

**OPINION 6**  
MURDER  
MOST FOUL

**MONEY 9**  
GOVT RELEASES PART OF CPI DATA;  
FOOD INFLATION UP 9.28% IN MAY

**SPORT 12**  
BCCI CALLS OFF  
ZIMBABWE TRIP

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SAY NO TO  
CHILD LABOUR:  
MADHURI  
10 VIVACITY

## Hospitals' apathy horrific: SC

Apex court raps Centre, States for maltreatment to Covid patients

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said the state of affairs in Delhi hospitals was "horrific" with regard to disposal of the bodies of Covid-19 and sought responses from the Centre and different States on its plea taking suo motu cognisance on the treatment given to patients and the handling of the bodies.

The court said hospitals are not showing due care to the bodies and not even informing family members about deaths, as a result, they are unable to attend the last rites.

"Hospitals aren't giving due care and concern to the dead bodies. Patients' families aren't even informed about deaths. Families haven't been able to attend the last rites too in some cases. How are dead bodies being treated?" the court



Suspected Covid-19 patients wait to be examined by medics at a Government hospital in New Delhi on Friday

asked during the hearing. "It is a horrendous situation. Worse than animals, people are being treated," the court said.

A bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan, SK Kaul and MR Shah also issued notices to the Centre, Maharashtra, West

Bengal and Tamil Nadu. "The situation in Delhi is horrendous, horrific and pathetic," the bench said during the hearing.

The judges went on to add that Government hospitals in Delhi are not properly dealing with bodies of deceased Covid-19 victims, adding that patients' families have not been informed about deaths on some occasions.

It also asked the Government why some patients were not getting admission in hospitals despite the Government app showing the availability of beds.

"Reports also show that patients are not able to get admitted to the hospital whereas data shows a large number of beds remain vacant. The State is not only duty-bound to provide beds but also adequate infrastructure, manpower, and staff to attend to the

patients," the SC bench said.

The top court further slammed the Delhi Government citing media reports which have shown the "pathetic" condition of patients.

"Very sorry state of affairs in Delhi and its hospitals. There is no adherence to the MHA guidelines," SC said.

Not just Delhi but the SC also pulled up Maharashtra, Bengal and Tamil Nadu over the condition of Government hospitals in their States.

Continued on Page 2

**In war, you don't make soldiers unhappy, says SC on non-payment of salaries to doctors**

New Delhi: "In war, you do not make soldiers unhappy. Travel extra mile and channel some extra money to address their grievances," the Supreme Court said on Friday taking serious note of non-payment of salary and lack of proper accommodation to doctors engaged in fight against Covid-19.

The courts should not be involved in the issue of non-payment of salary to health care workers and Government should settle the issue, it said.

The top court was hearing a plea by a doctor, who alleged that front line healthcare workers engaged in fight against Covid-19 are not being paid salaries or their salaries are being cut or delayed. PTI

## 3.1 lakh & counting, no let-up in corona assault

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The country's total number of positive Covid-19 cases crossed 3 lakh-mark on Friday night while the infections breached one lakh-mark in Maharashtra and Delhi recorded 2,000-plus cases for the first time in a day.

The Maharashtra total tally touched 1,01,141 in the State where 127 more people succumbed to pandemic during the last 24 hours taking the total number of deaths to 3,717. With no let up in the coronavirus crisis in the State, 3,493 people tested positive for the pandemic in various parts of the State on Friday.

Despite the Tamil Nadu Government's stance that there was no need for any total lockdown of Chennai and the three neighbouring districts to checkmate the spread of coronavirus disease, the State recorded an all time high of 1,982 persons testing positive for the pandemic on Friday, the highest numbers to be tested positive on a single day.

With Friday's testing, the number of persons tested positive in the State for the pandemic till date has reached 40,698. Taking into account the number of persons cured of the disease and discharged (22,047) from hospitals across Tamil Nadu, there are 18,281 Covid patients across the State as on Friday evening, said a release by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The death toll in Tamil Nadu reached 367 with 18

**Maha records 3,493 new cases and 127 deaths; Delhi sees 2,137 cases, 129 deaths for first time in a day**



A labourer carries cement inside a makeshift quarantine facility for patients diagnosed with the coronavirus disease in Mumbai on Friday

more persons succumbing to the pandemic on Friday. While 17 of the dead had co-morbidities (suffering from other serious ailments) a 38-year-old male died without any comorbidities.

Of the 127 deaths reported on Friday, Mumbai — which had recorded 97 deaths each during the last two days — accounted for 90 deaths, while there were 12 deaths in Pune, 11 deaths in Thane, three deaths each in Kalyan-Dombivli and Sangli, two deaths each in Nashik and Aurangabad, one death each in Bhayandar, Vasai-Virar, Dhule and Amravati.

Delhi recorded the highest single-day spike after 2,137 cases were reported on Friday. Continued on Page 2

**Poet Gulzar Dehvi succumbs days after recovering from Covid**

New Delhi: Veteran Urdu poet Anand Mohan Zutshi 'Gulzar' Dehvi passed away on Friday afternoon, five days after he recovered from Covid-19. He died at his Noida home, and was a month shy of turning 94. "His corona test came negative on June 7 and we brought him home. Today he had lunch and around 2.30pm he passed away," his son Anoop Zutshi said. PTI

## Worst-hit Maha, Delhi rule out more lockdown

**Maha, TN, Delhi, Gujarat top 4 States with nearly 66% virus cases of total 3 lakh in country**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Even as India sees a steep rise in coronavirus cases with the consequent jump in the number of deaths, Maharashtra and Delhi, two of the worst-hit States with a rising graph of the pandemic, have rejected the possibilities of extending the lockdown.

It was expected that the States like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and Gujarat which are the top four States with a share nearly 2,00,000 coronavirus cases of a total of 3,00,000 in the country might continue with the lockdown at a time when the pandemic is peaking across these States.

While Tamil Nadu and Gujarat Governments are yet to speak up their mind on the issue, Delhi and Maharashtra Governments made it clear that lockdown would not be extended beyond June 30 and activities would be unlocked



with "new normal" of social distancing and other standard operating procedures.

Reviving and sustaining economy seemed to have overridden the logic of "life first" in not continuing the lockdown when there is no sign of coronavirus curve in any way straightening itself in these two States.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said lockdown would not be extended when asked if there have been discussions to continue it in the national Capital.

Jain's remarks came a day after the city witnessed the highest single-day spike in Covid-19 cases as it recorded

**Delhi LG forms high-level panel to suggest measures to tackle virus outbreak in city**

New Delhi: Delhi Lt Governor Anil Bajjal on Friday constituted a high-level expert committee, which includes Indian Council of Medical Research Director-General Balram Bhargava, to suggest effective steps to deal with the Covid-19 outbreak in the national Capital, officials said. Apart from Bhargava, the six-member panel also includes National Disaster Management Authority members Krishna Vatsa and Kamal Kishore; AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria, DGHS Additional DDG Dr Ravindran and National Centre for Disease Control Director Surjit Kumar Singh.

1,877 fresh infections on Thursday and total 1,085 casualties.

Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office too made it plain that the lockdown in the State will not be extended and also appealed people to avoid crowding in order to halt the spread of coronavirus.

At present, the lockdown is imposed in the State till June 30. "Lockdown will not be re-announced. Chief Minister Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray has requested and appealed to the people not to crowd anywhere. Follow the instructions given by the government and take care of yourself," the Maharashtra CMO tweeted.

## Faridabad's Covid special ESI hospital closed as 70 per cent technicians found infected

Faridabad: The pathological test laboratory of a Faridabad-based ESI Hospital dedicated to the treatment of Covid-19 patients has been closed after around 70 per cent of its technicians were found infected.

Faridabad is one of the worst-affected districts, having reported 21 Covid deaths and 1,050 patients till date.

The lab had to be closed down three days ago, hospital's Deputy Civil Surgeon, Dr Ram

Bhagat said on Friday. The medical tests in the dedicated Covid-19 treatment centre would resume only after the induction of new staffers, he added.

He said all work related to the collection of test samples of suspected patients were suspended and the test lab was closed after over 70 per cent of its technicians were found infected with coronavirus. Continued on Page 2

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	1,01,141	3,717	47,796
Tamil Nadu	40,698	367	22,047
Delhi	36,824	1,124	13,398
Gujarat	22,562	1,416	15,501
Uttar Pradesh	12,616	365	7,609
Rajasthan	12,068	272	9,011
Madhya Pradesh	10,443	440	7,201
West Bengal	10,244	451	4,206
Karnataka	6,516	79	3,440
Haryana	6,334	70	2,475
Bihar	6,096	35	3,316
Andhra Pradesh	5,636	80	3,091
Jammu & Kashmir	4,730	53	2,086
Telangana	4,484	174	2,178
Assam	3,499	8	1,585

**Covid-19 IN INDIA**

**TOTAL CASES: 3,09,405**  
**DEATHS: 8,890**  
**RECOVERED: 1,54,133**  
**ACTIVE: 1,46,360**

## Public transport to see drastic change

Touchless tech, only 25% occupation in bus, metro to stem spread of virus: MoHUA

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Fearing a large influx of private vehicles post lockdown and in an attempt to make coronavirus an opportunity, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has issued an advisory to States, cities and metro rail corporations on public transport suggesting to encourage non-motorised transport (NMT), touchless and cashless technologies, rearrange the seating capacity to curb transmission of the virus.

In a three-pronged strategy for re-opening metros in the short, medium and long-term, the MoHUA emphasised the opportunity for encouraging

bicycling and pedestrians. According to the advisory, due to social distancing norms, about 25-50 per cent of the Metro rail and bus rapid transit (BRT) capacity of 10 million passengers daily would be used once it restarts. The advisory

stated that roughly 16 to 57 per cent of urban commuters are pedestrians and 30 to 40 per cent use bicycles in the country. Continued on Page 2

reached yet. "At the meeting, some members suggested including loss of taste and smell in the eligibility criteria for Covid-19 testing stating that several patients have been reporting symptoms like these," a source in the Union Health Ministry said. Initially, the symptoms of infection caused due to SARS-CoV-2 were listed as fever, cough, and shortness of breath. However, with time, loss of smell and taste were also reported as symptoms of Covid-19.

There have been various reports since the outbreak of the disease about the loss of taste and smell in Covid-19 patients. For example, in a

## Smell-taste loss new criterion for Covid test

Discussed in task force meeting but no consensus yet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With various reports indicating that Covid-19 leads to loss of taste and smell, the Government may include the two symptoms as criteria for testing the viral infection which has claimed lakhs of lives across the world.

Sources said the issue was discussed in a meeting of the National Task Force on Covid-19 held recently, but no consensus on the matter has been

study of European patients with mild-to-moderate Covid-19, 86 per cent reported problems with their sense of smell, while a similar percentage had changes in taste perception. Dr Nicholas Rowan, an assistant professor of otolaryngology-head and neck



surgery at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore said first there were anecdotal reports of Covid-19 patients who had lost their ability to smell or taste, later studies started to confirm "there's a lot of truth to it." Continued on Page 2

## Hindu body moves SC to remove Kashi, Mathura temples' encroachment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Hindu body has moved the Supreme Court challenging a provision of a 1991 law that provides for maintaining "religious character" of holy structures as it existed on August 15, 1947, in a bid to open the litigation route to reclaim disputed religious sites other than the Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya.

The petition, which has challenged Section 4 of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, assumes significance in the case of Kashi and Mathura where two

disputed mosques stand. The law also prohibits the conversion of any temple into a mosque and vice versa.

The PIL filed by 'Vishwa Bhadra Pujari Purohit Mahasangh' has sought directions to declare Section 4 of the 1991 Act as ultra vires, meaning beyond its legal power or authority, and unconstitutional. "The impugned Act has barred the right and remedy against encroachment made on religious property of Hindus exercising might of power by followers of another faith," it said. Continued on Page 2

## China relapses, 2 more Covid cases reported from Beijing

PTI ■ BEIJING

China has reported 10 new coronavirus cases, including two more confirmed infections in Beijing, following which the capital city suspended plans to reopen schools for Grade 1 to III students.

Beijing reported its first Covid-19 case on Thursday after an interval of 56 days. On Friday, the city reported two more coronavirus cases, raising alarm among officials as the capital had returned to near normalcy with the discharge of its last locally transmitted Covid-19 patient from hospital on June 9.

## Nepal police open fire on Indian crowd, 1 dies

Nepalese troops object to presence of Indians in their area during lockdown



Injured villagers shifted to a hospital after indiscriminate firing by the Nepal Police at the Lalbandi-Janki Nagar border, near Saitmarhi district of Bihar on Friday

PTI ■ PATNA/KATHMANDU

The Nepalese border guarding force on Friday opened fire on a crowd killing a 22-year-old Indian man and injuring two others following an altercation, sparking tension on the Indo-Nepal Border along Bihar's Sitamarhi district.

The border guarding force — Nepalese Armed Police Force (APF) — has detained a person identified as 45-year-old Lagan Yadav after the incident, Indian officials said.

Officials said, as per preliminary reports obtained from locals, there were protests after the APF troops had objected to the presence Indians in their

area in violation of the lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. Nepal has announced a lockdown in the area till June 14.

The incident comes in the 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.

New Delhi maintains that these were part of Uttarakhand while Kathmandu, in its recent map, had shown them as part of Western Nepal. Continued on Page 2

## CAPSULE

**INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES JUMP TO RECORD \$8.2 BN**

Mumbai: The country's foreign exchange reserves crossed the half-a-trillion mark for the first time after it surged by massive \$8.22 billion in the week ended June 5, according to the latest data from the RBI. P9

**ELECTIONS FOR MAYORS OF DELHI ON JUNE 24**

New Delhi: Polls to elect mayors and deputy mayors of the three corporations in Delhi are slated to be held on June 24.

**MODI LIKELY TO MEET CMS NEXT WEEK**

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to hold a fresh round of consultation with Chief Ministers next week as the country gradually emerges out of coronavirus lockdown.

# Meeting kin reason behind India-Nepal border skirmish

**Patna/New Delhi:** Meeting his Nepalese daughter-in-law proved costly for 45-year-old Lagan Yadav and others, as their presence was objected to by the border guarding troops of the neighbouring country leading to clashes with villagers, which left one person dead and two injured on Friday. The Nepalese border guarding force opened fire on a crowd killing a 22-year-old Indian man and injuring two others following an altercation, sparking tension on the Indo-Nepal Border along Bihar's Sitamarhi district. The border guarding force - Nepalese Armed Police Force - detained Lagan Yadav after the incident, Indian officials said. The incident took place 75 metres inside the Nepalese territory, after the no man's land between the two countries, when some women and Yadav were seen talking to the latter's daughter-in-law. They were asked to return

to the Indian side by the Nepalese Armed Police Force (APF) who were patrolling the area. Kumar Rajesh Chandra, Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), the force that guards the 1,751 km India-Nepal border, said the "altercation" was an "instantly generated local issue". As per preliminary reports obtained from locals, Chandra said the confrontation began when APF personnel objected to the presence of Yadav and other villagers in the area, and asked them to retreat as their country was under lockdown due to coronavirus spread, till June 14. There are relations between locals on either side of this border. As the front is not fenced, people move around to meet their family members, another SSB official said. The objection of APF personnel led to a heated argument and some more villagers joined

Yadav from the Indian side, the SSB DG said. He said Yadav's daughter-in-law is a Nepalese citizen and while some women were talking to her on the other side, Yadav and other men joined later. "We have submitted a report to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on the basis of preliminary findings and our nearest border post that is about 1.5 km from the incident site is keeping an eye on the matter," the DG said. The APF claimed that they first fired in the air to disperse the crowd and fearing snatching of their weapons, they later fired at the crowd in which three people got hit, officials said. The force said they fired 15 rounds, out of which 10 round, were pumped in the air, they said. The incident took place between Jankinagar, under the Sonbarsa Police Station area of Sitamarhi district, and Sarlahi in Nepal, officials added. **PTI**

# Union Govt allows certain categories of foreigners to enter India amid virus curbs

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI** The Government on Friday allowed certain categories of foreigners, including Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders, to enter India amid restrictions on the entry of people from abroad due to the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said. Among those allowed entry into India are married couples one of whom is an OCI cardholder and another Indian national, and students who are OCI cardholders and whose at least one parent is Indian or OCI cardholder. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has allowed certain categories of foreigners, including OCI cardholders and minors who hold OCI cards and whose parents are Indian nationals, a senior ministry official told PTI. Foreigners were restricted from visiting India ever since

the nationwide lockdown was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 24 to check the spread of the novel coronavirus. Foreign nationals who are single parents of minor children holding Indian passports or OCI cards, students who are foreign nationals where at least one of their parents is an Indian citizen or an OCI cardholder were allowed to visit India. Dependent family members of foreign diplomats and official and service passport holding service staff accredited to foreign diplomatic missions, consular offices or accredited international organisations in India can now come to India. The OCI cardholders who wish to come to India on account of family emergencies like critical medical conditions of immediate family members or death were allowed to visit India.

# HP health 'scam': Punjab firm employee gets bail

**Shimla:** A court here on Friday granted bail to the Punjab firm employee arrested in connection with a bribery case involving the director of health services in Himachal Pradesh. Special Judge Arvind Malhotra granted bail to Prithvi Singh after he had been remanded in six-day police custody. He was released on conditional bail. Meanwhile, the owner of the Punjab firm, Bio Aid Corporation, moved an anticipatory bail application in the matter, which is listed for hearing on Monday. Vigilance Bureau SP Shalini Agnihotri said. The anticipatory bail pleas of now suspended Director (Health Services) Ajay Kumar Gupta and his wife were dismissed by the court after hearing arguments of the bureau. Gupta was arrested on May 20 over allegations of corruption in the purchase of personal protection equipment (PPE) kits. **PTI**

# TO REDUCE POLLUTION IN YAMUNA

# Delhi Govt to provide free sewer connections

**New Delhi:** The Delhi government on Friday said it will provide free household sewer connections to ensure that no untreated sewage flows into stormwater drains. Untreated sewage is one of the main reasons behind the high pollution level in the Yamuna in Delhi. Industrial pollution makes up for 10-20 percent of its pollution load. The Delhi Jal Board has also decided to provide treated wastewater to government agencies free of cost. Earlier, they would purchase it from sewage treatment plants at Rs 7 per liter. These decisions were taken at a meeting of the Delhi Jal Board chaired by Water Minister Satyendar Jain. The water utility said the decision to provide free sewer connections will improve capacity utilization of STPs. "It will improve hygiene and sanitation in such colonies and directly impact the water quality of the Yamuna," the

DJB said in a statement. "To promote utilisation of this treated water and to conserve precious potable and groundwater, the DJB has decided to waive the charges on treated water," the statement said. At present, the STPs in Delhi treat 500 million gallons of wastewater per day, of which only 90 MGD is reused for various purposes. The DJB also approved a plan to rejuvenate 24 more water bodies in the national capital. This is besides 36 other water bodies for which contracts have already been awarded to start work on the ground. "This will not only reduce load on the local sewerage network but also ensure ground water recharge happens throughout the year. Currently these water bodies are either dry or contaminated with sewage creating health hazardous conditions for local residents along with causing ground contamination," the DJB said. **PTI**

# GST Council may discuss levying cess on pan masala, bricks at manufacturing stage in next meeting

**New Delhi:** The GST Council may consider at the next meeting levying cess on commodities like pan masala and bricks at the manufacturing stage itself, a move aimed at checking tax evasion and shoring up revenues. During the 40th GST Council meeting held on Friday, Uttar Pradesh raised the issue of discussion on brick kilns and pan masala related matters. "They have been asking for rates for these items... The minister from Uttar Pradesh felt strongly about it because he wanted to have revenue for his

state and wanted the council to take a quick call on it. So I have assured him in the next regular council meeting we will take it up," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told reporters here. Sources said Uttar Pradesh has demanded levying the cess at the manufacturing stage based on production capacity as against the current practice of imposing it on supplies made by the manufacturer. Currently, GST at the rate of 28 per cent, and a 60 per cent cess, is levied on pan masala. Pan masala containing gutkha attracts 204 per cent cess. **PTI**

# 18% GST ruling on 'Parotas' cooks up storm on social media

**New Delhi:** What is the difference between a roti and a Paratha? Apart from the taste, it is 18 per cent GST that can be imposed on Parotas (or Parathas) because these need to be heated before consumption. Mahindra Group Chairman Anand Mahindra took to Twitter on Friday after the Karnataka bench of Authority for Advance Rulings (AAR) ruled recently that Parotas are not rotis and, therefore, can be taxed at higher 18 per cent GST compared to 5 per cent for rotis because they need to be heated before consumption. "With all the other challenges the country is facing, it makes you wonder if we should be worrying about an existential crisis for the 'Parota.' In any case, given Indian jugaad skills, I'm pretty sure there will be a new breed of Parotis

that will challenge any categorization," Mahindra tweeted. The Karnataka bench's order comes after a Bengaluru-based ready-to-cook food maker sought the authority for more clarification on GST rates for variants of parotas. As the post went viral, Twitterati flooded the social media with their reactions. One Twitter user said: "According to new GST ruling, Roti & Chapatti : 5 per cent GST Tax, Porotta : 18 per cent GST Tax. Kerala 'Parota' is not 'Roti' because unlike rotis which are ready to eat, Porotas need to be heated before consumption. Height of Indian Bureaucracy. #HandsOffPorotta". Another Twitter user asked: "You spell it as Parota, Parotha, Parantha, Paratha or Parantha? I grew calling it Parantha. More the letters, higher the tax?" **IANS**

# Odisha: People rush to markets for Raja festival shopping

**Bhubaneswar:** Throwing social distancing norms to the wind, hundreds of people in different parts of Odisha on Friday rushed to the market places for Raja festival shopping forcing authorities to close down shops despite government extending the night curfew till 10 pm in the night. Such incidents were witnessed in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Bhadrak where the local administration had to intervene and close markets in view of the breach of social distancing norm imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19. **PTI**

# C'garh Govt forms panel to probe death of three wild elephants

**Raipur:** The Chhattisgarh government on Friday constituted a committee headed by a retired IFS (Indian Forest Service) officer to probe the recent deaths of three wild elephants in the forests of the state's Surguja division, an official statement said. State forest minister Mohammad Akbar said that taking serious cognizance of the deaths of the three elephants, a panel headed by retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

(PCCF) K C Bevartha has been set up to investigate the casualties. The committee will submit its report within a month, he said in a statement. The committee will have wildlife expert Dr R P Mishra, senior advocate Dr Deva Dewangan and a senior veterinary doctor as its members while Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) as its member secretary, he said. **PTI**

# Smell-taste loss new criterion...

**From Page 1** Rowan pointed to one study of patients hospitalized for Covid-19 that used objective tests to detect smell "dysfunction". Nearly all patients — 98% — showed some loss of smell. Similarly, two new studies released within the previous week have found evidence of loss of taste and smell as being a symptom of the viral. One of the studies was led by the University of Toledo in Ohio. They looked at data from five studies that involved 817 patients. It was started mid-January and ended in the month of March. The findings of the study were published in the journal Gastroenterology. It showed that 49.8 per cent of patients who contracted Covid-19 experiences changes in their sense and ability to taste. However, the researchers believe that the number may actually be too low since the studies were based on reviews of the patient's charts, which may have not noted every symptom. Another study, based in Canada, and published in the journal CMAJ, has found that loss of smell and taste are both strongly linked with SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for causing Covid-19. This study looked at 134 individuals who tested positive for the virus, researchers found that 63 per cent reported either loss of smell, or change in the ability of taste, as compared to 8 per cent in the control group who did not have the virus.

