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10 VIVACITY

Change Ourselves First to Combat Coronavirus



Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in | @Cmohty @DiprHaryana Health Department, Haryana Stay Alert, Stay Safe

Pak frees missing diplomatic staffers

After strong demarche by India, 2 High Commission drivers held in Islamabad for alleged hit & run released

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Hours after India lodged a strong protest, Pakistani authorities on Monday evening released two Indian High Commission staffers in Islamabad, who were reportedly arrested for their alleged involvement in a "hit and run accident".

Top Government sources confirmed that the two Indian staffers were released by Pakistani authorities and they are back at the Indian High Commission.

Sources said Pakistan charge d'affaires Syed Hyder Shah was summoned to the

Ministry of External Affairs and issued a demarche. Simultaneously, in Islamabad the Indian High Commission took up with the Pakistani authorities the issue of the missing staffers, they added. The Indians, both drivers, reportedly went missing since 8 am.

This incident comes days after two Pakistani officials at the Pakistan High Commission here were accused of espionage and deported. The two staffers Abid Hussain and Mohammad Tahir worked in the visa section.

The Delhi Police caught them while they were report-



edly obtaining sensitive documents relating to India's security installations from an Indian national in exchange for money, sources said.

Incidentally, this was the first time in four years that an official of the Pakistan High Commission was expelled. In October 2016, India and

Pakistan had expelled officials from each other's missions for spying. Pakistan had summoned a senior Indian diplomat to register a strong protest over the decision.

This incident comes against the backdrop of several top Indian diplomats being subjected to aggressive tailing

- This incident comes days after two Pakistani officials at the Pakistan High Commission here were deported for spying in India
- The two Indian High Commission staffers Abid Hussain and Mohammad Tahir worked in the visa section in Pakistan
- In March, the Indian High Commission in Pakistan sent a strong protest note to the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad protesting against the harassment of its officers and staff

SOURCES SAID PAKISTAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES SYED HYDER SHAH WAS SUMMONED TO THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ISSUED A DEMARCHE

in Islamabad by the Pakistani security agencies over the last several days. India has protested against the excessive surveillance.

The vehicle of India's Charge d'affaires Gaurav Ahluwalia was chased by the ISI recently. A biker was seen following the official's car.

In March, the Indian High Commission in Pakistan sent a strong protest note to the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad protesting against the harassment of its officers and staff.

In the note, India cited 13 such instances just in March and asked Pakistan to put an end to them. The Government also said Pakistan should investigate the incidents urgently and instruct the relevant agencies to ensure that these do not recur.

India and Pakistan downgraded their diplomatic ties in August, after J&K's special status under Article 370 was revoked. Both countries have recalled their High Commissioners, and Deputy High Commissioners.

CBI alerts fake sanitiser, online payment fraud

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With fraudsters seeking to exploit the Covid-19 crisis to rake in the moolah, the CBI has issued alerts to all State/Union Territory police agencies relating to rise in online advance payment scams and use of methanol for counterfeiting hand sanitisers. The CBI alerts to the law enforcement agencies are based on Interpol inputs.

Online advance payment scams involve instances of criminals approaching as vendors of personal protection equipment (PPE) and other protective equipment suppliers related to Covid-19 pandemic and entering business transactions with clients online. After receipt of payment via bank transfers, the fraudulent vendors do not make any delivery of the committed items.

Methanol in hand sanitisers can be highly toxic and dangerous for the human body. According to the inputs from the Interpol, instances, in other countries, of use of methanol for preparing spurious hand sanitisers have come to the fore.

"Instances have been reported in other countries where due to huge demand for hand sanitisers during Covid-19 pandemic, use of methanol was detected to produce counterfeit hand sanitisers. Methanol can be highly toxic and dangerous for the human body," a CBI spokesperson said.

Based on inputs from Interpol, the CBI had last month alerted the States/Union Territories/Central Agencies on a threat from a malicious software that uses a banking Trojan Cerberus which deploys its app to trick users into installing it on their smartphones.

"Based on inputs received from Interpol, CBI has issued an alert relating to a banking Trojan known as Cerberus. This malicious software takes advantage of Covid-19 Pandemic to impersonate and send SMS using the lure of Covid-19 related content to download the embedded malicious link, which deploys its malicious app usually spread via phishing campaigns to trick users into installing it on their smartphones," the CBI which is the nodal agency for Interpol in India had said last month.



Total lockdown in Chennai, 3 dists in TN till June 30

PNS ■ CHENNAI

With Tamil Nadu on Monday reporting 44 deaths due to Covid-19, the highest for a single day, taking the toll to 479 and infection tally to 46,504 in the State, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced "maximised restricted lockdown" from June 19 to June 30 in four districts — Chennai, Kanchipuram, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur. This also includes full scale shutdown on two Sundays, the Government added.

Now persons planning to make a trip to Chennai and the three neighboring districts are advised to reschedule their travel plans as the above mentioned places have become no-go areas.

The announcement came after a cabinet meeting, which included the CM and health experts. Use of cabs, autos and private vehicles will not be allowed except for emergency medical purposes. Government offices will function with 33 per cent employees.

Continued on Page 2

Chinese firm wins bid for RRTS project

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the midst of a stand-off with China in Ladakh and the Government's clarion call for self reliance, a Chinese multinational civil construction company, Shanghai Tunnel Engineering Co. Ltd (STEC), has emerged as the lowest bidder for the construction of an underground stretch of Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project.

The STEC has emerged as the lowest bidder for the construction of the 5.6 km New Ashok Nagar-Sahibabad underground package of the 82.15 kms RRTS project.

Officials said that STEC has quoted at ₹1,126.89 crore for the project while Larsen and Toubro Limited (L&T) quoted ₹1,170 crore; Gemany firm Gülermak Agir Sanayi Insaat ve Taahhut AS (Gülermak) quoted ₹1,325.92 crore; Tata Projects Limited - SK E&C JV (TPL-SKEC JV) quoted ₹1,346.29 crore and Afcons Infrastructure Ltd. (Afcons) quoted ₹1,400.40 crore.

Continued on Page 2

Test in ₹450, results in 15 min: AAP Delhi readies to combat Covid, Shah asks parties to work together as team

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With the new-found synergy between the Centre and the Delhi Government in the wake of spike in Covid cases in Delhi, the Governments are pulling out all stops to escalate the fight against the pandemic to a war-footing level.

Several crucial developments took place in Delhi on Monday from Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairing an all-party meeting urging political parties to bury difference and join hands to battle Covid-19 to the Railways saying they are all set to provide 250 coaches with 4,000 Covid beds by Tuesday. The move came after Shah on Sunday had announced 500 isolation ward coaches for 8,000 Covid-19 patients in Delhi.

However, most striking announcement was that of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh who said a new test for coronavirus disease will be made available in Delhi costing only ₹450 and providing results in 15 minutes.

In the day, Shah paid a surprise visit to Lok Nayak Jai

Prakash Narayan Hospital to review arrangements related to Covid-19, directing the Delhi Chief Secretary to install CCTV cameras in corona wards of every designated hospital in the national Capital for proper monitoring, and set up alternative canteens for uninterrupted supply of food to patients.

"We have stationed 50 isolation ward coaches at



A train coach modified as isolation coach for Covid-19 patients. All of the platforms at Anand Vihar Railway Station have been reserved for the deployment of isolation coaches

ShakurBasti railway station. By Tuesday evening, 180 isolation ward coaches at Anand Vihar station and another 20 will be stationed at other railway stations in Delhi," a Railways official said.

Leaders of the BJP, AAP, the Congress and the BSP attended the meeting with the Home Minister, who had on Sunday announced a slew of measures, including ramping

up of testing facilities, after holding discussions with the Delhi Government and the civic bodies on the coronavirus crisis.

Pitching for political unity to inspire confidence among the people, Shah appealed to the representatives of the four parties to urge their workers to ensure implementation of the Delhi Government's coronavirus guidelines on the ground.

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 3,42,845
DEATHS: 9,914
RECOVERED: 1,80,225
ACTIVE: 1,52,663

STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
Maharashtra	1,10,744	4,128	56,049
Tamil Nadu	46,504	479	25,344
Delhi	42,829	1,400	16,427
Gujarat	24,104	1,506	16,672
Uttar Pradesh	14,091	417	8,610
Rajasthan	12,981	301	9,785
West Bengal	11,494	485	5,494
Madhya Pradesh	10,935	465	7,903
Haryana	7,722	100	3,565
Karnataka	7,213	88	4,140
Bihar	6,662	38	4,226
Andhra Pradesh	6,456	86	3,385
Jammu & Kashmir	5,202	62	2,604
Telangana	5,193	187	2,766
Assam	4,159	8	2,206

Devotees of superstition give birth to viral deity!

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

While the medical experts and scientists are busy looking for a cure and vaccine for coronavirus, in several parts of the country people have started worshipping corona as a 'goddess' to appease its wrath.

There have been several instances of people offering animal sacrifices and puja in parts of UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam and West Bengal to woo the corona goddess.

Several videos and images have gone viral on social media in which many people mostly women could be seen performing puja of 'corona mai or devi'. They believe that it is the only way to put an end to the deadly coronavirus pandemic.

In Kerala, a native of Kadakkal district, identified as Anilan, has installed an idol which looks similar to the coronavirus at a makeshift shrine next to his house. He conducts daily rituals in front

of the thermocol idol. But he doesn't allow visitors as he staunchly believes in the science behind "break the chain" campaign. According to report, he is ready to offer "prasadam" to those who reach out to him by mail.

In Jharkhand's Koderma district, villagers sacrificed 400 goats to please "corona mai" in a bid to ward off the coronavirus.

In Bihar, "corona devi" has emerged as a goddess for many villages of Nalanda, Gopalganj, Saran, Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, Arrah and Buxar. In Patna, vil-



Women performing puja

lagers of Kosut and Bahua and Anishabad are putting alum (fitkiri) in from their door to ward off the virus.

In many blocks of Buxar, there have been reports of women offering worship to the 'corona devi' after taking a holy dip in the Ganga and light-

ing incense.

In Sarveshwarnath Temple in Brahmapura, Muzaffarpur, women have been performing the ritual by offering laddoo, flowers and sesame seeds to chase away the virus. The video of the rituals has gone viral on social media, too.

In Uttar Pradesh, women in some villages in Tumkurhraj, Kasia, Hata, Captanganj and Khadda tehsil in Kushinagar district have started worshipping "corona mai". These women have dug a small pit in the field, filled it with water, and each one of them offers nine cloves and nine laddoos to 'corona mai' to appease her.

In Jharkhand, a video has gone viral in which a large number of women gathered in parts of Jharkhand along with puja materials — like sindoor (vermillion), flowers, laddoos and water — to sit under trees and worship the "coronavirus goddess".

Continued on Page 2

'Corona mid-Nov peak, beds shortage' report not ours, says ICMR

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Twenty-four hours after the publication of a study by researchers from an Operations Research Group constituted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) that Covid-219 will peak in mid-November and country will face a shortage of hospital beds and ventilators, the ICMR has disowned the report.

The contents of the study were all over in the print and electronic media and websites since Sunday afternoon. ICMR had enough time to deny the report on Sunday itself. But it waited for a full day before tweeting at 12.15 pm on Monday, "The news reports attributing this study to ICMR are misleading. This refers to a non-peer-reviewed modeling,

not carried out by ICMR and does not reflect the official position of ICMR."

The report said that the peak of the novel coronavirus pandemic in India has been delayed by the eight-week lockdown along with strengthened public health measures. Hence, it may now arrive around mid-November. India may have insufficient Isolation and ICU beds and ventilators during this period, the study suggests.

In the scenario of intensified public health measures with 60 per cent effectiveness after lockdown, the demand can be met until the first week of November. After that, isolation beds could be inadequate for 5.4 months, ICU beds for 4.6 and ventilators for 3.9 months, projections by the health researchers showed.

CAPSULE

NO POWER CAN BREAK INDO-NEPAL TIES: RAJNATH
New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday asserted that the Lipulekh-Dharchula road falls very much in India and conveyed the Modi Government's willingness to sort out the "misunderstanding" with the neighbouring country and added that "no power can break India-Nepal ties".

FORENSIC LAB TO CONDUCT PROBE IN RAJPUT'S DEATH
Mumbai: The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) at Kalina here will conduct a probe into the case of alleged suicide by Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput and submit its report in 10 days, an official said.

QURAN MANDATORY TO GET DEGREE IN PAK'S VARSITIES
Lahore: Universities in Pakistan's Punjab province will not get the degree without completing a compulsory reading of the Quran with its translation, according to a notification issued by the Government.

Highest single-day spike of 178 deaths in Maha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The highest single-day spike of 178 deaths in Maharashtra along with 2,786 Covid-19 cases kept the authorities jittery as the total number of cases in the State reached to 1,10,744.

In Mumbai, 1,066 Covid-19 cases and 58 deaths were reported. Total number of cases in the city is now at 59,201, including 30,125 recovered/discharged, 26,828 active patients and 2,248 deaths as per the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

The coronavirus cases in Tamil Nadu inched towards the grim milestone of 50,000. As many as 1,843 people tested positive for the novel coronavirus in the last 24 hours. At least 44 Covid-19 patients died in the last 24 hours, taking the fatalities to 479 in Tamil Nadu.

Delhi's infection count touched 42,829. The national capital added 1,647 coronavirus cases on Monday with 73 deaths, taking the tally to 42,829 with death toll at 1,400.

However, all the three states showed a marginal dip in the total number of cases recorded on Monday.

The other States too added to the Covid-19 tally which crossed 3.40 lakhs mark on Monday, prompting the Government to advise the States to engage with the private healthcare providers to facilitate enhanced bed avail-

ability and critical care health facilities as well as to ensure fair and transparent charges for services provided.

"There have been several reports indicating an emerging shortage of healthcare infrastructure including hospitals with ICU beds, ventilators, oxygen supported beds etc., for management of Covid-19 patients. There have also been reports of overcharging by healthcare providers for Covid-19 treatment," said an official from the Union Health Ministry.

He said that PMJAY package and CGHS package rates are already available with the States, that will help them to reach an agreement with the private sector on reasonable rates and arrangements to provide critical care for in-patient admissions.

During the last 24 hours, 7419 Covid-19 patients have been cured. A total of 1,69,797 patients, so far, have been cured, taking the recovery rate rise to 51.08 per cent, which is indicative of the fact that more than half of positive cases have recovered from the disease, the official said.

133 new cases reported in Madhya Pradesh today, taking the total number of positive cases in the state to 10,935 while 32 more Covid-19 cases were reported in Manipur taking the total number of cases in the state to 490. Number of active cases stands at 339.

407 more Covid cases & 10 deaths were reported in West Bengal with total number of cases at 11494 and 485 deaths.

In Kerala, 82 persons tested COVID-19 positive taking the total counts to 1,348 active cases and 11,74 recovered cases.

Meanwhile, the Government said that in order to ensure that patients receive prompt, good quality and care at reasonable rates, it has been suggested to States to have consultations with the local private healthcare providers and arrive at reasonable rates, while factoring in cost elements for personal safety equipments for healthcare providers.

It has been suggested that the rates, once fixed, must be widely publicized so that both the patients and service providers are fully aware and capacities are used optimally.

States have also been asked to proactively engage with the private sector health providers and consider pooling in public and private healthcare facilities, as this will help in providing prompt, good quality and reasonable health care to Covid-19 patients.

ICMR's testing capacity for detecting the novel Coronavirus in infected persons is continuously being ramped up. The number of government labs has been increased to 653 and private labs has been increased to 248 (a total of 901).

At 514, Haryana records highest cases in a day

Chandigarh: Haryana reported 514 more coronavirus deaths, six of these from the hardest-hit Gurgaon district, taking the toll in the state to 100 on Monday, while the number of infections saw the highest single-day spike of 514 cases, according to a government bulletin.

Now, the number of positive cases in the state stands at 7,722.

Among the total COVID-related deaths in the state, 68 are males and 32 females.

With six more deaths, Gurgaon now has total 37 fatalities, the highest for any district in the state. Five persons succumbed to the virus in Faridabad, another worst-hit district in the National Capital Region, which now has total 33 deaths.

Jhajjar district reported another death, its second so far, according to the state health department's daily bulletin.

Earlier on June 11, Haryana had reported 12 COVID-19 related deaths while the previous highest single-day jump in cases at 496 was recorded on June 7.

The other districts from where deaths have been reported include six each from Sonapat and Rohtak, three each from

Ambala and Jind, five from Panipat, two from Karnal and one each from Palwal, Hisar and Charkhi Dadri, according to the bulletin.

The total active COVID-19 patients in the state are 4,057, while 3,565 have recovered, according to the bulletin.

During the past 24 hours, 562 patients recovered and were discharged, the highest number during a single day.

Among the districts from where fresh 514 cases were reported are 183 from Gurgaon, where total cumulative cases rose to 3,477, a total of 1,664 of which are active ones.

As many as 128 cases were reported from Faridabad, 63 from Sonapat, nine from Jhajjar, 18 each from Karnal and Rewari, 10 from Fatehabad, 20 from Bhiwani, 21 from Rohtak, 13 from Mahendragarh, four each from Kurukshetra and Ambala, two each from Kaithal, Jind and Nuh, eight from Hisar, five from Sirsa, three from Panipat and one from Panchkula district, according to the bulletin.

Meanwhile, Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij said that COVID-19 patients have been included in the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. PTI

ANAMIKA SHUKLA CASE SOLVED 3 men held in school recruitment scam

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh police on Monday claimed to have cracked the Anamika Shukla case, arresting three men who got aspiring teachers jobs in government schools on fake documents.

The curious case involved teachers being recruited in state government schools on the basis of educational certificates of one woman -- Anamika Shukla. She had cleared the eligibility exam.

The fake Anamika Shuklas drew lakhs in salaries from multiple schools, a scam for which the state government drew flak from opposition leaders including Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Last week, police handed over the investigation to its Special Task Force (STF).

"Three persons including the kingpin of the gang were arrested by the STF from Gonda. They were identified as Pushpendra Singh alias Shushil of Mainpuri, Anand of Jaunpur and Ramnath of Kheri," an STF statement said.

Police recovered a licensed

pistol and seven cartridges, mobile phones and some documents from them, it said.

Teachers got jobs in Anamika Shukla's name at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in Allahabad, Amethi, Raebareilly, Varanasi, Baghpat, Kasganj, Saharanpur, Ambedkar Nagar and Aligarh, according to earlier reports.

The probe found that the real Anamika Shukla of Gonda had applied for the post of a KGBV teacher in 2017 at Sultanpur, Jaunpur, Mirzapur, Basti and Lucknow.

She got calls from Sultanpur, Jaunpur and Lucknow but due to her health she did not take the job.

But her documents were misused and teachers in several districts worked in her name, the STF said.

"The real Anamika had lodged an FIR in this connection in Gonda on June 11," it said. In Kasganj, a teacher called Priya worked as Anamika Shukla. She told police that she got the job with Pushpendra's help, the STF said. Pushpendra's name cropped up during the probe in other districts too.

Police then got a tip-off about his presence near the High Court building in Lucknow and he was arrested along with the two others.

During interrogation, Pushpendra said he got Anamika Shukla's documents from Anand in 2019. He then took Rs 2 lakh each from the candidates and got them appointment as teachers on fake documents.

The three men were handed over to Gonda police, where an FIR is registered and a detailed probe will continue, the STF said.

Last week, UP Minister for State for Basic Education Satish Dwivedi said the probe so far had revealed that same set of documents were used to draw ₹12.24 lakh as salary from nine schools in several districts.

As the case surfaced in the media, at least one Anamika Shukla resigned but was arrested.

The real Anamika Shukla, who was jobless, was on Saturday appointed as an assistant teacher on ad hoc basis by a state-aided private school in Gonda.

Govt evacuates 156 Indians from Lanka

Colombo: As many as 156 Indian nationals stranded in Sri Lanka were flown back home on Monday under the third phase of a mega evacuation exercise.

National carrier Air India brought back the citizens in its AI-1202 flight from Colombo to Kochi and Bengaluru, the Indian High Commission here said in a press release.

Indian High Commissioner

Gopal Baglay met the Indian nationals at the Bandaranaike International Airport and bid them a safe journey. The flight was scheduled as part of the phase-III of 'Vande Bharat Mission' to repatriate Indians stranded abroad due to the international travel restrictions following the coronavirus outbreak. Over 1,000 Indians have been repatriated from Sri Lanka so far in various flights and the

Indian Navy Ship INS Jalashwa since the first phase of the evacuation mission was launched on May 7. The next Air India special flight from Colombo to Delhi, Lucknow and Gaya is scheduled on June 22, the release said. Priority is being given to those who have been laid off, short-term visa holders, people with medical emergency, pregnant women, elderly citizens and students, it said. PTI

No fresh recruitment as per 2015 job policy

PNS ■ JAMMU

Conceding the long pending demand of the unemployed youth, the Jammu & Kashmir Government on Monday said fresh recruitments will not be made as per the 2015 job policy under which Government employees were to undergo five year's probation period.

The decision was taken during the Administrative

council meeting chaired by Lt-Gov GC Murmu here in Jammu.

Sharing brief details about the crucial decision, J&K Government spokesperson, Rohit Kansal tweeted late Monday evening, "the Administrative Council chaired by Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu had approved abolition of the said SRO 202 for fresh appointments and also reduced the probation period from five

J&K reports 179 new virus cases

PNS ■ JAMMU

A total number of 179 cases of coronavirus were detected in Jammu & Kashmir while 215 patients recovered fully and three more deaths were reported on Monday.

According to the media bulletin, the total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir rose to 5220 with 179 fresh cases.

Out of these 179 cases, 28 cases were reported from Jammu division and 151 from

Kashmir division. Also, 03 COVID-19 deaths have been reported from the Kashmir division.

Moreover, 215 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals, 17 from Jammu Division and 198 from Kashmir Division.

According to the media bulletin, out of 5220 positive cases, 2554 are Active Positive, 2604 have recovered and 62 have died; 07 in Jammu division and 55 in Kashmir division.

Manoj Sinha appointed Assistant Regional Officer (independent charge) of DAV zone

PNS ■ RANCHI

Manoj Kumar Sinha, an eminent educator and Principal of DAV Kapildev Public School, Kadru has been appointed as Assistant Regional Officer (independent charge) of DAV zone F Ten prominent DAV schools mostly in Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Khunti comes under zone F Sinha has an experience in teaching and administrator (principal) for more than three decades.

Sinha hailing from Jamui district of Bihar joined DAV group in 1992 as teacher at DAV Kedla. Thereafter he served as teacher, headmaster, and principal at different DAVs in Jharkhand. On January 3, 2018 he was appointed as principal of DAV Kapildev Kadru. In an interview with Roshan Kumar of The Pioneer, Sinha shared his experience and vision.



A motorist rides through a flooded street during monsoon rain in Puri on Monday

Assam well fire continues, Army joins efforts to douse blaze

Guwahati: As gas continued to flow uncontrollably and a fire raged on at a natural gas well of OIL in Assam's Baghjan, the Army on Monday joined efforts to douse the blaze after the civil administration sought its help in constructing a bridge over an adjoining water body.

The state-run Oil India Limited (OIL), in the meantime, continued to face public ire over the tragedy and its production was getting affected in a big way with the company losing 5,386 MT of crude oil and 7.04 MMSCM of natural gas output in the last 20 days due to bandhs and blockades.

