

**OPINION 6**  
 SWEDISH LESSONS  
 FOR INDIA

**WORLD 8**  
 TRUMP OKs SANCTIONS  
 AGAINST ICC OFFICIALS

**SPORT 12**  
 INDIA'S SRI LANKA  
 TOUR CALLED OFF

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY JUNE 12, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3

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TAAPSEE SHARES  
 STRUGGLES OF  
 MIGRANTS  
 TO VIVACITY

## 0.73% population in 83 dists exposed to corona But ICMR survey finds there is no community transmission, and fatality rate is .08%

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 As many as 73 people per 10,000 population could have "exposure" to coronavirus in the country as per an immunological survey, one of the largest in the world, conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in 83 non-containment zone districts across 15 States in the country.  
 Official claimed that the number is in the lower side but the danger of spread of the disease in a bigger way still lurks. ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava warned that as per the survey a large proportion of the population is susceptible and infection can spread rapidly even as he denied that India is witnessing community transmission of the deadly virus.  
 The findings showed that infection in 15 containment

zones districts was high with significant variations.  
 Explaining the data, Dr Bhargava said, "Around 0.73 per cent people in the 83 districts we studied showed prevalence of past exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus which means the lockdown in initial days kept the disease low and checked a rapid viral spread."  
 "The survey findings also show large proportions of population are still susceptible to the virus. However, good news is that infection fatality rate in the 83 districts was very low at 0.08 per cent."  
 Based on the sero-surveillance (blood sample based study), the ICMR warned that urban slums were found to be the most at risk with 1.85 times higher Covid-19 prevalence than rural areas while urban centres reported a prevalence that was 1.09 times higher than in villages.



A migrant worker gets her temperature checked before being allowed to board a train tomorrow to head to her home State, in Jammu on Thursday AP

The virus prevalence was the lowest in rural areas. The sample for the study consisted of 26,400 people across 28,595 households in 83 districts. A sero-survey is conducted by testing the blood serum of a group of people in a community to detect the presence of antibodies in the system which aids in finding out the prevalence of a disease. This

transmission phase. Pointing to low Covid prevalence, Bhargava also said there is no community transmission of the disease in India. Bhargava said the way forward was strict adherence to non-pharmacological interventions like physical distancing, masks and face covers, respiratory and hand hygiene. Also, he said high risk groups i.e. elderly, chronic morbidities, pregnant women and children less than 10 years old of age need to be protected.  
 "Infection in containment zones has been found to be high, and therefore, local lockdown measures need to continue. Efforts to limit the scale and spread of the disease will have to be continued by strong implementation of containment strategies by the States. The States cannot lower their guard and need to keep on implementing effective surveillance and containment strategies," he said.  
 De VK Paul, member health, NITI Aayog, added, "Less than 1 per cent people had past infection as shown by the survey which presents the picture till April 30. The survey was done in the third week of May and normally antibodies take 15 days to appear."  
 Asserting that India's fatalities and cases were comparatively less than various countries, he said India was showing clearly low mortality rate and recoveries had now touched 49.12 per cent with more people cured than currently infected.  
 Bhargava also said there was ample testing capacity in the country at two lakh samples a day and it remained under-utilised. He urged States to ramp up testing.  
 He said the sero-surveys were conducted in two parts, and the first part comprising a fraction of the general population, who had contracted Sars-Cov-2, had been completed.  
 The sero-survey conducted using both anti-body/instant test and the lengthier RT-PCR test, to detect current virus carriers and also those who recovered after contracting the disease were started by ICMR in May 2020, in collaboration with state health departments, NCDC, and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

### 2,098 Covid victims cremated in Delhi! Govt figure at 1,085



Medics and family members perform burial of a person who died of Covid-19 in New Delhi on Thursday Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

### Civic bodies accuse Govt of hiding info

**CHANDAN PRAKASH ■ NEW DELHI**  
 A fresh war of words has erupted between the Delhi Government and BJP-ruled municipal Corporations over number of Covid-19 related deaths in Delhi.  
 All three civic bodies claimed that they have cremated 2,098 Covid-19 bodies. However, Delhi Government's health bulletin claimed 1,085 people have died of coronavirus till Thursday.  
 Replying to the civic bodies' claim, the Delhi Government said it has set up a "death audit committee" consisting of senior doctors who are working impartially towards assessing deaths caused by coronavirus.  
 The Delhi High Court has also declared that the Death Audit Committee is working in an appropriate manner and that the work of the committee cannot be questioned.  
 The Government said it believes that not even a single life must be lost to coron-

**PREGNANT WOMAN'S DEATH: DIRECTOR OF NOIDA'S ESIC HOSPITAL SHUNTED OUT**  
**Noida:** The director of a Government-run hospital, one of the seven facilities that had denied admission to a pregnant woman leading to her death last week, has been shunted out, an official order said on Thursday. Dr. Anish Singhal, Director of the ESIC Hospital in Noida, Sector 24, has been transferred with "immediate effect" to the ESIC's Directorate (Medical) in Delhi, the order stated.

### India replaces UK for 4th rank with 3L cases

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 India raced to the fourth spot in the world's list of worst coronavirus affected nations after it left behind the United Kingdom by more than 7,000 cases on Thursday.  
 Now only the USA, Brazil and Russia are ahead of India in terms of overall numbers.  
 During the day India recorded 10,677 new cases and 390 deaths, which took its overall count of positive cases to 2,97,832 and death toll to 8,498.  
 Once again, Maharashtra, Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat were among the top contributors both in terms of new cases and death. Both Maharashtra and Delhi recorded another day of the biggest single-day spike as situation looked alarming in both the States.  
 Maharashtra reported 3,607 fresh coronavirus cases and 152 deaths taking the total number of cases in the State to 97,648 and deaths to 3,590. Of the total deaths reported on Thursday, 35 are from the last two days and the rest are from April 1 to June 8.  
 Mumbai reported 1,540 fresh Covid-19 cases and 97 deaths. The total number of cases in the city now stands at 53,985 and deaths at 1,952. Of the 97 deaths reported on Thursday, 43 occurred before June 7.  
 Meanwhile, Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope ordered the suspension of the Dean and four other employees of the Jalgaon Civil Hospital in north Maharashtra, after a shocking incident in which an 82-year-old female Covid-19 patient was found dead in the toilet of the hospital.  
 Delhi also reported the highest single-day spike, adding 1,877 more Covid-19 cases and 65 deaths. Total number of cases in the national Capital is now at 34,687, including 20,871 active cases, 12,731 recovered/discharged/migrated and 1,085 deaths.  
 In Tamil Nadu, while 1,875 people tested positive for Covid-19 on Thursday, the State also saw 23 patients succumbing to the pandemic on a single day taking death toll to 349.  
 The release issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu said till Thursday 38,716 people have tested positive for the pandemic in the State. The release also said 1,372 patients were discharged on Thursday from hospitals fully cured. This took the number of people fully cured from the pandemic to 20,705.

### India echoes Chinese wish for early resolution of LAC face-off

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 A day after China said there was "positive consensus" to "ease" the situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, India on Thursday echoed same sentiments and said both the countries are maintaining diplomatic and military engagements to resolve the stand-off at the earliest.  
 Making this observation against the backdrop of both the Armies mutually disengaging from the face-off sites and military commanders holding extensive talks, the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said both sides have agreed to work for an early resolution to the issue in keeping with broader guidance provided by the leaders of the two countries for ensuring peace and tranquility along the border areas.  
 He, however, did not respond to questions relating to reports of pulling back of troops by both India and China from certain friction points in the Galwan Valley and Hot Spring areas in eastern Ladakh in the last few days.  
 "A meeting was held between Corps commanders of India and China on June 6. This meeting was in continuation of our diplomatic and military engagement which both sides maintained in order to address the situation in areas along the India-China border," the spokesperson said. He was referring to parleys between Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin.  
 "It was agreed in the meeting that an early resolution of the situation would be in keeping with the guidance of our leaders. The two sides are, therefore, maintaining military and diplomatic engagements to peacefully resolve the situation at the earliest and also to ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas," he said.  
 "This is essential for further development of India-China bilateral relations," Srivastava added.  
 The assertion from New Delhi came after the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Hua Chunying said on Wednesday in Beijing, "Recently the diplomatic and military channels of China and India held effective communication on the situation along the border and reached a positive consensus and the two sides are following this consensus to take actions to ease the situation along the border."  
 Asked about troops on both sides disengaging and moving back to their previous positions, she said both sides are taking steps to ease the situation along the LAC.  
 During their military-level talks on June 6, India and China agreed to follow the broad decisions taken by their leaders in the Wuhan summit in 2018 to ensure peace and tranquility along the LAC.



STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	97,648	3,590	46,078
Tamil Nadu	38,716	349	20,705
Delhi	34,687	1,085	12,731
Gujarat	22,067	1,385	15,109
Uttar Pradesh	12,088	345	7,292
Rajasthan	11,651	264	8,596
Madhya Pradesh	10,241	431	7,042
West Bengal	9,768	442	3,988
Karnataka	6,245	72	2,976
Bihar	5,807	34	3,086
Haryana	5,737	52	2,193
Andhra Pradesh	5,429	80	2,968
Jammu & Kashmir	4,574	52	1,820
Telangana	4,320	165	1,993
Odisha	3,386	12	2,354

**TOTAL CASES: 2,97,832**  
**DEATHS: 8,498**  
**RECOVERED: 1,46,661**  
**ACTIVE: 1,42,658**

### IISC ranks 1st, JNU, Jamia among top 10 universities

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 While Indian Institute of Science (IISC) Bangalore is ranked the best university in India, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) are among the top 10 universities in the country, according to the NIRF rankings released by the HRD Ministry on Thursday.  
 As per the annual rankings, the top three universities are IISC Bangalore, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Banaras Hindu University. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham emerged as the 4th best university in the country and 7th among medical colleges category in India.  
 Delhi University (DU) marginally improved its ranking among the universities and in the "Overall" category. However, it is behind the JMI in both categories in the annual rankings announcement delayed by Covid-19.

### Cong alleges bid by BJP to topple Rajasthan Govt, moves its MLAs to resort

**It's a manufactured crisis to project some as saviours, say party insiders**  
**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**  
 After three of its MLAs deserted the party in Gujarat, the Congress on Thursday alleged attempts are now being made to topple its Government in Rajasthan through "money power", ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls due on June 19. Sources said the party has moved all its MLAs to a resort on the Delhi-Jaipur highway.  
 Rajasthan is also hosting a group of Congress MLAs from Gujarat, brought allegedly to keep them out of the BJP's reach.  
 In March, the Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh collapsed after 22 MLAs defected to the BJP. In July last year, the party similarly lost power to the BJP in Karnataka, the State it was ruling in alliance with HD Kumaraswamy, after multiple exits.  
 The crisis in the State Congress ahead of the June 19 Rajya Sabha elections could be related to the party's internal politics, a senior Congress leader said.  
 However, with the first signs of trouble in the State on Wednesday, the Congress sent its chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala to Jaipur by a special chartered flight to reach out to the party MLAs. Surjewala was appointed an observer earlier and had been to Jaipur once before but the latest developments have lent a sense of urgency in the Congress camp.  
 A senior Congress leader claimed the crisis was a "manufactured one", aimed at "projecting some leaders as saviours while showing others as working against the party."

### Nepal will get back Kalapani from India through dialogue: PM Oli

**PTI ■ KATHMANDU**  
 Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has said that his Government will seek a solution to the Kalapani issue through diplomatic efforts and dialogue on the basis of historical facts and documents.  
 "We will get back the land occupied by India through holding a dialogue," Oli said while responding to questions in Parliament on Wednesday.  
 He claimed that India built a Kali temple, created "an artificial Kali river" and "encroached the Nepalese territory through deploying the Army" at Kalapani. The river defines the border between the two countries.  
 Oli's claim comes in midst of a raging boundary row between the two countries with India sternly asking Nepal not to resort to any "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims after Kathmandu released a new political map laying claim over Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura.  
 The ties between India and Nepal came under strain after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on May 8.  
 Nepal reacted sharply to the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through Nepalese territory. India rejected the claim asserting that the road lies completely within its territory. Nepalese officials say that Nepal had control over the area before 1962, when the India-China war took place.



### India jeers at Imran's aid offer, says our stimulus bigger than Pak's GDP

**New Delhi/Islamabad:** The Indian Government on Thursday derided Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan after he tweeted "nearly 34 per cent households across India would not be able to survive for more than a week without assistance."  
 Imran was not only mocked widely by Indians and Pakistanis on social media, but the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Anurag Srivastava, too took a jibe at Pakistan. "Pakistan is better known for making cash transfers to bank accounts outside the country rather than giving to its own people. Clearly, Imran Khan needs a new set of advisers and better information," he said.  
 Srivastava said all know about Pakistan's debt problem, which is almost 90 per cent of its GDP, and how much they have pressed for debt restructuring. He said, "It would also be better for them to remember that India has a stimulus package, which is as large as Pakistan's annual GDP."  
 Khan has claimed that his government in Pakistan has transferred about \$1 billion to at least 10 million families within nine weeks through what he calls a successful and transparent process. **IANS**

# Sabarimala won't open for devotees this Pooja

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Devotees will not be allowed inside Lord Ayyappa Temple in Sabarimala, the holy shrine atop the Western Ghats in Pathanamthitta district, when the sanctum sanctorum would be opened for the monthly pooja on Sunday.

This was announced by Kadakampalli Surendran, Kerala Minister for Devaswam, the department that administers the temples in the State. Briefing reporters after a discussion with N Vasu, fellow Marxist and Travancore Devaswam Board President and Mahesh Mohanaru, the chief priest (Thantri) of Sabarimala, the Minister said the decision was taken in the backdrop of the prevailing atmosphere of Covid-19 pandemic and asked devotees not to throng the temple this time.

The Thantri has written to the TDB that it was not proper to allow pilgrims who would reach the shrine from all over the country to pay obeisance to the deity when the temple doors are opened on Sunday for the monthly poojas which last for four days.

But the TDB had said on Wednesday that

all arrangements have been made for opening the temple and conducting the religious festival. Vasu had told reporters that he has not received any letter from the Thantri. "We decided to go ahead with the temple festival after discussing all issues with the Thantri. It is the prerogative of the Board to decide whether to hold the festival," Vasu had said.

The stand off resulted in the Minister convening a meeting for Thursday and decided not to go ahead with festival and restrict the event as a ritual without allowing devotees inside the temple.

Various Hindu organisations had questioned the TDB's stance to go ahead with the temple festival at a time when Kerala itself was in the grip of the pandemic. The earlier decision to hold the temple festival was taken following the Home Ministry's directive that State Governments were free to open religious places if the coronavirus disease was under control.

"We fully endorse the reservations expressed by the Thantri about the safety of the devotees and decided to have only the rituals. Devotees should stay away from the shrine for the time being," said Surendran.

# 1,875 test +ve in TN, count nears 39,000

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

While 1,875 persons tested positive for coronavirus disease on Thursday in Tamil Nadu, the State also saw 23 patients succumbing to the pandemic on a single day taking death toll to 349.

The release issued by the Government of Tamil Nadu said that till Thursday 38,716 persons have tested positive for the pandemic in the State. The release also said that 1,372 patients were discharged on Thursday from hospitals fully cured. This took the number of persons fully cured from the pandemic to 20,705.

Out of the 1,875 persons tested positive for Covid on Thursday, 1,406 were from Chennai, said the release. A total of 27,398 persons have been tested positive in Greater Chennai Municipal Corporation till date. The alarming increase

in the number of covid cases in Chennai made the Madras High Court ask the State Government on Thursday the feasibility of ordering a complete lockdown in the capital city for some more time.

Justices Vineeth Kothari and R Suresh Kumar, while hearing a petition asked the Government pleader what were the steps taken by the State Government to contain the spread of the pandemic. "The situation is grave as the number of cases is steeply raising and the situation has become alarming," said the judges.

"We want to know whether the Government has devised any special scheme, which includes complete lockdown or curfew to contain the spread in Chennai and surrounding areas for some time," the judges asked Government pleader V Jayaprakash Narayan during the virtual court proceedings after concluding listed cases.

# Vande Bharat Abhiyan: 8,465 return to Mumbai

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

As many as 8,465 Indians have so far returned to Mumbai from various parts of the world by 55 "Vande Bharat Abhiyan" special flights organised by the Union Government.

Of the 8,465 Indians who arrived in the metropolis from various countries till Thursday, 2,488 people are from Mumbai, while 2,918 are from different parts of Maharashtra and the remaining 3,059 are from other states of the country. More number of Indians will arrive in Mumbai by another 50 special flights till July 1.

The Indians have so far arrived by Vande Bharat Abhiyan special flights in Mumbai from countries like Great Britain, Singapore, Philippines, United States, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Oman, South Africa, Indonesia, Netherland, Japan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Tanzania, Spain, Ireland, Qatar, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Brazil, Thailand, Kenya, Miami, Vietnam, Italy, Sweden and Ethiopia.

Of the returnees, those from Mumbai are being kept in institutional quarantine for a period of 14 days in hotels across Mumbai, while the returnees from other parts of Maharashtra and other states are being kept in institutional quarantine till such they get e-passes from their respective district authorities or the State Governments, to head to their homes.

# Ex-gratia handed over to kin of martyred Sarpanch

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu on Thursday handed over the ex-gratia relief amounting to ₹20 lakh to the next of kin of martyred sarpanch Ajay Pandita.

The Government agencies had come under the scanner for not visiting his home and skipping the cremation ceremony in Jammu. Pandita was killed by the terrorists in the South Kashmir district of Anantnag on Monday evening.

According to official sources, family members were escorted to the Raj Bhawan on Thursday where Lt-Gov GC Murmu interacted with them and extended his deepest sympathies to them.

While paying homage to Ajay Pandita, the Lt Governor observed that the supreme sacrifice made by him would always be remembered and hoped that perpetrators of such a dastardly act would realize their follies and desist from committing crime against humanity.

Assuring full support from the UT Government, the Lt Governor also handed over a relief cheque amounting to ₹20 lakhs.

The relief amounting to ₹20 lakh includes ₹5 lakh from SRE, ₹1 lakh as ex-gratia from Government, ₹4 lakh from Lt Governor Relief Fund, whereas ₹10 lakh out of Panchayat Welfare Fund will be released shortly. PNS

# I would have been an artist if not CM: Uddhav

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra's embattled Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said here on Thursday that if he had not become a Chief Minister he would have been an artist and that he was now holding the position just because he was an artist.

Speaking at the inaugural function of HSNCL Cluster University - a PPP initiative of the Hyderabad Sind National Collegiate (HSNC) Board and the Maharashtra Government, Uddhav said: "If I had not become Chief Minister, I would have become an artist. In fact, I am Chief Minister because I am an artist".

Uddhav, who is currently engaged in a most challenging battle against Covid-19, said art was an

essential component of life. "Art makes learning pleasurable and delightful. Knowledge is an essential requirement of life. Hence, imparting education must be continued using technological tools even during calamity situations".

Earlier, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari - inaugurating the HSNCL Cluster University through video-conferencing - urged the educational institutions to lay stress on innovation and incubation. He said that educational institutions would have to combine innovation and incubation with research and invention to become centers of excellence.

The Governor complimented the HSNCL Board for forming the cluster university comprising of the KC College, HR College and the Bombay Teachers' Training College.

# Another no-confidence motion moved against Srinagar Mayor

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After failing in its last attempt to dislodge Junaid Azim Mattu from the post of Mayor, Srinagar Municipal Corporation in the month of December 2019, Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) is planning another coup against him with the help of disgruntled corporators.

BJP with only four seats in the 70 member house, is banking on the support of other disgruntled corporators to show him the exit door.

Soon after media reports claimed BJP corporators have moved a no-confidence motion against Junaid Azim Mattu, Mattu himself went public and tweeted "Been informed that BJP has sought a 'Vote of No Confidence' in the SMC against me. Those who have submitted the motion are either elected members/office bearers of BJP or unambiguously associated with BJP. This is the second such motion by BJP against me within six months". Interestingly, when Mattu had won the Mayor elections

in November 2018, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) general secretary Ram Madhav had first congratulated him for being elected as the mayor of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC). In November 2018, Ram Madhav had tweeted "Junaid Mattoo, independent supported by Sajjad Lone's People's Conference and BJP has won the Mayor post of Srinagar. He polled against the combined candidate of PDP, NC and Congress by 40 votes to 26 votes. Congrats Junaid and Sajjad and all Corporators".

In a series of other tweets Mattu asserted that he enjoyed majority in the municipal corporation and would take on the challenge democratically and legally. Smelling some foul play behind the move Mattu in another tweet said, "That this is being done in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic is another travesty. That it is being claimed and alleged that INC and BJP are on the same page is bizarre beyond comprehension and hints at some clear illegality and foul play".

# Army jawan martyred along LoC in Rajouri

PNS ■ JAMMU



Naik Gurcharan Singh

An Indian Army soldier sacrificed his life along the line of control (LoC) in Rajouri while another civilian received splinter injuries on his shoulder during continuous exchange of firing and intense mortar shelling by the Pakistan Army on Thursday.

Several civilian houses suffered damages and residents were forced to stay indoors in the forward areas. According to ground reports, there has been no let up from the Pakistan side. For the last couple of days, the Pakistan Army has been resorting to mortar shelling on the civilian areas in Rajouri and Poonch sectors. So far over 1300 incidents of ceasefire violations have been reported since January 2020 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Late Thursday evening, the Pakistan Army also resorted to mortar shelling in the Mankote sector of Poonch. In response, Indian army gave them a befitting reply. Defence PRO in Jammu, Lt Col Devender Anand said, "Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation on the line of control (LoC) in Rajouri Sector on 10 Jun 2020. Own troops responded strongly to the enemy fire. In the incident, Naik Gurcharan Singh was critically injured and later succumbed to his injuries". He said Naik Gurcharan Singh belonged to Village Harchowal, District Gurdaspur, Punjab.

According to Defence PRO, in the evening Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violations by firing with small arms and shelling mortars in Mankote sector". He said, Indian army retaliated befittingly.

# Maha: Covid patient found dead in hospital toilet; dean, 4 others suspended

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Cracking the whip, Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope on Wednesday ordered the suspension of the Dean and four other employees of the Jalgaon Civil Hospital in north Maharashtra, after a shocking incident in which an 82-year-old female Covid-19 patient was found dead in the toilet of the hospital.

Taking serious cognisance of the incident in which the body of Malati Nehete was found in the hospital's toilet eight days after she had gone "missing", the State Health Minister ordered the suspension of the Dean, Superintendent, a lecturer, a nurse and security man of Jalgaon Civil Hospital, in connection with the incident.

A day after the old Covid-19 patient's partially decomposed body was found in a toi-

let cubicle of the hospital, the Minister - through a tweet - announced action against the Dean and four others in connection with the incident.

