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WHY RACISM
WON'T GO AWAY

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WAY FORWARD

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**KANTE BACK
IN CONTACT
TRAINING**
11 SPORT

LAC disengagement begins

India, China's commanders to meet today to further ease tension

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Signaling a reduction in tension on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, the Indian and Chinese armies have mutually started pulling back their troops from the stand-off sites. While complete disengagement will take some more time, senior military commanders of both sides are expected to meet on Wednesday to work out the finer details.

The breakthrough came after a series of meetings between various levels of the military of both sides and diplomatic parleys culminating in the high-level meet on June 6. The Leh-based 14 Corps commander Lt General Harinder Singh and Tibet Region commander Major General Liu Lin conferred for more than five hours to resolve the more than month-long face-offs at four locations.

Three days later on Tuesday, both sides started disengaging by reducing troop strength at three confrontation points, sources said here. Moreover, the Chinese, at some places, pulled back more than two kms. These two encouraging moves came a day ahead of the proposed talks between Major Generals of the two armies, they added.

Besides the upcoming meet, local commanders will also hold talks at the four stand-off points in Pangong Tso (lake), Galwan valley, and Hot Springs areas. The frontage



of these stand-offs is between 25 to 30 kms but confined to small pockets.

In fact, the Chinese intruded more than three kms in the Hot Springs and pitched tents. Sources said the Chinese

have also started removing the tents and temporary bunkers as part of the confidence-building measures. The Indian Army has also started pulling back its troops and vehicles.

Even as the senior commanders will meet in the next few days, the local battalion-level officers of the Indian and Chinese Armies have already started holding talks through the hotlines. Officials said these talks will pave the way for the likely agreement during the forthcoming parleys.

India is insisting that the status quo as in April at the

LAC be maintained. Also, the Armies besides reducing troops will also pull back their personnel and artillery from the operational areas located about 20 kms on each side of the LAC. The next phase of bringing down the temperature at the LAC will comprise these

steps besides the additional troops going back to their respective peacetime locations.

With China initially rapidly enhancing its troops and heavy vehicles at the confrontation spots, the Indian Army also had to ramp up its strength. Since the disengage-

ment has now started, both the sides will also gradually pull back their troops, they added.

Sigs on Monday when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh termed the commander level talks as positive and will continue. He also said the Government will ensure that India's pride is not affected. "The border dispute between India and China has been ongoing for a long time. We want to resolve it as soon as possible," the Defence Minister had said.

In Beijing, Hua Chunying, spokesperson of China's Foreign Ministry, said China and India have maintained close communication on resolving border issues through diplomatic and military channels. She had also said the two countries agreed to work together to maintain peace and tranquility in border areas to create a favourable atmosphere for the stable development of bilateral relations between India and China.

5.5L cases in Delhi by July 31: Sisodia

80K beds needed by then; presently no community transmission in national Capital

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday said Delhi will need 80,000 beds as 5.5 lakh cases are expected by July 31, based on mathematical models analysed by several scientists.

Sounding a stark warning for troubles ahead, Sisodia said, "We presented the data of our prediction where we observed that by June 15, there'll be 44,000 Covid-19 cases and 6,600 beds will be required. By June 30, we'll reach one lakh cases and 15,000 beds will be required. By July 15, there'll be 2.25 lakh cases and 33,000 beds will be required. By July 31, 5.5 lakh cases are expected and 80,000 beds will be required."

Mathematics professor and researcher at the School of Natural Sciences at Shiv Nadar University Samit Bhattacharya said, "The model that I used for India found that there could be around 8-10 lakh cases in India by mid or end of July. So it won't be surprising to get to



Lt. Governor Anil Bajjal chairs a meeting with Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and AAP leader Manish Sisodia, amid the ongoing Covid-19 nationwide lockdown in New Delhi on Tuesday

those figures (5.5 lakh) in Delhi."

Though scientists said community transmission of the disease may have started a

Ghaziabad steps up vigil on entry points with Delhi

Ghaziabad: The Ghaziabad authorities have stepped up checking of those entering the district from New Delhi in a bid to prevent the coronavirus spread. According to officials, only those carrying a valid movement pass, ID of their workplace in the district and involved in the supply of essential services are being allowed to enter from all 10 entry points with Delhi.

while ago, the Centre said there is no community transmission of the virus in the national Capital.

After a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority, Sisodia quoted officials from the Centre as saying there is no community transmission of Covid-19 in Delhi.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain added in a separate conversation with the media that the source of infection is "not known" in nearly half the fresh cases.

Continued on Page 2

Has China occupied Indian territory? Opp asks Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress, the Samajwadi Party and the BSP on Tuesday asked Defence Minister Rajnath Singh whether China has occupied the Indian territory in Ladakh and sought explanation from the Centre over exact position on the border between India and China.

A day after his "everyone knows the reality" of border situation jibe, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asked the Defence Minister whether China has occupied the Indian territory in Ladakh. "Once RM is done commenting on the hand symbol, can he answer: Have the Chinese occupied Indian territory in Ladakh," he asked on Twitter.

Singh had on Monday hit out at Rahul with a couplet of noted Urdu poet Mirza Ghalib, saying when there is pain in the hand, one takes medicine, but what does one do when the

hand itself is a pain.

"Hand" is the Congress party's election symbol. Rahul Gandhi and Singh have been engaged in war of words on Twitter since Monday evening.

The Congress leader on Monday had taken a swipe at Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his remarks that India is strong in protecting its borders, and said the truth seems dormant as "everyone knows" the reality of the situation at the country's borders. "Everyone knows the reality of the borders," but the thought is good to keep one's heart happy," he had said in a tweet in Hindi, tweaking a couplet of Ghalib.

BSP chief Mayawati attacked the BJP and the Congress on playing "dirty politics" on this issue when the people are facing hardship due to coronavirus pandemic. "It's unfortunate that at time when people are facing difficult times due to the pandemic, the BJP and the Congress are playing

dirty politics and allegations and counter allegations on the border dispute with China. This is not in the nation interest," she tweeted in Hindi.

"The dispute with China and also Nepal is becoming very serious. In such a situation all parties should rise above party politics and think in nation's interest," she said in another tweet.

"In East Ladakh, the encroachment of Chinese forces for past one month is unacceptable to the country. The Government should initiate strict steps to raise the morale of our forces. As the BJP takes 'akadhikari' decision (decision by itself), it's feeling itself weak even though the people and Opposition are with them on this issue," SP president Akhilesh Yadav tweeted.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala also asked the Defence Minister to answer the question.

Didi hits back as Shah seeks parivartan from reign of terror, graft

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A fierce battle of words broke out between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress on Tuesday hours after Union Home Minister Amit Shah called for a political change in Bengal even as he hit out at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on a plethora of issues — from perpetuating corruption to unleashing reign of terror in the State.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew and Abhishek Banerjee hit back, saying Shah himself had put the inclusivity of India in danger. Launching a fierce attack on Mamata and the TMC for promoting a culture of violence and corruption, Shah said how more than a hundred of his partymen had been eliminated in the State for simply practising saffron politics.

Addressing a virtual meeting — of over two lakh party men and sympathisers — called Jansamvad Rally Shah said, "Only BJP can restore Bengal to its lost glory by changing its culture of political violence," appealing to the people of the



Kejriwal tests negative for coronavirus



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has tested negative for Covid-19, an official said on Tuesday.

The official said that the 51-year-old AAP supremo underwent the test for the novel coronavirus on Tuesday morning.

"The Chief Minister has tested negative for Covid-19," the official said.

Asked whether he would undergo a test again after some days, the official said, "There is no need for it."

Kejriwal had gone into self-quarantine on Sunday after he developed a sore throat and fever.

The fever has subsided and he is now feeling well, the official said.

"Since Sunday evening Delhi Chief Minister has been suffering from fever and throat pain and because of this he has isolated himself at home. He will undergo a test on Tuesday. He is a patient of diabetes for very long. Doctors have advised that he hold no meetings," senior AAP leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh had said earlier.

Jyotiraditya Scindia, mother corona +ve, hospitalised in Delhi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP leader Jyotiraditya Scindia and his mother Madhavi Rajee Scindia have reportedly tested positive for coronavirus and are admitted to Max Hospital in Delhi.

Scindia underwent the Covid-19 test following a sore throat and fever. Both of them were reportedly admitted to Max Saket hospital four days ago. Though Scindia had shown some symptoms, his mother was asymptomatic.

BJP leaders, including Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and national spokesperson Sambit Patra, tweeted their concern for Scindia and his mother.

"Got the news that revered Mataji and you are not well. I pray to God that both you and Mataji recover soon," said Shivraj in a tweet.

Patra was himself admitted to Medanta hospital in Gurugram but was discharged from hospital after being tested negative for coronavirus.

After Scindias were tested positive, authorities are trying



to trace all those who they may have come in contact with him recently.

Scindia, who joined the BJP in March after quitting the Congress as its General Secretary, is expected to play a key role in steering BJP to success in the 24 Assembly bypolls in the Gwalior-Chambal region due sometime next month.

STATES	TOTAL CASES	RECOVERED	DEATHS
Maharashtra	90,787	42,639	3,289
Tamil Nadu	34,914	18,325	307
Delhi	29,943	11,357	874
Gujarat	21,044	14,373	1,313
UP	11,335	6,669	301
Rajasthan	11,245	8,328	255
MP	9,849	6,729	420
West Bengal	8,985	3,620	415
Karnataka	5,921	2,605	66
Bihar	5,455	2,770	33
Haryana	5,209	1,807	45
AP	5,209	2,775	77
J&K	4,346	1,506	48
Telangana	3,920	1,742	148
Odisha	3,140	2,133	11

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 2,74,733

DEATHS: 7,718

RECOVERED: 1,34,161

ACTIVE: 1,32,839

CAPSULE

HARYANA MIN VIJ SLIPS AT HOME, FRACTURES LEG
Ambala: Haryana home, health, and Urban Local Bodies Minister Anil Vij (67) suffered a fracture in his leg after he slipped inside the bathroom at his residence in Ambala Cantonment.

7 HOSPITALS FACE HEAT FOR ADMISSION DENIAL
Noida: The medical superintendent of the district hospital in Noida has been shunted out and action ordered against a nurse and a ward staffer for laxity that led to the death of a pregnant woman last week, the Gautam Buddha Nagar administration said on Tuesday.

PNB BUYS 3 AUDI CARS AMID DOWNTURN
Mumbai: At a time when the financial sector is passing through a rough patch, PNB has bought three Audi cars to ferry its top management.

Validity of DL, RC, fitness extended till September

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major relief to road and transport users, the Centre on Tuesday announced further extension of the validity date of motor vehicle documents till September this year. The Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry has issued a related advisory to all States and UTs.

"Given the current circumstances to avoid hardship being faced by transporters and citizens, State Governments are advised that these documents be considered valid till September 30," Road Transport and Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari said.

Continued on Page 2

In dead of night, bereaved Kashmiri Pandit leaves village again after 30 yrs Sarpanch's murder refreshes memory of Kashmiri Pandits' genocide, exodus from Valley

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Retired Kashmiri Pandit schoolteacher, Dwarika Nath Pandita, a native of Lukbawan village of Dooru Tehsil in Anantnag, arrived in Jammu early on Tuesday after undertaking one of the most difficult journeys of his life.

Thirty years ago, he migrated from the same village and had shifted his belongings to Jammu in the dead of the night.

At that time he was accompanied by his young son. But on Monday evening, when Dwarika Nath once again embarked on a return journey in the dead of the night, he was carrying the body of his son, an elected sarpanch of the area, Ajay Pandita (Bharti).



Funeral procession of Ajay Pandita, Sarpanch, killed by terrorists in Anantnag late on Monday. His cremation was performed in Jammu early on Tuesday

Late Monday evening, unidentified terrorists gunned down Ajay, roughly 50 metres away from his house. They

pumped bullets in his head and back from close range. The father and son were in their orchard minutes before Ajay

was targeted.

Remembering the last moments he spent with his son, Omkar Nath Pandita told

reporters in Jammu, "Someone came and informed Ajay that he needed his signature on a form. Ajay stepped out and met with a hail of bullets. We shifted him to hospital but he succumbed to his injuries."

Pandita said, "Ajay had worked hard to rebuild our lives after we returned to our native village. My son was patriotic to the core. He loved his motherland. After spending around seven years in Jammu, we returned to Kashmir valley in 1996-97."

According to close family members, initially, they returned to Kashmir in 1992 where they stayed on rent. In the next four years, they rebuilt their home and shifted to their native village. The family had also survived ethnic cleansing

of Kashmiri Pandits in the area. Several temples were desecrated in the area.

Pandita said, "No one from the Government came forward to help us in any way when we returned to our home and hearth. Ajay raised loans and helped me revive our orchards, ruined during peak days of militancy."

Sitting in the company of mourners and close relatives in the Subhash Nagar area, the bereaved father of Ajay Pandita said, "My son was not afraid of anyone. He would say if security personnel can perform duties in Kashmir valley and sacrifice their lives for the nation why should we run away. I will live here and die here in my native village."

Continued on Page 2

Nepal calls for border talks with India

Kathmandu: Nepal's foreign minister said on Tuesday that the country was still waiting for a response from India on holding talks to resolve a border dispute that has strained relations between the South Asian neighbors.

Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali told The Associated Press in an interview that requests to talk were made in November and December last year, and again in May. "We have expressed time and again that Nepal wants to sit at the table to resolve this problem," Gyawali said. "We are waiting for formal negotiations so that these two countries with... A very unique type of partnership can develop a more inspiring relationship that reflects the requirements of the 21st century," he said.

There have been reports that India does not want to hold negotiations with Nepal until its coronavirus outbreak is brought under control. Nepal, however, is in a rush for talks

The latest border dispute between the countries began over India's inauguration last month of a Himalayan link road built in a region that lies at a strategic three-way junction with Tibet and China. The 80-kilometer road, inaugurated by Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, cuts through the Lipu Lekh Himalayan pass, considered one of the shortest and most feasible trade routes between India and China. Nepal fiercely contested

the inauguration of the road. The government of Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli issued a new political map of Nepal that showed the disputed territory within its borders. There have been reports that India does not want to hold negotiations with Nepal until its coronavirus outbreak is brought under control. Nepal, however, is in a rush for talks. "If the coronavirus is an obstacle for not being able to hold diplomatic dialogue soon,

it should have been an obstacle for the inauguration of the link road as well," Gyawali said. "But if the coronavirus did not create any problem to the inauguration, that means there are some controversies, there are some paradoxes." The dispute over the territory brought a new wedge in relations between the two nations, leading to an exchange of strong-worded statements and remarks from both sides. "There is no any alternative to dialogue and friendly talk, and talk not just for formality, but with commitment to solve the problem and to develop such an environment where both countries can prosper together, where both countries can journey together toward a prosperous region of South Asia," Gyawali said. Jun 9. AP

Defacement of Gandhi's statue was a 'disgrace', says Trump

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The defacement of Mahatma Gandhi's statue here was a "disgrace," US President Donald Trump has said, days after it was vandalised by unknown miscreants with graffiti and spray painting during the nationwide protests against the custodial killing of African-American George Floyd. The statue, which is across the road from the Indian Embassy, was vandalised on the intervening night of June 2 and 3, prompting the Indian embassy to register a complaint with the local law enforcement agencies.

The incident happened during the week of nationwide protests against the custodial killing of Floyd in Minneapolis on May 25. "It was a disgrace," Trump made the brief comment at the White House on Monday when asked about the incident. The Indian Embassy here has taken up the matter with the US Department of State for early investigation into the matter, as also with the Metropolitan Police and National Park Service. It is working with the US Department of State, Metropolitan Police and National Park Service for expeditious restoration of the statue at the park.

The US president and First Lady Melania Trump, during their visit to India in February, had spent considerable time at the Gandhi Ashram in Ahmedabad. PM Narendra Modi had personally given them a tour of the historic place. "The First Lady and I have just had a pleasure of visiting Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram, a few miles from here, where he launched the famous Salt March," Trump had said during his address at the Namaste Trump rally at the Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad on February 24.

Prez Xi appoints rising star among new army Generals to head troops for India-China border

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's new army commander Lt Gen Xu Qiling, who will head the Western Theatre Command ground forces responsible for the Sino-India border, is a rising star in the PLA specially handpicked by President Xi Jinping to handle troops along the challenging border, a media report said. Gen Xu's appointment was announced on June 5 in the midst of the current standoff between Indian and Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Xi, who heads the ruling Communist Party of China besides Presidency, is also the Chairman of the powerful Central Military Commission which is People's Liberation Army's high command. Gen Xu, the rising star of the PLA, has been sent to oversee the ground forces of the Western Theatre Command, where tensions are rising between China and India over border dispute, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported. "As tensions with India are escalating over border disputes, the Western Theatre Command needs a younger commander to lead frontier soldiers and officers in this current sensitive period," the Post

Xu was the chief of staff at the former 54th Army Corps, an elite PLA fighting force known for its involvement in the crackdown on a Tibetan uprising in 1959 and the suppression of the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989

quoted a military insider as saying. "Xu is 57 years old, five years younger than his predecessor, He (Weidong). The working environment in the Western high altitude is very tough and even young people age prematurely there," the official said. Xu was one of the young generals promoted by Xi after he took the helm of the PLA in late 2012. Xu has experience at four of the PLA's five theatre commands. He was promoted to the lieutenant general last year, one year after being sent to the head the ground forces in the Eastern Theatre Command,

which oversees the security of Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian and Jiangxi provinces, as well as the East China Sea. "Xu's new position in the Western Theatre Command is also a new test for him," the official said. "If he can handle the China-India border disputes properly, he is very likely to be further promoted to grab a seat in the PLA's ground force headquarters, or even more senior, in the future," he said. Hong Kong-based military commentator Song Zhongping said the latest border tensions meant the Western Theatre Command required someone familiar with joint operations between ground and air forces. All the fighting forces Beijing sends to the frontiers were trained for air-to-ground battles, which need a capable commander like Xu to lead them.

Xu was the chief of staff at the former 54th Army Corps, an elite PLA fighting force known for its involvement in the crackdown on a Tibetan uprising in 1959 and the suppression of the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989. The Army Corps was merged into the 83rd Army Corps in a military overhaul by Xi in 2015, the Post said.

Didi hits back as Shah seeks parivartan from reign of terror, graft...

From Page 1

"Now the people say that even the Communists were better than the present rulers," he said. Attacking the Chief Minister for failing to tackle the corona pandemic and insulting the migrant workers by calling the trains that they were being ferried in by the Centre as "Corona Express," he said "the migrant workers will remember your lip-service for them in the next year's Assembly elections." Pulling out the Citizenship Amendment Act issue from the backburner and linking the TMC's vehement opposition to it with Mamata's politics of minority appeasement, Shah said how a particular community remained on the top of her list of priorities. He reminded how the Chief Minister had "opposed the CAA, denying citizenship to the refugees who came to India before 2015. She was so angry after the CAA was formed. I have never seen such an angry person in my life," adding the people would not forget her for this anger she showed at that time against the implementation of the CAA.

In a reference to the Matua community --- a Hindu SC group that had come to India

in lakhs from Bangladesh post Independence and 1972 War before settling down in North 24 Parganas and Nadia in large numbers impacting the voting pattern of these districts --- he said, "What has the Matua community done to her so that she would not allow them the chance of getting Indian citizenship (through CAA)." He warned Mamata would get the reply of this stand taken by her. "Why are you opposing citizenship for these refugees. People of Bengal want to know... I want to tell Mamata Didi, your opposition to CAA will prove costly. When the ballot boxes open, then you will see that Bengal's people have turned you into a political refugee. Your opposition to CAA will prove very costly for you."

Soon the Chief Minister and her nephew and Abhishek Banerjee, an MP, hit back with vengeance saying here was a man who was trying to restore the culture of Bengal but who himself had put the inclusivity of India in danger. Taking to Twitter she wrote "Amit Shah, someone who's himself put the inclusivity of India in danger, talks about 'restoring' the culture of Bengal. Doesn't he remember, it was Mamata (Banerjee) who

restored statue of Vidya Sagar, vandalised by his men in front of his own eyes," tagging her tweet with a hashtag "Bengal Rejects Amit Shah." The attack from the junior Banerjee seemed to be fiercer even as he hit the BJP where it hurt the most wondering whether China had captured any territory of India recently. While Shah referred to the lesson India taught Pakistan post Uri and Pulwama reminding how "Our surgical and air strikes sent out a strong message that we have zero tolerance to terrorism," Banerjee the junior asked whether the Chinese troops have entered the Indian soil.

He said, "Respected Amit Shah Ji, Bengal has not heard you speak during these times of crisis, but we hope today you would take a minute to answer this: 'Are the Chinese occupying our territory or not?'" Senior TMC leader and State Minister Partho Chatterjee said, "When the State and the entire country is fighting pandemic crisis this party is playing electoral politics. The people are watching their insensitivity towards their plights."

UP Cabinet OK's law to prevent cow slaughter

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the UP Prevention of Cow Slaughter (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 on Tuesday, Additional Chief Secretary, Home and Information, Awanish Awasthi said. The ordinance seeks to stop the incidents of crime related to cow slaughter and was enacted as the state legislature is not in session, he added. It aims to make the existing law more organised and effective, and completely stop cow slaughter in the state, the Uttar Pradesh Government said in a statement issued here.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS (Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction) Application No. 406 of 2019
In the matter of Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 And In the matter of Disputes between M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. and Mr. Sajjan Singh & another arising under Loan Agreement No. XVFPSK10001468590 Dated 12.08.2015.

M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, 'Dare House', No. 2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Parrys, Chennai - 600 001. Represented by its Authorised Signatory. Vs.

1. Mr. Sajjan Singh S/o. Mangey Ram B-78, Block - B, Bhagwati Garden Extn., Uttam Nagar, Delhi, New Delhi - 110059
2. Mrs. Kamla S. W/o. Sajjan Singh B-78, Block - B, Bhagwati Garden Extn., Uttam Nagar, Delhi, New Delhi - 110059

The Hon'ble High Court, Madras on 02.06.2020 was pleased to pass an order in the above application directing you to furnish security to the extent of the claim of a sum of Rs. 6,38,317/- on or before 04.08.2020. The above application is posted on 04.08.2020 before the Hon'ble High Court, Madras. Kindly take notice and appear either in person or through an Advocate and furnish security.

M/s. D. PRADEEP KUMAR Counsel for Applicant

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on [#SCRRailwaysIndia](#)
Details of the Tender Notice of S.C Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 51/2020 dt.05.06.2020
SUPPLY OF STORES ITEMS.
E-procurement Tender Notice

The following tenders have been floated online. Tenderers are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in and submit their offers online. The Tender Description, Qty, EMD, SD may be seen in website. Offers submitted manually will not be accepted. Offers by post will not be entertained. Tender closing time is 14.30 hrs of the due date of the Tender. For all indigenous offers, EMD will be accepted only via online system as available on www.ireps.gov.in

Tender No.	Brief Description:
38.20.1499.	Non Asbestos based 'L' type composition.
38.20.1544.	Air Brake Hose coupling.
38.20.1587.	Stack Adjusted.
16.19.5009A	Modified LP Suction & Discharge Valve.
38.20.2181.	Adapted Narrow.
10.20.2986.	Filter Media Paper Kit.
31.20.2096.	Electro Pneumatic Brake.
82.20.1450.	Sitagliptin Phosphate.
82.20.1420.	Human Insulin.
82.20.1439.	Sitagliptin Phosphate.
82.20.1444.	Sitagliptin Phosphate.
82.20.1446.	30% soluble Insulin.
82.20.0089.	Ruxolitinib 5mg Tab.

Note: Due dates of Tender Opening: S.Nos. 01 on 24.06.2020; S.Nos. 02&03 on 26.06.2020; S.Nos. 04 on 29.06.2020; S.Nos. 05 on 02.07.2020; S.No. 06 on 03.07.2020; S.No. 7 to 12 on 06.07.2020. S. No. 13 on 09.07.2020.

Besides above mentioned tenders there are other tenders having value below Rs.25 lakhs. For details, please visit Railway website above.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/ Secunderabad

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 171

The following tenders and corrigendum notice have been floated through e-Procurement. Tenderers are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in and submit their offers. It may be noted that the offers submitted manually or on paper will not be accepted. Offers sent by post are not entertained.

Tender No. TMC2019055. Description: Cable Assy. 15F1. Shield Case for the use of RGM. Due Date: 01.07.2020. **Tender No. TMC2019070.** Description: Supply of Hyd. Operated Knuckle Boom Crane for LTV. Due Date: 01.07.2020. **Tender No. TMC2019083.** Description: Supply of Switches, Relays, Fuses and Bulbs, etc for the use of RGM. Due Date: 01.07.2020. **Tender No. TMC2019085.** Description: Supply of Bearings for the use of Track Machines. Due Date: 03.07.2020. **Tender No. TMC2019086.** Description: Supply of Bearings for the use of Track Machines. Due Date: 03.07.2020. **Tender No. TMC2019087.** Description: Supply of Tamping Tools for the use of Track Machines. Due Date: 03.07.2020. **Tender No. TMC2019088.** Description: Supply of Batteries of different Models for the use of Track Machines. Due Date: 07.07.2020. **Tender No. TMC2019089.** Description: Supply of Flexible Copper Cable, Single Core Cables for the use of Track Machines. Due Date: 07.07.2020.

