will live, train and play in a "bio-secure" environment during the seven weeks of the tour, as part of the "comprehensive" medical and operations plans to ensure player and staff safety. "The bio-secure protocols will restrict movement in and out of the venues, so the selection panel has also named a list of reserve players who will travel to train and help prepare the Test squad and ensure replacements are available in case of any injury," said CWI.

The touring party, which will be tested for Covid-19 this week, is scheduled to fly to England on a chartered flight on June 8.

The two newcomers to the Test squad are middle-order batsman Nkrumah Bonner and fast bowler Chemar Holder.

The 22-year-old Holder, who is not related to West Indies captain Jason Holder, was the leading fast bowler in the national championship with 36 wickets in eight matches at 18.91 each, and was part of the ICC Under-19 World Cup winning side in 2016.

Bonner, 31, is in line to make his Test debut after being one of the leading batsmen in the 2020 West Indies Championship with 523 runs in seven matches at an average of 58.11.

"The new cricketing environment will take some getting used to.

However, being in England and working together for four weeks before the first Test will give the squad the opportunity to get acclimatized and hopefully, mentally and technically adjusted to the demands of the new environment," said lead selector Roger Harper.

"Playing in July could be a blessing as the weather is likely to be warmer which will allow the squad more of an opportunity to play its best cricket."

### THE SQUAD

Jason Holder, K Brathwaite, Shai Hope, Shane Dowrich, Roston Chase, Shemar Brooks, Rakheem Cornwall, Nkrumah Bonner, Alzarri Joseph, Chemar Holder, John Campbell, Raymon Reifer, Kemar Roach, J Blackwood.

**Reserves:** Sunil Ambris, Joshua Da Silva, S Gabriel, Keon Harding, Kyle Mayers, Preston McSweeney, M Mindley, Shane Moseley, Anderson Phillip, O Thomas, Jemel Warrican.

## Root backs Stokes for interim captaincy

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

England skipper Joe Root might have to skip the opening Test against West Indies if it coincides with the impending birth of his second child with vice-captain Ben Stokes taking over the mantle.

In fact, Root has backed Stokes, whom he believes will be a "fantastic captain."

"I think if Ben was captain he would be fantastic. One of his great qualities as vice-captain and as a leader is that he sets the example, the way he goes about his training, how he wants to bowl in difficult circumstances, the way he stands up in different scenarios with the bat," Root said.

"He drags people with him and gets the best out of the players around him. I think that's a great quality to have as a leader and something he can take into captaincy if he was to get the opportunity. I could see him doing a very good job."

Root said Stokes can be a huge success not only in short term but even if he is given the job for long term.

"People will always look up to him and want to play for him, whether captain or not. But especially as captain he'll have people wanting to play for him and short-term he'd be a huge success. Until you get the opportunity to do it longer, you just never know, it might be a huge success. I wouldn't put it past him," he said.

## Know my importance in white-ball formats: Pandya

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Flamboyant Indian all-rounder Hardik Pandya is wary of risking his injury-ravaged back for Test cricket right now and says it's because he understands his "importance" in the white-ball formats.

Pandya hasn't played a Test since September 2018, appearing in a total of 11 five-day matches, but has cemented his place as a big-hitting all-rounder in the limited overs formats. He is currently on road to recovery from the back injury which needed a surgery last year.

"I see myself as a back-up seamer for sure. After my back surgery, I don't know, playing Test cricket right now will be a challenge," the 26-year-old told *Cricbuzz in Conversation*.

"If I was a Test player and didn't have the game in white-ball cricket, I could go now and risk my back in Tests but I know my importance in white ball cricket. It has happened that I played Tests and then didn't do well in ODIs and T20s because my plus point is my energy," he explained.

Pandya first picked up the back injury in 2018 when he was stretchered off the field during an Asia Cup match against Pakistan.