Malati, who had been shifted to the Jalgaon Civil Hospital from another hospital on May 27 after she was diagnosed with Coronavirus symptoms, had gone missing on June 2. Senior Police Inspector Akbar Patel, attached to Zillapeth Police Station, said that the Jalgaon Civil Hospital authorities and the family members had lodged a complaint with the police that the woman had one 'missing' on June 2. On their part, the hospital staffers had claimed that the old woman patient might have "quietly walked away" from the hospital. The toilet cubicle, where the deceased woman was found dead, had either been opened nor had been cleaned for the previous eight days.

# TN to change names of 1,018 towns

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Though Tamil Nadu is under the grip of coronavirus pandemic which is spreading its wings on an hourly basis, it has not deterred the Dravidian Government from going backwards from its avowed intent of "Tamilising" the State. As part of making Tamil Nadu into an all Tamil province, the Edappadi Palaniswamy Government has ordered that names of 1,018 places would be changed to their original Tamil forms.

The official version is that

the names have been changed in accordance with how they are exactly pronounced in Tamil. A Committee had been appointed by the Palaniswamy Government to study and suggest how to change the names in accordance with how they are exactly pronounced in Tamil.

Gone are names like Egmore, Triplicane, Coimbatore, Vellore and Guindy Park. The new name of Egmore is Ezhumboor which has shocked Indologists like Dr Nanditha Krishna, who is proud of her Tamil lineage and culture.

"Even long-time residents of Egmore would not have heard the name Ezhumboor, the name of a village in the then Chola empire. Those days it was known as Elumbur Nadu but the region became famous as Egmore. I don't know how people will tell auto drivers and cabbies to take them to Ezhumboor," said Dr Krishna while speaking to *The Pioneer*.

Egmore is not the only famous place to undergo a name change. Coimbatore, the textile and engineering industry headquarters will be known hereafter as Koyampuththoor.

# Opp questions timing of Modi's pro-Bengal speech

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "look east" and pro-policies provoked a unanimous criticism from the Bengal political outfits which questioned the timing of his comments and wondered what prevented him from aggressively backing the State's economy during the past six years of his rule.

Hitting out at the Prime

Minister for making poll-oriented statements at the time of grave crisis the country and the State was passing through, Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury asked why he was speaking about restoring Bengal to its old economic prowess now when he was well aware about it ever since he came to power in 2014. "Did the Prime Minister not know about the potential of our jute industry? Did he not know about the need to back Bengal on economic front in the past six years of his being in power? Did he not know that Sikkim has gone organic? "If he knew it then why no

initiative was taken in the past to encourage the eastern industries? Why is he making such statements and raising the issue today? ... This is because he knows that Bengal is going to polls next year and so he has to sell something to win over the voters." Earlier, PM Modi while delivering his inaugural speech at the 95th plenary session of the Indian Chamber of Commerce focused on Kolkata's importance as the financial capital of eastern India and the need of restoring Bengal to its lost glory as an economic super power that it used to be in the earlier days.

# 152 die, 3,607 test +ve in Maha

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

For the second consecutive day on Thursday, Maharashtra notified new records on the Covid-19 front, as it recorded as many as 152 deaths and 3,607 others tested positive in various parts of the state.

A day after 149 more people died of Covid-19 and 3254 others tested positive for the pandemic in various parts of the State, coronavirus claimed 152 lives and left 3,607 others infected. With the fresh deaths and infections, the total number of deaths in Maharashtra mounted to 3,590, while the total infected cases jumped to 97,648.

# WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS WORK  
Sr.No.41 Tender Notice No. & Date: EL 81/765/WA/6 dt.11.06.2020. Work and Location : Mumbai Division-Augmentation, upgradation & modification of power supply installations for electrical general services including SCADA and other works (Web based energy monitoring and controlling system). Approx. cost of work Rs. : 1,98,48,230/- Cost of EMD Rs. : 2,49,300/- Completion Period : Six Months. Sr. No. : 2. Tender Notice No. & Date : EL/Maint/41/WA/5 dt. 11.06.2020. Work and Location : Mumbai Division Suburban Section : Repairing/replacement of defective parts and cleaning of water coolers of various makes & capacities at various locations in Churchgate to Virar section and JR hospital at Mumbai Central for 2 yrs. Approx. cost of work Rs. : 15,27,011/- Cost of EMD Rs. : 36,600/- Completion Period : Two Years. Sr.No.1 & 2 : Date & Time of submission : till 13.07.2020 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening : on 13.07.2020 till 15.30 hrs. NOTE: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. 08  
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**AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED (Formerly known as Au FINANCIER'S (INDIA) LIMITED)**  
Regd. Office: 19-A, Dhuleshwar Garden, Ajmer Road, Jaipur-302001, Rajasthan (India) CIN: L36911R1996PLC011381

**APPENDIX-IV-A**  
**[See proviso to rule 8(6)]**  
**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagee(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of AU Small Finance Bank Limited (formerly known as AU Financiers India Limited), the same shall be referred herein after as AUSFB. The Secured Assets, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction for recovery of amount mentioned in the table below along with the further interest, cost, charges and expenses being due to AUSFB viz. Secured Creditor. It is hereby informed you that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website https://sarfaesi.auctiontngnet.

Account No. and Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower, Mortgagees	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice U/s 13(2) & Date of Physical Possession and amount as on (Date)	Descriptions of the property/Properties	Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount (Amount in Rs.)	E-Auction Date and Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Place of Submission of Bids and Documents, Inspection Date
9001220613712601 & 1721211815250093 1. M/s Innovation Technix Corporation Through Proprietor Mr. Sanjeev Sharma (Borrower) 2. Mr. Sanjeev Sharma S/o Mr. Manohar Lal Sharma (Guarantor/Mortgagor) 3. Mrs. Reena Sharma W/o Mr. Sanjeev Sharma (Guarantor)	04-02-2019 Rs. 36,73,533/- in (Loan A/c No. 9001220613712601 & Rs. 1,33,10,150/- In Loan A/c No. 1721211815250093) as on 01-Feb-19 Collectively total amount due Rs. 1,69,83,683.00 (Rs. One Crore Sixty Nine Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Three Only) Physical Possession done on 07-Feb-2020 Amount. due Rs. 42,63,799/- in (Loan A/c No. 9001220613712601 & Rs. 1,60,75,233/- In Loan A/c No. 1721211815250093) Collectively total amount due Rs. 2,03,39,032/- (Rupees Two Crore Three Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand and Thirty Two Only) as on 05-June-2020 plus Future interest & charges extra	1. Property Situated at Ground floor (without roof rights), Plot no.407, Sector-9, Urban Estate, Faridabad, Haryana admeasuring 500 Sq. yards and total construction area 2284 Sq. Feet.owned by Mr. Sanjeev Sharma S/o Sh. Manohar Lal Sharma Which is having four boundaries: East: Road 30 feet West: Plot No. 376 North: Plot No. 408 South: Plot No. 406	Reserve Price Rs. 1,00,00,000/- (Rupees. One Crore only) EMD Price Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees. Ten Lakh only) Incremental Amount Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees. Fifty Thousand only)	16-July-2020 From 02:00 PM to 04:00 PM with unlimited extension of five Minutes Last date of Bid Submission : 15-July-2020 Upto 03:00 PM AU Small Finance Bank Ltd., Branch Office - 801-804, 8th Floor, Roots Tower, District Center, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092 E-mail ID : rakesh.jain1@aubank.in Inspection Date 04 & 05 July 2020.

**THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002**  
**STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO BORROWER / MORTGAGORS**

The terms and conditions of e-auction sale:-  
1. The E-Auction sale of Secured Asset is on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "no recourse" basis for and on behalf of the Secured Creditor viz. AUSFB and there is no known encumbrance which exists on the said property. 2. For participating in online e-auction sale, Bid document, copies of PAN Card, Board Resolution in case of Company and photo ID, address proof are required to be submitted along with EMD, which is payable by way of RTGS/NEFT in the name of MSME AUCTION POOL ACCOUNT OF AU Small Finance Bank Limited, Current account No. 1921201121711599 AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED Fifth and Sixth Floor Sunny Big Junction STC Kharsa No. 64 to 67, Gram Sukhlaipura New Atish Market Jaipur 302020, IFSC Code: AUBL0020111. Once an Online Bid is submitted, same cannot be withdrawn. Further any EMD submitted by bidder will be required to send the UTR/Ref no of the RTGS/NEFT with a copy of cancelled cheque on the following email IDs i.e. rakesh.jain1@aubank.in. 3. All interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the website https://sarfaesi.auctiontngnet.https://www.aubank.in/bank-auction for further details including Terms & Conditions, to take part in e-auction sale proceeding and are also advised to contact Mr. Rakesh Jain, Contact Number 9116181827 and e-mail of rakesh.jain1@aubank.in.  
Place : Faridabad (Haryana) Date : 11-06-2020 Authorised Officer AU Small Finance Bank Limited

**King George's Medical University U.P., Lucknow E - Tender Inviting Notice**

Notice No.: 09/MS/TC/e-tender/2020 Dated : 11-06-2020

Online e-bids are invited latest by 08/07/2020 under two e-bid system for the supply of General Medicines, Cancer Drugs, Surgical Consumables, DPCO Items and Implant Items for staff & employees, faculty members and their dependent/CM/PM Fund Sponsored Patients/ Asadhya Patients/ Vipann Patients and BPL patients from Local Chemists / Firms situated within a radius of Lucknow The Details of the tender can be viewed at [www.kgmu.org](http://www.kgmu.org). Tender will be available on e-portal <https://etender.up.nic.in/>. (Medical Superintendent)

**कायलिय नगर निगम भरतपुर**  
क्रमांक : न.नि.म./राजस/अन्य/2020-21/738 दिनांक : 03.06.2020

**निविदा सूचना**

इच्छुक विज्ञापन एजेन्सियों/फर्मों/अन्य विज्ञापन प्रदाताओं से नगर निगम भरतपुर सोमानलगत विभिन्न चयनित स्थलों पर यूनिफॉर्म/गेन्ट्री/एलईडी डिस्प्ले (बिड प्रपत्र में उल्लेखित साईट अनुसार) 5 वर्षों के लिए अनुज्ञा शुल्क पर विज्ञापन करने हेतु निविदादाताओं से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण इंटरनेट साईट [www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in), [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध है।

कुल निविदा के कार्य	कुल 14 कार्य
कुल कार्यों की राशि	6.30 लाख रु.
वेबसाइट <a href="http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in">www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</a> से निविदा डाउनलोड करने की समय व तिथि	दिनांक 10.06.2020 से दिनांक 22.06.2020 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
वेबसाइट <a href="http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in">www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</a> से ऑनलाइन निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम समय व तिथि	दिनांक 23.06.2020 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
नगर निगम में प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क, निविदा शुल्क, चर्चोहर राशि की यू.टी.आर. रसीद भौतिक रूप से जमा कराने की तिथि	दिनांक 23.06.2020 दोपहर 2.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख	24.06.2020 दोपहर 2.00 बजे

UJBN No. 1. DLB2021SS0B02566 2. DLB2021SS0B02569 3. DLB2021SS0B02571 4. DLB2021SS0B02572 5. DLB2021SS0B02573 6. DLB2021SS0B02574 7. DLB2021SS0B02576 8. DLB2021SS0B02578 9. DLB2021SS0B02579 10. DLB2021SS0B02580 11. DLB2021SS0B02581 12. DLB2021SS0B02582 13. DLB2021SS0B02584 14. DLB2021SS0B02586  
राज.संज्ञा/सौ/806/2020-21 आरुतुक, नगर निगम भरतपुर

# Darjeeling included in 'Consortium of Central University in Himalayan Studies'

New Delhi: Darjeeling and Kalimpong hills, Siliguri Terai and Dooars region have been included in the "Consortium of Central University in Himalayan Studies".

BJP MP from Darjeeling Raju Bisht said in a statement on Thursday that the "Consortium of Central University in Himalayan Studies" initiative, formed some time ago, missed the Darjeeling and Kalimpong hills, Siliguri Terai and Duars regions.

According to Bisht, he wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 23, 2020, demanding the inclusion of these areas in the consortium, who is also the chairman of NITI Aayog.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DELHI WATER SUPPLY MAINTENANCE UNIT, U.P.JAL NIGAM, GHAZIABAD SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE**  
No.: 541 / Nivida / 104  
Dated : 03.06.2020

Online percentage rate short term e-tender for "Miscellaneous civil work pertaining to routine, repair and maintenance works including painting of Jal Nigam Colony at Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad" is hereby invited in two bid system by U.P. Jal Nigam from contractors having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 16.06.2020. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their bids duly filled, online latest by 26.06.2020 up to 01:30 P.M. Technical & Financial Evaluation cum technical Bid (Pre-Qualification Bid) of e-tender shall be opened on 26.06.2020 at 03:00 P.M.

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

# RWAs to convert community halls into Covid centres



SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) of Delhi can be the game changer in providing 'immediate' medical treatment to corona-infected patients as the community halls can be utilised as 'Covid care' centres for the treatment of patients.

Recently, Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal chaired a meeting with the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) to explore the options to increase the bed numbers and oxygen in Delhi.

According to the sources in Government, L-G has intended to involve RWAs for the installations of beds plus oxy-

gen in their common spaces - community centres, as this will solve two purposes - first, the patient will get treatment near to his/her home, and second, this step may reduce the burden on hospitals.

The Government sources also said, L-G is well connected with the spiritual organisations - Radha Soami Satsang Beas in South Delhi and Chhattapur to join the initiative and help in treating covid patients.

This may be noted that Delhi Health department had announced the projection of covid cases expected to reach 5.5 lakh by July end and the state administration require 1.5 lakh beds by next month.

# Gurugram Inspector dies from coronavirus

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

A 58-year-old Gurugram police Inspector attached to the Summon Branch of the Police Commissioner's office, died due to Covid-19 related complications on Wednesday.

Pradeep Dagar, who was due to retire on July 31, became the first casualty from Gurugram police to succumb to the novel coronavirus.

Dagar was admitted to the private hospital and tested positive on June 7. He was hospitalized soon after and died during treatment.

Dagar is survived by his wife and two children. His daughter is a teacher and son Rahul Dagar is an advocate at the district court Gurugram.

"My father was a nice person to everyone and was very dedicated to his duties. He used to be regular in his duties and encourage everyone to perform their work honestly and dedicatedly," Advocate Rahul Dagar said.

According to the police Dagar was suffering from a heart ailment and had under-



gone heart surgery a month ago.

The city Police, which is trying hard to ensure implementation of lockdown rules to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus infection, is under a lot of pressure these days as around 13 personnel have been found to be infected with the deadly virus.

However, all the police personnel infected with coronavirus have successfully recovered and reported back to work.

"Gurugram Police family mourns the loss of our brave police officer in our fight against the coronavirus pan-

demie despite our best efforts to save him. We pay homage to the victim and may his souls rest in peace. We are committed to providing all help to their families," A senior Gurugram police official said.

Meanwhile, The Gurugram district recorded 191 new Covid-19 positive cases including six deaths on Thursday. The situation is alarming now since the tally has zoomed up to 2,737. "Of these, 1,858 are active cases. A number of 860 have been cured and discharged including, 36 patients have also recovered and discharged on Thursday. The city has also reported 19 deaths.

# Cong raps NDMC for not paying salary to doctors

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress slammed the BJP-ruled North Delhi Municipal Corporation for the non-payment of salaries to doctors of the Kasturba Hospital, Darya Ganj for the past three months.

Congress Delhi unit president Anil Kumar also attacked the Delhi Government for the utter neglect of the LNJP Hospital, saying that patients are left to die on stretchers unattended.

Kumar said "It was very shocking and disturbing that the doctors of the Kasturba Hospital have not been paid their salaries since March, 2020 when they are engaged in a do-or-die battle to treat Corona patients, putting not only their own lives at risk, but also the lives of their family members."

"The resident doctors have already highlighted the issue expressing inability in paying rents, buy essential items and unable to even afford their huge travelling expenses due to non-payment of their salaries," he said.

Kumar demanded the BJP-ruled North MCD to immediately release the salaries of these doctors as they are the front-line workers in the fight against the Corona virus which is fast spreading in the Capital due to the failures of the BJP and the AAP Governments.

# HC initiates PIL over non-payment of salaries to doctors

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Thursday initiated a PIL on the issue of non-payment of salaries to doctors in two hospitals, run by North Delhi Municipal Corporation, in the national capital.

A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan initiated the petition based on news reports that doctors of Kasturba Hospital, run by North DMG, have threatened to resign as they have not been paid salaries since March this year.

The news reports also stated that recently doctors of North MCD-run Hindu Rao hospital had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over non-payment of their salaries for last three months.

Central government standing counsel Anil Soni said that the court took suo motu notice of the news reports and initiated the PIL.

He said that the court issued notices to the Centre, Delhi government and the municipal corporations and listed the matter for hearing on Friday, June 12. **PTI**

# Mercury above 40° C in most parts of Capital

New Delhi: The mercury remained above the 40 degrees Celsius-mark in most part of the national Capital on Thursday, a day after the city witnessed light rains.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative figures for the city, recorded a maximum temperature of 40.6 degrees Celsius as against 41.5 degrees Celsius on Wednesday. The weather stations at Palam and Pusa recorded their maximum temperatures at 42.2 degrees Celsius and 42.3 degrees Celsius respectively. **PTI**

# PIL in High Court to waive traffic challans issued to corona warriors

New Delhi: An association of doctors from the city has moved the Delhi High Court seeking a direction to the traffic police to waive the e-challans issued against "all corona warriors", including doctors, during first two phases of the COVID-19 lockdown.

The Indian Medical Association, Dwarka in west Delhi, contended that during the first two phases of lockdown, all the traffic signals were not functioning or were on auto blinking mode and consequently, "the alleged traffic violations are without any justified ground and reason thereof".

The association, which according to the plea is a district branch of Delhi Medical Association, stated that the e-challans were issued based on electronic surveillance alone.

"The traffic police has



engaged in discriminatory practices by targeting the essential service providers by penalizing them without any application of mind during the lockdown," said the petition filed through advocate Shashank Deo Sudhi.

Apart from waiving the traffic challans, the petition also seeks formulation of comprehensive guidelines in respect of display of speed limit signboards.

The petition has contended that there are roads in the national capital where within a 2km stretch, there would be several signboards indicating varying speed limits from 70 km per hour to 50 km per hour.

On some roads, the signboards are not even clearly visible, it has alleged.

The petition has also alleged that motorists are often also "victim of delayed intimation regarding the violation of traffic rules".

"In this respect, it is submitted that if the traffic police could have mechanism to intimate the owner of the vehicles within 24 hours, so that the alleged violators may be cautious in future in respect of all traffic violation and they may not commit the same offences time and again of similar nature," the petition has said.

It has sought a direction to traffic police for immediate intimation, preferably within 24 hours, via electronic mode about the violation as motorists usually get to know about it when e-challans are issued after a month or two. **PTI**

# Delhi heading towards becoming 'corona capital' of India: HC

New Delhi: The national Capital is fast heading towards becoming the "corona capital" of the country, observed the Delhi High Court while expressing concern over the spike in COVID-19 cases and directed that all private hospitals equipped with labs to test for coronavirus and having ICMR sanction be permitted to conduct the test.

A bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad observed that "corona capital" was "an epithet the city can well do without" and said it was need of the hour that all private hospitals equipped with labs to test for COVID-19 be permitted to do so without losing any more time.

According to latest official figures, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Delhi is over 32,000 including 984 deaths. The number of active coronavirus patients in the city is over 19,000.

The bench made the obser-

vation after it was told by the petitioner that several private hospitals, including Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, have been prevented from carrying out COVID-19 tests.

The Delhi government, represented by its additional standing counsel Satyakam, opposed the submission, saying 23 private labs have been allowed to conduct the tests apart from 17 public sector labs.

The bench, thereafter, issued notice to the 23 private labs, mentioned by Delhi government in its affidavit, and asked them to file their replies clarifying whether they have been permitted to undertake tests for suspected COVID-19 patients and by which technique.

"They shall also point out the difficulties, if any, faced by them on account of any bureaucratic red-tapeism," the bench said.

It also noted in its order

that non-COVID patients, who are approaching private hospitals for admission to undergo emergent surgeries and other such procedures, are not admitted without a coronavirus test for which they are compelled to go elsewhere.

"It is most unfortunate that non-COVID patients are being made to wait to undergo test for COVID-19 at labs other than those which are situated within the premises of the hospitals, that are equipped and authorised to conduct the said test," the bench said.

The high court directed that all the private hospitals that have been called upon to reserve 20 per cent beds for admitting COVID-19 patients, are equipped with labs to conduct coronavirus test and have sanction of ICMR to do so, "should proceed to conduct tests on symptomatic and asymptomatic persons, who seek admission in the hospital for undergoing surgeries and

procedures of other nature as well".

It also impleaded Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in the matter so that details of private hospitals authorised by it to undertake COVID-19 tests can be furnished to the court on the next date, June 18.

The high court said that ICMR while filing its status report shall also indicate number of applications submitted by accredited labs in Delhi seeking permission to conduct COVID-19 test and the status of the same.

The order came on the application by advocate Sanjeev Sharma who has contended there have been several instances where non-COVID patients needing surgery or emergent procedures are required to undergo testing before that, but hospital concerned is unable to conduct the test as they are not permitted to do so by Delhi government.

The application, filed through advocate Rakesh Malhotra, has also sought a direction to the Delhi government and all the hospitals and nursing homes permitted to treat COVID-19 cases to daily publish on their respective websites the status of vacancy of beds so that patients need not run from pillar to post for the same.

The application was filed in the main petition, by Malhotra, which had sought swift testing of COVID-19 cases and declaration of results within 48 hours.

The high court had on May 4 disposed of the petition with a direction to the Delhi government to publish on their websites correct data of tests conducted, number of positive results and pending outcomes.

The application has alleged that the high court's May 4 direction was not being complied with properly by the Delhi Government. **PTI**

# Suspected thief beaten to death in Pandav Nagar

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A suspected thief was allegedly beaten to death by a mob in Delhi's Pandav Nagar area after he was caught sneaking into a house. The incident was reported in the early hours of June 9.

The deceased was identified as Salman. According to a senior police official, the incident took place on June 9 around 4 am when Salman and another man tried to sneak into a house in Block C of Pandav Nagar area.

"However, Salman was caught by a mob and brutally beaten up by them on suspicion of theft even as his accomplice managed to escape from

the spot," he said.

"Police team found Salman lying in a drain after being thrashed. He was then taken to a government hospital and later discharged but his condition worsened. Salman was taken to hospital again where he was declared brought dead," said the police official privy to investigation.

"A case was registered under Section 304 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code and one Rajesh Kumar has been arrested on the basis of CCTV footage. A medical board has been constituted in connection with the incident while an investigation is underway," said the police official.

# Miscreants attack police post after associates' arrest, cop injured

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A policeman was injured after the acquaintances of a man and his two brothers, who were detained by the police at Inderlok Police Post in North Delhi following a scuffle and loot with a bakery shop runner, allegedly opened fire at police post and also pelted stones.

A video of the incident was also doing rounds on social media. In a CCTV footage of the incident, the men could be seen entering the police post and indulging in a scuffle with police personnel with batons while the police were trying to control the situation.