"In view of the urgency of the operation to control the well, Bhaskar Pegu, Deputy Commissioner, Tinsukia requested the service of the Army (2nd Mountain Division) to construct a bridge of around 150 metre length over a water body adjacent to the blowout well," Oil India Ltd (OIL) said in a statement. Accepting the request of the civil administration, the Army is

carrying out mobilisation of material and personnel to the Baghjan site from Misamari and Tezu, it added. OIL said testing is complete for one of the two high-discharge water pumps of capacity 2,500 GPM to be used for well control operation.

Besides, the civil work of extension of the second water reservoir of 12,000 KL capacity, development of debris lay down, bunkhouse and kill pump area are in progress. "Fabrication job of heat shields required for reducing heat hazards to working personnel at site is in progress at OIL's engineering workshop at Duliajan. Joint inspection of equipment mobilised from ONGC by Alert and ONGC team at OIL yard is in progress," the company said in a release said. PTI

Total lockdown in Chennai, 3 dists...

From Page 1

However, secretariat, health, police, revenue, electricity, treasuries, Aavin, local bodies, labour, cooperation and food departments can function with sufficient number of employees.

However, the lockdown will have exceptions for hospitals, diagnostic labs, pharmacies, ambulance and hearses vans to function but movement of taxis, auto rickshaws, and other private vehicles will be banned except for medical emergencies, stated the Government.

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Ref. : MD/MK/04/Abgd.NIT/332 Date : 15.06.2020

TENDER NOTICE

MPMKVVCL, Bhopal, invites following bids from manufacturers through e-tendering.

Tender Specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee including GST (IN Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/04/677	Procurement of 11KV & 33KV Combined CT-PT Unit (Metering Equipment)	456.46	2360.00	26.06.2020 03:30 PM	08.07.2020 03:30 PM
MD/MK/04/678	Procurement of 11KV Two core Current Transformer	130.38	2360.00	26.06.2020 03:30 PM	08.07.2020 04:30 PM

Other details are available on Company website <https://portal.mpcz.in> & www.mptenders.gov.in.
M.P. Madhyam/97621/2020 **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)**

SAVE ELECTRICITY

Devotees of superstition give birth to viral deity!

From Page 1

In another video of Dhanbad, a large gathering of transgenders fattered at an open ground in Jharia to perform a special puja to appease 'corona mai'. They sat on the grassy floor in a row, and placed a line of flowers in front of them. Incense sticks were lit, and fruits, vegetables, ghee, and jaggery were offered to the devi.

In order to please "corona mai", from Biswanath Chariali to Darrang district and even in Guwahati, in Assam, some women after day-long fasting, prayed to "corona mai", claiming that they believe if the

"corona god" is satisfied with their puja, the frightful disease would be eliminated.

In West Bengal's Asansol district's Nichupara Basti several women got together to appease corona goddess by arranging a small puja on the banks of Chinnamasta pond in the area. They offered sweets, hibiscus flowers, and sugary drinks to the 'goddess' after fasting for a day. The offerings were buried once the ritual was over.

Last month, a video of a group of women from Rajasthan singing a newly composed folk song called, "corona bhaag ja (corona go away)" had gone viral.

Chinese...

From Page 1

After the issuance of the letter of acceptance by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited (NCRTC), the Chinese firm has to complete the tunneling work in 1095 days. As per the contract terms, the tunneling work will be carried out by Tunnel Boring Machine through the cut and cover method.

Officials said that Chinese company bid was lowest and no final decision has been taken to this effect.) The NCRTC had floated a tender for the first underground civil construction project in November last year and its technical bid was opened on March 16 this year. The project will connect

Delhi, Ghaziabad and Meerut. The STEC and four other companies had qualified for the technical bid. The Chinese firm last week qualified for the financial bid too as it was the lowest bidder. The bidding was for the construction of the 5.6-km-long underground stretch between New Ashok Nagar-Sahibabad. Expected to be completed by 2025, Delhi-Meerut RRTS project is an 82.15 km long, under-construction, semi-high speed rail corridor, connecting Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut. As per NCRTC, it is one of the three rapid-rail corridors planned under the Regional Rapid Transport System (RRTS) project. With a maximum speed of 160 km/h (99.42 mph), the distance between Delhi and Meerut will be covered in around 62 minutes.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
PERIODICAL OVERHAULING WORK

Open E-tender Notice No. - KYN.LD. 583.P.Rev.2019-20/07/Cont.R. Name of work : Periodical Overhauling of 10 Nos. 110KV/27KV, 21.6 MVA power transformers of Kalyan & Lonavala districts in Mumbai Division of Central Railway. Approx Value Rs : 42120194.40. EMD Rs : 3,60,600/- Cost of Tender Form Rs : 10000/- Completion period : 24 months. The time and date for submission of tender will be up to 11:00 Hrs on 24.06.2020. Complete details of E-tender are available at official Railway website www.ireps.gov.in the complete documents can be downloaded from the website. The details of tender is available in the "Notice Board" of the Sr.DEE(TD) KYN's office, Kalyan. 131

Railway Helpline 139

WESTERN RAILWAY
ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Sr.No.1. Tender Notice No. & Date: EL/Main/81771/WA/6 dt.15/06/2020. Work and location: Mumbai Division-Annual Maintenance Contract of DG sets for 3 years. Approx. cost of work Rs.: 98,62,070. Cost of EMD Rs.: 1,97,300. Completion Period: Three Years. Date & Time of submission: till 17.07.2020 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: on 17.07.2020 till 15.30 hrs. NOTE: Please visit our website www.ireps.gov.in to download the tender document, corrigendum and further details. 01

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WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008, invites E-tender as per details given as follows: 1. Sr. No. 1. 2. Executive : Sr.DEN (Co) BCT. 3. Tender Notice No. & Date : BCT/20-21/136/dtd. 15.06.2020. 4. Work and location : Bandra Terminus- Minimum Infrastructure Development for Carnage Watering Facilities, Pathway, and Lighting facilities for Terminal Examination of STR trains on Platform Stabling Lines. 5. Approx. cost of work in Rs. : 91,49,181.48. 6. EMD Rs. : 1,83,000.00. 7. Date & Time of submission : on 14.07.2020 till 15.00 hrs. 8. Date & Time of Opening : on 14.07.2020 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding details nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offers will not be considered. 04

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No plan for another lockdown: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that there is no plan for another lockdown in the national Capital.

"Many people are speculating whether another lockdown in Delhi is being planned. There are no such plans," Kejriwal tweeted.

Kejriwal's tweet has come after the announcement of lockdown in southern state's districts.

While Delhi has become a corona hotspot with 41182 COVID, out of which 2224 new cases and 24032 cases are active and to prepare plans for joint fight against Covid-19, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah along with Kejriwal, Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal and AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria held a meeting.



"The meeting held between the Union and the State government was very fruitful and the outcome was that both the governments will work in full cooperation with each other to fight against Corona," Health Minister

the future with the support of the central government," he added.

On the preparations being done for the monsoon season, Jain said, "Cementing and other necessary works are being done on war-footing. We are making all necessary preparations in the wake of the upcoming monsoon season."

On the decision to acquire properties for installation of more beds for treatment of COVID-19 patients, Jain said that trains, banquet halls, and other properties will be used as the extensions of the hospitals for the treatment of less serious patients, and more serious patients will be treated in the hospitals. "We have around 45% of beds available even today. More than the cases, the real question is how many beds do we need for the treatment of the patients. We are making all the necessary

arrangements as per the planning," he added.

Meanwhile, the Delhi administration has directed all laboratories and hospitals to work on their full potential and ramp up COVID-19 testing capacity to meet the increased demand of processing samples.

According to an order issued by Health Secretary Padmini Singla the processing of samples should be in a maximum of 48 hours.

"It has been decided to scale up lab testing immediately to effectively contain COVID-19 cases in Delhi. There is no upper limit to send samples to private sector labs, provided they undertake to process the same within the stipulated time frame, that is 24 hours (preferably) and maximum within 48 hours," the order said.

G'gram sees 183 cases in a day, total reaches 3,477

PRAVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram district reported 183 more Covid-19 positive cases on Monday. The situation is alarming now the tally has zoomed up to 3,477 and 1,664 are active cases.

A total of 1,776 have been cured and discharged including 511 on Monday. Also, a total of 37 people have lost their lives in Gurugram including six deaths on Monday, with 33 of them dying in the last 12 days.

The spike in numbers keep rising in the city with 200 cases registered in the district per day. It is worrying for all age groups especially senior citizens as infection appeared from every place in the district. The number of containment zones in the district has already been increased to 98 from 66 by the district administration.

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, 185 on June 12, 203 on June 13, June 14 at 169 and 183 on June 15.

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

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. The official believes that interstate movement between Delhi and Gurugram has been responsible for the spike. The Haryana government had sealed the borders with Delhi, but still, a large number of people sneak through.

"The more we screen and test, the more cases will emerge, that is expected. In the case of Dundaheera, DLF, Heera Nagar, Mullaheera, Manesar, Rajiv Nagar, Ganga Vihar, Acharyapuri and many others, for example, we screened the entire areas," he said.

Shah visits LNJP to review Covid preparedness

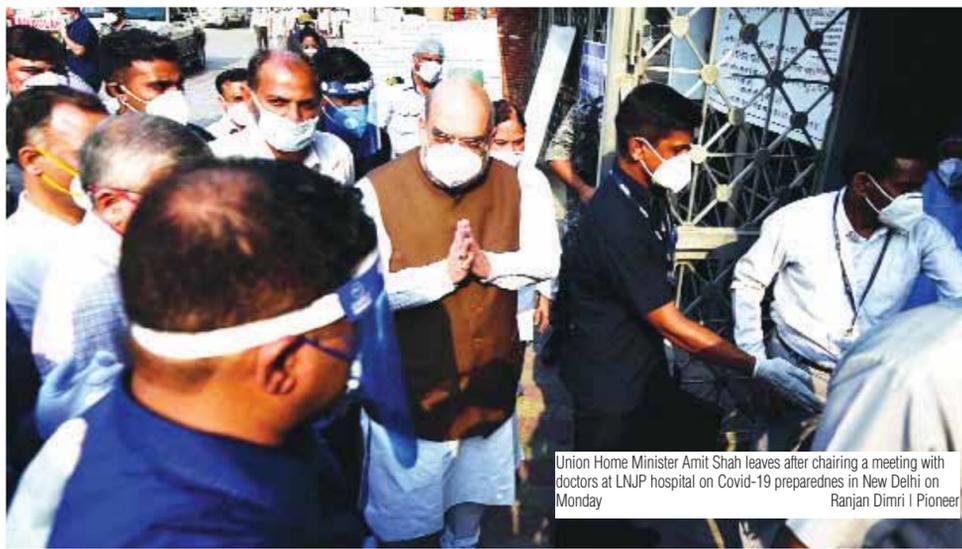
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday visited the LNJP hospital here to review the preparedness to fight Covid-19, officials said.

Shah met senior doctors in the conference room of the hospital who briefed him about the number of patients treated at the facility, deaths there and admissions from outside Delhi, among others.

"Visited LNJP Hospital in Delhi and held a comprehensive discussion with the doctors and officials on the Covid-19 situation. Also reviewed the hospital's preparedness. I thank and salute all Corona warriors who are serving the country round the clock in these difficult times," he tweeted.

Shah asked about the deaths of Covid-19 patients in the hospital, recovery rate and other details, they said.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah leaves after chairing a meeting with doctors at LNJP hospital on Covid-19 preparedness in New Delhi on Monday. Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Railways all set to provide 250 coaches as Covid ward today

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways is all set to provide 250 coaches as the Covid-19 care ward in the National Capital by Tuesday, a northern railway official said.

"We have stationed 50 isolation ward coaches at Shakurbasti railway station. By Tuesday evening, 180 isolation ward coaches at Anand Vihar station and another 20 will be stationed at other railway stations in Delhi," the official

said.

The move came after Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday had announced 500 isolation ward coaches for 8,000 Covid-19 patients in Delhi.

The Indian Railways, which suspended passenger train services from March 25 to combat the Covid-19 spread, has prepared 5,231 isolation ward coaches that are equipped with all medical facilities required for coronavirus cases.

IRREGULARITIES IN RATION DISTRIBUTION — Three anganwadi workers fired

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Minister for Social Welfare Rajendra Pal Gautam has terminated three anganwadi workers, two supervisors after finding irregularities in ration distribution on Monday.

During the inspection of the ration distribution under the 'Integrated Child Development Services' (ICDS) in the last four days, the minister had found irregularities in ration distribution in almost all places. The decision to terminate the services of those found flouting rules was taken in the meeting chaired by Gautam

with the senior officials of the Women and Child development department.

"Some Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) were given show cause notice. Two Anganwadi Centers were sealed in Rewla Khanpur, Matiala Constituency and the anganwadi register has been taken into custody by the Secretary," he said.

To prevent and monitor these irregularities, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were formed and approved in the meeting. It has been decided that take-home ration shall be delivered to the beneficiaries

at their doorsteps through respective anganwadi centers for the period of 13 days on June 19, 20 and 22, the government said in a statement.

Gautam termed the development very disappointing. "How will malnutrition end if the contractor and officers devour the ration? Ration is not being given in prescribed amounts in many areas. I visited door-to-door with my team for four consecutive days to inspect the rations given by the Anganwadi Centers, almost everywhere the irregularities were found."

In order to prevent all

these anomalies, the formation of ward level monitoring committees having ten members each will be constituted, he said, adding that these committees will monitor the quantity, quality, time period of the distribution, as well as monitoring and better implementation of the ICDS scheme.

"The committee will send the report to the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Women and Child Development Minister and director of the department.

Under the ICDS Scheme, millions of pregnant women and children in Delhi get rations. As per the 4

scheme, 1300 grams of oatmeal, 260 grams of black gram (raw), 130 grams of jaggery and 130 grams of roasted black gram is distributed to the children for 13 days. For pregnant women, 1690 grams of oatmeal, 260 grams of black gram (raw), 130 grams of jaggery and 130 grams of roasted black gram is distributed.

Gautam further said that the Government of Delhi is helping people in this epidemic, as much as possible and in such a situation ration reaching in less quantity than the prescribed limit is a serious matter.

IRS officer ends life by drinking acid-like substance in Dwarka

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 56-year-old Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer allegedly committed suicide by drinking an "acid-like substance" in his car in Delhi's Dwarka area on Sunday. Police said that a suicide note was recovered from his car which mentioned that he feared that he might "spread COVID-19" to his family and does not want them to suffer because of him.

According to a senior police official, the IRS officer had got himself tested for COVID-19 a week ago and the report came out negative but he was scared that his family might get infected of the deadly virus because of him, a senior police officer said.

"The incident was reported at Dwarka South police station regarding a man lying unconscious in a car. He was taken to a nearby hospital where he was declared brought dead," said the senior police official.

"Initial investigation suggested that he drank 'an acid-like substance' sitting inside his car and also left a suicide note in which he mentioned that he was killing himself as he feared that he might spread coronavirus," he said. "He seemed very upset with the situation around and feared his family might get infected with the deadly virus too. The case is under investigation and police will talk to other family members regarding it," he added.

The body will be handed over to the family on Monday after conducting post-mortem, the police said.

To get life insurance policy claim, man plots own murder

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A man plotted his own murder to get the insurance amount after his death. The 35-year-old man allegedly hired a juvenile and paid him money to kill him. Police said that they have apprehended a juvenile and three others for killing the man.

The deceased identified as Guarav Bansal runs a ration shop and lived with his wife and children in Arya Nagar, IP Extension. Police said that Bansal was under financial stress

Three other accomplice of the juvenile have been identified as - Manoj Kumar Yadav, (21), Suraj (18) and Sumit (26), all residents of Mohan Garden in Uttam Nagar.

According to a Koan, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), outer district, the body of the man was found hanging from a tree with a rope near Kheri Baba Pul in outer Delhi's Ranhola area on June 10.

"Both the hands of the man was also found to be tied. A case of murder was registered in this regard and an investigation was initiated. The family of the deceased had also lodged a missing report of the man at Anand Vihar police Station on June 9," said the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP).

"On the basis of intelligence, a suspect identified as Suraj was apprehended. During interrogation, Suraj admitted the crime and disclosed that he along with Manoj and Sumit was roped to commit killing by a juvenile, who was in contact with the deceased," said the DCP. "Later, the co-accused Manoj, Sumit and the juvenile were also apprehended. During enquiry, the juvenile revealed that victim had paid him to kill and he promised to pay for killing him," said the DCP.

"To execute the killing, the juvenile roped in his friend Manoj who then roped in Suraj and Sumit to execute this act. The accused killed the victim by hanging him to a tree near Kheri Baba Pul, Najafgarh drain. The accused revealed that they had received money for this act from the victim. Bansal had told them if they killed him, his family will get the insurance money," the DCP said.

'Frontline police warriors need physical, mental care'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Niraj Tokas, Inspector with Delhi Police (New Delhi district), has her task cut out in the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Her main job these days is to daily call up her Covid-19 infected colleagues who are recuperating at quarantine facilities and home, keep a tab on their health progress, overall well-being and boost their morale.

Tokas shared that being a mother of two kids has helped her easily relate with the psychological issues her colleagues are going through these trying times. "Given that police are in front of the frontline health workers, the cops are a vulnerable lot and going through feelings of grief, fear and anxiety about themselves as well as their family. The Covid-19 deaths of their peers as well as of others is also leaving some of them jittery," she said. A good number of police personnel have been infected with the virulent disease, many have recovered but some of them were not so lucky.

"Amid acute physical, mental and emotional stress experienced by the police personnel on a day-to-day basis due to the pandemic, it is important to keep them in a positive mindset," added New Delhi District DCP Dr Eish Singhal who ensures that he's accessible to his staff whenever they need him in these strenuous times.

Those who are aged or with co-morbidities, have been kept out



from the frontline duties as they are susceptible to the virus, said the police official who is himself a doctor. Young personnel with strong immunity have been assigned to serve as frontline warriors as they are less vulnerable to the dreaded virus, Dr Singhal said.

Moreover, to keep them mentally and physically fit, Delhi police is providing ayuraksha kits, regularly conducting yoga and meditation camps and webinars on mental health counselling with the experts in the respective fields for cops, particularly those at the quarantine facilities. "Outreach programmes are one of the most effective ways of mitigating wide-scale mental health crises," he added.

In this connection, Dr Jagdish Kaur, President of Women Initiative for Liberation Growth and Action (WILGA) which recently held webinar on the theme "Facing the challenges of Covid-19" on mental health with cops of various ranks of the New Delhi District police agreed that such

sessions help them to vent out their fears, seek suggestions and clear the doubts about the disease which has swept the world.

"Our topmost priority should be to safeguard the physical and mental health of the frontline Corona warriors who are working hard day and night as they visit the homes of the infected, enforce quarantine, protect healthcare workers, and ensure that essential supplies move while stopping non-essential movement of people."

The webinar session evoked overwhelming response from the cops as efforts were made to address various queries and concern of the infected and other police staff.

Dr. Smita Deshpande, senior psychiatrist with RML Hospital, Delhi who addressed the webinar said, "The nationwide lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic has taken a toll on most citizens' physical and mental health. And the personnel of India's police forces, especially those on the ground, are no exception.

Six fresh malaria cases reported; total tally 50

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With six fresh cases reported last week, the number of people suffering from malaria in the National Capital has reached to 50 this year. Meanwhile, no new cases of dengue and chikungunya reported in last one week.

The number of people diagnosed with malaria and chikungunya stand at 53 and 19 respectively.

Out of total dengue cases, 29 patients who diagnosed with the disease belong to Delhi while 16 patients traced here were from different states and other FIVE patients did not provide their address.

Mosquito-breeding has been reported in at least 6653 households and 6363 legal notices have been issued this year, according to data released by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).

The dengue breeding checkers have checked 5617464 houses and also issued challans to 83 numbers of office and residential premises till May 16.

A senior SDMC official said that all the preventive steps have been taken to reduce the cases. "The key to prevention of Dengue is ensuring there is no clean stagnant water in homes and around, which does not allow the Aedes mosquitoes to breed, and therefore dengue cannot spread," he said.

Dengue mosquito larvae breed in clear, standing water while those of malaria mosquito thrive even in dirty water. Doctors have advised people to take precautions and ensure that there is no breeding of mosquito larvae around them. They have urged people to wear full-sleeves clothes and use mosquito nets.

The malaria parasite is transmitted by female Anopheles mosquitoes, which bite mainly between dusk and dawn. According to the World Health Organisation malaria is caused by the protozoan parasite Plasmodium.

Murder of 48-year-old property dealer: Delhi Police files chargesheet in court

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday filed a chargesheet in connection with killing of a 48-year-old property dealer, who was trying to pacify situation between the two communities during the riots in Northeast Delhi in February.

The deceased identified as Ghazwa, was a resident of north Ghonda, Shahdara. Police said that a chargesheet has been filed before the Duty Magistrate at Karkardooma Court here in connection with the case and sixteen people have been arrested in this regard and all of them have been sent to

judicial custody.

According to police, on February 25, at around 7 pm, Parvez was found lying in an injured state in one of the lanes in Jafarabad area.

He received gunshot injuries on his right chest and was rushed to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries, a senior police officer said. A case was registered in this regard at Jafarabad police station, he said.

During investigation, the police found that he had a .32 bore licensed revolver which had 25 rounds. However, only 13 cartridges were recovered but his revolver is still missing, he added.

He was trying to intercede between the two communities when he was attacked, the police official said. The 16 persons arrested include the man who had allegedly shot Parvez, he said and added that all the accused were part of the mob inciting riots in the area.

The arrests were made based on CCTV footages and Call Detail Records among other evidences. The weapon of offence used to kill him and the revolver of Parvez have not been recovered, the police added. The riots in Northeast Delhi in February this year claimed life of 43 people while over 250 people were injured.

India, China raised nuke stockpile: SIPRI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when India and China are engaged in a face-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, the annual report by a noted Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has pointed out that in the last one year both the nations have increased their nuclear weapons stockpile. While India's arch rival Pakistan too has added to its strength, world over all the nuclear weapon-possessing nations also continued to modernize their nuclear arsenal.

The annual report was released on Monday.

In its report, SIPRI also noted that as per numbers China and Pakistan have more nuclear warheads than India. "China is in the middle of a significant modernization of its nuclear arsenal. It is developing a so-called nuclear triad for the first time, made up of new

land- and sea-based missiles and nuclear-capable aircraft. India and Pakistan are slowly increasing the size and diversity of their nuclear forces," it said. India already cleared has the 'triad' ability - described as platforms which can launch a nuclear warhead from air, land or from under sea.

China's nuclear arsenal has gone up from 290 warheads in 2019 to 320 in 2020 while India's arsenal has gone up from 130-140 warheads in 2019 to 150 in 2020. Pakistan's arsenal was estimated to be between 150-160 in 2019 and has reached 160 in 2020. Both China and Pakistan continue to have larger nuclear arsenals than India.

The nuclear arsenals of the nuclear-armed states other than the US and Russia are considerably smaller but all these states are either developing or deploying new weapon systems or have announced their intention to do so, it noted.

Together the nine nuclear-armed states - the US, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea - possessed an estimated 13,400 nuclear weapons at the start of 2020 which marked a decrease from an estimated 13,865 nuclear weapons at the beginning of 2019.

The decrease in the overall number was largely due to the dismantlement of retired nuclear weapons by Russia and the US which together possess over 90% of global nuclear weapons.

Observing that availability of reliable information on the status of the nuclear arsenals and capabilities of the nuclear-armed states varies considerably, the report said, "the governments of India and Pakistan make statements about some of their missile tests but provide little information about the status or size of their arsenals."

The US has disclosed important information about its stockpile and nuclear capa-



bilities but in 2019 the US administration ended the practice of publicly disclosing the size of the US stockpile, the report stated.

