

OPINION 6
NOT AN ORDINARY
FACE-OFF

WORLD 8
N KOREA BLOWS UP INTER-KOREA
OFFICE, RAISING TENSIONS

AVENUES 10
TIPS TO ACE
JEE MAIN

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY JUNE 17, 2020; PAGES 12 ₹3



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China stabs India in back, 20 soldiers martyred

PLA ambushes Indian Army patrol out to inspect Chinese troops' retreat as per pact to disengage in Galwan

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major setback to defuse a month-long tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, 20 Indian soldiers, including a core commander, were stoned and bludgeoned to death in a violent face-off with the Chinese troops on Monday evening in the Galwan valley.

At least a dozen more Indian soldiers are reported to be injured in the incident. Indian Government sources and Chinese media claimed that the Chinese side also suffered casualties in the Ladakh face-off, but they didn't give any number.

This is the first-ever such an incident resulting in death in the last 40 years. Major General rank officers of the two sides are now talking to each other to prevent the issue from escalating. Both India and China have issued official statements accusing each other of taking provocative steps.

Throughout the day the Indian Army maintained only three casualties and identified them as Colonel B Santosh Babu, Havildar Palani and sepoy Ojha.

However, in a late-night statement, the Indian Army confirmed "17 Indian jawans who were critically injured in the line of duty at the standoff location and exposed to sub-zero temperatures in the high altitude terrain have succumbed to their injuries, taking the total that were killed in action to 20."

The Indian Army said Indian and Chinese troops have disengaged at the Galwan

valley area where they had earlier clashed on the night of June 15-16. "Indian Army is firmly committed to protecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the nation," the statement said.

Reports said that the India patrol team was ambushed when it was on a mission near the Galwan valley to inspect if the Chinese had retreated as per the understanding reached between the two sides during several rounds of talks.

Insisting that there was no firing from either side, sources said that Chinese soldiers attacked the Indian jawans with stones, nail-studded rods and clubs, and duster knives.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh briefed Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the situation at the border via video call after a meeting with Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, the three military chiefs and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Giving details of the incident earlier in the day, the Army said, "During the de-escalation process underway in the Galwan valley, a violent face-off took place yesterday night with casualties. The loss of lives on the Indian side includes an officer and two soldiers." Senior military officials of the two sides are currently meeting at the venue to defuse the situation.

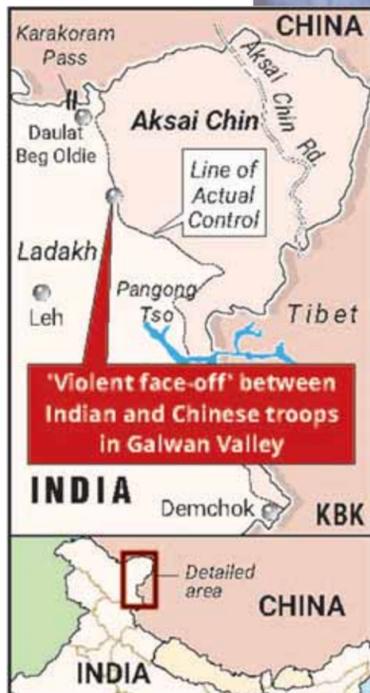
However, the Chinese said the Indian troops crossed the LAC on Monday night and deliberately launched provocative attacks triggering violent physical conflict resulting in casualties.

In response to media queries on the situation, the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "After the productive talks between Corps Commanders, while it was our expectation that this would unfold smoothly, the Chinese side departed from the consensus to respect the LAC in the Galwan Valley."

Continued on Page 2



People shout slogans against China during a protest in Ahmedabad on Tuesday



QUOTE-UNQUOTE

Indian Army gave a befitting reply, but unfortunately, we have lost our three Army men. I pay homage to them for their sacrifice and I can assure you that under the leadership of PM Modi, India's territorial integrity will not be compromised
BJP PRESIDENT JP NADDA

Words cannot describe the pain I feel for the officers and men who sacrificed their lives for our country
RAHUL GANDHI, CONGRESS LEADER

I salute the valour of the three Indian soldiers who were martyred at Galwan Valley while performing a supreme service for the nation. My heart goes out to the families of these brave men. May lord give them strength in this difficult time
MAMATA BANERJEE, WEST BENGAL CM

Deeply saddened to hear our brave soldiers on the LAC were killed in action. The whole country joins their families in their grief. We stand united as a nation to salute their sacrifice
ARVIND KEJRIWAL, DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

PLA passes buck to India, claims China owns Galwan valley

PTI ■ BEIJING

China's official media on Tuesday quoted the Chinese military as claiming that it "always" owned sovereignty over the Galwan Valley region and allegedly that "provocative attacks" launched by the Indian troops resulted in "severe clashes and casualties."

In its first reaction on Monday's clashes between the two militaries at the Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh, a statement quoted by the Chinese media quoting the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Western Theatre Command Spokesperson Colonel Zhang Shuili said, "China always owns sov-

eighty over the Galwan Valley." "The Indian troops have broken their promises and again crossed the line of actual control (LAC) in the Galwan Valley region on Monday evening and purposely launched provocative attacks, leading to severe clashes and casualties," Zhang claimed.

An Indian Army officer and two soldiers were killed during a violent clash with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh on Monday night, in the first such incident involving fatalities after a gap of 45 years and signalling a massive escalation in the five-week border standoff in the sensitive region.

Continued on Page 2

Hold all-party meet, take nation into confidence: Cong to Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday demanded that the Government take the nation into confidence and convene an all-party meeting to brief the leadership of political parties about the ground situation related to the China crisis.

While Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh called for strong action against China, the Congress accused the Centre of "maintaining silence" on the issue of violent border stand-off with China across the Line of Actual

Control (LAC) and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh take the nation into confidence following the killing of three Indian Army personnel during the de-escalation at the LAC with China on Monday night.

Through an official statement, the grand old party said the Government must come forward to explain the circumstances of the latest development and listed four questions for the Centre to answer. Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi urged the

Government to "come clean" about the border conflict between India and China and not let speculation escalate amid the coronavirus health crisis.

"The Government's silence about the border situation with China is fueling massive speculation and uncertainty at a time of crisis," Rahul said. Amarinder Singh said it was time now for the Centre to take some stringent measures as each sign of weakness makes China's reaction more "belligerent".

Continued on Page 2

Maha adds 1,409 deaths, corona fatalities 5,537

Update in Covid death figures comes after BJP accused Govt of hiding info

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra saw a massive jump in the number of deaths from 4,128 to 5,537 on Tuesday, after the State recorded 81 additional deaths for the day and the health authorities carried out a massive reconciliation of fatalities in Mumbai and other parts of the State adding 1,328 deaths that had been missed out to the total death tally.

India's total death count due to Covid mounted to 11,888 on Tuesday and number of cases crossed 3.5 lakh as several States reported biggest single day spike.

Apart from 81 deaths recorded on Tuesday, the State health authorities added 1,328 deaths to the total Covid-19 death tally in the State. As a

consequence, the total number of deaths in Maharashtra went up to a staggering 5,537 on

Tuesday evening. Confirming that the reconciliation has thrown up additional 1,328 deaths, State chief Secretary Ajoy Mehta said, "It is mandatory for us to calculate the number of deaths as per

the guidelines laid down by the World Health Organization (WHO), Indian Centre for Medical Research (ICMR) and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). As part of the exercise, we had on June 11

asked the district health authorities to carry out reconciliation of the figures of the deaths. We have now got the results giving us the additional number of deaths."

In the reconciliation exercise that contributed 1,328 new fatalities to the total tally, Mumbai alone accounted for 862 deaths, while 466 additional were reported from other parts of the state.

In the reconciliation, following is the break-up of 466 additional deaths reported from different parts of the State: Ahmednagar-1, Akola-14, Amravati-6, Aurangabad-33, Buldhana-2, Dhule-2, Jalgaon-34, Jalna-4, Latur-3, Nanded-2, Nashik-28, Osmanabad-3, Palghar-11, Parbhani-1, Pune-85, Raigad-14, Ratnagiri-1, Sangli-4, Satara-6, Sindhudurg-3, Solapur 51, Thane -141, Washim and Yavatmal-1.

Announcement about

adding 1,328 additional deaths to the State's total death tally came a day after the BJP's former Chief Minister and leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Devendra Fadnis wrote to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray alleging fudging of figures of deaths by the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

Continued on Page 2

Steroid drug lowers death risk among severe Covid patients, trials show

London: Low doses of the steroid dexamethasone can reduce deaths by one-third in severely affected Covid-19 patients, according to researchers who assessed the performance of the inexpensive drug in more than 2,100 people.

Detailed report on P8

Unlock to raise India's Covid tally to 8 lakh by July 15: Michigan study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

One month from now India might have around 8 lakh Covid-19 cases due to further easing of lockdown, experts from the University of Michigan have warned.

"The number of Covid-19 cases at around 3.44 lakh in India is just the tip of the iceberg, the cases may more than double to 8 lakh by July 15 due to easing of lockdown," said the forecast by the University of Michigan. "The numbers will place India right behind Brazil at the third spot," it said.

According to the report, the easing of the lockdown will accelerate the virus spread in India. Almost daily, for the past few days, India is adding

around 11,000 cases. "You cannot see the peak, it's been pushed further in time," said Bhramar Mukherjee, a professor of biostatistics at the University of Michigan who is part of the team that's modeling India's pandemic.

Interestingly, she removed the longer-term projections from the team's website because they were causing people to panic. "I wish I could be more positive but I think it's going to be really hard over the next couple of months."

After more than two-month of strict lockdown, India eased its coronavirus-induced restrictions from June on economic consideration.

Continued on Page 2

Petrol price rises by ₹5.47 a litre, diesel by ₹5.80 in 10 days

ATF hiked by 16%

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Fuel prices went up for the tenth day in a row on Tuesday despite the Brent crude prices slipping to multi-year-low in the international market, prompting Congress president Sonia Gandhi to accuse the Centre of profiteering when people are faced with such all-round suffering.

In ten days, the price of petrol has been increased by a cumulative ₹5.47 per litre, and diesel by ₹5.80 per litre.

The Congress president wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressing "deep distress" over the recent

increase in fuel prices and urged the Government to roll back the hikes and pass on the benefit to common people.

Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was also hiked by ₹5,494.5 per kilolitre (kl), or 16.3 per cent, to ₹39,069.87 per kl in the national Capital, according to a price notification by State-owned oil marketing companies. This is the second straight increase in ATF price this month.

Sonia mentioned that with international crude oil prices falling by about 9 per cent over the last week, the Central Government's action amounts to "profiteering off its people" when they are down and out.

Continued on Page 2

Modi talks with CMs ways to spur eco growth with 'do gaj ki doori'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday held video interactions with Chief Ministers to find ways to contain further spread of coronavirus and affirmed that efforts of last few weeks of unlock-1 have made "green shoots" visible in country's economy.

This was Modi's sixth video-conference with CMs, Lt Governors and administrators of 21 States and Union territories. The PM held that during the re-opening of the activities Indian experience has been much better than many other countries across the globe.

He said death due to Covid-19 has been the lowest in the country and recovery rate has gone up to 50 per cent. The Prime Minister, however, told Chief Ministers that need



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the Chief Ministers via video conferencing in New Delhi on Tuesday

for maintaining new safety norms is far greater now and the principle of "do gaj ki doori" should be followed with all sanctity.

Upset about deaths due to the coronavirus, Modi took

feedback from CMs on the unlock-1 and asked them to suggest changes needed in countering Covid-19 with the hindsight of their experiences in containing the pandemic.

Continued on Page 2

Taj Man Singh, Crowne Plaza, Surya hotels in Delhi attached to hospitals as Covid facilities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three hospitals in Delhi — Taj Man Singh, Hotel Surya and Crowne Plaza — have been attached to hospitals after the Delhi Government on Tuesday directed them to accommodate Covid-19 patients as the virus cases soared in the national Capital.

"Isolate and place all its rooms at the disposal of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital for accommodating more number of Covid-19 patients. This message was given to Taj Man Singh," the Government order said.

Delhi Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal has also visited Surya hotel which has been attached to Holy Family Hospital. "Around 35 hotels are being attached with the hospitals to increase bed strength. We are working with centre on this," said Kejriwal.

The order said the hospitals would be responsible for proper disposal of biomedical waste generated on their premises. All hotel staff will be provided with protective gear and basic training to handle Covid-19 patients, the Government order said.

Ambulance for transfer of patients will be the hospital's responsibility, while food, housekeeping service and disinfecting of premises will be done by the hotel.

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

MP GUV LALJI TANDON ON VENTILATOR SUPPORT

Lucknow: Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon, who is undergoing treatment at a private hospital here, has been put on ventilator support, a hospital official said on Tuesday. Tandon, 85, was admitted to Medanta Hospital here on June 11 with breathing problems, difficulty in urination and fever.

INDIA SUMMONS PAK CHARGE D' AFFAIRES

New Delhi: India on Tuesday summoned Charge d' Affaires of Pakistan High Commission Haider Shah and lodged a strong protest with him over the "abduction and torture" of two officials of the Indian mission in Islamabad by Pakistani agencies. The External Affairs Ministry said these two officials of the Indian high commission were "forcibly abducted" by Pakistani agencies on Monday and kept in "illegal custody" for more than 10 hours.

INSIDIOUS DRAGON

India's borders will remain intact under Modi: Nadda

PTI ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda on Tuesday asserted that the borders of India will remain intact under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing the 'Kerala Jan-Samvad' virtual rally, he referred to the India-China face-offs at Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh and said during the de-escalation process a violent clash took place with Chinese Army on Monday night.

"Indian Army gave a befitting reply, but unfortunately, we have lost our three army men. I pay homage to them for their sacrifice and I can assure you that under the leadership of PM Modi, India's territorial integrity will not be compromised," he said. "We now have the political will and our Army is fully equipped to take (on) any adversary. Nobody can cast an ill eye on Modi's India. This is what I would like to reiterate," he said.

Nadda slammed the Congress for its conduct during the COVID-19 crisis, claiming it has been "gravely

irresponsible". "I'm pained to say that the behaviour of the Opposition party has been gravely irresponsible during this crisis. We as a party work to serve the nation. But Congress intention is to serve the party only, he said.

Attacking Congress president Sonia Gandhi for her statement that the price of petrol should be reduced in the country, Nadda said petrol prices were raised in Puducherry, Rajasthan, Punjab and Maharashtra after the lockdown, all of them are Congress-ruled states.

"I just want to ask a question from Smt Sonia Gandhiji that why your chief ministers are not listening to you?" Nadda said.

He referred to the Rs 20 lakh crore Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package announced by the Prime Minister to deal with the coronavirus crisis, saying it was full of reforms.