According to a senior police official, on Wednesday at around 10 pm, the accused

were detained after one Akhlaq who runs a bakery shop in Inderlok area filed a complaint with police that he was allegedly harassed by the shop owner's son Saadkeem and his brothers.

"The accused went to his shop and asked for free food but when Akhlaq denied, they got angry and a scuffle broke out following which they looted the shop and beat up Akhlaq," said the senior police official.

Police said that after the incident Akhlaq came to Inderlok police post and stated that Saadkeem and his brothers beat him and also looted his shop. "Saadkeem and his other brothers were brought to police chowki by the staff for questioning where they got aggressive and fought with police per-

sonnel. After they were detained, their associates came to police post with batons and also pelted stones. One among them identified as Naved also fired at the chowki. In self defence Sub-Inspector Pankaj fired two rounds in the air," said police.

Meanwhile, one of the policemen suffered injuries on his head during stone pelting. He was taken to hospital and is undergoing treatment.

"A case has been registered in this regard and Saadkeem, Ashkeem and Shahrulk have been arrested in connection with the incident. While efforts are being taken to trace others and nab them," said Monika Bhardwaj, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North district.

# Man held for posting derogatory remark against ex-colleague

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a man for allegedly posting derogatory and objectionable comments against a senior employee on their company website. Police said that the accused suspected he was fired because of his senior in his office.

The accused has been identified as Ansh Khanna, a resident of Shahdara.

According to Vijayanta Arya, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northwest, a woman, who is a senior executive in an IT firm, lodged a report on May 24 where she alleged that someone

has written derogatory and objectionable comments about her on the company website.

"During investigation, IP address of the sender was obtained and the accused was arrested on Wednesday. The accused is an ex-employee of the company. Earlier, he used to work under the complainant in sales department of the organisation," the DCP said.

"The accused told police that the complainant was responsible for the loss of his job and in return he wanted to avenge the same. Police has recovered mobile phone of the accused and further investigation is under way," the DCP added.

# Jama Masjid closed till June 30 due to 'critical' Covid-19 situation: Shahi Imam

New Delhi: The historic Jama Masjid will be closed for devotees with immediate effect till June 30 in view of "critical" conditions in the city due to a surge in Covid-19 cases, the mosque's Shahi Imam Syed Ahmed Bukhari said on Thursday.

Bukhari said he took the decision after consulting public and Islamic scholars.

The development comes after the Shahi Imam's secretary Amanullah died due to the novel coronavirus at the Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday night.

The Shahi Imam said, "If the situation arises where the human life is at risk, it becomes obligatory to protect ones life."

"Majority of the opinion is that saving of the human lives is paramount and the Shariah (Islamic jurisprudence) has ample excuse for this," he said.

After taking public opinion and consulting scholars, it has been decided that from 'maghrib' (sunset) on Thursday till June 30, no congregational prayers will be performed in the Jama Masjid, Bukhari said.

"A select few people shall perform the daily five times namaz while the general worshippers will perform the prayers at their homes," he added.

The mosque had opened on June 8 after a gap of over two months with the government allowing further relaxations as part of "Unlock-1", the first phase of a calibrated exit from the novel coronavirus-induced nationwide lockdown.

As religious places along with several other establishments, like shopping malls and offices, opened across the country on June 8, Bukhari asked governments to reconsider their decision in view of the rapid spread of the coronavirus. According to latest official figures, the total number of cases in Delhi is over 32,000 including 984 deaths. **PTI**

# Rlys creates new world benchmark by running 1st OHE

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Railways created a new world benchmark by successfully running 1st double stack container train in high rise over 'Head Equipment Electrified' (OHE) sections.

The railway ministry said that this tremendous achievement is a first of its kind in the entire world and will also boost the ambitious mission of green India as a latest green initiative over Indian Railways.

With this remarkable development, Indian Railways has proudly become the first Railway to run double stack container train with high reach pantograph in high rise OHE territory, the operations of which successfully commenced on 10th June, 2020 from Palanpur and Botad stations in Gujarat.

"The thrust of such kind of initiatives is on innovation, speed and customisation in freight operations. In spite of time that was lost under Covid



Lockdown Ministry is focusing to surpass the last year's freight figures," it said.

From 1st April to 10th June, railways have transported 178.68 million tonnes of commodities through its uninterrupted 24X7 freight trains operations across the country, it said.

"More than 32.40 lakh wagons carried supplies to keep the supply chain functional from March 24 to June 10. Of these, more than 18 lakh wagons carried essential commodities like food grains, salt, sugar, milk, edible oil, onions, fruits and vegetables, petrole-

um products, coal, fertilizers etc. throughout the country. During the period 1st April to 10th June Railways loaded 12.74 million tonnes of food grains as compared to 6.79 million tonnes in the same period last year," it said.

"Apart from this, from March 22 to June 10 total 3,897 parcel trains have also been run out by Indian Railways of which 3,790 are time-tabled trains. A total of 1,39,196 tonnes of consignment have been loaded in these parcel trains," it said.

Meanwhile, sustaining the fight against Covid-19, Indian Railways is making an all out effort to supplement the health care efforts of Government of India. Indian Railways has geared up to provide its 5,231 Covid care centers to the state. Zonal Railways has converted these coaches for quarantine facility.

# NHRC team visits LNJP hospital for see Covid-19 facilities



National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) team led by Jyotika Kalra visits Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital on Thursday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A team of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) led by its Member Jyotika Kalra visited the LNJP hospital in Delhi on Thursday for an on the spot assessment of the facilities for Covid-19 care.

The move came after allegation that despite beds the patients were being denied admission and treatment. "The team interacted with the hospital administration, doctors, staff and some attendants of the patients there. The team visited the emergency and the ward having beds for the Covid patients," it said in a statement.

# India's economy will be back on track again: Modi

## PM says India should convert COVID-19 crisis into a turning point towards becoming a self-reliant nation



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that India should convert the COVID-19 crisis into a turning point towards becoming a self-reliant nation and urged the industrialists to be bold in making investments, rather than conservative.

Reiterating that India's economy will be back on tracks again, the Prime Minister said the country should concentrate on exports and should be ahead of the importing ratio.

Modi was delivering via video conferencing the inaugural address on the occasion of the 95th annual plenary session of Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

"Corona might have slowed our pace of development, but today the biggest truth of the country is that India has overtaken lockdown and has entered into Unlock Phase one. A large part of the economy has opened up in Unlock Phase one. A lot is going to open after 8th June. That is, Getting Growth Back has started," said Prime Minister urging the industrialists to take bold decisions on investments, rather than going

on conservative way.

Modi also emphasised the need for import-substitution and asked the Industrialists to boost the exporting. "India has the third largest coal reserve in the world! And India also has bold and hard working business leaders like you. Then why coal comes from outside? Why coal is being imported? Sometimes the Government stood in the way and sometimes the policies. But now the work of freeing the coal sector from these blockages has started.

"Now commercial mining in the coal sector has been permitted. Permission has also been granted for the allotment of partially explored blocks. Similarly, in mineral mining too, now companies can do mining work simultaneously with exploration. Those familiar with this sector are well aware of the far-reaching consequences of these decisions," said Prime Minister asking industrialists to concentrate on exporting.

"Five things are very important to build a self-reliant India and to bring India back on the path of rapid development - Intent, Inclusion, Investment, Infrastructure and Innovation. You will get a glimpse of all these in the bold decisions taken recently. With these decisions, we have made every sector future ready. Thus, today India is ready for a big

step towards a new growth-oriented future," he said seeking support of leaders of Indian industry.

Modi said that North-East India could become a major hub for organic farming by creating bamboo and organic product clusters in the region. Prime Minister said he has immense confidence in India's crisis management capability and in the talent of the country's farmers, entrepreneurs and the many MSMEs.

"We will get our economy back," said Modi. He emphasised the significance of virtual events in the age of coronavirus. The Prime Minister pointed at the need to manufacture products which are 'Made in India' but are 'Made for the World'. He had said that Indian industries should take advantage of the trust developed towards India as the world is looking for a trusted and reliable partner.

"World is looking for a trusted, reliable partner. India has potential, strength and ability.

Today, Indian industries should take advantage of the trust developed in the world towards India... Getting growth back is not that difficult. The biggest thing is that Indian industries have a clear path of self-reliance," said Modi asking industrialists to take the advantage of the situation.

# Navy mulls exempting personnel above 50 years from sea duties



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Urging his force to adapt and adopt new practices in the backdrop of coronavirus pandemic, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh said on Thursday lifting of restrictions now does not mean business as usual. He also said the Navy is mulling a proposal that personnel over 50 years of age and comorbid may be exempted from carrying out roles which increase the risk of COVID-19 during daily activities including sea going duties.

In a message to the rank and file of the Navy, he said relaxation of lockdown restrictions under "Unlock 1.0" does not mean business as usual. He urged them to adapt and adopt practices to prevent spread of infection.

Cautioning that the security situation on Northern (China) and Western (Pakistan) borders is not good, Singh said there is no let-up in operational deployment by the Navy. Working under COVID-19 restrictions, Navy ships have been sailing continuously for 100 days at a stretch, he added.

His remarks assume significance as India and China are now holding talks to defuse tension on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh. Similarly, Pakistan is relentlessly violating ceasefire at the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, listing out the activities undertaken by the Navy to assist countries in the

Philippines Navy ships were deployed in the Indian Ocean. They sought assistance in repatriation of citizens from Indian ports and medical support for its crew. And Southern Naval Command has done some essential repairs of their ships and now there are moving back to Philippines," Singh said. Under Mission Sagar, the Navy has deployed INS Kesari for providing medical aid and support to Indian Ocean littoral States.

On round the clock vigil despite coronavirus restrictions, he said in May, Navy's offshore patrol vessel INS Sunayna entered Kochi after more than 80 days on anti-piracy deployment in the Gulf of Aden. The ship sustained the last 80 days of the Mission Based Deployment without entering any port. It was fuelled and resupplied by tankers of the Indian Navy and US Navy.

region, the Navy chief said the force has deployed medical assistance teams to Comoros and Mauritius for COVID assistance and has also provided assistance to the Philippines Navy.

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In the beginning of the lockdown phase, the Navy

chief in his message had asked the rank and file to redouble current efforts to ensure that all personnel and their families are safe. The Services were the last bastion and "if the caregivers become careseekers it would be a big problem."

"We have to ensure that our operational assets, specifically ships and submarines, remain free from the virus. It is a very difficult task because physical distancing onboard ships and especially submarines is very tough... but physically we will maintain the required distance of six feet," he had said in a video message released to the force.

He also said everyone should keep the guard up and "retain our sights on being combat ready." "Operational readiness must remain an important priority. We should hope for the best and plan for the worst. We need to be ready for the worst case scenario. It is going to be a long battle."

Once the lockdown is lifted, the movement of personnel would be done in a deliberate and coordinated fashion. It might be delayed but there should be no rush, he had stated.

# CBI raids multiple locations in ₹31 cr PNB fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Thursday conducted searches at the official/residential premises of nine accused including the then officials of Punjab National Bank and private persons at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Kolkata (West Bengal), Jammu (J&K), Bhubaneswar and Cuttack (both in Odisha) in a bank fraud case.

A CBI spokesperson said the agency recovered incriminating documents and locker keys during the searches.

The agency registered a case under Indian Penal Code Sections relating to criminal conspiracy, cheating and under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act on a complaint from Punjab National Bank (PNB) against four officials of the public sector lender.

The officials of the PNB's Station Square Branch, Bhubaneswar, accused in the case include the then Chief Manager; the then Assistant General Manager; the then Chief Manager and the then Senior Manager.

Bhubaneswar-based private firm Global Trading Solutions Ltd., its Managing Director, two former directors and one current director and unknown officials of PNB besides unknown others.

It was alleged that the said PNB officials had entered into a conspiracy with the private firm through its said Director(s) in the matter relating to fraud perpetrated in processing, sanctioning and dis-

**A CBI spokesperson said the agency recovered incriminating documents and locker keys during the searches**

bursing CC facility, bill discounting and issuing Letters of Credit to the accused firm during 2010-15, the spokesperson said.

It was further alleged that the said private firm had illegally diverted the funds received from the bank to its sister/ group companies and mis-utilised the same beyond the scope of funds sanctioned/ disbursed, he said.

It was also alleged that the bank officials did not verify the genuineness of the business activities of said private company/firm. An alleged loss to the tune of ₹31.92 crore was caused to the PNB.

Nagmani Satyanarayana Prasad, the then Chief Manager; S C Sharma, the then Assistant General Manager; Manoranjan Dash, the then Chief Manager and Priyotosh Das, the then Senior Manager (all of Punjab National Bank, Station Square Branch, Bhubaneswar) have been named as accused in the case besides the private firm.

Abinash Mohanty, Managing Director; Shri Kaushik Mohanty, Ex-Director; Shri Anshuman Samantary, Ex-Director; Shri Bidhubhayan Nayak, Director (all of Global Trading Solutions Ltd., Bhubaneswar).

# PPE effective in preventing Covid infection in frontline healthcare professionals: Journal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including masks, gloves, goggles, and face shields, is effective in preventing Covid-19 infection in frontline healthcare professionals who work in highly exposed environments, according to a study published in the British Medical Journal.

The study found that despite being at high risk of exposure to Covid-19, healthcare professionals who were appropriately protected did not contract infection or develop protective immunity against the virus.

The researchers, including those from Sun Yat-sen University in China, acknowledge that the healthcare professionals were working away from home, so had limited social interactions after work, which probably contributed to the absence of infection.

They said healthcare systems "must give priority to the procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment, and pro-

vide adequate training to healthcare professionals in its use."

The team, including researchers from the University of Birmingham, UK, set out to examine the protective effects of appropriate PPE for frontline healthcare professionals who provided care for patients with Covid-19.

Their findings are based on 420 healthcare professionals -- 116 doctors and 304 nurses -- with an average age of 36 years, who were deployed to Wuhan for 6-8 weeks from 24 January to April 7, 2020 to care for patients with Covid-19. Participants worked 4-6 hour shifts for an average of 5.4 days a week, and an average of 16.2 hours each week in intensive care units.

All participants were provided with appropriate PPE, including protective suits, masks, gloves, goggles, face shields, and gowns.

They also received training in the correct use of PPE and in reducing their exposure to infection when

caring for patients, the researchers said.

During the deployment period in Wuhan, none of the study participants reported Covid-19 related symptoms, they said.

When the participants returned home, they all tested negative for Covid-19 infection or its antibodies, according to the researchers. They point out that this study does not address the question of what the minimal level of PPE should be to effectively prevent infection among healthcare professionals, adding the findings only apply to frontline clinical staff.

The researchers acknowledge that these healthcare professionals were working away from home, which probably contributed to the absence of infection.

"However, this limitation does not affect our conclusion that appropriate PPE is effective in preventing infection in healthcare professionals who work in highly exposed environments," the researchers said.

# CRPF Covid-19 tally soars to 552 with 36 fresh cases

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CRPF on Thursday reported 36 new Covid-19 positive cases including 28 from Jammu and Kashmir, taking the total number of infected personnel to 552.

Out of the 552 positive cases in the CRPF, 195 continue to active while 353 have recovered and four persons have died due to the pandemic.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the 28 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel posted there tested positive for coronavirus on Wednesday. The personnel were found infected during a contact-tracing exercise after the death of a 44-year-old Constable on June 6 when he succumbed to the disease.

Likewise, the BSF has reported 540 Covid-19 positive cases in its ranks out of which 94 are active and 443 patients have recovered from



the disease and three have succumbed to the disease.

In the SSB, 108 positive cases have been reported out of which 51 are active and 56 have recovered besides two deaths due to the viral infection, including one casualty on Thursday.

The ITBP on Thursday reported one new case, taking the total number of infected personnel to 216.

Only 22 cases are active and as many as 194 personnel have recovered.

The force has lost one personnel due to the pandemic.

The death toll in the Central paramilitary forces due to Covid-19 stands at 15.

# SC questions DoT demand for AGR dues from PSUs, says it is 'totally impermissible'

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Thursday termed as 'totally impermissible' the demand by Department of Telecom for dues of ₹4lakh crore in Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) from PSUs and said DoT must consider withdrawing it.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra, S Abdul Nazeer and M R Shah raised questions on the demand raised by the government from the PSUs and said that its verdict in the case was misinterpreted as the issue of their dues based on AGR was not dealt with by the apex court.

"This is wholly and totally impermissible," the bench said, while referring to the demand raised against the PSUs.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for DoT told the bench that it would file the affidavit explaining as to why the AGR demands were raised against



the PSUs. The bench also asked private telecom operators to file affidavits giving details as to how they will pay the AGR dues.

On May 18, the top court had lashed out at Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and other mobile phone operators for self-assessing their outstanding telecom dues, saying they need to pay past dues with interest and penalty - an estimated amount of ₹1.6 lakh crore.

The apex court had also come down heavily on the DoT for allowing companies to re-assess what they owed to the Government, and said its order passed on October 24, 2019 -- on revenues for calculating dues was final.

# SC dismisses PIL seeking ban on Coca Cola, Thumbs Up

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed a PIL filed by a "social worker" seeking ban on sale and use of Coca Cola and Thumbs up on the ground that these soft beverages are detrimental to health, saying the petition has been filed for extraneous reasons.

The top court rejected the petition and imposed an exemplary cost of ₹5lakh on the petitioner and said his counsel has failed to disclose "why two specific brands in particular are chosen to be the target of the proceedings and what the source of his assertions."

It said the amount would be deposited within one month with the apex court registry and disbursed to SCAORA (Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association).

A bench headed by Justices D Y Chandrachud said that petitioner, Umedsinh P Chavda, through his petition has invoked jurisdiction of the court under Article 32 of the Constitution, which appears to be abuse of the process of law.

# Rain lashes Maha, Goa, Odisha as monsoon arrives; more heavy expected in 48 hrs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon arrived in Maharashtra, Goa and Odisha on Thursday with rains lashing some coastal parts of these States. As per the India Meteorological

Department (IMD) forecast, heavy rainfall in some parts of Maharashtra and Odisha in the next 48 hours. Heavy rainfall could trigger landslides in the Ghat areas and Konkan and Madhya Maharashtra are on orange alert. Meanwhile, a

flood warning system for Mumbai is to be launched on June 12. The system was jointly conceived by scientists from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, India Meteorological Department (IMD), and National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Chennai.

The southwest monsoon has arrived in Maharashtra. The onset line is passing over Harnai, Solapur, Ramagundum (Telangana) and Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh)," IMD Mumbai centre's deputy director general K S Hosalkar said. "Conditions are favourable for further advancement in some more parts of Maharashtra in next 48 hours. Heavy rainfall warnings are issued, he said.

In the last few days, pre-monsoon showers hit several parts of the state, including Mumbai and its suburbs.

The Mumbai civic body last week issued an advisory fearing rise in monsoon-related diseases in addition to the coronavirus infections.

It asked citizens to visit



nearly clinics or inform community health volunteers if they experience symptoms like fever with chills, joint pains, rashes, cough, breathlessness, diarrhoea, vomiting and sore throat.

The Southwest Monsoon set in over Odisha on Thursday with several parts of the state receiving heavy rainfall. "The conditions are now favourable for the advance of the Southwest Monsoon into some parts of the Central Arabian Sea and Maharashtra, remaining parts of Telangana, west central and North Bay of Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and, some more parts of Odisha and Gangetic West Bengal in the next 48 hours", the IMD indicated.

The IMD Goa unit too announced on Thursday that the onset of monsoon in the State - a week behind its

schedule - had begun in parts of the Konkan coast and Maharashtra.

The northern limit of the monsoon, which is lying at Karwar in neighbouring Karnataka and south of Goa, has covered all of Karnataka and entered parts of Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the IMD said.

The onset of the Southwest Monsoon is usually declared after necessary conditions have been met such as westerly winds blowing at a speed between 30 and 45 kilometres per hour (kmph) and widespread distribution of moderate to heavy rainfall over certain areas during the last 24 hours.

IMD officials have also issued a red alert warning for Goa, as the State is expected to record extremely heavy rainfall measuring over 20.4 cm and 11.5 cm on Friday and Saturday, followed by an orange alert, or heavy rainfall, on Sunday, the IMD authorities expect this year's monsoon to be normal in Goa.

According to the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), the Maharashtra Government had earlier approached the ministry to develop an Integrated Flood Warning System for Mumbai referred to as, IFLOWS-Mumbai in a bid to aid in the mitigation activities of the flood prone city. Based on inputs from weather models, Hydrologic models are used to transform rainfall into runoff and provide inflow inputs into the river systems.

Hydraulic models are used to solve equations of fluid motion to replicate the movement of water to assess flooding in the study area.

Since, Mumbai is an island city with its connectivity to sea, hydrodynamic models and storm surge models are used to calculate the tide and storm surge impacts on the city.

The system has provisions to capture the urban drainage within the city and predict the areas of flooding, which will be incorporated in the final system.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Sanjeet, S/o Sh. Kedar Parsad, R/O H.No. A-1545, Agar Nagar, Prem Nagar-III, Kirari, New Delhi, Age: 30 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Hair: Black, ID Mark: Tattoo on left arm, wearing Blue Colour Jeans Pant and Black Colour T-Shirt,** has been missing/kidnapped since

27.05.2020. In this regard a DD No. 29-A, dated 31.05.2020 has been registered at P.S. Prem Nagar, New Delhi.

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

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax: 011-24368639  
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

**SHO**  
**P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-25489080**

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

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

**₹ 25.00 - 70.00 Lacs**

Sl. No.	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount in Lac	
A	14	14 /GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2020-21	M/o Drain (Repair of B/W, Plaster, & P/F Precast slab over drain from Botanical Garden Bus Station Sector-38A to Electric Substation on DSC Road), Noida.	₹ 33.07
	2	32 /GM(R)/SM(WC-5)/2020-21	M/o Park/ Green Belt (Repair of Boundary wall of Green Belt in sector-54) Noida.	₹ 55.49
	3	16 /GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/2020-21	M/o Building (Renovation/ Maintenance of Entrance arca for NMR office in Block-2, Ganga Shopping Complex, sector-29) Noida.	₹ 30.25

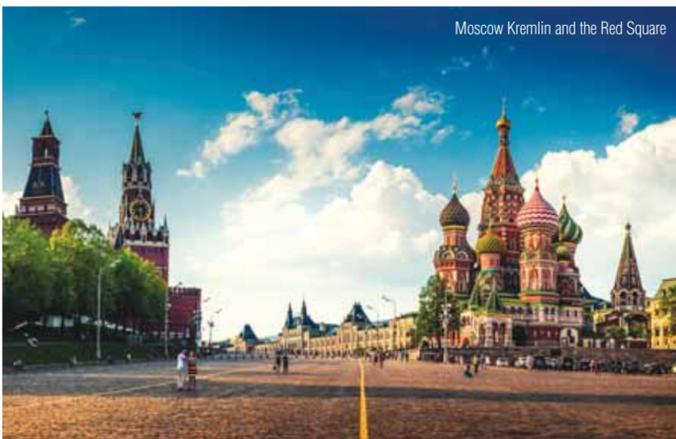
Which can be uploaded by Date 25.06.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 26.06.2020 at 11.00 AM.