The US and Russia have reduced their nuclear arsenals under the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) but it will lapse in February 2021 unless both parties agree to prolong it. However, discussions to extend New START or negotiate a new treaty made no progress with the US insistence that China

must join any future nuclear arms reduction talks, which China has categorically ruled out.

"The deadlock over New START and the collapse of the 1987 Soviet-US Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty) in 2019 suggest that the era of bilateral nuclear arms control agreements between Russia and the US might be coming to an end," the report cited Shannon Kile, Director of SIPRI's nuclear dis-

armament, arms control and non-proliferation programme.

Russia and the US have already announced extensive plans to replace and modernize their nuclear warheads and delivery systems. "Both countries have also given new or expanded roles to nuclear weapons in their military plans and doctrines, which marks a significant reversal of the post-cold war trend towards the gradual marginalization of nuclear weapons," the report added.

India, China military commanders hold talks in Galwan area

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In the ongoing process to defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, Brigadier and Colonel level officers of India and China on Monday held talks at the LAC. The focus of the talks was to resolve the ongoing standoff in the Galwan area. The two sides also reviewed the pace of mutual disengagement from other face-off sites.

Giving details of the latest round of talks, sources said here the parleys took place in the Galwan area and centred on de-escalation at Patrolling Points (PP) 14 and 17A. They said ground level military talks have been going on regularly to resolve the standoffs and it is an incremental process, sources stated.

With both the countries having announced their willingness to address the confrontations through diplomatic and military talks, at least five rounds of talks took place in the last few days.

They included Major General level talks, of which two rounds were held last week after the Corps Commander level talks on June 6. There have also been a series of talks at the Brigadier and Colonel level. Officials also said the limited "disengagement" agreed between both sides earlier is work in progress and is underway.

Army Chief General M M Naravane had said last Saturday that troops of India and China are "disengaging" in a phased manner from the standoff areas along the border following the series of ground talks and lot of disengagement has happened in the Galwan river area.

After the month-long standoff at several locations on the border, at the Corps Commanders level talks between Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin last week, both sides mutually agreed on five locations of conflict, Patrolling Point (PP) 14, 15, 17A, North bank of Pangong Tso and Chushul.

They also agreed on partial disengagement from some of these places.

Officials said at Galwan area limited "disengagement" had commenced earlier and such limited de-escalation at PP 15, 17A and Gogra areas was agreed at the Corps Commander level.

It was also learnt that in all areas except the Finger 4 area of Pangong Tso are seeing some disengagement and can be resolved at the local level. Pangong Tso remains a major area of concern where the Chinese troops have moved up to Finger 4 area and dug in in Indian territory. The next round of Corps Commander level talks have not been decided yet where this issue will come up, they said.

Will sort out differences with Nepal through talks: Rajnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday cited India's roti-beti (livelihood and marriage) relation with Nepal to iron out differences but at the same time asserted that the Lipulekh-Dharchula road falls very much in India.

Conveying the Modi Government's willingness to sort out the "misunderstanding" with the neighbouring country through dialogue, Singh stressed on the centuries-old ties between the two countries, noting that they were not only social, geo-

graphical, historical and cultural but also spiritual. India can never forget this reality and Indians can never have any bitterness towards Nepal, the defence minister added.

"Our relations are not only of this world, but also of the 'other world' and they cannot be changed even if someone wishes so," he said at a BJP's virtual rally for Uttarakhand, the state in whose border region the road has been built.

"These are no ordinary ties and we are bound by 'roti' and 'beti' (livelihood and marriage). No power in the world can break it," Singh said.

The bilateral ties between the two

countries came under strain after Singh inaugurated a 80-km-long strategically-crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on May 8.

Nepal's Parliament had on Saturday unanimously voted to amend the Constitution to update the country's new political map, laying claim over three strategically key areas, including Lipulekh, along the border with India.

"If the Lipulekh-Dharchula road has given rise to some misunderstanding among the people of Nepal, I believe we can sit together to address it. We can do it through dialogue," the

defence minister said.

Singh, however, reiterated India's stand that the 80-km road had been built in Indian territory, while acknowledging that this had caused some misunderstanding in Nepal.

The road will shorten the duration of the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage by six days, according to Singh.

Nepal had reacted sharply to the inauguration of the road, claiming that it passed through Nepalese territory. India rejected the claim asserting that the road lies completely within its territory.

Nepal had last month released the revised political and administrative

map of the country laying claim over the strategically key areas, more than six months after India published a new map in November.

At pains to highlight the deep ties between the two countries, the defence minister spoke about the valour of the Gorkha regiment, whose soldiers are mostly drawn from Nepal, and noted that its battle cry is "Maha Kali, Aayo Gorkhali" (Goddess Kali, Gorkhas are here).

"How can the India-Nepal relations be broken?" he asked. "No matter how much fencing one does across Dharchula, these ties cannot be ended," he said.

Govt launches feedback call centres on Covid public grievances

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Personnel, PG and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday launched the 'Feedback Call Centres on Public Grievances' and interacted live with citizens whose grievances have been successfully redressed on the Covid-19 National Monitor for Public Grievances.

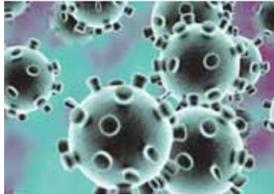
Singh complimented the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) on reaching the milestone of redressing over one lakh Covid-19 public grievances so far.

About 1.28 lakh coronavirus-related public grievances have been filed with the central government and the Centre on Monday launched call centres in different cities and languages to seek feedback on such public grievances.

This is the first time that a senior minister of government has interacted live with citizens who had filed grievances related to the pandemic and also paved way for other ministries to take up citizen grievances in an effective manner along with a feedback mechanism, the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

"The feedback call centres would seek feedback from individual citizens on citizen satisfaction on 1.28 lakh COVID-19 public grievances that have been filed on CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System) for the period March 30, 2020 to May 30, 2020,"

The DARPG has in collaboration with BSNL operationalised feedback call centres in Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Jamshepur, Vadodra, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Ajmer,



Guntur, Coimbatore and Guntakal with 1,406 call centre operators, the statement said.

Feedback call centres would operate in several languages including Hindi, English, Gujarati, Marathi, Punjabi, Kannada, Konkani, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Oriya, Bengali, Assamese and Rajasthani, the statement said. On the occasion, Singh interacted with four citizens whose grievances were redressed on the Covid-19 national monitor within a period of three days.

Amongst the citizens who interacted with the minister were Renuka V Parasappagol resident of Bijapur, Karnataka whose grievance of a refund from Canara Bank was redressed by Department of Financial Services.

Others with whom the minister interacted were Gordhanbhai Jethabhai Patel resident of Vadodra, Gujarat whose grievance of a refund of mature MIS (Monthly Investment Scheme) investment was redressed by Department of Posts.

Lakshminarayanan, a resident of Delhi, had a grievance related to the treatment of his daughter with HCQ (Hydroxychloroquine) which was redressed by the AIIMS and Mrithinjayam, a resident of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, whose grievance related to acceptance of monthly instalments of deposits was approved by the Department of Posts, it said.

RaGa targets Govt over lockdown, fuel price rise

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Chief Ministers, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday criticised the four lockdowns enforced to contain the spread of coronavirus, saying that the wrong curve has been flattened. He shared a chart to prove his claim.

At the same time, the former Congress chief also targeted the Government over increase in petrol and diesel prices, saying the middle class and the poor pay for the "gifts crony capitalists get".

Quoting Albert Einstein, Rahul said, this lockdown proves, "the only thing more dangerous than ignorance is arrogance."

The graph posted by him shows the state of the economy and the number of fatalities due to coronavirus in India at the start of



March. The live graph then depicted how the economy has been battered during the lockdown period while the number of deaths has increased.

Rahul has been relentlessly targeting the government over the Covid-19 crisis, accusing the government of failing to impose the lockdown properly and completely destroying the country's economy.



He has also been holding regular discussions with intellectuals and policy makers like former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan, Nobel laureate Abhijit Banerjee, industrialist Rajiv Bajaj, former US diplomat Nicholas Burns, Harvard professor Ashish Jha and Swedish physician Johan Giesecke to hold discussions over the Covid-19 crisis.

The Congress leader had ear-

lier interaction with industrialist Rajiv Bajaj who had said that India has flattened the "wrong curve", pointing to the decline in GDP.

Another graph posted by Rahul was to show that prices of petrol and diesel were low in May 2014 under the UPA despite high crude cost globally, but the NDA government raised the excise duty on petrol by 258.47 per cent and on diesel by 819.94 per cent as on June 15, 2020.

"Middle class and the poor pay for the gifts the crony capitalists get," Rahul Gandhi said on Twitter.

He also used a hashtag in Hindi that translates to "Shame on a government that loots".

The statement came on a day oil companies raised petrol and diesel prices by 48 paise per litre and diesel by 23 paise a litre. This is the ninth daily increase in rates in a row since oil companies on June 7 restarted revising prices in

line with costs.

Rahul also said that on May 16, 2014, when the Congress-led UPA was in power, the international crude oil price was USD 107.09 per barrel, while it is USD 40.66 on June 15, 2020, when the NDA is in government.

Despite the crude costing USD 66.43 less per barrel, petrol and diesel prices now are higher than what they were in 2014, he said.

The Congress has been demanding that petrol and diesel prices be brought under the ambit of GST.

The opposition party has also demanded a rollback of excise duty hikes on petrol, diesel to bring down their prices.

The Congress has said the government is earning out of the pockets of the poor by imposing high taxes on petrol and diesel, depriving the common man the benefit of lower crude oil prices.

Elections to 9 MLC seats in Bihar, 1 MLC seat in Andhra on July 6

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Elections to nine Bihar Legislative Council seats and election to Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council (or Upper House) will be held on July 6.

According to an Election Commission statement, nine members of the Bihar Legislative Council had retired on May 6. April 3, the Commission had announced postponement of the polls due to the coronavirus pandemic and the countrywide lockdown. According to fresh dates, the notification for the elections would be issued on June 18 and the polls will be held on July 6. The counting will take place on July 6 evening itself after the conclusion of the polling as per laid down norms. Members of the Bihar Legislative Assembly (MLAs) will elect nine new MLCs in the elections. MLCs

are usually elected by four types of electors -- MLAs, Graduates, Teachers and members of local authorities.

The EC has also announced that the by-election to Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council (or Upper House) will be held on July 6. A press release by the EC said that the election is being held to fill one "casual vacancy" in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council since a member Dokka Manikya Vara Prasad resigned on March 9. His term was scheduled to end on March 29, 2023.

The council works like Rajya Sabha. Once in two years, one-third of its members retire and new members are elected by local bodies representatives, assembly members, graduates, and teachers. Some members are also nominated. The council was revived in 2007 after a gap of nearly 20 years.

Centre allocates ₹2,522 cr for Rajasthan under Jal Mission

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Jal Shakti Ministry has allocated Rs 2,522 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme for Rajasthan in view of the drought and water scarcity problems and ground water pollution in the state, which is almost two-and-a-half times the amount given in the last fiscal.

"While Rs 1,051 crore was given to Rajasthan in the last financial year, Rs 2,522 crore has been allocated under the Jal Jeevan Mission this year, which is almost two-and-a-half times the allocation made in the last fiscal," a statement from the

Ministry said. The Ministry said Rs 1,145 crore were also allocated to provide drinking water to fluoridated habitations in the desert state.

In the present situation, the state will have more than Rs 3,500 crore as the central share, including this year's funds, it said.

Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in a letter to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot recently had drawn his attention to the "slow pace" of water life mission in the state.

The Minister said that there will be no shortage of funds for Rajasthan as the state

government has more than Rs 7,000 crore available to provide domestic tap water connections this year.

Pointing out that clean drinking water remains a challenge in Rajasthan, the Jal Shakti Minister said drought-prone areas remained a cause of concern, apart from desert and chemical pollutants in the ground water in rural areas.

Shekhawat expressed his commitment to speed up the work of Jal Jeevan Mission in Rajasthan and sought to bring Gehlot's attention to the fact that only 1 lakh tap connections were released as against 18 lakh last year.

India may be hotter by 4.4 degrees by end of century: Report

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The average temperature over India is projected to rise by 4.4 degrees Celsius and the intensity of heat waves is likely to increase by 3-4 times by the end of this century, the Ministry of Earth Sciences' (MoES) report on the "Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region", has maintained. According to the report, the sea level will rise by 30 cm during the period.

"By the end of the twenty-first century, average temperature over India is projected to rise by approximately 4.4 degrees Celsius," the report said. India's average temperature has risen by around 0.7 degree Celsius during 1901-2018, largely on account of Green House Gases-induced warming. The report has been prepared by the Centre for

Climate Change Research, a cell under MoES' Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune.

The report said that in the 30-year period between 1986 and 2015, temperatures of the warmest day and the coldest night of the year have risen by about 0.63 degrees Celsius and 0.4 degree Celsius, respectively. By the end of the century, the temperatures of the warmest day and the coldest night are projected to rise by approximately 4.7 degrees Celsius and 5.5 degrees Celsius, respectively, according to the report.

The frequencies of occurrence of warm days and warm nights are projected to increase by 55 per cent and 70 per cent, it says. "The frequency of summer (April-June) heat waves over India is projected to be 3 to 4 times higher by the end of

the twenty-first century," the report states.

The average duration of heat wave events is also projected to approximately double. The combined rise in surface temperature and humidity, amplification of heat stress is expected across India, particularly over the Indo-Gangetic and Indus river basins, the report notes. Rapid changes in India's climate will put stress on ecosystems, agricultural output and freshwater resources, and also cause damage to infrastructure, the report added.

Sea Surface Temperature (SST) of the tropical Indian Ocean has risen by a degree Celsius on average during 1951-2015, markedly higher than the global average SST warming of 0.7 degree Celsius, over the same period, the report states. Sea Surface Temperatures does



have an influence over the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean Dipole is linked to the SSTs of the Indian Ocean. A positive IOD, linked to the

cooling/warming of the Indian Ocean waters, generally helps to have a good monsoon.

Sea-level in the North Indian

Ocean (NIO) has risen at a rate of 1.06-1.75 millimetre per year during 1874-2004 and has accelerated to 3.3 millimetre per year in the last

two and a half decades (1993-2017), which is comparable to the current rate of global mean sea-level rise. At the end of the twenty-first century, steric sea level in the NIO is projected to rise by approximately 300 millimetres relative to the average over 1986-2005.

The summer monsoon precipitation (June to September) over India has also declined by around 6 per cent from 1951 to 2015, with notable decreases over the Indo-Gangetic Plains and the Western Ghats, it said. "India has witnessed a rise in average temperature; a decrease in monsoon precipitation; a rise in extreme temperature and rainfall events, droughts, and sea levels; and an increase in the intensity of severe cyclones, alongside other changes in the monsoon system."

44 die, 1,843 test +ve in TN

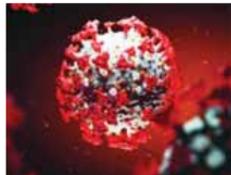
KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The death toll due to covid-19 in Tamil Nadu touched 479 with 44 persons succumbing to the pandemic on Monday, according to the medical bulletin issued by the State Government.

This is the highest number of deaths recorded on a single day since the pandemic broke out early this year. The State also saw 1,843 persons testing positive for coronavirus on Monday taking the total number of cases tested positive till date in the State to 46,504.

The bulletin said a total of 25,344 patients have been cured of the disease and discharged from hospitals across the State and this has brought down the number of active coronavirus patients in the State to 20,678.

Addressing the media, Health Minister Dr C Vijaya Basakar pleaded with the people in the State to observe without



failure the guidelines issued by the Government, viz, wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing. "The government is doing everything at its disposal and going the extra steps to control the pandemic. Tamil Nadu has tested a total of 7.29 lakh persons till date for the pandemic. On Monday more than 18,000 persons were tested all over the State, said the minister.

Out of the 44 who breathed their last on Monday, 11 died without comorbid conditions while the remaining 33 had comorbid issues (they were suffering from serious ailments like Diabetes/Mileetus, kidney related diseases and hypertension, said the bulletin.

Kolkata man flings 2 kids from 4th floor for guffaw

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The "Selfish Giant" who returned to haunt a North Kolkata locality after he threw off two toddlers from fourth floor balcony has confessed to the police that he was irritated by the din the little ones created while playing in front of his door.

The heart-curdling incident took place on Sunday in the Burrabazar area of Kolkata where a characteristically angry man Shiv Kumar Gupta threw two-year-old Shivam off the fourth floor common balcony that led to his and his neighbours' doors while the toddler was playing with his sister and elder brother Vishal, who is about 5-year-old.

The accused confessed to the police that he was a habitual boozier and could not control his anger when he was drunk. He reportedly confessed that the children were first lured with some chana choor (dry snacks) before he caught Shivam, the youngest one and threw him off the balcony. The victim died instantly.

The victim's sister however managed to wriggle out of Gupta's clasp and ran to safety before calling in her parents and the neighbours.

Meanwhile, eliminating the tot

would not calm Gupta back to his senses even as he grabbed a trembling Vishal and threw him off too. The second victim however survived the attack and currently battling for his life in a Kolkata hospital.

Gupta a real estate broker with a small transport business is known have told the police that he could not tolerate the din created by the children even as they played around.

He had repeatedly warned their parents and even had picked up altercations with them.

"He always complained about the children playing at the balcony. He would shout whenever a ball entered his room. But we thought that he was an intolerant eccentric and ignored him. But we could not think in wildest of our dreams that he would do this to the little children," a neighbor said adding the parents were forced to let the youngsters play in the balcony as they were afraid of their getting infected with corona if they were sent to play in the parks.

Meanwhile the man who was arrested on Sunday was remanded to 14-days' judicial custody, sources said adding he has been charged with Section 302 (murder) and 307 (attempt to murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

2 infected persons allowed to fly unscreened from Chennai to Kolkata: Min

PNS ■ KOLKATA

A senior Minister in Mamata Banerjee's Cabinet has accused the Union Government and a private airlines of criminal negligence in letting two corona infected passengers to fly in from Chennai to Kolkata.

Bengal Minister Subhendu Adhikary on Monday said that a person called Indrajit Dolui who tested positive for the virus along with an acquaintance was allowed to travel in a private airlines to Kolkata compromising a number of other passengers safety.

"The swab of this man and his acquaintance was collected on June 12 where after the reports came out three days later. Both of them tested positive. In spite of that they purchased tickets of a Kolkata bound flight and travelled back to this city," Adhikary alleged saying "this is the instance of utmost and criminal negligence not only on the part of the Airlines but also the Civil Aviation Ministry," which

should have screened them at the airport itself.

"The infected persons who belong to East Midnapore district are irresponsible but what about the Airlines and the Ministry who put at risk the safety of so many passengers who travelled with them on the said day?" the Minister asked.

Meanwhile, the Bengal BJP on Monday staged rallies at various points of Kolkata protesting against the lackadaisical approach of the State Government in tackling the Corona cases. "Already we have crossed 10,000 mark and the number of infected patients are increasing by the hour... where as the Government seems to be sleeping," said BJP leader Locket Chatterjee.

Elsewhere, the Eastern Railways have started conducting feasibility study of starting suburban train service in and around Kolkata. The reports would be submitted before the authorities in a week's time, sources said adding decisions would be taken thereafter.

Andhra reports 246 new cases

Amravati: Andhra Pradesh reported 246 new coronavirus cases till 9 am on Monday, taking the state's total tally to 5,086 and active cases to 2,231, the state Nodal Officer said.

With 2 more corona deaths in the 24 hours till 9 am on Monday, the total death toll climbed to 86. One death was reported in Kurnool district and another in Anantapur district.

On Monday, Andhra Pradesh's mortality rate dipped to 1.33 per cent from 1.43 per cent earlier on. As per data released on Monday, Andhra Pradesh holds 9th position on this count among the Indian states. India's mortality rate was 2.86 per cent on Monday.

As many as 47 more patients were discharged from hospitals on Monday, taking the state tally to 2,770. The state tested 15,633 samples on Sunday, and 15,173 in 24 hours till 9 am on Monday, the officer said.

Monday also witnessed an increase in corona cases among returnees from other states -- 1,159 cases compared with Sunday's 1,107 cases. As many as 22 persons in this category were discharged from hospitals.

Among foreign returnees, 6 new cases were detected, taking the total to 210 and active cases to 187 on Monday. IANS

Kerala CM's daughter marries DYFI president

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Cliff House, the official residence of Kerala Chief Minister, became the venue for a marriage for the first time in its history. Mohammed Riyaz, president of the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), the militant youth wing of the CPI(M) tied nuptial knot with Veena, daughter of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at a small but elegant function held at the Cliff House on Monday. Veena, an IT graduate is the managing director of Exalogic Solutions

The day happened to be the first day of the Malayalam month of Mithuna that comes amidst thiruvathir. "It is the most auspicious day available in the coming months and there is nothing surprising in them choosing this day for the

marriage," said Unnikrishna Panicker, South India's leading astrologer and thanthrick scholar.

The bride and bridegroom exchanged garlands at 10 am in the presence of their close relations. The star of the show turned out to be the five-year-old son of Veena by her first marriage. For both Riyaz and Veena, this is their second marriage. Riyaz has two sons by his first marriage.

Pinarayi Vijayan, his wife Kamala, Koliyakode Krishnan Nair, a prominent figure in Thruvananthapuram's cultural and political circle were the leading lights who were present during the marriage ceremony. Later in the day, the chief minister hosted a reception as part of the celebrations which was graced by his cabinet colleagues and party supremo Koodiyeri Balakrishnan.

Give cash refund for cancelled air tickets, Chavan writes to Puri

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra's former Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan has written to Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, rooting for the cash refund for the air tickets cancelled during the lockdown period.

"I have written to Minister of Civil Aviation @HardeepSPuri to direct the airline operators to provide cash refunds for air tickets cancelled during lockdown in a specific time frame. Not refunding the cost of air tickets for cancelled flights is an abuse of the consumer rights," Chavan tweeted.

In his letter to the Civil Aviation Minister, Chavan wrote: "Indian fliers, who were compelled to cancel air tickets following the nationwide lockdown announcement, are therefore entitled to cash refunds. According to the Consumer Protection Act, the

Chavan noted that the unprecedented lockdown, which began on March 25, had brought businesses to a screeching halt, prompting airlines across the world to cancel suddenly an estimated 4.5 million flights

consumer rights organisation had recently sought the intervention of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) by drawing their attention to the United Nations Guidelines for Consumer Protection (UNGCP)."

"On 4th June, the UNCTAD called upon governments of member states (India being among them) to adequately protect consumers by 'enforcing protection laws against abusive business practices such as penalties or fees and breach of refund rights,'" Mr. Chavan observed.

Chavan went on to urge the minister to issue a clarification on refund policies and direct the airline operators to prevent abuse of consumer rights while providing a choice of cash refunds with settlement within a specific time period.

It may be recalled that on Friday last the Supreme Court had

asked the Centre to take a stand on refunding by airlines on cancellation of tickets during the lockdown, and suggested that the airline operators must extend the credit period for two years.

Hearing a plea filed by Pravasi Legal Cell, a SC bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan, Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M.R. Shah had suggested that a credit note by airlines must have a life of at least 2 years, and for any route, if that is the way out.

In its plea filed through its advocate Jose Abraham, the Pravasi Legal Cell had urged the top court to declare non-refund of the amount of the tickets by airlines as "illegal and violative of the Civil Aviation Requirement" issued by the DGCA. The petitioner contended that airlines, instead of providing full refund of the amount collected for cancelled tickets, are providing a credit shelf, valid up to one year.