For complete details, please refer website www.ireps.gov.in.

Dy. Chief Engineer/TM/HO/ Secunderabad

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

CORRIGENDUM
Ref: NleT No. F. 15(249)/Agri(Plan)/2020-21/3591 Dated, 29.05.2020.

In partial modification, the following dates of the NleT referred above has been re-scheduled:-

Sl. No.	Activities	Dates notified in the NleT	Re-Scheduled dates
1	Last date of receipt of quarries on RFP.	07.06.2020 (13.00 Hrs)	22.06.2020 (13.00 Hrs)
2	Pre-bid Meeting date, Time & Venue.	08.06.2020 (15.00 Hrs)	24.06.2020 (15.00 Hrs)
3	Document downloading end date.	22.06.2020 (15.00 Hrs)	07.07.2020 (15.00 Hrs)
4	Last date of submission of Bids.	22.06.2020 (15.30 Hrs)	07.07.2020 (15.30 Hrs)
5	Bid opening date	22.06.2020 (16.00 Hrs)	07.07.2020 (16.00 Hrs)

Above, activity dates notified in the NleT will be replaced by the above Re-scheduled dates as and where mentioned. Other terms & condition of the NleT will remain unchanged.

(Dr. D. P. Sarkar)
Director of Agriculture
ICAC/C-515/2020-21
Tripura

From Page 1
Meanwhile, a Delhi

5.5L cases...

According to health secretary of Delhi, the case of fatality rate in Delhi is 2.92 per cent as compared to the national average of 2.81 per cent, recovery rate is 38 per cent, doubling rate 12.6 days and test per million is 13,543 as compared to the national average of 3,531 tests per million.

Elaborating further how officials analysing the situation, Siodia said, "The prediction is based on the trend that when the borders were sealed due to lockdown and in Delhi hospitals, only the residents of the State were coming for the treatments."

Validity of DL, RC, fitness extended till September...

From Page 1
He said the Government had earlier on March 30 extended the validity of documents till June 30, 2020. "Taking into consideration the grim situation still continuing due to conditions for prevention of spread of Covid-19 across the country, it is advised that...The validity of Fitness, Permit (all types), Learner's License, Driving License, Registration or any other concerned document whose extension of validity could not or not likely be granted due to lockdown and which has expired since Feb 1, 2020 or will expire till September 30, 2020, the same may be treated to be valid till September 30, 2020," says the notification from the Ministry issued.

In order to facilitate citizens during the period and conditions for prevention for COVID-19, the Ministry had also issued a gazette notification on May 21, relaxing the fees validity and/or additional fee under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, till July 31, 2020.

Now the State/UTs have also been requested to consider provisions available under the Motor Vehicles Act 1988 or other such provisions available under other Acts, for considering relaxation in requirement of permit, or fees or taxes for renewal / penalty for permits etc to provide relief during these extra ordinary circumstances of COVID-19, as per the notification.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified for the information of rail passengers that Entry and Exit plan for passengers at Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi Jn. and New Delhi Railway Stations are as under:-

Station Name	Entry	Exit
Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station	Bhogal Side	Bhogal Side
Delhi Jn. Rly. Station	Chandni Chowk Side	Chandni Chowk Side
New Delhi Rly. Station	Both Ajmeri Gate and Paharganj sides	Both Ajmeri Gate and Paharganj sides

Passengers having Confirmed Reserved or RAC Tickets for boarding the special trains, will only be permitted to enter the station premises.

ENTRY FOR THE PASSENGERS NOT HOLDING RESERVED OR RAC TICKETS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.

IMPORTANT:

- Passengers are advised to carry their own food & water and Travel with light luggage.
- Bedroll and linen will NOT be provided by Railways.

Security Helpline No. 182
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डा० शकुन्तला मिश्रा राष्ट्रीय पुनर्वासि विश्वविद्यालय
मोहान रोड, लखनऊ-226 017
वेबसाइट : <http://dsrmru.up.nic.in>

निविदा सूचना
08 जून, 2020

विश्वविद्यालय में ब्रेल पुस्तकों की छपाई हेतु (Heavy Duty and High Speed Braille Embosser) ब्रेल मशीन क्रय किये जाने हेतु अर्ह फॉर्म से मुहरबन्द निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

बिड डाक्यूमेंट वेबसाइट <http://dsrmru.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध एवं <http://elender.up.nic.in> पर दिनांक- 30/06-2020 को अपराह्न 02:00 बजे तक अपलोड किये जा सकते हैं। इसकी तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 01-07-2020 को अपराह्न 02:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र की शर्तें एवं अन्य विवरण विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध हैं।

कुलसचिव

राजस्थान सरकार
कृषि आयुक्तालय, राजस्थान, जयपुर
क्रमांक एफ. 8./आक/अय/सिचाई/वाई/परी/20-21/2160 दिनांक 04/06/2020

पाईप लाईन निर्माताओं के पंजीकरण हेतु विज्ञापित

वित्तीय वर्ष 2020-21 से 2022-23 (तीन वर्ष) के लिए कृषि विभाग द्वारा राज्य के कृषकों को बीआईएस मार्क सिचाई पाईप लाईन (HDPE, PVC & HDPE Laminated Lay flat tube) अनुदान पर उपलब्ध कराने हेतु निर्माताओं के पंजीकरण के लिये आवेदन पत्र दिनांक 04.06.2020 तक आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। उस दिनांक के पश्चात आवेदन पत्र स्वीकार नहीं किये जायेंगे। पंजीकरण प्रक्रिया हेतु विस्तृत विवरण एवं शर्तें तथा अभिलेखि की अभिव्यक्ति विभागीय वेबसाइट www.agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। यह राजकीय क्रय नहीं है।

हस्ता/आयुक्त कृषि राजा सरकार, जयपुर

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

Capital could see 56K cases in 2 weeks: Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Tuesday said that the current doubling rate of Covid-19 in Delhi is 14 days so the national Capital as per that estimation will see over 56,000 cases by the end of next two weeks.

The Health Minister said that the expert committee, which was set up by us earlier, has said that the doubling rate is 14-15 days and currently the city has recorded 28,936 cases in total so by the end of two weeks, it is estimated to rise to 56,000.

Jain said that Delhi and Mumbai are big metros which are facing a heavy brunt of the virus. "In the private hospitals,

nearly 50 per cent of people come from outside, and in the Government hospitals of Delhi, nearly 70 per cent of people come from outside," he said.

"During the lockdown in both private and Government hospitals, the occupancy of people from outside was 10 per cent and only the planned surgeries were happening. This could have been continued for some time but the Lieutenant Governor was not agreed to this. The Delhi Government is working relentlessly but such a decision will bring a lot of challenges to us as well as to the people of Delhi," Jain said.

The number of coronavirus cases in the national capital crossed the 28,000-mark with 1,282 fresh infections, while the



death toll climbed to 812 on Sunday.

Barring June 1, when Delhi saw a spike of 990 cases, it has been recording over 1,000 fresh cases every day from May 28 to June 7, the highest being 1,513 on June 3.

A total of 51 fatalities were reported on June 6, the Delhi health department bulletin said on Sunday, adding that deaths took place between May 8 and June 5.

There are 17,125 active cases while 10,999 people have

either been cured or discharged or have migrated.

Jain claimed that cases weren't much in neighbouring cities. On the order issued to private hospitals on schedule of charges and if any price capping policy is being planned, he said, "We are going to first examine the schedule of charges that we have asked from hospitals."

In an order issued to all private hospitals identified for the purpose of treating COVID-19 patients, the Delhi government has asked them to provide their schedule of charges for treatment of the virus to the Directorate General of Health Services, Delhi and the same is also to be displayed at conspicuous places in their

hospitals.

On the order to depute a senior nursing officer in private hospitals, the Delhi Health Minister said this was done as there were complaints coming that people were being denied admission or beds not being made available.

Jain also said, on the Delhi Corona App, nearly half of the 8,500 beds are showing as vacant. But we will need 15,000-17,000 beds in 14-15 days as cases will rise.

"While beds at some private hospitals may be exhausted, no complaint has come about any shortage of beds at our hospitals like LNJP Hospital, GTB Hospital and Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital," he claimed.

Govt must reserve 70% beds for Covid patients: Ajay moves NHRC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Ajay Maken has moved the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Tuesday seeking directions to the Delhi and the Central Government to reserve 70 per cent of the available beds in the hospitals.

As of now only eight per cent of total available beds in the National Capital are being utilised to treat Covid-19 patients, he claimed.

"It is extremely painful to see that only 12 per cent of the Delhi Government, eight per cent of the Central Government institutions and seven per cent of the private hospital beds are presently occupied and prepared to treat Covid patients. Moreover, in the Delhi Government hospitals, even around 70 per cent of dedicated beds are vacant," he said.

Citing Delhi health bulletin, he said it indicates that 27 out of every 100 patients being tested is COVID positive. "Delhi should not open up further unless the positivity rate per 100 tested comes down to less than 10 per cent," he said.

Maken was accompanied by advocate Aman Panwar, spokesperson of AICC Sunil Kumar, Chairman of legal and human rights department (Delhi Congress) and party Delhi unit vice-president Abhishek Dutt.

Maken said that the Covid-19 positive and suspected patients are running from hospital to hospital to get them admitted but being turned down admission by the hospitals. "Delhi has a robust hospital health infrastructure to tackle the crisis but still 70 per cent of dedicated beds in hospitals of the Delhi government are vacant. While on one hand



It is extremely painful to see that only 12 per cent of the Delhi Government, eight per cent of the Central Government institutions and seven per cent of the private hospital beds are presently occupied and prepared to treat Covid patients. Moreover, in the Delhi Government hospitals, even around 70 per cent of dedicated beds are vacant

Need to ramp up medical infra fast: L-G

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the State (Delhi) Disaster Management Authority and stressed on the need to ramp up medical infrastructure fast amid corona pandemic.

During his interaction with the Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, Health minister Satyendar Jain and Health Secretary, members of SDMA, Bajjal said the admission of eligible Covid-19 positive patients to be ensured as per protocol and follow Follow containment strategy as per ICMR guidelines.

Bajjal directed the concerned authorities to have realistic projections for physical infrastructure and human resources requirement considering possible scenarios to ramp up medical capacity on continuous basis.



beds is expected to be operational by 20th June, 2020. 500 additional beds in other Govt. hospitals have been also earmarked. IAS officers have been posted as Administrative Officers in Covid-19 hospital and Help Desks, manned by govt. officers have been set up in all the Government hospitals to facilitate the admission process," health official said while giving presentation.

According to health officials, the case fatality rate in Delhi is 2.92 percent as compared to the national average of 2.81 percent, recovery rate is 38 percent, doubling rate 12.6 days and test per million is 13543 as compared to the national average of 3531 tests per million.

To add more Covid care centres, Delhi Government has constituted a committee under Divisional Commissioner to explore the possibility of creation of additional bed capacity. "It has suggested Pragati Maidan, Talkatora Indoor stadium, Thyagaraj Indoor stadium, Indira Gandhi Indoor stadium, Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, Dhyanchand National Stadium etc. to be used as make-shift hospitals."

To enhance bed capacity in Delhi, the health department has extended Covid-19 Hospitals by linking big hospitals and nearby 5/4 star hotels with upper price cap of Rs. 10,000 per day per bed, hotels would provide beds, housekeeping, fooding etc as well as medical services. Eight Hotels-Hospitals have been linked to act as

extended Covid-19 Hospitals, approx. In addition, District Magistrates are carrying out the exercise of linking 19 more hospitals with hotels which would tentatively increase the capacity by another 2000 beds (approx.) by 15.6.2020.

"CATS ambulance fleet has been augmented to 450 from earlier 160 which has reduced response time to less than 30 minutes. All 42 testing labs have been made functional," said a government officials.

It was also informed that at present 11,259 cases are in home isolation. Specialised health care company has been engaged exclusively for such cases. 2,000 pulse oxymeter have been reserved for patients of home isolation.

Extensive TV and Print Media IEC activity has been started to make people understand how to conduct themselves in home isolation.

The Delhi Government has also launched Covid Care Delhi App and delhifightscorona.in webpage are available for Covid Health Facilities for all information on coronavirus. Also separate helpline no. 1800-111-747 being launched for only patients related issues, bed availability etc. in addition to State Government helpline no. 1031. Meanwhile LG advised to follow the best practices from other cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore for management of Covid-19 cases in Delhi.

Three rob cop of ₹1,500 at gunpoint in Gurugram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Three armed robbers held a Delhi police constable hostage at gunpoint and robbed him of ₹1,500, I card, Security card, Pan card, ATM card, Driving licence, Adhaar card, Voting card and Mobile phone.

Police said the incident took place at 6.15 pm next to Rajpura village in Pataudi. The miscreants fled away after snatching his Maruti Suzuki Breeza and other valuable items.

According to the complaint filed by Rishiraj, a resident of Kosli in Rewari district, the incident took place when he was heading towards his office in Delhi.

Soon after the incident, the constable made a PCR call. A case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) including Arms Act has been registered against the three unidentified robbers at the

We are trying to trace the accused persons on the basis of CCTV footages. A team of the Pataudi police station investigating the matter from all possible angles. They will be arrested soon

Pataudi police station.

"We are trying to trace the accused persons on the basis of CCTV footages. A team of the Pataudi police station investigating the matter from all possible angles. They will be arrested soon," said Subhash Boken spokesperson of the Gurugram police.

Sources said the constable is posted with a senior minister's residence security for the last few years. He has been staying at Kosli in Rewari district with his family. "I am lucky that the robbers did not kill me, as they were carrying pistols and knives. However, they held me hostage around 15-20 minutes and took away with my car and other belonging. They also attacked me with a pistol but," the victim told the police.

Apart from this, The Gurugram district on Tuesday recorded 164 fresh coronavirus cases. Gurugram currently has 1,677 corona positive patients admitted in different hospitals while the total number reached 2,329. While 643 have been cured and discharged.

"We are receiving frequent cases in Gurugram. It is a concern for us. We are working hard to contain spread in limited places. On Tuesday, 64 patients recovered from illness and they were discharged from hospital," said a senior health official.

One more staffer of NDMC dies of Covid

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

One more staffer of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) died of Covid-19 on Tuesday. At least 63 staff members of the civic body have been infected with four deaths reported so far.

A senior NDMC official said that a total of 63 cases have been reported till now from the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). Out of these, 53 people have recovered and 5 are still active, he said. "Among the 56 cases, while four have recovered, 50 cases are active as of now," he said.

The first death in the NDMC was reported on June 1, while the second on June 3. Two more deaths reported later, taking the total number to four till Monday, the officials said.

The official said that the civic body has set up a "Staff Welfare Cell" as a part of welfare measures to deal with the pandemic and to facilitate treatment and make all the necessary assistance available for its Covid-19 positive staff.

The composition of the "NDMC Staff Welfare Cell" includes eight members such as Director (Welfare) as nodal officer, assistant labour welfare officer as assistant nodal officer among others, he said.

"The welfare cell is also assigned the responsibility for sharing details of Covid-19 cases of New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) employees with state nodal welfare officers. It will disseminate all relevant information relating to Covid-19 to all officers through their head of departments.

"It will also be responsible for arranging psychological counseling, moral support and experience sharing with infected employees and their family members through director (medical Services), Charak Palika Hospital.

Patients with spinal cord injury warned of higher risk from virus

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Noting that the patients of spinal cord injury are at a higher risk of contracting Covid-19 virus, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), a premier super specialty hospital in the city, has urged the patients to keep themselves in isolation to avoid getting infected of Coronavirus as their bodies cannot respond to bacteria and viruses like a normal person can.

Dr HS Chhabra, Medical Director of Indian Spinal Injuries Centre said that immunosuppression, the body's response to bacteria and viruses, is the main concern. Besides, some of them may develop other medical conditions or infections that can further complicate the situation, he said.

"Spinal cord injury patients, irrespective of their age, battle immunosuppression -- the way their bodies respond to bacteria and viruses is not as strong as a normal person because of decreased natural and adaptive immunity and reduced levels of molecules which participate in immune function and wound healing," he said.

Besides, some of the complications of spinal cord injury patients further compound the problem. Urinary tract infection is a condition that more commonly affects the individuals who are catheterised -- they are at a higher risk of entry of viruses and bacteria into the sterile urinary system. Open pressure ulcers/sores are another avenue for viruses and bacteria to enter the body, Chhabra, said.

For patients of spinal cord injury, he suggested to perform three deep breaths followed by a cough at a minimum of four times a day to clear debris that enters the lungs. If you have an incentive spirometer from your hospital or rehabilitation stay, now is the time to use it if you can.

"Many individuals with higher-level spinal cord injury use their mouths to assist with activities. You will need to stop doing this when outside of your home as the mouth is a major way for COVID-19 to enter your body," he said.

"Hydration is always important. Due to bladder programs, it can be difficult to take in more water than you are allotted. Do not overwhelm your system but try to take just an extra sip of water every hour when awake. This will create an increase in hydration in your body without much effect on your bladder program," he said.

Kids felicitated for distributing face masks

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Commissioner DSN Shrivastava on Tuesday felicitated a group of children belonging to different schools in Delhi for their commendable job in distributing face masks and sanitisers along with a Delhi police unit amid lockdown.

In order to appreciate the act of the children, the Commissioner of Police called them in his chamber at police headquarters. "The children who were on forefront in distributing masks and sanitisers are Shounak Malhotra, Arhaan Mukherjee, Aayushi Khanna, Tanush Sawhney, Purnanjay Chawla, Manomay Ghoshal, Pia Prasad and Darsh Prasad," a senior police official said.

The official said that during the initial stages of lockdown, it was felt that there are many who cannot afford masks and sanitisers to avoid infection. "A group of students came together and started distributing it to not only migrants but to commoners as well. They also educated people about precautions needed to be taken during the crisis and to avoid getting infected with a life-threatening virus," he said.

"Importantly, these students also distributed it all to police staff deployed at various corners of the city. These children along with staff of the vigilance unit of Delhi Police procured and distributed 2000 litres of hand sanitiser, 12000 masks and 8000 face shields by travelling extensively across the city, has really touched many hearts," he said.

Besides giving the children letters of appreciation, the Commissioner also gave them coffee table books on Delhi Police and the Delhi Police mementos.

Shramik trains can be provided in 24 hours of request: Govt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Railways has operated more than 4,347 Shramik Special services and ferried approximately 60 lakh persons to different States since 1st May.

The Ministry said that State Governments have been informed that the railways will continue to provide Shramik special trains within 24 hours after the demand is received from the States.

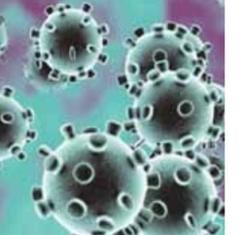
"Railway Ministry has requested State Governments to indicate their requirements about Shramik Special Trains and see that projected demand for movement of residual persons by rail mode is well chalked out and determined," it said.

Chairman of Railway board had written letters to the States on 29th May and 3rd June on the subject and emphasised that "Indian Railways will provide the desired number of Shramik Special trains immediately within 24 hours of the request.

"Today also a letter has been sent to Chief Secretaries of the States emphasizing the same," it added.

"Indian Railways is committed to continue providing comfortable and safe movement of migrants through Shramik special trains as required by states," the ministry said.

The ministry also assured that it will provide additional Shramik Special trains for any requirement given in future also. "Railways will meet any additional demand that may arise over and above the projections given, at a short notice," it added.



Children did commendable job in distributing face masks and sanitisers along with police unit amid lockdown

Delhi Police Commissioner DSN Shrivastava on Tuesday felicitated a group of children belonging to different schools in Delhi for their commendable job in distributing face masks and sanitisers along with a Delhi police unit amid lockdown.

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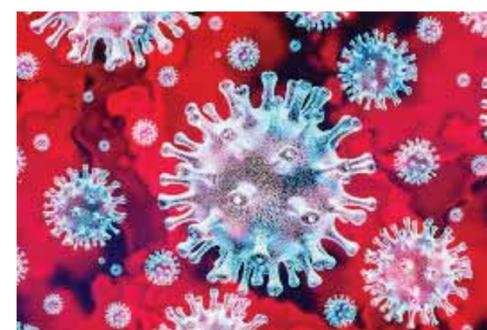
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High-level teams deployed to curb Covid spread



STATES (MUNICIPALITIES WITH HIGH COVID-19 CASE LOADS)

Maharashtra (Mumbai, Thane, Pune, Aurangabad, Palghar, Kolhapur, Solapur)	Goarakhpur, Etawah, Bhadohi)
Gujarat (Ahmedabad, Surat and Vadodara)	Uttarakhand (Nainital, Tehri Garhwal, Haridwar)
Rajasthan (Jaipur, Udaipur, Durgapur, Nagaur)	Odisha (Cuttack), Puri, Kenarpara, Balangir, Nayagrah)
Tamil Nadu (Chennai, Chengalpattu, Thiruvalluvar, Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Kanchipuram, Villupuram)	Madhya Pradesh (Ujjain, Karimganj, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Cachar)
West Bengal (Kolkata, Howrah, 24 Paraganas North)	Assam (Golaghat, Hojai, Morena)
Delhi (Northwest, Central West, North)	Telangana (Hyderabad, Medchal, Malkajgiri, Ranga Reddy, Adilabad)
Bihar (Kathihar, Darbhanga, Aurangabad, Madhepura)	Karnataka (Yadgir, Chikaballapura, Chitradurga, Udipi)
Uttar Pradesh (Jaunpur,	Haryana (Gurugram, Faridabad, Panipat, Jind)

Spread of Covid-19 by an asymptomatic person less likely: WHO

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) has asserted that the spread of Covid-19 by an asymptomatic person appears to be less likely, an observation that has been questioned by the health experts who feel that asymptomatic cases may be adding to the pandemic which has caused havoc across the world infecting over 75 lakh people in just six months.

Dr Maria Van Kerkhove, head of WHO's emerging diseases and zoonoses unit, said while asymptomatic spread can occur, it's not the "main driver" of new infections.

Initial evidence from the earliest outbreaks suggested that the SARS-CoV-2 virus could spread by a person showing no symptoms. However, WHO officials now say that it is not the way of infections, although there are instances of asymptomatic patients transmitting the virus to others particularly in nursing homes and

household settings.

"From the data we have, it still seems to be rare that an asymptomatic person actually transmits onward to a secondary individual. It's very rare," Dr Kerkhove said, adding that more research and data are needed to "truly answer" the question of whether the coronavirus can spread widely through asymptomatic carriers.

Kerkhove said the WHO is now relying on data obtained through contact tracing even as she urged governments to focus on detecting and isolating infected people with symptoms, as well as tracking anyone who might have come into contact with them.

However, Prof. Rajinder K Dhamija, Head of Neurology Department, Lady Hardinge Medical College and SSK Hospital, Delhi does not agree with the WHO observation.

"The WHO statement that transmission of SARSCoV2 by asymptomatic individuals raises many issues and questions the

health policy of testing, contact tracing and isolation."

Prof Dhamija pointed out that the WHO has made this observation based on one Chinese's study of 300 asymptomatic Covid-19 patients in Wuhan which were found to be non-infectious.

"Our understanding is that asymptomatic Covid patients which comprise as high as 30 per cent of Covid patients along with pre-symptomatic patients are important in spread of disease. Our demographic situation, population density and many household members sharing rooms and washrooms places us altogether in a different situation and we have to focus on asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic individuals to mitigate the virus transmission.

"Moreover there has been instances in US and Singapore where asymptomatic transmission has occurred.

We need more data to answer the question of asymptomatic transmission

to guide policy of mitigation and planning for other public health measures," said the doctor.

Earlier, a report from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cited the 'potential for pre-symptomatic transmission' as a reason for the importance of social distancing to reduce the spread of virus.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With Covid-19 fast spreading its tentacles across the country, the Union Health Ministry has deployed high-level multi-disciplinary central teams for 50 high Coronavirus loads districts and municipal bodies in 15 States and Union Territories (UTs) to help the health authorities provide technical support for containment and facilitate the management of the contagion.

The States and UTs where these teams have been deployed include Maharashtra (7 districts or municipalities), Telangana (4), Tamil Nadu (7), Rajasthan (5), Assam (6),

Haryana (4), Gujarat (3), Karnataka (4), Uttarakhand (3), Madhya Pradesh (5), West Bengal (3), Delhi (3), Bihar (4), Uttar Pradesh (4) and Odisha (5).

The teams comprise two public health experts, epidemiologists, clinicians and a senior Joint Secretary level nodal officer for administrative handholding and improving governance.