**General Manager (R)**  
**Noida**

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

# FRIENDS FOREVER

A SPECIAL FEATURE ON INDO-RUSSIAN CO-OPERATION AND **RUSSIA NATIONAL DAY**



Moscow Kremlin and the Red Square



Lake Baikal



The Kamchatka Peninsula

# TREASURE TROVE

From Golden Mountains of Altai to Lake Baikal, Russian Federation is rich in cultural heritage. The UNESCO World Heritage List includes 28 sites from the country. Here are a few of them

The official name of the holiday is Russia Day (*Dien Rossii*). It marks the anniversary of the First Congress of People's Deputies adopting the Declaration of State Sovereignty of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) in 1990. On June 12, 1990, when the Soviet Union was on the verge of collapsing, the RSFSR followed other republics by declaring sovereignty and stating that its laws superseded Soviet ones. Thus, the Russian Federation, as we know it now, was born.

In 1994, June 12 was declared a national holiday. Back then, it was called — the day of adoption of the declaration of state sovereignty of RSFSR. In 2002, the official title was changed to — Russia Day — the symbol of national unity and civil peace. Every other street and buildings are decorated with the colours of the national flag on this day, concerts are held throughout the day at various locations (including a big show in the Red Square in Moscow), followed by fireworks at the end of the day. Of course, this time, there will be restrictions due to measures on preventing the COVID-19 dissemination.

Russian Federation is rich in cultural heritage, right from Kaliningrad to Lake Baikal. The UNESCO World Heritage List includes 28 sites located in Russia and almost half of these are ranked as those of outstanding importance.

### THE CURONIAN SPIT

The Curonian Spit is a natural reserve in the Kaliningrad region, where softwood and greenwood verge with the sandy dunes. Dancing forest is a unique mystery of the Curonian Spit. The pine trunks take unusual twisted shape. Scientists are yet to discover the source of this anomaly. It was included into the UNESCO World

Heritage List not as a natural site but as a cultural one.

### HISTORIC CENTRE OF SAINT PETERSBURG

Saint Petersburg, the former capital of the Russian Empire, glitters with the refined architecture and decor of its imperial palaces. Remarkable are the rooms of the Winter Palace hosting the Hermitage Museum. Inside is a collection of paintings, jewellery and antiques. Along the Nevsky Prospect, there are historic buildings, parks and churches. Walking in this street, you may feel like inside a novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky. Other must-see sights include — Kazan Cathedral, Saint Isaac's Cathedral and the Peter and Paul Fortress. Peterhof with its variety of magnificent fountains is worth of particular attention. Saint Petersburg is better to be visited in summer. This is the season of the so-called "white nights" when even after midnight, daylight outside makes you feel like in the midst of day.

### KIZHI POGOST

In the Republic of Karelia, there is a small island in the Lake Onega, where the unique architectural ensemble of Kizhi Pogost is located. It includes two churches and a bell-tower built in the 18th and 19th centuries. He, who built the 37 metre (121 ft) high Church of the Transfiguration, used just one ax and not a single nail. Upon completion, the woodman was told to throw his ax in the lake so that no one else could create anything of the kind. The Kizhi Pogost is a unique monument of Russian wooden architecture, a universally recognised masterpiece of world architecture.

### GOLDEN MOUNTAINS OF ALTAI

The Golden Mountains of Altai are located at the border area between Russia



Historic Centre of Saint Petersburg



and the Central Asia states of Mongolia, China and Kazakhstan. Cliffs, here, verge with scenic highland, azure lakes, rapid rivers, Alpine tundra, grassland meadows and glaciers. The site is also an important habitat for endangered animal species such as the snow leopard. The Golden Mountain region includes the headwaters

of Ob' River, one of the longest rivers in the world, and Lake Teletskoe, the world's second deepest freshwater body after Lake Baikal. Here you will also find Mount Belukha, Siberia's highest peak.

### SOLOVETSKY ISLANDS

The Solovetsky Islands located in the Arkhangelsk region have many architectural sites. These include early man sites, stone labyrinths and grave-mounds. However, the most famous thing about these islands is the monastery with massive boulder walls. During the 1930s, the monastery was used as a prison for political prisoners. Nowadays, it hosts Solovetsky camps and prison museum commemorating political prisoners.

### MOSCOW KREMLIN AND THE RED SQUARE

Kremlin and the Red Square are the heart of Moscow. This is a symbol both for the country and its capital. Moscow Kremlin was founded by Yuri Dolgorukiy

in 1147 as a military fortification. For this purpose, he chose Borovitsky Hill on the bank of the Moskva River. Later, the fort became surrounded by a town and the Kremlin itself was used as a residence of the Russian tsars. Now, it is known as the residence of the Russian President. Inside Kremlin, there is Cathedral (or *Sobornaya*) Square with its amazingly churches.

The Red Square in Moscow is most famous for its May 9 Victory Day Military Parades. Unfortunately, spectators are not allowed to see the parades from the Red Square itself, but you may find yourself a good position in the nearby side streets. Other famous sights of the Red Square are Saint Basil's Cathedral and Lenin's Mausoleum (you'd better double check the opening hours in advance). Shopping lovers will be delighted to visit GUM (State Department Store), where there are budget-friendly brands along with the luxury ones. During the warm season, the Red Square hosts open-air concerts with no entrance fees.

### THE HISTORIC CENTRE OF YAROSLAVL

Yaroslavl, one of the oldest cities in Russia, was founded in 1010 by Prince Yaroslav the Wise. Located at the crossing of the trade routes, Yaroslavl is believed to be the capital of the Russian merchants. Today, in the city centre, one may see a unique architectural ensemble representing almost all architectural styles of the last five centuries. St John the Baptist Church, the gem in the crown of Yaroslavl architecture of the 17th century, is particularly worth seeing. This is a red-brick church with emerald-green domes.

### LAKE BAIKAL

Lake Baikal is the world's largest and purest freshwater lake located in East Siberia not far away from Irkutsk city. Its

maximum depth is 1,642 m (5,387 ft) and the average surface water temperature is 46-48 °F. According to the UNESCO World Heritage Commission, Lake Baikal is sometimes called the 'Galapagos of Russia' because of its exceptional biodiversity and importance to evolutionary science. About 80 per cent of the more than 3,700 species found at Lake Baikal are endemic. They are found nowhere else on earth.

### THE KAMCHATKA PENINSULA

Russian Far East is a land of volcanoes, geysers, azure lakes and glaciers. You may see these incredible beauties from a helicopter cabin. Visiting the Valley of Geysers and seeing the Valley of Death (a place of unearthly landscape where no living creature can survive due to high concentration of gases) is only possible by a passenger helicopter. A helicopter tour is available at a price of about RUR 37,000.

There are several regions in Russia that grant foreign nationals entry on the basis of electronic visas. These are the Far Eastern Federal District, the Kaliningrad Oblast, Saint Petersburg and the Leningrad Oblast. These electronic visas are only available to citizens from a specific list of countries compiled by the government of the Russian Federation. That list includes India.

Electronic visas are issued free of charge within four days after the submission of the application. A foreign national entering the Russian Federation on an e-visa may stay in the country for up to eight days from the date of entry within the validity period. E-visas cannot be extended, nor may the period of stay be extended.

To ensure state security and protect public health from the Coronavirus infection in the Russian Federation, the issuance of electronic visas has been suspended.

### AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



H.E. NIKOLAY R. KUDASHEV  
AMBASSADOR OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA,  
ON THE DAY OF RUSSIA (June 12, 2020, New Delhi)

Dear friends,

It is my honour to greet you today on the Day of Russia, which marks the renaissance as a sovereign and democratic country.

It is heartening to note that one of the first major international initiatives taken by Russia, after the dissolution of the USSR, was the signing of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation with India on January 28, 1993. The year 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the strategic partnership between the two countries. It also marks the 10th anniversary of elevating it to the level of special and privileged strategic partnership, which is one-of-a-kind, rich in substance and unique in terms of mutual respect, trust and benefit. The fact that this time we celebrate our National Day, 75 years after the defeat of the Nazi Germany in Great Patriotic War, doubles the significance of the date.

The Coronavirus pandemic failed to disunite our people and, despite the limitations, gave an

impetus to our collaboration on various tracks, including the development of COVID-19 vaccine, joint work within BRICS, SCO and other international fora. While marking the Day of Russia, we can proudly note that it is people-to-people contacts and mutual affinity that really makes Russian-Indian friendship so strong. Annual summits, held alternately in two countries, are key events of the year providing major boosts to further advance the bilateral cooperation.

It comes as no surprise that it is our common goal to continue fulfilling the inexhaustible potential of Russia-India trade, investment, technological, scientific and cultural interaction as well as strengthening our cooperation multilaterally in the near future and beyond.

Friendship and strategic partnership of Russia and India has all the prerequisites to thrive and blossom for the security and prosperity of not only our nations but also the world at large.

**Jai Rus! Jai Hind!**

# The journey to space

Russians are proud with their achievements in various spheres including space exploration. The first two cosmonaut dogs' real names were Albina and Markiza, but the country's leadership did not like foreign-sounding names, so named them Belka and Strelka. In August 1960, they became the first living creatures to orbit the earth. Their space voyage lasted a little over 24 hours, during which their spaceship circled the earth 15 times. Both dogs lived to a ripe old age and died natural deaths. Their stuffed bodies are now at the Cosmonautics Memorial Museum in Moscow.



amateur radio fan.

The Americans may have been the first to land on the moon, but Soviet penants had been dropped there on September 14, 1959, by the Soviet space station Luna-2, which was the first probe to reach the moon. That same year, the Soviet Luna-3 station photographed the dark side of the moon.



The first full-pressure spacesuits were made in the Soviet Union in late 1959. On April 12, 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human being to fly into outer space, making him possibly the most famous person on the planet at the time.

The world's first moon rover, Lunokhod-1, was created in the Soviet

Union. It was intended for studying the moon's surface, radioactive and space X-ray radiation, the chemical composition and properties of moon rocks. It was delivered to the moon's surface on November 17, 1970, and worked for 10 months — three times longer than its designed lifespan — covering a total of 10.5 kilometres and transmitting 211 panoramic lunar pictures and 25,000 photographs.

Soviet scientists were also the first to land a workable piece of space apparatus on another planet — Venus. Venera-7, an automatic space research station, landed on the surface of the planet in mid-December 1970. The body of the landing module was made of titanium to withstand the pressure of 100 atmospheres and 500-degree heat.

In March 1965, Soviet cosmonaut Alexei Leonov became the first person to walk in space. He spent 10 minutes in free flight at a distance of more than five metres from the spaceship — a long way when you consider that the spaceship was hurtling at a speed of more than seven km per second.

Valentina Tereshkova (known as



Chaika or Seagull) was the first woman cosmonaut. She spent nearly three days in space aboard the Vostok-6 spacecraft. Tereshkova later married cosmonaut Andrian Nikolayev. Their daughter Yelena became the first child born to a 'space' family.

The Mir space station was the first consistently inhabited long-term research station in outer space. The main module was put into orbit on February 20, 1986. Over the next 10 years, six modules were

added to it. The Mir station covered a distance slightly longer than that from earth to uranus. In 2001, the station was brought back down to earth, landing in the Pacific.

Today, Russia uses several rocket launching sites. Among them are Vostochny, Plesetsk and, of course, Baikonur, which celebrated its 65 years on June 2, 2020. It was built as a test range for the first intercontinental ballistic missile R-7. The first ballistic missile was test-fired from Baikonur on May 15, 1957. The

testing range was transformed into a spaceport on October 4, 1957, when the first satellite was put into orbit.

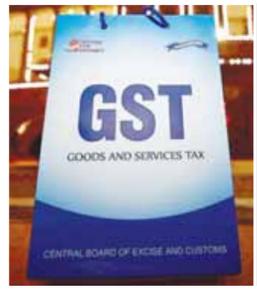
Russia will not stand still. This year, two new missiles will be tested, and next year a Lunar programme to be resumed. And, of course, international cooperation is crucial in the means of successful space exploration activities. Thus, we are glad that Gagarin Research and Test Cosmonaut Training Center (GCTC) on May 12 resumed training of the Indian cosmonauts under the contract between Glavkosmos, JSC (part of the State Space Corporation Roscosmos) and the Human Spaceflight Centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

All four Indian cosmonauts undergoing training in Russia are in good health. The health of Indian cosmonauts is carefully protected: GCTC continues to observe anti-epidemic regulations according to which sanitary and hygienic measures are carried out, social distancing measures are applied and the presence of unauthorised person is restricted. All employees and cosmonauts must wear medical masks and gloves.

## The GST mess

Govt revenues have collapsed and won't return to normal anytime soon but raising taxes would be unwarranted

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime introduced by the Narendra Modi Government has, despite its many flaws, made life a lot easier for consumers and producers, who now have to deal with one particular rate instead of multiple ones. However, in the aftermath of the Coronavirus-induced economic malaise, we might get to see another aspect of having one tax, the collections of which are managed by the Centre and further distributed to States. With the latter actively cribbing about not receiving their



due compensation from the Centre, expect the coming GST Council meet to be a fiery one, particularly with the political scene heating up. With the extended deadline for filing returns and dismal collections because of the lockdowns, the Government has not released collection figures for April and May. However, States will have to be paid their compensation for the revenue loss due to GST implementation. It is almost certain that the guaranteed 14 per cent cover for any revenue loss annually, promised during the GST rollout, might not be paid either this fiscal, or actually any fiscal till 2022, thanks to the economic slowdown unless the Centre absorbs some of the loss. The States are clearly in a quandary as most of them are battling the worst of COVID-19 spirals amid a collapsing health infrastructure. It is to assuage some anxieties that the Centre last week released compensation worth ₹36,400 crore to States for three months up to February 2020. Besides dwindling cess collection in the compensation fund, the dependency of States on the promised GST compensation amid sharp fall in their own revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic has further led to hardened positions.

Raising GST rates might seem like an easy way to generate funds but it might have the horrible effect of killing whatever little remains of consumer sentiment. Indeed, several industries have appealed to the powers that be that there should be a relaxation in taxes and not an increase in order to boost near-term consumer demand. The federal structure of the GST Council also makes it difficult for either the Centre or any State to act independently, yet the GST Council should resist the urge to increase taxes and should look at other avenues to raise money from the market, including the possibility of issuing bonds that even ordinary citizens could buy into. Some suggestions for payment of compensation cess from the Consolidated Fund of India or through market borrowings were, in fact, floated at the last GST Council session in March but a decision has been hanging fire since. In fact, the provision was made by then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. He had assured that "compensation to States shall be paid for five years in full within the stipulated period of five years and, in case the amount in the GST Compensation Fund fell short of the compensation payable, the GST Council shall decide the mode of raising additional resources, including borrowing from the market which could be repaid by collection of cess in the sixth year or further subsequent years." The Coronavirus has dealt a big blow to the economy but growth will resume. Predictions for the monsoons are positive and it is likely that the second half of the year will see a revival of demand. The GST Council has to resist any punitive short-term measures. It is difficult for the Government machinery to live with less but the solution to the hell the pandemic has wrought in India is not to squeeze the already suffering Indian consumer. Innovative solutions will have to be found on how to raise funds and even past decisions cast in stone might need revision. Depending on the mythical foreign investor to come and save the economy is not a substitute for a real plan.

## A matter of pride

The number of Gir lions has gone up by 29 per cent but with a shrinking habitat, man-animal conflicts remain a challenge



If there has been one silver lining through the dark clouds of the pandemic, it has been of the resurgence and healing of nature. Now there is more good news on that front. The numbers of the majestic Asiatic Lion, which was once threatened by extinction, are up by almost 29 per cent in Gujarat's Gir forest. Geographically, too, the distribution area is up by 36 per cent. Their numbers have now risen to an estimated 674 in protected areas and agro-pastoral landscapes of Saurashtra, over an expanse of about 30,000 sq km. Although

lions have been increasing steadily from 523 in 2015, they have also fallen victim to human-animal conflict, partly due to the fragmentation of their habitat and encroachment. This had resulted in them spilling out of their ranges and almost co-habiting with villagers, letting go of their feline aggression for a tamer behaviour. More lions had been straying into human settlements in the absence of a transit corridor to an alternative home. Sometimes, they were run over by trains. Then some of them fell prey to Canine Distemper Virus (CDV), protozoa infections and territorial fights because of the shrinking forest. But since then conservation efforts have been stepped up through community participation, technological mapping, habitat management, encouraging prey base, minimising human-lion conflict and better healthcare, including import of CDV vaccines. So now there are 161 males, 260 females, 45 sub-adult males, 49 sub-adult females, 22 unidentified and 137 cubs. However, even as there is reason to celebrate every big cat birth and survival, this also makes us confront the age-old questions of the sustainability of such large carnivore populations. Since the protected area and agro-pastoral landscapes are at maximum capacity already, it is only a matter of time before the lions wander farther off in search of roaming territory. How will the community deal with a growing population of carnivores given the fact that the 2015 census clearly shows that the lion population grew by 126 per cent outside the Gir Protected Area? Till now, Gujarat has been handling this efficiently by letting the lions prey on livestock and compensating the farmers promptly. But is this a permanent solution? Because, according to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), the number of villages where lions kill livestock is increasing by about 100 each year. So if the authorities don't revise the compensation rates in keeping with the current market price of cattle, and if they fail to give the money promptly, then the farmers will lose patience and we will again be left with a major man-animal conflict on our hands. Also, wildlife experts say that increased interaction between humans and the big cats is very detrimental for the latter as they learn to live in human settlements and turn into scavengers rather than hunters.

So the Government needs to create more lion-safe areas, if not protected ones. The WII's Lion Ecology Project has charted forest patches where lionesses can rear cubs and hunt for them. These should be legally protected against conversion into agricultural land or development zones. There is need to build overpasses or underpasses where railway tracks cut through habitats, allowing the animals the right of way safely. And some relocation sites should be planned in contiguity with neighbouring State reserves if we want to swell our pride.

# Swedish lessons for India

As India opts for that nation's style of opening up, albeit with some constraints, a massive challenge lies ahead. Compliance is difficult given our socio-economic and cultural gaps



BHOPIINDER SINGH

As the world responds differently to the COVID-19 pandemic, with many nations enforcing severe "lockdown" norms, Sweden opted for a more lenient approach that entailed just behavioural recommendations at the individual level. Its approach was controversial but not necessarily reckless and was deliberately calibrated and predicated on the logic of "herd immunity" even as this was not as such made official.

The management of the COVID crisis was sought on the underlying principle that the citizenry would cooperate with the Government in a disciplined, patient and solidarity fashion, one that defines the Swedish way of life and conditions. A near political consensus among major political parties to pursue this revolutionary approach garnered popular support. Unlike other Scandinavian countries, Sweden did not enforce widespread lockdown to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gatherings of more than 50 people were banned, interaction with people over 70 years of age was limited. At the same time, bar and restaurants were allowed to provide table service and online learning for high schools was enforced even as schools for younger children stayed open. Everything else continued as before and the Government undertook basic precautions and relied on common sense of the citizens and discretion of the "rational humanitarians" as Swedes are popularly known to be.

Debate abounds about the "success" and "failure" of the Swedish approach to counter the novel virus. With a death toll of 449 per million inhabitants, Sweden's fatality rate was much higher compared to 45 in Norway, 100 in Denmark and 58 in Finland. But Swedes remained committed to work ethics and protected their export-driven economy from crippling under the grip of the "lockdown." Lessons of the economic slowdown in the early 1990s reverberated all across the nation. While the verdict on the Swedish approach is still out as we weigh the pros and cons, the rest of the world — especially India which had earlier punted on the "lockdown" approach — is now willy-nilly opting for this strategy.

Reality is that India's war against COVID-19 has not progressed as was planned initially. We have not as yet flattened the "curve." There has been a steep rise in the number of COVID positive cases. Testing numbers, too, are very low. Yet, socio-economic pressure or the sheer "unsustainability" of the lockdown (after four extensions) compelled the Government to declare "Unlock 1.0," which relies on societal compliance of various recommendations and more stringent conditions. A phased "exit" has allowed unrestricted movement of goods and people, inter and intra-State.

Movement has been allowed even as



the Coronavirus spread puts densely populated areas on high alert. Metro cities such as Delhi and Mumbai are running out of hospital beds. This may well be *fait accompli* in many ways, given the horrific experience of the migrant workers, the capitulation of the MSME sector and agrarian pressure, all of which have forced the inevitable "unlocking." The operative expression is no longer about "flattening the curve" but "managing" and "living with the virus." This is somewhat akin to Sweden but can we replicate the Swedish model and better still, imbibe lessons and improve on the same?

First things first, the phenomenon of "social distancing" is based on the availability of basic space to manoeuvre and operate. Sweden has a population density of less than 23 people/km<sup>2</sup> as compared to over 412 people/km<sup>2</sup> in India. So, while the urban clusters of Stockholm remain the epicentre of the Swedish challenge, it pales into insignificance when compared to the squalid conditions of slum areas like Dharavi in Mumbai, where families of seven to eight people can reside in single-room pigeonhole-like

chawls. This space squeeze also extends to the Indian commercial realm — be it in terms of manufacturing or services — as the manpower-intensive industrial framework optimises space with considerably lesser sensitivity towards working conditions.

However, there's also a politico-cultural context that sets apart the Swedish landscape from the Indian reality. Much of our non-compliance to governmental advisories stems from a misplaced sense of entitlement and disdain for the authorities. Whereas in Sweden, there is an overarching deference to the word of the authority, science-based guidelines and civic respect for others. The subliminal Jantelagen principle at play in the Swedish psyche is in sharp contrast to the VVIP culture or "exempted" culture in India that allows dangerous liberties to be taken by a chosen few.

Further, the commonality of single-person households and non-religious society helps the Swedish context. In India, households are substantially larger. Among the foremost places to be "unlocked" here in India were places of worship, which naturally draw large

crowds. Lastly, and most importantly, the containment and communication strategy in Sweden was entrusted to the nation's epidemiologist, Anders Tegnell. Back home, the country's hyper-active federal structure has ensured that politicians, bureaucrats and even godmen issue a variety of guidelines and opinion shows, all of which comes wrapped with political and personal agenda when fact-based information dissemination should be the order of the day.

Despite Sweden's much-banded approach, it, too, has not been a shining example of managing the pandemic successfully (unlike a New Zealand). This despite favourable ground conditions supporting its unique approach.

As India enters the default Swedish style of "opening up", albeit with some constraints, a massive challenge lies ahead. That of socio-economic and cultural differences *vis-à-vis* Sweden. This poses another challenge. The so-called "flattening of the curve" and the mathematical benefit of "herd immunity" is yet to be established in Sweden. So with the questionable efficacy of the

liberalised Swedish model, India will have to "manage" the crisis somehow and bide its time until a pharmacological solution is found. The so-called COVID relief package in India is in close proximity to the much-criticised Swedish package that is replete with loans and subsidies and much lesser quantum for direct payments or for building medical infrastructure. Thankfully, certain lessons, like the importance of using a face mask, has been drilled into the Indian psyche. On the other hand, the Swedish populace did not pay much importance to it.