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Uddhav Thackeray's father-in-law passes away

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's father-in-law and Saamana editor Rashmi Thackeray's father Madhav Patankar died on Sunday after prolonged illness. Patankar — who had ailing for quite some time and he had recently been admitted to Criticare hospital at Andheri in north Mumbai — was 79. His last rites were performed on Monday morning.

Patankar ran a family business of chemical production. He lived at Bandra (east) near Thackeray's private residence 'Matoshri'.

Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari conveyed his condolences to Uddhav Thackeray on the demise of the latter's father in law.

Mourning the bereavement of Rashmi Thackeray, NCP MP Supriya Sule tweeted: "Deeply Saddened to hear about the demise of Shri. Madhav Patankar - Father of Mrs. Rashmi Uddhav Thackeray. My Heartfelt Condolences. May He rest in peace. My Thoughts and Prayers with the Patankar and Thackeray Family".

Local train services resume in Mumbai after 84 days

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After 84 days of complete closure, the Western and Central Railways resumed skeletal services on their respective main suburban lines, while the CR operated services on the Harbour line to cater to the essential category employees of the Maharashtra Government.

The Western and Central Railway resumed their services in the wake of repeated requests by Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray who felt that the resumption of suburban train services for the ongoing unlocking process. The Western and Central Railways together started 440 services.

While the Western Railway is 60 pairs of its 12 car suburban services - total 120 - in both direction between Churchgate and Dahanu Road, the Central Railway is running 100 services on either side on its Main line - from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) to Thane, Kalyan, Karjat and Kasara and 70 services on either sides of Harbour line - CSMT to Panvel

The WR and CR will operate their services between 05.30



hrs and 23.30 hrs. The Maharashtra government will be the nodal authority for this purpose.

Approximately 1.25 lakh employees of essential services of state government are expected to commute by these special limited services. During normal times, more than eight million commute daily on the suburban networks of both the railways every day.

The Western and Central Railways have stated these special suburban services. These services are not for general pas-

sengers/public and will be strictly for those engaged in essential services only.

Travelling authority will be applicable as per normal procedure over WR and CR and certain booking windows will be opened for the same.

The Railway workman special trains will continue to run and the RPF will be deployed at various stations.

According to the spokespersons of the two railways, entry will be given at stations through ID cards of employees but later the state

employees will be issued QR based E-passes which will also bar colour coding to enable swifter ticket checking with coordination by the State Government.

Both the Railways - as also the state government - will ensure multiple rounds of checking to ensure only essential workers board these trains.

The state government will have to ensure all those allowed to travel are done so after ensuring that they are medically fit and do not come from a containment zone.

To allow adequate social distancing in the coaches, unlike its seating capacity to accommodate about 1,200 persons, only about 700 commuters shall be allowed per train.

Further the state government has been advised to stagger the timings of its offices for workers coming from different areas to ensure there is no crowding at the stations and inside the trains.

The WR and CR spokespersons have requested the state government employees not to rush to the stations but follow medical and social protocols as mandated for Covid-19.

EDUCATION INVESTMENT POLICY-2020 'J&K admin keen on inviting investment in education'

PNS ■ JAMMU

The administration of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir is keen on inviting private investors to invest in the education sector through Education Investment Policy-2020 (EIP-2020).

Chairing a high level meeting on Monday, Principal Secretary, School Education Department, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon said the government is committed to facilitate private players to further improve the education scenario in the region.

While welcoming investment in the education sector, Dr Samoon said that the government is committed and wants to create a conducive atmosphere for creation of a state-of-art educational ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir by fostering the spirit of creativity and nurturing a culture of scientific temper and critical thinking.

Maintaining that there is scope for the establishment of private universities in J&K, Dr Samoon said there is a need to attract the investors for the establishment of these private universities. Large number of students study outside Jammu & Kashmir in the absence of professional colleges and other infrastructure support.

According to official sources,

"threadbare discussions were held while seeking inputs from the investors to establish private colleges and universities and to explore opportunities to attract private investors for the same. The meeting was convened to discuss implementation of EIP-2020 with several private stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Higher Education, Talat Parvez Rohella; Directors of School Education Jammu/Kashmir and Chairperson J&K Board of School Education, Veena Pandita via video conferencing. Mission Director, Skill Development Department, besides several private stakeholders also attended the meeting.

The meeting also discussed various suggestions from the prospective investors and it was informed that in this regard an empowered 'Single Window Clearance Body' would be made operational soon for granting time bound approvals and clearances for setting up of new private schools/ residential schools / colleges/technical education institutes/ universities etc. On the occasion, the private investors also gave their inputs and suggested several measures to raise the educational standards in J&K while maintaining that they are ready to invest in the education sector through the EIP-2020.

Imposter preacher's luck finally ran out

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Robbing Peter to pay Paul is a much heard complaint in political narration. But Inspector Ayyal Raju of Subramanyapuram Police Station in Tamil Nadu's Madurai district was in for a surprise when he came across a person who 'robbed people to preach Paul'.

The person arrested turned out to be Vijayan Samuel, a pastor who was into full time evangelisation and proselytization in Madurai city and suburbs. He was having plentiful harvests as there was no dearth of souls in the region. But 'Paul' smelt rat somewhere along Samuel's harvesting and the pastor is cooling his heels in the Thirumangalam prison since Saturday. Samuel was the rising star among all the evangelists working in Madurai as he preached, prayed and proselytised all across the city. Luck ran out on Saturday morning when his scooty developed an engine trouble. Anxious to reach the prayer meeting in time, Samuel took the two-wheeler to a roadside garage. The mechanic in charge of the workshop who attended to the complaint identified the vehicle which belonged to one of his regular customers. He rang up the owner of the vehicle to check whether the latter had disposed off the vehicle. The real owner told him that his two-wheeler has been missing for the last two days. As Samuel left for the prayer meeting, the mechanic alerted the Subramaniapuram Police Station. A team under Ayyal Raju reached the garage and waited for the arrival of Samuel. By this time the original owner too had come to the workshop. When Samuel turned up, he was taken into custody by the police. The Pastor did not object but went on delivering the message of St Mathews to the cops.

Plight of daily wagers during pandemic

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Mithun Kumar, a Mehndi artist from Bhagalpur district of Bihar has made Jammu, popularly known as 'city of temples', his second home for the last 17 years. He is currently running a designer 'Mehndi' shop outside the Bahu Fort premises. A famous 'kali' mata temple is located inside the fort.

Before the lockdown started, Mithun used to earn at-least ₹500 per day or some times more than that depending on the total number of footfalls inside the temple complex.

Along with Mithu, more than 200 other shopkeepers, selling pooja material, sweets and snacks were dependent on pilgrims/tourists visiting the

temple complex. But ever since nationwide lock down started in the last week of March 2020, these shopkeepers and daily wage earners have been struggling to cope up and sustain themselves.

Last week, when the centre Government circulated standard operating procedures ahead of reopening of religious places from June 8, hopes of Mithun Kumar and others were raised but the local authorities disallowed opening of religious places till further orders.

Speaking to The Pioneer, while standing outside his shop, Mithun Kumar said, "it is high time the Government should allow them to reopen their shops so that they can survive". He said, "whatever savings

they had in their pocket they had spent the same to sustain themselves. Now they are struggling to survive. We are out of work for about three months now. How do we survive in future we really don't know".

When asked why he didn't return home, Mithun claimed, "i have spent all my childhood here in Jammu. Every thing is here, how do we leave this place and go back to our village. We have nothing left behind". "Even if we go back, how will we survive even there. There are no



Mithun Kumar standing outside his Mehndi shop in Bahu Fort area

means to earn out livelihood". He appealed to the government to provide them some help.

Talking about hardships they faced during the lock down period, Mithun Kumar told



Pawan Kumar serving food to beggars and destitute in the area

The Pioneer, "when it came to distribution of ration supplies we were left out of the list of beneficiaries as we were listed as outsiders". He claimed, "we survived on help from each other in the market area during these tough times.

Another shop keeper in the area Raj Kumar, who runs a sweet shop told The Pioneer, "before Navratri festival started we have to shut down our shops due to outbreak of Covid-19".

"For over two months we

were facing miseries and struggling to cope up. Without earning a single penny only we know how we have managed to survive during these tough times". "No one from the government came to inquire about our plight".

Pawan Kumar, President of the Bahu Fort shopkeepers association is lending a helping hand to large number of beggars, destitute staying in the area since lock down.

He feeds them food twice a day. He alleged that the local authorities have not taken a decision to throw open the shops. He said, no one approached us during the lock down period. All the shopkeepers in the area are suffering in the absence of reopening of religious places.

Coronavirus spreads to Agra's rural hinterland

Agra: The number of Covid-19 patients rose to 1,035 in Agra with 15 new cases reported till Monday morning. One more person died due to the disease taking the death toll to 62, health officials said.

District Magistrate P.N. Singh said that 869 patients have recovered so far.

The number of containment zones in the rural areas has gone up, as villages were reporting new cases each day, after the return of migrant workers. Agra now has 43 containment zones in urban areas and 27 in rural areas. IANS

Nepal's map war

The undue haste in passing a resolution on reclaiming old territories shows that China has it in its iron grip



Just when there are optics of both India and China simmering down tension in Ladakh, Nepal has reignited another Himalayan border dispute by approving a new map, including areas disputed with India, and rushing it through both Houses of Parliament. It is known that China doesn't miss an opportunity to use India's immediate neighbours as proxies whenever it doesn't get what it wants from Delhi or doesn't want to be seen as the trouble-maker. But coming so soon after Ladakh, Nepal's aggression on the cartographic war, being waged around different interpretations of British era maps, shows that the dragon is still restive and is throwing full weight behind Nepal. It all began with the inauguration of an Indian road link that's intended to smoothen pilgrim flow to Kailash Mansarovar near the Lipulekh pass on May 8. Nepali Prime Minister KP Oli claimed India was overstepping territorial sovereignty issues, albeit knowing about the construction for a long time. Though there is a long history of both nations making claims and counterclaims over this area, according to a 1954 treaty signed between them and China, Lipulekh Pass is very much an Indian gateway. The new road is now one of the quickest links between Delhi and the Tibetan plateau. However, China, too, recognised India's sovereignty in 2015 by agreeing to expand trade through the pass. But overriding such precedents, Nepal released a revised political and administrative map showing Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani under its territory despite India releasing a precise map of the area last year. Now Nepal wants these territories back, with no political party opposing the resolution for reclamation. Yet India has been in possession of this territory for at least 60 years and has never been contested so before. Even the new road to Lipulekh does not challenge that status quo as it has built other infrastructure here before and deployed military forces up to the border with China. For argument's sake, Nepal now claims it conducted a census there in the early 1950s and cites the 1815 Sugauli Treaty as legitimising its claims. It even says that the basis for demarcation, the Kali river, originates from a stream at Limpiyadhura, north-west of Lipulekh. Thus Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh are actually on its eastern bank and qualify to be part of Nepal's Dharchula district. New Delhi has countered this saying that Kali originates in springs well below the pass, and that while the treaty does not demarcate the area north of these springs, administrative and revenue records of the 19th century show that Kalapani was on the Indian side and should be a part of Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand. Not that the dispute hasn't come up at diplomatic level talks and even in 2019, when India put out its new political map to show the changed status of Jammu and Kashmir. But China, as in Doklam, has taken advantage of the juncture area to complicate the territorial confusion and push India backward. In much the same manner as it had done in Ladakh.

But if Nepal has gone so maximalist and nationalist, despite sharing Hindu origins and, therefore, more naturally inclined to the Narendra Modi regime, it means that China now has a complete grip on it. India's relations with its immediate neighbours have in recent times been uneasy primarily because of two factors. One, the Chinese economic suzerainty in smaller nations through a colonising project of debt-trapping and infrastructure-building called the Belt and Road Initiative. Second, India's over-dependence on historical, spiritual and geographical connect as a leitmotif of diplomacy rather than nurturing bilateral relations on more favourable and equal terms or defusing anxieties that smaller nations are bound to feel. Besides, China has now started frequently engaging with the political leadership of our neighbouring countries and as the Maldives experience shows, no political alignment is possible without China being in the picture. India misread Oli's weakening position within the Nepal Communist Party (NCP) recently, when he faced a challenge from senior party leaders and former Prime Ministers Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" and Madhav Kumar. It, therefore, rushed with the inaugural of the road, hoping to see him go and prop up a friendly candidate in power. Yet, China swiftly stepped in and mediated between all three rivals. The economic largesse of China has meant that each nation, while playing lip service to historical ties with India, is working with Beijing for mutual benefit. India should have seen this coming and been prepared. China will increasingly use Nepal as a pawn as it has Pakistan all this time. India ought to invest itself politically and economically in Nepal by taking it seriously as a partner and not as a servile State. Over 90 per cent of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Nepal is from China. Be it infrastructure or hydropower projects, everything is running on the yuan. Nepal's growing trade deficit with China means that it will have no option but to become an economic serf, listening to the dictates of the new master. We need to settle this issue with pragmatism and speed so that China does not get the upper hand so easily.

Depressed India

Mental illness is nothing to be ashamed of. Seek help if you must. Help others when you can



We are living in troubled times. The Coronavirus-induced lockdown and the subsequent economic distress caused due to it has led to bank accounts being drained and previously high-flying careers falling down in the dumps. The emergence of social distancing has meant that for several people, their highly interactive and gregarious life has come to a crashing halt. It is understandable that such a sudden pause, whether it is of incomes or social life, can lead to mental health issues and, thus, suicides and other forms of self-harm. Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's tragic death isn't the first self-inflicted one of a celebrity during the lockdown. His passing away though is by far and away the most high-profile. It is impossible to know which demons in his head made him take such a step but one should be grateful not just for his career but also that in death, he has shone a light on mental health.

Unfortunately, in India, as a society, we have ignored the perils of poor mental health for far too long. The societal stigma associated with this disorder is overbearing. This makes it impossible for people, particularly those in high-profile industries such as the entertainment industry, to see a doctor as the rumour mill would go into overdrive. In this respect, India fares a lot worse than Western countries, where visiting psychiatrists is an accepted fact of life even though that does not stop those looking to self-harm. To top it all, in India there's a severe shortage of mental health professionals. But as parents, siblings, friends and colleagues, it is imperative for each and every one of us to keep an eye out on others. Unfortunately, we live in times when relationships have become extremely transactional, not just in the entertainment industry but in other fields as well. Cyber-bullying, too, is rampant on social media, which often drives those, who are not as strong as others, to thoughts of self-harm. Thus, technology companies, especially Facebook and Twitter, have a responsibility towards checking the menace of bullying. If we fall as a child, our parents are there to pick us up. The problem is that we will continue to fall as adults. It is contingent on each of us to pick up those who slip. We should hope that there are those who will help us if we fall as well. Beating up those, who ask for help, is not a solution. Encourage them to seek help and talk to those who can help.

Stormy amendments

There is much debate on the misuse of the sedition law these days but what is not known is that Nehru's First Amendment intended to curb freedom of speech



A SURYA PRAKASH

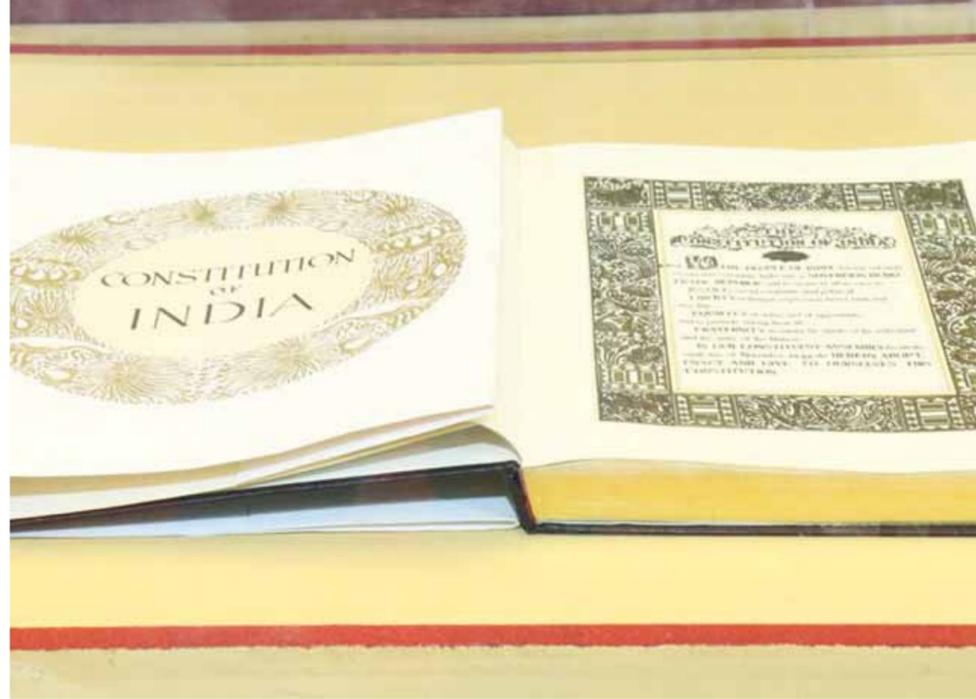
The Indian Constitution has been amended 104 times and many of the modifications, including the ones passed by Parliament during the dreaded Emergency, have been extensively discussed. But there has not been sufficient debate on the amendment that started it all — the controversial "First Amendment." It was mooted by the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, in May 1951 within 15 months of the adoption of the Constitution the previous year. The intent was to impose restrictions on freedom of speech and other fundamental rights and to save anti-zamindari laws. These amendments, which were carried out by the Provisional Parliament, were meant to overcome judicial verdicts that struck down laws that affected the Press and individual freedom.

The statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the First Amendment Act said that certain difficulties had cropped up in the working of the Constitution because of judicial decisions, especially with regard to the fundamental rights. The citizen's right to freedom of speech and expression, guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a), "had been held by some courts to be so comprehensive as not to render a person culpable even if he advocates murder and other crimes of violence." Therefore, restrictions were sought to be fortified in the name of "public order", "friendly relations with foreign states" and "incitement to an offence."

There is much debate on the use and misuse of the sedition law these days but what is not well known is that one of the purposes of Nehru's First Amendment was to fortify Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) under which the charge of sedition is pinned on individuals for speaking or writing against the State.

Credit goes to Tripurdaman Singh, a post-doctoral fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, for throwing light on the politics surrounding this event in his exceptionally readable book, *Sixteen Stormy Days — The Story of the First Amendment to the Constitution of India*, published by Penguin.

The First Amendment needs to be remembered for many things, including the first major clash between the President and the Prime Minister; the introduction of "reasonable restrictions" in Article 19(2) in the Constitution; and the idea of placing legislation in the Ninth Schedule so as to insulate them from judicial review.



It is indeed a fascinating story with many sub-plots such as the debate over "reasonable restrictions." Nehru wanted to impose "restrictions" on freedom of speech and expression in the light of some cases pertaining to the media. In *Romesh Thappar vs the State of Madras*, the Supreme Court had held in May 1950 that a Madras State law barring entry and circulation of the petitioner's magazine, *Crossroads*, on the ground that it disturbed "public order" was unconstitutional as the Constitution did not provide for it. Further, it said, "liberty of circulation is as essential to that freedom (of propagation of ideas) as that of the publication." In *Brij Bhushan vs the State of Delhi* (the Organiser case), the magazine was subjected to pre-censorship because the then Nehru Government did not like what it was saying about Pakistan. The magazine challenged the order and the Supreme Court held that pre-censorship violated Article 19(1)(a). In *Master Tara Singh's* case, the East Punjab High Court had held that Section 124(A) (sedition) and Section 153(A) of the IPC were violative of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 19.

Nehru felt frustrated by these judicial pronouncements and wanted to remedy the situation via the First Amendment. He wanted

restrictions imposed on the freedom of speech and expression in the name of "public order", "friendly relations with foreign states" and "incitement to an offence." Senior parliamentarians, including members of the Congress, wanted the restrictions to be circumscribed by the word "reasonable." Nehru did not like it one bit. In the midst of the raging controversy, he wrote to T T Krishnamachari, Congress leader and MP, and confessed that he did not like the word "reasonable" before "restrictions" because it would be an invitation for every such case to go to the courts.

However, eventually, he yielded when he found that there were many in the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) who disagreed with him. In fact, as the author notes, 77 MPs wrote to him asking for a free vote on the First Amendment. That was when Nehru realised that the game was up and he gave in to the popular demand to make the restrictions "reasonable." Thanks to Syama Prasad Mukherjee, Acharya Kripalani and other stalwarts in the Congress, the Supreme Court has had the constitutional mandate over the last seven decades to examine whether the laws made by Parliament and the State legislatures, imposing restrictions on free speech, are

"reasonable" or not.

Former President Rajendra Prasad, Syama Prasad Mukherjee, Acharya Kripalani, HN Kunzru and many other leading parliamentarians questioned Nehru's intentions and warned him about the dangerous precedent he was creating. But Nehru was adamant — the judiciary and the Press had to be reined in. The leaders felt that the Constitution should, if necessary, be amended after the first general election and the constitution of the two Houses — the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. They argued that a single chamber, the Provisional Parliament, was not competent to amend the Constitution when Article 368 prescribed the procedure to be followed by the two Houses.

During the debate, Kameshwar Singh accused Nehru of "sowing the seed of executive despotism." Syama Prasad Mukherjee had said that Nehru was "disfiguring" the Constitution by bringing in "public order" as a restriction. He said, "It is the beginning of the encroachment of liberty of the people of free India." His words have proved to be prophetic.

The President repeatedly clashed with Nehru on the latter's proposals and even asked senior Congress leader, Alladi Krishnaswamy Ayyar, whether he could give his assent to an

unconstitutional legislation when he is under oath to "preserve, protect and defend" the Constitution.

The First Amendment also introduced Article 31(B), to add the Ninth Schedule, which the author describes as a "Constitutional vault," to bar judicial review of laws placed in the schedule. Syama Prasad Mukherjee warned Nehru against creating such a precedent and said, "any nonsensical law can be put there" and placed beyond judicial review. Sure enough, Nehru's daughter, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, misused this provision on many occasions.

Tripurdaman Singh calls the Ninth Schedule "constitutional skulduggery" and says it granted constitutional protection to the Constitution's abusers. All the evidence he gathers compels the author to deliver a harsh indictment. He says, "In the reckless, impetuous bid to establish the Government's supremacy and open the constitutional doors to the Congress' social revolution...all caution had been thrown to the wind. The creation of the Nehruvian State demanded constitutional blood — and the Prime Minister and his acolytes were willing to spill it..."

(The writer is an author specialising in democracy studies. Views expressed are personal.)

SOUNDBITE

If the road built by India has caused any misunderstanding among the people of Nepal, then it will be sorted out through dialogue.



Union Minister —Rajnath Singh

There are people like Brian Lara who have scored so many runs. There are people like Jacques Kallis who have won nothing. Virat Kohli has won nothing as a leader and has a lot to achieve.



Former cricketer —Gautam Gambhir

Sushant Singh Rajput's fault is that he believed those who called him worthless. He didn't remember what his mother told him. It's up to us to decide who will write history.



Actor —Kangana Ranaut

We want to make India empowered not because we are imperialists. We do not want to take the rightful land of Pakistan or China. We only want peace, amity and love.



Union Minister —Nitin Gadkari

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Death knell

Sir — The hospitality sector is the most vulnerable in terms of instant loss of employment and, hence, deserves serious attention in this time of economic rebuild. The travel bug remains helpless against COVID-19. Without enthusiastic and extensive travel, the hospitality sector will continue to remain in a coma. For travel to resume, safety assurance is needed, which is not yet in sight. The hotel and tourism industry has static assets to maintain as opposed to travel that has assets highly vulnerable to prolonged disuse. Thus, they require primary and generous support.