"It aims to remove bottlenecks and convert crisis into opportunity," the BJP chief said. In the last three months, a total of 80 crore people were

provided free ration, eight crore families free LPG cylinders and Rs 500 was given to 20 crore women each month through Jan Dhan accounts.

Nadda claimed the year 2019 was "full of achievements" and Modi was able to "bridge the gap of six decades in six years."

He said Prime Minister Modi has given a new direction to the country's democracy with his far-sighted policies, dedication and the spirit of team India, and people's welfare and the country's interest were reflected in every decision of the government.

This first year of the Modi government's second term will be known for its tough and big decisions and converting challenges into opportunities, Nadda said.

He said Modi implemented decisions which were awaited for decades like removing Article 370 and 35A, Triple Talaq, implementation of CAA and solution to the Ram Jambhoomi issue.

"These decisions have changed the country's face," the BJP president claimed.

Ladakh face-off: Alert issued in HP's Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur districts

Shimla: The Himachal Pradesh Police has issued an alert in Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur districts, which border China, in view of the violent clash between Indian and Chinese troops in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley, an official said on Tuesday.

An Indian Army officer and two soldiers were killed during the incident on Monday.

State police spokesperson Khushal Sharma said an alert and an advisory have been issued to Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti districts to take all precautionary measures to ensure security of local population and also to collect intelligence so as to plan the future course of action. All State intelligence units have also been alerted in this regard, he added. PTI

Chidambaram questions PM's silence on 'intrusion of foreign troops'

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Tuesday questioned the prime minister's silence on the "intrusion of foreign troops" and said it was worrying for the country. He said the nation is waiting for an official statement from the Ministry of Defence or Army headquarters. "Will it come tonight?"

"The PM has maintained a worrying silence since May 5. Can you imagine any other Head of Government not saying a word for 7 weeks since the intrusion of foreign troops into a country," the former Union minister asked on Twitter.

He said one has seen the official statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs

that says nothing new after the news broke out at 12.52 pm on Tuesday, thanks to an Army WhatsApp group.

"Admittedly, Indian lives have been lost. Who are the brave men who have made the supreme sacrifice? Is one of them a Tamil/Indian from Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu," Chidambaram also asked. An Indian Army colonel and two soldiers were killed during a violent clash with Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh on Monday night — the first such incident involving fatalities in the last 45 years and signalling a massive escalation in the five-week border row in the sensitive region. PTI

Pak keeps LoC on boil

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

While tensions between India and China peaked afresh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh after the PLA troops ambushed and Indian patrol team inspecting the Chinese troops from Galwan valley and martyred 20 soldiers late on Monday night, the 743 km long Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan continues to remain on the boil.

Without break, border skirmishes are going on in the region especially in areas south of Pir Panjal.

The main objective behind escalating tensions along the LoC is to assist small groups of infiltrators to sneak inside the Indian territory.

In the last two weeks, Indian army has lost three soldiers during heavy mortar shelling in the Rajouri and Poonch sectors.

On the other hand, four heavily armed infiltrators were also gunned down by the alert troops while foiling infiltration bids inside the Indian territory. In the month of June, over 120 incidents of ceasefire violations have been reported along the LoC, averaging 8 incidents of ceasefire violations per day.

- Without break, border skirmishes are going on in the region especially in areas south of Pir Panjal
- The main objective behind escalating tensions along the LoC is to assist small groups of infiltrators to sneak inside the Indian territory
- In the last two weeks, Indian army has lost three soldiers during heavy mortar shelling in the Rajouri and Poonch sectors

On Tuesday morning, Pakistan initiated an 'unprovoked' ceasefire violation along the line of control in Tangdhar sector by firing mortars and other weapons. In response, Indian army hit back, giving them a befitting reply.

Srinagar based Defence spokesman, Col Rajesh Kalia said, "Pakistan army initiated ceasefire violation in the morning hours in Tangdhar sector". He said, "a befitting response was given by the Indian army".

Shortly after, Pakistani army trained its guns towards forward Indian posts in Shahpur area of Poonch around 11.00 a.m. According to ground reports, Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violations in the forward areas at different intervals. Unconfirmed reports claimed, Pakistan army even used multi barrel guns to target the Indian positions in the area.

Since January this year, around 2040 incidents of ceasefire violations have been reported along the line of con-

rol with Pakistan.

During recent incidents of intense mortar shelling, several civilian houses also suffered damages and livestock perished. Constant efforts have been made by the Pakistani army to push in trained groups of heavily armed terrorists inside the Indian territory.

According to the latest assessment of the various Indian intelligence agencies, close to 250 terrorists were brought closer to different launch pads along the line of control before pushing them inside the Indian territory.

The situation along the North Kashmir districts of Kupwara and Baramulla also remains tense for the last couple of days. A civilian woman was killed in one of the forward villages of Uri sector last week while over two dozen families were shifted from the forward area to safer places. Local villagers in the area claimed they had not seen heavy volume firing since the 1999 Kargil war in the area.

Hold all-party meet, take...

From Page 1

"Our soldiers are not fair game that every few days officers and men should be killed or injured defending our borders," he said. "It is time now for India to stand up to these repeated incursions that are a blatant violation of our territorial rights and put a stop to such attacks on our territorial integrity," the Chief Minister said in a statement here.

Party chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala said that "in the last five decades not a single casualty or martyrdom of our soldiers has occurred or happened on the Indo-China border" and demanded that the Prime Minister take the nation into confidence.

"Will the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister now come forward to tell the nation as to how much of our territory has been illegally occupied by the Chinese, post April/May 2020, and what are the circum-

stances that have led to the killing of our brave officer and soldiers by the Chinese, instead of the Chinese being forced to retreat to their original position on 'Line of Actual Control'? Will the Prime Minister come forward and take the nation into confidence," Surjewala questioned.

Left parties said that India and China should initiate talks to defuse tensions between the two countries in eastern Ladakh.

The CPI(M) called on the Government to come out with an 'authoritative statement' to explain what happened in eastern Ladakh's Galwan valley, and said that high-level talks should be initiated between the two nations to defuse the situation.

The CPI also said in a separate statement that the present stand-off can be resolved through talks and established frame-works agreed by both the countries.

Taj Man Singh, Crowne Plaza, Surya hotels in Delhi attached to hospitals as Covid...

From Page 1

The charges for using the rooms will be collected by the hospital, which will then hand it over to the hotel, the order said. If the need arises, the hospital can arrange for the stay of its doctors, nurses and paramedical staff at the hotel itself.

The hotel and the hospital management can decide the rates mutually, the authorities said.

On Tuesday, there were 42,829 Covid-19 cases in Delhi including 25,002 active cases, 16,427 patients who have recovered and 1,400 who have succumbed to the virus.

Delhi is ranked third highest number of infections in the country after Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Maha adds 1,409 deaths, corona fatality...

From Page 1

Fadnavis had accused the BMC of a "cover-up" by suppressing around 950 deaths which was a gross violation of ICMR guidelines.

However, the fact remains that the Maharashtra Government ordered reconciliation of death figures much before Fadnavis made the allegation and it had asked the State health authorities to complete the reconciliation of the Covid-19 deaths by June 15.

Of the 81 deaths reported on Tuesday, Mumbai accounted for 55 deaths, while there were 11 deaths in Mira-Bhayandar, seven deaths in Pune, two deaths each in Kalyan-Dombivli,



Bhiwandi and Ahmednagar and one death each in Pune district Pimpri Chinchwad.

With 2,701 fresh infections, the total number of infected cases has gone up to 1,13,445.

Having taken into account total 5,537 deaths reported so far and 57,851 patients discharged from various hospitals ever since the outbreak of pandemic in the State, the State health authorities

pegged the number of "active cases" in the State at 50,044.

Meanwhile, the key observations made in Tuesday's report included recovery rate in the state is 50.99 per cent. The case fatality rate in the State: 4.80 per cent and as many 5,86,684 people are in home quarantine. There are 80,502 beds available in 1,547 quarantine institutions while 27,242 people are in institutional quarantine.

As many as 97 laboratories are functioning for Covid-19 diagnosis in the State currently - 55 Government ones and 42 private ones. Out of 6,84,268 samples sent to laboratories, 1,13,445 have been positive for Covid-19 until Tuesday.

Petrol price rises...

From Page 1

Petrol and diesel prices were hiked in metros on Tuesday, marking the tenth straight day of increase since the State-owned oil companies returned to the normal practice of daily reviews following a 12-week pause.

The price of petrol was increased by 47 paise per litre and diesel by 57 paise per litre in Delhi, compared to the previous day. While the price of petrol was revised to Rs 76.73 per litre in the national Capital from Rs 76.26 per litre the previous day, the diesel rate was increased to Rs 75.19 per litre from Rs 74.62 per litre, according to notifications from state-run Indian Oil Corporation, the country's largest fuel retailer.

"I am deeply distressed that in these exceedingly difficult times since the beginning of March, the Government has

taken the wholly insensitive decision to increase petrol and diesel prices on no less than ten separate occasions," Sonia's letter read.

The Opposition party has demanded from the Centre that the benefit of low international crude oil prices be passed on to the consumers and wants the rates of petrol, diesel and LPG be reduced to the August 2004 level.

Former party chief Rahul Gandhi too slammed the Central Government over fuel price hike during Covid-19 crisis and said these "tragic times" call for the money to be put "directly in the hands of the middle class and the poor".

She urged the Prime Minister to roll back these increases and pass on the benefit of low oil prices directly to the citizens of this country.

"If you want citizens to be self-reliant then do not place financial fetters on their ability to move forward," she wrote.

PLA passes...

From Page 1

The Army said India lost an officer and two soldiers during the violent face-off, while there were casualties on the Chinese side as well. The extent of casualties on the Chinese side is not immediately clear.

While acknowledging "severe clashes and casualties", the PLA statement quoted by the Global Times as well as

China Daily was silent on the casualties on the Chinese side.

"China always owns sovereignty over the Galwan Valley region," the PLA statement claimed.

"The Indian border defence troops are inconsistent with their words and seriously violated the agreements both countries have reached, the consensus made during the army commander-level talks and harmed the relations of the two militaries and the feelings of the two countries' peoples", it said.

"India should stop all provocative actions, meet the Chinese side halfway and come back to

the right path of solving disputes through talks", Zhang said.

The Indian and Chinese armies are engaged in the standoff in Pangong Tso, Galwan Valley, Demchok and Daulat Beg Oldie in eastern Ladakh.

A sizeable number of Chinese Army personnel even transgressed into the Indian side of the de-facto border in several areas including Pangong Tso.

The Indian Army has been fiercely objecting to the transgressions, and demanded their immediate withdrawal for restoration of peace and tranquillity in the area. Both sides

held a series of talks in the last few days to resolve the border row.

While the Chinese officials were silent on the casualties suffered by the PLA troops, Hu Xijin, editor of the ruling Communist Party-run Global Times tabloid tweeted to say there are casualties on Chinese side too.

"Chinese and Indian military personnel broke out in a severe physical conflict in the Galwan Valley. The Indian side stated that three people died in the Indian Army.

According to my urgent knowledge of people familiar with the situation, there are also casualties on our side", she

said.

However, the Global Times later tweeted that the "official Global Times accounts have NEVER reported the exact casualties on the Chinese side. The Global Times CANNOT confirm the number at the moment." PTI

China on Tuesday lodged a protest with India over the June 15 violent face-off between the troops of two countries, which it claimed took place when the Indian personnel crossed the border line for "illegal activities and provoked and attacked Chinese personnel" leading to serious physical conflict. (PTI)

Unlock to raise India's Covid tally...

From Page 1

While the lockdown did bring down the transmission rate, it failed to flatten the Covid curve in the country, the report noted.

Giving his view on the study, Dr Rajinder K Dhamija, public health expert and Head of Neurology Department, Lady Harding Medical College, Delhi pointed out that in the last five days, the growth rate of active cases has come down to below two per cent, making the doubling time of around 35

days. "If this trend continues, we may witness cases going up to seven lakhs in next one month.

In case the number of new active daily cases shows a declining trend, we may be able to minimise these numbers. But the good news is that we still continue to have a low case fatality rate.

"The other significant fact is that 60 to 70 per cent are coming from hotspot metro cities and the Government need to contain these hotspots

by increased testing, extensive contact tracing and isolation of positive cases.

The latest Government strategy to conduct door-to-door survey in containment zones is a step in the right direction."

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concerned that my clients Sh. Ashok Kumar S/O Late Sh. Labha Mal and Smt. Sarita W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar both R/O Plot no. 74, Shivaji Enclave, First Floor, New Delhi-110027 hereby declare that they have executed, dissolved and dis-inherited their son Sh. Vibhu Bholwalia and his wife Smt. Priyanka and their kid Taysha due to their mis behaviour from their all movable, immovable properties whatsoever/ wherever situated & Bank deposits etc. They have also released all their relations with them for all intents and purposes, and my clients hereby declare that they shall not be responsible for any of their acts and omissions from hereto. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her/ their own peril.
GULSHAN CHANANA (Advocate)
Regn no. 5869/2018, 11/80 Subhash Nagar

WESTERN RAILWAY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. S/SPL/06/2020 DATE 16/06/2020

S.N.	Description of material	Quantity	Due Date
1	Traction Motor Complete with Pinion	8 Nos	30.06.2020
2	Vertical Damper for Secondary Air Spring	434 Nos	03.07.2020
3	Disposable Surgical Inner Gown	30000 Nos	06.07.2020
4	PPH Kit for COVID - 19	21000 Set	07.07.2020

*Regarding detailed notice containing Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.wreps.gov.in, and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in.
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Modi talks...

From Page 1

Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh suggested to the Prime Minister to set up a Group, which should include a few Chief Ministers to discuss and formulate a coordinated Centre-State response to the devastating impact of Covid on the economy and Governments across the country.

Modi, in turn, hailed Punjab's Covid-19 Model and asked other states to adopt Punjab's COVID combat model of micro-containment and house-to-house surveillance. During the meeting, the Prime Minister again pointed out the importance of wearing masks, regular hand washing and use of hand sanitisers in the fight against Covid-19. To even think of stepping out without a mask or face cover is not right at present. With markets opening and people stepping out, these precautions are even more important, he said.

Exuding hopes, Modi said with the beginning of 'Unlock 1', economic activities across the country have resumed and "green shoots have begun to be visible in the economy". "When India's fight against COVID-19 will be analysed in future, this time will be remembered for how we worked together and served as an example of cooperative federalism", he said. "The more we can stop corona, the

more it will stop growing, the more our economy will open, our offices will open, markets will open, the means of transport will open, and so will new employment opportunities, Prime Minister said referring to the 'success' of last two-weeks opening up of major sectors of economy. Concerned about the fatalities, he said the death of even one Indian is unsettling but it is also true that India is one of the countries where there have been least deaths due to Covid-19 with the Covid-19 recovery rate has gone above 50%.