These teams will work in the field and visit health care facilities to support the State health department in the implementation of containment measures and efficient treatment and clinical management of cases within the

districts and cities.

In order to ensure better coordination, quick action on the ground, and adoption of a more granular strategy, it is proposed that these districts and municipalities should regularly remain in touch with the central teams which are already coordinating with the states.

"Such frequent interactions would further strengthen the surveillance, containment, testing and treatment related action on the ground,"

the Ministry said.

The central teams will assist the states and UTs in addressing some of the challenges faced by their authorities such as testing bottlenecks, low tests per million population, high confirmation rates, high testing confirmation rate, risk of capacity shortfall over the next two months, potential bed shortage, growing fatality rate, high doubling rate and sudden spike in active cases.

Centre mulls reduction of syllabus, school hours for current academic session

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following requests by parents, teachers and other stakeholders of school education, the Centre on Tuesday said that it is considering reducing the syllabus and school hours for the current academic session, hampered due to the continuing corona pandemic lockdown.

HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' said that the Centre is "planning to reduce the syllabus and instructional hours for schools in the next academic year."

"In view of the current circumstances and after receiving a lot of requests from parents and teachers, we are contemplating the option of reduction in the syllabus and instructional hours for the coming academic year," Pokhriyal said in a tweet.

"In view of the current circumstances and after receiving a lot of requests from parents and teachers, we are contemplating the option of reduction in the syllabus and instructional hours for the coming academic year," Pokhriyal added further.

The HRD Minister also invited suggestions from teachers and educationists in this regard and asked them to tag their posts with #SyllabusForStudents2020 on social media.

The tweets from the HRD Minister came following a meeting with the state education secretaries led by Anita Karwal, Secretary of School Education and Literacy, HRD Ministry a day earlier.

During the meeting, topics like health and safety of students, hygiene measures and issues related to online or digital learning were discussed.

It may be noted that the countrywide lockdown to curb

the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has derailed the academic schedule in all educational institutions. With the number of coronavirus patients increasing day by day, the Narendra Modi government had ordered the closure of all educational institutions on March 16 which was followed by a nationwide lockdown on March 25.

"States are still figuring out how to deal with the disruptions in the schedule. Many states have passed their school and even college students without conducting exams. Some universities have resorted to online classes and exams to keep the academic calendar running. As the lockdown further encroaches the academic schedule and with a decision yet to be made on reopening educational institutions, students and parents have been demanding a reduction in syllabus," said a senior HRD Ministry official.

A couple of days earlier Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia pitched for a 30 per cent reduction in syllabus for all grades to make up for the loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and advocated reopening of schools with reasonable precautions. In a letter to the HRD Minister, Sisodia asserted that since people need to learn to live with coronavirus now, it would be better if the already existing learning spaces like schools, take up that role.

Noting that online teaching can only complement learning in schools and not replace it, the Delhi Education Minister said, it would be a "historical blunder" if the "opportunity" is let to pass by not trusting schools with a bigger and bolder role, which is, to prepare children for better and responsible life and not just for a few lessons of their textbooks.

Biennial elections to 7 K'taka Legislative Council seats to be held on June 29

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday announced biennial elections to seven Karnataka Legislative Council seats will be held on June 29. The membership of Naseer Ahmed, Jayamma, M.C. Venugopal, N.S. Bose Raju, H.M. Revanna, T.A. Sharavana and D.U. Mallikarjuna will expire on June 30.

The results will be declared by 5 pm on June 29 itself after counting of votes as the council membership of seven MLAs is expiring on June 30 and the Commission is determined to complete the whole election process before it.

The ECI has announced the poll time from 9 am to 4 pm.

Based on the inputs received from Karnataka Chief Election Office, the ECI will issue the poll notification papers to be submitted by June 18.

The scrutiny of nomination papers will be done on June 19 and the last date of withdrawal of candidature will be June 22, said the Commission.

In a statement, the ECI said that close monitoring of the whole process by appointing observers will be done to ensure free and fair elections.

The commission also directed the state Chief Secretary to depute a senior officer to ensure that the extant instructions regarding COVID-19 containment measures are complied with while making arrangements for the conduct of the elections.

'Hybrid' session of Parl or a virtual one on anvil to maintain social distancing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With neither the Central Hall of Parliament nor the Vigyan Bhawan plenary hall large enough to seat all the Parliamentarians while maintaining a minimum social distancing norm of one metre, the Presiding Officers of both houses — Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha — are learnt to have been exploring options of holding a "hybrid" session of Parliament or a virtual one.

Sources said that Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla reviewed the circumstances of conduct of the Monsoon session regarding which in their last meeting had directed to look options for proceedings of Lok Sabha in the Central Hall of the Parliament while Rajya Sabha in the lower house. The monsoon session of Parliament is normally held in the month of July.

The hybrid session would allow some MPs to be present physically in Parliament with the remaining ones attending it virtually. Sources said one of the options discussed is to enable attendance in the Chambers of both the Houses of only those many members who can be accommodated according to social distancing norms by drawing up lists of such members whose participation in various items of business is required on a daily basis.

At the meeting convened by Naidu and Birla, the secretary general of both houses are learnt to have told the presiding officers that neither the central hall nor the Vigyan Bhawan plenary hall have a seating capacity to accommodate all MPs together. The meeting was convened to review various options for holding the ensuing monsoon session of Parliament.

Briefing Naidu and Birla on various possibilities, the secretary general reported the outcomes of their assessment of seating capacity in the Chambers of both the Houses, the central hall of Parliament and the plenary hall of Vigyan Bhawan. They informed that while the Rajya Sabha Chamber can accommodate about 60 members as per the norms of social distancing, the Lok Sabha Chamber and the central hall are adequate enough for a little over 100 members.

soon session of Parliament.

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They informed that while the Rajya Sabha Chamber can accommodate about 60 members as per the norms of social distancing, the Lok Sabha Chamber and the central hall are adequate enough for a little over 100 members.

They said even if the members were to be accommodated in the galleries, the total seating capacity would be much less than the required, if all members were to be accommodated. Naidu and Birla directed the two top officials to examine in detail various issues related to enabling virtual participation of members in the proceedings of both houses.

This includes the maximum capacity available for enabling such virtual participation of MPs, feasibility of enabling participation of members as per the rules of business of both the Houses and other technical issues. Regarding virtual meetings of the parliamentary committees, it was explained that any change in the rules concerning such meetings required a motion to be carried in both the Houses of Parliament.

The Parliament officials also informed the presiding officers of certain other limitations if the central hall and Vigyan Bhawan were to be used for the session. These included non-availability of air-conditioned facility during the day in the Central Hall and problems of enabling simultaneous interpretation service.

UP CM Yogi must take appointment responsibility of 69K teachers: Priyanka

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Tuesday demanded that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath must take responsibility in the matter relating to the appointment of 69,000 teachers and take "strong action" with transparency to ensure justice is done.

The Congress has been strongly raising the issue after the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday stayed the appointment of 69,000 assistant basic teachers in the state and Priyanka Gandhi on Tuesday interacted through video conferencing with people who competed in the examination.

Noting that media reports have pointed to a "massive fraud" in these examinations, Priyanka Gandhi, speaking via a video link on Facebook after the session, said that since she started working in Uttar Pradesh, she has observed that in these types of examinations, instances of cheating, corruption and fraud have been found.

"I want to ask that if these exams have been carried out in a transparent manner, why are people getting arrested. If the government is saying that there is a problem in one centre then arrest the persons from there but why are issues cropping up again and again, why are students worried over it, why are they hassled, why do the rules keep changing," she said.

If change is not demanded, then this will become the norm, Priyanka Gandhi said. "The UP government is already thinking that no mat-



ter if there is a scam or corruption, nobody should raise their voice. They are advertising that cases will be slapped against those who raise their voice," she alleged.

"So, either we stay quiet or we raise our voice and demand accountability from the government. The UP Chief Minister must tell us whether he is taking responsibility or not. Strong action must be taken with full transparency. This is about the future of the State," the Congress leader asserted.

"Mr chief minister these are your kids also. We must together in a constructive manner find a solution and this is not about politics. This is about the future of a generation," she said. "This is happening in your government. Take action with transparency, be it nullifying the exam, or carrying out a thorough probe. What has hurt me the most is that the voice of these students is also not being heard. Why are you suppressing the voice of these students," she asked.

Priyanka Gandhi assured those who competed in the examination and are affected by the alleged irregularities that she will raise her voice against injustice and stand with them in their struggles.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS
(Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction)
Application No. 363 of 2019
In the matter of Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996 And in the matter of Disputes between M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd. and M/s. Kavita Logistic arising under Loan Agreement No. XVFPGGN0001541072 Dated 28.11.2015.

M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Parrys, Chennai - 600 001. Represented by its Authorised Signatory : Applicant

vs.

M/s. Kavita Logistic Proprietor Mr. Kalish Plot No. 162, Vill - Basai SEC 9, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122001. Respondent

To M/s. Kavita Logistic Proprietor Mr. Kalish Plot No. 162, Vill - Basai SEC 9, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122001.

The Hon'ble High Court, Madras on 02.06.2020 was pleased to pass an order in the above application directing you to furnish security to the extent of the claim of a sum of Rs. 14,95,794/- on or before 04.08.2020. The above application is posted on 04.08.2020 before the Hon'ble High Court, Madras. Kindly take notice and appear either in person or through an Advocate and furnish security.

M/s. D. PRADEEP KUMAR
Counsel for Applicant

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients **Ashek Kumar Grover** & his wife **Neelam Grover** R/o L-14B, 3rd Floor, Malviya Nagar South Delhi-110017, have disowned, debarred their son **Himanshu Grover** & his wife **Parul Chopra** from all their movable & immovable properties as his behaviour has not been in conformity with the family. If anybody deals with him in any manner he/she will solely be responsible for the same and my clients are not to be held responsible for any act done by him. **Ramesh Chander Anand (Advocate)**, Chamber-68, Westren Wing, Tis Hazari, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE
APEX BUILDWELL PRIVATE LIMITED
Office at: 707, 7th Floor, JMD Pacific Square, Sec. 15 Part-II, Gurugram, Haryana- 122001
Ph: 0124-4200577/4600170/171/172; Email: support@thetrisaragroup.com

Whereas **Prime IT Solutions Pvt Ltd** and **Apex Buildwell Pvt. Ltd.**, Phoenix Datatech Services Pvt. Ltd. in collaboration with **Apex Buildwell Pvt Ltd** is in the process of developing a **Low Cost Affordable Group Housing Colony (Our Homes)** in Sector-37C, Gurugram, District Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 10.144 acres in accordance with the provision of License No. 13 of 2012 dated 22.02.2012 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning Haryana.

Now the existing building plans which were earlier approved has proposed changes only in Tower A and Tower B in the said Low cost affordable housing colony developed under the above license and there is no other change in the existing tower and the commercial building of the said project except Tower A, B And whereas the office of Director Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required seeking of objections against revision of existing said building plan which were earlier approved vide Memo no. ZP-793/AD(RA)/2013/38941 dated 07-05-2013 and the building plan now proposed to be revised vide Memo no. ZP-793/JD(NC)/2020/9221 dated 01-06-2020 are available on website www.thetrisaragroup.com for perusal.

The said building plan can also be perused at the office of undersigned at Office address: 707, 7th Floor, JMD Pacific Square, Sector-15 Part-II, Gurugram, Haryana-122001.

And whereas several individuals (including but not limited to company), jointly and severally have made bookings / entered into purchase agreement for allotment of flats / property in the said colony (hereinafter referred to as allottees). Any allottee having any objection on revised building plan, may file his / her objections in the office of Senior Town Planner, Sector-14, Gurugram, Haryana-122001 within 30 days of publication of this notice, falling which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision in the building plan.

M/S APEX BUILDWELL PVT. LTD.
Place: Gurugram
Date: 09.06.2020

RAGHUNATH INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
CIN No.: L52312UP1994PLC022593
Regd Office: 8/226, Second Floor, SGM Plaza, Arya Nagar, Kanpur UP 208002
Corporate Office: 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007
E-mail: rgc.secretarial@rediffmail.com, Website: www.raghunathintltd.com

NOTICE
Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on **Tuesday, 30th June, 2020, at 03.30 p.m.** at its Corporate office at 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007 inter-alia to consider and take on record the Audited Standalone and Consolidated financial results of the Company for the quarter and year ended on March 31, 2020.

This Intimation is also available on the Company's website at www.raghunathintltd.com and on the Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com.

Further, in accordance with the SEBI (Prevention of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the Trading Window for dealing in the Company's securities was closed from Monday 01st April, 2020 and will open 48 hours after the said financial results are declared to the Stock Exchanges.

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

Place: Delhi
Date: 08.06.2020

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU
Near M.L.A. Hostel, Indira Chowk Jammu, J&K Pin : 180004
Email : dhs.jammu@gmail.com, Tel. No. : 0191-2546338,2549632, Fax No. : 0191-254963

Dr. Suneel Mattoo, Medical Officer
S/o Sh. Dalip Kumar Mattoo
R/o H.No. 158, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu
Tehsil & District Jammu
Sub : Show cause notice.

Whereas, you applied for study leave to pursue Super Speciality course (Mch. Urology) in Regional Institute of Medical Sciences Imphal Manipur, and;
Whereas, on the other side you left without bothering to seek prior permission from competent authority, thereby violated rules and regulations governing the study leave, and;
Now, therefore you are hereby directed to show cause as to why action as warranted under rules shall not be initiated against you for such irresponsible behaviour. Your reply in this behalf should reach this office within **07 days from date of this notice**, failing which it shall be presumed that you have nothing to say in your defence and you are not interested to serve the department. Action as warranted under rules shall follow.

No. DJP/J-12/1820
Date: 08.06.2020
Sd/- Dr. Renu Sharma
DIRECTOR HEALTH SERVICES JAMMU

Strategic partnership inked to boost saffron, hing production

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To meet the demand of saffron and hing (asafoetida) in the country, which are imported from other countries, the Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) and the Department of Agriculture, Government of Himachal Pradesh, have forged strategic and implementation partnership based on their mutual strengths to increase the production of the two.

Saffron and Heeng are the most valuable spices of the world and widely used in Indian cuisine since time immemorial.

In India, the annual demand for Saffron spice is 100 tons per year but its average production is about 6-7 tons per year.

Hence, a large amount of Saffron is being imported. Similarly, there is no production of heeng in India and currently about 1,200 tons of raw heeng worth ₹600 crore



is being imported from Afghanistan, Iran, and Uzbekistan.

The CSIR-IHBT partnership is expected to provide immense benefits to Himachal Pradesh by way of increased farm income, livelihood promotion, and rural development.

To facilitate this development, a number of steps will be undertaken such as transfer of innovations by means of capacity building, skill development, and other extension activities of prospective farmers and officers of the Department of

Agriculture. "Introduction of these crops will reduce the import. CSIR-IHBT will provide technical know-how to the farmers, impart training to State agriculture department officers and farmers, and set up corn and seed production centres of Saffron and heeng, respectively, in the State," said Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director, IHBT.

At present, about 2,825 hectares of land is under cultivation of Saffron in Jammu and Kashmir. IHBT has developed the production technology for



Saffron and introduced its cultivation in non-traditional areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The Institute has also developed tissue-culture protocol for the production of disease-free corms.

The Palampur-located Institute has introduced six accessions of heeng from Iran through the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi, and standardized its production protocols under Indian conditions.

Heeng is a perennial plant and it produces oleo-gum resin from the roots after five years of plantation. It can be grown in unutilized sloppy

land of cold desert region.

"Besides providing technical support for the achievement of physical targets of the project, we will also undertake technical supervision of Saffron production areas. Exposure visits of farmers will also be done. A total of 750 acres of land will be covered under these crops in the state in the next five years, said Dr. Kumar.

Dr. R. K. Koundal, Director of the Department of Agriculture, Government of Himachal Pradesh, said that this project will enhance the livelihood of the farmers and will benefit the state and country. "This programme will improve the farmer well-being of the farmers by providing better income prospects and the state will be benefited by cultivation of these high-value crops" he said.

A state-of-the-art tissue-culture lab will be established for large-scale production of quality planting material of these crops.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

TN: 1,685 +ve, 21 die

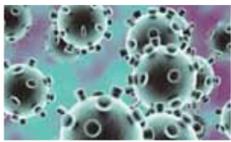
KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu saw an unprecedented increase in the number of persons testing positive for covid-19 on Monday as 21 persons succumbed to the pandemic on a single day.

The medical bulletin issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu stated that 1,685 persons tested positive for coronavirus on Monday (the highest recorded number till date since the pandemic was reported in the State for the first time in February).

The bulletin also said that 34,914 persons have tested positive in the State till date though the number of active cases as on Monday was 16,279.

A total of 5.93 lakh persons have been tested till Monday



for the pandemic while on Monday 12, 421 persons were tested. With 21 persons breathing their last on Monday, the death tally reached 307. All but one death were reported from Chennai.

As 1,242 persons out of the 1,685 tested positive on Monday were from Chennai, the Metropolis remained the Achilles Heel of Tamil Nadu. The adjoining districts of Changanpattu and Kancheepuram tested 158 and 32 respectively. Thiruvallur district saw 90 persons testing positive for the pandemic.

Out of the 21 persons who

died on Monday, five were without comorbidities while the remaining 16 had comorbid conditions. (This means that death of five persons was because of the impact of coronavirus while the others had serious medical ailments along with covid-19.)

The State Government itself is not sure whether the number of patients would come down in the near future. While arguing for the Government against the Public Interest Litigation seeking postponement of Class 10 examination (which has been cancelled by the Government) the advocate general Vijay Narayan told the Madras High Court on Monday that scientist and medical doctors have predicted that the Covid situation would worsen in the State, crossing the two lakh mark.

91 afflicted in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

There was no let up in the number of persons getting tested positive for covid-19 in Kerala even as the State's business establishments like shopping malls were thrown open to the general public on Tuesday.

According to a release issued by the Government of Kerala, 91 persons tested positive for the pandemic on Tuesday while the number of hotspots in the State reached 158.

The release said more than two lakh persons were under observation in the State. As on date, there were 1,231 patients undergoing treatment for covid-19 across the State. Though churches and mosques decided to keep their doors shut and asked the believers to pray from homes, the temples under the control of the State Government

opened their doors for devotees giving rise to a political controversy.

The Government controlled Devaswam Boards that administer the temples in the State decided to keep the temple doors open as per the orders issued by the Central Government, said Kadakampalli Surendran, Kerala's Minister in charge of the Devaswam Boards. But K Surendran, president of Kerala BJP lambasted the Kerala Government for discriminating the temples while keeping away from the affairs of the churches and mosques.

"The church and mosque managements had the freedom to decide when to open their religious places of worship while the Hindus have no such right in Kerala. Isn't this discrimination," asked Surendran while speaking to reporters at the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram.

WB issues new norms for offices

Kolkata: Even as the number of corona cases in India leapt up by the day, the Bengal Government which had on Monday opened up its private and public sector units on Tuesday issued new guidelines regarding prevention of corona pandemic in work places.

According to Health Department sources the employees running fever or showing any other symptoms need not come to the offices. Besides not more than 10 people would sit in one room where the tables would be kept at least two metres apart. The State Government was functioning with 70 percent staff strength.

The employees residing in the containment zones need not report for work, sources said adding the sanitization norms would have to be strictly adhered to.

The stricter norms in general Government offices apart the police have taken special measures at the State secretariat Nabanna where the Chief Ministers vehicles would be kept separated from the other vehicles. Her drivers too would not be allowed to mix up with others.

The same treatment will be given to the vehicles used by the Chief Secretary and Home Secretary, sources said.

61 new cases, 182 recovered in J&K

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Three more coronavirus positive patients died in Srinagar while only 61 fresh cases were detected on Tuesday, recording a significant decline in total cases across Jammu & Kashmir. On a positive note, 182 patients recovered and were discharged from different hospitals.

According to the media bulletin, three patients died in Srinagar taking the death toll due to Covid-19 to 48 while 61 new cases of coronavirus were detected on Tuesday taking the total tally to 4346 cases while active positive cases recorded were 2792. 17 samples tested positive in Jammu and Kashmir recorded 44 new cases.

So far, 1506 patients have been discharged from different hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir. On Tuesday 29 patients recovered in Jammu and 153 were discharged from different hospitals in Kashmir valley. According to a media bulletin, a total number of 2.35 lakh samples have been tested in Jammu and Kashmir while 2792 patients have been kept in hospital isolation.

Traditional method prevents spread in some TN dists TN Govt cancels Class 10th exams

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHENNAI

That Nattarivu (Malayalam for local system of knowledge) is effective and powerful than many modern science and technology has been proved by the people in Tamil Nadu's Pudukottai and Dharmapuri districts. The Covid-19 virus has failed to make any inroads into these districts thanks to the traditional preventive system being followed by the local population. They have made it mandatory for people in the villages to wash their hands

and feet with water boiled with turmeric and neem before they enter their homes.

The medical bulletins issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu every evening is a documentary evidence substantiating the effectiveness of the age old utility of turmeric and neem.

A recent incident that took place in a Kancheepuram village speaks about the alertness of the local residents towards the spread of coronavirus and how they have stopped the virus from entering the villages despite the absence of any elected

representatives from the local bodies. Indira, working as a casual worker in Chennai returned to her village in Kancheepuram with bags of rice and groceries which she has purchased for her parents and other relations.

Since there was no public transport, she had hired a mini-lorry to transport the materials to the village. She had told her employer that she would be back only by the evening after spending a few hours with her close relations whom she has not met since the lock down was ordered.

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Plus One course in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

Addressing the people of Tamil Nadu through television news channels, the chief minister said that the public examinations for SSLC and the pending examinations for Plus One Course were scheduled to take place between June 15 to June 25. The Government has been making arrangements for conducting these examinations.

"In the present situation, Corona infection is continuously increasing in Chennai and in some districts. Health experts are of the view that the infection may not come down in the near future. Hence, considering the requests of the parents and the infection situation, the government has decided to protect the students from infection and hence taken the decision to cancel the above examinations," said the chief minister.

He also announced that all the students would be promoted without examination. "80 per cent of the marks will be given based on the marks the students scored in quarterly and half year examinations while 20 per cent of marks will be given based on their attendance," said Palaniswamy.

The Madras High Court which was hearing a series of PIL seeking the postponement of the examinations had asked the Tamil Nadu Government on Monday to submit a detailed report by Thursday about the arrangements which have been made by the Government for the safe conduct of the examination.

BMC official succumbs to Covid-19

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which has been waging a most challenging battle against Covid-19 for the past three months, suffered a major jolt on Tuesday, as its Deputy Municipal Commissioner Shirish Dixit succumbed to coronavirus, within hours after he tested positive.

Fifty-five-year old Dixit, who was BMC's Deputy Municipal Commissioner (Special Engineering) and Chief Engineer (Water Supply Project), died at his Mahim residence in south-central Mumbai the early hours of Tuesday. The BMC made a for-

mal announcement about Dixit's death later in the day.

An asymptomatic, Dixit had attended the office on Monday after learning that he had tested positive. "After going home, he had his dinner and slept. He might have died of cardiac arrest in sleep," a senior BMC official said, quoting his family members.

Dixit is survived by his wife and daughter. His tragic death has turned the focus onto the grim battle being waged by the BMC against Covid-19 ever since the pandemic broke out in the early second week of March. Official sources said that as on June 9, as many as 55 BMC employees have died of Coronavirus, while more than



1712 employees have tested positive for the pandemic. Incidentally, Dixit's death occurred on a day when Mumbai recorded 58 more deaths and a staggering 2,336 fresh infections - which took the total deaths in the metropolis to 1638, while the total infected cases rose to 51100.

Considered one of the most skilled and talented engineers in the BMC, Dixit was instrumental in implementing many

major water supply projects in and around Mumbai during his career spanning over 33 years.

Dixit played a key role in setting up of jumbo Covid-19 care facilities at NESCO-Goregaon in north Mumbai and National Sports Club of India (NSCI) at Worli in south-central Mumbai which together have provided nearly 3000 Covid-19 beds in the metropolis.

Among the major water projects he executed were Central Vaitarana project, Bandhup water works and Water purification plant and the project involving laying of 15 km-long underground pipeline from Gondvali to Bhandup water works complex.

BMC orders probe into mysterious death of missing Covid patient

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Tuesday ordered a probe into the mysterious death of a Covid-19 patient, who had gone missing earlier from a hospital and whose body was found a few kilometres away from the hospital.

Having taken cognisance of the incident, Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar visited B R. Ambedkar Shatabdi Hospital in Kandivli in north Mumbai, from where the patient had gone missing. Talking to media persons after visiting the hospital for assessment of the situation, the Mayor ordered an inquiry into the incident.

Describing the incident as "unfortunate", Pednekar said: "To begin with, a Covid-19 patient goes missing from hospital and then his body is found. I have asked the author-

ities to look into the incident. We will also seek police help in the matter".