France and Germany have put in massive outlay to their national airlines. Unless a concerted and global approach to aviation is adopted by all nations, the travel industry cannot be animated. Perhaps, we may find a solution for COVID earlier than the resuscitation of travel *per se*. The impetus for movement of people is related to industrial and business activity. Hence, a huge stimulus spending on large infra projects, public housing and micro, small and medium enterprises is

Overcome challenges in e-education

Along, the entire focus of the Government has been on saving people's lives and ensuring adequate facilities for COVID-19 patients. In the midst of all this, the student community has come to face a lot of hardships. The nationwide lockdown has disrupted a generation's education. With an eye on keeping the youngsters safe and at the same time curb the spread of the infection, schools and higher educational institutions continue to remain shut. Examinations have been postponed. Uncertainty looms large over the dates of commencement of the next academic year. The students are as sceptical about their future as are their parents. Though the nation has got into a gradual easing of restrictions, it is expected that social distancing norms will persist, preventing congregation in classrooms. Many educational institutions have, thus, begun providing uninterrupted education online to their students.

However, it is observed that not all students can avail this "new model" of education. With many wards from impoverished families finding it difficult to avail online facilities, chances are that e-education will be limited to privileged students, with the exclusion of those who do not have access to internet. As the less fortunate are sidelined, perception of grave injustice



will haunt the education system. It is welcome that the Directorate of Education (DoE) in Goa is mulling to fix internet hotspots in villages. It has sought information from the headmasters of the schools located in villages with regards to internet availability in panchayats. But panchayat halls are vulnerable areas for the spread of COVID-19. If they intend to carry out the online learning exercises from their precincts, it will be harmful to the children. The DoE needs to come up with a more practical solution.

Pachu Menon Margao

Food fascism

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Roti vs paratha" (June 15). India is a vast country. Food variety here encompasses a wide variety of regional and tradition-

al cuisines native to the country. A huge list of just the types of rotis can only be found in our culinary heritage.

Thus, the Karnataka bench of the Authority of Advance Ruling (AAR)'s ruling that

ready-to-eat *parota* needs to be heated or further processed for human consumption and, hence, is liable for 18 per cent GST is bizarre and regressive.

Further, the entire purpose of introducing GST was to do away with multiple tax system. Certainly, this is not happening. Authorities must focus on improving the economy's health by introducing measures to increase demand rather than focussing on *rotis* and *parotas*.

SK Prabhakar Gurugram

Mounting troubles

Sir — Petrol and diesel prices have seen a rise for the ninth consecutive day. The increased prices of fuel have had a cascading effect on the overall price of all items of daily consumption. To alleviate the suffering of the people, the Government must roll back the hike and reduce the prices of petrol and diesel without delay.

Kshiti Via email

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A study in contrast

My Noida neighbours fed my family when we got sick with COVID-19. But people in posh localities in Gurugram behaved inhumanly with my sick brother



SAVITA MEHTA

If there is anything that people fear the most right now, it is falling prey to the current pandemic that has swept the world and our country, too. The unimaginable nightmare for me and my entire family started on May 28 when I felt high fever gripping my body and sapping me out of every ounce of energy.

Initially treating it as a viral infection and weakness induced by the heatwave gripping Delhi and the National Capital Region (remember Delhi temperatures touched almost 47 degree Celsius around that time) I ignored the symptoms till June 1, until body-ache, fatigue and high grade fever started taking an extreme toll on me. Fighting panic and bouts of weakness, I got myself tested on June 1 for the deadly COVID-19 virus and my worst fears came true. I was confirmed Corona-positive late on the evening of June 2. It was the longest night of my life and we didn't know where to seek help and what to do next.

Eventually, in the morning I informed the chairman of the society of Sector 21, Jal Vayu Vihar, Noida, a defence sector predominantly comprising people from the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force. It was a tough decision to take because I did not know how they would react. Though a civilian, I have been living in Jal Vayu Vihar for the last 24 years but very few people know me. However, it was my moral duty to inform the society and on June 3, I was taken in an ambulance to the L1 Facility of Kailash Hospital, Greater Noida.

I have two sons aged 28 years, who, unfortunately, never learnt how to cook. As a result they can barely make Maggi and tea for themselves. So in anticipation I had already stocked my kitchen with bread, butter, cheese, Maggi, biscuits and ready to eat food so that they could manage in my absence. In hospital I lay burning with high fever, hacked by severe cough and extremely fatigued. Doctors, looking after me remotely, took good care and responded to all my calls, messages and intercom queries. However, I was worried about my sons and how they would be managing since they were home quarantined.

To my utter surprise, my sons started calling up saying that they were being sent food by neighbours and friends (who stay nearly 10 km away from my house), all three meals and that too, the food of their choice. The meals ranged from *aloo* and *poorie*, *chole* and rice, *rajma* and rice, *parantha*, *pulao*, home-made cakes, freshly-baked buns, *daal* and rice, vegetables, *pooha*, fruits, milk, chicken dishes and so on. There are 46 families in our building, out of which 40 per cent are tenants who don't interact much with anyone. Yet the neighbours and friends came out willingly and coordinated with each other about who would send lunch, breakfast and dinner. I was amazed and felt gratitude toward each and every member of my society.

On June 7, I was discharged from the hospital after my report came out negative. But the worst was still to come as the same day one of my sons was detected to be Corona positive. Within two hours he was admitted to the same hospital. Once again, my neighbours started sending light food for me and regular food for my son. I was overwhelmed with the efforts, love and dedication shown to me and my family.

It was a very humbling experience and it was hard to imagine that in these 24 years I had hardly ever visited their homes or invited them over. But in my time of need, their support and goodwill was pouring over. It's been 11 days today and every morning I get the menu for my breakfast, lunch and dinner. I couldn't have been luckier and couldn't ask God for anything else.

Our chairman and cluster representative calls us every day to find out about our well-being. They even ensured that the garbage was collected daily from my house, albeit separately. Indian culture, values and traditions have been personified in all their glory to me and made me indebted towards each and every one of my neighbour who treated us with compassion, care and respect in these trying times.

On the flip side, my brother and father who live in posh DLF City in Gurugram, were also diagnosed with COVID-19 between May 30 to June 7. Shockingly, their society people were busy shaming my family members on WhatsApp groups for bringing the virus to their colony. As if they had a choice in the matter or went and got sick deliberately. What a study in contrast!

Thankfully, my brother and son have tested negative now. However, my father is in one of the biggest hospitals of Gurugram, still fighting the virus. I have learnt three lessons from this nerve wracking incident that has altered my life forever. First, never go to a hospital where you don't know the doctor well, irrespective of how reputed it is, (in this case at Gurugram), because your attending doctor should convey your status to your family members and set your fears at rest. Second, respect and love thy neighbour and third help others as it all comes back in the end. Life just turned a full circle for me.

(The writer is an educationist)

POINT COUNTERPOINT

GOVERNOR BACK TO FIRING BJP ARROWS AT THE STATE GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS HANDLING COVID, AMPHAN AND MIGRANT RETURN SMOOTHLY ALL AT ONCE.

—TMC MP
MAHUA MOITRA



AFTER BEING IN THE FIRING LINE FOR REVEALING GRAFT IN PANCHAYATS (MOITRA) IS NOW TRYING TO CURRY FAVOUR BY TAKING ON THE GOVERNOR.

—WEST BENGAL GOVERNOR
JAGDEEP DHANKHAR

SOP compliance is key

Now that the lockdown has been eased, we need to manage our actions in a manner in which we can balance economic activities and containment of the Coronavirus infection



INDRANIL DE

With the relaxation of the lockdown in non-containment zones, the spike in the number of Coronavirus cases is setting new records daily. India has reached the 3,33,255-mark and the country now has the dubious distinction of ranking fourth in the world. What is even more concerning is the fact that the pandemic is spreading evenly across India. The percentage of cases in the worst-affected States like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan is going down whereas the number of infections is rising in north-eastern States, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Goa. Ladakh added 198 infections in one day, taking the cases up to 437.

However, despite all the risks associated with the easing of the lockdown, it was a necessary step to save the collapsing economy of the country and the livelihoods of the people. Therefore, we need to manage our actions in a manner in which we can balance economic activities and containment of the Coronavirus infection.

To achieve this, the Government has undertaken a slew of measures. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a notification allowing religious places, hotels, restaurants and shopping malls to open from June 8 under the Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). According to these SOPs, it is mandatory to maintain a distance of six feet at all public places and use a face shield or mask.

However, it is not clear how these measures are going to be monitored. The MHA has issued penalty provisions to hold any person violating these measures liable under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. Nevertheless, there is no reliable mechanism to spot violations and ensure compliance. In the case of offices, employers have been entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring installation of the Aarogya Setu app by all employees. This measure has drawn a lot of flak as the responsibility has been shifted to a non-State actor who might find it difficult to ensure compliance with the SOPs. People are questioning the fairness of this move.

To address this question, let us go back in time. In the 1990s, the Indian leather industry was hit after Germany banned two commonly-used chemicals, pentachlorophenol (PCP) and Azo dyes. At that time the leather industry was the fourth-largest foreign exchange earner for India and Germany was the largest export market. PCP and Azo dyes were widely used in the tanning and dyeing of leather as they were cheap and easy to produce. Banning the use of these chemicals was ineffective from the point of view of compliance as nearly 75 per cent of India's tanneries were small in scale. The banned chemicals could have always entered the value chain through spatially-fragmented upstream processes. However, if these chemicals were not checked, then the products sent to Germany would have got rejected after testing and exports would have incurred huge losses. This would have impacted the livelihood of thousands of informal workers in tanneries.

This situation is very similar to the present one, where it is very difficult to ensure compliance and non-compliance would cause loss of life and livelihoods. However, the Government of that time handled the situation deftly. It bought time from Germany to reorganise the process and initiated technology transfer from Germany for testing of finished leather goods. It also banned production of the prohibited chemicals and dyes. It was easier to monitor the chemical producers as 60 per cent of the industry's output was coming from large firms and 40 per cent from small and medium firms. Thus, the input producers became enforcers of the ban.



“CONFORMITY IS PLAUSIBLE ONLY WHEN CITIZENS TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PEER MONITORING WITHIN A GROUP BY SETTING UP A FORMAL OR INFORMAL INSTITUTION. THE GOVERNMENT MAY MONITOR ONLY THE INSTITUTION, WHICH IN TURN WOULD MONITOR THE INDIVIDUALS. IF THE GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO MONITOR EACH INDIVIDUAL, THEN IT WOULD ENCOUNTER THE PROBLEM OF OMISSION AND COMMISSION”

This is the same as entrusting employers with the responsibility of ensuring employees' compliance with the Aarogya Setu mandate. It would reduce the cost of monitoring as it is easier to monitor employers rather than employees and may increase compliance at the end.

In the case of leather exports, the Government took a few additional measures and with the help of the Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), small tanneries were imparted technical know-how and guidance to use the approved chemicals. Plus, the chemical and dye manufacturers were encouraged to innovate and make approved dyes, which they did. In this whole exercise, compliance was not State-driven.

Meenu Tewari and Poonam Pillai in their research paper, *Global standards and the dynamics of environmental compliance in India's leather industry*, published in *Oxford Development Studies* in 2005 argued that the Government engendered a process of negotiated collective action, taking into account the exporters, firms across the value chain, business associations, research and development institutes and regional environmental agencies. The conformity was based on a peer-monitoring system; hence the Government was not overburdened with the cost of compliance. The resultant acquiescence was widespread even among the small firms that were difficult to monitor.

Let us consider another, more recent case. This is the success story of a society in peri-urban Bengaluru in complying with improved water management practices and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's (KSPCB) zero liquid discharge norms. A residential society, Rainbow Drive on Sarjapur road made constant efforts to build institutions at the level of the society for sustainable water management and finally comply with State norms.

Without sustainable water management practices, the society would have encountered a major water crisis in the

near future. So Rainbow Drive took a series of measures, including banning of private borewell drilling, water pricing and mandatory water harvesting.

In 2015, the society became the first residential society in Bengaluru to apply to the KSPCB to recharge the groundwater table. The society has also installed a Sewage Treatment Plant to comply with the KSPCB's discharge norms, although it is yet to comply with it fully. Through the peer monitoring system, the society ensured compliance within and upheld its responsibility to obey Government rules. The two cases discussed above show that citizens or stakeholders have to share the responsibility of compliance with any Government regulation. It is impossible for the Government to ensure full acquiescence due to the prohibitive monitoring cost if stakeholders are many and segregated.

Conformity is plausible only when citizens take the responsibility of peer monitoring within a group by setting up a formal or informal institution. The Government may monitor only the institution, which in turn would monitor the individuals. If the Government attempts to monitor each individual, then it would encounter the problem of omission and commission.

Hence, if the Government has entrusted the employers to ensure that the employees download the Aarogya Setu app, then it is a rational policy decision. Thus, the cost of monitoring would get internalised by employers, in whose interest the lockdown was relaxed. The offices should be held responsible to implement the SOPs and the offices that are not following the rules should be penalised for their failure to do so.

However, it is imperative to build confidence that the data will not be misused. The trust and confidence between the Government and its citizens is the key to success in the war against the Coronavirus. The citizens or stakeholders should form local institutions within their group to

devise a strategy for the containment of the Coronavirus and thus make compliance easier. Close supervision of over 135 crore citizens by the Government is an unachievable goal.

It is true that law enforcement agencies like the police are keeping a watch on citizens in many cities and imposing fines if they are found violating social distancing norms. But this is not very effective as they cannot monitor everyone, always.

For instance, people would reposition themselves as and when the police patrol vehicle approaches the shopping centres, only to huddle back when it leaves. It should be the responsibility of the market associations to maintain social distancing norms. They should develop rules by which they can impose fines on shopkeepers who fail to enforce the norms among customers. If every shopkeeper does so, then customers would also appreciate it and fall in line. The police may in turn hold the association responsible for the enforcement of rules and sanction those who fail to maintain order.

This does not suggest that the Government remains passive about compliance with norms. It should facilitate the process to make offices, business or citizens' associations responsible. It should provide more timely and clear information to avoid the spread of the disease. The Government should counsel and train offices and associations on the formation of local institutions.

The most important element of a local institution is provision of penalty for not conforming. This would develop trust between the implementing authorities and other stakeholders and further between the authorities and the Government. Compliance can only be co-produced by both the Government and citizens through development of trust between them. It cannot be produced by only one of them.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Institute of Rural Management, Anand. The views expressed are personal)

Unlearning vital lessons from history

Present-day China does not seem to fully endorse its past patterns and those who don't learn from history are condemned to repeat it



ABHISHEK PRATAP SINGH

In international politics, one has to be watchful about learning lessons from history. Else, in the words of Winston Churchill, "Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it." This applies to China more than ever as it is responding to global criticism over the pandemic with aggressive posturing; by precipitating a deeper crisis in Hong Kong and a stand-off with India at the border. The same logic applies to the contemporary global politics amid the outbreak and its reshaping dis-

courses in a post-Covid world, as many experts are putting it.

Across the globe, mistrust among allies is high, cooperation remains non-existent and many countries seem inclined to go their own nationalist way. While the nature of the pandemic is certainly global, the fight against the crisis is being fought on several loosely-tied and fragmented unilateral fronts.

I gather this argument from some classical readings into the "practices and policies" pursued by the supreme Chinese leadership in the past, led by Chairman Mao. This is well explained in *The China Questions*. Basically, in 1912, a young Mao was gifted a book by his teacher that became the "guiding thought" for his life and politics. From the Long March in 1934 to his guerrilla war days in Yanan, Mao kept the book by his side and frequently referred to the

same during his conversations with party officials.

The book titled, *Comprehensive Mirror in Aid of Governance*, was published in 1084 and was edited by Sima Guang. He was a Chinese historian, an intellectual and politician in the Northern Song dynasty. The book was an insightful account on Chinese history and lessons on governance from great Chinese emperors. Mao's obsession with the book was primarily cultivated by the core challenge, which many rulers face in history: How to stay in power?

Contemporary China is very different from the ancient one. It is no more a traditional agrarian, social economy and is a well-developed modern State with "high economic prowess" backed by big urban centres, high production and manufacturing bases, rapid connectivity and a growing knowledge economy. *The China*

Model by Daniel Bell captures this economic transformation in the last four decades. Once a "secluded empire", China is now the world's largest exporter and second-largest destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Given the context, the book that Mao cherished holds some key lessons for the present ruling establishment in China. The first lesson being that no dynasty can rule forever. The once-powerful Tang regime in China (618-907) had to come to an end after 289 years. Nevertheless, while the "right to be ruled" simply rests with Chinese citizens, history does hold some lessons for them on the subject. The erosion of the long-practised system of "collective leadership" and "power consolidation" in present-day China, does face harder times to come.

The second lesson states that elite rebellion is the most important cause

of dynastic fall. The political elite have both the knowledge and resources to challenge the system. In the name of promoting the "rule of law", since 2012 the Communist Party of China (CPC) leadership has been running an "anti-graft campaign" targeting high-level party and military officials, some business and State-owned enterprises (SOEs) heads on account of corruption.

The campaign has found over 1.5 million Government officials guilty of a variety of corruption-related charges, also drawing political benefit for the presidency but dissuading a large section of political elite in China.

The third lesson holds the view that emperors who designate loyal and competent successors are likely to be successful. In Indian history, too, many conflicts arose as incumbent rulers failed to address the

question of succession. In the present situation, it remains unclear who will succeed the current presidency in China. Most certainly, the way they handle this subject shall be a "positive indicator" regarding the future political landscape of China.

The pandemic, the ongoing US-China trade war and the playing up of "hegemonic politics" around the crisis is weakening the foundations of global humanitarian relief works and the role of key international agencies. At the time, when the idea of "developmental partnership" as pushed forward by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in relation to China was gathering acceptance and the "Wuhan Spirit" was positively reshaping bilateral discourse, the present stand-off on the border and frequent cases of Chinese incursions across the Line of Actual Control are severely affecting mutual ties between both

the countries. By unapologetically absolving itself from the responsibility of the outbreak and increasing the military build-up across the Indian border and the South China Sea, China seems to be shifting to "more assertive politics." This not only limits the Chinese "soft power" appeal and its gains from sustained economic growth, but proves to be a "judgment in a hurry" by the Chinese leadership which is failing to learn lessons from its own past and is drawing global attention on bleak diplomatic moves.

From AB Vajpayee's visit to China in 1979 to the Chennai informal summit in 2019 under Modi, the series of Chinese endeavours at the border does nothing except "raising the trust deficit" in India-China relations.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Deshbandhu College, DU.)

Atlanta shooting, statues new focal points for protests

Washington: A makeshift memorial has popped up at a fast-food restaurant where a black man was fatally shot by a white Atlanta police officer, one of the latest deaths of black men that have ignited a new wave of anti-racism protests across the country.

Early Sunday, Atlanta police announced that an officer, Garrett Rolfe, had been fired following the fatal shooting of Rayshard Brooks, 27, on Friday night, and another officer, Devin Brosnan, had been placed on administrative duty.

On Saturday, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms called for the immediate firing of the officer who opened fire on Brooks and announced that she had accepted the resignation of Police Chief Erika Shields.

"I do not believe that this was a justified use of deadly force," Bottoms said.

Roughly 150 protesters marched outside the Wendy's restaurant outside where Brooks was shot, reigniting demonstrations that had largely simmered in the Georgia capital nearly three weeks after George Floyd, another black man, died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee to his neck.

Both Rolfe and Brosnan are white.

The Wendy's was set afire at one point Saturday night, although the fire was out before midnight. The Georgia

Bureau of Investigation said that Brooks, who was seen on body camera video sleeping in a car blocking the Wendy's drive thru, failed a sobriety test and was shot in a struggle over a police Taser.

Atlanta police said Sunday that 36 people had been arrested in connection with the protests, but gave no further details.

Meanwhile, the rapidly unfolding movement to take down Confederate statues in the US grew over the weekend.

In Richmond, Virginia, a police SUV drove up on a curb and struck multiple protesters who were blocking the vehicle's path during a demonstration Saturday night at the Robert E Lee statue, which has become a gathering place for racial justice demonstrations. No one appeared to be seriously injured, according to the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

In messages posted on Twitter early Sunday morning, the Richmond Police Department said police are investigating the incident, including what it called "a possible assault" on an officer who was inside the vehicle.

The department said it is also investigating reports on social media "that a person in the crowd may have been struck by the vehicle." Spokespersons for the department did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment Sunday morning.

In Philadelphia, a group of about 100 people, some carrying guns and baseball bats, gathered around a statue of Christopher Columbus in Philadelphia on Saturday, saying they intended to protect it from vandals amid recent protests.

"It would be over my dead body before they got to this statue," Anthony Ruggiero, 41, told The Philadelphia Inquirer. "This is a part of history." Mayor Jim Kenney condemned the "groups of armed individuals 'protecting'" the statue in a Twitter post on Sunday.

Meanwhile, three people were charged in the vandalism of a Christopher Columbus statue in Providence, Rhode Island.

Protesters in New Orleans tore down a bust of a slave owner Saturday who left part of his fortune to New Orleans' schools and then took the remains to the Mississippi River and rolled it down the banks into the water.

And in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, the Cherokee Nation's principal chief watched as two Confederate monuments were removed that were placed in its tribal headquarters nearly a century ago by the Daughters of the Confederacy. Also Saturday, members of the Clemson University football team led hundreds of demonstrators on the school's campus in South Carolina.



Kurtis Robinson, president of the Spokane chapter of the NAACP, leads a Black Lives Matter protest march amid a downpour in Spokane, Wash.

Boris Johnson sets up new commission to fight racism

PTI ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday announced a new cross-government commission to tackle racism and all other forms of inequality in the UK, in response to the worldwide anti-racism Black Lives Matter protests.

Johnson said that it is not possible to ignore the many thousands who joined the protests in Britain over the past few weeks, in the wake of the killing of 46-year-old African-American George Floyd in Minneapolis in police custody.

"No one who cares about this country can ignore the many thousands of people who have joined the Black Lives Matter movement to protest peacefully, as most of them have, in the last few days," the UK PM writes in "The Daily Telegraph".

"It is no use just saying that we have made huge progress in tackling racism. There is much more that we need to do; and we will. It is time for a cross-governmental commission to look at all aspects of inequality — in employment, in health outcomes, in academic and all other walks of life," he said.

Sheriff apologises to black pastor in Virginia after arrest

Woodstock (US): A sheriff in Virginia has apologized to a black pastor in Virginia who described being arrested after calling 911 on a group of white people who threatened to kill him after trying to dump a refrigerator on his property.

Shenandoah County Sheriff Timothy Carter made the apology to Leon K.

McCray Sr. Of Woodstock Friday, announcing hate crime and assault charges against the five people involved and saying a weapons charge against the pastor would be dropped.

McCray described the events leading to his arrest in a sermon to parishioners at Lighthouse Church & Marketplace Ministries

International. He said he was visiting an apartment he owns in Edinburg on June 1 when he noticed a man and a woman dragging a refrigerator from another property into his dumpster, and they became irate when he asked them to leave.

McCray said they threatened him and returned with

three more people, attacking him physically, saying "they don't give a darn" about "my black life and the Black Lives Matter stuff," and telling him they would "kill" him.

McCray said they backed up when he drew his legal concealed weapon to "save" his life, giving him enough time to call 911. Arriving deputies then took his gun while talk-

ing with the five, who continued threatening and yelling racist epithets at him.