Recalling the day, Pandya said he thought his career was over. "I genuinely thought that my career is over because I'd never seen anyone being stretchered off. I was knocked out for 10 minutes, after that the pain never went down."

"What happens to me is that my body goes into recovery mode straight away... Asia Cup was anyway going to be my last series before being rested but then the injury happened," he remembered. Pandya said he owes it to his IPL team Mumbai Indians' coach Ricky Ponting for being there for him during the tough phase.

"In 2015, someone who looked after me the best was Ricky Ponting. He



looked after me as a child. I felt like he was a father figure for me. Learnt so much," he said.

"Ricky taught me situations, mind-sets. He used to sit with me before I went into bat. I would sit near boundary rope and call Ricky. He would sit with me and tell me what's happening. So I grasped and learnt quickly," he revealed.

Speaking of support, national skipper Virat Kohli, coach Ravi Shastri and NCA Director Rahul Dravid are also among those, Pandya feels grateful to.

"Virat, Rohit (Sharma) or Ravi sir don't come and teach you like that. They have given me that freedom," he said.

"The security that they gave me backing with all their heart helped big time. That was the reason I started taking decisions on my own," he added.

As for Dravid, Pandya said he is thankful to the former captain for never judging him.

"...He accepted the way I am. He never judged me. Always respected me as a cricketer. He enjoyed my work ethic," Pandya said.



## Learnt about handling difficult situations from Kohli: Kuldeep

**IANS ■ NEW DELHI**

He is Virat Kohli's go-to-man in limited-overs cricket when the team needs a wicket. While the modern era has seen batsmen take spinners to the cleaners in the shorter formats of the game, left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav rarely fails to answer his skippers call. Interestingly, Kuldeep says he has learnt a lot about handling pressure situations from the skipper.

Speaking about how does he handle the role of a wicket-taker when batsmen are known to take on the spinners and runs are bound to be leaked? The 25-year old Kuldeep says that the confidence the skipper shows in him is vital and also that he takes a leaf or two out of Kohli's book when it comes to handling pressure.

"If your captain believes in you, giving your best on the field becomes easy. From Virat, we learn a lot of things like how to manage difficult situations. He never fails to motivate young players. I remember when I was new in the team he backed me a lot. In fact, now also, he is always there for me. He always appreciates your skills and we have a great tuning together. The best quality of Virat is that he also understands the team and its player's well which makes our job easy on field," he pointed.

## Teams need to be careful about injury management: Pathan

**MUMBAI:** Former pacer Irfan Pathan believes the Indian team management will have to focus on the bowlers and be "extremely careful" with regard to injury management once the players hit the ground after the coronavirus-forced hiatus.

Players in India haven't been able to practise since March 25 due to the countrywide lockdown.

It was pacer Shardul Thakur who became the first Indian team member to resume training after he bowled in the nets in

Palghar last month. Pathan feels that any team, including an IPL one, will have to be careful with the bowlers, who would be more prone to injury having been out of action for more than two months.

"Injury management is the most important thing. We will have to focus on all the bowlers," Pathan, who has played 29 Tests and 120 ODIs for India, said on *Star Sports show Cricket Connected*.

The ICC also recently came up with specific

guidelines for bowlers, suggesting that teams would need to exercise caution over bowlers' workloads to avoid a serious injury like stress fracture of the spine as players get ready to resume training.

"In a squad of 15, every team has 4 to 6 bowlers. Be it an IPL team, Indian team or any international or domestic team, we will have to be extremely careful about injury management as our boys have been out of action for a while," he said. **PTI**

## 'Play around pitch to maintain balance b/w bat & ball'

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Spin great and ICC Cricket Committee chairman Anil Kumble on Wednesday reiterated the panel's reluctance to allow use of artificial substances on the ball despite the saliva ban, saying the balance between bat and ball can be maintained by "playing around" with the pitches.

"So in cricket you have the surface that you can play around with and bring about a balance between the bat and ball," said Kumble at a *FICCI* webinar.