The incident relates to a 80-year old man, who was admitted to the hospital on Saturday after he tested Covid-19 positive. By then, his family members had already been quarantined.

On Monday, the old man went 'missing' from the Covid-19 ward at on Monday but later in the day his dead body was found near Borivali station. The body was subsequently brought back to the same hospital as an 'unidentified' person. The relatives of the family identified the body as that of the missing old man.

The Mayor's inquiry move came after BJP's state Vice-President Kirit Somaiya alleged that there had been at least half-a-dozen such incidents of bodies missing from hospitals or morgues in the last few days.

Covid recoveries outnumber +ve cases in K'taka on Tuesday

Bengaluru: Karnataka on Tuesday registered more Covid recoveries than positive cases, even as 161 new infections raised the states tally to 5,921, an official said here.

"New cases reported from Monday 5 p.m. to Tuesday 5 p.m. 161," said a health official.

On Tuesday, 164 patients got discharged, similar to Monday when there were more discharges than positive cases.

On Monday, 387 discharges were recorded compared to 308 positive cases.

Of the new cases, 91 were domestic returnees, which is less in proportion compared to other days.

Of the domestic returnees, 84 persons or 92 per cent came from Maharashtra with domestic travel history, a trend consistent for quite a few days now.

Maha: 120 die, 2,259 afflicted

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra continued to be in the vice like grip of coronavirus on Tuesday, as 120 more people died of Covid-19 and 2,259 positive for the pandemic in various parts of the State. With fresh deaths and infections, the total number of deaths mounted to 3,289, while the total infected cases jumped to 90,787.

After taking into account the total number of deaths so far and 42,638 patients discharged from various hospitals ever since the outbreak of pandemic in the State, the state health authorities pegged the number of "active cases" in the state at 44,849.

Of the total deaths, Mumbai accounted for 58, while there were 16 deaths in Pune, 13 deaths in Thane, 10 in Aurangabad, six in Mirambhandar, three each in Panvel and Nashik, two each in Vasai-Virar, Solapur and Akola and one each Navi Mumbai, Ratnagiri, Amaravati and Nagpur. In addition, one person from Madhya Pradesh died in Nagpur.

Out of the 120 dead, 80 were men while 40 were women. Sixty two of them aged were over 60 years, 47 were from the age group 40 to 59 years and 11 were aged below 40 years. "Ninety one out of 120 patients (75.8%) had high-risk co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease," a state health bulletin said.

There have been a total of 1509 deaths in Maharashtra during the previous 14 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, 103 on June 2, 122 on June 3, 123 on June 4, 139 on June 5, 120 on June 6, 91 on June 7, 109 on June 8 and 120 on June 9.

CIABC urges Nitish Kumar to permit liquor trade in Bihar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC), has urged Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to allow liquor trade in the State in a "controlled and responsible manner".

The letter written by Confederations Director General Vinod Giri also urged the CM to allow opening of liquor shops in urban areas (municipal bodies) besides permitting on-line sales/ home deliveries like many other states are doing. It was also requested the State Government to allow sale of liquor products only above a price point to

ensure only those who have means can buy it, Giri said while stating that the government should allow state-based alcohol producers to freely produce and export from the State.

The Bihar Government had on April 5, 2016 banned the manufacture, trade, storage, transportation, sale, consumption of liquor, including Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), and made it a punishable offence for those violating the Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act 2016 which was amended in 2018. The confederation whose members include most major Indian companies which manufacture and market their product range in India and abroad- has written a letter to

the CM urging him to permit liquor trade in the state.

"As a responsible Industry Association, we understand and concur with your objective of saving the poor from unwarranted social and economic effects of alcoholism. "Taking note of Bihar Governments stated goals of saving states poor from ill-effects of alcoholism, and at the same time getting necessary tax revenues so vitally needed to fight coronavirus spread," Giri said.

He came out with a set of recommendations mentioned above for the State Government that mainly incorporated the demand to open liquor trade "in a controlled and responsible manner".

WESTERN RAILWAY						
CORRIGENDUM TO VARIOUS TENDER NOTICES OF ADVERTISING TENDERS						
In continuation of the measures taken in the wake of COVID-19, it has been decided to postpone the date of closing of following E-tenders of Advertising section of Mumbai Division. The Details are as under :-						
Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Name of Work	Date of Closing of E-tenders			Remarks
			Mentioned in E-Tender Notice & Documents	Previous Revised dates of Closing of Tender, if any	New Revised date of Closing of Tender to be read as	
1	CA11_Garibrath Exp_OS_20 dated 25.02.2020	Tender for Onboard Shopping for passengers on train no. 12909/10 Bandra Terminus Hazrat Nizamuddin Garibrath Express in UP/DN Directions for period of 05 years on Mumbai Division of Western Railway.	27.03.2020	16.04.2020, 28.04.2020, 19.05.2020, 09.06.2020	17.06.2020	
2	CA11_LED Screen In train_20 dated 26.02.2020	Tender for In train Infotainment through LED Display in 20 No.s of EMU Rakes over Mumbai Division of Western Railway for a period of five years.	27.03.2020	16.04.2020, 28.04.2020, 19.05.2020, 09.06.2020	17.06.2020	
3	CA11_Health ATM_2019 dated 19.03.2020	Tender for bulk right for Installation, operation and maintenance of Health ATMs kiosks for the period of 05 years.	16.04.2020	28.04.2020, 19.05.2020, 09.06.2020	17.06.2020	
4	CA11_Intercity Exp_OS_20 dated 25.02.2020	Tender for Onboard Shopping for passengers on train no. 12935/12936 Bandra Terminus Surat Intercity Express in UP/DN Directions for period of 05 years on Mumbai Division of Western Railway.	07.04.2020	16.04.2020, 28.04.2020, 19.05.2020, 09.06.2020	17.06.2020	
5	Ca11_VW_Awadh Exp_20 dated 29.02.2020	Tender for External Vinyl Wrapping on Awadh Express in UP/DN direction for a period of 5 years.	22.04.2020	28.04.2020, 19.05.2020, 09.06.2020	17.06.2020	
6	Ca11_SamparkK Exp_20 dated 29.02.2020	Tender for External Vinyl Wrapping on Sampark Kranti Express in UP/DN direction for a period of 5 years.	22.04.2020	28.04.2020, 19.05.2020, 09.06.2020	17.06.2020	
7	Ca11_VW_Paschim Exp_20 dated 29.02.2020	Tender for External Vinyl Wrapping on Paschim Express in UP/DN direction for a period of 5 years.	22.04.2020	28.04.2020, 19.05.2020, 09.06.2020	17.06.2020	
8	Ca11_VW_Gujarat Exp_2020 dated 29.02.2020	Tender for External Vinyl Wrapping on Gujarat Express in UP/DN direction for a period of 5 years.	22.04.2020	28.04.2020, 19.05.2020, 09.06.2020	17.06.2020	
9	Ca11_Dehradun Exp_20 dated 29.02.2020	Tender for External Vinyl Wrapping on Dehradun Express in UP/DN direction for a period of 5 years.	22.04.2020	28.04.2020, 19.05.2020, 09.06.2020	17.06.2020	
10	Ca11_VW_Saurashtra Exp_20 dated 29.02.2020	Tender for External Vinyl Wrapping on Saurashtra Express in UP/DN direction for a period of 5 years.	17.04.2020	29.04.2020, 20.05.2020, 10.06.2020	17.06.2020	
11	CA11_Antodaya Exp_OS_20 dated 25.02.2020	Tender for Onboard Shopping for passengers on train no. 22921/22 Bandra Terminus Gorakhpur Express in UP/DN Directions for period of 05 years on Mumbai Division of Western Railway.	03.04.2020	17.04.2020, 29.04.2020, 20.05.2020, 10.06.2020	17.06.2020	
12	CA11_Ferozpur Jan Exp_20 dated 29.02.2020	Tender for External Vinyl Wrapping on Ferozpur Janta Express in UP/DN direction for a period of 5 years.	17.04.2020	29.04.2020, 20.05.2020, 10.06.2020	17.06.2020	
13	CA11_BDTSPIT Exp_OS_20 dated 25.02.2020	Tender for Onboard Shopping for passengers on train no. 22935/22936 Bandra Terminus Palitana Express in UP/DN Directions for period of 05 years on Mumbai Division of Western Railway.	03.04.2020	17.04.2020, 29.04.2020, 20.05.2020, 10.06.2020	17.06.2020	
14	Ca11_VW_Vapi Pass_20 dated 29.02.2020	Tender for External Vinyl Wrapping on Passenger Trains for a period of 5 years.	17.04.2020	29.04.2020, 20.05.2020, 10.06.2020	17.06.2020	
15	CA11_VW_Ahmed abad Pass_20 dated 29.02.2020	Tender for External Vinyl Wrapping on Passenger Trains for a period of 5 years.	17.04.2020	29.04.2020, 20.05.2020, 10.06.2020	17.06.2020	
16	CA11_BDTSHSR Exp_OS_20 dated 25.02.2020	Tender for Onboard Shopping for passengers on train no. 22915/16 Bandra Terminus Hisar Express in UP/DN Directions for period of 05 years on Mumbai Division of Western Railway.	03.04.2020	17.04.2020, 29.04.2020, 20.05.2020, 10.06.2020	17.06.2020	
17	CA11_Intrain_PAS_2020 dated 05.03.2020	Tender for in-train Commercial Publicity, Social Awareness Message & Instrumental Music through Public 1Announcement System inside 73 nos. of EMU rakes for a period of 5 years.	17.04.2020	29.04.2020, 20.05.2020, 10.06.2020	17.06.2020	
18	CA11_Saurashtra Exp_OS_20 dated 25.02.2020	Tender for Onboard Shopping for passengers on train no. 19015/16 Mumbai Central Porbander Saurashtra Express in UP/DN Directions for period of 05 years on Mumbai Division of Western Railway.	03.04.2020	17.04.2020, 29.04.2020, 20.05.2020, 10.06.2020	17.06.2020	

Further due to Covid-19 & lockdown bidders are facing difficulty in submission of Affidavits required to be submitted on www.ireps.gov.in in above tenders as per the requirement of tender terms & conditions. Hence as per the RB letter No. 2018/CE-I/CT/37/FCC/Policy dated 12.05.2020, now tenderer can submit a copy of certificate instead of Affidavits required as per tender para. 4 (g) Affidavits (Mandatory). Standard format of Certificates to be submitted by the bidder are available on www.ireps.gov.in. Non-submission of above certificates by the bidder shall result in summary rejection of his/her/their bid. It shall be mandatorily incumbent upon the tenderer to identify, state and submit the supporting documents duly self-attested by which they/he/she is qualifying the Qualifying Criteria mentioned in the Tender Document.

All other terms and conditions of the respective tenders will remain the same. For more details please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in

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NCR needs a code

Neighbouring States should choke the virus cohesively. Why not activate panels like the NCR Planning Board?



When Delhi began expanding in all directions and there wasn't enough space for its residents to afford, they moved to the periphery while working in the big city. Gradually, this birthed satellite towns with their own eco-systems of suburban living and attendant infrastructure. In fact, Gurugram, Noida, Faridabad and Ghaziabad have emerged as better planned cities of the future and are now home to the national headquarters of top corporates. But the fluidic contiguity of people, who chased ambition in one and a comfortable living in the other, has meant that they got blended in a concept called the National Capital Region or

(NCR). In other words, lives were apportioned among these extended territories around the power capital. And so thick is the shared co-existence and mutual acknowledgment that it is difficult to isolate the strands of what each is made up of. A residency certificate is just not enough to define the original Dilliwallah. In that sense, the Kejriwal Government's decision to restrict access to private and its own public hospitals to citizens of Delhi, following the steep rise in COVID-19 cases in the city, did seem exclusionary and isolationist. Granted that the pandemic is poised to see its worst days over the next month, with five lakh cases predicted in Delhi alone, but the open borders and all kinds of to and fro activities mean that the swell won't spare the rest of NCR either. And if the spiral stress-hospitals in Delhi, then it will also impact hospitals in NCR, some of which are franchise extensions of big facilities in Delhi and, in fact, are into cross-referencing their patients. Yes, the Delhi Government had spared only oncology, transplants, neurosurgery and medico-legal cases from its facilities and transferred the rest of the outsider cases to Central facilities like AIIMS but that would also overload those spaces and disproportionately complicate the disease burden. So beyond the politics, Lt Governor Anil Bajjal's overriding order, allowing everybody to access hospitals without discrimination prioritises the right of every Indian to seek health services anywhere in the country. It is this right which has been exercised for years now, with most residents of NCR having treatment history in Delhi, some of them so old and trusted that suddenly changing that paradigm overnight would lead to further anxiety for a COVID-19 patient, who may rely on opinion at the hospital he is used to than elsewhere. Besides, there are fears of an influx although the reality is that hospitals in Noida and Gurugram are also reaching saturation point, which means NCR residents have shown up for COVID treatment there and only those requiring specialist intervention may have moved to Delhi. Besides, most VIPs from Delhi access the super-specialty facility of Medanta in Gurugram given its proven expertise. Does that mean ordinary citizens are exempted from this privilege which is theirs by right? Governance has to be about the wisdom of the executive, particularly during a crisis such as this, to address all citizens as one. Creating walls within the NCR won't wall off the pandemic.

The fact of the matter is that Delhi alone is not facing a grim situation. The public health crisis has swamped NCR and, therefore, there should be a cohesive strategy to combat it, sharing resources, expertise and experience. Frightening reports of hospitals not testing suspected cases because they can't process them in the given turnaround time, big facilities turning away even critical patients and people dying at homes without treatment indicate that Governments have lost control. Yet that need not be so. There is an NCR Planning Board, an inter-state institution created expressly for regional planning. Why can't this be empowered to share and monitor containment strategies now? For example, the medical protocol itself is different in Delhi and satellite towns. Home isolation is allowed for positive cases in Delhi but not uniformly in NCR. Even within Delhi, while the Government has facilitated asymptomatic and mild patients to stay at home, the administration is still following a three-month old protocol of moving such cases to a COVID care centre. Testing protocols are intensive in patches and dots, not uniform. It is precisely to avoid such confusion that the Chief Ministers of the three States should work on a unified protocol. The pandemic has shown how even a local level lapse can transmit the virus in an unimaginable chain reaction. If State Governments can work on cooperative federalism, with specialist doctors being paratrooped to worst-hit hotspots, Kerala and Rajasthan sharing their models and findings, there won't be any justification for Delhi standing apart. Particularly, for the Kejriwal Government, which has made an example of the need for a broad-based access to public healthcare through its mohalla clinics. As we run out of beds and ventilators and with cases multiplying furiously, it is time to scale up makeshift arrangements by taking over stadia, institution premises and available public spaces in the region. Delhi is still far short of the 30,000 beds it needs while the projected requirement till July 31 is 80,000 beds. UP has one lakh beds for patients statewide though Noida and Ghaziabad are already bulging. The virus will need many gatekeepers to choke it.

Reopening schools

Any talk about resuming classes must begin with restoring a sense of security among parents and ensuring that a protocol applies to all



As we learn to live with the virus long-term, the reopening of schools in some nations like Japan, Denmark and China has given a ray of hope to the Indian Government to resume educational activities here, too. For after the economy, if there is any sector that has been badly affected, it is education. Exams have been delayed given the predicted viral storm of June and July, and students are now deprived of the very purpose for which they attended schools, to interact with peer groups, engage with the world and awaken to the practicality of life around them. Online classes have a limited reach and India's vast hinterland is still on the

other side of the digital divide. So till classes resume within an altered reality, students are looking at a wasted or truncated academic year. Responding to the anxiety of both students and teachers, the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry is looking at a tentative date of August 15 to resume school and college though it is subject to ground realities. A staggered opening of classes, senior students first, non-compulsory attendance, calling students on alternative days and a flexible plan to avoid any exigencies are being mulled at the moment. But pandemic-proofing schools is a tall order since it involves inculcating behavioural changes among students whose natural inclination is to hug and bond. How to, for example, ensure social distancing at primary levels? Haryana has come up with the idea of setting up "demo schools" first and then open the rest in a phased manner. In fact, schools need a uniform SOP, like the one issued for resumption of malls and other public spaces, that has to be even more thorough about disinfection protocols.

Parental anxiety is strikingly evident from the fact that over four lakh of them have petitioned the Government, demanding that schools must not reopen unless the COVID-19 situation improves or a vaccine is ready. And if schools fail to inspire confidence, then some parents are even willing to drop a year for their kids. So the Ministry has to first codify norms, right from the school bus and entry gate to classrooms, washrooms and cafeteria. A strategised seating plan needs to be chalked out, even in open spaces like parks. The premises must be disinfected more frequently and need to be kept sterile for a vulnerable age group. While private schools may be better prepared with Corona proofing protocols — they may as well raise school fees to compensate extra costs — the Government needs to rescue public schools and upgrade their infrastructure. Parents need to be re-oriented. Any talk about reopening schools must begin with restoring a sense of security among parents and ensuring that a protocol applies to all schools uniformly and doesn't build inequities between elite institutions and Government schools.

opinion

Why racism won't go away

As long as the US celebrates 'the lost cause' of the Southern States during the Civil War, 150 years ago, it will still be a racist country



KUSHAN MITRA

The violent protests that have engulfed the US in the aftermath of the brutal murder of a Black man, George Floyd, by a White Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, were marked by some extraordinary visuals. Of course, some malevolent forces trickled into the protests, driving both the looters and criminals. It is extremely likely that the sight of looting and the viral videos on social media of high-end stores being vandalised and looted will be beneficial for US President Donald Trump in the presidential election scheduled later this year. However, Trump's penchant for making wildly inappropriate comments, coupled with Democratic contender Joe Biden maintaining a relatively studious silence, may still change the outcome.

But sitting in India, without much knowledge about contemporary American history, it is difficult to know about institutionalised racism and how poor race relations remain over there. The fact is that most Indians, indeed most global tourists and business persons who travel to the US, usually visit cosmopolitan cities, the likes of New York, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago. For a casual observer, seeing the tremendous success of some African-Americans — from former US President Barack Obama to the many, many such people who dominate professional sports such as basketball star LeBron James and the many actors like Morgan Freeman with an omnipotent voice, Beyoncé's dulcet tones and the scientific genius of Neil deGrasse Tyson — one would wonder why Black men and women do not receive acceptance across the nation. Popular culture would make an outsider believe so.

One could rightly wonder why it is that at a time when America is sending astronauts into space in nearly a decade, other parts of the nation are burning? Comparisons between happenings in the late 1960s, when the American Apollo mission was in full swing and when racial riots broke during the civil rights movement, with that of the "crew dragon" mission and race riots happening today are telling. The only thing missing today is high-profile political assassinations; Black civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr and Democratic presidential contender Robert F Kennedy were shot dead during that time frame. We



should be grateful that things have not become so bad this time around.

Now, I must clarify, I have spent a lot of time in the US (indeed the last country visited by me before the virus shut down everything) as a traveller, visiting various parts of that great and vast nation, both along the coasts and even the interiors, including the "Deep South." I haven't studied there. However, I have a strange and fascinating interest in "American" football. Being a bit of a war nerd, I spent a lot of time reading about some of the battles of the US Civil War that took place between the Northern "Union" States and the Southern "Confederate" States. This was a fascinating war, the first mechanised one of sorts that gave portends to the tactics used in the killing fields of World War-I. However, this is my perspective. It might seem infantile to some but this is what I believe sitting half a world away.

In India, what we learn about the US Civil War — with a few sentences being accorded to it in our school textbooks — is that it was fought between the progressive "North", which was against slavery, and the pro-slavery "Southern" States. The "North" found a great political leader in Abraham Lincoln, who signed the emancipation declaration, thus freeing all the slaves. After much bloodshed, the "North" finally won and all was well with the world. This is the end. Go through the history textbooks, I'm sure this is a better explanation than many others.

Wars, in general, are too

complex, not just because of the fighting but on account of the causes, too. Occasionally, there can be an overall societal acceptance that one side had a completely horrible cause; World War-II and Nazi Germany being examples. Now, modern Germany has eviscerated Nazi symbols. One can be charged for celebrating Nazi leaders or selling Nazi memorabilia in Germany today. In general, the German political leadership has accepted that their predecessors between 1930 and 1945 did something terrible even before the Jewish Holocaust. It is not as if the Germans have forgotten about the war. Indeed, some of their Generals, such as Erwin Rommel, famously known as the "Desert Fox", are fondly remembered, partially because of their opposition to Adolf Hitler.

It would, therefore, seem logical to believe that the side that precipitated, fought and lost a war over the cause of keeping human beings enslaved should have suffered the same fate as Nazi Germany. Of course, one can make arguments like "degrees of evil" and all that but as an outside observer, it is extremely puzzling that instead of that, the US celebrates the rebels. It celebrates the Confederate Flag in popular culture. Television shows and subsequent movies like *The Dukes of Hazzard* had a Dodge Charger, the "General Lee", with the Confederate Flag painted on its roof. Even a cursory car fan would have heard of this car.

Talking about "General Lee", Robert Edward Lee, the man who led the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, is remem-

bered in America as a hero even though he defended a lost cause. Lee was a great tactician but he did lead his army to a devastating loss at Gettysburg. The man who beat him, General Ulysses S Grant, one who became the US President soon after and one who is as brilliant a tactician and leader as Lee, is not remembered fondly. Thankfully this is changing today.

A lot of this has happened due to a number of reasons. Many Americans, particularly from the former Confederate States, remember the war as one about "States' Rights" in a federal structure. And not as a war that had as its underlying cause the defence of basic human dignity, the fact that no man should be owned by anyone else. Something that one hopes that no matter what your current political affiliation today, you can agree with.

Although when one delves into it at a deeper level, he/she would realise the complexities and contradictions that happened on both sides many years ago. In today's increasing simplistic age where nuanced arguments have withered away, it is easier to remember this as a war where the "rights" of States were trampled upon rather than remembering it as a war of conscience because it makes some Americans feel nicer about their forefathers.

There is no doubt that the US has made some great strides but one can easily question whether a person of colour could become the top elected official in any other Western nation. Yes, to this day, there are doubts whether Obama could have won if he did

not have a White mother and was raised by his White mid-western maternal grandparents but he was a two-term President. Even then, the killings of Black Americans by White police officers or even White civilians, who saw the Blacks as a threat, continued with little or no judicial prosecution. Take the case of Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old Black school student, who was shot dead by a White man, George Zimmerman, in "self defence", an argument that was even accepted by the court.

The sad fact is that there are countless other such incidents — the famous Rodney King case in Los Angeles where nothing happened to the police officers who brutally beat the eponymous Black man.

Sure, the police in America is a highly militarised and trigger-happy force. It does have the right to defend itself in violent situations. That said, there are a disproportionate number of Black men, who are killed by the police in America. It is also a fact that within the police forces, there's an inadequate representation of Black people. Institutionalised and accepted racism in the police forces, for the reasons outlined above, too, exists.

However, do not think that the irony of someone from India talking about police "brutality" is lost on this writer. This is a country where State-sanctioned "encounter killing" is celebrated by many with evidence that such "encounters" have been biased against minority communities for decades. This is a country where extra-judicial murder of rape-murder suspects in Hyderabad just a few months ago was celebrated by all and sundry on social media. This is also a country, where much like the US, the poor and those from the minority community are often jailed for years by a slow, inefficient and corrupt criminal justice system. The need for police and criminal justice reforms have been felt for years. One should not use the shield of what is happening in the US to pretend that India is any better.

As long as the US continues to celebrate the Civil War as one where States fought for their "rights" rather than uphold an abhorrent system, things will really not change. Having spent time in both Georgia and South Carolina, it is painfully clear to an outside observer, a man of colour like myself, that things are unlikely to change anytime soon. No matter how much people protest, casual discrimination is ingrained in the minds of many, just like it is back home.

(The writer is Managing Editor, *The Pioneer*)

SOUNDBITE

Kohli's success as a captain and as a cricketer has often been credited to his eagerness to improve, learn and his never-say-die attitude on a cricket field.

Indian cricketer
—Shreyas Iyer



I have been keeping myself busy with live events, promotions. Of course, you have a child to raise and it takes an entire village to raise one and I am a single parent.

Actor
—Mahima Chaudhry



Today's youth must be open, impatient and hopeful. If they can do that, history will remember the Class of 2020 not for what they lost but for what they changed.

Google CEO
—Sundar Pichai



We understand that Modi is no Pt Nehru but the seriousness of the issue demands discussion in Parliament about the infiltration of Chinese troops into Indian territory.

Congress leader
—Digvijay Singh



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Award for Akhtar

Sir — It is a proud moment for the country that noted lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar has become the first Indian to receive the Richard Dawkins Award for advancing human progress, critical thinking and humanist value. After hearing the news of the prestigious award, Akhtar said that he never looked for validation because he did not doubt his views but it is certainly special that a huge institution noticed his writings.