They wouldn't let him tell his side, he said; instead, he was "handcuffed in front of the mob," for brandishing the handgun, and was driven away in handcuffs while the group stood with other deputies, waving at him as he went down the road.

American sentenced to 16 years in Russia on spying charges

Moscow: A Russian court on Monday sentenced an American businessman to 16 years in prison on spying charges, a sentence that he and his brother rejected as being political.

The Moscow City Court read out the conviction of Paul Whelan on charges of espionage and sentenced him to 16 years in a maximum security prison colony. The trial was held behind closed doors.

Whelan, who was arrested in Moscow in December 2018, has insisted on his innocence, saying he was set up.

Speaking after the verdict, US Ambassador John Sullivan denounced the secret trial in which no evidence was produced as an egregious violation of human rights and international legal norms. He described Whelan's conviction as a mockery of justice and demanded his immediate release.

Whelan's brother David said lawyers will appeal the verdict that he denounced as political, adding in a statement that "the court's decision merely completes the final piece of this broken judicial process."

"We had hoped that the court might show some independence but, in the end, Russian judges are political, not legal, entities," the statement said. "We look to the US government to immediately take steps to bring Paul home." AP

South Korea's leader calls on North to stop raising tensions

Seoul: South Korea's president called on North Korea to stop raising animosities and return to talks, saying Monday the rivals must not reverse the peace deals that he and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reached during 2018 summits.

President Moon Jae-in's efforts to defuse rising animosities came as North Korea threatened Friday to destroy a liaison office and take unspecified military steps against South Korea.

If made, the office's demolition could pose a serious setback to Moon's efforts to restore Korean reconciliation and find a negotiated solution of the North Korean nuclear issue.

"North Korea must not sever communications and create tensions to turn back the clock to a past confrontational period," Moon said during a meeting with top presidential advisers, according to his office. "We must not push back the pledges of peace that Chairman Kim Jong Un and I made" in two summits in 2018.

Moon, a liberal who met Kim three times in 2018, was behind now-dormant diplomacy between Pyongyang and Washington, including the first summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in Singapore in 2018.

During two of the three inter-Korean summits, Moon and Kim agreed to achieve denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and take other steps to boost exchanges and dial down a military standoff.

Those summits initially helped to improve their countries' ties significantly, before their relations became strained again after the breakdown of a second Kim-Trump summit in Vietnam in early 2019.

North Korea has recently unleashed a slew of harsh rhetoric against South Korea, accusing it of failing to prevent activists from launching propaganda leaflets across their border. In an apparent bid to soothe North Korea, Moon's government vowed to ban civilian leafletting campaign. But North Korea has said the South Korean response lacks sincerity.

Some observers say North Korea is extremely frustrated because Seoul has failed to break away from Washington and revive stalled joint economic projects held back by U.S.-led sanctions.

They also speculate North Korea initially thought Moon would help it win badly needed sanctions relief but got upset after Kim returned home empty handed from the 2019 summit with Trump.

Pak's Punjab Govt makes reading Quran must to get varsity degree

Lahore: University graduates in Pakistan's Punjab province will not get the degree without completing a compulsory reading of the Quran with its translation, according to a notification issued by the government.

Punjab province Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar issued the notification on Sunday making it mandatory for all the students in the universities (except non-Muslims) to learn the Quran with Urdu translation.

"University graduates will not be awarded degree if they do not study the Quran with translation," the notification says.

It further says: "Lecturers

in all the universities — public and private — of Punjab will teach Quran with translation to all students. The holy book will be taught separately from the subject of Islamic studies which is already being taught in all the universities.

Governor Sarwar, who is also the chancellor of universities in Punjab, said the government has made mandatory for all the university students to read Quran with translation, failing for which will deprive them of their degree.

"The historical decision to teach the Quran with Urdu translation has been implemented. This will be a compulsory subject in universities of Punjab without which a degree won't be awarded," he said.

Sarwar said there is a plan to bring amendments to the Constitution for making teaching of Quran translation compulsory for all students.

In April, he had formed a seven-member committee of vice-chancellors to submit recommendations on how to make the teaching of the Quran with translation compulsory in all provincial universities.

Minorities in the Muslim-majority Pakistan make up less than five per cent of the country's total population. PTI

Netanyahu turns to rich friend to fund corruption trial fees

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is on trial for accepting gifts from wealthy friends.

But that has not stopped him from seeking another gift from a wealthy friend to pay for his multimillion-dollar legal defense.

The awkward arrangement opens a window into the very ties with billionaire friends that plunged Netanyahu into legal trouble and sheds light on the intersection of money and Israeli politics.

Netanyahu has asked an Israeli oversight committee to allow a 10 million shekel (\$2.9 million) donation from Spencer Partrich, a Michigan-

based real estate magnate, to fund his legal defense.

Because Partrich also happens to be a witness in one of the cases, the committee has asked the country's attorney general for his opinion on the matter.

The request for financial aid from a friend is not illegal, and Israeli politicians have a long tradition of hobnobbing with wealthy Jewish supporters abroad. But to some, the optics of Netanyahu's request are sketchy. "It is a problem that we have prime ministers who have ties to moguls," said Tomer Naoor, of the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, a good governance group. Pfeffer said. AP

China begins mass testing in Beijing

Beijing: China has begun the mass testing of hundreds of people who had visited a Beijing wholesale market which sparked a fresh bout of coronavirus cases even as the country reported 67 new COVID-19 infections including 42 in the capital.

In a bid to stem the spread of the contagion, the authorities in Beijing have conducted the nucleic acid test on 29,386 people who had visited the Xinfadi wholesale market since May 30, Gao Xiaojun,

spokesman for the Beijing Health Commission, said on Monday.

The market became a hotspot after it reported several new COVID-19 cases. Out of all the samples, 12,973 came negative and the rest are awaiting results, Gao told the media.

The National Health Commission (NHC) in its daily report on Monday said that 49 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 18 asymptomatic cases were reported on Sunday.

As of Sunday, 112 people with asymptomatic symptoms were still under quarantine. Asymptomatic cases, also known as silent spreaders, are the patients who have tested COVID-19 positive but develop no symptoms such as fever, cough or sore throat. However, they pose a risk of spreading the disease to others.

The Beijing Municipal Health Commission on Monday said that the city reported 36 new confirmed domestically-transmitted

COVID-19 cases and six new asymptomatic cases.

The official media on Sunday said that eight people tested positive in the capital.

By Sunday, Beijing has reported 499 confirmed domestically-transmitted COVID-19 cases since January, including 411 who have been discharged from hospitals after recovery and nine deaths, the commission said. There were still 79 patients receiving medical treatment and seven asymptomatic cases under

medical observation, the state-run-Xinhua news agency reported.

So far, 174 imported COVID-19 cases have been reported in the capital, with one still hospitalised. The NHC said that three cases were reported in Hebei province on Sunday.

It said that 3,852 close contacts were still under medical observation after 392 people were discharged from medical observation on Sunday. PTI

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
 Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
 Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

S.No.	Job No./Work name	Amount
1.	62/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o Green belt sector-137 with two year maintenance	Cost Rs.47.30 Lacs
2.	63/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o R.S.P Sector-81, with two year maintenance	Cost Rs.46.97 Lacs
3.	64/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o Park Sector-110 Near Yattharth Hospital with two year maintenance	Cost Rs.44.99 Lacs
4.	65/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o Green belt, Express Highway (LHS & RHS) with two year maintenance in front of Village, Mohiyapur Nalgarha & Jhatta	Cost Rs.45.88 Lacs
5.	66/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o R.S.P Sector-87 & 147, with two year maintenance (Sh: Plantation)	Cost Rs.40.65 Lacs
6.	69/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o R.S.P Sector-90, 138 & 144 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs.46.67 Lacs
7.	70/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o R.S.P Sector-150 with two year maintenance.	Cost Rs.47.89 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 30/06/2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 01/07/2020 at 11.00 AM.

Office Director (Hort.)
 Sector-39 Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

40K cruise workers still trapped at sea

Miami: More than 40,000 cruise ship workers are still stuck at sea because of concerns about the coronavirus.

The Miami Herald reports that at least 42,000 workers remain trapped on cruise ships without paychecks, and some still are suffering from COVID-19, three months after the industry shut down.

Cruise lines stopped sailing in mid-March after several high-profile outbreaks at sea. More than 600 people fell ill aboard Carnival Corp.'s

Diamond Princess while it was quarantined off Japan, for example. Fourteen passengers died.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has prohibited cruises in U.S. Waters through July 24.

Some cruise ship workers have started being repatriated to their home countries. About 3,000 Carnival Cruise Line workers got off in Croatia earlier this month to catch rides and flights home across Europe.

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NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 and 47(1)(a) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the company will be held on Monday, 29th June 2020 at 12:00 Noon to consider and approve the Standalone Audited Financial Results of the company for the Quarter and Financial year ended 31st March 2020.

The Intimation is also available on the website of the company (www.parijatpapermills.com) and on the website of the Stock Exchange (<https://www.mse.in/>) www.parijatpapermills.com

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 Amit Mittal
 Whole Time Director
 DIN: 00754471

Date: 15.06.2020
 Place: Muzaffarnagar

Ghana's Health Minister tests Covid positive



Accra: Ghana's president has announced that Health Minister Kwaku Agyemang-Manu has contracted COVID-19 and is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

In a state broadcast on Sunday night, President Nana Akufo-Addo said the health minister had "contracted the virus in his line of duty" leading the West African nation's fight against COVID-19.

Ghana has one of highest number of confirmed cases in Africa because of its robust testing, with more than 11,400 cases. Health authorities have reported 51 deaths.

News of the health minister's illness further fueled worries as Ghana's universities prepared to reopen Monday so students in their final year of study can take exams.

"If the health minister is contracting the disease, what is the guarantee that my son will be safe?" said Peter Owusu, who son studies at the University of Cape Coast. AP

What virus? Parisians pack cafes as city gets its magic back

AP ■ PARIS

Paris is rediscovering its joie de vivre, as cafes and restaurants reopen for the first time since the fast-spreading coronavirus forced them to close their doors on March 14.

Many customers seemed to shrug off masks and social distancing as they streamed back to their neighborhood bistros for a morning espresso or a three-course lunch Monday, free to resume their lifestyles by a surprise announcement from the French president himself.

"We will rediscover ... The art of living, our taste for freedom," President Emmanuel Macron said in a televised address to the nation Sunday night, citing progress in fighting the virus. "We will rediscover France."

After two months of being totally shut down as part of France's strict virus lockdown measures, restaurants outside the Paris region opened earlier this month. Since June 2, Paris cafes have been allowed

to serve people outside but not open their doors.

Before Macron's speech, the full reopening wasn't expected until later this month.

At the Café Des Angles in the heart of the Bastille neighborhood of Paris, customers seemed happy to reconnect and talked about the need to remain careful — yet almost no one wore a mask. France has the world's fifth-highest recorded toll from the virus, at 29,410 dead.

"It's like a renaissance, but with caution," said customer Marie-Elisabeth Vilaine. The reopening Monday caught many restaurant owners off guard — just like the abrupt closure three months ago, when the prime minister announced at 8 pm. On a Saturday that all the country's restaurants had to shut down by midnight.

Paris seemed especially depressing as restaurants, the lifeblood of the city, stood shuttered, chairs stacked against the windows, menus gathering dust.

Around the Globe

Nairobi: Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta's office says four people who work at the presidential residence have tested positive for COVID-19. Spokeswoman Kanze Dena says the four were found positive following a mass testing of staff on Thursday last week. They have been admitted to the Kenyatta University Teaching Referral Hospital and their families are being tested.

Berlin: Borders opened up across Europe on Monday after three months of coronavirus closures that began chaotically in March. But many restrictions persist, it's unclear how keen Europeans will be to travel this summer and the continent is still closed to Americans, Asians and other international tourists.

Islamabad: Pakistan on Monday said it has identified 20 cities, including Islamabad and Lahore, as coronavirus hotspots as the COVID-19 cases in the country reached 144,676 and 97 more people succumbed to the disease, pushing the death toll to 2,729.

Karachi: Pakistan's Sindh province minister Syeda Shehla Raza was tested positive for the coronavirus on Monday, becoming the latest senior political figure to contract COVID-19 that has claimed 2,751 lives and infected 1,46,254 people in the country.

Wholesale prices plunge to 4.5-yr low

WPI DEFLATION AT 3.21 PER CENT IN MAY

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Prices in the wholesale market fell to a 4.5-year low level in May, recording a deflation of 3.21 per cent, due to sharp decline in fuel and power items even as food articles turned expensive. The Wholesale Price Index has hit its lowest level since November 2015, when deflation was 3.7 per cent.

"The annual rate of inflation, based on monthly WPI, stood at (-3.21 per cent) (provisional) for the month of May, 2020 as compared to 2.79 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said on Monday.

However, inflation in food articles during May stood at 1.13 per cent, as against 2.55 per cent in April.

WPI inflation in pulses continued to remain in double

digits at 11.91 per cent, against 12.31 per cent in April. In potato, inflation was 52.25 per cent, even as vegetables witnessed a deflation of 12.48 per cent in May. Inflation in protein-rich items like egg, meat and fish was 1.94 per cent in May. Data collected by the Govt at the retail level, which was released last week, showed a year-on-year rise in food inflation at 9.28 per cent in May, led by pulses, meat and fish, and oils and fats. In fuel and power basket, deflation stood at 19.83 per cent in May, as against 10.12 per cent in the previous month.

Manufactured products too witnessed deflation of 0.42 per cent during the month.

Due to the nationwide lockdown imposed on March 25, the ministry had released truncated WPI inflation data for the month of April, with figures of food, primary articles and fuel and power.

However, it has advised its field offices to collect price data through electronic means and the final index for the month would be released next month.

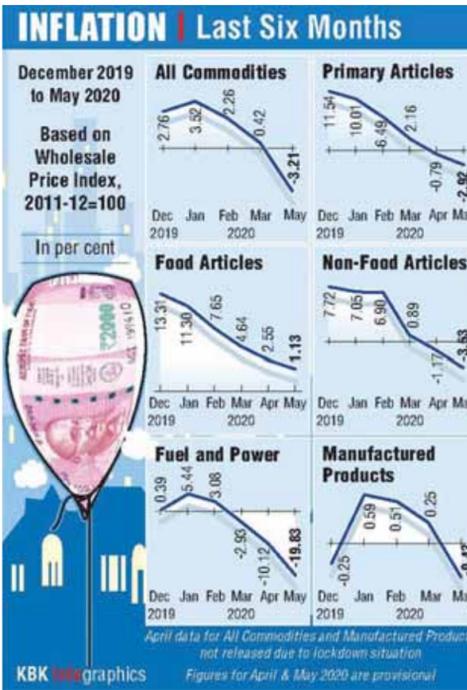
"Price data is collected from selected institutional

sources and industrial establishments spread across the country online through web based portal maintained by the National Informatics Centre," the Ministry said.

The final print of March WPI inflation stood at 0.42 per cent as compared to its provisional levels of 1 per cent reported on April 14, 2020, the ministry said. ICRA Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said, while the rise in prices of some commodities like crude oil, may arrest the fall in the WPI going ahead, easing food price pressure portend a welcome moderation in retail food inflation.

The minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee's last meeting revealed a considerable degree of alarm from some of its members, she said.

"Accordingly, we expect the MPC to continue to prioritise alleviating the pain caused by the fall in economic activity, over management of inflation that will almost certainly turn out to be moderate in the near term. Therefore, we expect another 25 bps cut in the repo rate, whenever the MPC chooses to meet next," Nayar said.



Gap between circle rate, market value reducing in top cities: Report

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant trend in the Indian housing market, the difference between the ready reckoner rates (RRR) or circle rates and the actual market prices of property in the major cities has declined over the past few years, according to a report by Anarock Property Consultants. The report showed that over the past five years, the rise in circle rates have been much more than the growth in market price of properties.

It noted that from a more than 100% difference between the two rates in certain areas in Mumbai, Pune, Gurugram and others in 2015, some localities now show a mere 6% variation.

Ready reckoner rates, also known as circle rates or guidance values, are the minimum values set by a State Govt below which a property cannot be registered. Each area within a city has its own RR rate on which stamp duty is calculated. In the last 4-5 years, most state authorities regularly increased the circle rates in

cities to align them with market values. However, market values increased only marginally in the same period.

The average circle rates at Jogheshwari East in Mumbai stood at ₹11,571 per square foot in 2015 and currently, it is ₹15,143 per square foot, an increase of over 31% in 5 years. The market value of property during this period increased only 6%, from ₹16,300 per square foot in 2015 to ₹17,280 per square foot.

Dwarka Expressway in Gurugram saw circle rates rise by 43 per cent in the last four years, from Rs 2,900 per square foot in 2016 to nearly Rs 4,133 per square foot in 2020. However, market values in this period increased only by 10 per cent, showed the report. Other cities show some equally interesting trends, it said.

Anuj Puri, Chairman of Anarock Property Consultants, said: "The gap between market values and RR/circle rates in many areas is as low as 6-7 per cent, equal or even negative."

He said that registering a

property below circle rates is not permissible. Section 43CA of the I-T Act says that developers or sellers will attract penalties for selling lower than RR rates. Moreover, even if buyers somehow purchased property below the circle rates, they will bear an additional tax burden as the difference between two rates is taxable, both in the hands of the buyer and seller.

"Reducing RR rates would reduce stamp duty on property purchase, thereby boosting buyer demand and also providing relief to developers as the multiple premiums they pay to the state governments are linked to the RR rates," Puri said. The report noted that the major advantage of this reduced gap is that it discourages 'black money' transactions. The primary sales market in tier-I cities currently offers limited scope for unaccounted cash infusions because of the minimal gap between the state-notified circle rates and the market value quoted by developers in such regions.

Indian market plunges tracking global peers as Covid fears deepen

International oil benchmark Brent crude futures fell 0.93% to \$38.37 per barrel

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian stock benchmarks on Monday crashed over 1.6 per cent in line with global sell-offs as fears over a second wave of coronavirus infections in some countries dented economic recovery hopes.

The BSE barometer Sensex tanked 552.09 points or 1.63 points to close at 33,228.80. Intra-day, the index fell over 857 points before staging a mild recovery towards the lag-end of the session.

Likewise, the NSE Nifty tumbled 159.20 points or 1.60 per cent to settle at 9,813.70.

On the Sensex chart, IndusInd Bank was the top loser, plunging about 7 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, Bajaj Finance, ICIICI Bank, NTPC, Tata Steel, ITC and HDFC Bank. On the other hand, Reliance Industries, HCL Tech, Sun Pharma and ONGC closed with gains.

Sectorally, BSE bankex, realty, finance, capital goods and power indices ended up to



3.53 per cent lower.

While energy and healthcare indices jumped up to 0.90 per cent. In the broader market, midcap index fell 1.15 per cent, while smallcap ended flat. "Indian benchmark indices fell on June 15 on the back of weak global cues. The markets fell and recovered part of the losses in line with the movement in European indices and Dow Futures..." Deepak Jasani, Head of Retail Research, HDFC Securities, said.

Global shares sank as a resurgence of coronavirus cases in China and other countries deepened pessimism over prospects for a global economic recovery, he added.

Tata Motors reports massive ₹9,864 cr net loss for Mar quarter as coronavirus hit sales

New Delhi: Tata Motors on Monday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹9,863.73 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, with the coronavirus-induced lockdown taking a toll on British arm JLR as well as its domestic business.

The company had posted a net profit of ₹1,108.66 crore in the January-March period of the financial year 2018-19.

Its revenue from operations stood at ₹62,492.96 crore in the March 2020 quarter, compared with ₹86,422.33 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, Tata Motors said in a statement.

On a standalone basis, the company reported a net loss from continuing operations at ₹4,871.05 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2020. It had reported a net profit of ₹106.19 crore in the same period of the financial year 2018-19. The company's British arm Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) reported a loss of 501 million pounds in the quarter under review, while the revenue was at 5.4 billion pounds. For the financial year 2019-20, Tata Motors reported a consolidated net loss of ₹11,975.23 crore, compared with ₹28,724.2 crore in 2018-19.

PTI

Govt needs to chart out fresh glide path to bring down fiscal deficit: RBI bulletin

Mumbai: The Government will have to chart out a fresh glide path to bring down the fiscal deficit once the normalcy is restored, an article published in the monthly bulletin of the Reserve Bank has suggested.

The Union Government's fiscal situation is expected to worsen in view of the low tax realisation, higher expenditure on healthcare and overall disruption in economic activities following the coronavirus outbreak. The country's fiscal deficit soared to a seven-year high of 4.6 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2019-20, as per the latest data provided by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The Government, while unveiling the budget proposals for 2020-21 in February, had proposed to bring down the fiscal deficit to 3.5 per cent of the GDP. The budget was presented about two months before the country affected lockdown on March 25 to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. "The deterioration in provisional accounts for 2019-20 can be attributed to tax revenue shortfall, both cyclical and structural," said the RBI article.

Given that the budget estimates of 2020-21 were projected on the basis of 2019-20 RE, a shortfall in tax revenue collections in 2019-20 (Provisional Accounts) vis-à-vis 2019-20 (Revised Estimates) may distort the fiscal arithmetic for 2020-21.

PTI

FM chairs meet with private banks NBFCs to ensure liquidity to MSMEs

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is going all out to ensure that liquidity concerns of the MSME sector are addressed on priority under its Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

As part of this, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday chaired a meeting with private banks and NBFC to take stock of their preparedness to provide liquidity to the sector.

Public sector banks are at the forefront of providing credit to MSMEs. In fact, 12 PSBs have disbursed Rs 14,690.84 crore worth of loans under the

Exports fall 36.47% in May, trade deficit narrows to \$3.15 billion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Contracting for the third straight month, India's exports declined 36.47 per cent in May to \$19.05 billion, mainly on account of drop in shipments by key sectors such as petroleum, textiles, engineering, gems and jewellery. Imports too plunged 51 per cent to \$22.2 billion in May, leaving a trade deficit of \$3.15 billion, compared to \$15.36 billion in the same month previous year, according to the data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry. During April-May 2020, the exports fell 47.54 per cent to \$29.41 billion, while imports shrank by 5.67 per cent to \$39.32 billion.

India may impose antidumping duty on Polystyrene from 6 countries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India may impose anti-dumping duty on imports of polystyrene from these nations.

After conducting a probe, the commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended imposition of the anti-dumping duty on the product from these six countries. The duty recommended is in the range of USD 35 per tonne to USD 474 per tonne. The direc-

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(O/o) CE/TS-B-1, Shakti Vihar, Patiala
 Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.
 Phone No. 0175-2301537, Fax No. 0175-220143.
 Email: ssdesign1.pspcl@gmail.com Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in

OPEN e-tender Notice

Online Tenders are invited for the supply of the following material as per Tender Specification No 212/SS(D)/2020 of PSPCL:

Description	Qty (No's)	Enquiry No./Year	Last date & time for downloading of tenders	Last date & time for bid submission	Date & time of opening of bids
FOR DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, TESTING, SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 1000 Nos 150 Watt LED AND THEIR ACCESSORIES COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECT FOR VARIOUS GRID SUBSTATIONS	1000	212/2020	22.07.2020 11.00 A.M.	23.07.2020 11.00 A.M.	23.07.2020 11.30 A.M.

EMD 2,20,000/-
 Minimum EMD 55,000/-

Detailed NIT and Specification may be downloaded from PSPCL e-tendering website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. The prospective bidders may contact customer care of above cited website in case of any difficulty.