In his address to Chief Ministers, Modi said in the last few weeks, thousands of Indians returned to India from abroad and hundreds of migrant workers reached their home towns. "Almost all modes of transport have resumed operations, still, Covid-19 impact has not been that huge in India as in other parts of the world", Prime Minister said as counts of coronavirus cases are rapidly rising and expected to peak in June-July. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said in the meeting that it has been few days, but Uttarakhand has done a lot of work in the direction of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. "We have injected more than Rs 300 crore projects. The industry which came to halt due to COVID19 has now resumed and over 90% of it is working, Rawat said.

China stabs India...

From Page 1

On the late-evening and night of June 15, a violent face-off happened as a result of an attempt by the Chinese side to unilaterally change the status quo there. Both sides suffered casualties that could have been avoided had the agreement at the higher level been scrupulously followed by the Chinese side, he said.

Given its responsible approach to border management, India is very clear that all its activities are always within the Indian side of the LAC. We expect the same of the Chinese side," he said.

Giving the sequence of events in the last few days to de-escalate the situation, he said, "India and China have been discussing through military and diplomatic channels the de-escalation of the situation in the border area in Eastern Ladakh.

"We remain firmly convinced of the need for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas and the resolution of differences through dialogue. At the same time, we are also strongly committed to ensuring India's sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

The clashes are considered to be very serious as soldiers died on the LAC after more than 40 years, took place even as the two sides were holding diplomatic and military parleys to end the stand-off in the Galwan valley and three other sites in Eastern Ladakh. The entire frontage of these face-offs is between 25 to 30 km. Reports said that both armies had already

started withdrawing their troops partially in the last few days even before the high-level talks between Lt General Harinder Singh and Major General Liu Lin. The two Corps Commanders decided to begin mutual pull back from Patrolling Points 14, 15, 17A and Gogra areas.

Army Chief General MM Naravane had said last week had said, 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.

The only admission of casualties on the Chinese side so far has come from the editor of their government mouthpiece Global Times. "Based on what I know, Chinese side also suffered casualties in the Galwan Valley physical clash. I want to tell the Indian side, don't be arrogant and misread China's restraint as being weak. China doesn't want to have a clash with India, but we don't fear it," tweeted Hu Xijin, Editor-in-Chief of Global Times.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing, in an aggressive statement, accused India of crossing the border, "attacking Chinese personnel" and said India should not take unilateral actions or stir up trouble. "What's shocking is that on June 15, the Indian side severely violated our consensus and twice crossed the border line and provoked and attacked the Chinese forces, causing a violent physical confrontation between the two border forces," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told reporters in Beijing. "China is raising strong opposition and stern representations to the Indian side on this," he said.

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

CM, Sisodia visit Covid facility centre at Surya Hotel

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday visited The Surya Hotel, a dedicated Covid-19 facility that has been attached to the Holy Family Hospital in New Delhi.

"The Surya Hotel will become operational with 120 beds in the next 2-3 days, the facility will gradually be ramped up to 250-300 beds and that there is a requisition of 30-35 hotels in Delhi with a total bed capacity of 3000-3500 beds,



Kejriwal asserted. Speaking about his meeting with the Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Kejriwal said that all the agencies,



Governments, and people will work together to address the issue. "Nobody can work alone to fight this pandemic," he added.

The visit to the facility came after the High Court permitted to attach the hotel to the Holy Family Hospital, which is a dedicated Covid-19 facility, for the treatment of patients. In a big win for the Delhi Government, the High Court ruled in its favor, allowing it to attach Hotel Surya to the Holy Family Hospital. The Delhi Government, through an order on May 29, had attached four and five-star hotels with the large hospitals involved in treating coronavirus patients. The order, therefore, vouched for making

the hotels as an extension of the hospitals. The Delhi Government has already fixed rates for treatments in this Covid-19 facilities. However, this order by the

Government was challenged by Hotel Surya in the Delhi HC, the ruling on which came yesterday allowing the Delhi Government to attach the hotel with the hospital.

Health Min Jain tests negative for corona

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain tested negative for Covid-19 on Tuesday. Jain has been hospitalised after developing symptoms like high fever and sudden drop in his oxygen level said senior doctors at Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital (RGSSH) adding now his condition is stable.

According to senior doctors, he had been supplemented with oxygen supply, and his condition is being monitored. Jain, 55 year old had tweeted to inform that he was admitted to the RGSSH, a dedicated Covid-19 facility under the Delhi Government.



"Due to high grade fever and a sudden drop of my oxygen levels last night I have been admitted to RGSSH. Will keep everyone updated," he tweeted. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also tweeted on his Minister's health. "Without worrying about your health, you were dedicated in service of people round-the-clock. Please take care and get well soon," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

G'gram sees 205 cases, 9 deaths in a day, total 3,682

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The Gurugram district found 205 more Covid-19 positive cases on Tuesday. The situation is alarming now the tally has zoomed up to 3,682. The figures of COVID active patients are 1,722. A total of 1914 have been cured and discharged including 139 on Tuesday. The city has also reported 46 deaths, including 9 deaths on Tuesday.

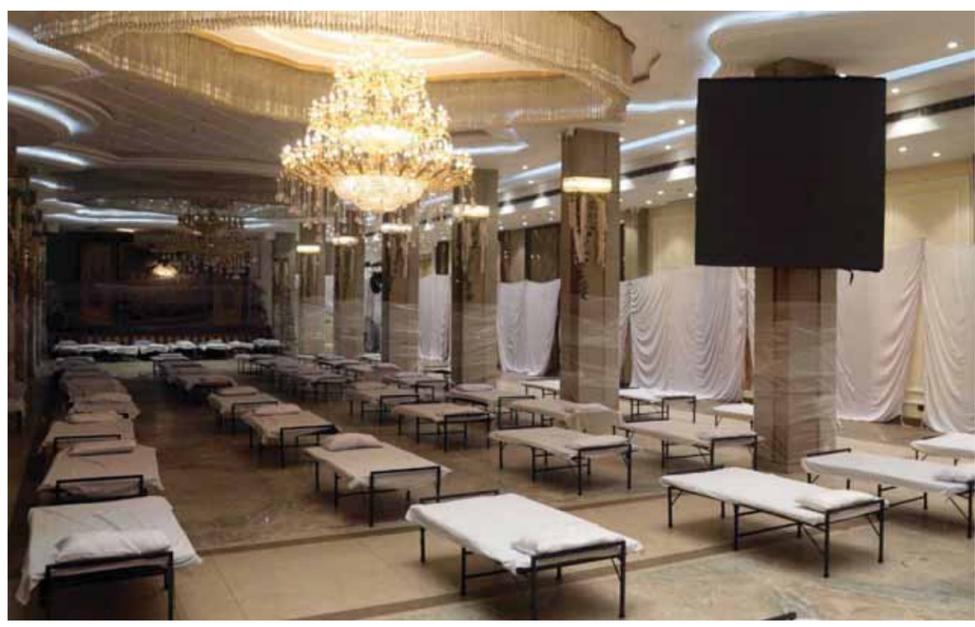
According to officials in the district administration, all arrangements, be it isolation facilities or sample testing and admission of severely infected patients have been ensured. No corona infected patient will have difficulty in getting treatment, they added.

Claiming medical preparedness to tackle the present Covid-19 situation in district

Gurugram, Deputy Commissioner Amit Khatri said that a provision of about 4000 beds and 350 ventilators in both private and government hospitals has been made.

Apart from these, another 1000 beds are being arranged, so there will be no shortage of treatment facilities for the Covid-19 patients in the district.

"Standard operating procedures (SOP) were being issued from time to time for industries and markets. For the convenience of the general public, the helpline number 1950 is being operated 24 hours on all seven days of the week, on which more than one lakh calls have been received. Not only this, all private hospitals and nursing homes have also been ordered that they cannot refuse any Covid-19 patient for treatment," said Khatri.



Beds at Royal Paper banquet hall, temporarily converted into isolation wards for Covid-19 patients, during the ongoing nationwide lockdown, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Hotels and banquet halls are being converted into wards to accommodate the rising number of Covid-19 patients Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

Renewal of health, trade licences extended up to Mar 2021: EDMC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In view of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) has extended the grace period for renewal of general trade and storage license, factory license, health trade license up to March 31, 2021 without penalty and interest.

East Delhi Mayor Anju Kamalakar said that the civic body is trying to provide uninterrupted civic services to the citizens even in this difficult time. She further said that the license renewed after 30 June 2020 will be liable to pay penalty, interest as applicable as the policy of EDMC.

June 30 last date to submit entrance exam forms for JNU, IGNOU

NEW DELHI: Due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, the National Testing Agency has extended the last date for submission of online application forms for entrance examinations to JNU, IGNOU Ph.D, hotel management to June 30.

Human Resource Development minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said, "In view of the appeals made by the students and the difficult situation arising out of corona pandemic, I have advised the director general of National Testing Agency to extend the last date for submission of online applications for various examinations."

The date for submission of online application forms for IGNOU Ph.D, MBA, UGC

The Human Resource Development Ministry has taken this step so that all students can apply for these exams easily. They will no longer have to travel to other cities to take the entrance exams

NET, Post-graduation programmes of Ministry of AYUSH, Joint UGC NET and ICAR entrance examinations held by Jawaharlal Nehru University has been extended till June 30.

Earlier, the last date for

submission of application forms for these courses was April 30.

The Human Resource Development Ministry has taken this step so that all students can apply for these exams easily. They will no longer have to travel to other cities to take the entrance exams.

This facility has also been extended to entrance examinations for various academic programmes, including the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). According to the National Testing Agency, the joint entrance examination for hotel management was earlier scheduled on June 22.

Now it has been postponed till further notice. IANS

City clocks highest peak power demand of 5,805 MW

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's peak power demand clocked 5,805 MW on Monday night, the season's highest, surpassing the previous high of 5,591 MW recorded on June 12.

Power giant BSES on Tuesday said that BRPL (BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd) and BYPL (BSES Yamuna Power Ltd) successfully met the peak power demand of 2,635 MW and 1,311 MW respectively. "Last year, Delhi's peak power demand had clocked 7,409 MW. In BRPL's area, it was 3,211 MW and 1,686 MW respectively," the BSES statement said.

Sikh body offers to run Covid care facilities in Gurdwaras

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC) offered to operate 850 bedded Covid-19 care centres on premises of its Gurdwaras set up in various locations in the national capital Delhi to cater to those with low-grade fever, sore throat, malaise and another such mild symptom to meet the growing demands of hospital beds in National Capital.

Manjinder Singh Sirsa, president of DSGMC said that the offer was made in a letter sent to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. "We have requested the state government

to accord necessary permissions and sanctions for immediate operation of Covid-19 care centres to provide relief to patients at the earliest.

Sirsa said that these centres will provide the best medical care, oxygen and laboratory services to Covid-19 patients at these covid care centres. "The move is taken considering the steep surge in Covid-19 patients in the national capital," he said.

"The DSGMC will provide breakfast, all meals, drinking water, general medicines, oxygen, hematological and biochemistry laboratory services for the admitted patients," he added.

Sirsa further said that DSGMC has offered 200 beds at its fully air conditioned marriage hall at Gurdwara Nanak Piao Sahib, G T Karnal Road, 110 beds (55 rooms) near Rana Partap Bagh, 125 beds (4 halls) at Guru Harkrishan Yatri Niwas, Gurdwara Bangla Sahib, 60 beds (30 rooms) at Guru Arjan Dev Yatri Niwas, Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib.

Sirsa has requested the CM to grant permission to Gurdwara authorities to set up the Covid-19 Centres on these locations with the provision of required doctors, nurses and paramedical staff deployed by the Delhi Government.

Delhi Congress protests against 'failures' of AAP Govt, Centre in tackling Covid-19

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Congress workers on Tuesday staged dharnas at over 1,000 locations across the city to protest against the "failures" of both the AAP ruled Delhi Government and the Centre in tackling the Covid-19 pandemic with the death toll mounting to an alarming level.

Congress Delhi unit president Anil Kumar said that both the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party governments wasted precious 84 days after the first lockdown when Covid cases were in single digits.

Accusing both the governments for wasting time and indulging in blame game politics, he said "Now Kejriwal was begging to the Modi

Government to provide train bogies for lodging quarantine patients though Delhi could have easily addressed the Covid-19 bed shortage by throwing open the three new hospitals coming up in Ambedkar Nagar, Burari and Indira Gandhi Hospital at Dwaraka with a combined bed strength of over 2600," he said.

Kumar reiterated his demand to ramp up Covid testing facilities, testing should be made the right of every citizen of Delhi and Rs 10,000 immediate relief should be given to each Covid patient and those living in the containment zones as people are in a financial stress due to the lockdown, as the lockdown was imposed without any planning and forethought by the Kejriwal Government.

NDMC introduces cashless medical facility for contractual, regular staffers

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has introduced a cashless medical facility in all empanelled hospitals for the contractual and regular musert roll (RMR) employees and their family members with immediate effect.

A senior NDMC official said that all empanelled hospitals, labs, diagnostic centres will provide cashless treatment for only COVID-19 treatment to all contractual and RMR employees on producing valid ID or certificate issued by the civic body on existing terms and conditions.

The civic body had already issued strict directions to empanelled hospitals and labs for Covid-19 treatment or admission of its employees as per agreement between the civic body and the hospitals without any denial, officials said.

The directive came following complaints by some employees that in some of the empanelled hospitals, the hospital administration is not attending coronavirus patients when they visit there.

The NDMC had also announced to reimburse medical expenses of all contractual and regular musert roll (RMR) employees and their family members, which they spend for treatment of coronavirus infection.

submission of application forms for these courses was April 30.

The Human Resource Development Ministry has taken this step so that all students can apply for these exams easily. They will no longer have to travel to other cities to take the entrance exams.

This facility has also been extended to entrance examinations for various academic programmes, including the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). According to the National Testing Agency, the joint entrance examination for hotel management was earlier scheduled on June 22.

Now it has been postponed till further notice. IANS

5 held with ₹4 cr fake notes in G'gram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Gurugram police on Monday late night raided a five-star hotel located on MG Road and detained five people in connection with the matter. Police was informed that they were carrying fake Indian currency notes up to the tune of ₹4 crore.

However, the notes turned out to be genuine. The police immediately alerted the income tax department and a team of IT sleuths reached the hotel for further investigation.

The police have seized Rs 4 crores in notes of Rs 500 and

Rs 2,000 which were in two plastic bags and mobiles from them. The probe team reportedly has also detained 5 people including the owner of a popular chain of jewellery shops.

According to the police, Ajay Dhakhad, in-charge of CIA-40 of the Haryana police, got a secret information that some people are dealing with fake notes at a five star hotel.