Akhtar's wife and noted actor, social activist and former parliamentarian Shabana Azmi said the win matters especially in the current times where "secularism is being attacked by religious fundamentalists." Akhtar is known for voicing his opinion on a range of socio-political issues, including CAA, public policy, secularism and communism in society. Already a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan, the present achievement is another feather in Akhtar's well-decorated cap.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee
Faridabad

Adapting to the new normal

It is a cause for concern that India is seeing a huge spike in new Coronavirus infections. The cases add up to 2.7 lakh and higher. Experts say that available data is spotty and sparse. Community transmission is feared in some hotspots. If the WHO's caution that SARS-CoV-2 may "become endemic and not go away" is anything to go by, things may get worse. Low mortality and high recovery rate are poor consolations in the face of an inexorable spike in fresh cases. The raging pandemic has put us in a terrible predicament: Loosening of lockdown restrictions could not have been postponed indefinitely and it is coincident with a surge in cases. In its wisdom, the Government has allowed places of worship, malls and restaurants to open up.

Thermal screening, hand washing, mask-wearing and physical distancing are the go-to safety protocols to reduce the risk of transmission. Yet, the rush is unlikely. As elsewhere, dining in an eatery will necessitate the removal of the face mask but space between seats may eliminate the risk. At religious places, devotees will have to be content with seeing



the idol and go without offering anything to it. It can be presumed that the devotees, with their faith still intact, would pray to save the world and themselves from the pandemic. Be it shopping, eating or worshipping, it will be a solitary exercise, something most people are unused to. The process of adaptation to the "new normal" will be tough. But then we have no other option but to reconcile ourselves to the prospect of learning to live with the virus till scientists succeed in making vaccines and drugs.

G David Milton
Maruthancode

Total failure

Sir — That the Supreme Court had to intervene to direct the Government to safely transport the migrants to their States confirms the fact that the latter failed in handling the situation.

Numerous stories about the travails of workers and the Government's claim that no one died for want of food and water are half-truths. This is a national crisis that should be top priority.

Priyank Desai
Via email

Note of caution

Sir — The opening up of malls, hotels and places of worship even as the country has seen a tremendous spike in the number of cases is an indication that we are coming to terms with liv-

ing with the virus. Standing at the crossroads, we have to decide between lives and livelihoods. Both can be ensured, provided social distancing and personal hygiene protocols are faithfully complied with.

Satparna Bhattacharya
Via email

Much-needed relief

Sir — The Supreme Court's order asking the Centre and States to transport the migrant workers to their homes in 15 days has come as a big relief for labourers. But beyond this, there's much in store for them. Millions of workers have already gone back to their villages, acute labour shortages are being felt across industries. Finding workers will be a tough task in the near future. Operational costs of businesses will likely see a spike. Firms may have to shell out higher wages to make them stick around. This should help raise their welfare levels.

Prathna
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

Shed age-old biases

Despite the wealth of traditional knowledge at our disposal, ayurveda physicians are kept away from all crucial medical institutions like the ICMR



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Despite the fact that the Coronavirus vaccine remains elusive to the researchers of modern medicine, bureaucrats in the Ministries of Health and Ayush continue to ignore the work done by some of the best medical researchers in India in the field of ayurveda. All the nation's efforts to keep the pandemic from spreading into the community by imposing a countrywide lockdown from March 25, which is still in the process of being eased in a graded manner, have come to naught. Till now 7,478 deaths have been reported from across the country and India is now the fifth worst-affected nation in the world with 2,67,249 confirmed COVID-19 patients.

While the world of modern medicine is groping in the dark, India's own Ayurveda (rated as the biggest-ever contribution of the subcontinent to the world) continues to get stepmotherly-treatment from the powers that be, whether it is at the Centre or in the States.

"The spices from the West coast of India, which include pepper, ginger, garlic and chillies, are the answer to this pandemic. Don't you remember the *chukku kaappi* (coffee mixed with dried ginger) and tomato *rasam* prepared by your grandmother whenever you got cold or fever? That's the medicine made out of the Indian system of knowledge," said BM Hegde, one of the country's leading cardiologists.

Sadly, despite this immense wealth of traditional knowledge at our disposal, ayurveda physicians are kept away from all crucial medical bodies and public health organisations while scientists and modern medical doctors have monopolised establishments like the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

In fact, a team of physicians from Tamil Nadu, led by ayurveda acharya PR Krishnakumar, had submitted the medicine and treatment protocol to the Ministry of Ayush and the ICMR. Though the drug was submitted on April 15 for clinical trials, it is yet to catch the attention of the authorities.

Requests to Yesso Shripad Naik, Minister for State (Independent charge) for Ayush and Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, did not evoke any response. A series of messages were sent to Kotecha, an ayurvedic practitioner from Gujarat, who has reached the zenith of his profession, but there was no response. While the number of COVID-19 cases in the country is increasing on an hourly basis, the babus of the Ayush Ministry are busy elsewhere. This reminds one of the saying, "Nero was fiddling while Rome was burning."

In fact, it seems like there is a conspiracy across the globe to undermine Ayurveda. Even the Wikipedia describes it as a pseudo-scientific system of medicine. "There is a global conspiracy to destroy the Ayurvedic system and I am sorry to say that giant pharmaceutical companies have a role in it," says CV Krishnaswamy, an eminent physician in modern medicine, who has an unfailing trust in ayurveda. Krishnaswamy is associated with the research project led by Krishnakumar, who has dedicated his life to the study of this science.

This is not the first instance of its kind. An attempt by Tamil Nadu's leading ayurvedic physician PLT Girija to help the Government fight COVID-19, too, was rejected by the State Government. "It, too, was an ayurvedic drug and we submitted the protocol for clinical trials. The State Government said they might consider entrusting asymptomatic cases to us. But what is the use in treating asymptomatic persons while those afflicted with the disease are falling by the wayside," says Girija.

However, according to Girija, the term clinical trials is alien to the ayurvedic system of medicine. "Clinical trials are to test the possibility of adverse reaction of a medicine. If the medicine given to a patient causes adverse drug reaction, it is not *chikitsa* (treatment)," says Girija whose clinic has no dearth of COVID-19 patients whom she cures with regularity. Krishnakumar and Krishnaswamy are no ordinary doctors but national *acharyas* whose contributions in the field of ayurveda should be given top priority as the prevailing situation requires action on a war footing. This is not to the time to hold on to age-old biases against traditional systems of ancient medicine. That is what Prime Minister Narendra Modi, too, is telling the nation through his *Mann Ki Baat* radio programme.

It is time for the world of medicine to accept in toto the words spoken by Greek physician Hippocrates: "Cure rarely, comfort mostly but console always." It wasn't without any reason that Marthanda Varma Sankaran Valiathan, with four Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians (FRCS & FRCP) degrees took up ayurveda in a big way and wrote the English translation of *Charaka Samhita* a Sanskrit text on ayurveda. He knew *Charaka* and ayurveda have the solutions to all physiological issues haunting the world.

The drug submitted by Krishnakumar and his team should be taken up for clinical trial at the earliest. The people of the country have the right to choose any system of medicine that they want to use to fight the pandemic.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

IN THE NAME OF *SHRAMIK* TRAINS, THE RAILWAYS IS RUNNING 'CORONA EXPRESS' TRAINS AND SENDING MIGRANTS IN JAM-PACKED COMPARTMENTS.

—WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER
MAMATA BANERJEE



THE NAME 'CORONA EXPRESS' WILL BECOME YOUR EXIT ROUTE. YOU'VE ADDED SALT TO THE WOUNDS OF THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEY WILL NOT FORGET.

—UNION HOME MINISTER
AMIT SHAH

Picking up the pieces

It has been weeks since cyclone Amphan ravaged the Sunderbans and yet the trail of destruction it left behind is stark. It may take years to restore soil fertility and the eco-system



AMIT SENGUPTA

While the rest of India and its neighbour Bangladesh might enjoy a full moon, the night of the *poornima* (full moon) with a luminescent lunar sky full of romantic fantasies in the Sunderbans, on both sides of the border, spells doom, death and destruction these days. After the fierce cyclone Amphan hit West Bengal, Odisha and Bangladesh on May 20, the huge delta region and the largest mangrove area in the world was hit the hardest, putting more than four million human lives on the edge yet again.

The West Bengal Government alone estimated that the damages caused by the cyclone were to the tune of ₹1 lakh crore. And in Bangladesh, there were reports of tens of thousands of homes damaged or destroyed and many villages submerged by storm surges in low-lying coastal areas like Khulna and Satkhira.

Most of the people in the Sunderbans live on the abysmal margins of the economy in congested ghettos across this beautiful landscape surrounded by water and dense green forests, with the man-eating Royal Bengal Tiger and crocodiles a constant threat, even in the so-called buffer zones. Every time a destructive cyclone or storm begins to form in the turbulent waters of the Bay of Bengal, due to the increasing high surface temperature of the sea, it triggers fierce cyclones, often catastrophic, like the cyclone Aila, which hit Bengal and the Sunderbans earlier. Despite the ravages being witnessed in the destruction of water bodies, forests and the expanse of the mangrove green belt due to man-made construction and appropriation of forest land, it is the Sunderbans which bears the brunt of these fast-moving, high-speed cyclones, mostly protecting the mainland and the plains in the rest of Bengal and Bangladesh by assimilating the wind and stopping its speed.

Repeated appeals by environmentalists and experts to stop big thermal power projects and other forms of construction activity have fallen on deaf ears. Protests in Bangladesh against a recent coal-based thermal power project with Indian assistance in the Sunderbans, and that too almost in the core area, have not yielded any results as yet. Protests have been literally banned in Bangladesh and activists in Khulna told this reporter two years ago that even peaceful demonstrations or pamphlet-distribution are not allowed by the Bangladesh Government.

This is despite the fact that top professors and eminent citizens in Khulna and Dhaka University have repeatedly given evidence to the Government that the entire green zone of this ecological hotspot and a world heritage location is being seriously threatened, so much so that even the Royal Bengal Tiger will be forced into displacement. Even journalists are not allowed to enter the area and report, close to Khulna.

Indeed, the tide is a regular feature in this undulating expanse of backwaters, rivers and water bodies across the cluster of many islands, some doomed to disappear and some which reappear as new, tentative spaces of human civilisation. This is almost like the areas close to the Brahmaputra river in Assam after the annual floods, which destroys and submerges vast tracts of land and forests, numerous villages and human habitations.

Now, locals say, when the tide arrives on a full moon night, those who are living in tarpaulins under makeshift shelters surrounded by water, will yet again be doomed as the waters

ALMOST EVERYWHERE, PANCHAYAT PRADHANS AND POLITICIANS ARE MISSING IN ACTION — PEOPLE IN SEVERAL ISLANDS SAID THEY HAVE NOT SEEN THEM EVEN ONCE SINCE THE LOCKDOWN BEGAN. IN SOME VILLAGES, PANCHAYAT MEMBERS HAVE BEGUN COLLECTING IDENTITY DOCUMENTS FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST HOMES AND FARMS, SO THAT THEY CAN BE PAID THE COMPENSATION ANNOUNCED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT. BUT ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO SURFACE AT THE SAME TIME



will rise, submerging their fragile homes.

Volunteers and journalists, however, say that the West Bengal Government and the local administration, after initial lethargy, have moved in with great speed to undertake relief operations in the aftermath of the cyclone Amphan and the destruction it left behind as thousands of trees were uprooted in the gales and electricity and telephone lines brought down and houses flattened. Many of Kolkata's roads are flooded and its 14 million people were left without power for days after the cyclone.

But after the initial hiccups, the entire Public Distribution System (PDS) has been effectively activated and rice, pulses and other essential commodities are being given in the ration shops. Several independent doctors and health workers have moved in from Kolkata to help the locals, as they did after Cyclone Aila hit the Sunderbans.

Besides, the Government, students, young professionals, voluntary groups and others have collected food, medicines, torches and so on and are reaching out to areas where relief has not reached. Anustup Roy, a young freelance photographer in Kolkata, for instance, organised all his friends and well-wishers and moved into many areas like Mohanpur and Sandeshkhali with relief material.

The Jadavpur Commune of the Jadavpur University in Kolkata, which has been relentlessly working in the most remote parts of Kolkata providing dry rations, cooked food, sanitisers and medicines to cops, slum dwellers, homeless people, vendors and others since the lockdown, moved in from day one and travelled to Sunderbans to provide relief.

The Bengal Relief Committee, in

the first instance, almost immediately called for relief materials, such as tarpaulins, clothes, sanitary napkins, dry food, bottles of Zeoline, camphor, torches with batteries and so on.

They clearly stated that they wanted 10x12 feet tarpaulin sheets as a basic requirement. Several national and international NGOs have joined this effort by the Bengal Relief Collective, which also comprises students and teachers, including from JNU and other campuses. They used local fishermen, boatmen and others to move into north and eastern Sunderbans. They used launch boats while initially stocking the relief material at Hasnabad and Kwakdip.

It has been weeks since cyclone Amphan ravaged the Sunderbans, and yet the trail of destruction it left behind is stark. Many islands, where people subsist on fishing, farming and catching crabs, are still submerged under saline water, which rises and recedes with every tide, finding its way inland through broken embankments. Where flood waters have evaporated, tall trees with decaying leaves and ravaged farms and fields stand testimony to the excessive salt which has left large swathes of land barren, unfit for agriculture for at least the next few years.

Almost all mud houses are broken — some have only a section of a wall, some just the pillars, and some, nothing at all except for a few broken, battered pieces of wood from frames. People in Sagar and Patharpratima islands said the fury of the storm was so massive, asbestos sheets and tiles of roofs were flying like birds.

Almost all of the Sunderbans is still under complete darkness. Electric poles and wires lie strewn around arterial roads, making movement of traffic difficult. Repair work began this week but electricity workers on ground

said many of their colleagues have travelled back home during the lockdown, resulting in labour shortage, which would certainly delay restoration of power.

Almost everywhere, panchayat pradhans and politicians are missing in action — people in several islands said they have not seen them even once since the lockdown began. In some villages, panchayat members have begun collecting identity documents from people who have lost homes and farms, so that they can be paid the compensation announced by the State Government. But allegations of corruption have also begun to surface at the same time.

In some cases, ruling party cadres are accused of allegedly threatening Opposition party supporters who try to access relief or speak about corruption in relief disbursal. The BJP has done little on the ground except spread discontent against the State Government.

Several civil society groups like Bangla Sanskriti Mancha and Amphan Relief Network, NGOs like Mukti, Prameya and Praajak and individuals with near and dear ones in the Sunderbans have been working tirelessly through these last two weeks, distributing dry ration, tarpaulins, water, medicines and cooked food through community kitchens in numerous islands. "The big relief is that the Government is moving in with the public distribution system, distributing rice and basic food to the marooned locals. One hopes that this relief moves at a war-footing in the days to come," said a journalist reporting from 24 Parganas.

(Sengupta is a senior journalist. The article is co-authored by Aritra Bhattacharya reporting from the Sunderbans)

Time to end the 'aya Ram, gaya Ram' culture

There are many reports on electoral reforms that are lying with the Govt and these must be implemented. But for this, a strong political will is needed



KALYANI SHANKAR

Electors for 24 Rajya Sabha seats, spread across 10 States, will be held on June 19. These biennial polls are crucial for both the BJP and the Opposition. Rajya Sabha members are indirectly elected by MLAs of State Assemblies and the political parties win seats according to their strength in the Assembly.

The BJP is moving towards a workable majority in the Rajya Sabha where the Congress-led Opposition had an upper hand till now, owing to its numerical strength.

Because of this, it was able to block a number of Bills and controversial laws that the Government wanted to pass.

Dominating both the Houses is essential for the Narendra Modi Government to complete its core agenda. While the Prime Minister has strengthened himself by winning a larger number of seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls than it did in the 2014 elections, the majority is still eluding the BJP in the House of Elders.

Emboldened by his Government's success in the second term, the Prime Minister would have pushed through his party's agenda like the Uniform Civil Code, population regulation measures and so on had not the deadly Coronavirus hit the country and the world.

The NDA needs 122 for a majority in a 245-member House and currently the ruling party is function-

ing with the support of regional parties from the South and Eastern India. Fearing the Government's investigating agencies, vulnerable leaders facing cases like Mulayam Singh, Mayawati and so on, have also reluctantly supported controversial Bills like the Triple Talaq, repeal of Article 370 and so on in the past. The BJP's game of "divide the Opposition" has worked well for the Government. Most crucial Bills were passed in the last one year due to lack of Opposition unity. So, why are these biennial elections important? It is the Upper House that enables the Government to get smooth transaction of business done if it has the majority. Every new seat counts. The BJP is very close to the goal of obtaining majority but the pace is quite slow. In the forthcoming polls, both the Congress and the BJP may win some seats and lose others. Smaller parties like the

Samajwadi Party (SP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Left outfits are slowly fading away in the Rajya Sabha.

Other regional parties like the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), YSRCP (Yuvajana Sramika Yithu Congress Party), the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and others have gained more ground.

Currently, the BJP is the single-largest party in the Rajya Sabha with 75 seats, followed by 39 of the Congress, 13 of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), nine each of the All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) and Biju Janata Dal (BJD), eight of the SP, seven each of the TRS and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), five each of the Janata Dal-United (JD-U) the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), four each of the BSP and Nationalist

Congress Party (NCP), three each of the Shiv Sena, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and so on. With allies, the AIADMK, the JD (U), SAD, Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), the Bodoland People's Front (BDF), Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) and the Republican Party of India (A), the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is at 104, including three nominated MPs and four Independents, which support it.

The BJP has also made some artificial gains by luring Congress leaders like Sanjay Singh and Neeraj Shekhar, thereby reducing the strength of the Congress in the Upper House. The real challenge for the Opposition is the lack of floor coordination to take on the Treasury Benches.

What is worrying is the trend of using defection for winning the Rajya Sabha seats. Look at what is happening in Gujarat. Close to the

polls last week, three Congress MLAs resigned even as the Congress accused the BJP of poaching on its legislators.

The Congress has taken them to resorts and kept them in a camp. After the resignation of the three MLAs, the Congress Party's strength in the 182-member Assembly is now only 65. The resignations will hurt the Congress' prospects of winning the second seat. Unfortunately, this defection game has become the norm in the last few years with legislators. This is not the spirit of the Constitution or the anti-defection laws passed by the Parliament. In fact, the law came about in order to put an end to the "aya Ram, gaya Ram" (here today, gone tomorrow) culture and to preserve the party system. But in practice it is misused.

The MPs themselves make laws and then defy them as per their convenience, as we have seen many

times. People elect MPs to represent them in Parliament but after getting chosen they try to change parties for personal gains. This defection game is played out often and this time, too, there will be no exceptions.

The electorate needs to check this kind of political culture. Legislators, who act in unscrupulous ways, should be voted out in subsequent elections. The anti-defection law needs to be looked into again by the lawmakers and reformed. There should be a provision to recall the elected representatives.

In short, there is need for electoral reforms on many things including transparency in funding and so on. There are many reports on electoral reforms that are lying with the Government and these must be implemented. But for this, a strong political will is needed.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Around the Globe

● AstraZeneca has secured support from the US Government to advance the development of antibody-based Covid-19 treatments as the British drugmaker ramps up efforts beyond its potential vaccine to combat the global health crisis. The company said on Tuesday it had signed a second set of deals with authorities in the United States backing its development of a monoclonal antibody treatment against the coronavirus.

● The British Government on Tuesday backed away from plans to have all primary school children return to school in England before the summer holidays, following concerns by principals that they could not meet coronavirus social distancing requirements if everyone returned.

● Moscow emerged from a strict lockdown on Tuesday with the city Government citing a slowdown in the coronavirus outbreak and critics expressing concerns over the potential for a new wave of infections in the Russian capital. As of Tuesday, Moscow residents are no longer required to stay at home or obtain electronic passes for traveling around the city, Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said on Monday. All restrictions on taking walks, using public transportation or driving have been lifted as well.

● The coronavirus might have been spreading in China as early as August last year, according to Harvard Medical School research based on satellite images of hospital travel patterns and search engine data, but China dismissed the report as "ridiculous".

● US employers laid-off 7.7 million workers in April — a deep economic hole that was created by the closure of thousands of offices, restaurants, stores and schools during the pandemic. The Labor Department also said in a Tuesday report that job openings plummeted and hiring all but disappeared in April. The number of available jobs fell 16% from March, to 5 million. Hires declined 31% to 3.5 million.

● China reported 24 new coronavirus cases, including 21 asymptomatic infections, while Beijing city discharged its last locally transmitted Covid-19 patient after treatment, health officials said. Three imported cases were reported on Monday, including two in Guangdong province and one in Sichuan province, the National Health Commission said in its daily report.

WHO CHIEF WARNS VIRUS IS WORSENING GLOBALLY

AP ■ GENEVA

The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) warned that the coronavirus pandemic is worsening globally, even as the situation in Europe is improving.

At a Press briefing on Monday, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted that about 75 per cent of cases reported to the UN Health agency

on Sunday came from 10 countries in the Americas and South Asia. He noted that more than 1,00,000 cases have been reported on nine of the past 10 days — and that the 136,000 cases reported Sunday was the biggest number so far.

Tedros said most countries in Africa are still seeing an increase in cases, including in new geographic areas even though most countries on

the continent have fewer than 1,000 cases. "At the same time, we're encouraged that several countries around the

world are seeing positive signs," Tedros said. "In these countries, the biggest threat now is complacency."

US RESEARCHERS IDENTIFY TARGETS FOR COVID-19 VACCINE

Researchers in the US have identified regions of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) to target with a vaccine, by harnessing tools used for the development of cancer immunotherapies. Using this strategy, the researchers believe a resulting vaccine would provide protection across the human population and drive a long-term immune response, the study, published in the journal Cell Reports Medicine, said.

Covid-19 TRACKER

TOTAL CASES: 7,261,476
DEATHS: 4,10,972
RECOVERED: 3,575,242

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
USA	2,033,865	113,470
Brazil	7,19,449	37,840
Russia	4,85,253	6,142
UK	2,89,140	40,883
Spain	2,88,797	27,136
Italy	2,35,561	34,043
Peru	1,99,696	5,571
Germany	1,86,448	8,812

WHO expert clarifies remarks on virus spread

WHO had said transmission of Covid by people with no symptoms is 'very rare'

AP ■ GENEVA

Top World Health Organization (WHO) expert has tried to clear up "misunderstandings" about comments she made that were widely understood to suggest that people without Covid-19 symptoms rarely transmit the coronavirus.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the UN Health agency's technical lead on the virus pandemic, insisted Tuesday that she was

referring only to a few studies, not a complete picture, in the comments she made Monday. Van Kerkhove's remarks on Monday raised confusion and questions among outside experts and health officials who have recommended and in some places required that people wear masks to try to prevent the virus from spreading.

The "clarification" she provided during a WHO social-media chat showed many questions remain about whether infected people who don't show symptoms of illness such as fever, dry cough or difficulty breathing can transmit the virus to others.

Van Kerkhove said, "What I was referring to yesterday were very few studies, some two or three studies that have been published, that actually try to follow asymptomatic cases." "That's a very small

subset of studies," she continued. "I used the phrase 'very rare,' and I think that's (a) misunderstanding to state that asymptomatic transmission globally is very rare. What I was referring to was a subset of studies."

Earlier, disease experts had questioned the statement by WHO that transmission of Covid-19 by people with no symptoms is "very rare," saying this guidance could pose problems for Governments as they seek to lift lockdowns.

Maria van Kerkhove, an epidemiologist and the WHO's technical lead on the coronavirus pandemic, had said on Monday that many countries undertaking contact tracing had identified asymptomatic cases, but were not finding they caused further spread of the virus. "It is very rare," she said.

"I was quite surprised by the WHO statement," said Liam Smeeth, a professor of clinical epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who added that he had not seen the data Kerkhove's statement was based on.

"It goes against my impressions from the science so far that suggest asymptomatic people — who never get symptoms — and pre-symptomatic people are an important source of infection to others."

Smeeth and other experts said understanding the risks of transmission among people with mild or no symptoms is crucial as governments begin to ease the lockdown measures they imposed to try and reduce the pandemic's spread and gradually replace them with case tracking and isolation plans.

First time in 75 yrs, world leaders won't travel for UNGA session

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

For the first time in 75 years, world leaders will not travel to New York for the annual UN General Assembly session in September this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the President of the UN General Assembly has announced.

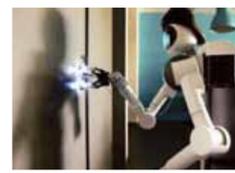
The landmark 75th session of the UN General Assembly is expected to begin on September 15 and the first day of the high-level General Debate is likely to be on September 22, according to SDG Knowledge Hub website, an online resource center for news on the UN.

"World leaders cannot come to New York because they cannot come as single individuals. A president doesn't travel alone. We don't expect there to have presidents here," Tijjani Muhammad-Bande said at a news conference on Monday.