**Faridabad's Covid special ESI...** **From Page 1** This has led to the hospital staff facing great difficulty in getting patients tested for the infection, he said, adding the hospital is now managing to have their patients tested at a facility in Nalhar and one other place in the city. Dr Bhagat, also the district's nodal officer for Covid cases, said 21 people have died so far of Covid-19 and underlying diseases till date in Faridabad, where a total of 1,050 people have been found infected with the virus. Out of the infected 1,050 people, 404 were treated in hospitals, while 305 were administered medicare after having them home-quarantined, he said, adding a total of 320 patients have been discharged from hospitals after they were cured.

# Public transport to see drastic...

**From Page 1** MoHUA has acknowledged that a 90 per cent dip in public transport volumes in the country during the epidemic will mean that "re-establishing the earlier level of ridership in public transport is a big challenge for cities, as people may be looking for more options especially personal modes that allow for safer travel in the post lockdown scenario". The Ministry said while pollution has gone down by 60 per cent, use of public transportation has gone down by 90 per cent during the lockdown. However, social distancing norms could increase the number of personal vehicles on roads. The advisory suggests mapping the important routes connecting residential areas from where a large number of people travel and major centres of work; creation of temporary pedestrian areas, footpath, and cycle lanes and rearrangement of seating capacity, encourage closure of one or more lanes or shopping streets to promote higher walking and cycling trips for a specific time or day; markings be made for queuing of the passengers at all relevant places and reduce services in places with high Covid incidence. The advisory issued by MoHUA secretary Durga Shanker Mishra said as most of the urban trips are clocked in under five km, NMT offers perfect opportunity to implement it this Covid-19 crisis as it requires low cost,

less human resource, is easy and quick to implement, scalable and environment-friendly. "In order to avoid a resurgence of car and other private vehicle usages, many cities around the world have encouraged e-ticketing, digital payments and reallocating street space for cycling and pedestrians through street closures, creating Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) priority zones, pop-up bike lanes & sidewalks, providing parking and charging equipment and financing options to make cycling more accessible," it said. To reduce human interface, cashless systems like BHIM, PhonePe, Google Pay and PayTM should be used as well as the National Common Mobility Card, the advisory stated. Global transportation initiatives during Covid-19 include 40 miles of new NMT lanes for cyclists in New York, closing off 10 per cent of Oakland, California's streets from motor vehicles, 22 new miles of cycling lanes in Italy, pop up 17 km bike lanes in Auckland, New Zealand, 150 per cent increase in bike-sharing trips in China and in the UK, local businesses relocate road space for pedestrians to allow residents to respect social distancing guidelines, while queuing outside shops. India has a robust 700 kms of operational metro rail in 18 major cities and a BRT network of about 450 kms operational in 11 cities across the country carrying 10 million passengers daily. Such dramatic and dynamic changes in demand and supply will require complementing these public transport systems with alternative modes of transit," it said.

**Hindu body moves SC...** **From Page 1** The apex court on November 9 last year in a unanimous 5-0 verdict had backed the construction of a Ram temple by a trust at the disputed site in Ayodhya where the demolished Babri Masjid once stood, and had ruled that an alternative five-acre plot must be found for a mosque in the Hindu holy town. The five-judge bench, headed by then Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, had dealt with the 1991 Act and had said that the law is a legislative instrument designed to protect the secular features of Indian polity, which is one of the

basic features of the Constitution. The result is that Hindu devotees cannot raise their grievance by instituting any suit in civil court or invoking the jurisdiction of high court under Article 226 of the Constitution of India against high handiness of ultras and will not be able to restore back the religious character of Hindu endowments, temples, mutts etc from hoodlums if they had encroached upon such property before August 15, 1947 and such illegal and barbarian act will continue in perpetuity, the plea said. The parliament by making an impugned provision has without resolution of dispute, through process of court, abated the suit and proceedings, which is perse unconstitutional and beyond its law making power, it said. The impugned provision cannot be implemented with retrospective effect and the remedy of resolution of dispute pending, arisen or arising cannot be barred by parliament, the plea said. Parliament cannot close the doors for aggrieved persons and cannot take away the power of the courts of first instance, appellate court and the power of constitutional courts conferred under Article 226 and 32 of the Constitution of India, it said. The parliament also cannot restrain Hindu devotees from getting back their religious places of worship through the judicial process, the plea said. It cannot make any law which takes away or abridges the vested religious right of devotees and cannot make any law with retrospective effect, it said. The Hindu body has also sought a direction for restoration of all proceedings which

have abated by operation of Section 4 of the Act. **WESTERN RAILWAY** **REPLACEMENT OF SOUTH SPAN OF FOB** Divisional Railway Manager(WA), Western Railway, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400008. Invites E-tender as per details given as follows. **Tender Notice No. : BCT-20-21-128 dtd. 12.06.2020.** **Work and location :** CCG-VR Section:- Replacement of South span of FOB at Mahim by new FOB (stainless steel). **Approx. cost of work in Rs. :** 4,83,21,969.95. **EMD Rs.:** 3,91,600/-. **Date & Time of submission :** On 14.07.2020 till 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening :** on 14.07.2020 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed tender conditions please visit [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) **10** Like us on : [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly)

Kerala's death toll due to covid reached 19. The Uttar Pradesh Health Department detected 536 new cases of the coronavirus between Thursday evening and Friday afternoon. With this development, the State's tally of active cases now stands at 4,642 whereas 7,609 patients have recovered. Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi said the recovery rate in UP is 60.31 per cent at present. He also confirmed that the infection has claimed 365 lives in the State so far. The number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Bihar has risen to 6,043 with 236 new cases coming to light over the past 24 hours. As many as 230 more recoveries were also recorded between Thursday afternoon and Friday evening. The infection has claimed 35 lives in the State so far.

# Nepal police open fire on Indian crowd, 1 dies

**From Page 1** India had published its new map of the border region in November, after it divided Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh into two union territories. The map had incorporated these areas of Uttarakhand, the territories disputed with Nepal, within India's borders. Giving details about the incident at Sitamarhi district, 134 kms from Patna, Kumar Rajesh Chandra, Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal, a force looking after the 1,751 km India-Nepal frontier, said the incident took place around 8:40 AM "deep inside Nepalese territory". The situation is normal now and local commanders of both sides got in touch immediately, Chandra told PTI in New Delhi. "We have submitted a report to the MHA on the basis of preliminary findings and our nearest border post, that is about 1.5 km from the incident site, is keeping an eye on the matter," the SSB DG said. Inspector General (IG) of the SSB looking after the Patna

Frontier, Sanjay Kumar, told PTI over phone that the incident took place between locals and the Armed Police Force (APF) of Nepal. One person was killed and two others injured in the firing, the IG said. Giving details, the officials said Vikesh Yadav (22), who suffered a bullet injury in the abdomen area, has succumbed while Uday Thakur (24) and Umesh Ram (18) are injured and admitted to a private hospital in Sitamarhi, they said. The bordering districts on both sides of the border maintain contacts and in the absence of any fence, people move around to meet their family members, they said. The objection raised by the APF resulted in a heated argument and it is alleged that the Indian people called other villagers and indulged in stone pelting on Nepalese APF. APF Additional Inspector General of Police Narayan Babu Thapa told PTI in Kathmandu that the incident occurred when a group of 25-30 Indian nationals were trying to enter Nepal and they

attacked the Nepalese security personnel at Narayanpur area of Parsa Rural Municipality in Sarlahi district in southern Nepal. "After they were stopped at the border area by forward base of APF who were deployed to enforce lockdown in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, dozens of people joined the Indian group and pelted stones on the security personnel. "They even snatched weapons from one of our security men. After firing ten rounds of bullets in the air, our personnel had to open fire for self-defence in which one person was killed and two others were injured," the APF officer said. The incident took place some 75 metres inside the Nepalese territory from the no-man's land, he added. Senior officials of the local police, administration and the SSB are at the spot and a flag meeting is expected latest by Saturday, the officials said. The area is guarded by the 51st battalion of the SSB and it falls under border pillar number 319, they said.

# Hindu body moves SC...

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TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

# Lockdown won't be extended, says Jain

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyender Jain said that the lockdown, imposed to contain the spread of coronavirus, will not be extended in the national Capital. When asked, during virtual interaction, if there has been a discussion on the extension of lockdown in Delhi given rise in coronavirus cases in Delhi, he said it will not be extended.

Sharing Covid-19 data Jain said, "There are 34,687 corona cases in Delhi as of now, out of which around 1,877 cases came yesterday and 20,871 cases are active corona cases. Around 12,731 cases have recovered and there have been 1085 deaths. A total of 65 people have died in Delhi on Thursday."

"For the last one or two months, the cases of Corona are doubling after every two weeks. Normally, it takes two weeks for a person to recover, but infects some people before he gets fully recovered. However, community transmission is a very technical term, and I believe that if it is community transmission or not that can be declared by the government or international organizations like WHO. The coronavirus, however, is spreading very rapidly," he said.

Elaborating further on lockdown situation, Jain said, "We have to see the context of the situation. The Corona pandemic has been the worst disease to have hit the humankind in the last 100 years. Around 100 years ago, a virus known as Spanish Flu



of the same intensity spread across the world, and now Coronavirus is spreading with the same intensity." "To say that the case count

is more in Delhi and less everywhere else is not correct. The case count across different nations can be different, which is also true for various cities because some cities which saw a spike in the cases earlier are now witnessing a decline in the number of cases. The cities which have been hit by the pandemic much later, are witnessing a stark rise in the case count, but the intensity of the spread of the disease is the same. Spanish Flu was also a kind of coronavirus. It has been renamed as Novel COVID-19 today. This virus is dangerous because it spreads very rapidly," said Jain.

He further said, "Those who are cremated under the COVID-19 protocol, belong to two of these categories. One, those who died because of Corona, and two, those who

are suspects of Corona. That the person should be cremated under the Covid-19 protocol is given in writing. For instance, if a senior citizen in a family passes away, and there was a Covid-19+ve case or a suspect in their family, they will be treated as Corona suspects and they will be cremated under the Covid-19 protocol." "That also holds if they themselves also had any Corona symptoms before death. We get all the reporting on such cases from the hospitals. It takes two-four days for hospitals to report on this. The entire details of the patients are in those reports, including basic details like patients' names and ages. The government has created a system for this, and all the hospitals report to us in a very systematic manner."

Reacting on the MCD death data, he said, "MCDs should send the details to the Delhi government. It also happens that we observe cases wherein the patient was cremated under the Covid-19 protocol but their reports show negative later on when obtained from the hospitals. Therefore, if the MCDs have the details of the casualties, it should send it to the Delhi Government but it can't say over 2,000 people have died if they only have numbers and not the details. There should also be a positive report of those patients and the number should also be confirmed."

Clarifying further on MCD hospitals not being used by the Delhi government, "They have to treat the patients of Covid-19 themselves. All the central govern-

ment hospitals have done so. The MCDs have their own Covid-19 patients there. We are not taking over their hospitals. Just as the centre, municipal corporations can start the treatment of Covid-19 patients if they have hospitals. The Delhi government has no role to play in it as they need not ask us to start the treatment in their hospitals."

Jain said that in view of the growing cases, the Delhi Government is making preparations on its part. He said, "Beds and ventilators will be increased. The central Government has also told us

that they will ensure full cooperation, so we will also seek their help. Their hospitals have a lot of ICU beds. There are around 13000 beds in the central government hospitals, we would like to request the centre to use those beds for Covid-19 treatment."

"Banquet halls, community halls, and stadiums, etc are being prepared on a large scale for Covid-19 treatment. 80% beds in the Covid-19 dedicated Delhi government hospitals are oxygen beds, and we are also preparing oxygen beds in non-dedicated Covid-19 hospitals of the Delhi Government," Jain added.

## Our aim is to break chain of transmission, reduce fatality: L-G

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal has directed all District Magistrates and Deputy Commissioners of Police to focus on proper delineation, strict perimeter control, intensified Information, Education and Communication (IEC), ensure active house to house surveillance with special focus on high risk population for their effective management as per guidelines issued by the centre.

Bajjal on Friday reviewed containment zones management strategies in Delhi with Chief Minister of Delhi Arvind Kejriwal, Health Minister, Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Commissioner of Police, Delhi Joint Secretary, Divisional Commissioner and Special Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), District Magistrates, Deputy Commissioners of Police and other officers through Video Conference.

Lieutenant Governor stated that our objective is to break the chain of transmission and reduce the morbidity and mortality of Covid-19.

He further added that ramping up bed capacity and medical resources should be our topmost priority in handling the pandemic so that



surge in cases doesn't overwhelm the health care system.

Bajjal also urged field functionaries to ensure mobility restrictions, social distancing measures, hygienic practices, quarantine of contacts, risk communication and awareness among public on preventive and public health measures to contain Covid-19 and its further spread.

Divisional Commissioner made a detailed presentation

about the status of Covid-19 in Delhi. "It was informed that up to 11th June, there are a total 34,867 confirmed cases in Delhi out of which 12,731 patients have recovered. 77.8 per cent of the active cases are recuperating in home Isolation. 242 containment zones are active in Delhi at present," it said.

Bajjal also advised District Magistrates and DCs to constructively engage 'Resident

Welfare Association' and volunteers for managing containment zones and enforcing preventive measures.

He said that a large number of Covid-19 patients are in home isolation, all efforts should be made for timely response in terms of testing, triaging and shifting of patients to the required level of dedicated Covid-19 facility to ensure proper medical care. He also directed concerned

## High-level panel formed to advise DDMA on Covid

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With cases of coronavirus increasing day by day in the city, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Anil Bajjal on Friday constituted an advisory committee of eminent experts to advise the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) on various aspects of Covid-19 management.

The committee that was constituted under section 17 of DDMA act comprised of eminent experts of varied fields such as Krishna Vatsa and Kamal Kishore both are members of NDMA, Professor Balram Bhargava, DG of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Dr Randeep Guleria, Director of AIIMS,

Dr Ravindran, Additional DDG (DGHS) and Dr Surjit Kumar Singh, Director of NCD.

"The expert committee will give their opinion on various challenges being faced in Delhi in prevention of spread of Covid-19 and measures to ramp up medical infrastructure. The committee would also provide instances of global and national practices regarding the disease," according to the statement issued by LG office.

Bajjal said that the efforts being made by DDMA needs to be bolstered by concert planning, use of latest technology, efficient monitoring and seamless coordination amongst various agencies to overcome the challenge.

authorities to closely monitor senior citizens and persons with co-morbid or underlying medical conditions.

Bajjal further reiterated that LED display boards of

## Trying best to provide quality healthcare to all patients in LNJP: Govt on SC response

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the Supreme Court has taken suo-moto cognizance in mismanagement of patients suffering from Covid-19 in LNJP hospital, the Delhi Government in its response said we accept court's observations with the utmost respect and with absolute sincerity however, this is an extraordinary situation and the Government is trying its best from the very first day to set up better infrastructure and to provide quality healthcare to all Covid-19 patients, if there are any gaps that still remain and is brought to our notice, we will act on them sincerely and immediately, a Government official said.

Adding further on LNJP hospital, Government said, the hospital is biggest Covid-19 in Delhi and right now

around 2,000 beds are operational here for the novel coronavirus patients.

"Many critical patients from the Central Government and the private hospitals in Delhi are being referred to the LNJP hospital for better medication. So far, over 2100 patients from LNJP hospital have successfully recovered from Covid-19 infection and returned to their homes," Government said.

Citing the observation of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Government official said this is an autonomous body and their team visited the LNJP hospital on Thursday. "They expressed their satisfaction after scrutinising facilities at the hospital. We will appraise the Hon'ble Supreme Court about this as well," quoted a statement from Chief Minister's Office (CMO - Delhi).

## 7 to 10 virus cases every hour in G'gram: Officials

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The rapid increase of coronavirus cases in Gurugram continued on Friday with 185 fresh positive cases emerging in the district.

Health officials said all the positive cases appeared in the district with a majority of them in containment zones. Officials said that on an average, 7 to 10 cases are appearing every hour in Gurugram.

The Gurugram district recorded 185 new Covid-19 positive cases on Friday. The figures of COVID positive patients in Gurugram reached 2,922 and 1,927 are active cases. A number of 976 have been cured and discharged. 10 patients are in critical condition and are on ventilator support. The city has also reported 19 deaths.

"We are registering more than 100 cases every day. It is a concern for us. We are working hard to contain spread in limited places," said a health official.

According to officials, the cases sharply increased from May 26 when total cases were just 317. Since then, health officials have detected 115 on May 29, 157 on May 30, 97 on May 31, June 1 saw 129 cases, June 2 at 160, June 3 at 132, 215 on June 4, June 5 at 153, 129 on June 6, 230 on June 7, June 8 at 243, June 9 saw 164, June 1 at 217, 191 on June 11 and -185 on June 12.

Meanwhile, Amit Khatri,

District Magistrate of Gurugram has directed all government and private hospitals in the district to reserve at least 25% beds for Covid-19 patients.

In view of the rising cases, the district administration has suggested home isolation. "It has been observed that 80% corona-infected patients may recover from it if they follow necessary guidelines of the health department," said a health official.

The spike in numbers keep rising in the city with more than 900 cases registered in the last week. Some of the places like Sarhau, Dundehera, Rajendra Park, Palam Vihar, Kanhasa, Hari Nagar, Om Nagar, Shivaji Nagar, Sector-9A, Rajiv Nagar, Sector-10, DLF and Basai are turning out to be hot spots in the district.

Apart from this, the virus has increased in the urban of the district, barring districts bordering Delhi, the infection now seems to be spreading in the rural belt as well.

The villages like Kasan, Manesar, Dundaheera, Mullahera, Pataudi, Farrukhnagar, Garhi, Harsaru, Kanhai, Sukhrali, Bhengarh Kheri and Sarhau are now reporting more corona cases.

"The district administration has already constituted a separate medical team which will call every patient daily and register progress reports. If needed, the team will also visit them for medical assistance," he said.

## Traders' opinion sought for shutting markets again

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi traders associations have started an online survey among the leading trade organisations of the National Capital seeking their opinion whether Delhi's markets should be closed at present to bring down considerable numbers of Corona cases projected by the Delhi Government.

Chapter of Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has announced the move on Friday saying that current serious situation of Corona pandemic in Delhi coupled by the recent statement by Delhi Government wherein he expressed the possibility of 5.32 lakh coronavirus infection cases in New Delhi by end of July, has caused a huge stir in the business markets of Delhi.

In the wake of this, the traders have become more fearful than before and keeping this in mind the traders body has begun an online survey among the leading trade organizations of Delhi seeking their opinion whether Delhi's markets should be closed at present to bring down considerable numbers in projected figure of Corona cases in Delhi.

Secretary General of CAIT, Praveen Khandelwal said that in view of the rising cases of corona in Delhi and the ratio of corona testing and the absence of beds in hospitals in that ratio, CAIT has done this survey in Delhi on the basis of which CAIT will attempt to have comprehensive discussions with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Health Minister Dr

Harsh Vardhan, Lt Governor of Delhi Anil Bajjal and Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal with utmost seriousness on this matter. "Our intent is to cooperate with the efforts of the Government to curb the Corona cases in Delhi," said Khandelwal.

He further said that in the present conditions, there is a need for all sections and stakeholders including the government to come forward and make Delhi free from corona infection and its fear.

CAIT has put six questions in its survey asking if you agree that the corona cases in Delhi are growing fast, do you think that due to the markets being open, the corona transition will spread to the markets, medical facilities are available in Delhi in proportion to the way corona cases are increasing in Delhi, are you worried about the rise of corona cases in the markets, should the markets be closed at the moment to protect Delhi's traders and customers from corona and if not, what is your suggestion.

Khandelwal and Vipin Ahuja, President, Delhi State CAIT said that shops are definitely open in Delhi but their business reduced to 90 per cent compared to earlier.

"In wholesale markets, customers from outside Delhi are not coming, whereas in the retail markets, local customers are not coming at all, which is directly due to a large amount of fear from coronavirus and it is taking several days for getting testing done for Coronavirus as also the problems in obtaining beds in Hospitals," they said.

## Elections for mayors of 3 civic bodies on June 24

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The South, North and East Delhi Municipal Corporation (NMC) will elect new mayors and deputy mayors on June 24, the office of Municipal Secretary said on Friday.

According to provisions under Sub-Section (1) of Section 35 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, the Corporation shall at its first meeting in each year elect one of its members to be the Mayor and another members to be the Deputy Mayor of the Corporation. The polls got delayed this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. The then unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was trifurcated into north, south and east Delhi municipal corporations in 2012.

"The polls to elect mayors for the three corporations will be held on June 24. For the new South Delhi mayor, the exercise will take place in the morning, for North Delhi mayor, in the afternoon, and then for East Delhi mayor. All safety protocols as applicable on that date shall be followed," a senior official said.

The outgoing mayors are Avtar Singh (NDMC), Sunita Kangra (SDMC) and Anju Kamalkant (EDMC). The three municipal corporations in Delhi are controlled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The mayoral five-year tenure sees five single-year terms on a rotation basis, with the first year being reserved for women, the second open category, third for reserved category, and the remaining two also being for open category.

## City clocks peak power demand of 5,534 MW

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's peak power demand touched 5,534 MW on Thursday night amid a sweltering summer, the highest so far in the season.

A senior BSES official said that the season's previous high was 5,464 MW recorded on May 26. Delhi's peak power demand had been a bit muted for the last few days due to weather conditions including rain, but it are picking up now with rising temperature, he said.

BRPL and BYPL — discoms of BSES — successfully met the peak power demand of 2,495 MW and 1,282 MW respectively with an overall peak being 5,534 MW, he said.

Delhi's peak power demand has started increasing and it may surpass last year's peak power demand of 7,409 MW in July. This year, it may touch 7,500 MW, he said.

## Webinar on life with corona held for safety of traffic cops

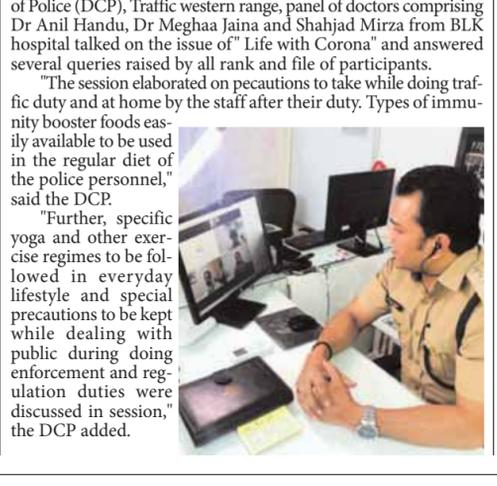
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To ensure safety of its personnel during the pandemic, the western range of Delhi Traffic Police on Friday held a webinar on 'Life with corona'.

Police said that the interactive session was attended by around 320 traffic police personnel.

According to Shankar Choudhary, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Traffic western range, panel of doctors comprising Dr Anil Handu, Dr Meghaa Jaina and Shahjad Mirza from BLK hospital talked on the issue of 'Life with Corona' and answered several queries raised by all rank and file of participants.