"Acting on the information the police team raided the room where 5 persons were found. By Seeing the police they first bullied the police team but later they also tried to run away from the spot but

were detained by the force," said Preet PalSangwan, ACP (crime).

The police found a huge amount of money from their possession but when the team asked about the amount they could not give satisfactory answers.

"Later the Police called the Income Tax Department on the spot and seized Rs 4 crores incash. The rooms were booked in the name of Delhi residents Sonu Jacob andManuvel Mezhukenwal. Three people were identified as Verghese, Jai Krishnan andKunjappi Ponnachon; they were also present at the spot.

Sources Claimed that the jeweller was in the city to strike a deal to convert his blackmoney into white although it is not confirmed officially. No case was registered in this regard till evening.

"A team of the Income Tax department is probing the matter and the seized amount has also been handed over to them," Sangwan said, adding that the case was handed over to the IT department.

Income Taxdepartment officials said they are investigating the case and appropriate action would be taken as per the prescribed law.

PRESENTING

THE VALLEY

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Under Haryana Affordable Housing Policy 2013
HARERA: 20 of 2018, Dated 23.10.2018

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₹14.33 LACS*!

SCHEME VALID FROM:
17th June, 2020 to 1st July 2020
Allotment by draw of lots.

PROJECT APPROVALS: Coloniser/Developer: Revital Reality Pvt. Ltd, Lic. No./Year: 45 of 2018 dt.29.06.2018, Approved Dwg Vide Memo No.ZP-1256/AD(RA)2018/29186 dt. 11.10.2018 / HARERA NO.20 of 2018, Dated 23.10.2018.

LOCATION: Sector 78, Gurugram, Manesar, Urban Complex.

APPLICATION DETAILS AND PAYMENT TERMS

S.No.	Type	Carpet Area (in sq. ft.)	Balcony Area (in sq. ft.)	No. of Units	Total Area (in sq. ft.)	Total cost *	5% Booking Amount †	20% Allotment Amount ‡
1	1BHK-T1	350	66	19	416	1433000	71650	286600
2	1BHK-T2	357	100	2	457	1478000	73900	295600
3	2BHK-T1	571	65	347	636	2316500	115825	463300
4	2BHK-T2	540	99	195	639	2209500	110475	441900
5	2BHK-T3	464	87	2	551	1899500	94975	379900
6	3BHK-T1	645	95	156	740	2427500	121375	525500

*Taxes Extra as applicable

- Balance 75% of the total cost to be paid as per policy. No interest shall fall due before the due date of payment. Any default in payment will bear penal interest as provided in Rule 15 of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Rules, 2017. Taxes Extra as applicable
- Cost includes two wheeler parking
- The above rate is an all-inclusive cost of flat as per the rates prescribed under the policy notified vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.8.2013 [details available at the Department Website, i.e., tchpharyana.gov.in]
- Total number of units available is 721 out of total units of 1364
- 5% of the total Units (68 out of 1364) will be allotted by the developer as per his discretion against Management Quota under 3 BHK Type 1 Category.
- Applications can be procured & submitted at: (i) AADRI, Sector-79, Gurugram, Haryana (ii) Hues, Sector-68, Gurugram, Haryana by paying an application fee of Rs.1000/-.

ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.
- Any person can apply, however, the PMAY beneficiaries, which include their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Housing for All" programme shall be granted preference in allotment. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the said town followed by other PMAY beneficiaries of the State of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, persons which include their spouse or dependent children who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA colony/sector or any licensed colony in any of the Urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh and NCT/Delhi shall be given next preference in allotment of flats.
- Any applicant can make only one application. Any successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for allotment of any other flat under this policy in any other colony, he/she will have choice to retain only one flat. All such applicants shall submit an affidavit to this effect.

ALLOTMENT CRITERIA

- The allotment of apartments shall be done through draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle Office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of coloniser concerned.
- After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers in which the original advertisement was issued.
- For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy 2013 notified vide no. PF-27/48921 dated 19.8.2013 (available on the Department Website i.e., tchpharyana.gov.in)

Application forms are also available with Office of District Town Planner, Sector-14, Gurugram and Office of Senior Town Planner, Sector-14, Gurugram.

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TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

High mortality rate exposed Gujarat Model: Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday attacked the BJP-led Government in Gujarat following reports stating that the State has the highest mortality rate.



While 1,505 people have so far died due to the coronavirus in the state, 16,664 have cured of the infection.

He said the "Gujarat Model" has been exposed with the State recording the highest rate of coronavirus deaths in the country, almost double the national average.

The Congress leader, who has targeted the Government in almost daily posts over its handling of the virus crisis, had a day earlier quoted scientist Albert Einstein to say: "The only thing more dangerous than ignorance is arrogance".

Gujarat is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home state and before that he was Chief Minister of the State for more than a decade.

In a tweet, Rahul Gandhi quoted mortality rate figures from the report from across the states in the country and said the highest fatality rate has "exposed the Gujarat Model".

Tweeting a news report on a state in India with the highest mortality rate, Rahul Gandhi said, "Gujarat: 6.25%, Maharashtra: 3.73%, Rajasthan: 2.32%, Punjab: 2.17%, Puducherry: 1.98%, Jharkhand: 0.5%, Chhattisgarh: 0.35% Gujarat Model exposed."

With a little over 24,000 confirmed coronavirus cases, Gujarat has India's fourth-highest Covid caseload.

Disease puts 22% population at severe Covid risk: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

At least 22 per cent of the India's population which is estimated to be suffering with underlying health conditions like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases face the risk of severe Covid-19, if infected, a report published in the Lancet Global Health journal has said.

Covid-19. Among the working age population (15 to 64 years), 23 per cent are estimated to have at least one underlying condition.

In just six months, nearly 8 million people worldwide have been stricken with confirmed cases of Covid-19, and at least 434,000 have died. But those deaths have not been distributed evenly; among the most vulnerable are people with underlying health conditions, such as diabetes and diseases that affect the heart and lungs.

Although the estimates provide an idea of the number of people governments should prioritise for protective measures, not all individuals with these conditions would go on to develop severe symptoms if infected.

The authors estimate that 4 per cent of the world's pop-



lockdown, governments are looking for ways to protect the most vulnerable from a virus that is still circulating. We hope our estimates will provide useful starting points for

the UK and USA identify the risk factors for severe Covid-19, including cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease. The new study provides global, regional and national estimates for the number of people with underlying health conditions.

The authors based their estimates on disease prevalence data from the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors Study (GBD) 2017, UN population estimates for 2020 and the list of underlying health conditions relevant to Covid-19, as defined by current guidelines.

"As countries move out of lockdown, governments are looking for ways to protect the most vulnerable from a virus that is still circulating. We hope our estimates will provide useful starting points for

designing measures to protect those at increased risk of severe disease.

"This might involve advising people with underlying conditions to adopt social distancing measures appropriate to their level of risk, or prioritising them for vaccination in the future," Associate Professor Andrew Clark from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), UK, said in a statement.

That estimate, published in The Lancet Global Health, excluded healthy older individuals without underlying health conditions, a group also known to be at risk because of their age. It also did not take into account risk factors like poverty and obesity, which can influence a person's susceptibility to disease and access to treatment.

SC: Covid situation worsening day by day

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the Covid-19 situation in the country is getting only worse and it is not getting any better.

A bench headed by Justice Rohinton Nariman and comprising Justices Navin Sinha and B.R. Gavai observed that

the Covid-19 situation in the country is worsening. The remarks were made by the bench while dealing with a matter related to the parole of a businessman Jagjit Singh Chahal from Punjab who is accused in the Jagdish Bhole drug case.

The Bench noted that it does not make sense to send someone back in an overcrowded jail, when he can be out on parole. The top court granted parole to Chahal till the pendency of his appeal in the High Court.

23, had directed all states and Union Territories to constitute a high-level committee to examine giving parole or interim bail to prisoners and underling for offences entailing up to seven-year jail term. The direction was issued as a measure to decongest prisons.

EC to act on complaints of false poll affidavits

Refer 'serious' matters for investigation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday reviewed its position on false affidavits by candidates and decided to take cognisance of complaints indicating serious omission on part of the candidate, and refer such matters to the relevant investigating authorities on case-to-case basis.

As per the extant provision, individuals are filing complaints relating to false affidavits in the competent court under section 125A of the Representation of People Act, 1951.

After the full commission meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, the EC said that in pursuit of level-playing field, it will take cognisance of complaints

indicating serious omission on part of the candidate, and refer such matters to the relevant investigating authorities on case-to-case basis. The Commission said that it has been receiving complaints regarding furnishing of false information in the affidavits of some candidates. The lack of legal clarity relating to false affidavits has led to multiple candidates, including prominent leaders, getting away by filing false information in their election affidavits.

"Amongst other issues, the Commission discussed the matter of taking cognisance of complaints of false affidavits by some candidates along with their nominations, which adversely affects the rights of voters as well as impinging on the purity of electoral process," it said.

In his/her affidavit, a candidate discloses (i) criminal antecedents; (ii) assets and liabilities; and (iii) educational qualifications. Subsequently, Commission in 2013, decided that the assets and liabilities of

the candidates, as filed in their affidavits, would be verified by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

In a statement, the EC said that filing of false affidavits by candidates during the nomination process, in terms of false or incomplete information, is a key challenge as it undermines the rights of voters to be fully informed about their political representatives.

"The Commission views the erosion of this fundamental right as an affront to the democratic ideals which underpin the system of government. Furnishing false information in election affidavits is a devious design to defeat the right of the voter to be informed and transparency in elections. The Commission has today decided to robustly address this challenge to further ensure free, fair and ethical elections in the country," the statement read.

Earlier, the Commission had reviewed with Law Ministry over 37 electoral reforms had been pending in February this year.

Section 1 Office of the Executive Engineer, U.P.R.E.D. Division Bareilly

Address: Rural Engineering Department Second Floor Vikas Bhawan Bareilly

Press Notice for Manual Tender

Letter NO: 325/RED/Tender/Files/Bond Clerk/2020-21 dated: 10-06-2020

The Executive Engineer, U.P.R.E.D. DIVISION BAREILLY on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids through e-tendering system from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with UP RED, in appropriate class A, B, C, D and E as the case may be. The Bidder may submit bids for any or all of the works

Name of work as per table.

Table with columns: S. No., Name of District, Name of work, Total estimated cost (in Lakh), Bid security (EMD) in Lakh, Cost of bid document including GST (in Rupees), Period of completion including rainy season.

Why not give insurance cover for mental illness: SC to Centre, IRDA

New Delhi: Amid the raging debate over the death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who was allegedly depressed before his apparent suicide on June 14, the Supreme Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Centre and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) on a PIL seeking direction to all insurance companies to extend medical insurance for treatment of mental illness.

A Bench of Justices Rohinton Fali Nariman, Navin Sinha and B.R. Gavai issued the notice.

The PIL, filed by advocate Gaurav Kumar Bansal, argues that despite Section 21 of Mental Health Care Act 2017, specifically stating it, followed by an IRDA order in August 2018, none of the insurance companies are extending medical insurance for treatment of

mental illness. The petitioner has urged the apex court to direct the Centre, and the IRDA to issue directions to all insurance companies to do so.

The petitioner argued that the IRDA was formed with a mission to protect the interests of the policy-holders, but, it seems to have been diverted from its main motive.

"Despite having specific provisions under the law, the IRDA is reluctant in taking immediate action. The biasness of IRDA is in itself discrimination against persons with mental illness and as such is causing immense hardship for persons with mental illness. Instead of levying punishment for not complying with MHA 2017, the IRDA is bypassing its responsibilities," said the plea.

SC rejects Guj lawyer body chief's plea, says don't allege not getting justice

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to entertain a plea by Gujarat High Court Advocates' Association (GHCAA) president Yatin Oza in a contempt notice case and asked him not to level allegations that he was not getting justice.

The Supreme Court also asked Oza to approach the Gujarat High Court, which had taken cognisance of his alleged remarks against the court and its registry and issued a contempt notice against him. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India SA Bobde and comprising Justices MR Shah and AS Bopanna told Oza's counsel and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi: "We are not actually inclined to hear it... we feel you should go back to the HC."

During the hearing, the court also remarked: "Don't make allegations that you are not getting justice." The suo motu criminal contempt notice was issued against Oza for his alleged "irresponsible, sensational and intemperate allegations of corruption" against the High Court and its registry on Facebook.

The Chief Justice told Singhvi that the allegations against the petitioner was that he was maligning the concept of justice and not any judge or court. "You reply to the High Court," the apex court observed.

Liquor body urges Andhra Govt to reduce corona cess

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Pointing out that the imposition of 75 per cent corona cess on alcohol has badly hit sales, the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) has urged the Andhra Pradesh Government to reduce the cess on alcoholic beverages to a "realistic and sustainable level" which will help save the industry and also lead to more revenues for the State Government.

In its letter to the AP Government, CIABC, which is the apex body of the Indian Alcoholic Beverage Industry, has stated that on May 5, 2020 the state government imposed Additional Retail Excise Tax (ARET) on all types of alcoholic beverages "which has increased consumer prices by 75% and even up to 100% in certain cases". As per data of the State Government excise department, there was 50 per-



According to CIABC Director General Vinod Giri: "There is sufficient evidence that such steep price increases lead to drastic fall in sales and hence in the Government tax collection, thus defeating the very purpose of tax increase...From the data available, it appears that these apprehensions are indeed true in case of Andhra Pradesh also. Post ARET the sale of liquor has fallen drastically in Andhra Pradesh, which means lower total tax collection for the government. Further, it is an established fact that with such increase in prices, consumers start down trading to cheaper products. That means that not only do total sales come down; the Government's tax collection per bottle sold also falls. So, the loss to the state exchequer is compounded."

Giri further said AP government should take a cue from Delhi government which recently reduced additional tax on liquor from 70% to 5% as

increased prices had led to sharp fall in sales and massive revenue loss to the government. "We presented data to the Delhi government to prove this after which it decided to withdraw the 75% Cess and replaced it with a reasonable 5% increase in VAT. Early signs indicate that this is leading to higher sales and increase in tax collection in Delhi, besides plugging unlawful trade in liquor or illicit alcohol."

He also said that the borders of Andhra Pradesh are porous and if the price difference between the state and neighbouring states is too high, it is an incentive for anti-social elements to smuggle liquor into the state, or worst, produce illicit and harmful liquor. The Andhra Pradesh government should consider all these points and immediately reduce additional tax on liquor to a reasonable level so that process to be a win-win situation for the state government as well as the industry.

'Covid test for asymptomatic pregnant women important'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Although there is low prevalence of coronavirus in asymptomatic pregnant women, researchers now suggest universal testing of pregnant women as part of a multi-pronged approach to reduce transmission of the novel coronavirus in hospitals and clinics.