He said due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic battering nations across the world, in-person meetings at the UN headquarters were highly unlikely in the coming months.

Robot built for Japan's ageing workforce finds virus role

Tokyo: Mira Robotics developed its "ugo" robot to reinforce greying Japan's shrinking workforce, but as the coronavirus threat persists, the Japanese startup is offering its machine as a tool in the fight against the outbreak, the company's CEO said.



well as a reluctance to bring in foreign labour to fill vacant positions has spurred robot development in Japan.

The emergence of coronavirus-related demand could further that work. Mira Robotics' Ugo is a pair of height-adjustable robotic arms mounted on wheels, operated remotely through a wireless connection with a laptop and game controller. A range-measuring laser mounted on the base helps it navigate, while a panel at the top displays eyes to give it a friendlier appearance.

An unprecedented population decline that is shrinking Japan's workforce by more than half a million people a year as

NORTH KOREA CUTS OFF ALL communication with S Korea

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea said it was cutting off all communication channels with South Korea on Tuesday, a move experts say could signal Pyongyang has grown frustrated that Seoul has failed to revive lucrative inter-Korean economic projects and persuade the United States to ease sanctions.

The North's Korean Central News Agency said all cross-border communication lines would be cut off at noon in the "first step of the determination to completely shut down all contact means with South Korea and get rid of unnecessary things."

When South Korean officials tried to contact their North Korean counterparts via several channels after the North's announcement

This town brings France, Italy, Japan to its people as virus stops travel

In the weeks to come, theme will change to India, US, Spain, Germany

AFP ■ VILNIUS, LITHUANIA



With virus travel restrictions preventing summer holidays abroad, Lithuania's capital is offering a low-cost alternative by mimicking the look and feel of different countries at weekends.

France, Japan and the US are among the more than half-a-dozen nations that Vilnius residents can get a taste of without leaving the Baltic city.

Last weekend Italian music filled the Old Town, while local restaurants offered Mediterranean dishes as green, white and red flags fluttered nearby.

Aurelija Baniuliaitiene, a Lithuanian civil servant who came with a friend to an open-air restaurant, said the southern European atmosphere helped her "leave the lockdown

cocoon".

In the weeks to come, the theme will change to India, the United States, France, Spain, Germany and Japan.

Rasa Kliostraityte, a translator who presented three books by contemporary Italian writers as part of the initiative, hoped it would allow "people to enjoy the Italian spirit without

leaving the city".

Her husband, Italian-born singer Mario Di Pasquale, had mixed feelings before taking his guitar to the stage near the 17th century St John's Church bell tower that dominates the city's skyline. "I had to think if it is fine to celebrate Italy now, when it is suffering so much pain," the 44-year-old told AFP.

GLOBE TROTTERING

100s MARCH IN HK AS LEADER URGES STABILITY

Hong Kong: Hundreds of people marched in Hong Kong's streets on Tuesday to mark a year since the start of anti-government protests, as the leader of the semi-autonomous city called for peace and stability. Protesters shouted slogans, including "Hong Kong independence, the only way out" and "Fight to the end." They marched despite police warnings that force could be used to disperse participants and that they faced up to five years in prison. Riot police later charged at a group of protesters, deploying pepper spray and tackling some to the ground.

INVOKE IRAN N DEAL: EU REJECTS ANY US ATTEMPT

Brussels: The European Union's top diplomat said on Tuesday that since the United States has already withdrawn from an international agreement curbing Iran's nuclear ambitions, it can't now use its former membership of the pact to try to impose a permanent arms embargo on the Islamic Republic. The accord, which Iran signed with the US, Britain, Germany, France, China and Russia in 2015, has been unravelling since President Donald Trump pulled Washington out in 2018 and reinstated sanctions designed to cripple Tehran under what the US called a "maximum pressure" campaign.

8 TERRORISTS ARRESTED IN PESHAWAR CITY

Peshawar: Eight terrorists were arrested on Tuesday and huge cache of arms and ammunition were recovered from their possession, police said. The terrorists included one Afghan national, Peshawar City police chief Muhammad Ali Khan Gandapur told reporters.

LONDON MAYOR SETS UP BODY TO REVIEW STAKE

London: London Mayor Sadiq Khan on Tuesday announced a new commission to review all the states across the UK capital to ensure all the city's landmarks "suitably reflect its diversity". The new commission for diversity in the public realm will focus on increasing representation among Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, women, LGBTQ+ community and disability groups.

269 ROHINGYAS DETAINED, BODY FOUND IN BOAT

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian authorities detained 269 Rohingya refugees and found a body on board a suspected smuggling boat they said had been intentionally damaged so it couldn't be turned back to sea.

CZECH SENATE SWAPERS PLANS TO VISIT TAIWAN

Prague: The speaker of the Czech Republic's Senate announced he will visit Taiwan despite warnings from China and a recommendation that he not take the trip.

Agency

Amid US tension, Iran builds fake aircraft carrier to attack

AP ■ DUBAI

As tensions remain high between Iran and the US, the Islamic Republic appears to have constructed a new mock-up of an aircraft carrier off its southern coast for potential live-fire drills.

The faux foe, seen in satellite photographs obtained on Tuesday by The Associated Press, resembles the Nimitz-class carriers that the US Navy routinely sails into the Persian Gulf from the Strait of Hormuz, its narrow mouth where 20% of all the world's oil passes through.

While not yet acknowledged by Iranian officials, the replica's appearance in the port city of Bandar Abbas suggests Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard is preparing an encore of a similar mock-sinking it conducted in 2015.

It also comes as Iran announced Tuesday it will execute a man it accused of sharing details on the movements of the Guard's Gen. Qassem Soleimani, whom the US killed in a January drone strike in Baghdad.

The replica carries 16 mock-ups of fighter jets on its deck, according to satellite photos taken by Maxar Technologies.

The vessel appears to be some 200 meters (650 feet) long and 50 meters (160 feet) wide. A real Nimitz is over 300 meters (980 feet) long and 75 meters (245 feet) wide.

FLOYD 'RESTS' IN HOUSTON

Global anti-racism protests spread

Houston: George Floyd will be buried in Houston on Tuesday two weeks after his death while being held by police in a Minneapolis street, and more anti-racism rallies inspired by his treatment were set to take place in the United States and in Europe.

Thousands of mourners paid their respects on Monday, filing past his open coffin at the Fountain of Praise Church in Houston, Texas, where Floyd grew up.

Some mourners bowed their heads, others made the sign of the cross or raised a fist. Many wore face masks to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in a service that lasted more than six hours. The funeral will be a private ceremony and he will be buried next to his mother's grave.

"I'm glad he got the send-off he deserved," Marcus Williams, a 46-year-old black resident of Houston, said outside. "I want the police killings to stop. I want them to reform the process to achieve justice, and stop the killing."

Floyd, a 46-year-old African American, died on May 25 after a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

Unarmed and handcuffed, he lay face down in the street, gasping for air and groaning for help before falling silent, footage filmed by a bystander

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS WORK
Tender Notice No. WTR/17/2020/05 dated 05.06.2020 for tender on e-procurement mode only are invited by Chief Engineer (Track Supply), Head Quarter Office, Old Building, 2nd floor, Churchgate, Mumbai 400020 for supply of the following items:

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Short Description	Tender Quantity	Date of Closing Tender
1	196034	6.2 mm thick CGRSP with horn for turnout drg. No T-4218 & T-4865 (Trial item)	430 sets & 80 sets	15.07.2020
2	206003	(A) 52 Kg 1 metre long fish plates drg. no. T-5915 (B) 52 Kg Joggled fish plates drg no T-5848 alt. Nil	(A) 3000 pairs (B) 3000 Pairs	15.07.2020
3	196007	Galvanized Metal liner to drg. No.T-3740	813588 Nos	22.07.2020
4	196032	CMS crossing to RDSO drg No T-8682/1	80 sets	22.07.2020

Time of closing of e-tender Box: 11.30 hrs on the date of closing of tender. For detailed tender conditions/Corrigendum please visit www.ireps.gov.in

UJVN Limited
H.O. "UJJWAL" Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun - 248006
(Telephone Nos: 0135-2763508, 2763808 & Fax- 0135-2763507)
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866

"e" - Tender Date Extension Notice - 5
Due to unavoidable reasons, the dates of tender invited for "Procurement of TMT bar of grade Fe-500 conforming to IS:1786 for Vyasi HEP" in District-Dehradun (Uttarakhand)," against NIT No: 08/UJVNL/03/EE(Civil-I)/VP/2019-20 (Tender ID: 2020_UJVNL_22825_1) are hereby extended as follows:

1. Last Date/Time for submission of bid on the portal: 29.06.2020 up to 17:00 Hrs.
2. Last date & Address for Submission of original documents: 30.06.2020 up to 17:00 Hrs in Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-I), Vyasi Project, Lakhwar Bhawan, Dakpathar (Distt-Dehradun).
3. Date and time of opening of bid on the website: 01.07.2020 at 15:30 Hrs.

All other terms & conditions of the tender shall remain unchanged. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"

Executive Engineer (Civil-I)
Ro. No. 357 Dated 09/06/2020 Vyasi Project, Lakhwar Bhawan, Dakpathar
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER GENERATION DIVISION BHEP-II CHANDERKOTE
Email: xengengbhep2@gmail.com, Tel. - 01998-288052
NO: GEN/BHEP-II/1330 EXTENSION NOTICE DATED: 08-06-2020

Reference of e-NITs:
1. E-NIT NO: BHEP-II/07R of 2019-20 Dated:- 24.03.2020 for Supply of 02 No's, 7.5 H.P Air compressors along with allied accessories required for power house BHEP-II Chanderkote Ramban, UT of J&K.
2. E-NITNO: BHEP-II/08 of 2019-20 Dated:- 03-03-2020 for Supply, Testing, installation and commissioning of Testing equipment for 450MW BHEP-II as per desired technical specifications.
3. E-NITNO: BHEP-II/11 of 2019-20 Dated:- 03-03-2020 for Supply of 01 No. Dehydration & Filtration Machine and 01 No. NAS/Oil Contamination Checking Machine for hydraulic & Lubrication fluids for power house BHEP-II Chanderkote Ramban, J&K.
4. E-NIT NO: BHEP-II/12 of 2019-20 Dated:- 24.03.2020 for Supply of safety equipments such as safety helmets, safety shoes, dungarees, safety belts etc as per BOQ required for power house Staff BHEP-II Chanderkote Ramban.
5. E-NIT NO: BHEP-II/13 of 2019-20 Dated:- 24.03.2020 for Providing and fabrication of steel structure Racks in Divisional Store at Power House BHEP-II, Chanderkote.
6. E-NITNO: BHEP-II/14 of 2019-20 Dated:- 25-03-2020 for proper stacking of old & new material including transportation, shifting, handling, loading and unloading from Generation complex to power house BHEP-II & vice versa at Chanderkote.

Due to non-submission of original hard copies of EMD and tender fee in this office as per condition of SBD, it has been decided to extend bid download, submission end and bid opening dates for the e-NIT as under,

Existing date	Modified/ amended date
Bid purchase/download end date at 16:00 hrs	15-06-2020 at 16:00 hrs
Bid submission end date at 16:00 hrs	15-06-2020 at 16:00 hrs
Bid opening date at 13:00 hrs	17-06-2020 at 13:00 hrs

All other terms & conditions shall remain same as mentioned in SBD of tender.
No. DIP/J-408-P/20 Dated: 08.06.2020
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Generation Division BHEP-II Chanderkote

DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

Bid No. E-05/2020-2021 E-TENDERS Dated : 05.06.2020

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence :- S. No. - Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. (1) 05205045A (23.06.2020), Panel AC, 01 Nos (2) 05195151B, (29.06.2020), 3 Phase Motor, 01 Nos (3) 05205177, (03.07.2020), Drill Bit Dia 6MM, 15 Nos. (4) 05205178 (03.07.2020), 7/8" Dia Inverted Spot Face Cutter, 100 Nos. (5) 05205179, (03.07.2020), Drill Bit Dia 4MM, 15 Nos. (6) 05205180, (03.07.2020), Aluminium Oxide Straight Grinding, Size 18", 06 Nos. (7) 05205182, (03.07.2020), Dia 152 mm Back Spot Face Milling Cutter, 01 Set. (8) 05191112D, (29.06.2020), Holding Fix For Crankshaft, Part No. 15610317, 07 Nos. (9) 05191158C, (01.07.2020), Clamp Lifter, Part No. 15610445, 18 Nos. (11) 05201019, (03.07.2020), 17 mm Helical Insert Kit, Part No. 72030422, 95 Set. (12) 05201023, (03.07.2020), HSS Hand Tap 5/16", Part No. 72040415, 40 Nos. (13) 05201024, (03.07.2020), Dia 34 mm Insert Drill Kit, Part No. 72240714, 04 set. (14) 05201375, (03.07.2020), HSS T/S Twist Drill, Part No. 72212056, 08 Nos. (15) 05195225A, (26.06.2020), Tool Holder, 10 Nos. (16) 05195211A, (26.06.2020), (I) Wire Guide Assembly, 20 Set. (ii) Drive Roll & Wire Guide, 10 Set. (17) 05205108A, (02.07.2020), Heat Proof Hand Gloves, 100 Pairs. (18) 05201027, (03.07.2020), Double Stage Acetylene Regulator, Part No. 76218806, 34 Nos. (19) 05201028, (03.07.2020), Retaining Cap Oxygen, Part No. 76905299, 05 Nos. (20) 05201029, (03.07.2020), Double Stage Oxygen Regulator, Part No. 76118892, 95 Nos. (21) 05201030, (03.07.2020), Lead Wool, G-1, Part No. 92110531, 425 Kgs. (22) 05201025, (03.07.2020), 200 MM Dia 90 Deg. Face Milling Kit, Part No. 72560708, 05 Set. (23) 06191084, (26.06.2020), 3 Phase AC Fuel pump motor Part No. 12102102, 24 Nos. (24) 06201005, (24.06.2020), Plug 24-2 Part No. 18361262, 04 Nos. (25) 06201014, (24.06.2020), Cable size 225/24 Part No. 18330228, 475.784 MTR. Note: For Complete details of EMD and downloading of tender documents and Hindi Version also available at website www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in. No. AT/Tender Notice/IREPS/2020 Dt. 05.06.2020 The following Works/Advised E-Tender is invited for and on behalf of the President of India:- Works E-Tender No.: DLW-SW-AIR-04-01 Description of Works: Nomination of Freight forwarding cum Clearing agent for lifting the Imported materials to Kolkata through Air, their clearance and transportation from Kolkata to DLW, Varanasi. Opening Date : 20.07.2020 (15.00 hrs.) Note: For complete details of the tender Cost/EMD and downloading the tender documents, please visit the website www.ireps.gov.in P.R.O./DLW-SW On the behalf of PCMM

f d /dieselocwks "Website - www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in"

Worst recession in 80 yrs: WB

Washington: The coronavirus pandemic inflicted a "swift and massive shock" that has caused the broadest collapse of the global economy since 1870 despite unprecedented Government support, the World Bank said Monday.

The world economy is expected to contract by 5.2 per cent this year — the worst recession in 80 years — but the sheer number of countries suffering economic losses means the scale of the downturn is worse than any recession in 150 years, the World Bank said in its latest Global Economic Prospects report.

"This is a deeply sobering outlook, with the crisis likely to

leave long-lasting scars and pose major global challenges," said World Bank Group Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions Ceyla Pazarbasioglu.

The depth of the crisis will drive 70 to 100 million people into extreme poverty — worse than the prior estimate of 60 million, she told reporters.

And while the Washington-based development lender projects a rebound for 2021, there is a risk a second wave of outbreaks could undermine the recovery and turn the economic crisis into a financial one that will see a "wave of defaults."

Economists have been struggling to measure the impact of the crisis they have likened to a global natural disaster, but the sheer size of the impact across so many sectors and countries has made that difficult.

Under the worst-case scenario, the global recession could mean a contraction of eight per cent, according to the report.

But Pazarbasioglu cautioned: "Given this uncertainty, further downgrades to the outlook are very likely."

Meanwhile, a group of American economists who are the arbiters of when a recession starts and ends said Monday

Sensex dives 414 pts amid concerns over rising cases

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex on Tuesday tumbled 414 points to settle near the day's lowest level due to a broad-based selloff as an uncertainty about economic revival amid mounting COVID cases in the country hung heavy on investor minds.

Dropping 855 points from the day's high, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 413.89 points or 1.20 per cent lower at 33,956.69. Likewise, the NSE Nifty ended 120.80 points or 1.19 per cent down at 10,046.65.

In contrast to Indian equities, global stocks were broadly upbeat as the lifting of lockdowns in many countries raised investor hopes of a relatively quick global economic recovery.

On the Sensex chart, ICICI Bank was the top laggard, falling around 3 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finance, Kotak Bank and Axis Bank.



₹ trims intra-day gains to end 6 paise lower at 75.61 to US \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian ₹ on Tuesday gave up all its intra-day gains to close 6 paise lower at 75.61 against the US \$ in line with weaker sentiment in financial markets triggered by steeply rising coronavirus cases in the country.

Besides, robust US \$ against its key rivals also had an impact on the domestic unit. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.42 per cent to 97.02. The rupee opened at 75.53 against the US \$, but pared the gains to settle at 75.61 against the US \$, down 6 paise over its previous close. During the four-hour trading session, the domestic unit saw an intra-day high of 75.43 and a low of 75.61.

On the equity front, the benchmark Sensex closed 413.89 points or 1.20 per cent lower at 33,956.69.

Delhi HC to NCLT: Don't take coercive action against member

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court directed the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to not take any coercive action against Rajasekhara VK, Member (Judicial) pursuant to its June 4 office order asking its Members to join their new stations of posting by June 8.

The High Court in its order dated June 5 on the petition filed by Rajasekhara, also allowed newly posted Member (Judicial) Rajesh Dayal Khare to intervene in the petition concerning the validity of the transfer orders of NCLT Members.

Challenging his transfer order Rajasekhara said the NCLT's transfer order illegal, malicious, biased, without any jurisdiction and in violation of statutory provisions and the rules of transfers, specifically Rule 15A of NCLT (Salary, Allowances & other Terms and Conditions of Service of President and other Members) Rules, 2015. Issuing orders for status quo and stay orders on NCLT postings, Delhi High Court Judge Navin Chawla posted the case for next hearing on June 12.

Last month, Rajasekhara had moved the High Court challenging the transfer orders issued by BSV Prakash Kumar, Acting President, NCLT in April and May. Seeking that an eligible Member be appointed as the Acting President, in place of BSV Prakash Kumar, the petitioner Rajasekhara had pointed out that Kumar was not a High Court Judge and was thus not eligible to be appointed as President.

Counsel for Rajasekhara argued that on the earlier occasion, the request for a status quo order was not pressed in view of the Central Government's submission that since the lockdown was slated to be extended till June 30, there was no pressure on the Members to join their new postings.

It was Rajasekhara's grievance that with the dilution of restrictions on travel, NCLT had issued an Office Order on June 4, specifying that the Members were mandated to join their new postings by June 8. Advocates Abhijeet Sinha, Vandana Sehgal appeared for Rajasekhara.

Meanwhile, Madan B Gosavi, Member (Judicial) has also filed an intervention application in the petition which is yet to be heard by the Court.

India's sovereign rating downgrade created six 'fallen angels': Moody's

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India's sovereign rating downgrade has created six "fallen angels", or companies in the non-financial sector whose ratings have dipped to just one notch away from being considered junk, global ratings agency Moody's Investors Service said on Tuesday.

Companies that move from investment grade category to sub-investment grade are sometimes referred as "Fallen Angels".

All these six companies are state-run enterprises in the oil and gas sector, and have USD 1 billion of rated bonds coming up for repayment till 2021, the agency said.

These six include Indian Oil Corporation, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, Oil India, Petronet LNG, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, the agency said, adding that the fundamental credit profiles of all of them are intact. Further ratings action on the final ratings of these six state-run oil-and-gas companies will be driven by a downgrade of the sovereign rating and not a deterioration in their fundamental credit profiles, it said.

FM to PSBs: Keep lending to MSMEs, but support other businesses too

FIANS ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday held a review meeting with the Managing Directors of public sector banks (PSB) and asked them to continue reaching out and lending to MSMEs under the collateral-free Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme.

In the video conference, she also directed the state-run lenders to try meeting the credit requirements of other businesses.

In a tweet, the Department of Financial Services said: "FM's review: PSBs to continue focus on sanction & reaching out to eligible MSMEs. To also target meeting credit needs of other businesses. #PSBsForAatmanirbharBharat @PMOIndia @FinMinIndia."

The directive comes a day after the Finance Minister, while addressing the FICCI National Executive Committee members, clarified that the Covid Emergency Credit Facility announced as part of the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat package covers all companies and not just MSMEs.

She also complimented the banks on their swift response to the demand for the collateral free loan and sanctioning Rs 20,000 crore under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme.

Sitharaman also advised the banks to maintain proactive outreach at branch level and keep the forms for ECLGS simple and formalities at minimum, said another tweet by DFS.

On the other hand, realty and FMCG indices ended with gains. Broader mid-cap and smallcap indices fell up to 1%. Analysts believe domestic market succumbed to profit-taking at higher levels as concerns over rising number of COVID-19 cases in the country outweighed the optimism over reopening of the economy.

Stocks turn lower on uncertainty over stimulus, pandemic

AP ■ TOKYO

World stock markets dropped on Tuesday as investors appeared to become more cautious about a recent rally that has pushed U.S. Shares to near record highs.

Benchmarks fell in Paris, London and Tokyo on Tuesday and U.S. Futures also declined. Analysts say the recent rally may be overdone given uncertainties over the pandemic and economic recoveries. Traders are awaiting a meeting of the US central bank this week that might signal future policy. And economic data in Europe has been predictably bad, with Germany reporting its exports fell by a quarter in April.

The figures followed data showing big drops in factory orders and industrial production in Europe's biggest economy, underlining expectations of a sharp economic contraction in the second quarter.

The market was closed on Monday for a public holiday. In Japan, the Government reported that wages fell in April as the country widened precautions to fight the coronavirus pandemic, causing some businesses to close or limit their operations.