"The session elaborated on precautions to take while doing traffic duty and at home by the staff after their duty. Types of immunity booster foods easily available to be used in the regular diet of the police personnel," said the DCP. "Further, specific yoga and other exercise regimes to be followed in everyday lifestyle and special precautions to be kept while dealing with public during doing enforcement and regulation duties were discussed in session," the DCP added.



## Rly gets request for 63 Shramik Spl trains

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways on Friday said that it has received a request for 63 more Shramik Special Trains from various States of which 32 are from Kerala.

The ministry in a statement said that Indian Railways is committed to continue providing comfortable and safe movement of migrants through Shramik Special Trains as required by States.

"As of now total 63 more such trains requisitioned by various states after Chairman Railway Board's letter to the States. Total seven states Kerala, Andhara Pradesh, Karnataka,



Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir requisitioned for trains," the minister said in a statement. In total 63 trains, three

10 trains by Tamil Nadu and two trains by West Bengal. Uttar Pradesh Government will have to give their requirement.

It may be noted that Chairman Railway Board wrote letters to the States on 29th May, 3rd June and 9th June on the subject and emphasised that Indian Railways will provide the desired number of trains immediately within 24 hours of the request.

"Indian Railways has informed the state governments that it shall continue to provide Shramik Special Train within 24 hours after the demand is received from the states. The Ministry has requested State Governments

to indicate their requirements about trains and see that projected demand for movement of residual persons by rail mode is well chalked out and determined," the ministry said.

The railways have also assured that it will provide additional such trains for any requirement given in future also. It will also meet any additional demand that may arise over and above the projections given, at a short notice, it said.

More than 4277 Shramik Special Services have been operated by Indian Railways to transport approximately 60 lakh persons to their destination States.

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

Naidu warns MPs for multiple rail tickets

Former and present Parliamentarians indulge in 'blatant misuse and disregard towards public money'

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Elders are not setting the right example. Many former and present Rajya Sabha members have been found to be indulging in, what Chairman Venkaiah Naidu termed, "blatant misuse and disregard towards public money".

The Railways has raised a demand for a payment of Rs. 7.8 crores to be made by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat as 1/3rd share of the total cost of train travel by the sitting and former members of Parliament, their spouses and companions.

Following this huge bill raised by the Railways an analysis by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat of the number of bookings made and actual journeys undertaken by some sitting and former members of the Upper House, on the directions of Naidu, was conducted.

Several cases of MPs blatantly misusing the privileges provided to them have been found.

A former member of Rajya Sabha made as many as 63 bookings of up to 4 per day on 23 days in January, 2019 costing a total of Rs 1,69,005. As against this, the former MP confirmed having travelled by train only on seven occasions against a total train fare of only Rs 22,085.

In respect of a sitting member also, the analysis done by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has revealed that the actual journeys performed during January, 2019, amounted to

only 15% of the total claim of Railways. This means the Secretariat is required to pay 85% extra for journeys not performed and the respective bookings not cancelled.

With Naidu expressing his strong displeasure, the upper house Secretariat has issued a stern note of caution to the MPs that in case of future violations, deductions will be made from their salaries.

Rajya Sabha Secretary General Desh Deepak Verma asked the members to ensure cancellation of bookings not availed failing which recovery will be made for such bookings if they are not cancelled in time.

The members of Rajya Sabha are being advised for some years to avoid multiple train bookings and to cancel the unused bookings. Further to audit objections regarding such multiple bookings and the cost sharing formula and direc-

tions of the Central Information Commission to recast the process of train bookings, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has been taking up the matter with the Railways over the last couple of years," said a Parliament source.

On its part Railways have since agreed to change the software for train bookings by the MPs to enable identification of bookings by the members of both the Houses separately. This new software is likely to be operationalised soon, sources told The Pioneer.

In his note, Verma said, "It has, however, been noted from the details of debit claims raised by the Ministry of Railways that multiple bookings are being made by some members in various trains departing from same/different stations to different destination stations for the same day. Rajya Sabha Secretariat has to make pay-

ments to the Ministry of Railways even for those bookings which are actually not utilised by the members."

"Members would appreciate that non-performance of journey on reserved berths and non-cancellation thereof in time leads to unnecessary expenditure and avoidable drain on Rajya Sabha budget. It also puts the public to inconvenience as they fail to get confirmed berths/seats," said the note.

Following discussions with the Chairman Naidu, the secretary general warned, "In view of the above, members are requested to cancel all such bookings which are not likely to be utilised, well in advance. In case of non-cancellation of bookings which are not actually utilised by the members, the amount of fare of such bookings shall be recovered from the members."

Rahul: Sadly, DNA of tolerance has disappeared in India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that he was saddened to see India's tolerance and acceptance of new ideas "disappearing" and that the "division of people was weakening the structure of the country."

"We are a very tolerant nation. Our DNA is supposed to be tolerant. We're supposed to accept new ideas. We're supposed to be open, but the surprising thing is that that DNA, that open DNA, is sort of disappearing. I say this with sadness that I don't see that level of tolerance that I used to see. I don't see it in the United States and I don't see it in India," Rahul said in an interaction with US diplomat Nicholas Burns.

"When you divide African Americans, Mexicans and other people in the United States, so you divide Hindus and Muslims and Sikhs in India, you're weakening the structure of the country. But, the same people who weaken the structure of the country say they are nationalists," he added.

During the conversation, Burns, Professor of Diplomacy and International Relations at Harvard, said the US and India had the advantage to correct themselves unlike "an authoritarian country" like China.

"In many ways, India and the US share many traits. We were both subjects of the British empire, we both liberated ourselves from that empire in different centuries... Countries sometimes have to go through a discussion and a political debate about who are we at the core? What kind of nation are we? We are an immigrant nation, a tolerant nation," Burns said.

Of the US's "deep political and existential crisis," he added,



"I do see strengths that democracies go through trials. We play out our differences, in political campaigns or in street protests, but at least we can do that. You can authoritarianism coming back in China and Russia. We democracies, we sometimes go through painful episodes because of our freedoms, but we're so much stronger because of them."

Burns described Trump as having an "authoritarian personality". "He (Trump) wraps himself in a flag. He declares that he alone can fix the problems. I must say, I think President Trump is in many ways an authoritarian personality. But in our country, you're seeing the institutions remain strong," he said.

On the coronavirus pandemic, Burns expressed disappointment at the lack of coordination between countries. "This crisis was made for the G20. It was made for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping and Donald Trump to work together... for the common global good," he said.

The Gandhi scion noted that people were becoming "insular", a behaviour that was accelerated by the Covid crisis. However, he later added, "I do see new ideas and new ways emerging after Covid. I can already see people cooperating much more than they were before. Now, they realise that there are advantages to being unified."

Don't block movement of vehicles after 9pm: MHA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Secretary on Friday told the States not to block the movement of vehicles including goods and public transport Highways and main roads after 9pm. Centre's clarification came after series of complaints came on blocking of transport during curfew time 9pm to 5am in many States and State borders.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla wrote to Chief Secretaries that curfew time is imposed only to prevent congregations and ensure social distancing and not for blocking vehicle movements. Home Secretary said that public and goods transportation should not be blocked during the curfew time.

Centre also told States that loading and offloading of goods also not to be blocked during curfew time. Home Secretary also clarified that movement of people coming by flights, trains or buses after long journey also permitted during curfew time.

Congress accuses BJP of corruption ahead of RS poll

Party to raise issue with Election Commission

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Rajya Sabha election, the Congress on Friday accused the BJP of indulging in corrupt electoral practices and said it will raise the issue with the Election Commission.

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said a delegation of party leaders would meet the EC and petition it to highlight instances of its legislators in Gujarat being lured and intimidated by the ruling BJP.

The election for four Rajya Sabha seats in Gujarat will be held on June 19.

Singhvi said the party was sure of its victory in Rajya Sabha elections in Gujarat and would bag two of the four seats as per its strength in the state legislature.

Fearing poaching of its MLAs, the Congress has moved its MLAs to resorts in the state as well as in neighbouring Rajasthan.

"Our victory is certain, our numbers are sufficient," Singhvi said at an online Press conference. "Our means are clean and pure, our strategy is strong, but that should not prevent me from exposing before you those who are doing just the opposite," he also said.

He alleged that "everybody has not indulged in gutter level politics and everybody is not

Singhvi said the Congress will not be cowed down by the threats of the ruling BJP and will fight it out in EC and the courts

indulging in corrupt practices". Singhvi also alleged that the BJP was intimidating its MLAs through misuse of power, was creating a non-level playing field and making a mockery of the 10th Schedule.

The Congress leader cited an instance of one of its Gujarat MLAs Panjbhai Kunjbhai Vansh, who was being subjected to harassment at the hands of the state government in an old case even when he did not have any criminal record.

Singhvi said the Congress will not be cowed down by the threats of the ruling BJP and will fight it out in EC and the courts.

Rahul should apologise to country: Shahnawaz

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP leader and national spokesperson Syed Shahnawaz Hussain on Friday hit back at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his "intolerance in India" remark and sought him to offer an apology for his "unpardonable utterances".

Former Congress president reportedly equated India with America in claiming that both countries were not being tolerant.

BJP spokesperson said Rahul's comment that like in America where 'whites and blacks' dispute exist and they clash with each other in India too Hindu, Muslims and Sikhs face a similar situation, is "unpardonable" and "undoubtedly condemnable".

Hussain quoted Rahul saying that "intolerance" was increasing in India and claimed that it was conspiracy to



defame the country. BJP leader said Rahul's comment have diminished country's image and demanded his apology to the country.

He said Rahul has no understanding of India's "great heritage" and "culture" and he has become habitual in criticising his country.

Hussain alleged that even at time of crisis like presented by Coronavirus pandemic, the Congress leader was not leaving a chance to attack the country that too while talking to a foreigner. "It is highly condemnable and people of the country would not forgive him".

PM convenes two-day meet of CMs, UT admn from June 16

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened two-day meeting of Chief Ministers and Administrators of Union Territories on June 16 and 17 to assess the Covid-19 situation prevailing across the country. The meeting will be held through video conferencing on June 16 and 17 at 3pm and main agenda is expected to be the treatment on the pandemic and health sector scenario across the country.

According to highly placed officials, the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers will discuss on the health scenario and health infrastructure and its upgradation to control the pandemic. The increase of deaths and patients in the Metro cities and creation of more infrastructure are also in the agenda of the meeting. Before the meeting the Prime Minister will assess the situation with the Union Health Ministry officials and other health experts.

Study: Covid-19 threatens entire nervous system

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid-19 may affect the entire nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, nerves, and the muscles of the infected individual, according to a review of studies which may help better manage the neurological symptoms of the disease such as headaches, seizures, and strokes.

According to the research, published in the journal Annals of Neurology, nearly half of hospitalised Covid-19 patients have neurological manifestations like headache, dizziness, decreased alertness, difficulty concentrating, disorders of smell and taste, seizures, strokes, weakness, and muscle pain.

"It's important for the general public and physicians to be aware of this, because a SARS-COV-2 infection may present with neurologic symptoms initially, before any fever, cough or respiratory problems occur," said study lead author Igor Korolnik from Northwestern University in the US.

In the analysis, the scientists describe the different neurological conditions that may occur in infected patients and how to diagnose them, as well as likely pathogenic mecha-



nisms.

Korolnik said that this understanding is key to direct appropriate clinical management and treatment for Covid-19 patients.

There are many different ways Covid-19 can cause neurological dysfunction, he said. In addition, they said the virus may cause direct infection of the brain, meninges -- a connective tissue lining several parts of the nervous system -- and the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) which acts as a shock absorber for the skull.

The reaction of the immune system to the infection

may also cause inflammation that can damage the brain and nerves, the scientists added.

Since knowledge about the long term outcome of neurologic manifestations of COVID-19 is limited, the researchers plan to follow some patients prospectively to determine if neurological problems are temporary or permanent.

Prof. Rajinder K Dhamija, Head of Neurology Department, Lady Hardinge Medical College and SSK Hospital, Delhi agreed with the observations of the researchers. He explained that the virus can infect the brain two ways-- through nasal cavity and through the blood supply to the brain. "Once the virus attacks the brain, it can result into blood clotting," he said adding that there are previous researches also like those conducted in Wuhan, China which have found that neurological manifestations in severely ill patients such as headache, dizziness, impaired consciousness, stroke, ataxia and seizure besides loss of smell.

Defence Minister takes stock of India-China border situation

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As gradual disengagement takes place at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday reviewed the situation with Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat and the three Services Chiefs. Since the complete de-escalation will take some more days, he was briefed also about the next course of action regarding talks at all levels of the two armies to resolve the stand-offs.

Incidentally, this was the second meeting between the defence minister and the defence top brass in this week. The first meeting on Monday assessed the talks between Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin last week. The latest meeting took stock of the pace of efforts to reduce tension and an assessment of the ground situation, sources said here.

The high-level meeting also reviewed the military build-up by China all along the LAC from Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh last month. The Indian forces had also quickly responded by adding muscle to their troop strength besides deploying

heavy weapons closer to the LAC as a precaution, they said.

Rajnath has all along maintained during the month-long stand-off at four locations in eastern Ladakh that diplomatic and military efforts will find a peaceful way out to end the impasse. He was apprised of the forthcoming schedule of talks which include meetings between officers of two sides at the LAC over a course of 10-12 days to ensure mutual withdrawal of additional troops from operational areas to peacetime locations.

Moreover, the latest review came in the backdrop of almost regular interaction at the diplomatic and military level to end confrontation. Also, India and China in the last two days also gave out almost similar statements favouring early resolution.

The minister was also apprised of the tension still prevailing at Pangong (Tso) (lake) with the Chinese troops not going back. However, the two armies have pulled back from the other three sites including the Galwan valley and the Hot Springs. In fact, in the Hot Springs, the Chinese intruded at least three kms and were now retreating to their original positions, sources said.

SC allows TN to find means to sell liquor through physical outlets or online

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday allowed the Tamil Nadu Government to find out ways and means to sell liquor, whether online or at physical outlets in the state.

A bench of the apex court, headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan, said it is not for a court to lay down how liquor can be sold. "These are for the State governments to decide what to do," the bench said.

The court was hearing a petition seeking directions to not open Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) shops in the state.

The top court had last month stayed a Madras High Court order, which had directed the closure of all state-run liquor shops and allowed only the online sale of liquor in the state during the coronavirus-induced nationwide lockdown.

Tamil Nadu government had filed a petition before the Apex Court challenging the Madras High Court order on the matter.

Madras High Court had passed the order after hearing a number of petitions and finding the violation of the social distancing norms, as ordered by the Union of India to prevent the spread of coronavirus, at the liquor shops

PUBLIC NOTICE: This is to inform to General public that our client Khayal Chand S/o Sh. Devi Dutt & Smt. Bhagwati Devi W/o Sh. Khayal Chand R/o B-65, Madhu Vihar, Utam Nagar, Delhi-110059 have Disowned his son Mr. Chander Shekhar & his family (i.e. his wife, Smt. Manorama Sharma & His daughter Ms. Urvasi Sharma) legal heirs from his movable and immovable properties which are situated at Delhi and other part of India.

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PUBLIC NOTICE: Notice is hereby given that the share certificates no(s) 92200986, 92428060 for 150 shares bearing Folio No. SRF0111097, Distinctive no(s) 15349150 - 15349199, 15286585-15286589, 15349200-15349209, 15392390-15392424 standing in the name(s) of Sanjay Mehra jointly with Reeta Mehra in the books of M/s. SRF Limited, has/have been lost/missing/destroyed and the advertiser has/have applied to the company for issue of duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu thereof, any person(s) who has/have claim(s) on the said shares should lodge such claim(s) with the company's registers and transfer agents viz. Karvy Fintech Private Limited, Karvy Sebanium Tower B, Plot No. 31-32, Gochowli, Financial District, Nanaknagar, Hyderabad-500032 within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificate(s) in respect of the said shares. Name(s) of the shareholder(s) Date: 13/06/2020 Sanjay Mehra jointly with Reeta Mehra Place: New Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Chandni, D/o Vidhya Parkash, R/o A-118, Prem Nagar-I, New Delhi, Age: 19 years, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Hair: Black, wearing Red colour Suit & Salwar, and Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing since 26.05.2020. In this regard a

DD No. 65A, dated 27.05.2020 has been registered at P.S. Prem Nagar, New Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : http://cbl.nic.in E-mail : cbc@cbl.gov.in Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641 DD/166/RD/2020 SHO P.S. Prem Nagar, New Delhi Ph.: 011-25489080

'Allow telemedicine to be part of claim policy'

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

With telemedicine fast becoming a necessity for patients amid Corona scare, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has asked the health insurers to allow the facility to be part of the claim settlement policy. It need not be filed separately with the authority for any modification, it outlined.

Telemedicine allows health care professionals to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients in remote locations using telecommunications technology in remote locations too to access medical expertise quickly, efficiently and without travel.

Telemedicine offered shall be in compliance with the telemedicine practice guidelines issued by the Union Health Ministry in March and

as amended from time to time, IRDAI said.

As per the guidelines issued in consultation with NITI Aayog, medical practitioners will have to pursue a sound course of action to provide effective and safe medical care founded on current information, available resources, and patient needs to ensure patient and provider safety.

Dr N Subramanian, Chairman, Health Committee, PHDCCI and Director at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals advised young practitioners who are keen to adopt the telemedicine technology that it is very important to have certain amount of discipline and they should establish a relationship and trust with the patients especially in case of Telemedicine.

He said this at a video conference of series on "Digital Health: The Future:

As per the guidelines issued in consultation with NITI Aayog, medical practitioners will have to pursue a sound course of action to provide effective and safe medical care founded on current information, available resources, and patient needs to ensure patient and provider safety

Telemedicine-Where do We Stand Today" held last month and organized by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

advent of Corona, telemedicine has become the necessity where technology is helping us a lot to fight this crisis. But it has to be under supervision of a clinician. He further added that apart from teleradiology, telemedicine can be used in digital pathology, dermatology, ophthalmology and many other segments.

Aditya Berlia from Apeejay Satya University felt that because of Covid-19, at least 20-25% medical system will move to telemedicine in near future while Dr. Hans Raj Baweja, Chairman, Ethics Committee, MCI explained the key points of telemedicine guidelines, like mandatory patient consent, mandatory patient identity as it is difficult to identify the patient in audio consultations, taking of history & entering all the details in the prescription. "It is mandatory for doctors also to intro-

duce themselves at the time of consultation and only generic medicines should be prescribed," he said.

The experts also called for Regulatory framework for Telemedicine for International patients as well.

Vivek Seigell, Principal Director Health, PHD Chamber said that the recommendations arrived from the discussions held will be submitted to NITI AAYOG as policy inputs on various aspects of telemedicine especially for consulting international patients.

The Telemedicine guidelines were issued amid the novel coronavirus outbreak, to decongest the healthcare facilities as medical professionals can consult the patient remotely which would protect both of them from virus transmission, and does not disrupt the lockdown measures.

Gowda, Kharge, 2 BJP nominees elected unopposed

Janata Dal-Secular (JD-S) supremo HD Deve Gowda, senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge and ruling BJP's grassroots cadres Ashok Gasti and Iranna Kadadi have been declared elected to the Rajya Sabha unopposed, a poll official said on Friday.

RAJYA SABHA POLLS

Gehlot says polls were put off in March to complete poaching bid

Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday made a scathing attack on the Central Government alleging that the Rajya Sabha polls were deliberately deferred in March as the Centre's poaching attempts were incomplete by then, and now when the dates were rescheduled, "four of our MLAs from Gujarat have already resigned".

1,982 +ve, 18 die in TN

CHENNAI ■ The death toll in Tamil Nadu reached 367 with 18 more persons succumbing to the pandemic on Friday. While 17 of the dead had comorbidities (suffering from other serious ailments) a 38 year old male died without any comorbidities.

TN Health Secy transferred as cases go up

CHENNAI ■ Since the situation in Tamil Nadu, especially in Chennai and surrounding districts are getting aggravated, the Government on Friday morning announced that J Radhakrishnan IAS, principal secretary, would be the new Health Secretary of the State.

Maha: Virus claims life of 35 cops so far, 129 more +ve

Coronavirus has so far claimed the lives of at least 35 police personnel and left 3,388 other personnel infected in various other parts of Maharashtra.

Maha: Total breaches 1L mark

MUMBAI ■ The Covid-19 infections breached one lakh-mark in Maharashtra on Friday, as the infected cases tally touched 1,01,141 in the State where 127 more people succumbed to pandemic during the last 24 hours taking the total number of deaths to 3,717.

2 WB teachers suspended after 'ugly' lessons

Kolkata: The Bengal Education Department has suspended two women teachers working in a primary school in East Burdwan district after it was discovered that they were teaching from an English alphabet book which had lessons that amounted to belittle people with black complexion.

No respite for Kerala as virus marches on

KOCHI ■ Kerala's hope for a respite from coronavirus came a cropper as the State saw 78 persons testing positive for the pandemic on Friday. The department of health blamed the 36 expatriates and 31 from other States who reached Kerala following lockdown for Friday's upsurge in the covid cases.

Mumbai gets early flood warning system

MUMBAI ■ Inconvenienced as they have been by recurring inundations over the years across their city, then monsoon has begun on an optimistic note for Mumbaiers.

Bengal Opp attacks State Govt over mishandling of cases

KOLKATA ■ After earning a Supreme Court rap on its knuckles for its alleged mismanagement of corona pandemic the Bengal Government on Friday faced flak from the principal Opposition parties which accused the ruling Trinamool Congress of bringing back "medieval barbarity" in its style of governance.

Cauvery water released for Kuruvai crop

CHENNAI ■ The short-term Kuruvai cultivation spread across the five districts of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Tirucirappalli, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam commenced on Friday as the Cauvery water gushed out of the Mettur Dam to irrigate the vast stretch of paddy fields.

J&K: 1 killed, 2 hurt in Pak shelling along LoC

JAMMU ■ The line of control in Baramulla early Friday morning witnessed heavy exchange of mortar shelling in the forward areas in which one civilian woman was killed while two others received splinter injuries.

156 afflicted in J&K

JAMMU ■ More than 250 Covid-19 patients were discharged from different hospitals of Jammu on Friday while 156 new cases were detected and one more patient died in Jammu, taking the death toll to 53.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE
Arrival and departure time of following Specials Trains at their Terminal Station will be revised over Eastern Railway w.e.f. 16.06.2020. The revised timings of the Special Trains will be as under:-

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS
E-Tenders are invited by D.Y.CE (Bridge Line) - Dadar Western Railway for the following works: [Sr. No. : 1.] Name of work & Tender No. : D.Y.CE/B/DDR/2020/10 Dated 11.06.2020.

REVISED ROUTE & TIMING OF PASCHIM EXPRESS
It is notified for the information of all concerned that train no 02925/02926 Bandra Terminus- Amritsar- Bandra Terminus Special Express will run via Ambala Cantt. - Chandigarh - Amritsar instead of Ambala Cantt. - Rajpura Jn. - Amritsar w.e.f. ex Bandra Terminus from 05.10.2020 and ex Amritsar from 07.10.2020 as per the revised route and timings given below:-

# Saving megacities

Will setting up a professionalised task force for India's hotspot metros be effective in arresting the COVID-19 slide?