In India, Covid testing in pregnant women is already being done as per ICMR guidelines which include all symptomatic patients and direct contacts of high risk patients and asymptomatic women residing in hotspot, cluster or containment area.

"Although our results indicate a low prevalence of SARS CoV-2 in an asymptomatic pregnant population, we believe that universal testing of this population can provide a window into the community prevalence of infection. This will in turn, help guide decision-making about moving between mitigation ver-

sus containment measures in the hospital and in the community," explained lead author Ilona Telefus Goldfarb from Massachusetts General and Harvard Medical School. The team has now provided a report on the prevalence of infections with the virus in women admitted to such units in several Boston hospitals.

Universal testing in the labour and delivery units began more than 30 days after physical distancing orders were placed in Massachusetts.

Over 18 days of universal testing in units at the four major hospitals affiliated with Mass General Brigham Health, 757 women were tested. Of those tested, 139 had symptoms possibly consistent with Covid-19, according to the study published in the journal Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology.

Among symptomatic women, 7.9 per cent tested positive (11 women) for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. Among asymptomatic women, 1.5 per cent tested positive (9 women).

Across the four hospitals, none of the positive asymptomatic women developed Covid-19 symptoms during their hospitalization, and all 9 newborns tested negative for the SARS-CoV-2.

The researchers noted that universal testing in this specific patient population is an especially important public health priority given the potential dangers of Covid-19 for maternal and newborn care during and after birth. "Tracking prevalence prospectively can inform public health interventions and our approaches to testing," said co-senior author Erica Shenoy.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, आगरा वृत्त, लोडिंगविठो, आगरा. दिनांक: 02.06.2020. इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1895/14एम-आठवू/2020 दिनांक 18.04.2020 द्वारा 'जनपद मथुरा में छाता शेरमड नौहडोल बाजना गोमत मार्ग के किमी0 27 में सेतु का पुनः निर्माण कार्य' की निविदा ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से आमन्त्रित की गयी थी। सम्पूर्ण भारत में कोविड-19 कोरोना वायरस संक्रमण को दृष्टिगत रखते हुए सम्पूर्ण भारत में लॉकडाउन है। यह क्षेत्र लॉकडाउन हुआ था। उपरोक्त विषय परिस्थितियों को दृष्टिगत रखते हुये। उक्त अंकित कार्य की निविदाओं की तिथियां में निम्नानुसार संशोधित किया जाता है। 1. निविदा अपलॉड करने का प्रारम्भिक दिनांक 20.06.2020 2. निविदा प्राप्त करने का अन्तिम दिनांक 26.06.2020 अपराह्न 12.30 बजे। 3. प्री-विड मीटिंग का दिनांक 22.06.2020 अपराह्न 12.00 बजे। 4. निविदा खोलने का दिनांक 27.06.2020 अपराह्न 12.00 बजे। अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगे। (ब्रिजेश कुमार दीपक) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, आगरा वृत्त, लोडिंगविठो, मथुरा

49 deaths in Tamil Nadu highest in day

1,515 persons test positive for virus in State

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

It was a Black Tuesday in Tamil Nadu as 49 persons succumbed to Covid-19 pandemic. This is the highest tally to be recorded on a single day since the coronavirus broke out in the State in January.

Tuesday's death toll took the total number of fatalities till date to 528, said a bulletin released by the Government of Tamil Nadu. There has been a reduction in the number of persons tested positive in the State. The daily figures which were hovering between the

1,850 to 1,989 range in the last ten days showed a small abatement on Tuesday. The day saw 1,515 persons testing positive for coronavirus in the State. Chennai accounted 919 persons out of the 1,515 tested positive today.

The Government release also stated that the total number of positive cases till date in Tamil Nadu reached the figure of 48,019. But as 26,782 persons returning home fully cured from the hospitals, the number of active coronavirus afflicted persons in the State (number of active cases) remained 20,706 on Tuesday.

Tamil Nadu continued its aggressive testing for coronavirus by testing 19,242 persons across the State on Tuesday. Till date 7.48 lakh persons have been tested as 79 lab-

oratories function round-the-clock testing samples.

Out of the 49 persons succumbed to the pandemic on Tuesday, four persons were in their 80s, 13 were in their 70s, 14 in their 60s, 12 were in 50s and five were in 40s.

46 patients who died on Tuesday had co-morbid conditions (they were suffering from diabetes, kidney ailments, cardio vascular issues) while three patients had no co-morbidity conditions, said the release.

As the four districts including Chennai are getting ready for total lock down, chief minister

Edappadi Palaniswamy announced on Tuesday that 13.35 lakh differently abled persons who hold identity cards would be provided ₹1,000 as financial assistance.

Mamata to skip video meet with PM

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is most likely to skip the Wednesday meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Chief Ministers of various States. The meeting will discuss the country's strategy to control corona pandemic.

According to sources at Bengal State secretariat Nabanna, Banerjee is unhappy about the non-inclusion of her name in the speakers' list "which is why she is unlikely to attend the meeting" and some other Minister of her Cabinet will be deputed to attend the meeting on her behalf.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday interacted with 21 Chief Ministers and Lieutenant Governors on coronavirus crisis. He is likely to speak to the remaining Chief Ministers during the second round of video conference at 3 pm Wednesday.

According to sources at Bengal State secretariat Nabanna, Mamata is unhappy about the non-inclusion of her name in the speakers' list "which is why she is unlikely to attend the meeting" and some other Minister of her Cabinet will be deputed to attend the meeting on her behalf

Taking to Twitter and other means the ruling Trinamool Congress has hit out at the Centre for healing "humiliation" on Bengal at every possible instance. This is an "insult for the people of West Bengal," the party has said.

Giving strong reaction senior TMC leader and State minister Partha Chatterjee said, "when all the Chief Ministers and leaders can speak in the meeting why Bengal will be kept out... It is being done intentionally to humiliate us... some people want to suppress the voice of Bengal which is why they have chosen to keep

Mamata Banerjee's name out of the list," adding "no one will be able to ignore Bengal by simply ignoring our Chief Minister."

Earlier he tweeted, "The Centre has once again humiliated the people of Bengal and decided to silence Mamata Banerjee. The consultation in the name of video conferences is a mere hogwash if the Chief Ministers aren't allowed to put forth their concerns."

"The Centre should explain why it is so averse to the people of Bengal's concerns, as we face this unprecedented crisis which should've been fought together. Why would you call our Chief Minister for a video conference, if you fear her so much that you can't even let her speak?" questioned TMC MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar.

Former Railway Minister and TMC leader Dinesh Trivedi said, "The Government of India was worried that Mamata Banerjee will expose the Modi regime's failure on the

Covid-19 front."

Reacting to the TMC's acerbic remarks Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said that the Chief Minister has been given many chances to share her views adding the Centre has to keep in its minds the interests and views of other States too.

He further alleged "every time the Chief Minister rises to speak she makes hefty demand for money despite the fact that the Centre is sending loads of funds to the State to fight its situations." And whenever the money comes from Delhi "it goes into the pockets of the corrupt party leaders," he said even as his party raised a hue and cry over how government funds sent to tackle post Amphan crisis were being looted in Howrah

Meanwhile, the number of infections continued to multiply fast in Bengal even as the State neared 12,000 mark with about 5,500 recoveries and more than 5,500 deaths.

K'taka to seek leeway from PM to unlock more: CM

IAN S ■ BENGALURU

Ahead of the 6th Centre-State interaction through video link on Wednesday, Karnataka has decided to seek from Prime Minister Narendra Modi leeway from lockdown guidelines in force till June 30 to contain Covid-19 spread.

"In my interaction with the Prime Minister on Wednesday, I will seek more relaxations as we have no plans to re-impose lockdown," Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa said in Kannada, here on Tuesday.

Unlike other states, Karnataka has unlocked partially since June 7 to restore normal life and revive economic activity in non-containment areas as it has been able to limit the pandemic's spread.

Mild relief for Kerala as +ve cases number dips

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala Government heaved a sigh of relief as the number of covid-19 patients in the State showed mild decrease during the last two days. On Tuesday 79 persons tested positive for the pandemic. No deaths have been reported from the State during the last two days.

Out of the 79 who tested positive on Tuesday, 47 were expatriates who reached the State as part of the Vande Bharat Mission and 26 were those from the remaining part of the country. There were five instances of community transmission as the patients tested positive failed to explain how they got the pandemic.

Health Minister K K Shylaja said on Tuesday that the State has to be cautious as more than two lakh expatriates are expected to return to Kerala in the coming weeks. By Tuesday evening Kerala had 110 hotspots. Malappuram district with 15 patients topped the table on

Tuesday.

The day also saw 60 persons getting discharged from hospitals fully cured of covid-19 pandemic. The minister said as on Tuesday there were 1,366 patients undergoing treatment in the State. She also disclosed that 210 persons were hospitalized on Tuesday for suspected coronavirus infection.

Kerala has tested 1.57 lakh persons for the pandemic as on Tuesday. The State administration has simplified laws regarding the entry of people from other States to Kerala.

Persons who have to visit the State for emergency have been freed from quarantining if the stay is for seven days, said a government order. But the visitor has to leave the State without fail on the eighth day. This relaxation will help those individuals who have to come to the State for official work, examination as well as personal engagements. If the visitors violate the restrictions, they would be put under paid quarantine for 14 days, said the order.

Srinagar Mayor Mattu loses floor test

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Junaid Azim Mattu, sitting Mayor of Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Tuesday lost the crucial floor test in response to a no-confidence motion jointly moved against him by the independent corporators in the house.

However, Mattu blamed both the BJP and National Conference for joining hands together to show him the exit door.

Congress party with 17 corporators abstained along with 11 other independent candidates during the crucial voting. "The vote of 'No Confidence Motion' against me, and the @JKPC has been passed in the SMC with 42 votes out of 70," Mattu said in a tweet while blaming the BJP and National Conference for voting him out.

Mattu had earlier survived the floor test in December 2019 winning 50 votes in a house of 70. "The seemingly unthinkable seems to have happened as @JKNC and @BJP4India have come together in Srinagar," he said.

The BJP, however, distanced itself from the matter, saying former deputy mayor Sheikh Imran was behind the move to bring the present no confidence motion.

"Earlier, we had filed no confidence motion against the Mayor but this time independent corporators have filed no confidence motion against him led by former Deputy Mayor Shiekh Imran," said BJP's media in-charge Manzoor Bhat. Exposing the joint strategy of the BJP and National Conference, Mattu wrote a series of tweets after losing the trust vote.

To begin with, Mattu wrote, "Didn't want to speak about technical realities of today's floor test in SMC and it's result but the record needs to be set straight about @JKNC's exclusive and facilitatory role in ensuring the success of the BJP-engineered, orchestrated and backed 'No Confidence Motion' "The 'No Confidence Motion' was elaborately engineered by the BJP State General Secretary and other office-bearers. This is evidenced by the caveat and the fact that the gentleman who proposed it was the Counting

Agent for BJP in the last Dy. Mayoral election in December" he wrote in a separate tweet

This is the second 'No Confidence Motion' against @JKPC, by the BJP in six months! The architects, engineers, allies and players more or less remained the same. The strategy - to seamlessly bring together BJP and NC also remained the same.

Earlier, the National Conference vice president and former Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah had made it clear that in no case his party would go along with the BJP during the voting process against the Mayor.

But after the voting was over, the National Conference (NC) expelled four of its corporators for defying the party whip during the Srinagar Municipal Corporation voting in which the Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu lost the no-confidence motion "Four corporators of the NC including Neelofar, Danish Bhat, Majid Shulloo and G.N. Sofi were expelled for defying the party whip to abstain from the voting process in the SMC," said the statement issued by the NC.

'All out' kills 101 ultras since Jan 1

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

In operation 'All out', the joint teams of security forces in Kashmir valley have so far eliminated 101 terrorists since January 1, 2020.

On Tuesday, three terrorists were neutralised by the joint teams of Shopian police, 44 Rashtriya Rifles, 178 Bn CRPF in village Turkwagam of Shopian.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range, Vijar Kumar in a press briefing said, "the operation was launched on the basis of a specific input about the presence of terrorists in the area late Monday night".

According to official sources, "the cordon in the

area was laid around 12.00 a.m and the first contact was established

with the hiding terrorists around 1.00 a.m. By 7.00 a.m in the morning all three terrorists were gunned down by the security forces in a neat operation." The security forces suffered no collateral damage nor any civilian property was damaged during the operation.

In the last 15 days, 24 terrorists have been neutralised by the security forces, majority of them were trapped in Shopian district.

Responding to a question on elimination of terrorists in South Kashmir districts, IG Kumar said, "Our focus now will be on north Kashmir".

11 of 23 accused in Palghar lynching case test +ve

PS, adjoining taluka Tehsildar's office to shut for two days

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Eleven of the 23 accused in the much-discussed Palghar triple lynching case lodged in custody at the Wada police station have tested positive, prompting the district authorities to close down the police station and adjoining taluka Tehsildar's office for two days.

"The 11 infected accused were among the eleven accused who had been kept in police custody at the Wada police station. The confirmation about their testing positive came after

the authorities received test reports earlier today," a senior Palghar district police official said on Tuesday.

After the receipt of the first set of test reports, the district police authorities have sent swab samples of six more accused who had been lodged with the infected accused in custody at the Wada police station for testing.

Shocked by the development, the district police authorities - along with the health officials - have set into motion the process of identifying people who were exposed to the infected accused. "As a precautionary measure, we have closed down the Wada police station for two days. Similarly,

we have closed down the adjoining tehsildar's office for two days."

With Tuesday's development, the total number of accused in Palghar triple lynching case has gone up to 12. Earlier, one of the accused in the Palghar triple lynching case had tested positive for Covid on May 1, taking He was incidentally first person to have tested positive for the pandemic in Wada taluka of Palghar district.

The 12 infected accused are among the 134 persons arrested in connection with the Palghar triple lynching case.

It may be recalled that on the night of April 16, three persons were lynched by a 200-

strong mob of villagers near Kasa town in Maharashtra's Palghar district on suspicion that they were child-lifters.

The villagers first hurled stones at the van, prompting the driver to stop the vehicle. Later, they pulled three persons out of the vehicle and beat them to death in Gadhchinchale village on Dabhadi-Khanwel road, with sticks and rods.

The deceased ---identified as Chikne Maharaj Kalpavrukshagiri (70), Sushilgiri Maharaj (35) and driver Nilesh Telgade (30) were travelling to Surat. Of them one was the diver, while two are residents of Kandivli in north Mumbai. The place where the

incident took place is approximately 120 km from Mumbai.

After the incident, three Kasa police had registered three FIRs in connection with the lynching and assault on policemen. All the accused had been arrested a day after the ghastly crime.

In the first FIR, the police had charged 110 accused with murder under IPC Section 302. The court sent them to judicial custody in this case.