Indeed, the importance of "securing" vulnerable sections, for example the migrant and the aged population, has been felt in India since the inception of the Corona crisis. The only thing that India needs to do differently from what it has been doing until now is to have a unified "voice" and policy framework and rational, science-based conversations. Unfortunately, even with strict enforcement of advisories, if left to the citizens, the situation can worsen considerably.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

## SOUNDBITE

The BCCI is working on all possible options to ensure that we are able to stage the IPL this year, even if it means playing the tournament in empty stadiums.

**BCCI president**  
—Sourav Ganguly



There hasn't been anything new as such but what option do we have? It feels like time is just passing by. At times, I don't even realise which day or date it is.

**Actor**  
—Kriti Sanon



India claimed Nepalese territory by presenting a fake Kali river and stationed its Army there. But Nepal is determined to get its territory back.

**Nepal Prime Minister**  
—KP Sharma Oli



India doesn't need a certificate on communal harmony and tolerance which is in the DNA of India and the majority community here.

**Union Minister**  
—Kiren Rijiju



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Govt must intervene

Sir — Publishers and book-sellers may still be able to survive by switching over to the format of e-reading and reaching out to prospective readers. However, it is school textbook publishers and booksellers who will suffer the most on account of the pandemic. Supply of school textbooks starts in February and continues until June-July. As the re-opening of the schools remains uncertain, only a few well-resourced textbook publishers are supplying online materials to students.

There are millions of children who still have no access to online classes and they have not been able to get the textbooks they need either from the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) or the private publishers as schools remain closed indefinitely. Even if the textbook publishers manage to supply books as and when the schools re-open, they would be unable to get their dues. The Government must rescue them.

**N Nagarajan**  
Secunderabad

### A test of Indian diplomacy

This refers to the article, "Who is to blame?" (June 11) by Deepak Sinha. The border standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh has somewhat eased for the moment. Both sides have "slightly" pulled back their troops from three out of the four confrontation sites along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). But the fact remains that locked in a power tussle with the US and at the same time locking horns with Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam all at once, China is wanting to warn India to follow its lead on geopolitical issues. If this is the case, one hopes New Delhi will not lower guard despite Beijing's conciliatory tone.

More than ingressing into Indian territory, it would be a bigger prize for Beijing if New Delhi were to subordinate its own diplomatic concerns to that of the Chinese and be willing to play second fiddle to it. Countering Beijing's salami-slicing tactics will be a stern test of New Delhi's diplomatic capabilities. But we do hold some cards such as the enormous trade deficit India has with China. It could thus make any Chinese land-grab expensive in economic terms. In the long run, the

### Too little, too late

Sir — It was interesting to note that the Supreme Court has directed States and Union Territories to identify those stranded migrant workers who are willing to go back to their native places across the country and transport them home within a

period of 15 days. While hearing a PIL on the plight of migrant labourers across the country, the apex court said that the Centre must provide additional trains to States within 24 hours of demand. It added that State Governments and Union Territories must submit schemes to give employment to the migrants. They have also

been asked to facilitate counselling for the returning migrant labourers. These are wonderful suggestions. It is now for the authorities to ensure that proper arrangements are made so that these people are quickly transported and their ordeal ends.

**Najibullah Qasmi**  
Mumbai

### Focus on rural economy

Sir — The Union Government's attempts to provide succour to the migrant labourers have not been successful. Many migrant workers are now returning to the cities due to the lack of jobs for subsistence in villages. Schemes to add rural jobs have not been successful. Schemes to boost the MSME sector, too, remain caught up in the cobweb of procedures.

It's high time for the Government to fast-track schemes under MGNREGA. The skills of the migrant workers must be tapped effectively so as to increase rural income. Setting up small-scale industries will boost the rural economy and reinvigorate the national economy. Mahatma Gandhi had envisaged the progress of India through rural development. The Government must exercise its will and go ahead with enforcing the schemes in full swing to eradicate rural poverty.

**Venu GS**  
Kollam

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## A silver lining in data mining

The lockdown has given us the chance to ensure that child labourers are rehabilitated and not re-trafficked or re-hired



HS PHOOLKA

Prohibition of child labour and forced labour have been guaranteed as a fundamental right in our Constitution. This was followed up by the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act in 1986. All this time, the Child Labour Act prohibited employment under the age of 14 years only, even though in law, a child was defined as a person under the age of 18. This anomaly was recognised and rectified by the Government by way of a significant amendment to the Child Labour Act in 2016, renaming it as the Child and Adolescent Labour Prohibition Act and prohibiting therein the employment of an adolescent between the ages of 14 and 18 in any hazardous occupation or process.

What then is the actual number of child and adolescent labour in our country? Putting it differently, how many children are undoubtedly being denied the right to an education, the right to a wholesome future? Unfortunately, the answer is, no one knows exactly. After 2011, there is no authoritative Government data on the number of child labourers, and none whatsoever on the number of adolescent labourers in India. How do we propose to solve a problem, the proportion of which we have no idea of. What makes matters worse is that even when underage workers are rescued, the cases leading to prosecution are abysmal. In 2018, there were a mere 34 convictions under the Child Labour Act in the entire country.

This year has brought enough bad news to last a century. Now for the silver lining. A sizeable population of the country find themselves unemployed and stranded at their places of work due to COVID-19 and its resultant lockdown. Thousands of factories have shut down or have suspended operations and are not functioning. Therefore, as on date, considering the unemployment and unavailability of work, there is movement of thousands of migrant labourers from the State where they work to their native State. Many of these migrant workers include child labourers, who are currently awaiting the Government's Shramik trains or buses to reach there. Most of these are children who have had the misfortune of being holed up in factories, unidentified, unaccounted for and unseen. So far, they had been outside the purview of the law, as they could not be traced and thus could not be rescued. However, the lockdown has presented an opportunity where many child labourers, who were previously obscured and hidden in factories and establishments as faceless, nameless entities, denied the many benefits of Government schemes and their basic fundamental rights, are now identifiable.

Each State now has complete details of how many migrant labourers are registered with it on its e-portal to return to their native State. Each native State has complete detail on who is entering its borders and the Centre has access to this complete data through its newly-launched National Migration Information System (NMIS) portal. Where previously State borders were extremely porous, today borders cannot be passed as easily. For the first time, many child labourers are getting registered on a Government platform in a bid to take benefit of the Government's Shramik train and buses to return home, as employers are unable to provide for their workmen and there is no work.

Once a child labourer has returned to the native State, s/he is easily traceable, for all his/her details are available when the border has been crossed. All steps must be taken to rehabilitate and provide them with the benefit of Government schemes, including recovery of back wages, so that the family is provided with succour. Child Welfare Committees and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) must ensure that the child labourers are suitably rehabilitated, and at the same time, the Anti-Human Trafficking Units of the State must identify traffickers to ensure children are not re-trafficked or sent back when the reverse migration starts.

In other words, each child labourer must be accounted for. In fact, the Supreme Court has already directed that complete details of migrant labourers that have already returned home, including their skill, nature of and place of previous employment must be maintained at the village, block and district level by the administration so as to facilitate the extension of various Government schemes.

A few days ago, the Chief Justice of India, while hearing a PIL filed by Bachpan Bachao Andolan on taking necessary measures to curb and control rising child trafficking, observed that it is "we" who provide a market for child labour. Days later, in another PIL filed in the apex court, the preservation and sharing of the data on migrant labourers was sought so that State agencies such as Child Welfare Committees and SCPCRs could identify and rehabilitate wasted children. The response of the State and Centre on both the petitions has been sought by the court, which would come up for hearing later this month. It is the same "we" that must rise to the occasion to pledge that every child, no matter what his/her circumstances, will not be made to work.

The lockdown has created a historic opportunity for us to ensure that child labourers are rehabilitated as per law and are not re-trafficked or put back to work. The Government must seize this unprecedented opportunity that has presented itself and ensure these children finally get their right to a childhood.

(The writer is a senior advocate and human rights activist)

**NEPAL SHOULD NOT REPEAT THE MISTAKES TIBET MADE. NEPAL SHOULD THINK OF THE CONSEQUENCES AND REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO TIBET.**  
 —UP CHIEF MINISTER  
**YOGI ADITYANATH**

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



**UTTAR PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER ADITYANATH SAID SOME THINGS ABOUT NEPAL. HIS REMARKS WERE NOT APPROPRIATE OR LEGITIMATE.**  
 —NEPAL PRIME MINISTER  
**KP SHARMA OLI**

# Let children be children

It is crucial that serious action is taken towards saving the future of our underprivileged kids whose vulnerability to exploitation and abuse has been escalated by the pandemic



BALWANT MEHTA

APOORVA GUPTA

On June 12, 2002, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour to bring global attention to the prevalence of child abuse and make concerted efforts for its elimination. It brings together governments, employers, workers organisations, civil society as well as millions of people to highlight the plight of child labourers and measures that can help them. This World Day Against Child Labour, the focus is on the impact the COVID-19 crisis will have on children. The economic, health and social crisis emanating from the present situation can push millions of vulnerable children out of school and into the clutches of child traffickers.

As the financial resources and meagre savings of low-income households begin to exhaust themselves, the exigencies of time require them to have multiple streams of income, no matter how low they are. This results in reliance on their children, who are viewed as an extra pair of hands, to assist in the pursuit of feeding the family. As a result, children from affected families are compelled to participate in economic activities to support the household income and some drop out of school due to the parents' inability to afford fees.

It is well-documented that once they stop going to school and start working, it becomes extremely difficult to get them back into classrooms. But for several of these families, their child's labour won't just be an additional support; rather it will be the means for their survival. In many cases children have lost their parents and guardians, some have died because of the disease and others have lost their livelihood because of the shuttering of economic activities. Such dire conditions will push millions of children to seek work in the informal sector — at factory units, construction sites, agricultural fields and as domestic servants.

**Estimates of child labour:** At present, there are 152 million working children between five and 17 years in the world, according to the data provided by the ILO, of which 23.8 million children are in India. Out of these, the health and safety of around 73 million children are at risk due to their employment being characterised by hazardous conditions. Most of the official estimates on child labour in India are based on the labour force surveys of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and the Census. According to the Census data, child labourers between the ages of five and 14 had declined from 12.7 million in 2001 to 10.1 million in 2011. Furthermore, the total number of adolescent labourers in the country was almost twice at 22.87 million, bringing the total (five-18 years) to around 33 million. The National Sample Survey estimates also show that child labour has declined significantly from 10.1 million in 1999 to 1.4 million in 2017.

**Impact on children:** The education of children engaged as labourers will effectively come to an end due to their parents' inability to afford their school fees as a result of unemployment and shortage of monetary resources. Faced with the stark reality of poverty and desperation, the poor often have to let go of the promise that education carries with it, that of social mobility. The lack of formal education robs them of possible opportunities and reinforces inter-generational poverty. It will simultaneously have a calamitous effect on the health and mental well-being of children as they are pushed into a world of hardships.

Moreover, there is also an increase in instances of child marriage among poor households as they are unable to afford the maintenance of all the fam-

ily members. The girl child is the first to bear the brunt of these reduced circumstances. While employed as child labourers, girls are at a greater risk of sexual assault, human trafficking and prostitution. For instance, past experience shows that school closures during the Ebola virus' outbreak in West Africa from 2014 to 2016 contributed to a spike in child labour.

Additionally, the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the 2009 global economic crisis have also shown that more children are likely to be forced into child labour and trafficking, neglect, sexual abuse and teenage pregnancies, particularly in those countries that have little or no social protection, like India.

Another study from Nepal shows that paternal disability and death were among the strongest factors behind a child's engagement in the worst forms of labour. The study also found that when household incomes or earning opportunities unexpectedly drop, child labour tends to increase.

According to a study by World Bank, girl students in Sierra Leone were nearly 16 percentage points behind in school attendance after losing an entire year due to the Ebola outbreak in 2015. The same report mentioned that secondary school enrolment fell by around seven per cent in the Philippines amid the Asian financial crisis of 1998-99.

At the peak of school closures in April, over 91 per cent of all learners had been asked to stay away from classrooms globally, according to the UNESCO. Their estimates show that around 320 million learners have been affected in India. A major chunk of these students were enrolled in primary and secondary schools (86 per cent) and do not have access to digital education.

Thus, for many of them, the COVID-19 crisis will mean limited or no classroom-based learning or falling further behind their peers. There is a high probability that many of these schoolchildren will get recruited as workers.



ily members. The girl child is the first to bear the brunt of these reduced circumstances. While employed as child labourers, girls are at a greater risk of sexual assault, human trafficking and prostitution. For instance, past experience shows that school closures during the Ebola virus' outbreak in West Africa from 2014 to 2016 contributed to a spike in child labour.

Government efforts: Over the last two decades, India has put in place a range of laws and programmes to address the problem of child labour. The Central Government enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, to prohibit children from being employed in specified hazardous occupations and at the same time regulated their working conditions in other non-hazardous occupations and processes.

The 86th Amendment to the Constitution made in 2002 was a watershed moment in the country's efforts against child labour. It made the right to education a fundamental right and made it the State's responsibility to provide free and compulsory education to children between six and 14 years.

In fact, the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, has made it mandatory for the State to ensure that all children aged between six and 14 years are in school and receive free education.

Plus, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016, completely prohibits the engagement of children below 14 years in all occupations and processes. It additionally prohibits adolescents (14-18 years) from working in hazardous occupations and processes.

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda:** Goal 8 of the agenda urges UN member states, employers and workers' organisations, as well as civil society organisations, to eliminate child labour by 2025 and forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking by 2030. The Government of India has adopted these SDGs as a framework for its future developmental plans.

But despite a plethora of efforts by the Government and civil society organisations, a large number of children continue to be engaged in both non-hazardous and hazardous occupations due to implementation loopholes and economic compulsions.

**The way forward:** In order to address the challenges, policymakers

and stakeholders should explore avenues to collaborate with civil society organisations such as NGOs and local voluntary organisations/individual volunteers, who could help State Governments in reaching schools that aren't equipped with technology-based platforms like their private counterparts. This could potentially help in keeping children engaged through distance learning.

Furthermore, the strengthening of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme and providing food to children at their homes till the lockdown lasts could ensure that they don't drop out of school. State Governments must ensure that schools waive off their fee for the next few months. Added to this, the Government needs to ensure income support and food security for the poor and vulnerable households, so as to minimise the helplessness of the families.

Lastly, steps should be taken to maintain a database of children at the local level so that their status can be reviewed periodically and immediate action from Government and communities can be taken.

Responding to this impending crisis is the need of the hour or else we stand to lose a generation of children. This would push us further away from achieving the goal of eliminating child labour by 2025. Governments and policymakers need to be cognisant of the voices of children, especially in matters affecting their daily lives and their future.

It is crucial that serious action is directed towards saving the future of children whose vulnerability to exploitation and abuse has been escalated by the pandemic. All children possess the right to have a childhood. Putting this developmental issue on the backburner would have long-lasting consequences that could adversely affect the country's future generations.

(Mehta is Co-Founder and Visiting Senior Fellow, IMPRI and Gupta is Research Assistant at Institute for Human Development, Delhi)

# Time for a behavioural change

We as citizens must be *atma nirbhar* while trying to achieve the trillion dollar dream of an *atma nirbhar* Bharat



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

I have attended a few hundred video conferences in the last few months, some of them with senior Government officials, explaining and patiently easing many of us into the new normal and Government policies. While the Government is adjusting well with the new era of digital meetings and should be duly recognised for this, there are a few technical glitches. These glitches are more behavioural by nature. For example, I could still see a couple of junior colleagues or IT support (almost every

time) trying to assist the senior guy with the laptop and fixing the mikes. An old office help would occasionally drop by to replenish the table with refreshments for senior officials.

Mind you, sometimes many around the table are not wearing their masks and the colleagues trying to help are doing so from close quarters. That is, to my mind a big technical glitch in breaking past the Covid code as India starts to unlock and push the economy back on track.

India, if it needs to get past the pandemic, has to change its behaviour and the way citizens live. The senior bureaucrat at the top has to lead by example by keeping an electric kettle in the spacious cabin to make his green tea and has to walk to the water cooler to fill the bottle. These DIY habits have to be instilled if Government offices need to start functioning.

It doesn't help to have

Government offices go on blip mode, leaving employees confused.

One must admit here that in Delhi at least, personnel departments sitting across 80 ministries have started to issue "revised guidelines" for working out of poorly-ventilated, shared and now almost ancient workspaces called Government bhavans. This has to be the beginning of overhauling of Government and in many cases private workspaces around the country.

While we are still on the bureaucratic part, not many know that till date a signing authority's digital signature isn't a valid approval for any Government document. A physical paper trail still has to move through a bunch of fax machines and an equal number of broken cable systems before it finally lands at the relevant authority's table for signing and is then faxed back to the departments concerned.

Imagine the kind of human presence needed even during a pandemic for a simple Government notification, even if we ignore the time lag.

Now, let's switch gears here and talk about the handling of the crisis by the Centre and States. Political parties are blaming each other and Delhi again finds itself pulled back and forth over ownership of its hospitals and rights of citizens all across the country vs those from the State. IT cells of political parties are doing the heavy lifting here, leading from the front in this war for constant attention of voters. My fear is this "war" may well "flatten the wrong curve" and here I mean the lifeline on a human's palm.

Sure, a couple of crucial States are getting into election mode. Sure an aggressive China has flexed its military muscle from the Himalayas right up to the Indian ocean. Yet the question is, do the creative and polit-

ical digital cells need to focus on creating memes or should they be concentrating their energies on trying to be a nation of 125 crore plus people out there to fight the deadly disease like an organised army?

While doing so, let's acknowledge the unique mosaic of cultures, lifestyles and heritage that makes our nation what it is. One can never solve the crisis by imposing a single rule across the nation. Perhaps the nationwide hard lockdown could have been mapped more carefully for hotspots which are there now and will continue to emerge across the country for the next few months.

The country is ruled by democratically-elected and in most cases clean majority-powered State Governments which have the confidence of the electorate. The Central Government has robust majority and no election in site for the next four years. This is an opportunity for

all to come together and showcase out-of-the-box statesmanship and not a politically-clever move to a now depressed and disgusted voter.

State Governments it seems have got the wrong message of trying to contain the "numbers" and not the "disease." Due to the States' eagerness to declare themselves "virus-free," many citizens are facing hardships and patients are not getting beds at hospitals.

The war against this deadly disease has brought a long battle for humanity, technological excellence, self-reliance and perhaps a \$10 trillion economy right at our doorstep. We as citizens must be "*atma nirbhar*" i.e. listen to our conscience while trying to achieve the trillion dollar dream of an "*atma nirbhar*" or self-reliant Bharat. This will need us to change our civil behaviour.

(The writer is a senior policy analyst)



**FOREIGN EYE**



## THE KIDS HAVE BEEN LET DOWN

Rebuilding and strengthening the links between children, families and schools should be a top priority. Teaching unions, initially cautious about using video — which appears to have been heavily used in private schools — have now called for a national technology plan. Looking back, it is disgraceful that more effort was not put into supporting teachers to connect with pupils online.

(The Guardian editorial)

# Trump OKs sanctions against ICC officials

Involved in investigating American troops, Intelligence officials and those of allied nations, including Israel, for possible war crimes in Afghanistan, elsewhere

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**  
President Donald Trump lobbed a broadside attack Thursday against the International Criminal Court (ICC) by authorising economic sanctions and travel restrictions against court workers involved in investigating American troops and Intelligence officials and those of allied nations, including Israel, for possible war crimes in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Trump's executive order marked his administration's latest attack against interna-

tional organisations, treaties and agreements that don't hew to its policies. It would block the financial assets of court employees and bar those employees and their immediate relatives from entering the United States. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo denounced the Hague-based tribunal as a "kangaroo court" that has been unsuccessful and inefficient in its mandate to prosecute war crimes. He said that the US would punish the ICC employees for any investigation or prosecution of Americans in

Afghanistan and added that they could also be banned for prosecuting Israelis for alleged abuses against Palestinians. Pompeo's comments were echoed by Defense Secretary Mark Esper, Attorney General William Barr and national security adviser Robert O'Brien, who spoke at a State Department announcement of the new measures. Barr also announced that the U.S. would investigate possible corruption within the ICC hierarchy that he said raised suspicions that Russia and other adversaries could be interfering in the investigatory process. None of the four men took questions from reporters at the event. The Hague-based court was created in 2002 to prose-

cute war crimes and crimes of humanity and genocide in areas where perpetrators might not otherwise face justice. It has 123 state parties that recognize its jurisdiction. Human rights groups deplored the Trump administration's move. "The Trump administration's latest action paves the way for imposing sanctions against ICC officials and demonstrates contempt for the global rule of law," said Andrea Prasow, the Washington director of Human Rights Watch. "This assault on the ICC is an effort to block victims of serious crimes whether in Afghanistan, Israel or Palestine from seeing justice. Countries that support international justice should publicly oppose this blatant attempt at

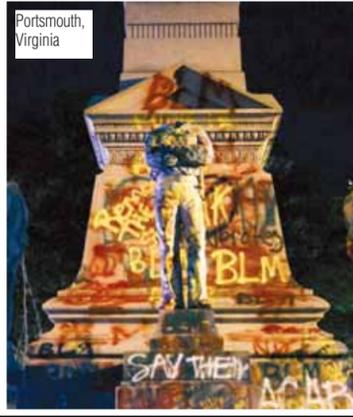
obstruction." Thursday's announcement is the latest action that puts the administration at odds with allies in Europe and elsewhere. Since taking office, Trump has withdrawn from the Paris climate accord, the Iran nuclear deal and two arms control treaties with Russia. He has pulled the U.S. out of the U.N. Human Rights Council and the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, threatened to leave the International Postal Union and announced an end to cooperation with the World Health Organization. Unlike those treaties and agreements, though, the United States has never been a member of the International Criminal

Administration of both parties have been concerned about the potential for political prosecutions of American troops and officials for alleged war crimes and other atrocities. European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Trump's order "is a matter of serious concern," describing the European Union nations as "steadfast supporters of the International Criminal Court." "The court has been playing a key role in providing international justice and addressing the gravest international crimes," he said. "It is a key factor in bringing justice and peace. It must be respected and supported by all nations." The executive order authorizes the secretary of state, in

consultation with the Treasury secretary, to block financial assets within U.S. jurisdiction of court personnel who directly engage in investigating, harassing or detaining U.S. personnel. The order authorizes the secretary of state to block court officials and their family members involved in the investigations from entering the United States. The ICC-related travel restrictions go beyond what the State Department issued last year. White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said in a statement that, despite repeated calls by the United States and its allies, the ICC has not embraced reform. She alleged the court continues to pursue politically motivated investigations against the U.S. and its

partners, including Israel. "We are concerned that adversary nations are manipulating the International Criminal Court by encouraging these allegations against United States personnel," McEnany said. "Further, we have strong reason to believe there is corruption and misconduct at the highest levels of the International Criminal Court office of the prosecutor, calling into question the integrity of its investigation into American service members." The US has extracted pledges from most of the court's members that they will not seek such prosecutions and risk losing US military and other assistance.