SPECIAL MAIL/EXPRESS TRAINS BY NORTHERN RAILWAY

For the convenience of railway passengers, Northern Railways in association with other zonal Railway have been running following Mail/Express Special Trains which originate/terminate over NR's network. While other trains have been provided stoppages on NR's networks. Lists of trains are as under:-

Train No. & Train Name	Stations Between
01071/72 Kamayani Express	Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Varanasi - Lokmanya Tilak (T)
01093/94 Mahanagari Express	Mumbai (CST) - Varanasi - Mumbai (CST)
02156/55 Bhopal Express	H. Nizamuddin - Habibganj - H. Nizamuddin
02230/29 Lucknow Mail	New Delhi - Lucknow - New Delhi
02392/91 Shramjeevi Express	New Delhi - Rajgir - New Delhi
02394/93 Sampurn Kranti Exp.	New Delhi - Rajendra Nagar (T) - New Delhi
02418/17 Prayagraj Express	New Delhi - Prayagraj - New Delhi
02420/19 Garmhi Express	New Delhi - Lucknow - New Delhi
02407/08 Kamabhoomi Superfast	New Jalpaiguri - Amritsar Jn. - New Jalpaiguri
02357/58 Durgiana Express	Kolkata - Amritsar Jn. - Kolkata
02452/51 Shram Shakti Express	New Delhi - Kanpur Central - New Delhi
02463/64 Rajasthan S. Kranti	Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Jodhpur Jn. - Delhi Sarai Rohilla
02533/34 Pushpak Express	Lucknow Jn. - C. Shivaji Maharaj (T) - Lucknow Jn.
02560/59 Shivganga Express	New Delhi - Manduadih - New Delhi
02618/17 Mangla Express	H. Nizamuddin - Ernakulam Jn. - H. Nizamuddin
04009/10 Champaran Satyagrah Ex.	Bapudham Motihari-Anand Vihar (T)-Bapudham Motihari
02629/30 Karnataka Sampark Kranti	Yesvantpur - H. Nizamuddin - Yesvantpur
02715/16 Sachkhand Express	Hazur Sahib Nanded-Amritsar Jn.-Hazur Sahib Nanded
02724/23 Telangana Express	New Delhi - Hyderabad Decan - New Delhi
02801/02 Purushottam Express	Puri - New Delhi - Puri
02904/03 Golden Temple Mail	Amritsar Jn. - Mumbai Central - Amritsar Jn.
02916/15 Ashram Express	Delhi Jn. - Ahmedabad Jn. - Delhi Jn.
02926/25 Paschim Express	Amritsar Jn. - Bandra Terminus - Amritsar Jn.
02963/64 Mewar Express	H. Nizamuddin - Udaipur - H. Nizamuddin
05484/83 Sikkim Mahananda Exp.	Delhi Jn. - Alipur Duar Jn. - Delhi Jn.
02805/06 A.P. Express	Visakhapatnam - New Delhi - Visakhapatnam
02182/81 Jabalpur Express	H. Nizamuddin - Jabalpur - H. Nizamuddin
02217/18 Mahamana Express	Varanasi - New Delhi - Varanasi
09167/68 Sabarmati Express	Ahmedabad Jn. - Varanasi Jn. - Ahmedabad Jn.
02553/54 Vaishali Express	Saharsa Jn. - New Delhi - Saharsa Jn.
02381/82 Poorva Express	Howrah Jn. - New Delhi - Howrah Jn.
02303/04 Poorva Express	Howrah Jn. - New Delhi - Howrah Jn.
02557/58 Sapt Kranti Express	Muzaffarpur Jn. - Anand Vihar (T) - Muzaffarpur Jn.
05273/74 Satyagrah Express	Raxaul Jn. - Anand Vihar (T) - Raxaul Jn.
02219/20 Suhaildev Express	Ghaziपुर City - Anand Vihar (T) - Ghaziपुर City
02233/34 Ghaziपुर Express	Ghaziपुर - Anand Vihar (T) - Ghaziपुर
04673/74 Shaheed Express	Jaynagar - Amritsar Jn. - Jaynagar
04649/50 Saryu Yamuna Express	Jaynagar - Amritsar Jn. - Jaynagar
05955/56 Brahmaputra Mail	Dibrugarh - Delhi Jn. - Dibrugarh
02283/84 Duronto Express	Ernakulam Jn. - H. Nizamuddin - Ernakulam Jn.
02285/86 Duronto Express	Secunderabad Jn. - H. Nizamuddin - Secunderabad Jn.
02091/92 Jan Shatabdi Express	Dehradun - Kathgodam - Dehradun
02053/54 Jan Shatabdi Express	Haridwar Jn. - Amritsar Jn. - Haridwar Jn.
02055/56 Jan Shatabdi Express	New Delhi - Dehradun - New Delhi
02057/58 Jan Shatabdi Express	New Delhi - Una Himachal - New Delhi
02065/66 Jan Shatabdi Express	Ajmer - Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Ajmer
02059/60 Jan Shatabdi Express	Kota Jn. - H. Nizamuddin - Kota Jn.
02565/66 Bihar Sampark Kranti	Darbhanga Jn. - New Delhi - Darbhanga Jn.
02917/18 Gujarat Sampark Kranti	Ahmedabad Jn. - H. Nizamuddin - Ahmedabad Jn.
02779/80 Goa Express	Vasco-da-Gama - H. Nizamuddin - Vasco-da-Gama

PASSING TRAINS HAVING STOPPAGE ON NR

Train No. & Train Name	Stations Between (Stoppage on NR)
02555/56 Gorakhdham Express	Gorakhpur-Hisar-Gorakhpur (via Barabanki,Lucknow, New Delhi)
09037/38 Avadh Express	Bandra Terminus-Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus (via Lucknow City)
09039/40 Avadh Express	Bandra Terminus-Muzaffarpur -Bandra Terminus (via Lucknow City)
09165/66 Sabarmati Express	Ahmedabad - Darbhanga Jn. - Ahmedabad (via Lucknow)
01016/15 Kushinagar Express	Gorakhpur - Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Gorakhpur (via Barabanki Jn.)
01061/62 Darbhanga Express	Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Darbhanga - Lokmanya Tilak (T) (via Varanasi Jn.)
02792/91 Secunderabad Exp.	Danapur - Secunderabad Jn. - Danapur (via Varanasi Jn.)
09045/46 Tapti Ganga Express	Surat - Chhapra - Surat (via Varanasi Jn.)

Note : Reservation/Booking in the above trains may be done through any PRS counter, IRCTC, Authorised Rail Travel Agents and Common Service Centres etc.

Note :- For Time Table, frequency & stoppages of the above trains, passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

Integrated Helpline No. 139 and Security Helpline No. 182

Please join us on

NORTHERN RAILWAY
visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Bharti Airtel arm raises stake in Bangladesh's Robi Axiata

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel's subsidiary Bharti International (Singapore) has increased its stake in Robi Axiata, a telecom service provider in Bangladesh.

Bharti International (Singapore), which had a 25 per cent stake in Robi Axiata, acquired an additional 6.3 per cent stake in the company from NTT DOCOMO and its group entities, said Bharti Airtel in a regulatory filing on Tuesday. The company, however, didn't disclose the deal amount. "Acquisition of the ordinary shares of Robi from DoCoMo has been done at mutually agreed valuation. The said valuation is non-material and is not disclosed herein due to reasons of confidentiality," it said. Robi is the second largest mobile network operator in Bangladesh and a subsidiary company of Axiata Investments (Labuan), which is the subsidiary of the leading Asian telecom giant, Axiata Group Berhad, based in Malaysia.

L&T-made major cryostat base installed in world's largest nuclear fusion project in France

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Engineering and construction giant Larsen & Toubro on Tuesday said it has achieved a major milestone by manufacturing the 1,250 tonne single largest section of the world's largest nuclear fusion reactor in France, and the section has been successfully placed into a reactor building there.

Assembly tools of 1,250-tonne cryostat were delivered during lockdown by the heavy engineering arm of L&T to ensure the uninterrupted assembly of cryostat in reactor pit in southern France.

Cryostat forms the vacuum-tight container surrounding the reactor vacuum vessel and the superconducting magnets and acts essentially as a very large refrigerator.

India is among the seven elite countries funding the \$20 billion International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor programme in Cadarache.

This is one of the world's largest research project that seeks to demonstrate the scientific and technical feasibility of fusion power.

"L&T Heavy Engineering — manufactured 1250 MT Cryostat base, the single largest section of the world's largest nuclear fusion reactor, was successfully lifted and placed into a reactor building in France recently, accomplishing a major milestone in the nuclear engineering world," the company said in a statement.

Sufficient liquidity at present; no asset impacted by Covid-19: L&T

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is access to sufficient liquidity and Larsen & Toubro does not foresee any impairment requirement to the carrying values of its asset due to the pandemic, the company has said.

The engineering and construction conglomerate has recently raised ₹9,000 crore through long-term debt in April. It has assessed ₹1,800 crore impact on its revenue due to COVID-19

during the quarter ended March 31. It had shut down operations from March 25 in the wake of coronavirus pandemic.

"The company has access to sufficient liquidity at present, having raised over ₹ 9,000 crore of long-term debt in April 2020.

The company also has unutilised credit lines from the Financial Institutions to supplement its liquid resources," as per a company document.

The short-term investments are in such instruments that can be encashed on need, it said, adding "its strong order book of over ₹3 trillion provides multi-year revenue and cashflow visibility."

About ability to service debt and other financing arrangements, L&T said it has a relatively low debt equity ratio of 0.49:1 as on March 31, 2020.

On assets, it said none of the assets of the company have been impacted by COVID-19.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location: Shifting of BTS system along with provision of earthing for BTS & Tower and Trenching & Laying of Telecom cable at Ballabhgarh Station in Palwal-New Delhi Section of DLI division.

App. Cost of the work: Rs. 5.34, 416.02/- only

Tender Document Fee: Rs. 2,360/- only.

Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 10,700/- only

Address of the office: Deputy Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer/NMO, Northern Railway, 2nd Floor, Annexure-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.

Date & Time for upload the tender/ Tender closing/Uploading date & time - closing of tender: 03.07.2020 upto to 15.00 hrs.

Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website www.irps.gov.in

Tender No. 561-Sig/NMO/BVH-01-2020 Dated: 09.06.2020 1317/2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

RTCL LIMITED

CIN : L16003UP1994PLC016225

Registered Office: 8/226, Second Floor, SGM Plaza, Arya Nagar, Kanpur UP 208002

Corporate Office: 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007

Website: www.rtclimited.in E-mail: rgc.secretarial@gmail.com

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company will be held on **Tuesday, 30th June, 2020 at 03:00 P.M.** at its corporate office 6926, Jaipuria Mills, Clock Tower, Subzi Mandi, Delhi-110007. Inter-alia to consider and take on record the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter and Year ended 31st March, 2020. This information is also available on the Company's website at www.rtclimited.in and on the Stock Exchange website at www.bseindia.com.

Further, in accordance with the SEBI (Prevention of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 and the Company's Code of Conduct for Prevention of Insider Trading, the Trading Window for dealing in the Company's securities was closed from Wednesday 01st April, 2020 and will open 48 hours after the said financial results are declared to the Stock Exchanges.

For RTCL Limited Sd/- (Vishal Saxena) Company Secretary

Place: Delhi Date: 08.06.2020

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi

... A Joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 10.06.2020

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs:

NIT No.	Brief Work Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/SV/007	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV XLPE INSULATED ALUMINIUM CONDUCTOR POWER CABLE OF SIZES 2XC10 MM ² AND 2XC25 MM ²	9.62 Crore	9.62 Lakh	01.07.2020 15:00 Hrs	02.07.2020 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/SV/008	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV XLPE/AB POWER CABLES OF VARIOUS SIZES	5.10 Crore	5.10 Lakh	01.07.2020 15:00 Hrs	02.07.2020 15:30 Hrs
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/SV/009	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 11KV XLPE/AB POWER CABLES OF VARIOUS SIZES	4.30 Crore	8.60 Lakh	01.07.2020 15:00 Hrs	02.07.2020 16:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/SV/010	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF ONAN COOLED TRANSFORMERS OF RATINGS 400, 630, 1000, 1600 & 2000 KVA 11/0.433KV	5.10 Crore	5.10 Lakh	06.07.2020 15:00 Hrs	07.07.2020 15:00 Hrs
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/SV/011	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF PACKAGE SUB-STATION OF VARIOUS RATINGS	1.60 Crore	3.20 Lakh	06.07.2020 15:00 Hrs	07.07.2020 15:30 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹ 1,180/-

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New learning curve

The e-classes have led to a little inconvenience, but have also opened new dimensions of education and innovation. It has given us a glimpse of how the education sector can revolutionise for the better, says DR VARUN GUPTA

From ancient times, human beings have seen various forms of deadly diseases and have been surviving them. With the dynamic change in tastes and preferences of consumers, lifestyle changes, production of toxic chemicals, fertilizers, cosmetics, etc. and the manifestation of environmental hazards due to industrial operations, novel diseases have also been rapidly increasing. One such pandemic which has completely taken the world by storm is Coronavirus. It has taken a significant toll on the lives of lakhs of people around the globe and is continuing to do so.

Due to this schools and colleges have been shut down and online classes are being conducted. These e-classes have led to a little inconvenience, but have also opened new dimensions of education and innovation. It has broadened the aspects of digital education and given us a glimpse of how the education sector can revolutionise for the better. Here are a few trends that can give us some information about the futuristic transformation in the education industry:

Digitisation of education: As the world is going through a major lockdown, home-schooling is the best thing that has happened over these past months. Many schools and colleges are taking online classes and online expert sessions for university students are being held extensively. This has brought millions of students and teachers together on one platform and is helping educators to impart knowledge through video calls. Many video conferencing platforms such as Zoom, Skype, IMO, Webex Meet are gaining a huge audience base due to this Internet teaching.

Innovation: The traditional methods of in-class teaching, centuries-old lecture-based approaches, institutional biases, and old fashioned classrooms have come to a standstill due to the coronavirus. On the other hand, it has become a catalyst for educational establishments to develop and follow innovative solutions for teaching in a very short time. In countries like Japan, China, Lebanon and Africa, many creative and novice solutions of teaching are being introduced. Some of the meth-



ods are, providing access to learning material through live television broadcasts, Google classrooms, leveraging online video apps for extracurricular activities such as exercises, yoga etc. The invention of 5G technology has introduced the concept of learning anytime, anywhere across different developed countries. Educators and students are quickly embracing this concept. Offline and online integration of teaching modalities and live broadcasts from educational influencers is the true-lifestyle in the present time.

Improving digital skills: According to a recent study, 96 per cent of the teachers feel that Covid-19 has a positive impact on online education. It is entirely transforming the process of learning and teaching between teachers and children. The use of technology in class means its

ACCORDING TO A RECENT STUDY, 96 PER CENT OF TEACHERS FEEL THAT COVID-19 HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON ONLINE EDUCATION. IT IS ENTIRELY TRANSFORMING THE PROCESS OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

integration in lesson plans and methods. It has made teachers more effective in utilising technology and improving their digital skills. Educators need to maintain their skills set relevant to the current situation and stay up-to-date with tech trends. The use of tools like Google slides, Microsoft Powerpoint and Google sheets, has helped teachers to manage tasks and assignments efficiently. It also helps them to plan lessons more creatively and interactively.

Accessibility: The biggest advantage of digital learning is accessibility. As this pandemic has made many students leave their university hostels and move to their homes, therefore online classes have made education accessible to all students. It is allowing individuals from all over the world to complete their courses or

training through university portals or websites.

Environmental impact: As much negative impact coronavirus has on the economy right now, e-learning has that much positive impact on education. Top university professors and education experts are encouraging sustainable practices and eco-friendly digital learning. eLearning is eliminating the need for books, thereby reducing paper waste. It is thus catching the interest of younger generations and is likely to go uphill in the future.

Hence, coronavirus pandemic has impacted various industries globally and has brought a change in the way we work, study, and live. But education as a whole is undergoing a major transformation making e-learning the need of the hour.

The writer is an Indian Peace Ambassador, Educationist & Entrepreneur

QUOTE OF THE DAY

No education can be of true advantage to young women but that which trains them up in humble industry, in great plainness of living, in exact modesty of dress.

— William Law

Executive education

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Online education has gained popularity in the current COVID-19 pandemic outbreaks as the lockdowns have brought about a paradigm shift in the academic delivery method. Virtual education powered by digital intelligence has proven to be an optimal solution wherein learning can continue unabated. FORE School of Management brings its decades of expertise in providing executive education to enable access to its world-class executive business education suite to anyone, anytime, anywhere.

The online programmes are designed for effective learning, targeted at both individual professionals as well as corporate teams. These modules are taught by the star faculty members who have years of academic and industry experience. Along with organising various online programmes, they have

now initiated Online Management Development Programmes (MDPs), which brings digital innovation to professional education, thus helping organisations build individual and team talent even in a lockdown situation.

The globalised business environment demands that managers leverage the most advanced approaches to perform better and contribute effectively to organisational objectives.

Hence, it becomes essential for managers to continuously update themselves about changing business paradigms and innovative business practices to stay ahead of the competition.

To meet this growing need for training and development for corporate executives, FORE has been consistently imparting training on topical issues in various functional areas of management for business managers at all levels.

Online classes at MSU

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Missouri State University (MSU), long-established and one of the leading universities of the Midwest United States, has announced plans to start the 'Fall Semester' with a hybrid teaching approach for overseas and domestic students from August 17, 2020.

Considering the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines, the university is making modifications to traditional course delivery formats as a response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Missouri State University has configured and laid out a detailed plan with the primary goal in preparing classes for the fall to enhance safety for students, faculty, and staff. Small classes will be moved to larger classrooms to allow for social distancing. Some large classes will be split between two classrooms with the faculty member in one classroom with some students and other students in another classroom participating via the Zoom application. While in this period of uncertainty, the university is embracing this shift as the situation demands providing international graduate students an opportunity to move forward with online studies with no further delays.

PRO-ACTIVENESS IS KEY

Randomly taken decisions can't go anywhere in the entrepreneurial world. AVNEET SINGH tells you how one can become a successful entrepreneur in the long run

The effects of lockdowns subsiding as unlock 1.0 guidelines surrounded the nation's population. Businesses have started regenerating opportunities in the market, with a flash memory of stake downfalls due to the pandemic. Market is in its evolving stage and the entrepreneurs having a deep sense of dealing with such circumstances, can sustain. Here comes the role of effective management planned by a smart entrepreneur.

Tips and guidelines are already available on different sites, explaining how to be a good entrepreneur but things do not work by just learning to master the art of being one. Rather we need to practise it whenever needed. And there can be no better time than this. The COVID-19 outbreak and the prolonged lockdown trembled many ambitions and powers. But those who were able to handle it with ease, have successfully sustained in the market.

Entrepreneur is not merely a linguistic distinction used to differentiate from a businessman, but more like a desire to be that one day by believing in his own ideas, their execution without fearing of the risks.



Where passion is the seed of a startup, perseverance develops the final fruit with the help of right attitude and pro-activeness. Even diligent work requires smart efforts. Here pro-activeness straightly refers to the ability to work like an incredible brainy person because you are not an officious one-eyed clerk or something.

We are constantly equipped with multiple ideas which needs to be executed as per our thoughts. This is where decision making comes into play. Randomly taken decisions can't go anywhere in the entrepreneurial world. One have to get into the shoes of a strategist in

order to prepare a defined road map before taking any decision.

Informative business models, not only reduces the stress factor but also helps in listening to your intuitions. Nobody follows a leader who's unable to take wise decisions. Confident personalities are only a by product of their choices made on right moment of time.

Timing is the only parameter which filters out the best choices from the rest ones. The greatest business models can fail if not taken on right time. Considering the current unforeseen situation of the market, even business tycoons suffered from the economical

tremors, but many of them revived by taking advantage of their well developed plans executed on the right timing.

Your plans can yield favorable results only if taken on appropriate time. The right moment to invest your abilities can be subjective depending upon your own ideology in dealing with your business model.

The entrepreneurial world is full of uncertainties. By spending quality hours in knowing the nature of market helps in increasing your experiential learning associated with it.

Knowing further their target audience and competitor helps in defining goal oriented objectives for your business. Though risks factors will always stay charged to hinder your journey, but by learning to manage them you can better decide which ones are worth taking and which aren't.

It is easy to be an entrepreneur, but if you want to be an established and successful one, then you need to start trusting your skills before entering the giant market. Only the persistent ones can sell and stand up for their ideas.

The writer is Founder, Medusa Beverages Pvt Ltd

Let's tie-up

Students are now more informed in their decision-making. As a result, B-schools need to stand out amongst their competition over multiple factors. A strong industrial tie-up is one of them, says RITESH GOYAL

In today's academic scenario, it is no secret that the popularity of an MBA is soaring by the year. Gone are the days where students settled for sub-standard programmes to improve their academic profile. Thanks to various educational portals and the influence of social media, students are now more informed in their decision-making. As a result, B-schools need to stand out amongst their competition over multiple factors. A strong industrial tie-up is one of them. Here's how it is beneficial to a B-school.

Specialised programme by a top firm: Businesses and B-schools have a mutual relationship where the latter provides a steady stream of management students to the former. While this informal relationship benefits both parties, many firms usually raise concerns about the lack of domain knowledge and requisite skill-set from the new crop of students. As a result, top firms offer to provide tuition in these areas through a specialised programme. The firm's top brass prepares a curriculum that extensively covers the particular domain while providing an extensive range of education in relevant professional skills, which will allow stu-



dent to acclimatise to the company's work culture. By creating such a holistic programme, businesses will recruit students who qualify as finished products and don't need any further investment in training.

By collaborating with such firms and implementing their specialised programmes, B-schools will stay ahead of the curve, and blur the lines between theoretical and practical know-how.

Student networking: One of the primary reasons why students invest their time and money in an MBA degree is placements. It assures them of reaching an elevated position within an organisation after two years of extensive education in a B-school. Therefore, by tying up with organisations from different domains, B-

schools can provide quality industry exposure to its students.

Moreover, an internship helps students build contacts and build a professional network. They can positively use this relationship by applying for a role in the same organisation or requesting their seniors to put in a positive word-of-mouth review about their work to a different organisation. It will help them acquire their favored job role and progress in their profession excellently.

Gives credibility to B-schools: An impressive placement record allows B-schools to demonstrate the strength of their industrial tie-ups. These B-schools can confidently proclaim the fact that the best amongst the industry recruit students from their campus, and they end up having stellar professional careers in terms of job role and salary. As a result, these B-schools can position themselves as one of the best in the country. Naturally, students will find the encouragement and interest to apply to these B-schools to lead successful professional careers. Hence, the admissions of B-schools link heavily to their industrial tie-ups.

The writer is Managing Director and CEO, GIBS Business School, Bangalore

All set for new academic year

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Scindia School is leading the way in terms of innovations and preparedness for the new academic year to begin in late June 2020. As per plan the students returned home safely post the announcement of the lockdown and the school has been kept free of infection. The school has also begun online education for the year.

The school is also putting processes in place that will ensure the complete safety of children when they return, including aspects like social distancing through multiple measures, regular check-ups, and reduced external entry

to the campus among others.

In a letter addressed to the parents Jyotiraditya Scindia, President Scindia Education Society, said: "The school had to plan and execute a series of actions in March to do the right thing for the safety of our children and to meet Government guidelines as the COVID-19 pandemic unleashed its fury.

In evolving an urgent response, two objectives were prime to our thinking, the safety of our children and the preservation of our educational ethos. Online classes have begun and their intensity in quality and effectiveness will see continuous improvement."

Talent500 partners with Coding Ninja

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Talent500 by ANSR, the exclusive talent acquisition partner for Fortune 500 companies in India, has announced its partnerships with Coding Ninjas, India's premier Edu-tech platform offering courses in technology and skilling, to create employment opportunities for aspiring engineers and tech professionals.

The strategic partnership intends to offer placement opportunities to students and

tech professionals with leading tech companies.

All successful and qualified graduates will have the opportunity to apply for exclusive opportunities. Talent500's proprietary AI-based algorithms then match candidates' profiles to job requirements and select the ones that are the best fit for the role.

Speaking on the association, Ankush Singla, Co-Founder, Coding Ninjas said: "We are excited to onboard ANSR Cooperation as our Hiring Partners. The collabora-

tion will help us identify the right opportunities based on geography with a strong distribution of our services in the corporate sector. Together we hope to bridge the skill gap between the leading MNCs and also scale the hiring process for students in the IT and technology companies."

Addressing the collaboration, Vikram Ahuja, Co-Founder, Talent500, said: "Coding Ninjas has continued to be among the foremost platforms for upskilling and growth. We look forward to

partnering with them to bring some of the best opportunities from Fortune 500 companies and global industry leaders to India's brightest, tech minds, and help increase access to opportunity for talent across the country."

As part of this partnership, Coding Ninjas with the help of Talent500' AI-led approach to recruiting and exclusive access to some of the most aspirational companies in the world, will create an unparalleled talent pool of the best tech aspirants.

Be job ready

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following the outbreak of a world-wide pandemic, everything from education institutes to businesses got shut. This was the time where people started getting inclined towards online courses. Many big tech education brands either slashed the prices of the courses or made it available free of cost.

WAC brainstormed on creative ways to

answer the aforesaid problem. What After College (WAC) is a platform that creates a streamlined structure to understand and evaluate the industrial demands and train the students. The team found an innovative solution to help students attain high-level skills and make them job-ready. To achieve this proper skill development, proper training has to be delivered at this time.

ICC allows Covid-19 substitutes

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday approved Covid-19 replacements in Test cricket, banned the use of saliva to shine the ball and re-introduced non-neutral umpires for bilateral series as part of its interim playing regulations to tackle the threat posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the five new regulations, recommended by the Anil Kumble-chaired Cricket Committee, and ratified by the Chief Executives Committee (CEC), the teams will also be allowed an additional DRS call as home umpires will now be officiating in bilateral Test series.

Also, a 32-inch additional logo would be permitted on the players' jerseys, which will help teams make commercial gains as Boards battle the pandemic's financial blow.

"Teams will be allowed to replace players displaying symptoms of Covid-19 during a Test match. In line with concussion replacements, the Match Referee will approve the nearest like-for-like replacement," the ICC stated in a press release.

"However, the regulation for Covid-19 replacements will not be applicable in ODIs and T20s," it added.

The CEC predictably ratified the ban on use of saliva, which is considered to be a transmitter of novel coronavirus unlike sweat which will



On-field umpire Aleem Dar inspect ball after Sri Lankan player Dinesh Chandimal (122) tried to tamper with match ball AP

still be allowed to shine the ball. Repeated violation of the ban would at first invite a warning before a five-run penalty is imposed.

"Players will not be permitted to use saliva to shine the ball. If a player does apply saliva to the ball, the umpires will manage the situation with some leniency during an initial period of adjustment for the players, but subsequent instances will result in the team receiving a warning," the ICC said.

"A team can be issued up to two warnings per innings but repeated use of saliva on the ball will result in a 5-run penalty to the batting side. Whenever saliva is applied to the ball, the umpires will be instructed to clean the ball

before play recommences," the parent body stated.

The introduction of two home team umpires for bilateral series after nearly two decades is purely due to the logistical challenges of travelling given the flight restrictions in place globally.

"The requirement to appoint neutral match officials will be temporarily removed from the playing conditions for all international formats owing to the current logistical challenges with international travel.

"The ICC will be able to appoint locally based match officials from the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Officials and the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match

Officials," the ICC said.