Going by the crumbling medical infrastructure in India's megacities battling the furious onslaught of COVID-19, it would take more than the Supreme Court's censure to respect the dignity of human lives. Horror stories keep flooding the morning news of patients not being tested since the laboratories cannot guarantee results in the required turnaround time, they being consequently turned away by hospitals, Government hospitals going vacant because of pitiable conditions there, delayed treatment leading to deaths and unaccounted bodies being cremated without informing

family members. All reflect a general sense of helplessness in the local administrations of these cities, clearly without the depth of either experience or resources to wall off the swamp. As of now, four cities account for almost 70 per cent of new cases and over 80 per cent of deaths from COVID-19, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Chennai. Pune and Kolkata are also fast catching up. And given their population hyperdensity, no matter how specialist their hospitals, both public and private, they are currently defenceless against a virus that is coursing through their matrix with an unmatched rapidity. Just for comparison, some of the cities with the most advanced healthcare infrastructure in the world, like New York, too, could not keep pace with the massive spiral. All our cities have two major problems. One, the lack of testing, without which no planning can be done, and second insufficient capacity of critical care to flatten the mortality curve. According to data analysis, even if the private sector infrastructure were to be included, India would still need 80 to 100 times the available number of ventilators if one considered a "worst case scenario." Should there be a Central megacity task force then to intensively focus on containment and mitigation strategies in our big metros? Cut through differing procedural protocols and evolve a unified war room response for seamless logistic management? For example, there are still no takers for Government hospitals where beds are empty because of the dismal disparity in conditions. Would a task force ensure that the disease burden is spread evenly and the treatment protocol standardised? A task force would also cut through the red tape, like the one which has tied up Indian pharmaceutical companies which are to roll out Remdesivir despite clearances and which we are now importing from Bangladesh as a desperate measure. Besides, there is going to be a massive crunch of doctors and nurses and maintaining a front-line COVID-19 medical army would indeed be a tough challenge. Could a task force rationalise the resource allocation and marshal additional staff from elsewhere for primary care at least? Could it also devise a fast relief protocol for waiting patients, who are seriously ill, with immediate oxygen support so that we do not lose them simply because they are being turned away? Of course, all this would mean stepping on federalism, considering most of the metros are in Opposition-ruled States and healthcare is a State subject. May be a dedicated task force should remain depoliticised and entrusted to experts and epidemiologists and emerge as a new example of cooperative federalism where both the States and Centre decide the best case scenarios possible. For when human lives are at stake, nothing else matters and ordinary people are by and large disgusted with every kind of political leadership and competitive egos at the moment. What they need is healing and dignity.

There are enough templates of city management for reference. For example, Singapore completely assigned the disease management leadership to professionals, did not let positive patients back into the community, tested liberally and built an effective communication strategy at the micro-community level. The last was so effective that people internalised disciplines voluntarily, which minimised the risk. Best of all, numbers were not fudged and there was absolute transparency that led to trust-building. South Korea, which is battling a second wave of the virus despite its aggressive testing, digital interventions and contact-tracing, has now let scientists and medical professionals do the talking at national briefings. Politicians have stepped back simply because people trust doctors. In fact, both Paris and New York, while equally driven to restart economic activity, kept social venues like theatres, bars and restaurants shut during the peak spiral, reopening them only when numbers seemed controllable enough. Unlike New York, policy makers, medical professionals and employers in San Francisco acted sooner and unitedly to slow the spread. City and State Governments communicated a lot better in California than in New York. One doesn't need a copy paste formula but surely a common city management plan is required to prevent India's throbbing metropolises from faltering and failing. Urban planning and resource management will have to be rewritten for the future but in the short-term, a task force could yet weather the tide.

# Changing history

Is it fair to look at historical events with a contemporary lens? Should we change the way we judge their characters?



How should we remember Winston Churchill? A man whose determination and grit saved Britain during its "darkest hour" in 1940. A cigar-chomping, Scotch-swilling, half-American former journalist, who is considered by many Britons as the greatest Briton ever, greater than Shakespeare, Newton and Darwin. Or was he a young rapsallion, a product of aristocracy, who leveraged it to acquire ultimate power despite missteps that would have sunk another career? Or was he an enabler of genocide, a horseman of the apocalypse, whose acts of omission and commission directly led to the death of millions in united Bengal and Odisha through famine and pestilence, a worthy successor to the plunderer of Bengal, Robert Clive? The problem is unfortunately that we tend to see history, particularly in today's partisan times, as either this or that. No human is perfect, not even Mahatma Gandhi or Winston Churchill. And just like British historians tend to forget some of Churchill's excesses, in India, the army of Gandhi's hagiographers ignore his early beliefs on race and his rather troublesome later years with regard to his personal life. We tend to brush inconvenient facts under the carpet and hope nobody notices. But eventually, every carpet is replaced and dust has a bad habit of not disappearing.

Churchill's address to the House of Commons on how he and Britain would fight the Nazi menace is one of the greatest fighting speeches in history and British students learn of that from an early age. Churchill must be remembered for his actions during the War and after it. But that should not be used to gloss over his actions in India. Just like Indians must learn that despite Gandhi's greatness, the man had his warts. Sure, there are some truly despicable men who are still celebrated. As William Dalrymple wrote in *The Guardian* recently, the statue of Robert Clive in Whitehall is an affront to all Bengalis. But there is no denying the fact that Clive changed history. Maybe celebrating him with a statue is a bit much but one cannot erase history. No one can change that Christopher Columbus' monumental navigational error led to the massacre of millions through disease and pestilence because back in the 15th century, we valued life very differently. But as we learn more, we should teach our children about history differently. We need a new breed of historians who can narrate these stories, the good, the bad and the ugly.

# Murder most foul

Yet another savage outcome of human-elephant conflict in Kerala must propel us to get our act together. If not, animals will perish along with the environment



HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The murder of a pregnant elephant, which died in the Velliya river in Kerala's Mannarkkad forest division in Palakkad district on May 27, must rank among the cruelest killings of animals ever. According to the post-mortem report, the immediate cause of her death was drowning. Before that, she could not eat or drink for nearly 14 days following an explosion in her mouth that inflicted major, incapacitating wounds in the oral cavity. "This," the report reads, "resulted in excruciating pain and distress in the region and prevented the animal from taking food and water for nearly two weeks. Severe debility and weakness, in turn, resulted in a final collapse in water that led to drowning."

According to Kumar Chellappan's report in *The Pioneer* of June 6, the elephant was injured as she tried to eat a coconut that had been stuffed with explosives to kill wild boars that ate up crops. The report further stated that the police had arrested P Wilson, a tapper in a rubber plantation, the previous day and were looking for the plantation's owners, Abdul Kareem and his son Riyazuddin, and had charged all three of them under various sections of the Kerala Forest Act and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Wilson has reportedly admitted that he had filled a coconut with explosives and placed it in the plantation to kill wild boars that regularly devoured/destroyed crops. According to reports, Wilson, following interrogation, had taken police and forest department officials to a shed inside the plantation, where the explosives had been worked on, and some remnants were found. In the event, instead of a wild boar, an elephant bit into the fruit.

A word of caution. Before bursting into a round of applause for the police, one should remember that the accused are yet to be convicted and adequately sentenced. Since Indian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) feature in Part I (mammals), Schedule I, of the Wildlife Protection Act, their hunting "in a sanctuary or a national park" can lead to imprisonment of up to seven years and a "fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees."

The award of the maximum punishment will depend on successful prosecution in courts, which, in turn, would depend on convincingly marshalling and weaving evidence into unfolding arguments. This implies thorough investigation and reflection thereon. This aspect needs to be emphasised as the Kerala Government's and local bodies' record in protecting animals and bringing their murderers and tormentors to book is by no means exemplary. In some cases,



they are guilty of condoning or even sanctioning killing.

In fact, one wonders whether the Kerala Government would have ordered an investigation into the present case and made the kind of serious efforts it has to arrest the culprits, had the media not taken it up so strongly and waves of shock and anger not swept the country. Another female elephant had died in April in the Pathanapuram forest range area under Punalur division in Kollam district after trying to eat an explosive-laden fruit. It was, according to forest officers, treated adequately but in vain. The incident did not find any coverage in the national media until anger exploded over the pregnant elephant's murder and was only mentioned in passing in a couple of reports even after that. An investigation has been ordered but nothing like the efforts made following the death of the pregnant elephant has been launched.

Poaching is rampant in the area. According to a report by Vinod Mathew in *The Print* (dated June 5), 24 wild elephants have died of unnatural causes like poaching in the last five years in Kerala. If the Government was serious about stamping out the menace, it would have made recognisably determined efforts to bring the guilty to book in every case of elephant killing like the one in April. Besides, a telling commentary on the state of affairs in Kerala is the almost casual mention in several post-Palakkad death media reports that the

explosive-laden coconut that killed the elephant was targeted at wild boars destroying crops.

Two points need to be made here. First, such savage killing of no animal can be justified. Second, the Kerala Government had permitted the killing of wild boars in May. *The Print* report cited above quotes Dr Asha Thomas, Additional Chief Secretary, Forest and Wildlife, Kerala Government, as saying, "There have been periodic demands from farmers that they be allowed to protect their crop and given the right to shoot wild boars. About a month ago, a Government order was issued that allowed the shooting of wild boars, subject to a number of clauses." The clauses, according to her, included "certification by the local authorities that an area is suffering crop loss on account of sustained attack by wild boars and so on." She added, "And once the permission is granted, only someone from an empanelled group of licenced firearm owners would be allowed to shoot. So far we have had only one such case."

P Wilson, who allegedly stuffed explosives in the coconut that killed the pregnant elephant, as well as the two other accused in the case, Abdul Kareem and Riyazuddin, had, if the allegations against them are correct, either not heard about the conditions governing the killing of wild boars or thought these could be ignored with impunity. One needs hardly to be surprised if the latter has been the case. According to a report in the *NDTV* (June 5) by Sneha

Mary Koshy (edited by Deepshikha Ghosh), villagers in the region often used fire-crackers or explosives stuffed in food to protect their fields from wild animals like boar and the horrific practice had been widely condemned. Obviously, however, such condemnation had not led to deterrent punishments of the kind that would have halted the three accused in their tracks.

It is certainly important to protect crops. The need to do so, however, can also be cited as an excuse. A report by Adam Withnall in *The Independent* of the United Kingdom dated June 5 quotes Kartick Satyanarayan, co-founder of the NGO Wildlife SOS, as saying that farmers continued to use "crude and inhumane" methods like fruit bombs "on the pretext of crop protection... despite crop compensation schemes available from the forest department". According to a report by Shaji Phillips in *The Indian Express* of June 6, the Mannarkkad range forest officer, Ashique Ali U, in charge of probing the Palakkad killing case, said that the accused were in the habit of hunting wild animals and selling their meat. This, if true, would junk any claim that they were trying to protect their crops.

There are multiple reasons for growing elephant-human conflict. In many cases, humans are guilty of wanton provocation. This is clear from a report, dated May 18, 2019, by Birdie Witten in the *Mirror*, the United Kingdom, which was brought to the notice of this

writer by Sonia Jabbar, who runs a successful elephant conservation programme in North Bengal. The report is about a mother elephant, which had given birth near the dry bed of a lake, trying to get her newborn baby to stand, while a crowd of villagers watched and took photographs. Increasingly indicating her irritation through movements, she finally charged at the crowd as the latter started throwing stones at her and killed a 27-year-old man. Ten other elephants appeared in the area shortly afterwards, causing panic.

This incident happened in West Bengal. Kerala is not the only State where elephants are maltreated. In the last couple of days, three elephants were apparently poisoned to death in Chhatisgarh. Such crimes are becoming increasingly frequent throughout the country because human encroachment into animal habitats is growing, thanks to a swelling population. It is not just new farms and human settlements but the entire range of projects — roads, rail tracks, power transmission lines, mines, industrial plants — undertaken in the name of a skewed concept of development catering to advertisement-driven compulsive consumption. Animals will perish and the environment ruined if the process continues unreformed. Finally, with their supportive linkages of life forms gone, humans will face extinction.

(The writer is Consultant Editor, *The Pioneer*, and an author)

## SOUNDBITE

Covid-19 is a horrible time, but I see new ideas emerging after the crisis. I already see people cooperating much more than they were before.



Congress leader —Rahul Gandhi

I will not go out and work for now, nor will I allow my daughter Shradha to resume work. I don't think the threat is gone. I feel the worst is yet to come.



Actor —Shakti Kapoor

As the pandemic wreaks havoc on family incomes, without support, many could resort to child labour. Social protection is vital as it provides assistance to those most vulnerable.



ILO director-general —Guy Ryder

You know, this crisis (Corona) was made for the G20. It was made for Modi and Xi and Trump to be working together, all for the common global good.



Ex-US diplomat —Nicholas Burns

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Well done New Zealand

Sir — New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern must be congratulated for having eliminated the scourge of Coronavirus. This is inspiring for the rest of the world. While it is heartening that the country has declared itself COVID-19 free, it would be unjust to compare its recovery with the rise in active cases in India. The whole of New Zealand comprises only 4.9 million people, which comes to around one-fourth of the population of Indian megacities like Mumbai or Delhi. Compared to India, New Zealand has an extremely low population density. This would relatively hinder the spread of the Coronavirus.

No doubt New Zealand's recovery will act as a case study for the entire world but one country's situation cannot be compared with that of another. However, India needs to take some important lessons from New Zealand on public health. We must exercise caution to arrest the spread of the disease in our country.

Ravi Teja Kathuripalli  
Hyderabad

### Women leading from the front

This refers to the article, "Women in the big boys' club" by Archana Datta (June 9). The big boys' club is in total disarray now. Big leaders world over failed to formulate and execute effective schemes to safeguard the lives of their own. On the other hand, women leaders chose to break free and chart their own independent courses. One such State is Taiwan, which is headed by Tsai Ing-wen, the first woman who became President in 2016. A country which shares its border with China, Taiwan remained the first port of call for the dreaded Coronavirus. But it could stop the contagion at the shores with just 443 infections and seven deaths.

Not far off in New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern is a leader for all seasons. Under her command, New Zealand could overcome the pandemic with a clear strategy. In Europe, infections kept rising and its famed medical system collapsed. Amid all the gloom, Chancellor Angela Merkel scripted a miraculous recovery and steered Germany back to safety. Back home in Kerala, Health Minister KK Shailaja is leading the State in the battle against Coronavirus. On January 30, a student from Wuhan, who landed at Kochi, tested positive to COVID-19. Shailaja had no pattern to fall back on as the big boys' club was ruthlessly dismissive of the threat. Also, the procedure of checking, tracing and testing met



with criticism and ridicule. But she remained firm and Kerala escaped from an instant outbreak. The recent spurt in cases is largely on account of the arrival of non-resident Keralites from across the globe and the red-zone States. Shailaja is on test once again. In this difficult new world, women leaders have crafted success while the big men in the boys' club fumbled. Robert McKee, an author, had said, "True character is revealed in the choices a human being makes under pressure — the greater the pressure, the deeper the revelation, the truer the choice to the character's essential nature."

Haridasan Rajan  
Kozhikode

### A fresh headache

Sir — With the International Cricket Council (ICC) banning the age-old technique of using

saliva to shine a ball when cricket emerges from the shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, bowlers will have to fix their gaze on revamping their bowling skills to thrive in inter-

national cricket.

Mastering bowling actions and delivering the ball with varied lines and lengths consistently may well be an alternative for the bowlers. To enhance the

chances of taking wickets at frequent intervals, pacers may opt for reverse swing deliveries by taking the best out from the rough patches of the ball. One just hopes that before resuming cricket, the ICC discusses the usage of artificial wax in future meetings to balance the game between the bat and ball. The problem calls for pragmatic solutions.

Tushar Anand  
Patna

### Act responsibly

Sir — Despite the fact that India's COVID-19 cases have climbed to the fourth highest in the world, people are yet to come to terms with the gravity of the situation. This despite the fact that we are being given daily updates on the number of cases and deaths. It's just not enough for us to follow Government instructions under a lockdown. For our own safety, we must follow guidelines even under "unlock." It's a matter of life and death after all.

Srinivas  
Via email

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

**FIRST COLUMN**

## Beijing defies all logic

There must be utmost transparency and the Government must be answerable for all its actions instead of putting the blame on past regimes



MADHUKAR JETLEY

India and China are two of the most populous countries with ancient civilisations and their friendship dates back 2,000 years. The entire Indo-Chinese border (including the western Line of Actual Control, the small undisputed section in the centre and the McMahon Line in the East) is 4,056 km long and traverses through one Indian Union Territory, i.e. Ladakh and four Indian States, i.e. Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Out of all of India's neighbours, namely Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, the dragon nation occupies the most strategic position, particularly after Beijing's invasion of Tibet, which used to serve as a buffer zone between the two nations.

Chinese boundary claim lines defy all logic and only make sense to the Communist Party of China. Interestingly, the word "logic" is not in the Chinese lexicon and the Chinese term for logic is "luoji", a term clearly borrowed from English. The emperor draws a line and his ministers intimidate or annex whatever territory is within those lines. The Chinese people are forced to believe that these areas were historically a part of their country.

By and large, the Indo-Chinese relationship has remained cordial throughout and in order to further strengthen ties, an "Agreement on Trade and Commerce between the Tibet region of China and India" or the Panchsheel Treaty was signed on April 29, 1954 in Beijing by Indian Ambassador N Raghavan and the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Chang Han-fu. The major principles of this treaty were: Mutual non-aggression; mutual non-interference in domestic systems; respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; equality and mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence. Panchsheel was promoted by both nations as an instrument for advancing their respective national interests in the mid-1950s. China, the originator of the principles, sought to reassure neighbours, who had developed misgivings about it during the Korean War, and wean them away from the US. The treaty became very popular as can be perceived by the famous slogan "Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai (Indians and Chinese are brothers)."

However, the logic of the Chinese line still eludes those outside of it. The India-China border is another line where China displays consistency in defying logic. A boundary line became necessary in October 1950 when China occupied Tibet and became India's neighbour. The traditional boundaries between India and Tibet were clearly not logical to China and they proffered a series of lines to India in 1956, 1959 and 1961. They kept moving into India and led to the war of 1962.

Fast forward to current times and it can be seen that China has been consistent in defying the logic of the lines. After the Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement was signed between India and China in 1993, the process of LAC delineation commenced through Joint Working Groups and Experts Group meeting regularly. The 2017 Doklam stand-off refers to the military border face-off between the Indian Armed Forces and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) over Chinese construction of a road in Doklam near a trijunction border area. This stand-off lasted from June 16, 2017-August 18, 2017. In the end, both sides withdrew their troops from Doklam and China stopped all road-building activity.

India was the first non-communist country in Asia to establish diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China on April 1, 1950. But the plans for celebrating the 70th anniversary of the event have been hit by the Coronavirus pandemic and affected perceptions and realities in ties. In fact, since May 5, 2020, Chinese and Indian troops were engaged in non-lethal aggressive action, face-offs and skirmishes at multiple locations along the border. Skirmishes have taken place near the Pangong Lake in Ladakh and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim.

To end the month-long impasse in eastern Ladakh, the first round of talks was held on June 6 between the military commanders of India and China. In this meeting, India sought restoration of status quo as in April-end. India also asked China to reduce its mobilisation near the Galwan valley. The Chinese side asked India to stop its road construction. However, India defended its stand saying that the construction was taking place inside the LAC, therefore there was no reason for China to object to the roadwork. Now, after Indian defence officials said Chinese troops were observed to have "thinned" out in at least four stand-off points, China says that "actions" were being taken by both sides in line with an "agreement" reached with India to "ameliorate the border situation." Several other rounds of talks among the militaries are expected to take place in the coming days at the border. This is a good development as the people of India want peace and expect the sovereignty of the country to remain intact. The citizens also expect the Government to keep them informed about the prevailing situation on the borders and within the country. The Government must act democratically and involve all political parties and, above all, the people of India in major decision-making processes.

There must be utmost transparency and the Government must be answerable for all its actions instead of putting the blame on past regimes. People also expect the media to be independent and not act under Government pressure or provide false or twisted information.

We Indians, in general, are a peace-loving people and want a solution for international disputes through diplomatic means. War, in any form, is not good for any country and must be the last resort. In view of the recent skirmishes with China, the parliamentary session should be immediately convened to discuss the issue threadbare in both houses of Parliament. The Government owes it to the nation.

(The writer is Member, Legislative Council of Uttar Pradesh)

**WHILE IN OPPOSITION, YOU USED TO PROTEST AND STAGE SIT-INS WITH WOMEN. NOW YOU HAVE WOMEN WORKING AT LIQUOR SHOPS. DOUBLE STANDARDS.**

—FORMER MADHYA PRADESH CM  
**KAMAL NATH**

**POINT COUNTERPOINT**



**THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WOMAN EMPLOYEE SELLING LIQUOR AND A WOMAN EMPLOYEE SUPERVISING SALE AS PER HER DEPARTMENTAL DUTY.**

—MADHYA PRADESH BJP LEADER  
**HITESH BAJPAI**

# In pursuit of self-reliance

If India's road to economic recovery and self-reliance is predicated on widening the bylanes of the 'local', how do we mobilise our universities to contribute to the mission?



GAUTAM CHOUBEY

In April, even as the country was in the grip of the global pandemic, the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) wrote to universities around the country, urging them to study India's response to the Spanish Flu and to identify those strategies from 1918 that might be replicated in the lockdown-exit plan. Further, the MHRD exhorted universities to set up dedicated research teams to survey the neighbouring villages for their awareness of COVID-19.

In spite of being sincere and noble, these directives tend to underscore, quite unintentionally, a couple of chronic oversights that our institutions have historically suffered from. Perhaps more so now, than in 1918. However, the contemporary clamour over the imperatives of online teaching, calls for technological upgradation of academic institutions, debates about equal access to e-learning portals and the long-term feasibility of such a learning model, given the low-to-moderate success of India's already sizeable distant learning programmes, have completely drowned out these other questions of greater import.

As our economy limps back to its routine after undergoing an extended hard lockdown from March 25, what precise roles and tasks should we delegate to our universities and research institutes? If India's road to economic recovery and self-reliance is predicated on widening the bylanes of the "local", how do we mobilise our universities to contribute to the mission?

Perhaps an honest acknowledgment of our shortcomings would be a useful plank to take off from. Of the two aforementioned instructions sent by the MHRD, the first draws upon an assumption that the older city universities, such as those in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Banaras, would have archives detailing the colonial administration's handling of the Spanish Flu epidemic.

Admittedly, as a people, we aren't too good at record-keeping. In spite of the annual reports and the college magazines, our educational institutions haven't really fared too well when it comes to documenting their own activities and achievements, let alone those of the Government and such. It is only in the last five or six years — thanks to the compulsion of submitting detailed reports to various accreditation bodies — that the process of meticulous documentation and archiving has come into effect.

The second directive, at least in theory, seeks to alert academic and research institutions to their own geo-cultural location. We must be candid in admitting that in a bid to have an exceedingly "national" character, Indian universities have often ignored the uniqueness of their respective locations. This oversight is more pronounced in the Central universities.

An engagement with the local — its needs, its history, its practices as well as its knowledge traditions — if harnessed well, would have reaped great dividends. Unfortunately, this remains a major omission both in syllabi and institutional outlook.

Before we assign responsibilities to our universities and seek to realign their priorities, we must address both of the aforementioned concerns. Further, we must begin by asking as to what it is that the "local" needs the most in these tumultuous times and in the uncertain future that we anticipate with much trepidation.