The bowlers will miss using saliva the most in Test cricket as it aids them in generating both conventional and reverse swing. "...You can still probably leave grass on the surface or even have two spinners, let's get spinners back in the game in a Test, because one day game or a T20 you are not really worried about shining the ball. It's Test match that we are talking about," said the former India captain.



"And in a Test match why not get two spinners to play in Australia, two in England, which doesn't happen often."

Like he had said right after recommending saliva ban as an interim measure, Kumble reiterated that allowing use of artificial substances would have taken the creativity out of the game.

"We've been very strict about substances that have been used on the ball. That was

something that we felt, the creativity was something that we should not (tinker with)," he said.

Kumble, however, admitted that it would be hard for players to adjust to not using saliva.

"Although it is second nature in cricket, and that's something that players will find it hard to manage. And that's why I believe that at training, they'd like to start slowly because

it's not just about coming back and playing cricket in a match," he said.

"It's also about coming back from two and a half months of being locked up... And especially if you're a bowler, you need to have those bowling overs under your belt before you start competing."

"So, it's important that you slowly and gradually come back into sort of normalcy that you can and the advantage that cricket has over other sports is that there's an element of adjustable variance in the pitch, which not many sport have," he added.

Kumble said the committee's recommendations focused on resumption of cricket at the earliest. "...I know there's been a lot of debate about shining the ball but the idea was to kickstart cricket, play the sport, and then I'm sure things will fall in place. Yes, there will be some challenges. You have to go one game at a time."

**PRANNOY HS** @PRANNOYHSPRI

If you ever want your name in the Awards list, make sure you have people who will get your name to the list. Performance is least considered in our country. Sad state of our county but can't help it. Let go and just play until you can.

#arjunaawards

6:12 pm · 17 Aug 19 ·

#arjunaawards Same old story. Guy who has Medals in Cwg and Asian Championships not even recommended by Association. And guy who was not there on any of these major events recommended #waah 🙌🏻 #thiscountryisajoke

9:28 pm · 02 Jun 20 ·

Livid at not being nominated for the Arjuna award for the second consecutive year, Indian shuttler H S Prannoy took to Twitter to express his displeasure over Badminton Association of India decision

## Afghanistan training camp likely in Kabul

**KABUL:** Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) on Wednesday held discussions with skipper Asghar Afghan and head coach Lance Klusener to discuss the possible resumption of cricket in the country.

The ACB is looking to host a training camp later this month in Kabul and stated they will be following all necessary Government and World Health Organisation protocols.

"ACB leadership held a video conference with Head Coach Lance Klusener, Chief Selector Andy Moles, Skipper Asghar Afghan and some ACB officials as they discussed the training camp in June which shall be held in Kabul as per guidelines by WHO and Ministry of Public Health," the Board tweeted.

## Son enjoyed 'tough' military service

**LONDON:** Tottenham forward Son Heung-min says he enjoyed the "tough" challenge of his three-week spell doing military service in South Korea.

Son completed his mandatory training last month while Spurs waited for the Premier League season to resume. "It was a good experience," he told *Spurs TV*. "I couldn't say everything that

I've done but I really enjoyed it. The three weeks were tough but I tried to enjoy it."

He added: "The first day, we don't know each other so it's a bit weird but soon we got to know each other. We spent every day together in one room, 10 people. We were very close, working

together, we helped each other so the time was fantastic."

Son was out injured for the final weeks before the League was suspended and cannot wait to get going when the season restarts.

"I'm physically fine, I'm working really, really hard to be at my maximum level and it's nearly there," he said.

"Everyone is back, everyone is in good shape. Everyone wants to play again and everyone is motivated," he added. **AFP**



## Germany won't punish players for Floyd protests

**FRANKFURT:** The German football federation will not punish players who protest against the killing of George Floyd and racism.