## Statues toppled in various parts of the world as Black Lives Matter protests rise



## Donald Trump resumes fundraising to build cash lead against Biden

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**  
President Donald Trump is resuming in-person fundraising events after a three-month hiatus as his campaign works to maintain a cash advantage over Democrat Joe Biden that it believes is vital to victory in November. Trump is traveling to Dallas on Thursday to raise more than \$10 million for his campaign and the Republican Party, according to a GOP official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the plan. He'll hold another event Saturday at his private golf course in New Jersey. The moves come at a critical moment in the campaign. Trump's reelection plans have been rocked by the coronavirus pandemic, a severe economic recession and weeks of nationwide protests over racial injustice. That's added to a

sense of urgency to build on the more than \$250 million Trump already has in the bank to overcome stiff headwinds. "There is definitely pent-up excitement for in-person fundraisers," said Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Ahrens. "Donors are eager to support the campaign and our party." Republican Party and Trump campaign officials held virtual fundraising events during the pandemic, but in-person events featuring the president are far more lucrative. Trump is planning a steady stream of fundraisers to keep his campaign flush with cash through Election Day. The fundraising trip also marks the president's first formal return to political activities since the pandemic and comes ahead of Trump's planned resumption of political rallies later this month.

## Biden: Main worry is Trump will try to 'steal this election'

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**  
Joe Biden said his chief worry is that President Donald Trump will attempt to "steal" the November election, and the Democratic challenger says he's even considered the possibility that the Republican incumbent would refuse to leave the White House should he lose. Trump's press secretary accused Biden of trafficking in "conspiracy theories." "My single greatest concern: This president's going to try and steal this election," Biden said on "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah," which aired Wednesday night. "This is a guy who said all mail-in ballots are fraudulent, voting by mail, while he sits behind the desk in the Oval Office and writes his

mail-in ballot to vote in the primary." Biden was asked whether he's considered what would happen if Trump refused to vacate the presidency in the event he wasn't reelected. "I have," Biden said, before suggesting that the military could step in to ensure a peaceful transition of power. "I am absolutely convinced they will escort him from the White House with great dispatch," the former vice president said. White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany responded that Biden was taking "a ridiculous proposition." "This President's looking forward to November," McEnany told Fox News Channel's "America's Newsroom."

## Was wrong to accompany Trump on church walk: Milley

**AP ■ WASHINGTON**  
Army Gen. Mark Milley, the nation's top military officer, said Thursday he was wrong to accompany President Donald Trump on a walk through Lafayette Square that ended in a photo op at a church. He said his presence in uniform amid protests over racial injustice "created a perception of the military involved in domestic politics." "I should not have been there," the Joint Chiefs chairman said in remarks to a National Defense University commencement ceremony. Milley's statement risked the wrath of a president sensitive to anything hinting of criticism of events he has staged. Pentagon leaders' relations with the White House already were extraordinarily tense after a disagreement last week over Trump's threat to use federal troops to quell civil

unrest triggered by George Floyd's death in police custody. Trump's June 1 walk through the park to pose with a Bible at a church came after authorities used pepper spray and flash bangs to clear the park and streets of largely peaceful protesters demonstrating in the aftermath of Floyd's death. Milley's comments Thursday were his first public statements about the walk with Trump, which the White House has hailed as a presidential "leadership moment" akin to Winston Churchill inspecting damage from German bombs in London during World War II. Milley said his presence and the photographs compromised his commitment to a military divorced from politics. "My presence in that moment and in that environment created a perception of the military involved in domestic politics," Milley said.

## Chinese officials call for improved ties with US

**AP ■ BEIJING**  
Beijing will honour its trade deal with the US and wants to see better ties with Washington, senior Chinese officials said on Thursday. Zhu Guangyao, a former finance minister and Cabinet advisor, said the two countries should "waste no time" in improving relations to help better coordinate a response to the coronavirus pandemic. He and other officials told reporters in Beijing that the two biggest economies are so closely entwined that they must find a way to work together because a lack of cooperation has come at a "high price." "The close connection between the Chinese and U.S. economies is the result of four decades of hard work on both sides, and that is also the reflection of the wishes of consumers in China and the United States," Zhu said.

## GLOBE TROTTER

**RUSSIA WELCOMES PROSPECT OF US TROOP PULLBACK FROM GERMANY**  
Moscow: Russia's Foreign Ministry on Thursday welcomed President Donald Trump's reported plan to withdraw more than a quarter of US troops from Germany, saying it would help bolster security in Europe. Trump has reportedly signed off on a plan to cut the number of troops stationed in Germany from 34,500 to no more than 25,000. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that "we would welcome any steps by Washington to scale down its military presence in Europe."

**EBOLA: WHO, US DISCUSS COOPERATING THREAT**  
Geneva: The head of the World Health Organization (WHO) said he and US Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar have discussed cooperation in responding to a new Ebola outbreak in Congo even as the Trump administration has announced plans to pull the United States out of the UN health agency. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Wednesday he had a "very good discussion" with Azar last week and the American official "assured me of US continued commitment" to support the fight against Ebola.

**US GENERAL: TALIBAN NOT YET MET CONDITIONS**  
Washington: The Taliban have not yet met conditions required for a complete US troop withdrawal from Afghanistan by next May as envisioned in a US-Taliban deal signed in February, the commander overseeing US forces there said. Gen Frank McKenzie, head of US Central Command, said the US is ahead of schedule for an initial drawdown by July to 8,600 troops. Another US official, who was not authorized to discuss details and so spoke on condition of anonymity, said troop levels are now below 9,000, compared with about 12,000 in February.

**US, IRAQ LAUNCH STRATEGIC TALKS**  
Baghdad: The United States and Iraq launched much-anticipated strategic talks on Thursday that are to span the gamut of their bilateral relations, with Washington prioritising the issue of the future of its forces in the country while Baghdad is expected to focus on the nation's dire economic crisis. The talks, which began with an initial session in the afternoon with participants tuning in online because of the coronavirus measures, are expected to drag out over several months. Thursday's session was held virtually due to flight restrictions in the wake of the coronavirus.

## COVID-19 OUTBREAK

### Around the Globe

South Korea is reporting 45 new cases of COVID-19, all but two of them in the capital region, continuing a weekslong resurgence that health authorities fear could develop into a huge wave. The figures announced on Thursday bring national totals to 11,947 cases and 276 deaths. The capital of Seoul has 21 new infections, while 22 other cases are in nearby Incheon and Gyeonggi.

Singapore on Thursday reported 422 new coronavirus cases, majority of them foreign workers living in dormitories, taking the total number of infections in the country to 39,387, the Health Ministry said. Only one patient is a Singaporean citizen. The rest 421 patients are all foreign workers living in dormitories, which have been the main source of spreading the disease through close contacts, the ministry said.

Turkey has restarted international flights for the first time since planes were grounded on March 28 to stem the coronavirus pandemic. A plane belonging to Anadolu Jet, a subsidiary of Turkish Airlines, left Istanbul's Sabiha Gokcen airport for London at 08:40 a.m. Thursday. It was followed by flights to Amsterdam and Dusseldorf, Germany.

**Covid-19 TRACKER**

**TOTAL CASES: 7,538,442**

**DEATHS: 4,21,343**

**RECOVERED: 3,822,343**

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
USA	2,076,495	115,529
Brazil	7,87,489	40,276
Russia	5,02,436	6,532
UK	2,91,409	41,279
Spain	2,89,787	27,136
Italy	2,36,142	34,167
Peru	2,08,823	5,903
Germany	1,86,619	8,847

## China: We do not spread virus disinformation

**Beijing:** China's Foreign Ministry has criticized a European Union report alleging that Beijing was spreading disinformation about the coronavirus pandemic. Spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters on Thursday that "the EU

evades many obvious facts but specifically mentions China. This undermines the credibility and authority of this report." Hua called the accusations against China "false." According to the European commission, Russia and China have

mounted "targeted influence operations and disinformation campaigns in the EU, its neighbourhood and globally." That marked the first time China has been named by the EU executive body as spreading disinformation. **AP**

## US could reach 2L coronavirus deaths in Sept: Experts

Washington: The United States may see 200,000 deaths because of the coronavirus at some point in September, a leading expert said, while total U.S. coronavirus cases surpassed 2 million on Wednesday as governments relax restrictions. Ashish Jha, the head of Harvard's Global Health Institute, told CNN in an interview on Wednesday that without drastic action, the number of US deaths would march on. "Even if we don't have increasing cases, even if we keep things flat, it's reasonable to expect that we're going to hit 200,000 deaths sometime during the month of September," Jha said. "And that's just through September. The pandemic won't be over in September." Jha added: "I'm really worried about where we're going to be in the weeks and months ahead." **Agency**

## Many forces behind alarming rise in virus cases in 21 states: US

**AP n NEW YORK**  
States are rolling back lockdowns, but the coronavirus isn't done with the US. Cases are rising in nearly half the states, according to an Associated Press analysis, a worrying trend that could worsen as people return to work and venture out during the summer. In Arizona, hospitals have been told to prepare for the worst. Texas has more hospitalized Covid-19 patients than at any time before. And the governor of North Carolina said recent jumps caused him to rethink plans to reopen schools or businesses. There is no single reason to explain all the surges. In some cases, more testing has revealed more cases. In others, local outbreaks are big enough to push

## EU urges states to reopen domestic borders from Monday

**BRUSSELS:** The European Union on Thursday urged all its member countries to start lifting travel restrictions on their common borders from next week, saying that the closures they introduced to tackle the coronavirus do little to limit its spread. The EU's executive arm, the European Commission, wants Europe's ID check-free travel area to be up and running again by the end of June. Once that has happened, a ban on nonessential travel to the continent can also gradually be eased. Unveiling the executive arm's recommendations for helping to breathe new life into Europe's virus-ravaged tourism sector, EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson told member countries that they "should open up as soon as possible, and the commission recommends to do it already on Monday." **AP**

## China reports 16 new cases; Beijing confirms first infection in 56 days

**PTI ■ BEIJING**  
China has reported 16 new coronavirus cases, including the first confirmed case in Beijing after 56 days, official media here said. A local case of COVID-19 in Beijing's Xicheng district was confirmed on Thursday. The capital had no new coronavirus case for 56 consecutive days, state-run China Daily reported, citing the local municipal government. The Chinese government has kept a tight lid on the cases by implementing strict quarantine procedures for locals arriving from different cities as well as for people arriving from abroad. On June 5, Beijing had lowered the COVID-19 emergency response, marking the return of normalcy in the capital.

## Russia's cases surpass 5L

**AP ■ MOSCOW**  
Russia's coronavirus case-load surpassed 500,000 on Thursday, after health officials reported 8,779 new infections. The nation's total currently stands at 502,436 confirmed cases, including 6,532 deaths. Experts both in Russia and abroad expressed doubts about the country's remarkably low pandemic death toll, with some alleging that numbers were manipulated for political reasons. The Russian Government repeatedly denied the allegations. Despite recording almost 9,000 new cases daily for the past month, Russian authorities have started easing lockdown restrictions in many regions — including Moscow, which accounts for about 40 per cent of all virus cases and almost half of officially reported deaths.

# Govt virtually rejects rating actions by int'l agencies

## Says India's fundamentals demand much better rating, GDP growth to decline this year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Thursday virtually rejected rating actions by international agencies, saying India's fundamentals demand a much better sovereign rating and the country's willingness and ability to repay debt is gold standard.

In first official comments since Moody's Investors Service downgraded the country's rating and S&P retained it at the lowest investment grade, Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian said India's economy will

ness a decline in the current fiscal, but the drop will be limited if there is an economic recovery in the October-March period.

Speaking to reporters, he said the finance ministry had in April, which was just weeks into lockdown, had estimated GDP growth at 1.5-2 per cent in the current fiscal on anticipation of a V-shaped recovery.

"The V-shaped recovery is driven by evidence of what was seen in the Spanish Flu... The anticipation of recovery... What is uncertain though whether the recovery will happen in the second half of the

year or will it happen next year and therefore the actual growth will depend critically on when the recovery happens.

"If recovery does not happen this year, the economy will basically have a decline in output this year and suppose in the second half there is a recovery, that may be limited," Subramanian said.

A V-shaped recovery is a type of economic recession and recovery that resembles a "V" shape in charting. A V-shaped recovery involves a sharp rise back to a previous peak after a sharp decline in these metrics.

He took comfort in rating agencies acknowledging reforms saying these are critical elements for higher growth next year.

The Ministry, he said, is working on a large range of growth estimates for this year, and recovery in the second half or next year is also part of baseline expectation.

The Indian economy grew at the slowest pace in 11 years at 4.2 per cent in 2019-20.

S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings has forecast India's economy to shrink by 5 per cent in the current fiscal, while Moody's has projected

growth to contract by 4 per cent. S&P, however, has projected GDP growth to bounce back to 8.5 per cent, Fitch expects it at 9.5 per cent in 2021-22. Moody's has forecast growth at 8.7 per cent next year.

Moody's, earlier this month, while downgrading India's rating to lowest investment grade, had said India faces a prolonged period of slower growth and policymakers will be challenged to mitigate risks of low growth, deteriorating fiscal position and financial sector stress.

S&P, on Wednesday,

retained India's sovereign rating at the lowest investment grade of 'BBB-' for the 13th year in a row, saying that the economy and fiscal position will stabilise and begin to recover from 2021 onwards.

Making a case for rating upgrade, Subramanian said, "When you take the willingness to repay, India is gold-standard and with regard to ability to repay, India is close to gold-standard... India's fundamentals demand a much better rating."

The finance ministry, he said, has evaluated the pros and cons of options such as deficit monetisation. "We keep all

options under consideration and will be evaluating them."

On privatisation policy, he said banking will form part of the strategic sector and the government is working on identifying strategic and non-strategic sectors.

"In non-strategic sectors, all public sector enterprises will be privatised.

In strategic sectors, the number of state-owned enterprises will be limited to one to four.

In most strategic sectors, there is competition from the private sector, where there isn't, that will be enabled.

Niti V-C: India growth to revive after containment of Covid-19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economy will recover after the containment of the COVID-19 and the country will maintain its sound external position, Niti Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar said on Thursday. Kumar further said that India's strong democratic institutions promote policy stability and the ongoing economic reforms, if executed well, should keep the country's growth rate ahead of peers. His comments have come amid Moody's downgrading the country's rating and S&P retaining it at the lowest investment grade

# Reconsider ₹4L cr claim on PSUs: SC to DoT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to reconsider seeking ₹4 lakh crore in past dues from non-telecom PSUs such as GAIL, saying raising such a demand using its verdict on dues of telecom companies was "totally impermissible".

It also asked telecom companies, including Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea Ltd, to file affidavits explaining the time needed by them to clear the remaining statutory dues that

arose from the court verdict of including non-telecom revenues for calculating dues to the Government.

A bench of Justice Arun Mishra, S Abdul Nazeer and M R Shah sought the Government's response on guarantees that can be sought to ensure telecom companies abide by a timeframe and payment schedule.

"Our judgment could not have the basis for demands on PSUs," the bench observed.

"We would request you (DoT) to withdraw this otherwise we will take strict action."

"This is wholly and total-

ly impermissible," it said while referring to the demand raised against the PSUs.

Following the apex court's October 2019 verdict on the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) to be used for calculating Government dues such as license fee and spectrum charges, the DoT had sought ₹4 lakh crore in past dues from gas utility GAIL India Ltd, electricity transmission firm PowerGrid, Oil India Ltd, Delhi Metro, and others.

The State-owned firms challenged the demand saying telecom wasn't their core business and revenue from licences such as ISP formed a meagre part of their revenue.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for DoT, told the bench that the department would file an affidavit explaining as to why the AGR demands were raised against the PSUs.

On the Government request for allowing telcos up to 20 years to pay the remaining ₹93,520 crore in AGR dues, it sought to know the rationale

for such a long time period and wanted to know what guarantees the company and their directors can provide. The court will hear the case next on June 18.

After the apex court rejected pleas by Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel and Tata Teleservices seeking review of the October 24 verdict that widened the definition of AGR by including non-telecom revenues as well as condoned reopening of dues payable by doing self-assessment.

The DoT had in March moved a plea seeking staggered payment over 20 years of dues.

The plea also asked that telcos not be charged a penalty and interests on penalty and principal beyond the date of the judgement.

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing on Thursday, Mehta told the bench that the Government has extensively examined the issue of AGR dues and it would be difficult for the telecom companies to pay the amount in one go.

The bench asked the DoT about the time frame within which the telecom companies would pay the AGR dues.

Mehta told the bench that telecom firms should give an undertaking on the issue of payment of dues.

# SBI to divest 2.1% stake in SBI Life

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The State Bank of India will divest 2.1 per cent stake in SBI Life to achieve the minimum public shareholding of 25 per cent. In a regulatory filing, SBI said that it proposes to sell up to 2.10 crore shares of SBI Life. The floor price for the sale shall be ₹725 per equity share.

The transaction will take place on Friday for the non-retail investors only.

# Sensex in red on global cues post US Fed's gloomy outlook

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian stock market declined on Thursday morning tracking a fall in the Asian markets, after the US Federal Reserve projected that its benchmark interest rates will remain near zero throughout 2020, citing the severe impact of the pandemic.

All major Asian indices are currently trading in the red.

Following Fed's statement on interest rates, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 282.31 points, or 1.04 per cent on Wednesday.

The Fed projected that interest rates will remain near zero through at least 2022 as policy makers strive to support the recovery of the economy from the COVID-19-induced recession.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said: "The extent of the downturn and the pace of recovery remain extraordinarily uncertain and will depend in large part on our success in containing the virus."

"A full recovery is unlikely to occur until people are confident that it is safe to re-engage in a broad range of activities," he added.

# SC unlikely to allow 20 yrs for payment of telco dues: Brokerage

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Telecom companies such as Vodafone Idea Ltd may find it tough to furnish personal guarantees as suggested by the Supreme Court as an assurance for clearing all AGR dues over a 20 year period, a brokerage said on Thursday.

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to consider a Government plan of payment of ₹93,520 crore of balance dues by Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel and other telcos over 20 years.

It, however, sought to know what guarantees can be sought to ensure telecom companies abide to a timeframe and payment schedule it decides.

"The apex court has asked private telcos to provide for security and payment roadmap

in an attempt to allow telcos to repay AGR dues over a 20 year period," SBI Cap Securities said in its comments on the court order.

It said a holistic picture needs to be seen as telcos have to invest in the network to repay both AGR and outstanding spectrum dues.

"In our view, telcos may find it tough to furnish personal guarantees and as such, the apex court (is) unlikely to allow for 20 years and most likely consider a shorter time frame which may not be good news for Vodafone Idea," it said.

Vodafone Idea had to pay ₹58,254 crore as dues to the Government following the October 24, 2019 judgment of the Supreme Court asking non-telecom revenues to be included in adjusted gross revenues (AGR) that form the basis for calculating statutory dues. Of this, the company has paid only ₹6,854 crore.

SBI Caps said the apex court raised concerns about demands pertaining to AGR being furnished on PSUs by the Department of Telecom and has asked the Government to reconsider such demands.

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After the apex court rejected pleas by Vodafone Idea, Bharti Airtel and Tata Teleservices seeking review of the October 24 verdict that widened the definition of AGR by including non-telecom revenues as well as condoned reopening of dues payable by doing self-assessment.

The DoT had in March moved a plea seeking staggered payment over 20 years of dues.

The plea also asked that telcos not be charged a penalty and interests on penalty and principal beyond the date of the judgement.

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing on Thursday, Mehta told the bench that the Government has extensively examined the issue of AGR dues and it would be difficult for the telecom companies to pay the amount in one go.

The bench asked the DoT about the time frame within which the telecom companies would pay the AGR dues.

Mehta told the bench that telecom firms should give an undertaking on the issue of payment of dues.

# Bad bank may not be a potent option to address bad loan woes: CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian on Thursday said setting up a bad bank may not be a potent option to address the non-performing asset woes in the banking sector.

Subramanian said when a bank sells bad loans, it has to take a haircut because when ₹100 goes bad, the actual

amount that can be expected is lower than 100 and that leads to haircut.

"So when the bank has to sell that loan to ARC (asset reconstruction company) or a new institution that is created, in that case it has to take haircut. When it takes haircut that will impact the P&L (profit and loss). And that is one of the key aspect affecting the selling of loans.

# Petrol, diesel prices rise nearly ₹3/ltr in 5 days

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices have become more expensive for the common man with oil marketing companies raising pump prices by 60 paise per litre on Thursday.

The auto fuel prices have now risen five days in a row with petrol prices increasing by ₹2.74 and diesel by ₹2.83 per litre since Sunday. In three of the last five days, the prices have risen by a sharp 60 paise per litre while it increased by

around 40 and 55 paise per litre on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Oil marketing companies said that price rise could continue for another week or 10 days as global crude prices are firming up with a pick up in demand following opening up of economies across the globe post Covid-19 related lockdown. Even global crude prices are on the rise and its prices have more than doubled from April levels at over \$40 a barrel level.

### EASTERN RAILWAY

Abridged Tender Notice No.: HWH-1-2-20-21 (Open Tender) for e-tendering, date: 05.06.2020. Sealed tender for e-tendering is invited by Dy. Chief Engineer (Con)-I/Eastern Railway/Howrah for the following work:

**Name of work:** Balance work for construction of New Howrah Divisional Railway Manager Office Building.

**Tender Value:** ₹ 9,46,20,314.42.

**Earnest Money:** ₹ 6,23,100. **Date of opening:** 14.07.2020 at 12.00 hrs.

The tender documents and other details can be obtained from the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The bidding for the tender is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender.

(CON-08/2020-21)

Tender Notices are also available at website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mrs. Nirmal Chhabra W/o Lt. Mr. Jaswant Rai Chhabra Resident of: K-26, 1st Floor, Kirti Nagar, New Delhi-110015 has disclaimed, disowned and debarred their son Mr. Ankush Chhabra and his wife Mrs. Kiran from all sorts of my movable and immovable properties and assets and have also severed the blood relations from them, due to their bad attitude and shall not be held liable to any offence or mischief, if any, committed by any one of them at any stage in future. Anyone entering into any sort of transactions, if any, with them, shall do so at his/her own risks, costs and consequences. Valbhav Sinha (Advocate), Cn. No.422, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054.

### LOST & FOUND

Original General Power of Attorney dated 15.10.1997 executed by Shri Surinder Singh Babbar S/o Sh. Sanjhi Ram R/o B-4/76, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi regarding Entire Third Floor with terrace thereupon of the Property No. B-1/96, Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi measuring 100 sq.yds. in favour of Mrs. Geeta Saluja W/o Sh. Subhash Saluja R/o House No. G-11/19 Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110024 registered as Doc. No. 3879, Vol. No. 62, Book No. 1, Page No. 124 to 128 dated 15.10.1997 in the office of Sub Registrar, Delhi is missing from H.No. 1, Vikram Vihar Extension, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110024

**Finder May Contact Mrs. Geeta Saluja G-11/19 Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi-110024**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. BHARAT BHUSHAN S/o Late Babu Ram and Smt. SHARDA W/o Sh. Bharat Bhushan both R/o WZ-69, Plot No. 213, Chand Nagar, New Delhi-110018, have severed all their relations from their son Sh. PRASHANT BHARAT and their son's wife Smt. MANJARI GAUTAM and disowned them from their all properties/assets of whatsoever nature. My clients shall not be responsible or liable for any act or deed of their disowned son and daughter-in-law henceforth in future.