Here, the experience of Hollywood, probably one of the most spontaneous-yet-organised industries in the world, has an important lesson for us. Prior to the outbreak of the Spanish

“MECHANISMS FOR ROUTINE INTERACTIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND FACTORING IN THEIR FEEDBACK WHILE ASSIGNING RESEARCH GOALS MUST BE INSTITUTIONALISED. IF WE MUST SPEAK FOR THE LOCAL, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE KNOW ITS LANGUAGE TOO. THEN AND ONLY THEN CAN WE MOVE TOWARDS A RESURGENT INDIA THAT IS TRULY SELF-RELIANT”



Flu, the business of movie-making in the US thrived on a partnership of sorts between film-makers and independent exhibitors. The family-run "mom-and-pop" theatres, which had mushroomed throughout the US, had propelled the small-time local exhibitors on a somewhat level playing field with the big city-based producers.

However, once the prolonged lockdown threw the subsistence economy of these theatres into a spin, a man named Adolph Zukor, a Hungarian-American film producer, started preying on their vulnerability and launched a vicious acquisition drive. He bullied the theatre owners into selling off their assets at throwaway prices and established a total monopoly by extending his control over every link in the business chain.

Zukor succeeded in altering forever the participative character of the American film industry and turning it into a highly centralised trade that refused to factor in spaces outside Los Angeles. This structure of production and control that was set in place during the pandemic and has produced the likes of Harvey Weinstein remains virtually untouched till date.

As India aims for economic recovery through strategies of self-reliance and power to the small and cottage businesses, it must remain vigilant of such predatory monopolising tendencies. We need to guard our at-risk local players against hawkish forces that threatened to render them inconsequential.

This has to be done through a combination of financial assistance and skill upgradation. While the Government has announced a detailed economic package, a roadmap for recalibrating the retreating workforce towards the needs of the rural economy remains to be thrashed out.

It is precisely in this context that the role of universities in post-COVID India may be best framed. Universities must start by identifying problems specific to the workforce and businesses around their locations, devise contin-

gency measures to help them survive the immediate crisis and, in the long run, find ways to enable them to contribute robustly to our economic revival.

To this effect, the following suggestions may be of interest. First, the massive labour movement in the weeks following the lockdown has propelled back into the limelight certain constituents of our economy that were becoming increasingly invisible. After decades of focus on heavy industries, mega infrastructure projects, IT hubs and the service sector, we are once again looking at the rural economy and agriculture.

Under the circumstances, it is important that our universities, agricultural research institutes and departments of agriculture, horticulture and botany leverage their research output to the local farmers. This, in turn, would entail training a batch of individuals from the nearby villages who, by virtue of being familiar with both scientific terminologies and the local idiom, can establish a bridge between researchers at a regional centre and the farming community that thrives in its vicinity.

A successful model for such an enterprise has already been put in place by an Odisha-based organisation called Back to Village (B2V). Through its chain of Unnat Krishi Kendras, which provide scientific training to young farmers and college graduates with roots in the villages, B2V has succeeded in establishing a dialogue among universities, researchers and farmers.

It will be expected of the universities to find ways to open up such knowledge traffic and further diversify the scope of their outreach to other aspects of the agricultural economy such as food processing, packaging, warehousing, transportation and so on.

Second, universities must try to read the sociology of the regional economy by extensively mapping and documenting local business trends, practices, market orientations and gaps in the production chain.

Besides being of immense value to policymakers, both at times of crisis (the current one and in the future) and otherwise, such data would embolden the universities themselves to launch short-term skill enhancement courses, bearing in mind the specific needs of the local workforce.

Easing age-restriction and other admission-linked eligibilities will promote learning opportunities outside the curriculum and extend them to those learners, who aren't necessarily a part of the regular academic programmes. This will go a long way in empowering the migrant population that has swarmed backed to the villages and is now staring at joblessness and a bleak future.

Third, on the strength of the aforementioned data, each university must endeavour to establish at least one centre dedicated exclusively to local history, trends and resources. For example, universities in States like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh can establish centres for the promotion of the tribal economy, while those in Punjab and Haryana can focus on sports.

By providing market linkages, devising strategies for product-promotion, organising trader-policymaker meets and continuously leveraging their in-house research findings, such centres may trigger new business trends that would be naturally sustainable and might even prevent large-scale migration to urban centres once the pandemic ends.

However, in a bid to become "vocal for local", institutions must not end up usurping the local's right to speak for itself. Mechanisms for routine interactions with stakeholders from the local community and factoring in their feedback while assigning research goals must be institutionalised. If we must speak for the local, it is imperative that we know its language too. Then and only then can we move towards a resurgent India that is truly self-reliant.

(The writer teaches English at Delhi University)

# The best time for a new world is now

One thing is for sure, the old way of life is gone forever. One has no option but to adapt, innovate and try something new



RAVI CHANDER KOCHHAR

The pandemic has affected the world in more ways than one. Economies of nations are in shambles due to the Corona-enforced lockdowns. The world has seen major job losses in each sector. And with the global death toll touching 4,24,333, countries are even finding it difficult to arrange for last rites, particularly as many near and dear ones have refused to

accept bodies of Coronavirus victims. The State is left shouldering the burden of funerals of the dead and livelihood doles for the living. As of today, social distancing is the only effective method to control further spread of the contagion and countries are struggling to open up their economies while dealing with the threat of community spread.

However, we should learn to make the best of what is available to us and come up with innovative ideas that will work during this time. Online education has come to stay and will require more innovative methods, be it teaching, learning or conducting examinations. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) are in for a quantum jump and these areas will require many specialists and offer millions

of jobs. E-libraries can also be considered in this domain.

The digital economy has plenty of jobs to offer. With social distancing becoming the new normal, people will increasingly resort to the use of digital transactions and developing different applications will require many specialists. As online buying and selling become more rampant, they would require innovative advertising, too.

Another demand will be in the field of alternate energy. Keeping in view the need for keeping pollution levels low now that they have been brought under control by the lockdown, more and more people will switch to solar energy. Solar cars will also be in demand in the near future and all this will require designing, manufacturing and marketing skills.

While restaurants and roadside eateries may take longer to reopen and business will be a bit slow to pick up even when they do, home delivery of food items is likely to see a spurt in times to come as people will be a little reluctant to venture into crowded places. Online cooking classes, too, will be the order of the day as food styling is very much in demand these days.

While the global tourism industry is likely to remain severely affected, domestic tourism is expected to pick up once the lockdown is completely eased across the country. But most of it is likely to be restricted to areas within driving distance as people will most avoid unnecessary train and plane travel.

The gig economy was doing well even before the pandemic struck

and is likely to boom now. One can be a "one stop shop" even for major projects and take the help of other specialists as and when required.

Once the scare of the Corona outbreak is over, everyone is going to be much more careful about their health, including improving their immune system. This will ensure that associated industries in the healthcare domain will be in demand and will have to gear up to cope with this sudden spurt.

Surely the market for healthcare and personalised gym equipment will also witness an upward trajectory. Additionally, the demand for alternate medicines such as ayurveda, homeopathy and so on will increase manifold. Further, yoga will become even more popular and more experts and specialists in

these areas will be required.

One can also consider upgrading one's knowledge and skills as there are a number of online courses available right now, some even for free.

As they say, there is always a silver lining in every dark cloud. One should just learn to evolve and innovate and consider some of the new options available now and find as many positive alternates to deal with these trying times as possible.

One thing is for sure, the old way of life is gone forever. One has no option but to adapt, innovate and try something new and different. The question is when and the answer to that is: The best time is now.

(The writer is an Indian Navy veteran)



**FOREIGN EYE**



## A GOVERNANCE CRISIS IN UK

An administration that values propaganda over governance and ideological purity over honesty is ill-suited to a public health crisis. The British Prime Minister is the most prominent face of that failure, but his weakness is further exposed by the flimsy Cabinet. Behind the Coronavirus crisis is a crisis of Government that must be solved soon.

(The Guardian editorial)

LONDON

# Gandhi, Mandela, Churchill statues boarded up ahead of protests

**London:** The statue of Mahatma Gandhi in London's Parliament Square is among several monuments being covered and boarded up here ahead of another set of planned protests, which erupted after the custodial killing of African-American George Floyd.

The steps below Gandhi's statue and the sculpture of former UK Prime Minister Winston Churchill nearby were among those targeted with graffiti during anti-racism Black Lives Matter protests last weekend, which ended in violent clashes between demonstrators and police officers on duty.

More clashes are feared this weekend as anti-racist groups as well as far-right bodies are planning rival demonstrations in the UK capital.

The statue of Winston Churchill in Parliament Square is a permanent reminder of his achievement in saving this country — and the whole of Europe — from a fascist and racist tyranny," UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a Twitter statement, as he urged people to stay away from further protests amid fears of more violence.

"It is absurd and shameful that this national monument should today be at risk of attack by violent protestors. Yes, he sometimes expressed opinions that were and are unacceptable to us today, but he was a hero, and he fully deserves his memorial," he said.

Johnson said that while he understands the "legitimate



The statue of the Scouting Movement Robert Baden-Powell is boarded up by the local council in Poole Quay, England on Friday

feelings of outrage" at the custodial death of Floyd, a 46-year-old man who died after a white police officer knelt on his neck in Minneapolis on May 25, the protests held in the UK in solidarity have been "hijacked by extremists" intent on violence.

"The attacks on the police and indiscriminate acts of violence which we have witnessed over the last week are intolerable and they are abhorrent. The attacks on the police and indiscriminate acts of violence which we have witnessed over the last week are intolerable and they are abhorrent," he said.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan

also urged Londoners to stay away from the protests, with fears of clashes between anti-racism and far-right demonstrators.

"I'm extremely concerned that further protests in central London not only risk spreading COVID-19, but could lead to disorder, vandalism and violence. Extreme far-right groups who advocate hatred and division are planning counter-protests, which means that the risk of disorder is high," said Khan.

"Be in no doubt these counter-protests are there to provoke violence, and their

only goal is to distract and hijack this important issue. Staying home and ignoring them is the best response this weekend," he said.

Khan confirmed that the Metropolitan Police were working on a "robust" policing plan to keep Londoners safe and to prevent disorder, including covering up key landmarks.

"Together with our partners, we are ensuring that key statues and monuments at risk, including the Cenotaph, Winston Churchill and Nelson Mandela, are covered and protected," he said.

## 'No-knock' warrants banned in Louisville

**Louisville (US):** The use of controversial "no-knock" warrants has been banned in Louisville, and the new ordinance named for Breonna Taylor, who was fatally shot after officers burst into her home.

The city's Metro Council unanimously voted Thursday night to ban the controversial warrants after days of protests and calls for reform.

Taylor, who was studying to become a nurse, was shot eight times by officers conducting a narcotics investigation on March 13. No drugs were found at her home. "I'm just going to

say, Breonna, that's all she wanted to do was save lives, so with this law she will continue to get to do that," Taylor's mother, Tamika Palmer, said after the law was passed.

"She would be so happy," The law bans the use of the warrants by Louisville Metro officers. Police typically use them in drug cases over concern that evidence could be destroyed if they announce their arrival.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul also introduced federal legislation Thursday that would ban the use of no-knock warrants nationwide. AP

## Trump rally on Juneteenth in Tulsa called 'slap in the face'

**Oklahoma City:** Black community and political leaders are calling on President Donald Trump to at least change the date of an Oklahoma rally kicking-starting his return to public campaigning, saying that holding the event on Juneteenth, the day that marks the end of slavery in America, is a "slap in the face."

Trump campaign officials discussed in advance the possible reaction to the Juneteenth date, but there are no plans to change it despite fierce blowback. California Sen. Kamala Harris and Tulsa civic officials were among the black leaders who said it was offensive for Trump to pick that day — June 19 — and that place — Tulsa, an

Oklahoma city that in 1921 was the site of a fiery and orchestrated white-on-black attack.

"This isn't just a wink to white supremacists — he's throwing them a welcome home party," Harris, a leading contender to be Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden's running mate, tweeted of Trump's rally plans.

"To choose the date, to come to Tulsa, is totally disrespectful and a slap in the face to even happen," said Sherry Gamble Smith, president of Tulsa's Black Wall Street Chamber of Commerce, an organization named after the prosperous black community that white Oklahomans burned down in the 1921 attack. AP

## Dutch activists use red spray paint on statue

**Rotterdam:** Dutch activists have spray painted the words "killer" and "thief" and daubed red paint on a statue of a man from the 17th-century Golden Era of Dutch trade and colonial expansion.

A municipal worker was removing the paint from the statue of Piet Hein in Rotterdam on Friday, amid a wave of vandalism on statues of historical figures in the United States and Europe.

Hein is best known for leading a Dutch naval action in

1628 that captured a Spanish treasure fleet near Cuba. A group calling itself "Heroes of Never" in Dutch claimed responsibility, saying in a statement Hein was "a key figure in clearing the way for trans-Atlantic human trade in enslaved West Africans."

The death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers has sparked a re-examination of the actions of historical men, who often were exalted in the form of statues and other memorials. AP



A municipal worker used a high pressure water cleaner to remove the paint from the statue of Piet Hein in Rotterdam, Netherlands on Friday

## COVID-19 OUTBREAK

### Around the Globe

**London:** Three airlines have launched legal action against the British government, describing the country's plan to quarantine most incoming travelers as "flawed." British Airways, easyJet and Ryanair say in a statement Friday that the quarantine will have a "devastating effect" on tourism and the wider economy. The airlines want the government to readopt its previous policy, where quarantine was limited to passengers from high risk countries.

**Seoul:** South Korea is reporting 56 new cases of COVID-19 as the country continues to see a resurgence of the virus concentrated in the capital area.

**Kathmandu:** Nepal on Friday reported its highest single-day spike in COVID-19 cases with 448 new infections, taking the total virus count to over 5,000.

**Male (Maldives):** The Maldives will further relax coronavirus restrictions from Monday, allowing people to leave their homes during daytime. The Indian Ocean archipelago known for high-end resorts has reported 1,976 cases and eight deaths.

## Ukraine's first lady tests +ve



**Kiev:** The wife of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy says she is infected with the novel coronavirus.

First lady Olena Zelenska wrote in an Instagram post on Friday that her husband and their children have tested negative.

She said she feels good, is receiving outpatient treatment and is isolated from her family "in order not to put them in danger".

Ukraine has so far reported over 29,000 confirmed coronavirus cases, including 870 deaths.

The Government started gradually easing lockdown restrictions in late May with the resumption of public transportation and the reopening of malls and gyms. AP

## Extreme poverty could rise to over 1bn people globally due to virus: Report

**New York:** Global poverty could rise to over one billion people due to the Covid-19 pandemic and more than half of the 395 million additional extreme poor would be located in South Asia, which would be the hardest-hit region in the world, according to a new report.

Researchers from King's College London and Australian National University published the new paper with the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) said that poverty is likely to increase dramatically in middle-income developing countries and there could be a significant change in the distribution of global poverty.

The location of global poverty could shift back towards developing countries in South Asia and East Asia, the report said. The paper, 'Precarity and

the Pandemic: Covid-19 and Poverty Incidence, Intensity and Severity in Developing Countries,' finds that extreme poverty could rise to over 1 billion people globally as a result of the crisis.

The cost of the crisis in lost income could reach \$500 million per day for the world's poorest people, and the intensity and severity of poverty are likely to be exacerbated dramatically.

The report said that based on the \$1.90 a day poverty line and a 20 per cent contraction, more than half of the 395 million additional extreme poor would be located in South Asia, which would become the hardest hit region in the world — "mainly driven by the weight of populous India" — followed by sub-Saharan Africa which would comprise 30 per cent, or 119 million, of the additional poor. The report added that as

the value of the poverty line increases, a larger share of the additional poor will be concentrated in regions where the corresponding poverty line is more relevant given the average income level. For instance, the regional distribution of the world's poor changes drastically when looking at the \$ 5.50 a day poverty line — the median poverty line among upper-middle-income countries.

At this level, almost 41 per cent of the additional half a billion poor under a 20 per cent contraction scenario would live in East Asia and the Pacific, chiefly China; a fourth would still reside in South Asia; and a combined 18 per cent would live in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), whose individual shares are close to that recorded for sub-Saharan Africa. AP

## Hong Kong protest marks anniversary of violent police clash

**Hong Kong:** More than 100 protesters in Hong Kong marched and shouted slogans during a lunchtime protest Friday in a luxury shopping mall, marking the one year anniversary of a clash with police outside the semi-autonomous Chinese city's legislature.

Protesters marched through the mall in the Admiralty business district holding flags that read "Hong Kong Independence" and shouting "stand for Freedom, stand with Hong Kong."

Protesters sang the protest anthem "Glory to Hong Kong" and a large banner was laid out with a Chinese saying meaning "The people fear not death, why threaten them with it?" The demonstrators were commemorating last year's event in which tens of thousands of protesters surrounded the legislative building and stalled the reading of an extradition bill that would have



AP Photo

allowed criminal suspects to be sent to mainland China to stand trial. Police deployed tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the protesters, one of the first violent clashes in what would become a monthslong push for greater democracy.

The protest movement quieted down earlier this year as the coronavirus pandemic began, but picked up steam in recent weeks after China's ceremonial parliament decided to enact a new national security law for Hong Kong, a former British colony. AP

## Official: Bomb explodes in Kabul mosque, at least 4 dead

**Kabul:** A bomb exploded Friday inside a mosque in western Kabul, killing at least four people, including the prayer leader, and wounding eight, an Afghan government official said.

Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian said the bomb had been placed inside the mosque but had no additional details. Police cordoned off the area and helped move the wounded to ambulances and nearby hospitals. No one took immediate responsibility but a mosque attack earlier this month was claimed by the Islamic State group's affiliate. The Taliban issued a statement condemning the attack and calling the death of the prayer leader a "great crime." Azizullah Mofleh Frotan was among the city's more prominent prayer leaders. Violence has spiked in recent weeks in Afghanistan, with most of the attacks claimed by the IS affiliate, headquartered in the eastern Nangarhar province. AP

## Prosecutors question Italian PM over slow virus lockdowns

**Rome:** Prosecutors went to question Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte on Friday about the lack of a coronavirus lockdown on two towns in northern Italy's Lombardy region that became one of the hardest-hit areas of the country's outbreak.

Doctors and virologists have said the two-week delay in quarantining Alzano and Nembro helped allow the virus to spread in Bergamo province, which saw a 571% increase in excess deaths in March compared with the average of the previous five years.

Lead prosecutor Maria

Cristina Rota arrived with a team of aides morning at the premier's office in Rome, Palazzo Chigi, on Friday morning. In addition to Conte, she is expected to question the health and interior ministers. In previous days, Rota has interviewed the head of the Superior Institute of Health.

To date, no one has been placed under investigation and it's unclear what, if any, criminal responsibility might be assigned to public officials for decisions taken or not in the onetime epicentre of Europe's outbreak. AP

## Pak reports record single day spike in Covid-19 infections: Health Min

**Islamabad:** Pakistan has reported 6,397 new coronavirus cases on Thursday, the highest single day spike, taking the total number of infections in the country to 1,25,933, the Health Ministry said on Friday.

The new record single day spike was reported on a day when the Pakistan government was to present the budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year in Parliament after showing dismal negative 0.38 per cent Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in the outgoing year, for which the officials have blamed

the coronavirus outbreak among the main reasons.

The Ministry of National Health Services reported that 107 patients died of coronavirus during the last 24 hours. A total of 40,247 patients have recovered from the contagious infection so far.

Punjab province has reported 47,382 patients of coronavirus, Sindh 46,828, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa 15,787, Balochistan 7,673, Islamabad 6,699, Gilgit-Baltistan 1,030 and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir reported 534 cases till now, the health ministry said. PTI

## Twitter removes China-linked accounts spreading false news

**London:** Twitter has removed a vast network of accounts that it says is linked to the Chinese government and were pushing false information favorable to the country's communist rulers. Beijing denied involvement Friday and said the company should instead take down accounts smearing China.

The US social media company suspended 23,750 accounts that were posting pro-Beijing narratives, and another 150,000 accounts dedicated to retweeting and amplifying those messages.

The network was engaged "in a range of coordinated and manipulated activities" in predominantly Chinese languages, including praise for China's response to the coronavirus pandemic and "deceptive narratives" about Hong Kong pro-democracy protests, the company said. The accounts also tweeted about two other topics: Taiwan and Guo Wengui, an exiled billionaire waging a campaign from New York against China's president and party leader Xi Jinping and his administration. AP

**RAJASTHAN SKILL & LIVELIHOODS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
EMI Campus, J-8-B, Jhalana Industrial Area, Jaipur-302004,  
Phone : 0141-2708150, E-Mail : md.rslde-ri@nic.in

F. No. :- RSLDC/Adm/HR Hiring/2019-20/16881 Dated :- 11/06/2020

**NIB No. RSLDC/Service for Service Point/1.73 Cr./OCB/2020/1**  
**SERVICES OF SERVICE POINTS ON JOB BASIS**

RSLDC invites two cover Bid online from the eligible Bidders for providing the services of service points on job basis. The last date & time for submission of bid is 01.07.2020 up to 06.00 PM. Bid document and other related information can be downloaded from the websites :-  
i) [www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) ii) [www.livelihoods.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.livelihoods.rajasthan.gov.in)  
iii) <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>

Category	Total Estimated Service Points cost	Bid Security	Bid Document Fee	Bid Processing Fee
Service points (Approx 97)	Rs. 173.51 lacs	Rs. 3.47 lacs	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 1000/-

Raj.Samwad/C/20/1011 General Manager (Admin)

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**1st Corrigendum**

Name of work : Selection of Agency for Social Media Services and Media Analysis for Northern Railway.

Description	As per Original NIT	1st Corrigendum
Approximate Total Cost of Service/Work	₹2,91,60,000/- per annum	
Earnest Money amount	₹2,95,800/- (Rs. Two Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Eight Hundred only)	
Cost of Application Form	₹10,000/- + 18% GST = Rs. 11,800/- Non refundable	
Last Date of downloading Application Form from NR's Official Website/ purchase from PR Office	Up to 12:00 hrs. on 19.06.2020	Postponed till further order
Last Date/Time of submitting of Application	Up to 15:00 hrs. 19.06.2020	
Date & Time of Opening of Applications	On 19.06.2020 at 15:30 hrs. onwards	
Venue for Application Submission and Application Opening	CPRO Office, State Entry Road, NDCR Building, New Delhi-110055	
Website Particulars and published open tender notice and complete details of terms & conditions of tender can be seen and downloaded from website	<a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a>	

No. : 5/PR/Social Media/2019 Dated : 11.06.2020 1352/20

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

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

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender 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) & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A) 1. 16/GM(K)/SM-WC-10/ET/2020-21, Name of Work :- D/o & M/o Village (M/o Barat Ghar in Village - Garhi Samastipur) Noida. Cost - Rs. 34.87 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 29.06.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 30.06.2020 at 11:00 AM.

General Manager  
NOIDA

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

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Sanjna D/o Kailash Parsad R/o H No. F-2/5, Sultan Puri, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped since 02.02.2020 from the area of P.S. Raj Park, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 42-A** dated **02.02.2020** has been registered at P.S. Raj Park, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under :

**Name:** Sanjna, **Father's Name:** Kailash Parsad, **Age:** 18 years, **Height:** 5'4", **Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Navy Blue Jacket, Blue Jeans and Shoes in feet. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

**SHO P.S., Raj Park, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-27910070**  
**27910071**

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Fax : 011-24368639  
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641

DP/143/OD/2020

**AXIS BANK** Axis Bank Limited, Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wshtown, Noida (U.P.) 201301, Agri Business center at - Axis Bank Ltd., SCF 94, Sector 6, Karnal 132001. Controlling Office: Axis House, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025.