It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, No CORRIGENDUM will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL e-tendering website <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

Dy. CE/Sub-Station Design
 PSPCL, Patiala

C196/2020

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
 COLLECTORATE COMPOUND, RUDRAPUR, DISTT. UDHAM SINGH NAGAR

Ref No. 792/Nivda/163 Date: 15.06.2020

E-Tender Notice

- Name of the work:- Construction of 120 Beded Hostel Building at Deohari, Bajpur (Udhamsingh Nagar)
- Estimated Cost- Rs. 385.12 Lakh
- Period of Completion:- 09 Month
- Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 16.06.2020 (17.00 hrs)
- Last Date / Time of receipt of bids in the portal: 07.07.2020 (17.00 hrs)
- Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 09.07.2020 (12.00 hrs)
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting bid: Er. Om Prakash, Collectorate Compound, Rudrapur (Udhamsingh Nagar).
- Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:- 20.06.2020 (13.00 hrs) G.M. OFFICE HALDWANI.
- For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal [www.ukenders.gov.in](http://ukenders.gov.in)

Project Manager

INVITATION TO TENDER

The Commandant- 86 Bn CRPF, Lamphelpat Imphal, Manipur invites sealed tender under two bid system (Technical and Price Bid) for purchasing of liquor (IMFL) in various brand for Canteen.

Details can be accessed at www.crpf.gov.in/
www.eprocure.gov.in

davp-19111/11/0018/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), **Namely: SURENDER SINGH RAWAT** S/o Lt. Kesar Singh R/o H. No. C-237, JJ Colony Khanpur, New Delhi has been missing from his house since 13.05.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 26A dated 27.05.2020 has been lodged at PS Neb Sarai, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

SURENDER SINGH RAWAT
 Age : 28 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Long, Built : Normal, Wearing : Black and White Colour Checkdaar T-shirt and grey colour pant and black colour Jarsi and chappal in feet. **Identification:** Mentally disturbed.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Neb Sarai, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
 P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi
 South Distt. Delhi
 Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph. 011-29551597, 29551326
 Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/95/SD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Geeta Devi W/o satbir R/o Fauzi Ka Makan, Gali No. 2, Ibrahimpur, Delhi** has been missing since 30.05.2020 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 16A dated 02.06.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

GEETA DEVI
 Age : 24 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion : Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Hair: Long, Wearing : Cream colour Sari and Sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi at E-mail id - cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
 P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi
 Outer North Distt., Delhi
 Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 Ph. No. 011-27811415, 27811738
 Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/264/ON/2020

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Reena, D/o Shri Laxman, R/o A-181, Gali No. 06, Mandoli Extn., Delhi, Age about 18 years, Height 5'2", Complexion Fair, Round Face, Thin Built, Wearing Pink colour kurti, Blue colour salwar and hawai chappal in feet has been kidnapped from her house since 06.04.15. In this regard a case FIR No. 224/15 dated 13.04.15 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at PS Harsh Vihar, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
 Tele: 011-24368638, 24368641 PS: Harsh Vihar, Delhi
 Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-22342073-74
 DP/102/NE/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON

General public is here by informed that one Person **Namely: Rohit Sharma, S/o Sh. Ramesh Chand, R/o H.No. 170/367, Prajapati Wali Gali, Rithala Village, Delhi, Age: 21 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: White Colour Shirt with Metila Colour Pant and Blue Colour Chappal** has been missing since 03.05.2020 from the area of PS Budh Vihar, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 49-A dated 05.06.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
 Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi
 Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-27571171, 27571162
 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/174/RD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is here by informed that one Girl **Namely: Neha, D/o Sh. Bishamber, R/o H. No. A-291, JJ Colony, Khanpur, New Delhi, Age: 23 Years, Height: 5'3", Face: Round, Built: Normal, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: White Colour Kurta and Orange Colour Pajam** has been Missing since 18.05.2020 from her house the area of P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 33-A, dated 20.05.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this Girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in SHO
 Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi
 Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-29551597, 8750870835
 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/89/SD/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Mariyam D/o Rahmat Ali R/o H. No. 887 Pana Udyan, Narela, Delhi Aged- 17 Years** has been reported missing since 01.06.2020 from the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi vide FIR No. 222/20 u/s 363 IPC Dated 02.06.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Narela, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 4'7", Face: Long, Hair: Long Black, ID Mark: Black mole on nose, Wearing: Black-white coloured frock and black coloured sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Narela, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
 P.S. Narela, Delhi
 Tel: 011-27280435, 27282350
 DP/264/ON/2020 Mob.: 7065036323



VaccineHope

People are able to fight off the COVID-19 infection and recover, this suggests that there is a possibility of a vaccine, which can elicit the same type of response, said Marisha Juthani, an infectious diseases specialist and associate professor of medicine and epidemiology at Yale School of Medicine



LOOK WHAT YOU ARE EATING



During hard times like these, a lot of people binge eat to beat stress.

However, it is not a wise option and can have long-term effect on the body, says GAZAL CHOUDHARY

When COVID-19 hit the country in March, it brought a surge in stress and fear, alongside constant economic downfall. Our places of comfort were turned to 9 to 5 workstations. Lockdown and social distancing became the new trend. We had our new buddies — a face mask, a hand sanitiser and a pair of gloves.

With so much going around, and the uncertainty of what is yet to come, most of us were looking for a safe space, something to help us fill the void. In times like such the only thing that came to our rescue was that bar of chocolate, or that bag of chips.

There were two reasons driving this constant pattern of behaviour. First of all some of us were just bored as life suddenly became sedentary, and secondly because we were stressed, which was further accompanied by weight gain, due to both excessive eating and constant stress.

Stress prepares the body for fight-or-flight response by inducing the secretion of cortisol hormone into the blood stream, which in turn effects physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing if not handled properly. In long term it acts as a factor for weight gain, as cortisol is also a significant appetite stimulant, hence we are always looking out for food.

The body is currently working under emotional response system, which triggers our brain to eliminate the disturbance caused due to stress and anxiety, hence going for some amount of emotional eating is okay, after-all they are called comfort foods for a reason. In case eating is the only way by which you are coping with this situation, seek professional help.

We all are dealing with the difficult times, something none of us were prepared for. Our priorities have shifted from being a gym freak to just surviving the hardships, or recreating the foods that we all crave.

This year has been screaming in so many ways that we are overpowered by negative thoughts and emotions. We all need to accept that it is okay to be worried, but we can't be just that. We need to feel the emotion and get out of it, shift the focus to self love and appreciation. Meditation, yoga and dancing anything that helps you keep the stress away would work. Do things you always wanted to do, learn that instrument or maybe take that course. Life is hard for all of us, talk to your loved ones as they could be struggling amidst all of this.

Keep a constant check on your physical health and take care of the kids and the elder ones. If you can't bring the neural noise at ease, write a journal, paint or sketch.

If needed seek extra support, and don't be afraid to ask for it. Everybody around us is struggling in their own way. Don't let this difficult time kill your essence of life.

The writer is Psychologist & Life Skill Trainer

DONATE LIFE

World Blood Donor Day was on June 14. Doctors share tips to keep in mind while donating blood and precautions to follow during COVID-19



If we talk about pre-COVID-19 phase, there is a huge gap between demand and supply of blood in our country. One need to understand that blood donation is a universal phenomenon globally. Data suggest that this gap is more in low income countries than high income countries where voluntary blood donation is more which can be linked to awareness and education.

Now, considering COVID-19 pandemic era, the imposition of lockdown which was very much needed, but the entire pandemic partially hit the blood donation process. There are guidelines issued by National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) in regard to blood donation and precautions to be followed while collecting blood. Blood donations camps are now avoided as it may increase the risk of gathering and social distancing is the need of hour.

Huge number of patients requiring regular transfusion depends upon voluntary blood donation, this chain must not be broken amid pandemic.

Reports suggest the antibodies have been found in recovered patients of COVID-19, and a number of people have come forward to donate platelets. It is giving successful results as well which is being used on clinical trials basis or Investigational new drug.

The concept of blood donation is wide, it is not merely limited to the units of blood, it is more about the components of blood needed for different diseases:-

- Red blood cells are kept at 2 to 6°C for up to 42 days
- Plasma can be stored for one year at -40°C or lower
- Platelets at 22°C for 5 days

Platelets can be separated on a machine as per the requirement in a short span.

We need to spread adequate information and awareness about blood donation and encourage people to donate blood.

The writer is Dr Sadhana Mangwana, Senior Consultant & Head, Department of Transfusion Medicine and Immunohaematology

Don't worry about infections

Blood donation is a normal process and a greatest way to help mankind which doesn't involve any risk if done with every related precaution. It is blessing in itself.

All aseptic precautions will be taken at the time of blood donation and only disposable instruments (use and throw) will be used for safety. You cannot get any infection/disease by donating blood however minor local reaction may occur.

Talking about COVID-19 time, it is completely safe to donate blood, but don't go in groups. Temperature screening is done at the entrance of

the hospital for each and every person including donors. Only one donor is allowed in the donor room and after proper sanitisation of the donor's couches and equipments next donor is called, each and every precaution is maintained like use of face masks, social distancing and sanitisation measures to prevent any infection.

Donors are asked to call and inform the blood bank if they feel any flu like symptoms within 48 hours or 14 days after donating blood.

The writer is Dr Sonia Bindal, Consultant, Blood Bank, Narayana Hospital, Gurugram

Fact check

Donating blood is equal to saving lives, but there are a number of misconceptions in this regard which need to be dealt with. As it is said that a donor has to be healthy at the time of donation, but it doesn't mean that you have to be in perfect health and you have never taken/taking any medicines. There is a well laid criteria for acceptance of people as blood donors. If you are on certain medications like for

high blood pressure, high cholesterol, multivitamins (the list is exhaustive) then of course you are eligible for the blood donation after the brief clinical examination by the doctor in the blood bank.

As we are going through a difficult period of pandemic, the hospital is taking adequate precautions regarding social distancing and sanitisation. Blood donation is a vital process in healthcare and it has

saved countless lives and continues to do so. Every healthy person between 18-65 years should come forward to donate blood.

There should be a gap of three months between two blood donations and before blood donation, haemoglobin should be more than 12.5 g%.

The writer is Dr Shamsuz Zaman, Consultant, Blood Bank, Dharamshila Narayana Superspeciality Hospital

Put your health at forefront

The key to a safe delivery and healthy baby is a happy and healthy mother, says DR DEEPMALA KUMARI

The present unprecedented situation due to the novel pandemic owes a lot to the viable changes we are going through. Though the prolonged lockdown has controlled the spread to some extent, but now with the reopening and measures being relaxed a bit, there might be a spike in the numbers of the affected. Amongst the list of vulnerable communities prone to get infected to COVID-19, Government has added pregnant women as well. Therefore, it is time that we take a few additional measures during pregnancy to be resilient. It is always better to take precautions rather than curing later.

A few safety guides for pregnant women specifically are:

Maintaining hygiene: Currently the most important aspect for any individual and more so for pregnant ladies is to ensure hygiene is maintained. Try not to touch your face after going out and immediately wash yourself and change clothes. Ensure you wear mask and sanitise hands at regular intervals.

Carrying your own food and water: It is best to avoid eating outside. While cravings are very natural, it is more important to be safe currently. Carry own set of



meals for regular intervals and at least two litres of warm water. Have steamed and cooked food instead of raw.

Avoid public restrooms: While the tendency to use restrooms is extremely high during pregnancies, do try and avoid crowded public restrooms. In office premises, ensure you wipe the seat before use and do not forget to thoroughly wash hands later. If there is an option of carrying your own bidet or stand and pee funnels, do not hesitate.

Limit the surfaces that you are tend

to touch: It would be good idea to not use your dominant hand regularly. Start using the less preferred hand while opening doors and picking things to limit the surfaces you touch.

Consult a doctor: Do not ignore any discomfort even if you feel it is a minor running nose or a cough. Immediately contact your doctor for further guidance

Working mothers: Try and utilise all the benefits provided by the company. If work from home is an option, that would be advisable. While it is best to

commute by your own vehicle, in case it is not an option, do opt for cab service provided by company as corporates are adhering to strict protocols.

Immunity boosters: Considering the present situation, women need to be more careful during their pregnancy and keep a regular check on their immunity system. Other than regular supplements, it is advisable to take iron and calcium supplements along with rich protein post consulting their respective doctors. Furthermore, Vitamin C, D & E would also be recommended. Fluids and citrus fruits, tender coconuts, lime juice and any Vitamin C enriched fruits are advisable.

Stay positive, happy and exercise: The last and the most important advice would be, to not be paranoid and over think. It is important to have a positive outlook and not ignore yourself and the baby. The key to a safe delivery and healthy baby is a happy and healthy mother. So keep exercising inside the house, regularly walking in the nearest park or neighborhood with safety precautions can have positive impact. It is a good idea to do some meditation as well for mental peace and wellness.

The writer is Consultant, Obstetrician & Gynecologist, Motherhood Hospitals, Sarjapur, Bangalore

SLIMLINE

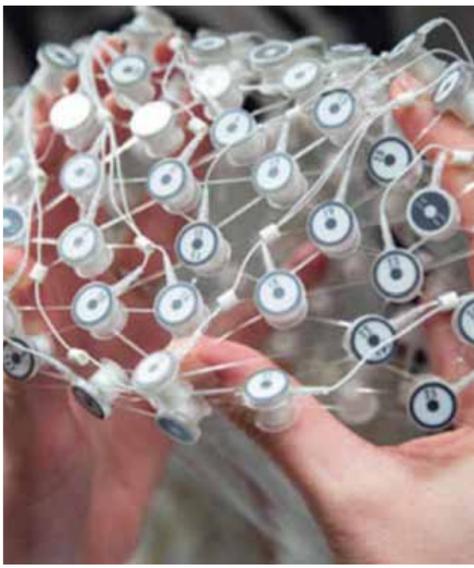
Crowdera, a SaaS technology company and fee-free global online fundraising platform for nonprofits and social innovators, is offering its premium syndicated fundraising technology solutions absolutely free of charge to companies & NGOs working to help the Covid-19 affected individuals, families and health workers. The platform will be extending its support through offering its products and services worth almost ₹1 crore free to organisations aiding the affected.

Crowdera's syndicate solution will help corporations & NGOs to quickly syndicate with their own employees, influencers, other foundations, or charity partners to raise funds 10X more than through a regular crowdfunding campaign. Corporations will also be able to run private syndicates accessible exclusively to their network on Crowdera.

DOCYARD

DR VINIT SURI

Senior Consultant Neurologist
INDRAPRASTHA APOLLO HOSPITAL



It's a dangerous stroke

The COVID-19 is an infectious disease with a high incidence of a symptomatic disease. As per a study, worldwide 80 per cent of the COVID-19 cases show mild symptoms.

Attack on brain
All serious viral respiratory illnesses may be complicated with neurological complication.

There are three ways in which COVID-19 may impact the brain:

- Direct involvement of the brain or vessels or nerves by the virus. For example Loss of smell is a very prominent feature of COVID-19 infection which can be the beginning of manifestation of COVID-19.
- Immunological damage to the brain or nerve
- Involvement of the brain by the systematic factor. Eg sepsis, metabolic disturbances including low oxygen or high carbon dioxide.

Serious manifestation of brain

COVID-19 may also affect the central nervous system with neurological symptoms like headaches, dizziness, loss of taste and smell, and impaired consciousness. Some patients experience formation of clot in multiple circulation resulting in strokes, heart attacks, pulmonary embolism, and other complications.

A stroke occurs when there is an interruption of a flow of blood to the brain either as reduced/flow or spillage of blood (hemorrhage). It can often kill brain cells if not treated immediately. Symptoms of a stroke range from the inability to move one side of the body to difficulty speaking or forming words. Some people experience a loss of coordination and signs of vertigo.

Coronavirus attacks the lungs resulting in severe inflammation as they fill with fluid, ultimately reducing their ability to fulfil their intended purpose: transferring oxygen from the lungs to the blood stream via red blood cells.

Do not delay treatment
Stroke patients may have significant recovery if they get appropriate treatment within the golden hour (four-five hours) for intravenous thrombolysis and six hours for mechanical thrombolysis.

Treatment: A clot-busting drug known as tissue plasminogen activator (TPA,) the first line treatment, as well as endovascular or catheter-based approaches (in delayed presentations) could be lifesaving.

While the risks of clotting related to COVID-19 are now apparent, many patients who experience stroke-like symptoms including weakness, difficulty speaking, dizziness or numbness have been reluctant to seek care in the emergency department-for fear of exposure to the virus itself. Yet this delay to seek care could be disastrous, with life-altering consequences (paralysis, loss ability to think or speak) including death.

SUMMERCoolERS

TAMARIND: Also known as *imli*, tamarind is a sweet and sour fruit that has a wide variety of uses, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is rich in Vitamin C, E, and B, calcium, iron, phosphorus, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber.

It is also considered as antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent.

A lot of people consume tamarind to treat constipation, liver and gallbladder problems, and stomach disorders. It is also used to treat colds and fever.

Pregnant women use tamarind to treat nausea. It is

given to children to treat intestinal worms. An extract of tamarind seeds is used in eye drops for dry eyes. Along with its ability to stop weight gain, it also inhibits the enzyme alpha-amylase, which mainly stops carbohydrates from being absorbed which is good to

Diabetes patient.



Trend Glazer

Dia celebrates one year of Kaafir

It's been a year since actor-producer **DIA MIRZA** played one of her career's "most challenging roles" in the web series, *Kaafir*.

She believes that the message of humanity overcoming conflict in the series bears relevance in everything the world is going through right now.

"I think art has always found a way to transcend fear and prejudice and helped reunite our hearts and emotions seamlessly. We cannot allow fear to take away from ourselves and our communities. *Kaafir* is more than the touching stories it tells. It's a constant reminder that the universe is limitless and meant for everyone," Dia said.

She played the part of Kainaaz Akhtar, an imprisoned Pakistani woman.



BE KIND TO YOUR MIND

Why do we need examples of Deepika Padukone's depression battle or Sushant Singh Rajput's suicide to remind ourselves that mental health is important? Experts tell **AYUSHI SHARMA** how this issue can be addressed permanently



Naa police ko pata chala, naa Joy ke baap ko. Sab soch rahe hain suicide hai. Post-mortem report mein aaya hai maui ka karan — intense pressure on wind pipe, resulting in choking (asphyxiation). Woh bewakuf soch rahe hain gale pe pressure padne ki wajah se marr gaya par pichle kuch saalon se jo deemag par pressure pad raha hai, uska kya? Woh toh report mein hai hi nahi. Yeh engineers bade chalak hote hain, aisi koi machine hi nahi banayi jo deemag ka pressure naap sake. Banate toh pata chal jata ki yeh suicide nahi murder hai...

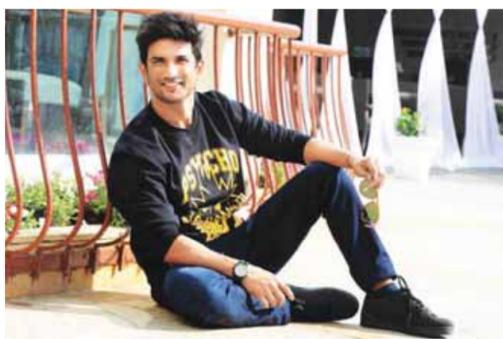
Amir Khan's dialogue from the film *3 Idiots* (2009) couldn't explain the reality of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's life better. Once again, money and fame couldn't buy happiness. Once again, the reality has proven to be way different than what it seems from the outside. Once again, good mental health and inner peace have proven to be the need of the hour.

There have been endless conversations and debates around mental depression. However, until and unless we come across an example of a big name getting affected, it doesn't hit us as much. And social media, after Sushant's death, is evidence of how badly we have been reminded of this. We forget how important it is to address this issue as it has become a life-threatening as a critical disease. This certainly shows that no

matter what the unprecedented scale of human tragedy around us, people never learn. They often forget that every other person is fighting a battle that they know nothing about. Hence, it raises a question about instilling this sensitivity permanently in people. We don't need examples of Deepika Padukone's depression battle or Sushant's suicide!

Dr Anuneet Sabharwal, a psychiatrist, tells us that it is very important for all of us to make sure that we "listen before we speak." Allowing people to openly talk about their feelings, emotions and struggles without judging them will create a safe environment for them. We all have so much going on in our lives on regular basis — not to forget the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. Experts suggest that if we take the time to be kind to other people, we can reap the emotional dividends. It can really make a difference, especially for people who are vulnerable or struggling.

Therapists believe that mental pain appears to be less dramatic than the physical one. However, it is more common and also much harder to bear. Research suggests that approximately one in five adults experience some form of mental health issue in a year. "The topic of mental illness has been difficult to openly discuss over the years. Many people still view mental health with a stigma. It's high time that we



move mental health to the forefront of conversation topics. Talking about it on a regular basis will normalise it. Encouraging people to seek professional help is important," says Dr Anuneet.

The lives we lead and the experiences we go through have an effect on our minds and on our emotions. Who defines what is normal and what's crazy? "The fear of being judged, shame, lack of insight and unavailability stop one from seeking emotional and mental succour. Let us remind each other that our mental health is in our own hands and that there should be no reason for us to seek anyone's approval or the so-called 'validation' to be able to make decisions and lead a meaningful life with some support. So if you're concerned about your mental health, don't hesitate to

seek advice as it is you who has to take the first step," feels Dr Tabassum Sheikh, Clinical Psychologist, Apollo TeleHealth.

As a person who has had a lived experience with mental illness, Deepika Padukone, in an Instagram post, stressed on the importance of reaching out. She reminded us that it is important to talk, communicate and seek help. "Remember, you are not alone! We are in this together. And most importantly, there is hope," she wrote. Deepika has been working consistently to help people suffering from depression over the past few years.

There is always a ray of hope in every adverse situation. "The more you represent something on screen, the more it gets normalised. The survivors need to understand that they are not

alone. Together, we can win this fight!" shares Dr Shanu Srivastava, senior psychologist, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi.

When it comes to ranking of different countries, according to the World Health Organisation, India is the most depressed country in the world, followed by China and the USA. These are the most affected nations by anxiety, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Indian cricketer Robin Uthappa had also recently revealed that he battled clinical depression and suicidal thoughts for nearly two years during his career, a phase when cricket was perhaps the only thing that kept him from "jumping off a balcony."

He shared that we need to speak about what we feel within. We are stronger than we know. It is completely okay to not be okay, and

fine to be not fine.

There are many more examples of people who didn't want depression to define them and become their identity. Alia Bhatt's sister Shaheen Bhatt was diagnosed with clinical depression when she was just 12 years old. Shaheen, in her book — *I've Never Been (un) Happier* — shared her struggle of battling this mental illness. She chose to write about her journey with depression, experiences and how she has learnt from it. Alia featured in a film, *Dear Zindagi*, which was about the process of therapy and getting back into the groove of life.

Psychiatrist Dr Anju Sharma, Sound and Energy Master and the Founder of Musical Healing Band — *Sound of Infinity*, tells us that with the lockdown and the prevailing scenario of gloom and doom, many people have been facing troubles in relationships, losing money and jobs and starting at uncertainty, which impact the mental peace of a person. She says, "The basic process of healing will always be communication. It's important to let the negative emotions out."

So what should we do when we feel low, have suicidal thoughts racing through our mind and have no one to share our feelings or understand them? If you are struggling to open up about your mental health, here are a few tips from experts:

■ One of the main causes of depression is the feeling of being misunderstood. Even when you are around people, it leads to a terrible ongoing loneliness. If you feel that 'nobody understands me', extricate yourself from the situation and take a moment to slow down. Take a few deep breaths, perhaps even try chanting *aum*. One should feel the vibration of *aum* in the cellular system of the body.