**Rakesh Kumar (Advocate)**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Kanchan D/o Mukesh Chand R/o 2692, Shyam Gali Teliwara, Delhi-110006, Age: 27 years, Height: 5'5", Face: Oval, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue T-Shirt, Blue Jeans Pant and Hawai Sleeper** in feet is missing since **01.06.2020** from the area of **P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi**. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 31-A** dated **01.06.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi**.

**Kanchan**

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

**E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)** **SHO**  
**Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641** **P.S. Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi.**  
**Fax : 011-24368639** **Ph.: 011-23529707**  
**DP/255/N/2020** **011-23528060**

### Metro Railway, Kolkata

Kolkata's Pride

### Ultrasonic Testing work of Rails & Rail Welds

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

**Name of work:** Ultrasonic testing of Rails & Rail Welds by USFD Machine between stations KNAP to KKV5 and from Km. (-) 2.091 to Km. 25/11 on Up & Dn line of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,19,44,849.25 (approx.). **Cost of Tender Document:** ₹ 5,000/-.

**Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,09,800/- **Completion Period:** 24 months from the date of issue of LOA. **Date of Closing:** 03.07.2020 at 12.00 hrs.

The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). The bidding for the tender is to be submitted only through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any manual offer, if received, shall not be accepted and will be summarily rejected.

**Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2324-2020-Recall (Open)**

**FASTER SAFER SMOOTHER CLEANER**

### SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Vandana, W/o: Raju, R/o: Rajender ka Makan, Gali No.-07, Amrit Vihar, Swarop Nagar, Delhi** has been reported missing since **17.05.2020** at about **02.00 AM** from the area of **P.S. Swarop Nagar, Delhi**. In this regard **DD No. 12A** dated **25.05.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Swarop Nagar, Delhi**. The description of missing female is as under:

**Name: Vandana, Age: 32 Years, Height: 5', Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Wearing: Black Colour Suit-Salwar and chappal in feet.**

If anyone have any information about this female missing please inform P.S. Swarop Nagar, Delhi.

**Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)**  
**Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639** **SHO**  
**Police Station Swarop Nagar, Delhi**  
**Ph: 011-27811415, 7065036327**

**DP/257/ON/2020**

### Public Notice

Be it known to all, applicant Mr. Anmol Sazawal S/o Anil Sazawal resident of 602 Technology Apartments 24, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092 has applied to Technology Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd. for transfer of Membership No 296 and shares in respect of flat No. 602, along with basement parking no 3 and 40, Technology Apartment, I.P. Extension, Delhi-110092 from original owner namely Late Mr. T.N. Sazawal. The management Committee of the Society hereby invites claims or objections from any person(s) or public at large with regard to transfer of the membership and shares within a period of 14 days from the date of publication of the notice, if no claims or objections are received by the Managing Committee of the Society, the society shall be at liberty to transfer the membership and shares as aforesaid in favour of the applicant

**R. Adm M.K. Badhwar**  
 AVSM VSM IN RETD.  
 President  
 Technology Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd.  
 24, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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**Rakesh Kumar (Advocate)**

### OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CONST. DIV. NO. II, JAMMU

FRESH SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No.26 of 2020-2021/Div-2 Dated 08-06-2020

Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Construction Division No. II, Jammu Department, Jammu on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, invite tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt. upto 1800 Hrs on 16-06-2020 for the following work.

**S.No. 1 Name of Work:** - Development of Front Area Parking by way of laying interlocking paver blocks and other allied works at Front Gate of IIT Jammu.

**Name of Division:** - PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu

**Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs):** - 101.22

**Cost of document (in Rs.):** - 6000

**Earnest Money (in Rs.):** - 2,02,440/-

**Time Allowed for completion:** - 03 months

**Time & date of opening of tender:** - 17-06-2020 1400 hours

**Class of Contractor:** - "A"

**NOTE:** Contractors who have got Contractors cards issued from Kashmir Province, it is mandatory for them to upload their verification certificate of Crime Branch along with other qualifying documents failing which their tenders will be declared non-responsive.

**1/Date of Publishing from:** 09-06-2020

**2/ The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from on 09-06-2020 to 16-06-2020 (1800 Hrs).**

**No. DIP/J-1302/20** **Sd/- Executive Engineer**  
**Dated: 10.06.2020** **PWD (R&B) Const. Div. No. II Jammu**

### WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS WORKS

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, (Construction) Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodra invites E-tender as per details given below:-

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	WORK AND LOCATION	Approx. cost of work in ₹	EMD in ₹
1	TR-C-13-2020 Dtd: 10.06.2020	Design, Supply, Erection, Testing, commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE at Memu Car shed Vadodra in connection with Extension & Modernisation of Memu Car Shed to Increase maintenance facilities from 16 to 24 coach Racks.	56,47,071.50	1,13,000/-
2	TR-C-14-2020 Dtd: 10.06.2020	Electrification of Station/Service building, Platforms, Cover Sheds, BATTERY CHARGING FACILITIES, Circulating Area, etc. 48 nos. of staff quarters & electrical work in connection with 11 KV HT Sub-Station for catering power supply at Kevadiya Railway Station in connection with DB-CDD Gauge conversion with extension upto Kevadiya.	3,12,72,381.14	3,06,400/-
3	TR-C-15-2020 Dtd: 10.06.2020	Electrical work in connection with replacement of overhead catenary by underground cable for catering power supply to street lights on platforms of railway stations of BRC division.	38,45,108.00	76,900/-

**Sr. No. : 1. : Date of Submission :** 11.06.2020. **Date of Opening :** 09.07.2020. **Sr. No. : 2. : Date of Submission :** 10.06.2020. **Date of Opening :** 07.07.2020. **Sr. No. : 3. : Date of Submission :** 10.06.2020. **Date of Opening :** 06.07.2020. Regarding detailed tender conditions please visit [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

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**Trend**  
*Blazer*

**Taapsee shares struggles of migrants**

Actor **TAAPSEE PANNU** shares the plight of migrants amid the Coronavirus outbreak with a poem. She says the pandemic has been worse than just a viral infection for India.

Titled *Pravaasi*, the poem is stitched together with a series of animations of the events that occurred during the lockdown. The video starts with the lines, *Hum toh bass pravaasi hai, kya is desh ke vaasi hai?* She has highlighted the tragedies and hardships that migrants faced while undertaking journeys to reach home during the lockdown.



**WALK ON THE WILD SIDE**

Wildlife investigator, hunting guide and conservationist **IVAN CARTER** tells **SAKSHI SHARMA** that his series *Carter's W.A.R.*, which tries to understand the perspective of poachers, animals and conservationists, helped him integrate with communities on both sides of the conservation line

Ever imagined a trip to the African wild forests? How would you plan it if you were to shoot a series there? The ancient deserts, pristine swamps, rolling savannahs and mist-shrouded mountains might excite you initially but the vast array of wildlife might pose severe challenges. How would you even shoot a crocodile when the tribals tell you not to go near the river or share stories about the risks involved and consequences overnight?

For wildlife investigator, hunting guide and conservationist Ivan Carter, everything was worth the risk as he was determined to bring out the truths behind the human-wildlife conflicts in Africa through his 10-part series titled *Carter's W.A.R. (Wild Animal Response)*.

Through the series, Ivan aims to spread awareness and uncovers various threats that African wildlife faces. From heavily-armed poachers, butchering elephants for their tusks to the slaughter of rhinos for their horns, with each episode, Ivan takes us inside the frontlines of the wars being waged on its wildlife and tries to find solutions.

Though he says that he has been around big-game animals his whole life and has "walked with wildlife", this series is different from the rest of his works as it helped him integrate with communities on both sides of the conservation line. Amidst the sepia-toned, fairly intact rugged woods, shadowy, sprawling and riverine forests, a complex protecting major herds of elephant, buffalo, hippopotamus and other wild animals, not only was he a part of the chimpanzee rescue team, but also met a person whose child was recently eaten by a crocodile. He even saw a freshly-poached rhino for the first time. All of these make you realise how conservation and conversation around it is really important.

There have been numerous examples of animals being shot in the forest, poached and



traded to satisfy human greed. According to an African Wildlife Foundation, more elephants and rhinos are dying from poaching than from natural causes or conflict with humans. Their body parts are traded illegally as trophies, traditional medicine, or trinkets on a lucrative black market — but these iconic pachyderms are not the only wildlife species to be slaughtered for human gain. Big cats like the lion and cheetah are killed for their bones; the African wild dog and other large carnivores die at the hands of villagers protecting their livestock; great apes, like chimps, in Central and West Africa, are hunted as bushmeat and their babies traded as pets; pangolins are captured for their scales and meat.

We have all seen various classic animal series that have captivated the audience for long as they found it fascinating to see nature and wildlife closer to them from the comfort of their living rooms. Unfortunately, what is never shown is the way animals are trained, killed and are used to satisfy the needs of humans.

The series tries to understand the perspective of the poachers, animals and conservationists together.

**Excerpts:**

**Q What prompted you to investigate the story behind Africa's wildlife?**

I have always loved wildlife and the outdoors. While growing up, I have seen shrinking forest cover, reduced habitat for wild animals, destruction of natural animal corridors and hence, increasing pressure on wildlife. This, of course, is of great concern to me, to an extent that I created a series to explore the threat it faces and save the wildlife of Africa. I also realised that it is high time we educate and inform the public about the plight of our wildlife as that would inspire people and hopefully help them understand the damage. I could find no better way to do this except for a series.

**Q What interests you the most about cultural and human development issues?**

I feel that most of the times, conservation and wildlife are missing from our conversations. We don't talk about the human encroachments on the forest lands because of population pressure and development. As

humans, we are so busy "developing" that we forget our wonderful wild places and the wildlife in it. Though it should be of great concern but we don't think about the consequences if the planet loses its wildlife. Certainly, humans will have to follow in some way or the other. For example, a world without bees is a world without food. But even then, we spend more time worrying about the next iPhone to be released than researching about how to keep our bees healthy.

**Q How was your experience of shooting the series?**

It was a highly enriching one because with a few weeks on the ground, we got to truly know, feel and develop relationships with the people on the front line. We got to spend a good amount of time in the amazing ecosystems — from rainforests to deserts and everything in between. Knowing the people and the wildlife that live in these ecosystems builds a genuine empathy. I feel this comes out in the show and feeds my personal passion to help make a difference to their future.

**Q How challenging and threatening was it to capture rhinoceros, wild elephants and other dangerous animals?**

These were truly dangerous undertakings but I have been around big game animals my whole life and we were always in the presence of professionals. So, while the danger was always very real to both the humans and many of the wildlife we were surrounded by, it was always under control.

**Q Each episode deals with a different scenario. Did it demand a different preparation at each level?**

Yes, very much so. The logistics, getting to know and research the stories, the weather and the travel was always an adventure and every single one vastly different from the next.

**Q The series returned in 2015. Do you think much has changed since then?**

We are on the same path. Some things have changed but not much. The pandemic has, in my opinion, forced the world to pause and think about what we have done to the nature and wildlife around us. And this is a very timely release of the series for that reason.

**Q How do you think rampant poaching and human/wildlife conflict can be stopped? What is the way forward?**

We were shocked by the realities of what we discovered initially. I have lived in Africa all my life but I still didn't realise just how big some of the illegal wildlife trade was and how terrible the impact has been on wild ecosystems. By including community in the solutions, educating our youth and creating series like this so that the public can become aware of the truth and happenings on the front line could help mitigate poaching and wildlife crime. I think there will always be wildlife crime but it can be reduced significantly with awareness and education.

**Q Some anecdotes and highlights that you would like to share from your journey?**

There are many but I can recall some special ones. I was a part of a chimpanzee rescue team, which was an incredible experience. I even met a person whose child was recently eaten by a crocodile and saw first hand a freshly poached rhino — all of these bring a stark reality on the top of your mind and make you realise how important conservation really is. It's not a luxury, it's a necessity.

*(The series launches on Discovery, Discovery HD and Discovery Plus App on June 15.)*

**'I never wanted to become an actor but when destiny wants something to happen it happens. After finishing my 10th exams I did an internship with Prahlad Kakkar. I had done a few modelling projects before that. While interning people used to ask me what was I doing behind the cameras and why not acting in front of the cameras.'**

**—Raveena Tandon**

Actor **TILLOTAMA SHOME** strongly feels that household chores shouldn't be done just by women.

"My husband returned after 6 months. He walked home, with me on urgent calls. He cooked and cleaned for me, so that I could work non stop. Beyond putting clothes in a washing machine, men please help, if you are not. #ShareTheLoad," she tweeted.

On the work front, she is currently seen in the digitally-released film, *Chintu Ka Birthday*, which also features Vinay Pathak, Seema Pahwa, Reginald Barnes, Nate Scholz and many others.



**Dakota to star in Rodeo Queens**

Actor **DAKOTA JOHNSON** is all set to play the lead in the forthcoming mockumentary-style series *Rodeo Queens*.

Johnson is also executive producer of the project. The series follows an ensemble of rodeo queens, who are hoping to compete for the coveted crown. The makers will start working on it in the writers' room soon.

Currently, Johnson can be seen alongside Tracee Ellis Ross in *The High Note* and has forthcoming *The Friend*.



**The case for child seats**

We want our children to be safe, so why don't we care about them in a car?

As a newly minted father, one of my primary concerns was getting a child seat, particularly with the freight services closed and international travel being a no-no for some time to come. Thankfully, a friend of mine, Bharat, came through with an infant carrier that he'd used earlier from Chicco. However, some people asked why bother, after all carrying a child in a lap is 'safe enough' and since child seats are not mandatory in India, why bother. Using a child seat or child carriers were a sign of privilege, it was claimed by some folks. Fair enough, but if I can afford it, why shouldn't I use it.

But that did raise a more pertinent point, is it a privilege after all? While some high-end brand car seats are indeed quite expensive, the top products from Chicco, Britax and Maclaren all easily exceed \$200, that is just ₹

15,000 before import duties, and such seats are sold in India for ₹ 20,000-25,000, which is still a small fraction of the price of even an entry-level hatchback. That said, there are crash-tested car seats with both belt and ISOFIX attachments that cost under ₹ 10,000 from e-commerce sites in India, these are not expensive by any stretch, particularly, when parents can spend many multiples of that sum on a birthday party.

As a parent one assumes that you would do your utmost and spend a lot of money to keep your child safe? So

why do I continue to see some parents allowing their wards to stick their heads out of car sunroofs? This despite two children dying of kite-string related injuries a couple of years ago in Delhi. And one can assume those are not the only children who have died due to this carelessness. I have seen parents clutching onto children sitting on their lap, clearly not belted, why do they behave like this? Yes, a mother's grip on her child might be a tight one, but the physics of an accident, even a low-speed one, can generate tremendous forces that could easily break that

bond and throw the child out of a seat.

And believe me when I tell you that such carelessness is possibly more prevalent among the rich and educated than it is among the less-privileged. It is frightening to see school vans operated by Maruti Omni's, not a vehicle that I'd want to be in. It is just like seeing a pillion rider carry a babe in her arms while riding on a motorcycle or scooter, or a family of four riding on a two-wheeler. It is not that these parents want or wish their children to be unsafe, but limited resources push them to a compromise. Better public transportation options will be a clear way out of this mess. But what about those who can afford good cars? Why do they get a pass for their reckless behaviour regarding their children? Forget child seats, far too often I notice children below a certain height sitting in the front seat of modern vehicles, vehicles with front airbags. Even keeping a child belted or on a lap in front is downright dangerous — the airbag deployment in case of an accident might easily snap the neck of the child. Even if you disable the airbag or you have a car without a passenger airbag, a child in front is so light that he or she could easily fly out of the seat and into the windshield, or maybe even outside the vehicle.

One has to be extremely careful with children in vehicles, yes kids might throw tantrums about sitting in front and parents will give in to them, often in sheer exasperation. It is not easy, but if the safety of children is paramount and as parents that should be our number one priority, then we should ensure that our children are kept safe in cars and other vehicles whether the law mandates it or not. We must work to remove the myth, which I myself believed that child seats are a privilege. If you can afford a car you can afford to put your child in a proper and safe child seat too.

**Penguin will strike a chord: Keerthy**

The trailer for the awaited Tamil film, *Penguin* is out. The crime thriller stars Keerthy Suresh (Mahanati) as a pregnant mother who sets out on a dangerous and physically demanding journey to unravel a mystery from her past and save her loved ones.

It is produced by Stone Bench Films and presented by Karthik Subbaraj (Jigarthanda) and



marks the directorial debut of Eashvar Karthik. From June 19, prime members in India and in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide can watch the film in Tamil, Telugu and with Malayalam dubbing as it will premiere on Amazon Prime Video.

"Penguin has definitely been one of the most exciting and interesting projects I've worked on," said actor Keerthy Suresh. She added: "As a mother, Rhythm is both gentle and caring, but also fiercely determined. She's complex, but authentic, and I think that will really strike a chord with audience. I had a wonderful time working with the Eashvar to bring the story to life."



# GOING UP IN SMOKE

Restaurants have already suffered mammoth losses during the lockdown and restarting requires a sizeable investment. So could this mean the restaurateurs would have to think multiple times before investing in the business again? **AYUSHI SHARMA** speaks to experts to find out

Only if we could turn back the clock, we'd make sure the light defeated the dark. Isn't it? But reality is often disappointing and at times, stranger than fiction. The global health crisis brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic is still raging and even though the government has allowed restaurants to reopen, hospitality is one sector, which seems to be on hold. Largely, because it loses out to major growth drivers and is dependent on a benchmark called people's confidence. The Government, which is trying hard to walk the fine line between saving people and protecting the economy, did allow restaurants and malls to reopen. However, the closure of many cafes — Smokeys BBQ and Grill, Side Wok, Cafe Turtle and Smoke House Deli — in Khan Market and other hotspots of Delhi turn out to be a way different story than what was interpreted.

Who is to be blamed? Increasing anxiety and fear among people due to the virus outbreak? Certainly, yes! But restaurateurs are buried under the cost of reopening, what with new hygiene protocols in place and no fund buffer or expected demand to rely on. They are, therefore, unable to pay expensive rentals, salaries of so many employees and of course, other maintenance costs.

The owners say that the decision was taken after a



careful review and a few rounds of negotiations with the Khan Market Traders' Association and the National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI). It surely would not have been a simple decision to take but the point is fair to make — where will the money come from for investment? Paying rents, ensuring safety of the employees and customers, that too in an upscale market, is certainly not an easy task.

Riyaz Amlani, CEO and MD, Impresario Handmade Restaurants, tells us, "In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent fallout, we've made the difficult decision to close Smoke House Deli's outpost in Khan Market, New Delhi. While we have been in constant negotiations with our landlords there and

have also spent time assessing the outpost's overall financial viability, ultimately a difficult but necessary decision was made keeping in mind Khan Market's expensive real estate and other issues. That said, we hope to have your continued patronage at our other Smoke House Deli outposts in the city as soon as we're allowed to open."

With the new guidelines specific to reopening of restaurants such as a reduced seating capacity up to 50 per cent, curtailed hours of operation and a ban on serving alcohol, operating a restaurant is no longer a viable option. "Restaurants have already suffered mammoth losses during the lockdown that can never be recovered. The glimmer of hope at reopening also seems shrouded under dark clouds. For

enteries to survive, the government would have to ease restrictions with a sense of pragmatism and practicality for ensuring that the desired objectives of economic revival are met," feels Ashish Ahuja, director of the Pebble Street.

By its very nature, cafe business thrives on people dining in and a drop in the numbers means that the proposition becomes untenable. Experts believe that the situation is very uncertain at the moment. Without the support of landlords and government, of course, many more restaurants would end up being extinct in the near future, like the ones mentioned above.

Zorawar Kalra, founder and managing director of Massive Restaurants, shares, "For locations like Khan

Market, which have traditionally had very high rental prices, support from landlords is very important. The rentals of Khan Market in Manhattan and London. I have a restaurant in London and the per sqft rates in Khan Market and London are the same, however, the sales potential is nowhere near. Restarting will need a sizeable investment as the waiters and chefs need to be paid, maintenance has to be looked at since a lot of damage must have been caused in these three months of lockdown. Unless the landlords help immediately by bringing their rents down considerably, because the sales are going to be a fraction of what they used to be, a lot of the restaurants will not be able to open up in the area."

Even before the 'Unlock 1.0' was in place, there was a spike in online delivery, which earlier was almost a negligible part of the services these cafes offered. Even if they ramp up that counter, it is not enough to meet establishment costs. Only footfalls can give them the required momentum. Restarting means a sizeable investment per outlet as everything that had been out of use over the last three months has to be repaired and reformatted.

So could this mean the restaurateurs would have to think multiple times before investing in the business again? The big chains can survive, the boutique ones won't.

# The right routine

Since the lockdown has been eased, allowing certain liberties, here are some dos and don'ts to include in your health chart as you step in and out of your homes. By **Dr MEGHANA PASI**

**P**hew! The lockdown has finally ended! In the midst of the rising number of COVID-19 cases, cities are opening to get back in business. However, it's important to note that this is the most critical time as the chances of getting infected are very high now. Unlock 1.0 has brought fear, tension and anxiety about our future. People are suffering from muscle tightness, weight gain, elevated heart rate, high blood pressure and issues with personal, social and work relationships. And they are at utmost risk!

Hence, amongst all this, we need to come out strong — mentally, physically and emotionally. This can be done by building a healthy immune system, which is our body's defence mechanism. Here are some dos and don'ts to build a healthy immune and to keep in mind for when you step out of your home.

## DOs: Prioritise nutrition

Nutrition not only supplies building blocks for building your immune system but also affects your gut microbiome. Your gut microflora sets a communication link between your immune system and your brain.

Remember the thumb rule — fill half your plate with vegetables and fruits, one-fourth with proteins and remaining one-fourth with carbs.

Vegetables like bottle gourd (*lauki*), bitter gourd (*karela*), cauliflower, beans, broccoli, ladyfinger; green leafy vegetables like spinach (*palak*), fenugreek (*methi*), amaranth, colocasia, drumstick leaves, coriander and mint; yellow-orange and citrus fruits like guava, papaya, mango, orange, amla, are rich sources of Beta carotene, Vitamin C, Vitamin K, Vitamin E, Folate and minerals like potassium and magnesium. They also contain fibre, antioxidants and phytonutrients, which help in increasing resistance against diseases, protecting against cancers and chronic diseases like heart disease, diabetes and asthma, regulating blood pressure. Tip: Include at least five servings of fruits and veggies in your everyday meals.

Dals, pulses, beans, nuts, milk and milk products, soya beans are rich sources of proteins for a vegetarian meal. Non-vegetarians can add extra proteins by having eggs, poultry, and fish. Proteins boost the immune system by forming immunoglobulins / antibodies. Tip: Include one bowl of any protein source with each meal.