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 03-07-2020 at 12 Noon at Axis House, Tower-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wshtown, Noida (U.P.) 201301 for recovery of Rs. 1,80,35,297/- pending till 10/06/2020 along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred up to the date of actual payment and/or realization due to the secured creditor from Mrs. Raj Bala w/o Sh. Prem Chand. The reserve price will be Rs. 1,40,00,000/- and the earnest money deposit will be Rs. 14,00,000/-. Last Date, Time And Venue For Submission Of Bids With Sealed Offer/ Tender With EMD on 02-07-2020 at the above mentioned address.

Account Number	Location/Details of the Immovable Property/Secured Assets possessed and put for sale	Encumbrances, if any known to the Bank.
OD - Facility (916030063396451.9 16030012620804 & 916030012620176)	All Piece & Parcels of Freehold commercial shop bearing no. 2038, measuring 158 Sq Yards out of total 316 Sq. yards situated at Village Narela, Delhi 110040 owned by Mrs. Raj Bala w/o Sh. Prem Chand.	NO

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. <https://www.axisbank.com/auaction-notices/>  
Date : 13-06-2020  
Place : Noida, UP

Sd/-, Authorized Officer,  
Axis Bank Ltd.

# Govt releases part of CPI data

## Food inflation up 9.28% in May

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the lockdown, the Government on Friday released only a part of the retail inflation data, which indicates that food prices have gone up by 9.28 per cent in May.

"All India year-on-year inflation rates for Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) for the month of May 2020 for Rural, Urban and Combined sector are 9.69 per cent, 8.36 per cent and 9.28 per cent respectively," said an official press release.

In May 2019, the food inflation was 1.83 per cent as per the full CPI data released for that period.

The Government for the second month in a row released the truncated data on retail inflation in the backdrop of the lockdown following COVID-19 pandemic. For April also, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had released a truncated CPI data. The Government had

imposed the lockdown from March 25, 2020 to curb the spread of coronavirus. The lockdown adversely affected economic activities in the country.

In a statement, the National Statistical Office (NSO) in the ministry said that in view of the continued limited transactions of products in the market in May, 2020 as well, it has been decided to release the price movement of sub-groups/groups of CPI, following the principles of adequacy as indicated in the CPI release for the month of April 2020.

"The price of only those items were included, which have been reported from at least 25 per cent of markets, separately for rural and urban sector and constituted more than 70 per cent weight of the respective sub-groups/groups," it said.

Also, the all India indices have been compiled using direct approach by considering a common market at the national level in both rural and urban sectors separately.

# Govt holds back full IIP data for April

New Delhi: The Government on Friday held back the release of complete data of index of industrial production for April, saying it is not appropriate to compare the IIP data with earlier months due to COVID-19 lockdown.

An official statement showed that the IIP — which measures factory output in the country — stood at 56.3 points in April, 2020 compared to 126

in the same month a year ago.

"In view of the preventive measures and announcement of nationwide lockdown by the government to contain spread of COVID-19 pandemic, majority of the industrial sector establishments were not operating from the end of March, 2020 onwards.

"This has had an impact on the items being produced by the establishments during the

month of April, 2020, where a number of responding units have reported NIL production," Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said in the statement issued on Friday.

Consequently, it is not appropriate to compare the IIP of April, 2020 with earlier months and users may like to observe the changes in IIP in the following months. PTI

# India's forex reserves jump \$8.22 bn; cross half-a-trillion mark for first time

Mumbai: The country's foreign exchange reserves crossed the half-a-trillion mark for the first time after it surged by massive USD 8.22 billion in the week ended June 5, according to the latest data from the RBI.

The reserves rose to USD 501.70 billion in the reporting week helped by a whopping rise in foreign currency assets (FCA).

In the previous week ended May 29, the reserves had increased by USD 3.44 billion to USD 493.48 billion.

In the week ended June 5, FCA, which is a major component of the overall reserves, rose USD 8.42 billion to USD 463.63 billion. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The gold reserves declined by USD 329 million to USD 32.352 billion in the reporting week, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

In the reporting week, the special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were up by USD 10 million to USD 1.44 billion. PTI

# Issue of requirement of storage licence at loading plants of NMDC Ltd in C'garh

Raipur: In certain sections of media it has been reported that Chhattisgarh Government on Thursday disallowed NMDC to carry out Iron Ore storage, loading in its Bailadila Mines at Dantewada District. Though there is no written communication from the State Government, however, it has been reported that NMDC has not obtained storage licenses for its Loading Plants.

NMDC will place all the relevant facts and legal position before the State Government to resolve the issue amicably.

NMDC is having a long association of more than 60 years with the people of Chhattisgarh and is committed to serve the State and its people in years to come.

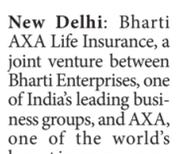
# Temporary closure of PRS enquiry during intervening night of June 13, 14

New Delhi: Due to activity of Static and dynamic database compression, all the services of Delhi PRS i.e. reservation, cancellation, charting, internet booking, PRS enquiry on telephone no. 139 and Electronic Deposit Receipt (EDR) services will not be available for three hours and thirty minutes during the intervening night of 13/14.06.2020 i.e. from 11.45 p.m. on 13.06.2020 to 03.15 a.m. on 14.06.2020 approximately.

# RBI to review guidelines on ownership, corporate structure of pvt banks

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank on Friday proposed to review the guidelines on ownership, governance and corporate structure of private sector banks in the backdrop of key developments in the space in the recent years. The five-member internal working group to review the guidelines will be headed by RBI Central Board Director PK Mohanty, the central bank said in a release. PTI

# Bharti AXA Life insurance posts 17% growth in renewal premium to ₹1,359 crore in FY2019-20



New Delhi: Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises, one of India's leading business groups, and AXA, one of the world's largest insurance companies, said the company registered 17 per cent growth in its renewal premium to ₹1,359 crore for the year ended March 31, 2020, from ₹5,699 crore as on March 31, 2019.

Parag Raja, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Bharti AXA Life Insurance, said, "We grew and registered steady performance on many business parameters in the financial year 2019-20, despite the disruption caused by the spread of Coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent lockdown in the crucial month of March, which adversely affected the domestic life insurance industry in terms of new business."

period a year ago. Asset under management witnessed a surge of 21 per cent to ₹6,902 crore in for the year ended March 31, 2020, from ₹5,699 crore as on March 31, 2019.

The total premium income grew 5 per cent to ₹2,187 crore in the financial year 2019-20 from ₹2,076 crore in 2018-19. The company said its new business premium income stood at ₹829 crore in the financial year 2019-20, as compared to ₹911 crore in the corresponding fiscal

WESTERN RAILWAY					
VARIOUS ENGINEERING NON-SUBURBAN WORKS					
Divisional Railway Manager(WA), Western Railway, 6 <sup>th</sup> floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. invites E-tender as per details given as follows.					
Sr. No.	Tender No. & Date	WORK AND LOCATION	Approx. cost of work in ₹	EMD in ₹	
1	BCT/20-21/129 dt.12.06.2020	Virar - Joravasani Section:- House keeping of officers rest house at Gholvad & Dahanu Road for a period of Two Years.	30,27,536.56	60,600/-	
2	BCT/20-21/130 dt.12.06.2020	Virar - Joravasani Section:- Hiring of Multi-Utility vehicle for SSE(W)/Vaisad for a period of two year under Sr.DEN/North/BCT.	10,48,037.43	21,000/-	
3	BCT/20-21/131 dt.12.06.2020	Virar - Joravasani Section:- Hiring of Multi-Utility vehicle for SSE(W)/Dahanu Road for a period of two year under Sr.DEN/North/BCT.	10,48,037.43	21,000/-	
4	BCT/20-21/132 dt.12.06.2020	Virar - Joravasani Section:- Chlorination of drinking water under jurisdiction of SSE/W/DRD. (For Two years).	34,15,340.00	68,300/-	
5	BCT/20-21/133 dt.12.06.2020	Virar - Joravasani Section:- TRR(P)=9.228km & TFR=20.900km in connection of sanctioned track work (i) TRR(P)=14.503km (ii) TBR=65.587km, TFR=18kms & TFR=24.537kms.	1,37,44,980.83	2,18,700/-	
6	BCT/20-21/134 dt.12.06.2020	Virar - Joravasani Section:- CTR(S/P)=7.234km in connection of sanctioned work CTR(S/P)=15.524km.	1,37,60,488.07	2,18,800/-	
7	BCT/20-21/135 dt.12.06.2020	Virar - Joravasani Section:- TTR(P)=79Nos. In connection of sanctioned TTR(P)=119Nos.	83,20,908.92	1,66,400/-	

Sr. No. : 1 to 4 : Date & Time of Submission : 07.07.2020 till 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening : 07.07.2020 till 15.30 hrs. Sr. No. : 5 to 7 : Date of Submission : 14.07.2020 till 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening : 14.07.2020 till 15.30 hrs. Regarding detailed tender conditions please visit [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in)

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हरियाणा सरकार						
TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./A UTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HEALTH DEPARTMENT HARYANA	LED LIGHTS & FANS	12.06.2020 27.06.2020	EMD 30000/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2562199 gh6plk@gmail.com
2	FOREST PANIPAT	PLANTATION STATE SCHEM 20 HA.5 RKM + 3 OTHER WORKS	10.06.2020 15.06.2020	81.16 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0180-2650331 dfpanipat04@yahoo.co.in
3	FOREST PANIPAT	MAINTENANCE OF PLANTATION STATE SCHEME 51 HA. 25 RKM + 3 OTHER WORKS	10.06.2020 16.06.2020	61.74 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	dfpanipat04@yahoo.co.in
4	HEALTH HISAR	REGARDING OUTSOURCING OF CLEANING, SANITATION, WARD SERVANT/GDA, HORTICULTURE (MALL), LAUNDRY (DOH), ELECTRICAL WORK, PLUMBER, COMPUTER OPERATORS SERVICES ETC. FOR HEALTH INSTITUTION OF DISTRICT HISAR	12.06.2020 22.06.2020	As per DNIT Guidelines	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	CIVIL SURGEON
5	PWD B&R BRANCH, HISAR	SPECIAL REPAIR OF HARITA SCHOOL APP. ROAD (RD 0.00 TO 0.255) IN HISAR DISTT (ROAD ID 4778) -RECALL	17.06.2020 30.06.2020	14.12 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	Executive Engineer 01748-253895
6	WCD GHARAUNDA	TRANSPORTATION/ LOADING/ UNLOADING OF RAW MATERIAL (FOOD ITEMS) FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 TENDER ID: 2020_HRY_131509_1	12.06.2020 21.06.2020	8.5 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	panjiriplantwcdgharaunda@yahoo.co.in
7	PWD B&R ELECTRICAL DIVISION HISAR	CONSTRUCTION GRAMIN NAYALAYA AT RANIA IN DISTT. SIRSA (PDG. E.1 INTERNAL ONLY) + 1 OTHER WORK	15.06.2020 29.06.2020	25.72 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01662-225651 pwd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in
8	FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HARYANA	PURCHASE OF CAT FISH SEED FINGERLING FOR GOVT. FISH SEED FARMS & INDIAN MAJOR CARP FISH SPAWN	19.06.2020 22.06.2020	1000/-	<a href="http://www.harfish.gov.in">www.harfish.gov.in</a>	97114-33362
9	PHIE KARNAL	A/MTC. ESTIMATE FOR SEWERAGE SCHEME GHARAUNDA TOWN + 1 OTHER WORK	12.06.2020 26.06.2020	305.04 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0184-2266004 eepkarnal@gmail.com
10	PWD (B&R), JIND	SUPPLY FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION OF SELF SUPPORTED ARCH SHAPE GALVALUME SHEET ROOFING ON THE APPROACHES OF RUM ON JIND PANIPAT LINE CROSSING RAJBAHA NO. 7 IN JIND DISTT. CB ANOUNCEMENT CODE NO. 9748 DATED 26.12.2014.	CLOSING DATE 02.07.2020	59.39 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01681-249416 pwd-eeep-jind@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 81243

हरियाणा सरकार					
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE					
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN ROHTAK	45/CCR/2019-20 (2020_HBC_115998_1)	Previous date of Closing: 10.06.2020 Previous date of opening: 11.06.2020 Scheduled date of Closing: 25.06.2020 Scheduled date of Opening: 26.06.2020	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xencilubhvnrohtak@gmail.com
2	UHBVN ROHTAK	46/CCR/2019-20 (2020_HBC_116012_1)	Previous date of Closing: 10.06.2020 Previous date of opening: 11.06.2020 Scheduled date of Closing: 25.06.2020 Scheduled date of Opening: 26.06.2020	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xencilubhvnrohtak@gmail.com
3	UHBVN ROHTAK	51/CCR/2019-20 (2020_HBC_116045_1)	Previous date of Closing: 10.06.2020 Previous date of opening: 11.06.2020 Scheduled date of Closing: 25.06.2020 Scheduled date of Opening: 26.06.2020	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xencilubhvnrohtak@gmail.com
4	UHBVN ROHTAK	55/CCR/2019-20 (2020_HBC_117087_1)	Previous date of Closing: 10.06.2020 Previous date of opening: 11.06.2020 Scheduled date of Closing: 25.06.2020 Scheduled date of Opening: 26.06.2020	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xencilubhvnrohtak@gmail.com
5	DHBNV, HISAR	NIT NO. 42/R-APDRP/FMS/2020 DATED 13.04.2020 &E-TENDER NO - 2020_HBC_126106	Date extended upto : 18.06.2020 (13:00 Hrs) Opening Date : 19.06.2020 (15:30 Hrs)	<a href="http://www.dhbnv.org.in">www.dhbnv.org.in</a>	01662-223194 serapdrp@dhbnv.org.in
6	HPGCL, HISAR	2020_HBC_127222_1 NIT NO.312/RGTPP/MM-I/TOE-4268 DT. 29.04.2020	Corrigendum -1st Due Date of Bid submission 12.06.2020 up to 17:00 Hrs Opening is 17.06.2020 up to 15:00 Hrs. Supply of Transducers at RGTPP, Khedar, Hisar	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	8222023551 mm2.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
7	HPGCL, HISAR	2020_HBC_124657_1 NIT NO.321/RGTPP/MM-I/TOE-12460 DT. 20.03.2020	Corrigendum -3rd Due Date of Bid submission 17.06.2020 up to 15:00 Hrs Opening is 22.06.2020 up to 15:30 Hrs. Supply of various consumables for AHP at RGTPP, Khedar, Hisar	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9315164637 mm1.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
8	HPGCL,PANIPAT	(NIT NO.PTP/POM-100048) TENDER ID 2020_HBC_116734_1	Start date 31.01.2020 at 18:00 Hrs. & Last date 24.06.2020 at 15:00 Hrs	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a>	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
9	HPGCL,PANIPAT	(NIT NO. PTP/POM-300007) TENDER ID NO. 2019_HBC_125176_1	Start dt.25.03.2020 at 18:00 hrs. & Closing dt.01.07.2020 at 13:00 hrs	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a>	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
10	HPGCL,PANIPAT	(NIT NO. PTP-POM-111851) TENDER ID NO. 2019_HBC_127891_1	Start date 07.05.2020 at 18:00 Hrs. & End date 25.06.2020 at 13:00 Hrs	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a>	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in) RO NO. 81224

हरियाणा सरकार						
TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HPGCL, PANIPAT	(NIT NO.94/C.LAB/2020-22)	08.06.2020 07.07.2020	50.34 LACS	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a>	0180-2566015 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
2	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SIRSA	PREPARATION DPR I/C ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS/ WORKING DRAWINGS STRUCTURAL DESIGN/ DRAWING (DULY VETTED FROM RECOGNIZED INSTITUTE/ UNIVERSITY) ALONG WITH SUB GEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF ANY KIND, SUPERVISION OF THE PROJECT TILL COMPLETION AND DETAILED	11.06.2020 18.06.2020	EMD 50000/-	<a href="http://etenderharyana.hry.nic.in">etenderharyana.hry.nic.in</a>	9416136242
3	HVPNL HISAR.	SUPPLYING AND SPREADING OF GRAVEL FOR 40/50MVA 220/132 KV T/F, 33 KV BAY D5-D8 AND 132 KV BAY B-5,B-6 AT 132KV SUB-STATION KAIRU.	CLOSING DATE 01.07.2020	4.01 LACS	<a href="http://www.hvpng.org.in">www.hvpng.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 pro@hvpng.org.in
4	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BAHADURGARH	REPLACEMENT OF CFL, TUBE LIGHT, SODIUM LIGHT, SODIUM HIGH MAST LIGHT TO NEW LED LIGHT IN SECTOR 2 , 6, 7, 9 AND 9A IN BAHADURGARH CITY	CLOSING DATE 25.06.2020	EMD 1.92 LACS	<a href="http://ETENDERS.HRY.NIC.IN">ETENDERS.HRY.NIC.IN</a>	9350496582 NAVEENDHANKHAR@GMAIL.COM
5	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BAHADURGARH	CONSTRUCTION OF CIRCULAR CHOWK NEAR GAU GORA PARK & RENOVATION OF GAU GORA PARK AT BADLI ROAD IN BAHADURGARH CITY + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 25.06.2020	EMD 4.92 LACS	<a href="http://ETENDERS.HRY.NIC.IN">ETENDERS.HRY.NIC.IN</a>	9350496582 NAVEENDHANKHAR@GMAIL.COM
6	NHM HARYANA	INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR EMPANELMENT OF PRINTERS FOR PRINTING OF VARIOUS PRINT MATERIAL UNDER NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, HARYANA	12.06.2020 26.06.2020	-	<a href="http://www.nhmharyana.gov.in">www.nhmharyana.gov.in</a>	85588-94019 divisionbcc@gmail.com
7	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHIWANI	CONST OF TWO ROOM SET AND OTHER WORKS IN NANDISHALA IN MC BHIWANI.	CLOSING DATE 15.06.2020	10160/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9810880504 me.mcbhiwani@gmail.com
8	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HANSI	MAINTNANCE OF HUKAM CHAND, MAHATMA JYOTI BAI FULLE, MANDI SAINIAN HORTICULTURE WORKS IN M.C. HANSI + 4 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 18.06.2020	2.44 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	01663-254008
9	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, HANSI	VARIOUS TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT WORKS(AS PER DNIT) TENDER REF NO MCH/2020/06/02 TO MCH/2020/06/11	10.06.2020 16.06.2020	EMD 10000/-	<a href="http://www.etenderhry.nic.in">www.etenderhry.nic.in</a>	Executive Engineer
10	H.S.A.M.BOARD,JIND.	CONST.OF BLOCK AGRICULTURE OFFICE (BAO) ALEWA + 5 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 27.06.2020	161.25 LACS	<a href="http://etenders.hry.gov.in">http://etenders.hry.gov.in</a>	01681-252003 etenders.gov.in
11	M.C. ROHTAK	REPAIR OF PATCH WORK WITH SHALMAK IN VARIOUS STREETS IN W.NO.1 TO W. NO.22 ROHTAK	11.06.2020 17.06.2020	10 LACS	<a href="http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in">www.etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	xenmcrohtak@gmail.com
12	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHIWANI	CONST OF MEETING HALL ROOM AT M.C. OFFICE, BHIWANI. + 1 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 26.06.2020	50000/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9810880504 me.mcbhiwani@gmail.com
13	HLRDC LTD	TENDER FOR DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE/ UNSERVICEABLE AGRICULTURE IMPLEMENTS/SCRAP AND OTHER ITEMS ETC. ON "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS".	15.06.2020 25.06.2020	As mentioned in tender document	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	ctohrdc@gmail.com
14	HARYANA SCHOOL SHIKSHA PARIYOJNA PARISHAD	PRINTING AND SUPPLY OF WORKBOOKS FOR CLASS-9TH TO CLASS 12TH FOR ACADEMIC SESSION 2020-21 UNDER SARTHAK PROGRAM	12.06.2020 26.06.2020	EMD 2.43 LACS	<a href="http://www.hsspp.in">www.hsspp.in</a>	0172-2590500 pohspp@gmail.com
15	HARTRON	RATE CONTRACT OF UPS SYSTEM	13.06.2020 14.07.2020	7.5 CRORE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	0172-2562456 pmharttron@gmail.com
16	H.S.A.M. BOARD FARIDABAD	CONSTRUCTION OF MINI SOIL TESTING LABORATORY IN NGM/NVM AT BALLABGARH TIME LIMIT UP TO 6 MONTHS. + 3 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 02.07.2020	1.00 CRORE	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9971730975/ xenfaridabad.hsamb2019@gmail.com
17	HFDC, AMBALA	IN-HOUSE MANUFACTURE AND SUPPLY OF IRON TREE GUARDS IN YAMUNANAGAR AND KURUKSHETRA DISTRICTS	10.06.2020 20.06.2020	38 LACS	<a href="http://www.hfdc.org.in">www.hfdc.org.in</a>	0171-2551567 gm.ambala@hfdc.gov.in
18	HPGCL PANIPAT	ARC FOR CONDENSER TUBE CLEANING BY HYDROJET METHOD FOR UNIT-7 & 8, AT PTPS, PANIPAT. (NIT NO. 568/MP-7002/HYDROJET/2018)	12.06.2020 13.07.2020	12.17 LACS	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a>	9355869303 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
19	HPGCL PANIPAT	ARC FOR RUNNING & MAINTENANCE OF PLANT CANTEENS, FIELD HOSTEL AND VIP GUEST HOUSE AT HPGCL PROJECT AND URJA BHAWAN, PANCHKULA. (NIT NO. 569/MP-30/ CANTEEN/2020)	12.06.2020 30.06.2020	8.88 CRORE	<a href="http://www.hpgcl.org.in">www.hpgcl.org.in</a>	9355869303 xenmtcplg1@gmail.com
20	HARYANA SEED DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED	E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF BAJRA SEED (HYBRID / VARIETY)	13.06.2020 22.06.2020	1 LAKH	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	94163-97488 cnmshdcl@gmail.com
21	THE BALLABGARH. COOP. MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD	REPAIR OF ETP AT MILK CHILLING CENTRE NUH (HARYANA)	13.06.2020 03.07.2020	10000/-	<a href="http://www.vitaindia.org.in">www.vitaindia.org.in</a>	9968604725 vitablb@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

SHORT CIRCUITS

MADHURI DIXIT

Say 'no' to child labour. Children belong in schools and loving homes. They are the future and it's our responsibility to safeguard and empower them. Let's lend a helping hand to the children in need, our small efforts can make a big difference to their lives. #WorldDayAgainstChildLabour



SUMEET RAGHAVAN

Initially, when I was approached for *Badi Door Se Aaye Hai*, two things were conducive for me. First, the production house, as I had previously worked with JD Majethia and Aatish and knew them very well. Second, the channel, Sony SAB, as it is like a second home for me. So I didn't think twice before accepting the show.



ADAH SHARMA

Coronavirus or not, animals are still hungry. I have my earliest memories of feeding animals. My mother being an animal lover, I think I get it from her. We get out of our homes to feed them. The animals need food just like us. They need to be fed as well. We all share the planet. Let's all stand for one another in this.