Subsequently, the Crime Investigation Department (CID) sleuths of the Maharashtra police, who took over the investigations into the case, arrested 24 more persons taking the total number of the accused in the case to 134.

317 afflicted in K'taka

Bengaluru: Domestic and international returnees as well as infections in contacts of earlier coronavirus patients contributed to 317 new cases in Karnataka, taking the state's total tally to 7,530, an official said on Tuesday.

The new cases were reported from 5 pm on Monday till 5 pm on Tuesday, said a health official. On a positive note, 322 patients were discharged.

Of the total cases, 4,456 patients have been discharged, 94 have died while 72 are admitted in the ICUs. The number of patients in ICUs was 56 earlier on.

Domestic returnees were the biggest contributor to the new infections -- 107 or 34 per



cent. In all, 99 or 93 per cent of the returnees have travel history to Maharashtra.

Meanwhile, corona cases with international travel history have been rising consistently. As many as 78 such new cases were reported on Tuesday, all returnees from the United Arab Emirates.

Among the new cases, 222 are males and 95 females, including 19 children below the age of 10.

Covid cases spiked in Dakshina Kannada, Kalaburagi, Ballari, Bengaluru Urban, Dharwad, Udupi, Shivamogga, Yadgir, Raichur, Uttara Kannada, and Hassan.

Of the new cases, Dakshina Kannada contributed 79, followed by Kalaburagi (63), Ballari (53), Bengaluru Urban (47), Dharwad (8), Udupi and Shivamogga (7 each), Yadgir and Raichur (6 each), Hassan (5), Vijayapura, Mysuru, Gadag, Ramanagara, Chikkamagaluru and Koppal (4 each), Belagavi (3), Bidar (2), and Tumkur (1). IANS

Archaeology being manipulated to manufacture history, accuses scientist

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

A scientific research paper authored by Dr B S Harishankar, internationally known archaeologist and member, academic committee, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla and which was published in the ideological weekly 'Kesar' has stirred a hornet's nest in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The archaeologist, through meticulous analysis and documentary evidence substantiated by scientific findings has charged that the Archaeological Survey of India's excavation at Keezhadi in Tamil Nadu's Sivaganga district is with ulterior motives and for manufacturing history by hook or crook. Kanimozhi, MP and daughter of late M K Karunanidhi, has been described as a person trying to manipulate and meddle with the excavation.

"All norms associated with excavation of a spot have been violated by the self-styled archaeologists who are digging at Keezhadi. The whole process was shrouded in mystery and they did not allow even a former director of the ASI to examine their findings. What is the need for such a secret operation while the entire excavations carried out in other places of the country were open books," Harishankar who is credited with two post-doctoral researches, asks in his paper. The paper "Global

Interventions in Keezhadi Excavations" charges that the persons behind the project are out to prove that there existed a separate civilization in Keezhadi/South India independent of the civilization that existed in North India. "It is a welcome move but they should have done it in a transparent manner. While archaeologists like Dr T Satyamurthy, former director, ASI were kept away from the site, the materials they dug out were taken to a laboratory in the USA to find their antiquity. Though there are enough facilities in India itself to test the materials, they would not give the result what they expect. They want a separate DNA result to establish a Dravidian race to raise separatist agitation," said Prof Harishankar.

Dr Satyamurthy said that Harishankar has raised important reservations against the Keezhadi excavations. "They failed to publish at least one in situ picture of the excavated materials. Whatever has happened in Keezhadi under the pretext of archaeological excavation is dubious and need thorough probe. We should not allow anyone to assemble or manufacture history by the means," Satyamurthy told 'The Pioneer'.

The first persons to reach Keezhadi once the excavators announced to the outside world that they have come across startling proofs were M K Kanimozhi MP and her long time associate Jegath Gasper Raj, a Catholic priest who

was closely associated with the LTTE, the Tamil terrorist organisation banned in India. Kanimozhi even approached Madras High Court pleading for an order staying the ASI from taking the samples of Keezhadi to laboratories which are under its jurisdiction.

Though the court had obliged by issuing an interim stay, it vacated the stay when ASI furnished the relevant details. But a number of Christian theologians entered the scene and this vitiated the atmosphere. "The NGO headed by Gasper Raj who was receiving foreign donations was trying to launch a secessionist movement in Tamil Nadu aided by the so called Keezhadi findings," said an intelligence official tracking the flow of foreign funds to the NGOs actively engaged in Keezhadi.

Pattanam, an excavation site in Kerala too is a site created by a section of modern historians to subvert the history of South India, said Harishankar and Prof C I Issac, member, Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR). "Once they succeed in establishing that Pattanam and Keezhadi were connected through common bondage and linked to Rome, the entire landscape could be manipulated," Prof Issac told this newspaper.

Tamil Nadu Government's recent decision to set up a modern museum to display the artifacts from Keezhadi is a major win for DMK's Dravidian Nadu project, said Prof Issac.

Assam plans 50,000 tests, new strategy to handle Covid-19

Guwahati: With coronavirus infections on the rise, ahead of the formulation of new strategies, the Assam government has decided to launch the Assam Targeted Surveillance Programme (ATSP) on Wednesday to randomly test 50,000 samples in 11 days, according to officials here on Tuesday.

Assam Principal Secretary (Health and Family Welfare) Samir Kumar Sinha said the random testing under the ATSP would be conducted in four categories of people.

In his order, which was tagged to the twitter handle of Assam Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Sinha said under the ATSP, random testing of people and workers involved in truck parking, loading and unloading of goods, including railway goods and godowns, would be conducted.

Similar random testing would be conducted on all frontline district officials, including health workers, police personnel, officials of the transport department and the district administration, those associated with Covid-19 management, hotel staff and family members of people released from the institutional quarantine centres.

Earlier, the Health Minister said if a sizable number of positive cases were found after testing 50,000 samples, several stringent measures, including total lockdown, would be re-imposed in Guwahati and other vulnerable places.

"The new strategies are being considered to check the coronavirus spread in Assam," Sarma said. Assam has tested 2.20 lakh samples and found 4,319 Covid-19 cases. It has now 2,103 active cases. While 2,205 patients have recovered, eight people, including a 16 years-old girl, died. Assam's neighbour Mizoram, which has inter-state borders with Covid-19-hit Tripura and Manipur, on June 8 re-imposed lockdown for two more weeks to curb the coronavirus spread following return of natives from different parts of the country. IANS

193 fresh cases take Andhra's tally to 5,282

Amaravati: With 193 new Covid-19 cases, Andhra Pradesh's cumulative tally reached 5,281 by 9 a.m of Tuesday, said the state nodal officer.

With two more deaths during the period, the Covid-19 toll climbed to 88. One death was reported from the Chittoor district and the other from the Prakasam district.

Over the past few days, the state's mortality rate has been improving steadily. On Tuesday, it declined to 1.31 per cent from 1.33 per cent. Andhra Pradesh stands 13th in terms of mortality. The national mortality rate during the day was 2.89 per cent.

Meanwhile, the cumulative tally of active cases climbed to 2,341 against Monday's 2,231, the nodal officer reported.

In a sign of relief for the state, the number of active cases is lower than recoveries. During the day, 81 people were discharged from hospitals, taking the cumulative tally of cured people to 2,851.

Meanwhile, 15,911 tests were conducted in the past 24 hours, the nodal officer said. On Monday 15,173 tests had been conducted. IANS

No entry for devotees into Mysuru Chamundi temple on Ashada Fridays

IAN S ■ MYSURU (KARNATAKA)

Devotees would not be allowed into the famous Hindu temple atop the Chamundi hills in Karnataka's Mysuru on Fridays of Hindu calendar month 'Ashada', beginning June 22, to prevent crowding amid the Covid-induced lockdown, a top official said on Tuesday.

"As thousands of devotees through the Chamundeswari temple atop the hill during the auspicious month of Ashada, especially on Fridays and the weekends, we have decided to ban their entry to prevent crowding and avoid getting infected by the virus," Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram Shankar told IANS here.

Mysuru, the southern state's cultural capital and popular tourist spot, is about 150km southwest of Bengaluru.

The temple on the city's outskirts, however, will be open for devotees from Monday to Thursday, as per the extended lockdown guidelines. Devotees must wear mask, maintain physical distance and not bring holy water to sprinkle or offer prasadam to the presiding deity. "Since the temple was re-

opened on June 8 under unlock 1.0 after remaining shut for 75 days since March 25 due to the extended lockdown, about 2,000-6,000 devotees, including women and children, have been visiting it daily as per the guidelines," Shankar said.

The ban will also apply on July 13, though a Monday, which marks the birthday of the goddess, which is celebrated as Chamundi Varadanthi Utsav (fest).

"The temple's priests will be allowed to conduct rituals and other activities from Friday to Sunday as on other four days of a week till Ashada ends on July 20," said Shankar.

Admitting that it's the first time due to the Covid-19 induced lockdown that the district administration was forced to enforce the ban on three days of a week till Ashada ends, Shankar said the area around the temple was small and the passage to it through the hill was narrow to allow so many people gather at a time.

"As per the guidelines to all religious places of worship, large congregations or gatherings are not allowed to ensure social distancing. Even community feeding is banned," said Shankar.

China provokes, again

Colonel and 19 soldiers killed in Ladakh assault amid talks; India must scale up diplomacy now and avoid another front



It is not just the violent face-off between Indian and Chinese troops at Ladakh, the first since 1975 and one where both sides lost troops, that is worrisome but the gruesome nature of it and the relentless baiting and provocation by our eastern neighbour. Apparently, no firearms were shot during the fight on the Indian side as the People's Liberation Army (PLA) used stones and batons to literally bludgeon each other, an indication of the ferocity of the aggressor. An Indian colonel and 19 soldiers were killed while the Chinese reported-

ly lost five of their own during a massive escalation at Galwan Valley. And coming as it does when official level efforts are on to simmer down tension in the middle of a pandemic that has not spared either nation, it clearly shows some kind of extreme desperation on the Chinese side than just browbeating India in the neighbourhood. It clearly wants its way and some territory that is not happening through the talks. Enough to stage a limited incursion at the cost of its own men and resources. For more than six weeks, soldiers from both sides have been engaged in eyeball-to-eyeball manoeuvres at two places along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the 3,488 km *de facto* boundary between India and China. The confrontation took place at Galwan river, which was one of the early triggers of the 1962 war, and at the Pangong Tso, parts of which have been claimed by both. But these are quite distant from the LAC and have barely caused any flare-ups except at the diplomatic levels. So this is undoubtedly extreme provocation. Yes, China has been uncomfortable about the way India has gone about neutralising its strategic edge in the region ever since the trifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, conversion of Ladakh into a Union Territory and strengthening border roads that can help us replenish troop supplies and movement like never before. But considering the PLA reports directly to the Communist Party of China (CPC) headed by President Xi Jinping, one wonders whether this muscle-flexing is about convincing a home audience on its capability to protect them from an increasingly hostile world. Post Wuhan, and now with a new uncontrollable virus surge in Beijing, Xi has been under immense pressure for his handling of the crisis. The West, tired of the ceaseless lies about the contagion, is pulling out its investment and offices out of China as millions of young people are jobless with millions more waiting in the wings as graduates. The Chinese leadership is finding out ways and means of engaging a relatively qualified generation, lest it becomes frustrated and takes to the streets. For years, it has promised a better life in exchange for a lack of political freedom and now that currency isn't holding. Besides, the world is no longer in awe of the Chinese market and though dependent on sourcing, is planning rearguard action to stop this over the next decade. At the same time, heaving down on a beleaguered India, whose economy is plunging to unknown depths, yet which has the West's favour now for future business, would seem like an easy ploy to divert attention and make an example of. Besides, India has quite a bit of Chinese investment to be overtly militarist, and ironically Great Wall Motors inked a massive deal with the Maharashtra Government despite the attack. But India is no more a soft target though Xi seems to be repeating Doklam to appear invincible before the Chinese People's Political Consultative Process (CPPCC) begins. Doklam, too, had happened before such a session. India should scale up diplomatic intervention to restore status quo ante and publicise this effort globally, knowing full well that both nations cannot afford another front during the pandemic war. If pushed, it must hold ground.

Will that tame Chinese exasperation? With the Modi Government committing itself to improving connectivity by 2022, about 66 key roads will be skirting the Chinese border. One of these roads is near the Galwan valley that connects to Daulat Beg Oldi air base. This is what has been upsetting the PLA, which realising its edge in the region is gradually being blunted, is wary of Indian ambitions in the Aksai Chin. At the same time, if China rakes up the long Himalayan boundaries to rein us in, we should also pose a counter-weight by tying up with Southeast Asian nations and build a pressure against Chinese expansionism in the South China Sea. India should discuss shared threats in the Indian Ocean region with Vietnam, Philippines, Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia. Diplomatically, we could circle China by galvanising the threat perception from it in the region and building a security alliance. India can do this without appearing too aggressive or going beyond the rulebook. In fact, we must be prepared for more Chinese hostilities as we build self-sufficiencies. India has stalled it from ambushing our economy by amending its foreign direct investment (FDI) rules to mandate Government approval for all investments from "border" countries. We cannot ignore its manufacturing heft for now but China will not sit easy either with the discomfort over 5G trials and a future shrinkage of its market in India.

Take them seriously

Many major disasters could have been avoided if a whistleblower had been listened to



Gaurav Taneja is a popular YouTuber but he also happens to be a pilot with Air Asia, India. In a recent video, he alleged that the airline indulges in some practices that he believes compromises passenger safety in order to save some fuel. As a result of this, he has been suspended from his job. Now, Taneja could very well be wrong. If it is found out that he cried wolf, his career in aviation could be sunk at a very young age and few airlines would hire him. That said, it is good that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation is investigating his claims. While the airline has defended itself by saying that what its pilots are doing is an approved procedure, the manufacturer of the aircraft used, Airbus Industrie, has not made any clarifications so far.

While it is not uncommon for whistleblowers to go to the public at large with their complaints, it is important that the regulators investigate each and every issue that is brought up, involving the safety of the passengers. Far too often, whistleblowers are ignored or run down by organisations for their complaints. In aviation, passenger safety is paramount. If something untoward were to happen and it was to emerge that a whistleblower did raise red flags earlier, the regulator would be on the hook. Such an investigation may or may not require massive resources. Indeed, in this case, a few clarifications from the manufacturer should suffice and it might well turn out that Taneja's worries were unfounded. But that does not mean that they should be ignored. Rightly so, aviation is one of the most safety-conscious industries in the world. It has a strict layer of protocols. Further, to train to become a commercial pilot is an expensive and extensive undertaking. An air crash is more often than not a failure of man, not the machine. Incorrect or unsafe procedures are human errors. In order to save money on fuel and tyres, airlines should not play with people's lives. A thorough investigation must be conducted and concluded promptly.

opinion 06

Not an ordinary face-off

Fatal clashes along the border come at a time when India and China mark 70 years of diplomatic ties. Tension must be defused through politico-diplomatic intervention at the highest level



ASHOK K MEHTA

Prevailing tension in eastern Ladakh during the ongoing disengagement exploded into a fatal clash on Monday night in the Galwan River Valley but without any exchange of fire though casualties on both sides were reported. Expectedly, the Chinese have blamed the Indian soldiers for the incident. The *Global Times* says China never announces its casualties. This brutal scuffle between the two nations breaks the 45-year-old record of a *de facto* ceasefire and no casualties. This is akin to the erstwhile Helsinki agreement during the Cold War. The site of the fatal clash indicates the military importance of the Galwan River Valley and the determination of both sides not to yield. Violent scuffles have the potential to escalate into the use of military weapons that will open a second front for India, which we can ill-afford. Military diplomacy has serious limits. Going by the events that have followed, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane's contention last Saturday that a lot of disengagement has taken place in Galwan does not appear to be an accurate assessment.