Add complex carbs like millets (*bajra*, *jowar*, *ragi*, maize) in place of white rice and wheat. These are rich in B-complex vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and fibre, which help in keep our heart healthy, regulate blood



pressure, prevent cancer, lower risk of diabetes and increase immunity.

Spice up your meals with our Indian spices and herbs. Pepper, ginger, garlic, cumin, cloves, fenugreek seeds, turmeric contain chemical compounds, which have antibacterial, antifungal, antimicrobial and antiviral properties that can help to fight-off infection. Tip: Add them in your veggies, dals and curries, make a concoction (*kadha*) using *tulsi*, mint, cloves, ginger, honey, rock salt and lemon or simply have a mint and *adrak wali chai* (mint, ginger tea).

Drink at least two litres of water every day. Dehydration can cause drowsiness, fatigue, loss of focus and mood swings. Juices, milk shakes, buttermilk, coconut water also are a good way to beat dehydration. Keep two full water bottles on your side with your name on it and make sure to finish the two by the end of the day.

## Make a daily meal plan

Start your day with a healthy yet quick breakfast. Breakfast should be a combination of complex carbs, proteins and fibre. Go for omelette, vegetable *poha* or *upma*, vegetable sandwich, idli chutney sambar, milk and cereals with fruits, boiled eggs, *parathas* from leftover dal/vegetable.

Grab a handful of nuts (almonds, walnuts, peanuts) and fruits when hungry between your meals instead of fried snacks or cookies. Nuts are rich sources of Omega-3 fatty acids, the best source of plant proteins and a store house of flavonoids, antioxidants and minerals. Prepare peanut or *til chikki* or *laddus* for kids.

Balance your lunch *thali*. You can have mix vegetable pulao with curd, *rajma* rice with buttermilk, *paneer* wrap with chickpea salad and *lassi*, pasta with *paneer* salad and curd. If you are a non-vegetarian, make some fish curry with rice and curd or chicken wraps, burgers with green salad and curd. Go for another round of fruits instead of tea/coffee at tea time to avoid caffeine intake.

Let the dinner be light if you do not stay physically active throughout the day. Go for salads with boiled eggs and curd, bisibele rice with curd, dal rice or *khichadi* and vegetable or soup with pulao.

Have a glass of warm milk with turmeric at bedtime. This not only helps you get good sleep but also boosts your immunity.

## Stay physically active

Physical activity increases the immune regulation and decreases the inflammatory response by flushing out the pathogens. It also helps in faster circulation of the WBCs to farthest parts of our body.

In between your office calls, get up and do paper push-ups, book press, shoulder blade squeezes, stretches, chair yoga. You can even put on your headphones and walk around the room while you take the calls. Keep a step count target for yourself, make sure you reach it every day.

Children and elderly lack a strong immune system compared to adults. Play indoor games with your kids, make them hop, jump and skip. Senior people can try yoga, walking and meditation.

Ensure 30 minutes of sunlight exposure for Vitamin D. It lowers anxiety, depression and improve overall brain health.

## DON'Ts: Avoid certain ingredients

First, alcohol as well as smoking, which we really need to avoid. They can have adverse effects on your immunity. Excessive consumption of these reduces the immune system's response to invading pathogens.

Avoid late nights and prolonged working hours. Binge-watching, 'Netflix and chilling' are the newest enemies of restful sleep. Research has shown that seven to nine hours of sleep is mandatory for release of several chemicals, which help us build our immunity.

Avoid consumption of foods high in salt, sugar, refined foods and fried foods. These weaken the immunity and digestive system. Packaged and processed foods are not only harmful but they may even carry unwanted surface pathogens with them.

In these times of uncertainty, finding structure helps you maintain productivity by setting a routine. With these little efforts and tweaks in our daily routine we can be strong and healthy to survive this new normal.

(The writer is Nutrition Consultant with Arogya World's MyThali programme.)

## R E C I P E S

### ENGLISH GARDEN GOBLET COCKTAIL

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Monkey 47 gin: 60 ml
- Tonic water: 200 ml
- Radish and red chicory juice (made from 10 small radish and 4 leaves of red chicory): 30 ml
- Radish (chopped): 1
- Rosemary sprig
- Lavender sprig

#### METHOD

- Place the ice into a large red wine glass.
- Take the radishes and red chicory and extract the juice.
- Pour the juice over the ice then slowly add the gin and tonic.
- Stir it gently and garnish with sliced radishes, rosemary sprig, lavender and a sprinkle of juniper berries.

Courtesy: Mohit Madaan, manager at Ricks' at Taj Mahal.



### MIRCHI KA SALAN

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Green chilli (de-seeded): 8-10
- Raw peanuts: 100 gm
- Coconut (grated): 50 gm
- Sesame seeds: ½ tsp
- Coriander seeds: 1 tsp
- Cumin seeds: 1 tsp
- Onion (sliced): 1
- Tamarind water: 4 tsp
- Ginger garlic paste: 1 tsp
- Turmeric: ½ tsp
- Curd: 1 cup
- Oil: 2 tsp
- Salt to taste

- Coriander leaves (for garnishing)
- METHOD**
- Dry roast the peanuts, sesame seeds, coriander seeds and cumin seeds. Keep aside.
- Lightly fry the onion in oil until transparent.
- Grind the peanuts, sesame seeds, coriander seeds, cumin seeds, lightly fried onion and coconut together. Make a paste.
- Lightly fry the green chillies in oil and keep aside. In the same pan, sauté the



grounded paste, along with the ginger-garlic paste, adding the turmeric, tamarind water and curd.

- Add a teaspoon of salt and some water.
- Finally, add green chillies and let the mixture boil.
- Garnish with fresh coriander leaves and serve.
- *Mirchi Ka Salan* is usually served with *biryani*. It can also be served with rice or *rotis*.

Courtesy: Zoheb Ali Qureshi, Executive Chef, Cross Border Kitchens.

### MANGO TRES LECHES

#### WHAT YOU NEED

##### For sponge:

- Refined flour: 420 gm
- Baking soda: 8 gm
- Baking powder: 250 gm
- Castor sugar: 250 gm
- Curd
- Fresh cream: 120 gm
- Full fat milk: 60 gm
- Mango pulp: 60 gm
- Vanilla extract: 10 gm
- Melted butter: 180 gm
- Cinnamon powder: 3 gm

##### For soaking:

- Condensed milk: 100 gm
- Milk: 100 gm



- Coconut milk: 100 gm
- Lemon zest: 5 gm
- Salt: 3 gm

##### For garnishing:

- Mango pulp: 30 gm
- Fresh mangos: 2

- Mint leaves
- Coriander: 2 sprigs

##### METHOD

- Sift all the dry ingredients, flour, baking powder, baking soda. Add sugar.

- In another bowl, mix the curd, cream, milk, vanilla essence, and mango pulp till smooth.
- Add the dry ingredients gradually into the wet mix, whisking to combine. Please note: Do not over-mix.
- Finally, add warm, melted butter, mix till a smooth paste.
- Fill into a mold of choice and bake at 160 for about 15-30 minutes, depending on mold size.
- Once the cake has baked, when slightly warm, poke holes and soak it with the sauce.
- Allow it to cool in the fridge for a few hours.
- Top with whipped cream and mango.

Courtesy: Michelle Peris, Pastry Chef, APCA Bangalore.



### AAM AKHROT PODA

#### WHAT YOU NEED

- Raw mangoes: 3
- Fresh mint: 1/4 cup
- Roasted cumin powder: 1/2 tsp
- California walnuts milk: 1 cup
- Sugar: 1 cup
- Black salt: 2 tsp
- Chilled water: 4 cups

#### METHOD

- Wash and dry the raw mangoes.
- Roast the mangoes over direct heat for about 10 minutes till charred on the outside. Cool them off.
- Peel the skin and use your hands to separate the pulp and the stone.
- Take the pulp in a blender and add sugar, black salt, walnut milk, roasted cumin powder, mint.
- Blend to make a smooth paste.
- Add chilled water and blend again for a minute.
- Refrigerate for about two hours.
- Pour in glasses and serve chilled.

Courtesy: Chef Varun Inamdar, California Walnuts.

# IPL possible in front of empty stands: Ganguly

You need mental strength at times when you are not playing: Umesh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

**B**CCI president Sourav Ganguly has indicated that this year's IPL could be conducted in empty stadiums, insisting that all possible options are being explored to ensure that the suspended event does take place despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a letter to all the affiliated units sent late on Wednesday after the ICC Board meeting, Ganguly seemed confident of an IPL this year despite its current status of being indefinitely suspended because of the raging pandemic, which has claimed more than 8,000 lives in India.

"The BCCI is working on all possible options to ensure that we are able to stage IPL this year, even if it means playing the tournament in empty stadiums," Ganguly wrote.

"The fans, franchises, players, broadcasters, sponsors and all other stakeholders are keenly looking forward to the possibility of IPL being hosted this year.

"Recently, a lot of players both from India and other countries, participating in the IPL have shown keenness on being part of this year's IPL. We are optimistic and the BCCI will shortly decide on the future course of action on this," the former India captain said.

Ganguly also said that the BCCI is working on the domestic schedule while exploring various formats which would make tournaments like Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy and



Vijay Hazare "competitive and feasible".

"Moving ahead, the BCCI is in process of planning the domestic competitions for the next cricketing season. We are working on various options and formats in our endeavour to ensure that various domestic tournaments are held, they

stay competitive and participation feasible," said the former India captain.

"The BCCI will come up with more details in next couple of weeks," he added.

"The quality of the product is what has made it really, really special. I think it is safe to say that the collective view is that we have to have the tournament in its full format, the same number of games, with all the players part of it," he said.

## Franchises want full tourney & no tinkering: KKR CEO

**KOLKATA:** Any "tinkering" in the IPL format to make space for it in the coronavirus-hit calendar will not be acceptable to Kolkata Knight Riders CEO Venky Mysore, who on Thursday asserted that all the franchises want the event to be held in its complete form.

"One thing that I feel strongly about and we feel strongly about is that we should not tinker with the quality of the product that we have," Mysore told reporters.

"The quality of the product is what has made it really, really special. I think it is safe to say that the collective view is that we have to have the tournament in its full format, the same number of games, with all the players part of it," he said.

There are suggestions that

the IPL could be conducted without overseas players, keeping in mind the restrictions on travel imposed by various countries besides reducing the number of games to fit it into a shorter window.

Mysore said foreign players have played a crucial role in the league's success.

"It is primarily our Indian players who are the backbone of any team," he acknowledged.

"But I think we should recognise that when you look at even our own team, a Sunil Narine, an Andre Russell, an Eoin Morgan and now Pat Cummins come as a combination to our excellent lineup that we have on the Indian side, makes it really special," he explained.

PTI

He has been Virat Kohli's go-to bowler on unresponsive Indian tracks and seasoned pacer Umesh Yadav credits his "enormous mental strength" for keeping him in the game despite a stop-start international career for the past 10 years.

The 32-year-old Vidarbha speedster with more than 250 international wickets (259) across formats, doesn't feel the need to respond to perceptions of being a Test specialist as the time spent away from the 22-year pitch is more about honing skills and remaining battle-ready.

"To be honest, I am really strong mentally and that makes a lot of difference," Yadav said.

"I don't pay much heed to stuff like who is going to get a chance or whether I have to sit in the reserves. This is a game where anything is possible," said Yadav, who often loses out to Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah in away Tests, where conditions are more conducive for fast bowling.

"A lot of factors go into it — form, conditions. It's just about delivering and grabbing the given opportunities. So, I don't think so much about other things," said the bowler, who has 144 wickets from 46 Tests along with 106 wickets from 75 ODIs.

He hasn't played a lot of ODI cricket since October, 2018, partly because of his six plus economy rate.

With less game time in international cricket, does he feel like a victim? "No," says the genial fast bowler.

"I don't look at myself being a victim. There are times when



I have played and times when I have not played.

"During the times I am not playing, I just look forward towards working on my game. (I am) getting better at my skills and hopefully will be a part of white ball cricket," he sounded hopeful.

So when he feels the need to have a chat, who is the person he falls back on in tough times? "There is no one man I seek advice from. In fact, knowledge is available everywhere. You just need to be ready to grasp it. At home, it's my coach Subroto sir (former India seamer Subroto Banerjee) who is my sounding board.

"Also there is Ashish bhai (Nehra) and Zak paa (Zaheer Khan) who have also helped me a lot. Sometimes, I also chat with our bowling coach Bharath Arun sir," he said.

## 'In empty stadiums, hardly matters if IPL is held in India or overseas'

**NEW DELHI:** The BCCI has zeroed in on the September-October window for the IPL subject to the postponement of Asia Cup and the WT20, league chairman Brijesh Patel said on Thursday, hinting that the event can be held overseas as games in empty stadiums make location irrelevant.

"We are looking at the Sept-October window but that is subject to the postponement of the Asia Cup and WT20. We will also have to follow the Government guidelines at that time," Patel said.

Considering the rising cases in India, there is an option to organise the league

overseas. The UAE and Sri Lanka have already shown interest in hosting the world's biggest T20 league.

"First preference is India of course but a lot will depend on the situation at that time. Sri Lanka has offered to host it and so has UAE, we will see where we can play. If you are playing without crowds, it doesn't matter where you play," said Patel.

Asked if the plan is to have a shorter IPL, Patel said: "We want normal duration for the tournament but again it depends on which tournament (Asia Cup or World Cup) is postponed.

"IPL is an important tournament for the board, sponsors, broadcasters and the players. Everyone wants it to happen. I am sure the players are itching to take the field."

Patel said the sooner the ICC decides on the WT20, the better it would be for all the stakeholders. He also said the IPL can be held without fans but not the World Cup.

"I think the ICC will take a call soon. If the World Cup is happening, then teams need to start preparing too. Also, World Cup without crowd is no World Cup but you can play an IPL behind closed doors," added Patel.

PTI

## India's SL tour called off



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's limited-overs tour of Sri Lanka in June-July was on Thursday called off for now due to the Covid-19 pandemic with both the Boards saying that the situation is not feasible for the games to go ahead.

India were scheduled to play three ODIs and as many T20s starting June end and continuing till July in Sri Lanka.

"It is not possible to go ahead with the tour in June-July and we have conveyed it to the Sri Lankan board (SLC). However, we remain committed to the series (at a later date)," BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal said. The cancellation was expected as Indian players are yet to resume training with cases continuing to rise rapidly in the country.

The players will need four to six weeks to regain match fitness after training resumes. However, both the boards remain committed to the series and having it in August is a possibility.

"The team is out of practice and we are not sure when international travel restrictions will be lifted, so it wasn't possible in June-July," Dhumal added.

A media release from Sri Lanka also confirmed the development.

## We are making an effort for normalcy: Holder



LONDON: West Indies captain Jason Holder says coming to England for a Test series in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic is neither dictated by money nor a sense of adventurism but the move is a genuine effort to bring back normalcy.

West Indies players arrived in the UK on Tuesday for a three-match Test series, starting July 8 at

Southampton. It will be cricket's first international engagement since mid-March when the coronavirus pandemic halted all sporting activity.

"A lot of people were crying out for cricket. It is not the case we wanted to be guinea pigs but, having said that, we always had a tour plan here in the UK this summer. After we spoke about the possibil-

## Anderson grateful for WI 'scary' decision

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

James Anderson has thanked the West Indies for taking the "scary decision" to tour England, with Britain suffering the worst coronavirus death toll in Europe.

"I think it's great for the game, brilliant that we're closing in on getting some Test cricket played after a decent lay-off," Anderson said

during a conference call on Thursday.

Three West Indies players decided against touring but a 25-strong squad led by captain Jason Holder has travelled to England.

"From our point of view we're very grateful the West Indies are coming over here," said Anderson. "With what's going on in the world I can imagine it's a scary decision for a lot of them, for all of them, to make the journey over."

emerged. Holder said the reason for their arrival is not money and that they won't compromise on health. "It is not about money for us — we want safety and want to make sure we are treated fairly and we just get on with it," Holder said.

## Birmingham 2022 dates changed by 24 hours

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games will start a day later than scheduled, to allow athletes additional recovery time after the World Athletics Championship and avoid clash with semifinals of the UEFA Women's Football Championships, the organisers announced on Thursday.

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) Executive Board has approved the minor change for the Games, which will now be held between July 28 and August 8.

The World Athletics Championships is scheduled to be held in Oregon in the United States from July 15 to 24 and the UEFA Women's Football Championships is slated from July 6-31 in England.

Both Championships were originally scheduled to be held in 2021 but were postponed to 2022 after the rescheduling of the Tokyo Olympics.



## Sanjita Chanu hopeful of getting Arjuna this time

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Her name cleared of doping charges, two-time HCWG champion Sanjita Chanu is hoping to receive the recognition she deserves, starting with the prestigious Arjuna Award which has eluded her since 2016.

"I applied for Arjuna first in 2016 but I was not given it then. I was ignored again in 2017 despite having the points," Chanu said.

"But then because of this dope case I was ineligible. I am going to try and get it now," she added.

Chanu, who won Gold at the 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games in 48kg and 53kg respectively, has been trying for the prestigious Award for the past four years.

After she was ignored for a second time in 2017, she filed a writ petition before the Delhi HC, challenging the decision of the Awards Committee to exclude her name from those recommended for the coveted honour.

The High Court in its order had directed the Awards Committee to consider Chanu for the Arjuna Award and keep its decision in a sealed cover to be disclosed only if she is absolved of the doping charges which happened on June 8.

The 26-year-old had also applied for the award last month as her provisional suspension was revoked and IWF had allowed her to compete in tournaments.

However since her case had not been closed the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLFF) informed her that she was ineligible for the sports awards, which cannot be given to dope-tainted athletes.

But on Wednesday, the IWLFF wrote to the sports ministry to comply with the High Court order. "I have always performed well and have two medals in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and in Gold Coast without doping. I am lifting for 11-12 years. I don't know why I have been ignored for this award till now," Chanu added.

The deadline for for submitting applications for the national sports awards has also been extended till June 22 by the sports ministry.

## Kyrgios blasts 'selfish' ATP for US Open drive

AFP ■ SYDNEY

Nick Kyrgios slammed the ATP as "selfish" on Thursday for pressing ahead with plans for the US Open despite the country dealing with a coronavirus pandemic and widespread anti-racism protests.

The temperamental Australian suggested it was too early for the Flushing Meadow Grand Slam, joining other players in expressing reservations, including world number one Novak Djokovic.

"The ATP is trying to make the US Open go ahead. Selfish with everything going on at the moment," Kyrgios, ranked just 40 but a showman who is popular with

fans, said on Twitter. "Obviously Covid, but also with the riots. Together we need to overcome these challenges before tennis returns in my opinion."

Djokovic suggested on Wednesday that he may skip the North America swing and restart his season on clay in Europe in early September, complaining about the "very severe" measures being put in place at the US Open. "Most of the players I've talked to so far have a rather negative view of the possibility of going," said the Serb.

World number two and reigning US Open champion Rafael Nadal has expressed similar reservations, while top-ranked woman Ashleigh Barty has also voiced caution about resuming tennis too soon.

## Alli banned from Spurs 1st game

LONDON: Dele Alli will miss Spurs first game back from the Premier League's suspension after receiving a one-match ban on Thursday for a racially insensitive post on social media during the coronavirus outbreak.

Alli put a video on a private Snapchat conversation in February in which the midfielder joked about the virus and appeared to mock an Asian man.

The Football Association said Alli's actions were "a misguided attempt at humor" but that the player "had not set out to be insulting or to create a racial stereotype."

Alli was found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute, the FA said, because it constituted an "aggravated breach" by having a reference to race.

The England international will miss Tottenham's game against Manchester United on June 19. He also was fined 50,000 pounds (\$63,000) and must attend an education course.

## Turkey confident Istanbul will host CL final

AFP ■ ISTANBUL

Turkey is "confident" the Champions League final will still be held in Istanbul, the Turkish sports minister said on Thursday, as UEFA considers other options because of the novel coronavirus.

UEFA's decision could be made during an Executive Committee meeting on June 17.

The names of several cities, including Lisbon and Frankfurt, have circulated in the media while the Spanish capital's mayor announced a possible candidacy from Madrid on Tuesday.

Despite this speculation, the Turks are still hopeful.



"I have no doubt it will take place in the best way in Turkey. We're confident that we will receive good news on June 17," said Turkish Sports Minister Mehmet Kasapoglu.

"We are following this closely, it's a very important matter," he insisted during an interview with TRT Sport channel.

The final was set to

be held on May 30 in Istanbul at the Atatürk Olympic Stadium, 15 years after the Champions League final there between Liverpool and AC Milan.

Turkish officials and fans insist the city remains the right place to host the game because of Turkey's relative success in fighting the new pandemic.

Turkey has officially recorded around 173,000 cases of the virus, and 4,746 deaths.

## I'm enjoying my football & am not going away anytime soon: Chhetri

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

"I am enjoying my football and am not going away anytime soon," said talismanic Indian football captain Sunil Chhetri, indicating that he will keep on playing for another three to four years.

The 35-year-old Chhetri, who holds the national record of most international matches and most number of goals, made it clear that retirement plans are currently not on his mind.

"I don't want to put numbers (on how long I will keep playing). But I am enjoying my football and I am not going away anytime soon," Chhetri said in a Live



chat on the Facebook page of Indian football team.

"I told my wife that I am feeling so fit. I am going to challenge Udanta and Ashique Kuruniyan (both India and

Bengaluru FC team-mates) for a sprint. Unless a Sahal (Abdul Samad) scores a lot of goals and push me away (from the national team), I am going to be there, playing for the team."

Chhetri completes 15 years of international career on Friday since making his debut in Quetta against Pakistan in a friendly series in 2005. He had scored on his debut in the 1-1 drawn match.

Since then, he has played 115 matches and scored 72 goals. He is the second highest international scorer among active footballers, behind Portugal superstar Cristiano Ronaldo and above Argentine maestro Lionel Messi.

"I am fortunate to have played 15 years for my country. It is a dream, 3-4 years more probably and it will be (nearly) 20 years. Who would have thought to play 20 years and so I am living on my dream."

## Bayern in DFB-Pokal final

AFP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich remain on course for the double after the Bundesliga leaders squeezed past Eintracht Frankfurt 2-1 in Wednesday's German Cup semi-final behind closed doors, with both teams supporting the Black Lives Matter movement.

Bayern's early goal by Ivan Perisic was cancelled out by a second-half equaliser from Frankfurt's Danny da Costa, who had only been on for three minutes at the Allianz Arena.

However, Robert Lewandowski settled the matter with the winner 16



minutes from time to claim his 45th goal this season in all competitions.

Bayern will face Bayer Leverkusen, who beat fourth-tier side Saarbrücken 3-0 on Tuesday, in the final at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on July 4. Hansi Flick-coached Bayern, who have a seven-point lead with four games left in the league, can wrap up an eighth consecutive Bundesliga title this weekend if they beat Borussia Moenchengladbach and second-placed Borussia Dortmund lose at strugglers Fortuna Dusseldorf.

However, Bayern will be without both Lewandowski and Mueller, who are both suspended.