TOCHI RAINA

It's been a surreal experience to work on *Gulabo Sitabo*. I am a very philosophical person and I am glad that I was able to give that touch to the songs *Madari Ka Bandar* and *Do Din Ka Ye Mela*. I am really thankful to Shoojit Sircar (director). Speaking of Amitabh Bachchan sir, I met him while working on the film. He gave me immense love.

SHARON STONE

I was filling the iron with water. I had one hand on the faucet, one hand on the iron and the well got hit with lightning. It came up through the water. I got thrown across the kitchen and hit the refrigerator. I was in such an altered state. I had to go get EKGs every single day for 10 days.

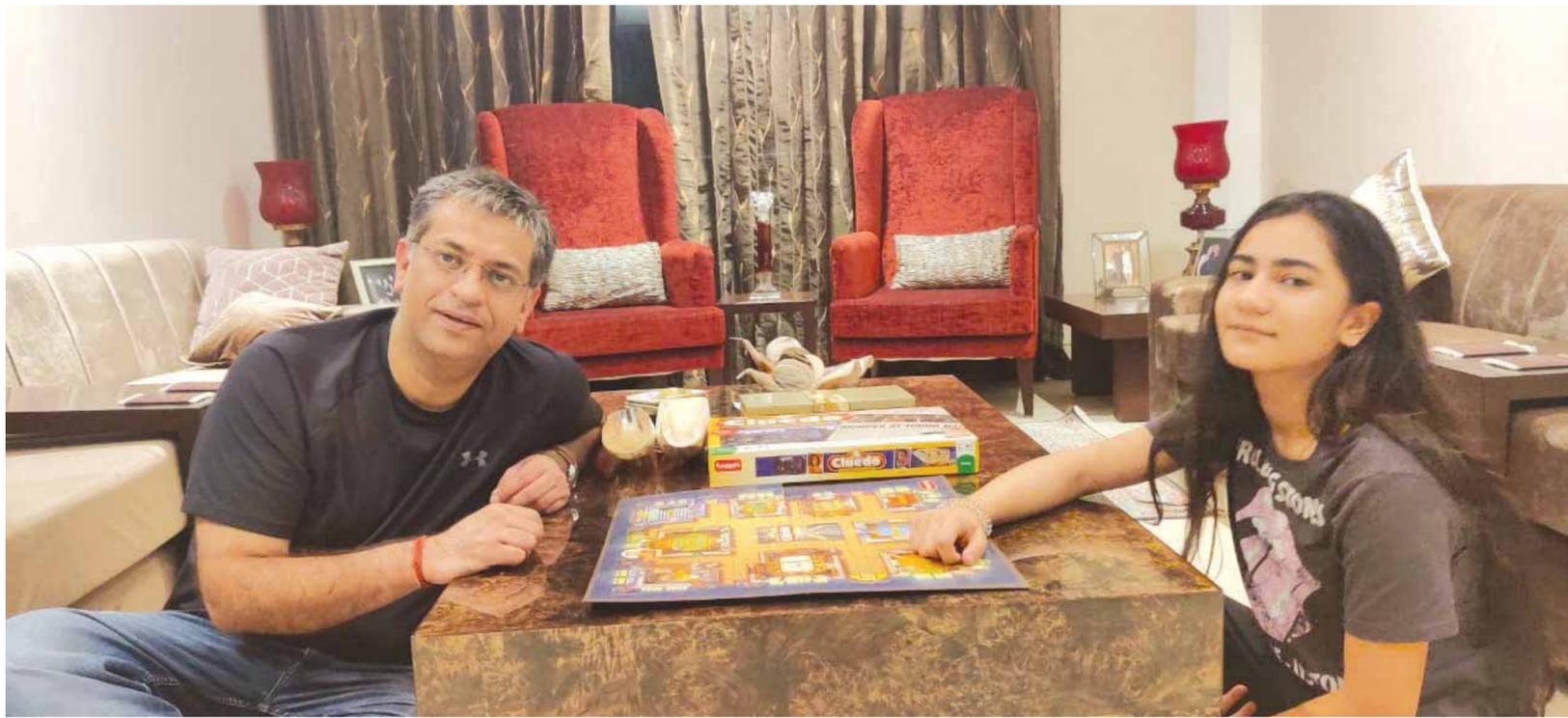


RETROSPECTIVE 45 MINUTES

A LITTLE JOY CALLED LIFE

The virus-induced lockdown has been tough on many counts, yet it has given each one of us moments that we might have missed noticing or appreciating otherwise.

ASHISH AHUJA wishes to use these times to re-build, re-invigorate and re-imagine himself



mango shake (that I have perfected over multiple tries) tastes simply superb, I press the rewind button to reminisce about the little things that brought joy and helped mould a different perspective during the last few months — moments and experiences that gave me an opportunity to reflect, appreciate and acknowledge realities.

TAKE NOTHING FOR GRANTED — EUREKA MOMENT

The morning jog on the road, the impromptu coffee date (with wife, of course), the rustling of the daily newspaper, the live sports on TV and the availability of beer from the local liquor store — all things taken for granted. Until the lockdown struck. The sight of the morning newspaper at my doorstep after a three week break and the endorphin rush I experienced with a five km jog after the hiatus, brought immense joy as well as a realisation to 'take nothing for granted'. The age-old saying, finally understood, loud and clear. However, I am still craving the coffee date and a classic Federer-Nadal duel.

HUMANITY IS ALIVE

In spite of personal strife, countless people stepped up to the plate and loosened their purse strings to help feed the needy irrespective of faith, caste or political biases. These heroes deserve to be applauded. The joy at seeing such selfless service cemented my belief that humanity is alive and kicking. All is not lost.

NO EXPECTATION, NO DISAPPOINTMENT

Governments across the world acted to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. Such was the nature of the problem that there was no easy solution for lawmakers to follow. Confusion, panic, flip-flops

ruled the roost. It would be premature and grossly unfair to pass judgement on the response of governments around the world. Whether they acted with prudence or otherwise, depends entirely on the level of personal strife of the evaluator as well as his/her political disposition (unwavering or not). While I oscillated between despair and hope, the famous words by John F Kennedy reverberated loud and clear, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Words that made me light lamps, bang plates and add my pennies to the newly launched care fund. With hope, and I must admit a bit of expectation, I even perused through the fine print of the 20 lakh crore package. While the zeroes made my head spin, I found solace in a quote by Mark Twain, "If voting made any difference they wouldn't let us do it." With that thought, I learnt not to expect — a sure fire recipe to avoid disappointment.

JOURNALISM V/S BREAKING NEWS

Countless hours in front of the television and many more buried in reading news stories on my phone made me appreciate true journalism. At one end of the spectrum was the 'breaking news' in bold fonts and bright colours trying to woo me with a narrative that spelt sensationalism. At the other end, was a journalist traversing the length and breadth of the country, reporting on the plight of

migrants. I must admit, the latter was far more compelling to watch, appreciate and reflect upon.

DIGNITY OF LABOUR

Dusting around the house, wiping the droplets off the shower panel and learning how to clean the dishes. Simple chores, unnoticed till the lockdown happened. The intervening period taught me, and hopefully many, the respect and dignity such jobs deserve.

DEBATES, DATA AND FLATTENING OF THE CURVE

Endless hours spent in front of the television. Heated exchanges on WhatsApp groups. Learning (unsuccessfully) to be a quasi-epidemiologist. And understanding data that would make an Applied-Math student proud. All in a day's work. Well, all it did was to 'fatten the curve' (notice the missing 'L', on the graph as well as the mid-riff. The discussions and debates simply reiterated my long held belief that common sense,

after all, is not so common. And that herds are immune to an alternate viewpoint. We live in a world of on-tap information and making sense of this information over-load fed to us through social-media universities requires diligence. As for debates, sometimes silence speaks louder than words. Much to the delight of my family, I am now learning to use the mute button on my TV remote and have downloaded the latest version of App-Detox on my mobile. It seems my personal journey towards the Zen garden has begun.

ONE FOR SORROW, FOUR FOR A PARTY

Home cooked delicacies, some fresh brews, conversations and fights over who has the best Spotify playlist. It does not take a dozen friends to make a rocking party. All it takes is four of the most amazing people whom I call family — my wife, my lazy son, my adorable daughter and moi. As for my friends who called me a bore until now, wait till we meet again. I sure have learnt a thing or two about partying.

BACK TO SCHOOL

From spending time setting up my daughter's online class module to helping her with her assignments helped me reconnect with learning. Long hours reading texts, learning and explaining concepts were a refreshing change from the monotony and pressures of everyday work life. If anything, the lockdown made me conversant with what children learn at school these days, quite different from what and how we were taught in yesteryears. An alternate career in teaching in the future? Never say never.

THE GAMES, HOUSE-PARTIES, NETFLIX AND FAMILY ZOOM CALLS

The first time I logged onto the house-party app to connect with

friends, I was admonished by the children of the house. This seemed to be their domain. Gradually, the friends and family sessions moved to Zoom calls, much to the relief of the younger generation. Birthdays were celebrated, anniversaries wished and Ludo played online. With time on hand, even though distanced, social interactions never stopped. Yes, everyone connected and thankfully so. Leisure found a new medium through technology. Long-lost hobbies were revitalised, board-games were scheduled, countless Netflix series enjoyed and there was enough laughter all around. For once, time was never short and getting bored not an option. The lockdown, in a strange way, brought us all a little closer.

INDIA'S GOT TALENT

My Facebook / Instagram feed was inundated with posts that spelt pure talent in capitals. A friend stroking away at the keys of his piano, another doing a perfect rendition of *Summer of 69* and yet another displaying the perfectly baked croissant. I could never have imagined the passion and talent that was hidden behind the cloak of the regular '9 to 5' life. The lockdown brought this talent to the fore and I hope has re-kindled long lost passions. The therapeutic effect each one of these posts had on me is immeasurable.

The virus-induced lockdown has been tough on many counts. Funnily enough, it has given each of one of us, moments that we might have missed noticing or appreciating otherwise. I wish to use these special moments to re-build, re-invigorate and re-imagine myself. Let the summer sun smile and shine. (The author is the director of *Pebble Street*.)

CELEB TALK

The X factor

Actor ALEX SASON, who plays Ace in *Nancy Drew*, says that none of the previous renditions of the story, either films or books, imagined Nancy the way the series does. By TEAM VIVA

came up, my parents had stories about reading *Nancy Drew* books to tell me. I remember them being in the library at the age when my friends played computer games. And so, it's been something that's familiar with so many people and to now see it in this incarnation is indeed fantastic.

Why do you think the audience will love this recreation of *Nancy Drew*?

I would say for anybody who has seen other renditions of Nancy's story through series, films or

books, I would just point out that none of them have had Kennedy McMann. Nobody imagined her like Kennedy. Just meeting her and getting to watch her work is fun. She was born to play this role. I'm excited for everything that comes from it.

How does Ace add to the premise?

Ace is a guy who works at The Claw Restaurant with Nancy and her friends. He washes dishes in the back and he's a friend and confidant of Nancy and a co-worker of George and

Bess. Well, often known as an "amiable burnout," Ace is a fairly-mindful person. He lives simply and enjoys doing the dishes as much as anything else. He's thoughtful enough to interact with Nancy and figure things out with her.

How are we introduced to Ace in the pilot episode?

We first meet Ace at The Claw. He's in the back, washing dishes and doing his thing. He's there with Nancy as this mystery falls into their lap.

How would you describe Ace's relationship to his co-workers at The Claw?

Ace has several important relationships in his life. He works closely with his co-workers. George is his boss and keeps him in check. He's a confidant of Nancy Drew and they share each other's lives. He seems to have quite an affection for Bess, who's another waitress at The Claw. (The Season 1 is now streaming on Voot Select.)

Ayushmann lauds Big B

Ayushmann Khurrana has always been inspired by Amitabh Bachchan since his childhood and it was his dream to share screen with the legend. Shoojit Sircar's *Gulabo Sitabo* made his life-long dream come true. On the release day of the film on a digital platform, Ayushmann has penned a note recounting his first impression of seeing the iconic superstar on the big screen.

"Whenever a young person in our country wants to step into the field of acting, his goal is Amitabh Bachchan. There was a dialogue in my last film that 'Bachchan can't be made, you are just born Bachchan'. As a child when I saw Big B on the big screen in *Hum* in Neelam cinema, I felt such a surge of energy within me and that's when I decided that I will become an actor," says Ayushmann. He adds, "My first TV

shoot was done in Mukesh Mills and this was the place where *Jumma Chumma De De* from *Hum* was shot. That day I got the 'I have arrived' feeling. If this was the situation back then, you might be thinking what feeling I must be going through today."

Ayushmann thanks his mentor Shoojit for uniting him with his biggest matinee idol.

"In *Gulabo Sitabo*, this celebrity stood before me as a 'co' artist and the attitude of our characters in the film was such that we had to endure each other a lot. In reality, I cannot say anything to such a big star like him. I would like to thank Shoojit da for this amazing experience, for showing me in the same frame with a superhero like Amitabh Bachchan. You are my guru, I have reached here by holding your hand," says Ayushmann.



What is the premise of *Nancy Drew*?

The series picks up with Nancy Drew, a teenage detective, at age 18. She's a little disenchanted with several things in her life and hasn't been doing the detective work that she was busy with in her youth. And then this mystery falls into her lap and it's on her shoulders to figure it out. Her resourcefulness and integrity are put to test in the glamorous — but sometimes treacherous — world of Hollywood.

As much as you'd like to flow and go along with Nancy to figure out the mystery she finds around herself, you will also find young adults dealing with things in their day-to-day lives. They just have this fantastic circumstance right in front of them to deal with.

Why do you think it is the right time to bring back *Nancy Drew*?

I'm excited for this show because it incorporates Nancy Drew, who has been important to so many generations. When this first

REMEMBER NANCY DREW BOOKS BEING IN MY SCHOOL LIBRARY. SO TO SEE IT NOW IN THIS INCARNATION IS INDEED FANTASTIC!

STUDIO CHAT 30 MINUTES



action between Amy and Superman is that she is obviously the 'Superwoman' in a subtle sense. She has finally found this one guy who can literally sweep her off her feet (Laughs).

the character was awesome. For the first couple of days, when I worked with him, he would really stay on something when it really had to be done for the character. When

we were shaping Lois and their relation, he really stayed with me and helped me to find Lois in this new world and this tone of the film. I appreciate that!

◆Tell us more about the suit.

Henry: I have loved the costume. I think it's a really good modernisation of something very classic. It is very alien and yet recognisable as the suit we all know and love. I think it almost brings a testosterone energy to something which I think is required in today's set of films because everyone is used to things being high in octave and visceral in the news. Films in today's times are fantasies and they have to be even bigger and better. I think the suit lends something of that sort. It is something which is exceptionally cool.

◆How does Superman affect Lois?

Amy: I think he takes Lois by surprise and it is very interesting that it takes this person from another world to make her more human. His humanity brings about a change in her heart and prob-

ably gives her a strong sense of humanity as well. As the story continues, she becomes a stronger and well-rounded human being. I think she really comes to respect and identifies humanity by her experiences with Clark.

◆Tell us about some attributes that Henry and Superman share.

Amy: I expected a lot more swagger from Henry but he actually turned out to be quite humble and generous. In our first reading, I remember thinking that he is a rare package not only in life but especially in Hollywood. To find somebody with that physical presence that also has this softness is just rare. There is something very gentle about him. He has that quality that is so important for Clark and for Superman, both. You are actually able to believe that he can just save the entire world.

(The film airs on June 15 at 9 pm on Sony PIX.)

# The real illusion

Actors HENRY CAVILL and AMY ADAMS talk about how director ZACK SNYDER created fantasy but believable characters through *Man of Steel*. By TEAM VIVA

◆Tell us something about your character Clark Kent.

Henry Cavill: Clark is a well brought up farm boy. At the same time, he is a young man who has no clue of who he is and why he is so different. Later, his self-discovery layers his life with a sense of loss. He feels like an outsider at all stages of his life. The only place he's been able to feel at home is with Martha and Jonathan but otherwise, even when he knows who his real parents are and where his real home is, he's made to feel even more as an outsider there.

Henry: They both are good, traditional and moral people. I think Kevin and Diane brought that to their characters exceptionally well. Kevin had an incredible sort of openness and softness that was like a traditional father and when he played Jonathan, it was really easy to feel that. It was like-wise with Diane. As Martha, she played the role of a caring mother so well.

There is still that slight fear of Clark for her because she knows what he is capable of. I thought that was fantastic. When Clark is older, she totally accepts and knows that I'm a controlled person. She portrays that wonderful strength, which is exactly where

Superman gets a lot of his strength from. As generic as it maybe, Clark's upbringing and his nurturing is from the likes of Jonathan and Martha and the strength which Kevin and Diane brought to those roles, made it so easy to play that.

◆How was it working with Amy Adams?

Henry: I really liked working with Amy. She is great and brings good fun and energy to the set. On long days, you do need someone to goof around sometimes. As a person, you can have fun with Amy and then she brings out this wonderfully powerful and axed character. I think the inter-

◆How was it working with Zack Snyder?

Henry: His energy was always up and its fun. Even though the hours were extremely long, Zack kept stuff interesting and exciting which is a great thing about him. It's cool for us also and that permeates with the entire crew. We were making Superman for goodness sake. So, it had to be cool and Zack reminded us of that with his attitude and his way of being himself every day. And I couldn't have asked for a better director for this film. He is great!

Amy Adams: Working with Zack, at first, I was a little nervous because he is so confident and I don't possess the same confidence. If they let me work on the same scene for five days, I'll keep doing it, perfecting it but Zack knows exactly what he is looking for and he knows when he has it. That gives a certain kind of confidence.

He just has a strong idea of the story, the character and I was really thrilled by that. I hate to say that I was surprised but I really was because I knew he was such a visual master and that he had a really strong vision for the film. His detailed understanding of

# FAZAL'S NEW HOLLY STINT

Returning to helm an Agatha Christie adaptation after the mammoth success of his last film *Murder on the Orient Express* (2017), Kenneth Branagh seems particularly pleased with how his next *Death on the Nile* has shaped up. Audience in the sub continent have a special interest in the film as it stars our very own Ali Fazal alongside a bevy of talented artistes namely Armie Hammer, Gal Gadot, Letitia Wright, Annette Bening, Rose Leslie, Russell Brand and Emma Mackey among others.



Kenneth, who is in the midst of promoting his next, Christopher Nolan's *Tenet*, got talking about Fazal in an interview. The actor-filmmaker, when asked about Fazal was quoted saying, "Ali was a joy to work with, an absolute delight. He's a total pro. He's a real details man. He was completely caught up in how the character looked, sounded and was able to be very precise, but also very playful. He could improvise when I asked him to improvise. He has a strong sense of humour. He is energetic and physically very adroit, so he was involved in both dancing and in action pieces. He was a fantastic ensemble player. He was incredibly popular with our cast, they loved him."

Fazal, who has a handful of international films to his credit including 2017's Oscar nominated *Victoria and Abdul* alongside Judi Dench, is among the popular Indian actors, internationally. Known to balance between his international and Indian work, the young actor is making the country proud globally. The actor was recently in discussion for his talks about how he learnt to be independent in his teens, and has realised it is liberating but comes with immense responsibility. He added that his boarding school experience prepared him to cope with lockdown in a better way. Ali has been at his Bandra home alone since early March and has been managing well without any house help. "I am an accidental cook. But being outside home and living in a boarding school has made me realise that I can manage well on my own," he said.

"I remember in my early teens when I first went to Doon, I struggled for a few weeks. But over the time, it became enjoyable. Being independent has its own advantages. It is liberating but it comes with immense responsibility, too," he said.

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O."UJJWAL" MAHARANI BAGH, GMS ROAD DEHRADUN-248006  
(Tele.: 0135-2763508, 2763808)

**Tender Notice**  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Generation), Chibro Power Station, Dehradun invites sealed tenders for following of work/supply:-

- Tender No 06/EE(G)/CPS/2020-21 for "Shifting of 01 MVA Transformer and upgradation of distribution panel".
- Tender No 07/EE(G)/CPS/2020-21 for " Supply of Pipe line, dust bin and installation-dismantling of pipe line with strainers & valves".
- Tender No 09/EE(G)/CPS/2020-21 for "Supply of miscellaneous consumables items for maintenance at Chibro Power house"

Estimate cost (GST Extra): ₹ 5,72,000/- ₹ 8,94,284/- & ₹ 4,95,890/-  
Earnest Money: ₹ 17,200/- ₹ 27,000/- & ₹ 20,000/-  
Tender Cost : ₹ 590/-, ₹ 590/- & ₹ 295/-  
Last date of downloading: 06-07-2020 (upto 14:00 Hrs.)  
Last date of submission of bid: 06-07-2020 (up to 17:00 Hrs.)  
Date of opening bid: 09-07-2020 (up to 11:00 Hrs.)  
For Eligibility Criteria and full & further details kindly visit our website [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com) Tenders can only be downloaded from our website & their cost has to be paid at the time of submission

पत्रांक: 362 दिनांक: 11.06.2020 EE(Gen.) CPS, Chibro  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**बिहार सरकार**

**Bihar Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.**  
A Government of Bihar Undertaking  
URGENT BASIS SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

निविदा संख्या :- 67/Mech/SB/2020-21  
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in))

1	विज्ञापनदाता का नाम एवं पता	:	कार्यपालक अभियंता (यांत्रिक), बुडको, पटना।
2	निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने की अवधि	:	दिनांक-19.06.2020 के 05:00 बजे तक (On website <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
3	प्री वीड मीटिंग का समय स्थान/तिथि	:	दिनांक-16.06.2020 को 12:30 बजे बुडको कार्यालय कक्ष।
4	संबंधित निविदा अपलॉड करने की अंतिम तिथि/समय	:	दिनांक-19.06.2020 के 05:00 बजे तक (On website <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
5	अग्रपंक्ति, सभी मूल शपथ पत्र, Existing Commitment (मूल में) परिमाण विपन्न के मूल्य का बैंक ड्राफ्ट जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि/समय एवं स्थान	:	दिनांक-20.06.2020 के 03:00 बजे तक
6	तकनीकी वीड खोलने की तिथि/समय	:	दिनांक-20.06.2020 के 03:30 बजे के बाद (On website <a href="http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in">www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</a> )
7	वित्तीय वीड खोलने की तिथि/समय	:	सूचित किया जायेगा।
8	कार्य का विवरण:-	:	

S. No	Name of Work	Bid Security	Document Fee	E-proc Fee	Contract duration
1	पटना नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तर्गत, पटना शहर के लिए सभी डी.पी.एस./विहित स्थलों पर जल-निकासी हेतु Motor Pump/Diesel Pump भाड़े पर उपलब्ध कराने के संबंध में।	50,000/-	10,000/-	5900/-	2 माह

विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना विभागीय वेबसाइट [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) एवं [www.buidco.in](http://www.buidco.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।  
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए [State.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://State.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता (यांत्रिक), बुडको, पटना  
PR. 002402 (NI/Ni) 2020-21

नोबल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहायोग हेतु Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।  
घाघ सामग्री-संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।  
अभियंता के सहायोग एवं सहायता हेतु ब्रह्म संसाधन विभाग का Toll Free No.: **18003456138**

**नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग**  
**SPMG-BIHAR**  
विज्ञापन संख्या-03/नमामि गंगे-06/2019- 1140

नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग के अन्तर्गत नमामि गंगे परियोजना के कार्यान्वयन/पर्यवेक्षण हेतु गठित SPMG-BIHAR के लिए ब्ययनित Consultant Agency, Lion Engineering Consultant Private Limited के लिए सविदा आधारित नियोजन हेतु निम्न पदों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित किया जाता है :-

N	Name of Post	No of Vacancy	Qualification & Experience	Total Monthly Remuneration
1	Technical Manager (Unit Head) (Team Leader)	Unreserved-01	Graduate or post Graduate in Civil Engineering/Infrastructure planning with 15 years' Experience in relevant sector of Govt. Deptt. or Govt. under taking.	1,00,000
2	Sr. Civil Engineer	Unreserved-01	Graduate degree in Civil Engineering with 10 year experience in Govt Department.	80,000
3	Sr. Environmental Planner/water Resources Management Specialist (Unit Head)	Unreserved-01	Post Graduate in Environmental Planning/ Environmental Earth Science/ water Resource management with 10 Years' Experience including at least 5 years experience in Govt. Deptt or Govt. undertaking.	80,000
4	Sr. Environmental Engineer & (Waste water segment)	Unreserved-01	Post Graduate in Environmental planning/Environmental Earthscience/ water Resource Management with 10 years' experience including at least 5 years experience in Govt. Deptt. or Govt. undertaking.	80,000
5	Environmental Specialist (Ganga)	Unreserved-01	Post Graduate in Environmental Planning/ Environmental Earth Science/ water Resource management with 08 Years' Experience including at least 3 years experience in Govt. Deptt or Govt. undertaking.	70,000
6	Solid waste Management Specialist	Unreserved-01	Post Graduate in Civil Engineering /Environmental planning with 08 years relevant experience related to solid waste management work including at least 3 years experience in Govt. Deptt. or Govt. undertaking.	70,000
7	Environmental Specialist (E&M/F)	Unreserved-01	Post Graduation in Environmental Planning / Environment Earth Sciences with 8 years' experience including at least 3 years' experience in Govt. Deptt. or Govt. undertaking.	70,000
8	Finance Director (Unit Head)	Unreserved-01	Post Graduate degree in commerce/MBA in Finance with 15years relevant experience in Govt. Deptt. /Govt. under takings (Additional qualification of CA shall be preferred)	1,00,000
9	Sr. Financial Management Specialist/Accountant	Unreserved-01	Graduate or Post Graduate degree in commerce/MBA in Finance with 10years relevant experience in Govt. Department / Govt. under takings (Additional qualification of CA shall be preferred)	80,000
10	Economic/ Financial Analysis Specialist	Unreserved-01	Post Graduate in Economics or MBA Finance with 8 years' of experience in Govt. Deptt or Govt. undertaking.	70,000
11	Communications Manager (Unit Head)	Unreserved-01	Post graduate in Mass Communication, with 15 years relevant experience including at least 5 years experience in Govt. Deptt. or Govt. undertaking.	1,00,000
12	Grievance Redressal Officer	Unreserved-01	Graduate in Commerce or Science or Arts with 08 years relevant experience including at least 5 years experience in Govt. Deptt or Govt. undertaking. (Additional qualification of MBA shall be preferred)	70,000
13	Sr. Procurement Specialist	Unreserved-01	Graduate Degree in Civil Engineering or MBA (Finance) with 10 years' experience including at least 5 years of experience in Govt. Deptt. or Govt. undertaking.	80,000
14	Procurement Specialist	Unreserved-01	Graduate Degree in Civil Engineering or MBA (Finance) with 10 years' experience. (MBA in Finance shall be preferred) including at least 3 years of experience in Govt. Deptt. or Govt. undertaking.	70,000
15	Communication participation / outreach coordinator	Unreserved-01	Post Graduate in Mass Communication with 10 years' of relevant experience including 3 years experience in Govt. Deptt. or Govt. undertaking.	80,000
16	RTI Officer	Unreserved-01	Graduate in Commerce or Science or Arts with 10 years' relevant experience in Govt. Deptt or Govt. undertaking.	70,000
17	Social Development Specialist (ESMF)	Unreserved-01	Post Graduate degree in Social Work with 8 years' relevant experience in Govt. Deptt or Govt. undertaking.	70,000
18	IT Officer	Unreserved-01	BE/B-Tech in CS, IT with 8 years' relevant experience including at least 2 years experience in Govt. Deptt. or Govt. undertaking.	70,000
19	Assistant System Analyst	Unreserved-01	BE/ B-Tech in CS, IT with 06 years relevant experience including 2 years of experience in Govt. Deptt. or Govt. undertaking.	40,000
20	Assistant coordinator facilities	Unreserved-01	Graduate in Commerce or Science or Arts with 10 Years' relevant experience including 3 years of experience in Govt. Deptt or Govt. undertaking.	40,000
21	River Front Management specialist	Unreserved-01	Post Graduate in Civil Engineering / Urban Planning / Infrastructure Planning with 10 years' experience.	70,000
22	Enforcement coordinator	Unreserved-01	Relevant degree in (Graduate in Environmental Science or Commerce or Science or Arts) with 8 years' experience including 3 years of experience in Govt. Deptt or Govt. undertaking.	70,000
23	DSS/Modelling Specialist	Unreserved-01	Post Graduate in Environmental Planning / Environmental Earth Science / Water Resource Management with 8 years' experience in Govt. Deptt or Govt. undertaking.	70,000
24	PPP Specialist	Unreserved-01	Graduate Degree in Civil Engineering or MBA (Finance) with 8 Years' experience including 3 years of experience in Govt. Deptt or Govt. undertaking.	70,000
25	Monitoring/ Evaluation (MIE) officer	Unreserved-01	Graduate in Commerce/Science with 8 years similar experience in Govt. Deptt or Govt. undertaking. (Additional Qualification Of MBA in Finance shall be preferred)	70,000
26	Assistant GIS Specialist	Unreserved-01	Graduate in Engineering (Civil/IT/Computer), with Specialist course in GIS/Geo informatics with 06 years' Experience. Candidate with both GIS & Geoinformatics Certificate will be Preferred .	40,000
27	Team Assistant	04 Gen-01 EBC-01 Gen(Female)-01 SC-01	Graduate with 4 years relevant experience, in Govt Deptt. or Govt. undertaking including as program Assistant, Good computer skills (esp. with common office programs for word processing, spread sheets, presentation, internet searches) Good Typing in Hindi & English and Communication skills.	

2. आवेदक अपना आवेदन विहित प्रपत्र में e-mail ID:- SPMGBIHAR.RECRUITMENT@GMAIL.COM पर दिनांक-29.06.2020 को संख्या 05:00 बजे तक सभी आवश्यक Document के साथ PDF Format में भेजना सुनिश्चित करेंगे। e-mail आवेदन में विज्ञापन संख्या एवं आवेदित पद का नाम अंकित रहेगा। यदि आवेदन विहित प्रपत्र में प्राप्त नहीं होते है तो उसे अमान्य कर दिया जायेगा।

3. विभागीय Screening Committee द्वारा Shortlisted आवेदक की सूची वेबसाइट [urban.bih.nic.in](http://urban.bih.nic.in) पर उपलब्ध करा दी जायेगी। किसी भी तरह की जानकारी के लिए विभागीय वेबसाइट पर सूचना दी जाएगी।

4. उपर्युक्त पदों के आधार पर नियोजन साक्षात्कार के आधार पर सचिव, नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग की अध्यक्षता में गठित समिति द्वारा किया जाएगा, जिसमें Consultant Agency, Lion Engineering Consultant Private Limited के प्रतिनिधि भी रहेंगे।

5. साक्षात्कार हेतु किसी भी अर्थवर्षों को किसी भी तरह का भत्ता Consultant Agency या विभाग द्वारा देय नहीं होगा।

6. यह नियोजन पूर्णतः SPMG-Bihar के Consultant Agency, Lion Engineering Consultant Private Limited के लिए तीन वर्षों के लिए की जाएगी। यदि कार्यकालावधि संतोषजनक नहीं पाया जाता है तो Consultant Lion Engineering Consultant Private Limited द्वारा उन्हे कमी भी हटाया जा सकेगा।

7. यह नियोजन पूर्णतः SPMG-Bihar के Consultant Agency के लिये है। बाद में नियुक्ति के स्थाईकरण का कोई दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।

8. नियुक्ति के संबंध में सभी प्रकार का सर्वाधिकार, सचिव, नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग के अधीन होगा।

9. आवेदन हेतु "प्रपत्र" एवं प्रत्येक पदों के Roles & Responsibilities संबंधी विस्तृत जानकारी विभागीय वेबसाइट [urban.bih.nic.in](http://urban.bih.nic.in) के Notice Board से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

PR- 02399 ( Urban Dev. ) 2020-21 विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) पर देखा जा सकता है।

नोबल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहायोग हेतु Toll Free No.: **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।  
घाघ सामग्री-संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या 0612-2217636 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

(अरविन्द कुमार झा)  
संयुक्त सचिव-साह-राहायक निदेशक,  
नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग।

# ISHANT CALLS FOR FAIR COMPETITION

## Sarfraz gets surprise recall for Eng tour



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Senior India speedster Ishant Sharma believes that the ban on saliva to shine the ball will make things easy for batsmen and it needs to be ensured that the competition remains fair.

Ishant, who has played a whopping 97 Tests, reasoned that if the bowlers don't shine the red ball, used in the longest format of the game, then it won't swing helping batsmen.

"If we don't shine the red ball, it doesn't swing and if it doesn't swing then it becomes really easy for the batsman. I think the competition should be fair and not a batsman dominated game," the 31-year-old said on Star Sports show *Cricket Connected*.

The lanky pacer, who has 297 Test and 115 ODI wickets to his name, feels that bowlers will need to take special precautions to ensure that they don't use saliva as it is an old practice.

"I feel that the most important thing will be avoiding the use of saliva on the ball and refraining from shining the ball.

"We will have to take special precautions for this as we are used to shining the ball, especially the red ball," said Sharma, who represents Delhi in domestic cricket.

## Saliva is important for spinners too as it helps in getting drift: Chahal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

It's not just the pacers who will be at a disadvantage due to the ban on use of saliva but spinners too will suffer as they won't get the required drift during middle overs, feels India's top wrist spinner Yuzvendra Chahal.

The ICC has banned the use of saliva on ball as an interim health safety measure in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic — a move that has raised concerns about the game becoming even more batting friendly.

"When you use a natural element like saliva, it helps pacers with swing and spinners with the drift," Chahal said on *ESPNCrinfo*, specifically talking about white ball cricket.

Drift in cricketing terminology is the sideways movement in the air when a slow bowler tries to impart spin.

"If as a spinner, I cannot get drift in the middle overs, the batsmen will have it easy. This is something that will affect every bowler in the world. I will have to figure out a solution once I start bowling in the nets," Chahal,

who will be turning 30 next month, said.

The spinners also complement the pacers in shining the ball, said Chahal, who has 146 wickets in 94 games.

"Spinners use saliva too to maintain the shine of the ball because we are aware that pacers will bowl after us or are bowling from the other end," he added.

"And I would like to maintain the condition of the ball in a way that it helps pacers whenever they come. Pacers also think the same way. When they see spinners coming, they refrain from shining the ball too much. This is how we plan things."

On to his own game and the wily leg-spinner said one advice from Harbhajan Singh during his first IPL stint at the Mumbai Indians has stayed with him forever.

"...Harbhajan Singh once told me

— back your skills as a bowler. My strengths are varying my pace and beating the batsman in flight.

"I have seen a lot of spinners change their actions while bowling at the Chinnaswamy. I can sense their fear, I then tell this to the batsmen in my team so that they can attack him," Chahal said.

He feels that his attacking instincts are considered beneficial by both Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma.

"Virat Kohli or Rohit Sharma, whoever the captain is, they want us to pick up wickets. Even if I concede 70 runs in my 10 overs but pick up three wickets in the middle overs, it will benefit the team," said Chahal.

"The pace of the game also quickens when spinners are operating from both ends. If there is turn on offer, it becomes difficult to play spinners in the middle overs. We have always believed in going for wickets in the middle overs," Chahal added.



## Messi fit & ready for Barca return: Setien



Lionel Messi dribbles past his Barca teammate during training session. FCB/Twitter

**BARCELONA:** Lionel Messi will know how to manage his own fitness through La Liga's rapid end to the season but has no injury problems ahead of Barcelona's return against Real Mallorca on Saturday, says coach Quique Setien.

Messi missed three sessions last week with some discomfort in his thigh but has been back in full training since Monday. "He is perfectly fine, he has trained with the rest of his teammates and he feels good. I don't see any problem," said Setien in a press conference on Friday.

An intense period of fixtures will stretch players like Messi, who will be crucial to Barca's title bid. They sit two points ahead of Real at the top of the table.

Asked if Messi could play all 11 games, Setien said: "We will have to play it by ear, fortunately Messi and a lot of the players with experience know how to manage themselves. If any risk arises, he will be the first one to

say that he needs a rest." Setien also said Luis Suarez is available after he recovered from a knee injury but believes he could need time to find full fitness. "He is likely to play but it may not be for the whole game," said Setien.

"It would be taking a risk that we are probably not going to take. He is in good condition and getting better every day but after five months it's true that it will be good for him to play and he will need some games to be the best Luis Suarez."

Defender Nelson Semedo is available despite breaking La Liga protocol and having to train alone on Thursday. Semedo had reportedly attended a gathering of more than 20 people earlier in the week.

"Whether he plays or not will not be because of this careless or unfortunate thing he did," said Setien. "He made a mistake and he's apologised to everyone." Samuel Umтитi is out with a calf injury. **AFP**

## India might play Aus in front of fans

IAN S ■ CANBERRA

India might not have to tour Australia and play their matches in front of empty stands later this year after Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Friday said sports stadiums capable of seating 40,000 people will be allowed to host crowds of up to 10,000 from next month, in further relaxation of coronavirus restrictions.

The four Tests of the much-anticipated series will be played at Gabba, Adelaide Oval, MCG and the SCG respectively starting December 3. Cricket Australia (CA) had said recently. "For outdoor venues up to 40,000 spectator capacity, ticketed and seated events will be able to be held in front of a crowd of no more than 25 per cent of capacity under Step 3," a statement from the Prime Minister said as per on the official website, *pm.gov.au*.

"For outdoor venues of more than 40,000 spectator capacity, further advice is being sought from the AHPPC, with arrangements to be settled by the states and territories on a venue by venue basis," it added.

The announcement was made following a meeting of the National Cabinet, which comprises the Prime Minister and state and territory leaders.

Morrison was joined by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Brendan Murphy who said that Australia's response to Covid-19 was in a "good place".

## BCCI calls off Lanka, Zim tours

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian team's August tour of Zimbabwe was on Friday called off by the BCCI owing to the Covid-19 threat, which hasn't allowed national cricketers to even resume training.

The development comes a day after Sri Lanka Cricket announced that India's limited overs tour in June-July was postponed indefinitely.

"...The Indian Cricket Team will not travel to Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe owing to the current threat of Covid-19," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

"Team India was originally scheduled to travel to the island nation from 24th June 2020 for three ODIs and as many T20Is to Zimbabwe for a series comprising three ODIs starting 22nd August 2020," Shah said.

The Indian team is yet to resume training and the camp is unlikely to take place before July. The players will take around six weeks to be match ready, according to the side's support staff.



Shah, in the release, reiterated the board's stance that it will organise a training camp only when it is deemed safe by the Government. "The BCCI will conduct a camp for its contracted players only when it is completely safe to train outdoors.

"The BCCI is determined to take steps towards the resumption of international and domestic cricket, but it will not rush into any decision that will jeopardize the efforts put in by the Central and State Governments and several other

respective agencies in containing the spread of the coronavirus." Zimbabwe head coach and former India opener Lalchand Rajput was left disappointed at the cancellation of the series.

"It (the series cancellation) is a sad thing for Zimbabwe Cricket as they would not be able to play against India.

"Every team wants to play against India as it is one of the best teams.

Besides Haider, Kashif Bhatti is the other uncapped player in the side. Kashif was in the Test squad against Australia and Sri Lanka but did not play.

**Squad:** Abid Ali, Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Shan Masood, Azhar Ali (captain), Babar Azam (Test vice-captain and T20I captain), Asad Shafiq, Fawad Alam, Haider Ali, Iftikhar Ahmad, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Hafeez, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Sarfraz Ahmed (wk), Faheem Ashraf, Haris Rauf, Imran Khan, Mohammad Abbas, Mohammad Hasnain, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Sohail Khan, Usman Shinwari, Wahab Riaz, Imad Wasim, Kashif Bhatti, Shadab Khan and Yasir Shah.

**Reserves:** Bilal Asif, Imran Butt, Musa Khan and Mohammad Nawaz.



## Prajnesh hits court after virus induced hiatus

**BEIJING:** India's top tennis player Prajnesh Gunneswaran returned to the courts on Friday after over two-and-a-half months with a training session at the SDAT Nungambakkam stadium here.

The 30-year old south-paw, ranked 132 in the world, hit with talented Sasikumar Mukund and Manish Sureshkumar.

"It was good to play tennis after so long. It will take some time to get back to the routine. But it was fun to be back after such a long break," Prajnesh said.

Prajnesh said he would begin slowly with short sessions and then build up. "I am just going to start slowly. Shorter sessions."

The Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA) has granted permission to only Prajnesh, Mukund and Sureshkumar to use the court facilities as of now. Mukund, who began training from Thursday, said it felt good to be back on court. He and Sureshkumar hit for nearly one and half hours on Thursday. **PTI**

## Rijju bats for 'atmanirbhar' sporting ecosystem

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijju on Friday emphasised the importance of being *atmanirbhar* in the sporting ecosystem and felt need to develop a successful league culture to make sport as a sustainable career opportunity.

"You have to be empowered to take care of yourself. The country has to be self-reliant. Whenever there are challenges, disasters or catastrophe, we need to ensure we emerge stronger. I have to ensure our athletes and coaches become stronger after lockdown," Rijju said during Indian table tennis player Mudit Dani's online lockdown chat series *In The Spotlight* on Friday.

"Sports stars motivate people immensely. In achieving the Government's efforts, our sports stars have played a very critical role," he added.

The Minister further said we have to make leagues successful in order to ensure viable and fruitful sporting careers for our athletes at all levels.

"First of all, sport is a way of life but that is not enough. Sport has to be a career also. Sport has to give you respect, position, earning, comfort and recognition. So for that when you have a flourishing league system in the country —



whether it is national or state level, it has to be successful. And to make the leagues successful, it has to be commercially viable and successful too," he said.

Rijju also expressed his dream of making India a top country in the Olympic medals tally. Stressing on the great cooperation from various stakeholders, the Sports Minister wants to make India one of the top-10 medal winning nations by 2028 Olympics. "Although we have achieved some success in hockey and a few individual sports, we have not been able to make any successful impact in Olympic history. I am talking about creating a sporting culture in India. In days to come I want to ensure that not only our participation but our success rate also soars," he concluded. **PNS**

## Sevilla wins derby as La Liga returns

AFP ■ SEVILLE

Sevilla beat local rivals Real Betis 2-0 as La Liga returned after three months away on Thursday, becoming the second of Europe's five major leagues to resume following the coronavirus pandemic.

After the Bundesliga in Germany, La Liga opened its doors again to players but not supporters at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan, where the usually vibrant Seville derby was played in front of empty stands.

Lucas Ocampos gave Sevilla the lead from a 56th-minute penalty and Fernando Reges then added the second goal for the home side, who are third in the table.

Both coaches made use



Sevilla players celebrate after win against Real Betis on Thursday. AP

of their new allocation of five substitutes and there was a drinks break in each half but the contest lost its fluency late on, in part because Betis never looked like staging a comeback.

Victory strengthens Sevilla's hold on third place as they move four points above

Getafe and Real Sociedad below them. Betis sit 12th and face the possibility of being dragged into a relegation battle.

"I always believed we would play again," said La Liga president Javier Tebas, who had also indicated that "10 or 15 per cent" of fans could attend stadiums before the season finishes on July 19.

## Thiem, Zverev, Dimitrov join Djokovic in US Open doubts

AFP ■ BELGRADE

Dominic Thiem, Alexander Zverev and Grigor Dimitrov on Friday joined world number one Novak Djokovic in expressing their reluctance over playing at the US Open under current conditions while the coronavirus pandemic is still active.

"All of these circumstances are pretty tough," world number three Thiem told a press conference in Belgrade.

"So I think some circumstances will have to change (for it to) make sense to go there," the 26-year-old Austrian said.

Germany's Zverev, the world number seven, echoed that view. "It's great if we get the opportunity to play, but under these circumstances I don't think a lot of players will feel comfortable in the environment there," he said.



(Left to right) Alexander Zverev, Novak Djokovic, Grigor Dimitrov & Dominic Thiem. AP

"So that's my opinion. But it's not really up to us players in that way, in a way the US Open decides."

Like Djokovic recently, Zverev cited notably the obligatory 14-day quarantine for players arriving in the US,

housing in airport hotels near the tournament and not allowing them to be accompanied by more than one member of the team.

Thiem stressed that a "Grand Slam can be pretty demanding physically and

you'll have to choose your coach or your physio."

But both Thiem and Bulgaria's Dimitrov said they would wait until a decision on the US Open — widely expected to be announced on Monday — before taking a final position.

"Well nobody knows, maybe things improve, maybe not, so we'll have to wait until the facts are out and then decide," Thiem said when asked whether he will participate at the tournament.

The US Open main draw is due to get underway in New York on August 31.

The three players arrived in Belgrade for a charity tournament hosted by Djokovic, which kicks off on Saturday.

The Adria Tour will be held until July 5 in Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro and Bosnia.

## Lisbon set to host final stages of CL

AFP ■ LISBON

The final stages of this season's interrupted Champions League will be played in Lisbon, with the final on August 22 or 23, German newspaper *Bild* reported on Friday.

The assertion by *Bild* follows reports by several other European media in recent days. An official announcement is expected when UEFA's Executive Committee meets by videoconference next Wednesday, June 17.

*Bild* also reported that the closing stages of the Europa League are set to be moved to Germany, with matches being played in the region around Cologne, in the west of the country. In both competitions, all ties would be played as one-off matches from the quarter-finals onwards. Usually the quarter-finals and semi-finals are staged over two legs.

## Singapore, Japan, Azerbaijan GPs axed

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Logistical restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic has led to the cancellation of Formula 1 races in Azerbaijan, Japan and Singapore.

While challenges in preparing the street circuits led to the cancellation of Azerbaijan and Singapore rounds, travel restrictions in Japan due to the coronavirus sealed the fate of Japanese Grand Prix.

"These decisions have been taken due to the different challenges our promoters face in those countries," the Formula 1 announced on Friday.

"In Singapore and Azerbaijan, the long lead times required to construct street circuits made hosting the events during a period of uncertainty impossible and in Japan, ongoing travel restrictions also led to the decision not to proceed with the race," the statement said further.

Earlier this month, Formula 1 had announced a revised 2020 calendar with first two of the eight scheduled races to be held in Austria starting July 7.

The cancellation of the three races allows Formula 1 to explore more venues in Europe.

On Thursday, F1's motorsports chief Ross Brawn expressed confidence in adding more races in the second half of the season.

"Things are moving fast, but we still have time. We have lots of different options and we're very confident we're going to have a great second half of the season," said Brawn.