Several players in Germany have made statements with gestures or messages on their clothing since Floyd died on May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee for several minutes on his neck.

The federation, known as the DFB, on Wednesday said it opposed punishing any players because it believes their anti-racism messages match the federation's own principles.

"The DFB has made a strong stand against any form of racism, discrimination or violence and stands for tolerance, openness and diversity, values which are also anchored in the DFB's statutes," federation president Fritz Keller said in a statement.

"Therefore the players' actions have our respect and our understanding."

The statement named four players who protested during last weekend's games — Achraf Hakimi, Jadon Sancho, Weston McKennie and Marcus Thuram — but made clear the same approach would apply to any future protests.

Germany's approach has the backing of FIFA. The governing body of world football said on Tuesday that such demonstrations "deserve an applause and not a punishment." **AFP**

## Fitness level has dipped a bit: Neeraj

**NEW DELHI:** There is a stark difference between what ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra is used to while training and what he is doing now. However, he is just happy to be back outside even though for now it is without a javelin, an equipment that he has gained mastery over in his career but one that he could not do much with during the last two months.

"It was certainly a matter of great happiness," Neeraj said when asked about how he felt when he got the news of the resumption of outdoor training. "This is the reason why we are here at the camp, to train. So when that was not an option there was not much to do. For now we are looking to get back to the way we used to train before all this."

"It's not good for an athlete to be away from training for



too long. For the past two months I was doing some exercise to maintain core fitness but couldn't really do anything holding a javelin. Now hopefully we can slowly get back to our routine."

The 22-year-old is one of several elite athletes who were holed up in the hostels of the

National Institute of Sport (NIS) in Patiala throughout the time that the lockdown had been imposed.

Outdoor training for athletes at NIS started on Monday but they are yet to be allowed to use their equipment. Neeraj however is not too bothered by that as he has to rebuild strength before going full steam.

"(Training) starts around 6.30am and for now we are not spending more than two hours. Slowly we will increase the intensity," he said.

"My fitness levels have dipped a bit in these last two months. I have to get my elbow and shoulders back to full strength again and then only will I get back to the heavy training I used to do before."

"The coaches haven't really taken a measure of exactly how much difference has come

in the body. Maybe there could be a fitness test taken some time in the future but I don't really know when. My weight has not really changed much it's just a few crucial muscles that need strengthening."

AFI had said last month that it is looking to resume the domestic calendar in September and Prez Adille Sumariwalla has made it clear that no foreign training camps will be held for any athlete this year. Neeraj said that with no competitions in the horizons, there is no rush to get back to training with full intensity.

"The thing is there are no competitions happening in the near future so we don't need to rush with anything. This year at least until November there won't be anything. There is no scope of going outside of course, for any training or competitions," he said. **IANS**

## Advantage for Real, Barca when La Liga restarts

**NEW DELHI:** Former England star Steve McManaman feels that big clubs like Real Madrid and Barcelona, which feature top players and have big squads, will do better than others when the La Liga restarts next week behind closed doors amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lionel Messi's Barcelona and Real Madrid are at first and second position respectively in the 20-team standings after 27 matches each with two points separating them.

"The schedule is tight with just 5-6 weeks and so the teams with quality players and big squads, which have better player back-ups, will do better. Barcelona and Real Madrid have these and it is a very close race between the two at the top," McManaman said during virtual press conference.



McManaman also said that the three months break due to the Covid-19 pandemic has also given time to some top players in Barcelona and Real Madrid to recover from their injuries.

"Those injured (in Barcelona and Real Madrid) are back. Everybody seemed to be fit and so they will benefit from the three months of break. I hope Real Madrid win the La Liga," said the former

England midfielder, who won 37 international caps between 1994 and 2001.

While former Spain and Barcelona midfielder Luis Garcia, said the players should avoid getting injured in the initial matches.

"The players had three months without playing and so they should not get injured in the first couple of matches. But the most important thing is their safety," he said. **PTI**