Rewind to May 5. Two French words encapsulate the incursions and their changing patterns. *Fait accompli*. Like the Russian annexation of Crimea, China's aggression in the South China Sea and its intended but failed territorial assertion in Doklam. And *déjà vu*. Such incursions have occurred in the past at Depsang Valley (2013) Chumar (2014) and Sumdorong Chu Valley (1986). But the present month-long multiple intrusions in Galwan, Pangong Tso and Hot Springs area in Ladakh and Nakula in Sikkim are different. They are well-planned, large-scale, violent and sanctioned at the highest political level.

China enjoys distinct superiority in the balance of military power and infrastructure in areas of contestation. These coercive actions target India's strategic highway, running parallel to the Line of Control (LAC) from Darbuk-Shyokh-Daulat Beg Oldie (DSDBO) near the Karakoram Pass, which threatens its dominance in Ladakh, especially the disputed Aksai Chin road linking Xinjiang with Tibet. Reasons for change in Beijing's behaviour? Compensation for China's reputational loss due to the mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic; to pacify its domestic audience; display its strength as it did during the recently concluded National People's Congress plenary session; and warning India that it can create pressure points along the border should it attempt any containment strategy.

China's strategy of territorial creep has been perfected over the decades on the Tibetan border to enlarge disputed areas, extend claim lines and construct roads and fortifications *a la* Doklam. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is perennially exploring weaknesses along the disputed



LAC to block India's legitimate right of patrolling up to its claim line while permitting the PLA a free run. The increased display of territorial nationalism — not give up an inch of territory — is in sync with Chinese President Xi Jinping's "China Dream" and exhortation of the PLA in battle readiness. Overall, it invokes Sun Tzu's dictum of winning battles without fighting.

There is a larger PLA game plan. Miffed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah's vow to retake the Aksai Chin in August 2019, following the reading down of Article 370 and making Ladakh a Union Territory, Beijing wants to provide additional depth to the disputed Aksai Chin highway. With short supply lines on the Indian side and improved connectivity in eastern Ladakh, the PLA sees this as a long-term threat. Its contingency plans include pushing Indian defences west of Shyok river and south of Indus river up to its 1960 LAC claim line. It worries that the Indian road to Daulat Beg Oldi near the Karakoram Pass can pose a threat to the Karakoram Highway and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). On the other hand, if China can isolate the

Karakoram Pass, it could gain access to the Siachen glacier and join hands with its iron brother, Pakistan. It is the realisation of this strategic wedge that India must prevent.

Maintaining ambiguity on LAC is China's masterstroke. India tried unsuccessfully in 2002 to exchange maps depicting each other's presence and perception of LAC between the then Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal and his counterpart Wang Yi, currently Foreign Minister and Special Representative for border talks. Similarly, the ambitious decision in 2005, to skip LAC clarification and forge a political framework for the resolution of the boundary question, was aborted. In 2014, during Xi's visit to India, Prime Minister Modi urged that both countries accept a common LAC but Xi ignored the request. The SR dialogue has become about feel good.

India's strategic culture has cultivated in military psyche a reactive strategy except in the 1971 war. So in Kargil, the infantry was assaulting uphill, taking avoidable casualties to dislodge Pakistani intrusions and so on. But at Sumdorongchu, though the second mover, India's build-up was so swift and overwhelming that the PLA recognised the

signal of strength. Although restoration of status quo ante took a year, the show of strength facilitated a Chinese invitation to the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to Beijing, breaking the decade-long political hiatus.

China's escalation is not only horizontal but also vertical. The PLA has shown it can brazenly intrude at a time and place of its choosing. That, too, without the use of firearms and cause death and injuries. Of the five intrusions, one of the highest strategic concerns for China is the Galwan valley. In these columns last week, the sterling value of Galwan in the domination of Shyok river and the highway to DBO was explained. Its occupation in 1961 by 4/8 Gorkhas and its loss in 1962 indicate why the PLA covets the strategic enclave and will not vacate it without a significant trade-off.

It may use other tactical intrusions as a bargaining chip for retention of more valued real estate. The absence of India's will and deterrence is stark. In the mid-1980s, after Sumdorongchu, the Indian Army had prepared contingencies for tit-for-tat operations. Fortunately, the military balance was less adverse then than now. Still, operations to

counter the PLA pressure points along LAC are needed. Holes in the numerous border protocols that have encouraged PLA encroachments need plugging. India should offset its continental handicap by exploiting its maritime superiority in the Indian Ocean to buzz Chinese vessels confronting their Malacca dilemma.

Ironically, the fatal clashes are coinciding with the 70th anniversary of India-China relations when both countries are combating a calamitous COVID pandemic. The last fatal incident along the LAC was in 1975 in Arunachal Pradesh when the PLA ambushed an Assam Rifles patrol, killing 11 soldiers. As military diplomacy has exposed its weakness, it is essential that the 45-day standoff is defused through politico-diplomatic intervention at the highest level. New Delhi's bottom line: Restoration of status quo ante May 5 will be a long and painful process. The centre of gravity is the Galwan River Valley.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander IPKF South, Sri Lanka and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff.)

SOUNDBITE

In a parliamentary democracy, it is expected of the Government to brief the leadership of political parties of the ground situation, considering the grave implications.

Congress leader
—Anand Sharma



I love my industry but yes, pressures are high. There are good people as also those who play dirty. There are all kinds but that's what makes the world.

Actor
—Raveena Tandon



I remain concerned by child casualties in J&K and call upon the Government to take preventive measures to protect children, including by ending the use of pellets against them.

UN Chief
—Antonio Guterres



Those who have not endured mental illness have no idea what its victims go through. We should approach such tragedies with empathy and educate ourselves on this issue.

Congress leader
—Shashi Tharoor



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Effective policy

Sir — The opinion of a group of experts that the lockdown was of no use is incorrect. It ensured that the number of cases remained low and occurred over a longer period of time. This allowed the Government to mobilise medical resources. People, too, got habituated to avoiding various social activities. Now that restrictions are being lifted, we ought to be cautious as economic activities continue. On its part, the Government must enhance testing. No doubt, many lives have been disrupted and lost but could it have been better without the lockdown? I don't think so. Today, India's COVID-19 death rate is not anywhere close to countries with similar number of positive cases.

Ravi Teja Kathuripalli
Hyderabad

Reset ties with Nepal

Sir — This refers to the editorial, "Nepal's map war" (June 16). It was not unexpected that policymakers in Nepal would vote in favour of the inclusion of Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura in the redrawn

Mend ties before it's too late

This refers to the editorial, "Nepal's map war" (June 16). India's growing alienation with its smaller neighbours like Nepal is as worrying as its stand-off with bigger neighbours like China. While Beijing may have its own geopolitical compulsions in creating and perpetuating conflict on the Line of Control (LAC), Nepal choosing to mess up with India signifies floundering of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "neighbourhood first" policy. That Kathmandu has pushed itself into a corner from where it, possibly, shall find difficult to emerge also implies that Nepal is caught into the vice-like grip of the dragon. While this is worrisome, what's more disturbing is India's failure to act proactively when the tell-tale signs of Nepal's intransigence had started showing in November last year. India should have unleashed its diplomatic offensive long ago to stop further slide in relationships. But New Delhi inexplicably balked and we have this escalation.

While the Government has approached Nepal to straighten out the kinks, it should also behave responsibly. Though Indo-Nepal relations are too robust to be held to ransom by a map, yet India should stop taking



this beautiful Himalayan kingdom for granted. In the past also, Nepal has played the China card to shield itself from India's perceived hegemony. The authorities must reflect on their missteps so that any further issues concerning India's territorial integrity can be handled efficiently. The Government must work towards the restoration of peace and cooperation.

SK Prabhakar
Gurugram

Challenges galore

Sir — This refers to the report, "Highest single-day spike of 178 deaths in Maha" (June 16). Data and anecdotal evidence show India's healthcare system is unprepared to handle the jump in virus

cases. While private hospitals are too expensive, Government hospitals are overwhelmed as COVID-19 patients pour in and hospital staff work around the clock. It is vital to focus on PPE kits, safety, salary or even strategies to keep the doctors distressed in these hard times.

Devendra Khurana
Bhopal

Lend a helping hand

Sir — Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death has left everyone shocked. If depression was the killer, it shows how important it is for society to have a conversation about mental health. We must let go of the stigma attached to the health of our minds. We all wear big smiles to show the world how happy we are, all the while isolating ourselves. We have all been there at some point in our lives. Share your stories. Sometimes just speaking to someone will let you process your emotions.

Kanika
Via email

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

A new work module

The four-day week is an idea whose time may have come but it is not a magic bullet. Companies don't hire more people just to spread the work around



GWYNNE DYER

As countries in Europe and North America emerge from the lockdown and try to rebuild devastated economies, the great concern is of jobs. Unemployment in the US and Canada is over 13 per cent, a post World War-II high. If it weren't for subsidies that keep up to a fifth of the working population in paid "furloughs" from their jobs, jobless rates in Europe would be as high or higher. That can't go on forever, so there is a frantic search for job-saving strategies — and the "four-day work week" keeps coming up.

Like that other proposed magic bullet, the guaranteed basic income, the notion of a four-day working week has been kicking around for a long time. The current emergency has given both ideas a second wind and neither is nearly as radical or extreme as it sounds. Less than a century ago, the whole industrialised world transitioned from the traditional six-day working week (Saturdays included) to a five-day work week for the same pay, with no political upheaval and no significant loss of production. So why don't we do that again? Spread the work around and save a lot of jobs?

Because it doesn't work like that. The four-day week is not about spreading the load. It is about finding ways for people, who already have jobs, to squeeze the same work into four 10-hour working days instead of five eight-hour days or to work "smarter" so that they can get the same work done (or more) in only four eight-hour days. The 40-hour week done in four days is the only available option for most process workers on assembly lines or other repetitive physical tasks. Ten-hour workdays are even harder than they sound but the prize is a three-day weekend and some people are willing to pay the price.

If everybody buys into that, then the management can shut the plant down one extra day and save on power. If only some do, then the management has the headache of scheduling some 10-hour shifts and other eight-hour shifts, plus the cost of the mistakes that may accumulate when exhausted people are approaching the end of a 10-hour shift. And no saving on electricity costs. Nevertheless, it does make for a happier workforce by all accounts and maybe, therefore, a more efficient and productive one. There are already a few examples of this kind of four-day working in every industrial country and now the Prime Ministers of Finland and New Zealand are both talking it up. Neither woman, however, is proposing to impose it nationally and nobody is suggesting that it will create more jobs.

The four-day week is an easier and more attractive package for people in administrative and sales jobs because everybody knows that there is a lot of wasted time in office work: Social media, pointless emails, long boring meetings and so on. You could get the job done a lot quicker if everybody was motivated to concentrate on the bits that are actually useful and skip the rest. So motivate them. Tell them that they can drop to four eight-hour days a week for the same pay as the old five days if they can still get the same work done — and leave it to them to figure out how. If they can't, then it's back to the same old five-day grind. Miraculously, they almost always do manage to find the time. In many cases, indeed, productivity actually rises: Happy workers do better work. The four-day week is an excellent idea whose time may finally have come but it is not a magic bullet. Companies don't ever hire more people just to spread the work around.

So what might spread the available work around? The US Congress had a brilliant idea in 1938 when it passed the Fair Labour Standards Act, which required employers to pay overtime at 150 per cent of the normal hourly wage for anything over 40 hours of work a week. The idea was to make employers hire more people. If they had 40 employees working 50 hours a week, they would have to pay each of them overtime for the last 10 hours. So why not just hire another 10 people and save all that overtime pay? It worked quite well at the time but it would not work now. Don't hire more people; just put in more automation.

The Coronavirus is just an accelerator. The real problem with employment ever since the 1990s has been automation, which has been eating up good jobs and excreting low-paid, insecure ones instead — or none at all. Six million good manufacturing jobs were automated out of existence in the US in 2000-2010, which led fairly directly to the election of Donald Trump as the US President in 2016. The current pandemic is speeding the process by driving more jobs online, especially in sales (a different kind of automation), and fiddling with working hours or minimum wages is not going to stop it. So what's left? Maybe a guaranteed basic income would help but that is a discussion for another day.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is "Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work.")

INDIAN PERSONNEL CROSSED THE BORDER LINE FOR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AND PROVOKED AND ATTACKED CHINESE PERSONNEL THAT LED TO SERIOUS PHYSICAL CONFLICT.

—CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ZHAO LIJIAN

POINT COUNTERPOINT



A VIOLENT FACE-OFF HAPPENED AS A RESULT OF AN ATTEMPT BY THE CHINESE SIDE TO UNILATERALLY CHANGE THE STATUS QUO.

—FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESPERSON ANURAG SRIVASTAVA

Remodel Google tax

Tech giants are getting away by not paying tax in the source country but the fact remains that their profits are coming from users located within the Indian territory. This anomaly needs to be addressed soon



UTTAM GUPTA

On June 2, the Trump administration announced a probe into digital services taxes that have been either adopted or are under consideration by its trading partners viz, Austria, Brazil, the Czech Republic, the European Union (EU), India, Indonesia, Italy, Spain, Turkey and the UK. This refers to the so-called "Section 301 investigation" by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to determine whether levies on electronic commerce discriminate against US technological giants like Apple, Google, Amazon and so on. The probe could lead to the US imposing tariffs on exports from these countries. The reaction of the US and the proposed retaliatory measures are triggered by genuine actions by the aforementioned countries (and many others) to salvage a grim situation, whereby they are losing billions of dollars in taxes due to the manipulative practices of multinational corporations (MNCs) in the digital space — most of them based in America.

While some countries (for instance, France and India) have taken measures to make the MNCs pay the taxes, structured efforts are being made under the aegis of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to arrive at a so-called BEPS (base erosion profit shifting) framework agreement. Over 135 countries are participating in this project (85 have already signed the multilateral instrument on BEPS) that will form the basis for such taxation.