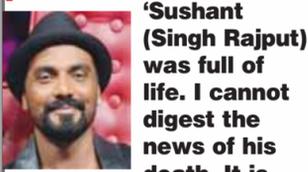
■ Painting, sketching or simply playing with colours help our mind to calm down.

■ Another interesting way to deal with your lows is to write down the issues and the feelings on a paper and tear it off into small pieces.

■ Remember that problems are temporary, but suicide is permanent. Taking your own life is never the right solution to any challenge you may be facing. It's about finding solutions to your problem rather than finding problems to every solution. One must reconcile oneself to one's strengths and confidence, and be sure of going around the obstacle in his/her path.

Before you go, was there something I could've said to make your heart beat better? If only I'd have known you had a storm to weather...

Well, the song *Before You Go* by Lewis Capaldi makes sense now more than ever.



'Sushant (Singh Rajput) was full of life. I cannot digest the news of his death. It is too disturbing. He had everything. He always had this complaint, 'Why don't you cast me in ABCD?' I would say, 'Definitely, I will cast you. He was a good actor and a dancer. I was surprised he did not win the *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 4* He was the best there.'

—Remo D'Souza



Late actor **SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT** now has an Amul Butter ad tribute.

The new advertisement of Amul captures Sushant as a Bollywood talent, bringing alive the screen presence and charm he exuded in films like *Kai Po Che!*, *MS Dhoni: The Untold Story* and *Sonchiriya* in animation avatars.

Lyrics from *Ik vaari aa*, song from Sushant's *Raabta* has been used to create the ad, "Ik vaari phir se aa bhi jaa yaara."

Brad donates \$1 mn to fight racism

Hollywood actor **BRAD PITT** has reportedly donated \$1 million to racial justice organisation to help fight the discrimination.

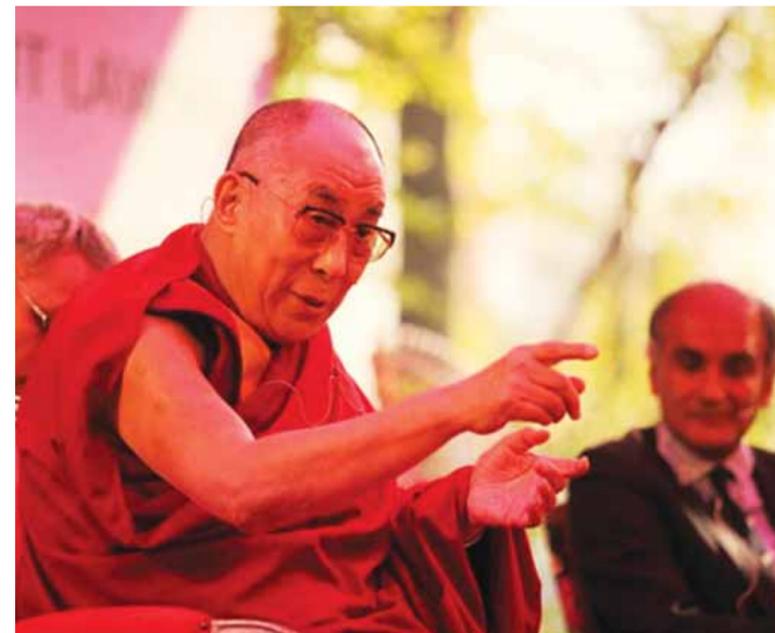


According to Entertainment Tonight, Brad's ex-wife Jennifer Aniston secretly donated money to several charities, including Colors Of Change, an organisation formed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to use online resources to strengthen the political voice of African Americans, earlier this month.

Britain's *Daily Mirror* newspaper reported that Brad had donated the same amount after being "deeply affected" by the death of African-American George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis.

Making sense of chaos

The 14th DALAI LAMA is set to be in conversation with author PICO IYER for the *JLF Brave New World* and connect with the audience virtually



As the world has been under lockdown, Teamwork Arts, producer of the iconic Jaipur Literature Festival, launched the *JLF Brave New World*, an online literary series of conversations between the world's greatest writers and thinkers, in which the sprawling grounds of Diggi Palace were replaced by the boundless possibilities of the internet. The ongoing series, which continues to explore themes critical to current times, along with a host of ideas and perspectives, aims to connect communities of book-lovers across geographies.

The series began with a session where former politician and author Bruno Maçães and writer and journalist Sujeev Shakya talked about these transformed times and how the lessons of Nepal, China and Europe highlight our past, present and future, and what the rebirth of these nations could mean for the world and global affairs. Writer and broadcaster Bee Rowlatt and Baroness Helena Kennedy QC explored the need to protect the forum inter-

num — our private and mental space — from the incursions of digital technology. Exploring food, memory and culture, celebrity chef and restaurateur Asma Khan, alongside writer and translator Rakhshanda Jalil, spoke movingly of the bonds of food and memory, friendship and community, across cultures and continents, and in the special places they call home.

Well, this week, the Dalai Lama will be seen in conversation with author Pico Iyer. The session will showcase lessons from the life and teachings of the 14th Dalai Lama, where he will share his profound wisdom with *JLF Brave New World* viewers. Sharing his thoughts with Iyer, Dalai Lama will talk about finding love and peace in our confused, divided and chaotic world and of the universal value of compassion in these troubled times.

Looking forward to the session, Iyer said, "I first visited His Holiness at his home in Dharamsala 46 years ago this summer when I was 17 and through-

out my younger years, I kept visiting him on all his early trips to the US while also making the first of my visits to Tibet. In 2008, I described the first 34 years of our talks together in a book, *The Open Road*, and for 10 Novembers in the recent years, I have travelled with Dalai Lama across Japan, from Okinawa to the Tsunami-stricken areas around Tohoku, sitting in on his private audiences, attending all his public lectures and getting to witness his constant instruction on compassion, attention and thoughtfulness everywhere from roadside convenience stores to busy hotel lobbies. My articles on him have featured for more than 30 years, in international daily's and magazines. Among the events I have done with him, everywhere from New York to Los Angeles, I was also at the JLF in 2013 when His Holiness visited the Festival. It has been quite a journey."

William Dalrymple, writer, historian and Co-director of the JLF, said, "It has been both a pleasure and privilege to co-direct *Brave New World* and to be part of bringing such a fabulous, glittering stream of literary brilliance into so many homes at such a difficult time."

Sanjoy K Roy, managing director, said, "*JLF Brave New World* and its viewership figures of over 700,000 in these two months have shown that world over, audience are curious and seek the free flow of knowledge, science, and information."

During these hard times it will be enlightening for the audience to listen to the Dalai Lama and share his infinite wisdom. He has very rightfully said, "Ancient Indian tradition describes the creation, abiding and destruction of worlds over time. Among the causes of such destruction are armed conflict and disease, which seem to accord with what we are experiencing today. However, despite the enormous challenges we face, living beings, including humans, have shown a remarkable ability to survive."

The Dalai Lama had visited the JLF back in 2013 when he spoke about the essence of knowledge and how he still considers himself a student of the Nalanda Tradition.

At *JLF Brave New World*, the session with him, titled *The Seed of Compassion*, will be live streamed on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 9 am IST and a repeat telecast can be seen at 7.30 pm IST, the same evening. Audiences will be able to access the session on the Festival's official social media platforms including Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

The series has reached out to over 3.34 million people with 5.1 million impressions in its first 50 episodes, held thrice weekly, with two sessions each day.



A rollercoaster of emotions

Actor Abhishek Bachchan makes his digital on-screen debut with *Breathe*, alongside the return of actor Amit Sath in his award-winning role as senior inspector Kabir Sawant. He was lauded for his performance in the first chapter of the series. The Amazon Original also features one of South India's actor, Nithya Menen, who makes her digital debut too. Sayami Kher also joins the cast in a prominent role.

"We are happy to bring an all-new avatar of *Breathe*," said director Mayank Sharma. He added: "While each character in the show has its own story to tell, viewers will discover just how intriguingly these storylines eventually get interwoven.

With this new chapter I am excited to take people on a new rollercoaster journey of emotions and thrills that will leave you gasping for breath.

"We are extremely excited to bring a new show *Breathe: Into The Shadows*. We are confident that our customers will love this edge-of-the-seat emotional thriller across India and beyond," said Aparna Purohit, Head of India Originals, Amazon Prime Video.

It is produced by A b u n d a n t i a Entertainment and written by Bhavani Iyer, Vikram Tuli, Arshad Syed and Mayank Sharma.

(The series will launch on Amazon Prime Video in over 200 countries on July 10.)

Marcelo takes knee as Real win 3-1 against Eibar at 'new home' in Zizou's 200th game

AFP ■ MADRID

Marcelo celebrated by taking a knee as Real Madrid returned from three months away following the coronavirus suspension by beating Eibar 3-1 on Sunday.

After scoring Madrid's third goal in the 37th minute, Marcelo dropped onto his left knee and raised his clenched right fist into the air, apparently in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Madrid's win may have come at a cost as Eden Hazard and Sergio Ramos were both substituted early in the second half and were seen with ice packs strapped to them while sitting in the stands.

Hazard was making his first start since February and his ice pack appeared to be around his troublesome right ankle, which he injured in November and February, before undergoing surgery in March.

"We knew Eden would lack a bit of rhythm playing the whole game," coach Zinedine Zidane said.

"He played well for an hour, he took a knock which was a scare but at half-time he said he was fine. He is happy with what he has done and we are happy with him."

Madrid's win means they reduce the gap behind league leaders Barcelona back to two points after the Catalans thrashed Real Mallorca 4-0 on Saturday. Madrid struck in the fourth minute

Title race is on



after a superb strike from Toni Kroos before Ramos tucked away Hazard's pass on the counter-attack.

Eibar pulled one back in the second half through Pedro Bigas but never found the second to make Madrid nervous, despite a brief spell of pressure.

Before going off, Hazard was busy, the Belgian involved in all three goals.

His weaving run through midfield led to Kroos' shot and it was his effort

that was cleared out to Marcelo, who drove into the corner.

After a miserable opening season in Spain, it was a bright start for Hazard, who could now redeem himself by playing a crucial role in the run-in, if he can stay injury-free.

Perhaps even more impressive though was Karim Benzema, who linked up brilliantly with Hazard and was unfortunate not to get the goal an

Setien enjoys luxury of choice

AFP ■ BARCELONA

Barcelona coach Quique Setien rejoiced on Monday in having key players like Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez fit for the hectic La Liga title run-in ahead of hosting struggling Leganes at a Camp Nou devoid of fans.

Suarez made his first appearance since knee surgery in January, replacing Antoine Griezmann in the second half of Barca's 4-0 stroll in Mallorca on Saturday.

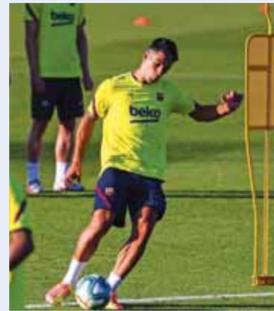
And Messi's two assists, a goal, and 90 minutes played suggest Barca's captain has overcome the tightness in his thigh from earlier this month.

Setien's side welcome Leganes on Tuesday while two points clear of Real Madrid, who face Valencia 48 hours later.

Explaining the Griezmann substitution the coach said the French World Cup winner was an "undeniable" plus for his team.

"He's played in practically every match but now there are more players and you have to spread game time around more."

"As the matches come and go



Barcelona vs Leganes
Live from 1:30am IST
FACEBOOK

there will be changes. The idea is that all the players are fresh, that they can handle the run of games with the

guarantee of not getting injured so that they can all give their best."

Turning to Messi he praised his ace act's performance: "That's why he's the best player in the world and we are fortunate to have him."

"Let's hope that it won't have any effect on us and that we play well and win."

"Football loses some of its fuel when staged in front of empty stands."

excellent all-round performance deserved.

Gareth Bale started on the bench but came on and could start against

Valencia on Thursday.

Zidane is likely to rotate heavily over the next few weeks, with the games coming thick and fast.

Casillas ends RFEF presidency bid

AFP ■ MADRID

Spain's World Cup-winning captain Iker Casillas announced on Monday he was ending his bid to run for the presidency of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) due to the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

"I would like to inform you that I have decided not to run for the upcoming RFEF elections," the Porto goalkeeper wrote on social media.

The 39-year-old said he was pulling out of the race for the top job in Spanish football as a result of the "exceptional social, economic and health situation that our country is suffering".

He said the Covid-19 outbreak which has claimed over 27,000 victims in the country had relegated the election into "second place".

Casillas, who led Spain to their first World Cup title in 2010, had announced his intention to stand against current RFEF president Luis Rubiales back in February.

His defection now leaves the way clear for Rubiales to gain a second mandate in the election scheduled for August 17.

Casillas played 167 times for Spain, also winning two Euros in 2008 and 2012, and made more than 700 appearances for Real Madrid, with whom he won five La Liga titles and the Champions League three times, before joining Porto in 2015.



BLADES, VILLA BRACED FOR PL RESTART

AFP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Sheffield United manager Chris Wilder and Aston Villa boss Dean Smith said they were aware of the eyes of the world would be on their match when they relaunch the Premier League on Wednesday.

The high-flying Blades travel to Villa Park for the first game in the English top-flight after a three-month suspension.

Later on Wednesday, Manchester City host Arsenal, with 92 games packed into just five-and-a-half weeks.

"First game back is going to be a little bit different, what we understand is the magnitude of the game, the coverage of the game," Wilder said at his pre-match video press conference on Monday.

"Villa-Sheffield United was a Championship game last year and would possibly have been seventh or eighth on (BBC's) Match Of The Day and now it is 6:00 pm on the TV and worldwide coverage."

"From our point of view we want to put on a good show and make sure we play well."

Sheffield United, who have 10 games to play, are seventh in the table, chasing Champions League football.

They could move up to fifth place with three points at Villa Park, but Wilder will not allow himself to get distracted by talk of Europe.

"If it gets to the situation where we are one or two games out and we are

still in a fantastic position then we will possibly talk about that," said Wilder.

"But at the moment we have quarter of a season to go, near enough. I am sure that you have seen the fixture list as such as I have seen it. There are some incredible challenges in front of us."

ITCHING TO PLAY

Villa manager Smith, whose side are in the relegation places, said it was an honour to be playing the first game in the English top-flight since March.

Victory over the Blades, their game in hand over their relegation rivals, would take them out of the drop zone with nine matches remaining.

"The eyes of the world will be on us and we are looking forward to it," said Smith.

"The players have been itching to get back," he added.

Smith questioned the temporary rule change to allow five substitutions during games, saying it would benefit certain clubs. Teams can also name nine substitutes instead of seven.

"I wasn't for it," he said. "I just believe we started the season with certain rules and now we have changed it. I suppose it helps the clubs with the bigger squads. There was talk to change it because there is more risk of injury but having more subs doesn't help that. I just wanted it to stay as it was. I think Sheffield United were the same."

Bayern out to seal title

AFP ■ BREMEN

Bayern Munich coach Hansi Flick wants his side to "seal the deal" and wrap up an eighth consecutive Bundesliga title on Tuesday with victory at relegation-threatened Werder Bremen.

Top scorer Robert Lewandowski and Thomas Mueller, one shy of the record for assists in a single season, are both available again after Borussia Moenchengladbach match due to suspension.

Victory at Bremen, where Bayern have won all 12 games over the last decade, will clinch a record-extending 30th league title, and the first leg of a potential treble in Flick's debut season in charge.

"We want to finish the job on Tuesday. That is our goal. We have an excellent run and want to continue our winning streak," said Flick, who stepped in when Niko Kovac was sacked last November.

"The target is to win again in Bremen. We want to just seal the deal."

Bayern have won their last 10 league games and another victory on Tuesday would leave them an unassailable 10 points



Bremen vs Bayern
Live from 12:00am IST
STAR SPORTS SELECT

clear before second-placed Borussia Dortmund, who have three matches left, host strugglers Mainz on Wednesday.

"It's our plan to bring it (the trophy) back home," said midfielder Leon Goretzka.

Lewandowski, the league's leading scorer with 30 goals this term, netted twice while

Mueller, who is sitting on 20 assists, also got on the score-sheet when Bayern thrashed Bremen 6-1 when the sides met in December.

Poland star Lewandowski has struck 45 goals in all competitions this campaign and needs one more to establish a new Bundesliga personal best, having also reached the 30-goal plateau in 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Novak Djokovic breaks down at his event

AFP ■ BELGRADE

Emotional Novak Djokovic broke down in tears in front of an enthusiastic home crowd in Belgrade after he failed to make the final in the first leg of his Balkans charity tennis tournament on Sunday.

"I am not crying because I missed the finals. I am just overwhelmed by emotion because this reminds me of my childhood," the world number one told 4,000 fans packed into the Novak Tennis Centre on the banks of the Danube.

"It's been an emotional few days and I want to thank everyone who supported the event and made it happen."

To a standing ovation, the 33-year-old added: "I love you all and thank you so much for coming."

Third-ranked Dominic Thiem, number seven Zverev and Grigor Dimitrov, the world 19, also took part in the Adria Tour event that got underway on Saturday.

The four headline stars were joined by Serbian ATP players — Viktor Troicki, Filip Krajinovic and Dusan Lajovic.

Two big surprises marked the first day — Djokovic lost to Krajinovic in three sets and Dimitrov went down in two



against late call-up Nikola Milojevic. Djokovic's win against Zverev on Sunday was not enough to secure him a place in the final which saw Thiem defeat Krajinovic 4-3, 2-4, 4-2.

On June 20 and 21, the Adria Tour tournament will move to Zadar, on Croatia's Adriatic coast.

Djokovic will be joined there by Croatia's 2014 US Open winner Marin Cilic and Borna Coric.

The final stop in Bosnia will be in the northwestern town of Banja Luka on July 3 and 4.

The tournament will close on July 5 with an exhibition match in Sarajevo between Djokovic and Bosnia's Damir Dzumhur.



F1 wants two races in Shanghai

AFP ■ SHANGHAI

Formula One chiefs want to stage two races in Shanghai this season after the Chinese Grand Prix was postponed because of the coronavirus, the city's sports boss said on Monday, adding there was no final decision.

The Chinese Grand Prix, originally scheduled for April 19, was postponed in February but Formula One appears determined to race in the country — one of the sport's key markets — in the second half of this year.

Asked if there would be two Grand Prix in Shanghai instead of the usual one, Xu Bin, director of the city's sports bureau, told Shanghai People's Radio: "This was proposed by the F1 management company."

"Everyone knows that F1 has officially announced that they have resumed the first eight European races this year, but none of them are in Asia."

Xu added: "We are still communicating with F1 to see if there is any possibility of hosting two races in Shanghai, but there is no final decision yet."

"Of course we should see how the virus is being controlled."

China, where the coronavirus emerged late last year, had seen a significant drop in the number of infections and deaths. However, the country is now racing to control a fresh outbreak in the capital Beijing.

'Dhoni at No 3 would have broken most records'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Former India opener Gautam Gambhir believes that Mahendra Singh Dhoni would have been a different player with all batting records in his kitty had the Indian captain opted batting one down in 50-over format.

Gambhir was asked to chose between current India skipper Virat Kohli and Dhoni, to chase down a target.

"It's very difficult to compare both of them because one bats at No. 3, one bats at No. 6 or 7," Gambhir said on Star Sports show 'Cricket Connected'.

According to Gambhir, with the kind of flat pitches on offer and quality of current bowling attacks in world cricket now, the Jharkhand dasher could have broken most of the records had he batted at three.

"Probably, I would have taken MS Dhoni. MS Dhoni batting at No. 3 on flat wickets, with the quality of bowling attack now in world cricket."

"Look at Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, West Indies, in the current situation, with the kind of quality in international cricket there is, MS Dhoni would have probably broken most of the records," added the southpaw, who is a member of both 2007 and 2011 World Cup winning Indian team.

Dhoni in his career usually batted lower down the order and was more of a finisher.

The former left-handed opener felt that Dhoni would have been the most exciting cricketer in the world had he not captained India and batted up the order at number three.

"Probably, world cricket has missed one thing and that is MS didn't bat at No. Three. Had MS not captained India and batted at No. Three, probably world cricket would have seen a completely different player, probably he could have got many



more runs, he would have broken many more records."

However former India speedster Irfan Pathan had a different viewpoint.

Pathan said that if one compares Dhoni to Kohli at number three, Kohli would have been a better option.

"But MS had all the chance to bat at No. 3, he didn't. Look, I really believe that if you compare Virat and Mahendra Singh Dhoni batting at No. 3, I still feel Virat has a better technique."

"There's nothing that I am taking away from Mahendra Singh Dhoni, obviously he has been an absolute legend of the game. Everyone has their own opinion. I will still take Virat any day," said Pathan on the same show.

Jadeja best fielder in the game currently: Smith

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Star Indian all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja is the best fielder in the game right now, according to Australian batting star Steve Smith, who also rated KL Rahul as the most impressive among the younger crop.

Smith, who answered questions sent in by his fans on Instagram on Sunday, also said the Indian Premier League is his favourite tournament to play in.

Jadeja known for his quick and sharp fielding tactics has earned praise from several former players and respect from the current stars and Smith is no different.

Asked who the best fielder in the current lot of players Smith simply replied stating it was Jadeja.

When quizzed about which Indian player has impressed him the most, the Australian batting mainstay said: "KL Rahul. Very good player!"

Rahul, who has played 36 Tests, 32 ODIs and 42 T20Is for India, has become a regular member of the national team in white-ball cricket. Besides showcasing his skills with the willow, Rahul also bears the responsibility of being the wicketkeeper in the limited overs format.

The Rajasthan Royals batsman, who rated his first innings his 144 at Birmingham in the first. Ashes Test last year as his favourite Test knock till date, said (IPL) is his favourite tournament.

"Tough to beat the IPL. Playing with and against the best players from around the world."

Hima Das nominated for Khel Ratna award

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Country's top sprinter Hima Das, who had a stellar 2018, has been nominated for the prestigious 'Khel Ratna' by the state government of Assam.

Assam sports secretary Dulal Chandra Das sent the letter of recommendation to the sports ministry on June 5.

The 20-year-old from Dhing village in Assam is one of the youngest nominees for Khel Ratna this year.

India's first track athlete to win a global title at U20 World Championship in Tampere, Finland in 2018, Hima will compete with ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, TT player Manika Batra, women's hockey captain Rani Rampal and cricketer Rohit Sharma for country's highest sporting honour.



Azhar expresses desire to become coach

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mohammad Azharuddin would not bat an eyelid and jump at it straight away if he is given the opportunity to coach the Indian cricket team in the future, the former India captain has said.

"Yes, I am ready to give it a shot. If I get an opportunity to work with the Indian team, I would jump at it without batting an eyelid," Azharuddin told Gul News in an interview.

Azharuddin wondered why too many 'support staff' travel with teams these days.

"I am amazed to see so many people accompanying the team these days. For example, my specialisation is in batting and fielding and hence if I coach any team, I don't really need a batting coach. Isn't it?" explained

Azhar who is now the President of the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA).



Shane Watson
@ShaneWatson33
I can't stop thinking about #sushantsinghrajput. It is just so tragic!!! In The Untold Story, at times you forgot whether it was Sushant or MSD. Amazing portrayal and now the world is much poorer with him not here in it. #gonetooosoon



Sushant Singh Rajput playing the character of MS Dhoni in his biopic is etched in every cricket lovers memory and with the actor dying by suicide at his Bandra home on Sunday, former Australia all-rounder took to Twitter to share how he was amazed by Rajputs acting in the movie