This means India's C Shamsuddin, Anil Chaudhary and Nitin Menon will be seen officiating during the home series against England next year with Javagal Srinath being the match referee.

Due to the lack of experience of a lot of these umpires, who are not a part of the ICC Elite Panel, an additional DRS review has been allotted to the teams in each innings.

"Keeping in mind that there may be less experienced umpires on duty at times. This will increase the number of unsuccessful appeals per innings for each team to three for Tests and two for the white-ball formats."

The ICC Cricket

ICC members hope to end WT20 impasse

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) will be hoping to end the impasse surrounding the future of this year's T20 World Cup in Australia and sort the nomination process for its next chairman when the board members meet virtually on Wednesday.

The last ICC board meet was a damp squib with leaks of classified e-mails gaining precedence over the agenda. And the board members would expect some concrete decisions to end the logjam over this year's T20 World Cup Down Under, which looks increasingly improbable due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

So would the BCCI agree to push their edition (2021) to 2022 if Cricket Australia requests?

"Let ICC first announce what they intend to do with

this year's World T20. There has been no formal announcement with regards to this year's edition," BCCI treasurer Arun Dhimal said.

"Either India hold their edition as per schedule in Australia and sort the nomination process for its next chairman when the board members meet virtually on Wednesday."



taken considering the members will need to plan their bilateral engagements," a senior official privy to ICC board room politics said.

The other aspect will be broadcaster, Star India, which has invested heavily in both the IPL as well as ICC events.

"Star is a stakeholder. Their opinion will also matter," the official said.

There is speculation that the October-November window for the T20 World Cup would be taken up by the IPL if the ICC announces a postponement or cancellation.

Operations team will also support local match referees when processing code of conduct breaches, and a neutral Elite Panel match referee will conduct any hearing remotely via video link.

The ICC also relaxed the apparel rules by allowing a logo on the chest of Test

match jersey.

"A logo, not exceeding 32 square inches in size, may be placed on the chest of the Test match shirt and sweater in addition to the three other logos allowed as per regulations. As of now, logos on chests are only allowed in ODIs and T20s."

Sammy seeks apology from teammates for racist nickname



Ishant Sharma's Instagram post where he captioned Darren Sammy as Kaluu

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

An old social media post by India pacer Ishant Sharma lent credence to former West Indies captain Darren Sammy's allegation that a racist nickname was used to address him during his IPL stint with Sunrisers Hyderabad for which he is now demanding an apology.

The two-time T20 World Cup-winning captain, while commenting on the protests over African-American George Floyd's death in the US, had spoken about being called Kalu while he was in India. Kalu is a derogatory word to describe black people.

Sammy said having understood the meaning only now, he feels disappointed with his teammates, who addressed him by that nickname during his 2013-2014 stint with SRH.

One of them could be Ishant, who had shared a group picture also featuring Sammy, on May 14, 2014, using Kalu to identify the West Indian in it. The same year, even Sammy called himself Kalu in a social media post to offer birthday wishes to VVS Laxman — the SRH mentor at that time.

"I was listening to Hasan Minhaj (Indian-American comedian and actor) talking about how some of the people in his culture view or describe black people," Sammy said in his latest Instagram post.

"...I was angry after listening to him describing a word that they use to describe black people, which he was saying is not in a good way and it was degrading."

"Instantly I remembered when I played for Sunrisers Hyderabad in 2013 and 2014, I was being called the exact same word that he described," he added.

Sammy demanded an apology from his teammates, asking

them to reach out to him.

"All those who used to call me that, you guys know yourselves... Reach out to me, let's have a conversation. Because, if it was in any way, shape or form what Minhaj said it meant, I'm very disappointed," he said.

"I will be messaging those people. You guys know who you are. I must admit, at the time in which I was being called that, I did not know what it meant," he added.

"I thought it meant strong stallion or whatever it is, and I saw no problems with it because I was ignorant to the fact of what it meant. I thought it meant something else, something uplifting."

Sammy, who now plies his trade in the Pakistan Super League, said he distinctly remembers laughter at the very mention of the word.

"Me being a team man, I thought, hey, team-mates are happy, it must be something funny. You can understand my frustration and my anger when it was pointed out to me that it wasn't funny at all, it was degrading," he said.

"I've had great memories in all the dressing rooms I've been in, as a T20 player, as a leader in a dressing room, as a captain. I've always been one to build up a relationship or build up a team, not bring it down."

"So, all those who used to call me that, you guys know yourselves, some of you have my numbers, some of you have my Instagram, on Twitter, wherever. Reach out to me, let's have a conversation," he added.

Sammy reiterated that he is very disappointed as he thought of his teammates as family.

"...I'll still be angry, and deserve an apology from you guys, because I saw all of you guys as my brothers. So, talk to me, reach out to me, please clear the air," he said.

Pant has every shot in the book: Rashid

KOLKATA: Young batsman Rishabh Pant has every shot in the book and it's difficult to contain him when he gets going, says star Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan.

The Afghan spinner had captained Pant in an U-19 tri-series in 2015 ahead of U-19 World Cup in Bangladesh in 2016.

"He hit three sixes in a row and in the fourth ball he mistimed but only to be dropped at short midwicket. Our bowler looked helpless and put his hands on his head, yelling in Pashto, 'now what do I do get him out?'" Khan recalled the incident in an Instagram chat with Indian legspinner Yuzvendra Chahal.

Despite getting many chances, the Delhi left-hander still has not been able to cement his place since MS Dhoni sidelined himself post the 2019 World Cup semifinal exit.

"He has every shot in the book and is one batsman who is very tough to bowl to. I remember bowling to him at a ground



in Kolkata in the U-19 Triseries." Rashid said.

Talking about the art of bowling, Khan said the key to tackle the big-hitting batsmen, like the Caribbean, is to confuse them.

"Never pitch the ball up; they would clear boundaries with ease. It's about playing them on the backfoot and confuse them with the wrong one and leg spin. I always try to mix it up," Rashid, who is known for big-spinning googly, said. PTI

Younis appointed Pak batting coach for Eng tour

PTI ■ KARACHI

Pakistan on Tuesday appointed former captain Younis Khan as national team's batting coach and also roped in Mushtaq Ahmed as spin bowling coach for the upcoming tour of England.

The 42-year-old Younis had scored 10,099 runs in 118 Tests, including a career-best 313 in a successful career during which he also became world number one batsman in the ICC rankings.

Pakistan are scheduled to take on England in a three-Test series from July 30 and then the two teams will clash in a three-match T20 series from August 29.

"I am delighted that someone of the stature and incredible batting record of Younis Khan has agreed to join the Pakistan cricket set-up as national men's team batting coach," PCB Chief Executive Wasim Khan said.

"Younis' work ethics, commitment to match preparation, game awareness and tactics in the English conditions will be invaluable."

Former leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, who took 185 wickets in 52 Tests for Pakistan, will also be mentor of side. He has guided both England and the West Indies in the past as spin bowling coach.

"Mushtaq knows the English conditions as well as anyone, having spent a lot



Former Pakistan captain Younis Khan PCB/Twitter

of time playing County cricket and working with the England cricket team," said Wasim.

"Apart from guiding the spinners and playing a mentor's role, Mushtaq can be helpful to Misbah in match planning and

preparations.

"It is crucial that the side understands the conditions that they will encounter in the upcoming series and so having the experience of the likes of Younis Khan and Mushtaq Ahmed to compliment head coach Misbah-ul-Haq and fast bowling coach Waqar Younis will be invaluable."

Younis said he feels "privileged to have been again offered the opportunity to serve Pakistan for a challenging but exciting tour of England."

"The Pakistan side includes some immensely talented cricketers who have the potential to achieve greater heights. Together with Misbah-ul-Haq, Mushtaq Ahmed and Waqar Younis, we will try to make them better and prepare them as best as we can with on and off field coaching and guidance," Younis said in a PCB release.

Head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq also welcomed Younis and Mushtaq on the coaching panel.

"Due to events beyond human control, the series in England will be one of the most challenging and difficult and, as such, we need to have the best talent and brains on our side. Younis as well as Mushtaq clearly tick all these and additional boxes, which will assist us in achieving our targets," he said.

Lanka ready to host Asia Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The executive board of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has deferred its decision on the fate of this year's Asia Cup T20 with Sri Lanka offering to host the event, claiming that original hosts Pakistan have agreed to the proposal.

Sri Lanka cricket chief Shammi Silva has claimed that the Pakistan Cricket Board as well as the ACC are in agreement that the island nation can host the tournament.

The event is scheduled in September and while it is the PCB's turn to host, shifting it to another country seems inevitable considering that India would not travel to Pakistan.

"We had a discussion with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and they have already agreed to our hosting this edition due to the present world situation," Shammi Silva was quoted as saying by Sri Lankan media outlet Ceylon Today.

"We had an online ACC meeting and they basically gave us the green light to host the tournament," he added.

It is understood that the ACC will wait for the ICC's decision on the T20 World Cup in Australia (October-November) before taking a call on the Asia Cup.

"...The Board emphasised on the importance of holding the Asia Cup 2020. In light of the impact and consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, possible venue options for the Asia Cup 2020 were discussed and it was decided to take the final decision in due course," an ACC press release stated after the meeting on Monday.

Wade won't sledge India players in Tests this year

MELBOURNE: Australian wicket-keeper batsman Matthew Wade on Tuesday said he would not sledge Indian cricketers during this year's home Test series as Virat Kohli's men thrive on verbal duels and use it to their advantage.

Wade has used sharp words to get into the skin of his opponents in the past, especially in the 2017 India ODI series and also during last year's Ashes.

However, the 32-year-old said he would not want confrontations with Indian players during the much-anticipated four-Test engagement later this year.

"They're a hard team, they use it (sledding) to their advantage very well. Virat is very clever the way he



uses his words or his body language. So they use it as an advantage now. To be honest, I don't really want to engage too much into that," Wade told reporters.

"I know that they thrive off that energy that comes between two players. They're probably as good at doing that as anyone in the world at the moment, so it's something I might stay away from this time." PTI

Indian football domestic season from August 1

NEW DELHI: Indian football's domestic season will begin from August 1 when the transfer window opens, two months later than normal times due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a circular sent on Tuesday to all the state units, the AIFF said it has got clearance from the world body FIFA to hold the season from August 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021.

The summer transfer window will run from August 1 to October 31.

While the domestic transfer window normally begins in the first week of June to continue till August end, it has been pushed back to August this year due to the global health crisis.

But there was no change in the normal May 31 season ending date

and thus the 2020-2021 season will be shortened by two months in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Yes, we have received the circular from the AIFF stating that the domestic season will begin from August 1, 2020 and run to May 31, 2021 and it will open the summer transfer window from August 1 till October 20," the head of a state association said.

"...We are pleased to inform you that FIFA has approved the amendment in All India Football Federation's season dates and registration period (transfer window) for 2020-21," the circular from AIFF said.

The second transfer window will be from January 1, 2021 to January 31, 2021. PTI

Madrid could host CL final

MADRID: The mayor of Madrid has said the city is being considered as a potential host of this year's Champions League final and has given the idea his "total and absolute support".

The fixture was due to be played at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul on May 30 before the Champions League was postponed in March with only half of the last 16 completed.

The final last season between Liverpool and Tottenham was held at Atletico Madrid's Wanda Metropolitano while Real Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu hosted the 2010 decider between Inter Milan and Bayern Munich.



Bayern Munich.

"I know steps are being taken in this regard and on behalf of the city council, I want to show my total and absolute support for the Champions League final being held in Madrid," Madrid mayor Jose Luis Martinez-Almeida said on Monday night to Spanish television channel Trece.

Spain has been able to bring coronavirus under control in recent weeks and Madrid moved into phase two, the penultimate stage of the Government's de-escala-

tion programme, on Monday.

"I think hosting an international event like the Champions League final is very important but especially in these circumstances," Almeida added.

"What it would demonstrate is Madrid's ability to recover in a very short time from the dramatic situation we have been through."

Almeida added that "adequate security conditions exist, we have the infrastructures and public services to host it and it would send a message to the world that Madrid, despite what we have experienced, does not give up and is back." AFP

Kante back in contact training

LONDON: Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante has returned to contact training ahead of the Premier League's comeback next week, the Blues confirmed on Tuesday. The French World Cup winner had been allowed to continue training at home when his teammates returned to training last month due to fears over coronavirus.

The 29-year-old is not expected to be match fit in time for Chelsea's opening game of Project Restart against Aston Villa on June 21.

However, Kante could now play an important role in the run-in as Chelsea aim to hold onto a place in the Premier League's top four. AFP



England players train during warm-up session ahead of Euro qualifiers File Photo

Three Lions better for Euro success in 2021: Southgate

AFP ■ LONDON

England manager Gareth Southgate believes a year-long delay to the European Championship could benefit his side as key players will be fit and rising stars will mature.

Euro 2020, which was due to begin on Friday, was moved back 12 months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

England captain Harry Kane and Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford would have been major doubts for the initial dates due to injury.

Rashford, 22, was one of four English players named among the top five most highly valued players in the world by the CIES Football Observatory on Monday.

The others are Raheem Sterling, 25, Trent Alexander-Arnold, 21, and Jadon Sancho, 20. "At one point we were possibly looking at being without Marcus Rashford and Harry Kane, or at the very best both

of those not having a lot of football," Southgate told Sky Sports.

"The age of the team you would hope would be better in a year's time but we have to go and prove that on the pitch."

If the tournament remains in the same format across 12 cities in 12 different countries, England would play all of their group games at Wembley and then the semi-final and final there if they get that far.

Southgate, who has experience of playing in a home tournament at Euro 96, is hoping his side will benefit.

"We have an advantage in our group matches," he said. "But so do Italy, who play their games in Rome, Spain plays in Bilbao, Holland (Netherlands) play in Amsterdam."

"It's only a true advantage in the latter stages of the competition, semi-final, final, if we are good enough to get to that point. But without doubt we have to view it positively."



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Train No. (Onward/Return)	From	To	Train Name	Frequency	*Earliest Date of Ticket Availability		Train No. (Onward/Return)	From	To	Train Name	Frequency	*Earliest Date of Ticket Availability	
					Onward	Return						Onward	Return
01019/20	Mumbai CSMT	Bhubaneswar	Konarka Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	02073/74	Howrah	Bhubaneswar	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
01061/62	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Darbhanga	Darbhanga Express	Daily	07-July	10-June	02023/24	Howrah	Patna	Jan Shatabdi Express	Six Days	17-June	13-June
01071/72	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Varanasi	Kamayani Express	Daily	04-July	10-June	02021/22	Howrah	Barbil	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
01093/94	Mumbai CSMT	Varanasi	Mahanagri Express	Daily	08-July	10-June	02296/95	Danapur	KSR Bengaluru	Sanghamitra Express	Daily	10-June	28-June
01139/40	Mumbai CSMT	Gadag	Mumbai CSMT-Gudag Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	02792/91	Danapur	Secunderabad	Danapur-Secunderabad Express	Daily	10-June	27-June
01301/02	Mumbai CSMT	KSR Bengaluru	Udyan Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	03201/02	Patna	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Patna-Lokmanyatilak (T) Express	Daily	10-June	29-June
02479/80	Jodhpur	Bandra (T)	Suryanagri Express	Daily	11-June	10-June	02553/54	Saharsa	New Delhi	Vaishali Express	Daily	10-June	02-July
02701/02	Mumbai CSMT	Hyderabad	Husain Sagar Express	Daily	11-June	10-June	02557/58	Muzaffarpur	Anand Vihar	Sapt Kranti Express	Daily	10-June	25-June
02715/16	H. S. Nanded	Amritsar	Sachkhand Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	05273/74	Raxaul	Anand Vihar	Satyagrah Express	Daily	10-June	23-June
02933/34	Mumbai Central	Ahmedabad	Karnavati Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	02365/66	Patna	Ranchi	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
06345/46	Mumbai (LTT)	Thiruvananthapuram Central	Netrvati Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	02565/66	Darbhanga	New Delhi	Bihar Sampark Kranti	Daily	10-June	26-June
02955/56	Mumbai Central	Jaipur	Mumbai Central- Jaipur Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	02309/10	Patna	New Delhi	Patna-New Delhi Express	Daily	10-June	20-June
02141/42	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Patliputra	Lokmanyatilak (T)- Patliputra Express	Daily	29-June	10-June	02407/08	New Jalpaiguri	Amritsar	Karambhumi Exp	Weekly	08-July	12-June
09041/42	Bandra (T)	Ghazipur	Bandra Ghazipur Express	Biweekly	03-July	10-June	02357/58	Kolkata	Amritsar	Amritsar-Kolkata Express	Biweekly	23-June	23-July
02149/50	Pune	Danapur	Pune Danapur Express	Daily	26-June	10-June	02904/03	Amritsar	Mumbai Central	Golden Temple Mail	Daily	10-June	10-June
05645/46	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Guwahati	Lokmanyatilak Guwahati Express	Biweekly	15-July	28-June	02926/25	Amritsar	Bandra (T)	Paschim Express	Daily	13-June	10-June
09037/38	Bandra(T)	Gorakhpur	Avadh Express	Four Days	30-July	12-June	04673/74	Jaynagar	Amritsar	Shaheed Express	Four days	02-July	21-June
09039/40	Bandra(T)	Muzaffarpur	Avadh Express	Triweekly	02-July	11-June	04649/50	Jaynagar	Amritsar	Saryu Yamuna Express	Triweekly	03-July	18-July
02951/52	Mumbai Central	New Delhi	Mumbai Central- New Delhi Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	02833/34	Ahmedabad	Howrah	Ahmedabad-Howrah Express	Daily	23-June	13-June
02156/55	H. Nizamuddin	Habibganj	Bhopal Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	09165/66	Ahmedabad	Darbhanga	Sabarmati Express	Triweekly	21-June	10-June
02230/29	New Delhi	Lucknow	Lucknow Mail	Daily	15-June	10-June	09167/68	Ahmedabad	Varanasi	Sabarmati Express	Four days	20-June	10-June
02392/91	New Delhi	Rajgir	Shramjevi Express	Daily	27-June	10-June	09045/46	Surat	Chhapra	Tapti Ganga Express	Five days	28-June	10-June
02394/93	New Delhi	Rajendra Nagar	Sampurna Kranti Express	Daily	22-June	10-June	02947/48	Ahmedabad	Patna	Azimabad Express	Biweekly	24-June	10-June
02418/17	New Delhi	Prayagraj	Prayagraj Express	Daily	15-June	10-June	09083/84	Ahmedabad	Muzaffarpur	Ahmedabad- Muzaffarpur Express (Via Surat)	Daily	23-June	10-June
02420/19	New Delhi	Lucknow	Gomti Express	Daily	14-June	10-June	09089/90	Ahmedabad	Gorakhpur	Ahmedabad-Gorakhpur Express (Via Surat)	Daily	19-June	10-June
02452/51	New Delhi	Kanpur	Shram Shakti Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	02917/18	Ahmedabad	H. Nizamuddin	Gujarat Sampark Kranti	Triweekly	12-June	11-June
02560/59	New Delhi	Manduadih	Shivganga Express	Daily	20-June	10-June	02957/58	Ahmedabad	New Delhi	Ahmedabad-New Delhi Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
02618/17	H. Nizamuddin	Ernakulam	Mangla Express	Daily	10-June	11-June	02463/64	Delhi S Rohilla	Jodhpur/Bikaner	Samprk Kranti	Triweekly	19-June	18-June
04009/10	Bapudham Motihari	Anand Vihar	Champaran Satyagrah Express	Weekly	14-June	04-July	02477/78	Jodhpur	Jaipur	Jaipur-Jodhpur Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
02629/30	Yesvantpur	H. Nizamuddin	Karnataka Samprk Kranti Express	Biweekly	16-June	19-June	02065/66	Ajmer	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Jan Shatabdi Express	Five Days	10-June	10-June
02724/23	New Delhi	Hyderabad	Telangana Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	02059/60	Kota	H. Nizamuddin	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
02916/15	Delhi	Ahmedabad	Ashram Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	02555/56	Gorakhpur	Hisar	Gorakhdham Express	Daily	18-June	11-June
02963/64	H. Nizamuddin	Udaipur City	Mewar Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	02801/02	Bhubaneswar	New Delhi	Purushottam Express	Daily	11-June	30-June
05484/83	Delhi	Alipurduar	Mahananda Express	Daily	07-July	16-June	02823/24	Bhubaneswar	New Delhi	Bhubaneswar- New Delhi Express	Daily	10-June	16-June
02182/81	H. Nizamuddin	Jabalpur	H. Nizamuddin-Jabalpur Express	Daily	12-June	10-June	08183/84	Tatanagar	Danapur	Tatanagar-Danapur Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
02217/18	Varanasi	New Delhi	Mahamana Express	Triweekly	10-June	22-June	02805/06	Vishakapatnam	New Delhi	AP Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
02219/20	Ghazipur	Anand Vihar	Suhaildev Express	Four Days	10-June	21-June	07201/02	Guntur	Secunderabad	Golconda Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
02233/34	Ghazipur	Anand Vihar	Anandvihar Ghazipur Express	Biweekly	10-June	19-June	02793/94	Tirupati	H. Nizamabad	Rayalseema Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
02055/56	New Delhi	Dehradun	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	05955/56	Dibrugarh	Delhi	Brahmputra Mail	Daily	10-June	21-June
02057/58	New Delhi	Una Himachal	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	15-June	10-June	02423/24	Dibrugarh	New Delhi	Dibrugarh New Delhi Express	Daily	10-June	18-June
02441/42	Bilaspur	New Delhi	New Delhi- Bilaspur Express	Biweekly	15-June	20-June	02067/68	Guwahati	Jorhat Town	Jan Shatabdi Express	Six Days	10-June	10-June
02425/26	New Delhi	Jammu Tawi	New Delhi- Jammu Tawi Express	Daily	20-June	11-June	02091/92	Dehradun	Kathgodam	Jan Shatabdi Express	Five Days	10-June	10-June
02433/34	Chennai	New Delhi	New Delhi- Chennai Express	Biweekly	24-June	11-June	02053/54	Haridwar	Amritsar	Jan Shatabdi Express	Six Days	10-June	10-June
01016/15	Gorakhpur	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Kushinagar Express	Daily	10-June	01-July	02079/80	Bengaluru	Hubli	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
02533/34	Lucknow	Mumbai CSMT	Pushpak Express	Daily	10-June	26-June	02691/92	Bengaluru	New Delhi	Bengaluru- New Delhi Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
02541/42	Gorakhpur	Lokmanyatilak (T)	Gorakhpur-Lokmanyatilak (T) Express	Daily	10-June	29-June	02089/90	Yashwantpur	Shiv mogga Town	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
02377/78	Sealdah	New Alipurduar	Padatik Express	Daily	10-June	10-June	02283/84	Ernakulam	H. Nizamuddin	Duronto Express	Weekly	10-June	13-June
02703/04	Howrah	Secunderabad	Falaknuma Express	Daily	10-June	26-June	02075/76	Calicut	Trivandrum	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
02810/09	Howrah	Mumbai CSMT	Howrah-Mumbai Mail	Daily	10-June	01-July	02081/82	Kannur	Trivandrum	Jan Shatabdi Express	Five Days	11-June	10-June
02307/08	Howrah	Jodhpur/Bikaner	Howrah-Jodhpur/Bikaner Express	Daily	23-June	22-June	02431/32	Trirandrum	New Delhi	Trirandrum- New Delhi Express	Triweekly	10-June	10-June
02381/82	Howrah	New Delhi	Poorva Express	Triweekly	10-June	22-June	02727/28	Visakhapatnam	Hyderabad	Godavari Express	Daily	16-June	10-June
02303/04	Howrah	New Delhi	Poorva Express	Four Days	12-June	05-July	02285/86	Secunderabad	H. Nizamuddin	Duronto Express	Biweekly	11-June	12-June
02245/46	Howrah	Yasvantpur	Duronto Express	Five Days	10-June	26-June	02437/38	Secunderabad	New Delhi	Secunderabad- New Delhi Express	Weekly	10-June	14-June
02301/02	Howrah	New Delhi	Howrah- New Delhi Express	Daily	10-June	16-June	02069/70	Raigarh	Gondia	Jan Shatabdi Express	Six Days	10-June	10-June
02201/02	Sealdah	Bhubaneswar	Duronto Express	Triweekly	10-June	11-June	02061/62	Habibganj	Jabalpur	Jan Shatabdi Express	Daily	10-June	10-June
02213/14	Shalimar	Patna	Duronto Express	Triweekly	19-June	16-June	02779/80	Vasco da Gama	H. Nizamuddin	Goa Express	Daily	18-June	16-June
							02453/54	Ranchi	New Delhi	Ranchi- New Delhi Express	Bi Weekly	11-June	20-June
							02501/02	Agartala	New Delhi	Agartala- New Delhi Express	Weekly	15-June	01-July

*Earliest vacant berths availability dates in presently running trains (position at 1200 hrs on 09 June 2020). • Details about timngs and stoppages are available on the IRCTC website www.irctc.co.in