The OECD had released a draft on "taxing digital companies" on October 9, 2019. However, progress on this has been stymied by the Coronavirus crisis. The original deadline to complete the negotiations was this year, which now gets shifted to the next year. Meanwhile, it is important to unravel the *modus operandi* used by technological giants to dodge tax authorities in these countries and steps taken by India, a major source of income for them, to deal with it.

How does the Indian Government establish its jurisdiction to tax them on their operations in the country (a bone of contention between the MNC's host country and India)? What could be the criteria to bring them under the tax net? How far can India go in building a consensus at the OECD around its stance?

By nature, operations of MNCs are transnational with entities located in several countries involving a high-level of interdependence and cross-border flows of goods and services between them, as also direct supplies to retailers and consumers. For firms such as Google, Facebook and Amazon among others doing business in digital mode, physical boundaries get blurred. They structure their investment arms through a maze of subsidiaries held outside India in low-tax jurisdictions such as Singapore, Mauritius, Ireland and among others.

These technology giants invoice Indian customers via these offshore entities despite having significant revenue, users or paying customers in the country even as their Indian entity is crafted more like a service company or commission agent to the parent company located abroad. This helps them in booking an overwhelming share of revenues in the parent company (registered in a tax haven) while a very small portion of service/commission revenue and income is reported in the entity registered in India.

The firms may be getting away by not paying tax in the source country (India in this case) but the fact remains that their profits are com-

“ TECHNOLOGY GIANTS INVOICE INDIAN CUSTOMERS VIA OFFSHORE ENTITIES DESPITE HAVING SIGNIFICANT REVENUE, USERS OR PAYING CUSTOMERS IN THE COUNTRY EVEN AS THEIR INDIAN ENTITY IS CRAFTED MORE LIKE A SERVICE COMPANY OR COMMISSION AGENT TO THE PARENT COMPANY LOCATED ABROAD. THIS HELPS THEM IN BOOKING AN OVERWHELMING SHARE OF REVENUES IN THE PARENT COMPANY (REGISTERED IN A TAX HAVEN) WHILE A VERY SMALL PORTION OF SERVICE/COMMISSION ON REVENUE AND INCOME IS REPORTED IN THE ENTITY REGISTERED IN INDIA ”



ing from users located within the Indian territory. Hence, it is none other than the Government of India (GOI), which has the right to tax these profits. The jurisdiction to tax lies with it. This position is also endorsed by the OECD under the BEPS framework agreement. It states: "Profits of MNCs should be available for taxation in the country where their customers are, irrespective of any physical presence in that market, and that a formula should be evolved for such taxation."

Coming to the steps taken by India, in 2016, the Government had introduced the so-called "Google Tax" — also known as Equalisation Levy — with an intent to tax the Business to Business (B2B), e-commerce transactions/digital transactions. The tax is levied at six per cent on the payment made by a resident firm to foreign e-commerce companies for online advertisements on the latter's platform.

While making a payment, the resident firm has to deduct tax from the consideration payable to say, Google, and deposit it to the department. For instance, if the consideration is ₹10,00,000, then the former has to withhold six per cent or ₹60,000 and pay the net amount of ₹9,40,000 (the so-called equalisation amount) to the latter. The Google tax of ₹60,000 is paid to the legislature. Through an amendment to the Finance Act, 2020, the scope of equalisation levy was extended to "all sales, gross receipts or turnover of non-residents not having a Permanent Establishment (PE is a fixed place of business normally located in the territory of the source country), who is providing the online sale of goods or provision of services or both to a person residing in India or a non-resident in specific circumstances, such as the sale of advertisement targeted to the Indian

market or sale of data collected from the Indian market." This levy is at two per cent on the sum received or receivable by an e-commerce operator and is payable directly to the Central Government on a quarterly basis.

Whereas the tax imposed in 2016 had very limited coverage (revenue from online advertisements), the two per cent levy introduced this year covers almost every good and service provided or facilitated by the internet giants.

But this approach is riddled with ad hocism and arbitrariness. There is no basis for having two widely divergent rates depending on the source of revenue viz, online advertisements versus all others. Besides, the "all others" category is open-ended and loosely-worded that leaves room for discretion.

What is even worse is that being a levy on the turnover/gross receipts (instead of profit which is the way it should be — as the intent is to tax the profits of MNCs), these are akin to indirect tax, which the technological giants conveniently recover from Indian users by correspondingly inflating their charges. They have been doing so in the case of six per cent levy on advertising revenue (in the above example, the resident firm is billed for ₹10,60,000) and will do the same with respect to two per cent levy on goods and services imposed this year.

This defeats the purpose as instead of making the technological giants pay up, Indian firms end up paying more. Besides, the arbitrariness in this approach to taxation leaves the country open to criticism. What then is the way forward? How does GOI get these foreign firms to pay taxes on the earnings from their operations here?

In the normal course, for a foreign firm having a PE from where it conducts transactions — including sales made in

India — and maintains accounts viz, receipts, expenditure, profit and so on for local operations, the tax department has a smooth sail. But technological giants don't have a PE on Indian soil.

To overcome this hurdle, in 2018, a committee set up by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had mooted the concept of digital permanent establishment (DPE). The Income-Tax Act provides for levy of tax on the profit attributed to the Indian operations of such offshore enterprises in the country.

The committee proposed tax at the rate of 30-40 per cent, depending on the user base and revenues (only firms with a user base over 2,00,000 would be considered). As a follow up, in the Finance Act 2018, the Government proposed that "such offshore firms should be taxed in India if they have a market presence above a threshold to be defined in terms of their customer base and revenue." But this needs an amendment to India's tax treaties with all its trade and investment partners. The task will be greatly facilitated once the BEPS framework agreement is put in place. The Government should, therefore, work for early finalisation of the agreement.

It should vigorously pursue the DPE concept at the OECD and also get ready with a criteria for treating a foreign company as DPE. The criteria should give appropriate weight to three crucial parameters viz, the number of users, paying customers or annual revenue. The tax rate on such companies treated as DPE should be at par with the rate applicable to domestic companies.

Meanwhile, the US should desist from its proclaimed actions as India (like other affected countries) is only trying to correct a wrong that is being perpetrated by its technological giants.

(The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst)

Amid crisis, brewing politics can wait

To win the Coronavirus war, Uddhav needs to take everyone along. Coalition partners and the BJP, too, must realise that this is not the time to play toppling games



KALYANI SHANKAR

Political slugfest is going on in the big State of Maharashtra even as the Uddhav Thackeray-led coalition Government is trying to face the outbreak of the pandemic. While the BJP is yet to reconcile with the ascendancy of the Shiv Sena supreme Bal Thackeray, it is becoming aggressive and is aspiring for power. State BJP leaders are demanding the imposition of President's Rule in Maharashtra, claiming that the Chief

Minister has failed to check the pandemic. According to insiders, the BJP is not willing to stake claim at this point of time. It only wants to get rid of the Uddhav Government and rule the State through the Centre.

In the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) enjoys the support of 170 legislators, including 56 members from the Shiv Sena, 54 from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), 44 from the Congress and some smaller parties. The BJP has 105 seats and claims the support of 13 other legislators. The boat can be rocked any time by encouraging defection.

Though Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray took over in November last year, he is yet to settle down because of various reasons. The first is the nature of the coalition,

which he is currently heading. It was an unnatural one as there is nothing common between his party, the Shiv Sena, and the partners, Congress and the NCP. It was an opportunistic coalition and the main reason for their coming together was to prevent the BJP from coming to power in the State.

The second and more important reason is the inexperience of the Chief Minister in public administration. Maharashtra is a big State and Mumbai is the financial capital of the country. Hence, it needs a capable man at the helm. But before he could come to grips with the responsibility thrust upon him and learn the ropes of the job, Uddhav's image took a beating due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

His inexperience was seen in the way he handled the migrant crisis. He is still learning the tough task of

governance. He did not chalk out a proper COVID-19 strategy, with the result that today Maharashtra reports the highest number of COVID-19 cases and the tally is still growing. Uddhav even faced a crisis regarding his election to the legislature and he managed to get elected only after his SOS to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month. It is not clear why he did not take the help of experienced State Congress leaders or the NCP chief Sharad Pawar in tackling the pandemic.

Third, Uddhav is facing trouble not only from outside but also from within the coalition. For instance, the Congress keeps demanding its pound of flesh at every step. This is clear from the comments made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a media conference recently. The Gandhi scion remarked that though the Congress was part of the MVA

and holds key Ministries, "I would like to make a differentiation here. We are supporting the Government in Maharashtra but we are not the key decision-maker in Maharashtra. We are the key decision-maker in Punjab; we are the key decision-maker in Chhattisgarh, in Rajasthan, in Puducherry. So, there is a difference between running a Government and supporting a Government."

Local party leaders complain that Uddhav has not been consulting them. According to them, during the formation of the Uddhav Government, the Congress got plum portfolios, considering its strength in the State Assembly. It was also decided that the Legislative Council seats and corporations would be distributed equally among the three parties of the MVA Government. However, things are not going as per

the discussions. Fourth, the role of the NCP chief, who was instrumental in the formation of the Uddhav Government, is intriguing. Eyebrows were raised at his recent meeting amid political instability in the State with Governor BS Hoshiyari, the first since the latter took charge.

Pawar's meeting is interesting as it came in the wake of the demand from the State BJP leaders for imposition of President's Rule in Maharashtra. This demand has been made by key leaders, including former Chief Ministers Narayan Rane and Devendra Fadnis, both of whom met the Governor last week. Interestingly, both the Raj Bhavan and the Pawar camp described it as a courtesy call. Pawar is considered to be one of the ablest Chief Ministers and shrewdest political minds in the country. But there is barely any evidence of Uddhav consulting his

coalition partners and his Cabinet colleagues on a regular basis. It is the babus who are said to be running the show in the State currently.

Therefore, it is not surprising that Uddhav has not been allowed to settle down either by his coalition partners or the main Opposition, the BJP. Though Uddhav managed to keep the Sena afloat after the death of its founder Bal Thackeray all these years, running a Government is different and this is where he needs to strengthen himself. He needs good advisors. Other players, too, should realise that this is not the time for playing toppling games. The first priority should be to tackle the outbreak. Politics can wait. After all, people elect them as their representatives and they cannot fail to serve public interests.

(The writer is a senior journalist)

N Korea blows up inter-Korea office, raising tensions

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea blew up an inter-Korean liaison office building just north of the heavily armed border with South Korea on Tuesday, in a carefully choreographed, largely symbolic display of anger that puts pressure on Washington and Seoul amid deadlocked nuclear diplomacy.

Although the building was empty and the North had previously signaled its plans to destroy it, the move is still the most provocative act by North Korea since it entered nuclear talks in 2018 after a U.S.-North Korean standoff had many fearing war. It will pose a serious setback to the efforts of liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in to engage the North.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the country destroyed the office in a "terrific explosion" because its "enraged people" were determined to "force (the) human scum, and those who have sheltered the scum, to pay dearly for their crimes," apparently referring to North Korean defectors living in South Korea who for years have floated

anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border.

The news agency did not detail how the office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong was destroyed.

South Korea's government later released military surveillance video showing clouds of smoke rising from the ground as a building collapsed at a now-shuttered joint industrial park in Kaesong where the liaison office stood.

South Korea issued a statement expressing "strong regret" over the destruction of the building, warning of a stern response if North Korea takes additional steps that aggravate tensions.

The statement, issued following an emergency National Security Council meeting, said the demolition is "an act that betrays hopes for an improvement in South-North Korean relations and the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula."

South Korea's Defense Ministry said separately that it closely monitors North Korean military activities and was prepared to strongly counter any future provocations. The South's vice unification minister,



Smoke rises in the North Korean border town of Kaesong, seen from Paju, South Korea on Tuesday

Suh Ho, who was Seoul's top official at the liaison office, called the demolition an "unprecedented senseless act" that shocked "not only our people, but the whole world."

The North said last week that it was cutting off all government and military communication channels with the South while threatening to abandon bilateral peace agreements

reached during North Korea leader Kim Jong Un's three summits with Moon in 2018.

Some outside analysts believe the North, after failing to get what it wants in nuclear talks, will turn to provocation to win outside concessions because its economy has likely worsened because of persistent U.S.-led sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic. North

Korea may also be frustrated because the sanctions prevent Seoul from breaking away from Washington to resume joint economic projects with Pyongyang.

South Korea's response to Tuesday's demolition was relatively strong compared to past provocations. Moon's government has faced criticism that it didn't take tough measures when North Korea performed a series of short-range weapons tests targeting South Korea over the past year.

Moon, a liberal who champions greater reconciliation with North Korea, shuttled between Pyongyang and Washington to help set up the first summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in June 2018.

The liaison office has been shut since late January because of coronavirus concerns. The office, built with South Korean money at a reported cost of \$8.3 million, was opened in September 2018 to facilitate better communication and exchanges between the Koreans.

It was the first such office between the countries since they were divided into a U.S.-backed South Korea and a

Soviet-supported North Korea at the end of the World War II in 1945. The office was considered a symbol of Moon's engagement policy.

North Korea had earlier threatened to demolish the office as it stepped up its fiery rhetoric over what it called Seoul's failure to stop civilian campaigns to drop anti-Pyongyang leaflets into the North. South Korea said it would take steps to ban the leafletting, but North Korea argued that the South Korean response lacked sincerity.

On Saturday night, Kim Yo Jong, the influential sister of North Korea's leader, warned that Seoul will soon witness "a tragic scene of the useless North-South liaison office (in North Korea) being completely collapsed." She also said she would leave to North Korea's military the right to take the next step of retaliation against South Korea.

North Korea has threatened to dismantle the shuttered Kaesong factory complex completely and abandon a 2018 bilateral tension-reduction agreement, which observers say could allow the North to trigger clashes along the land

and sea borders. Earlier Tuesday, North Korea's military threatened to move back into unspecified border areas that have been demilitarized under agreements with South Korea and "turn the front line into a fortress."

On Monday, Moon urged North Korea to stop raising animosities and return to talks, saying the two Koreas must not reverse the 2018 inter-Korean summit deals.

North Korea has a history of taking highly visual symbolic steps for political gains. It invited foreign journalists to watch the detonation of its underground nuclear testing tunnels in 2018 and the demolition of a cooling tower at its main nuclear complex in 2008. Both events were an attempt by the North to show it was serious about denuclearization amid rampant outside skepticism about its commitment.

"It's hard to see how such behavior will help the Kim regime get what it wants from the world, but clearly such images will be used for domestic propaganda," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

The Koreans' neighbors voiced concerns over Tuesday's demolition. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he hopes tensions between the Koreas will not escalate further, adding that Japan will cooperate closely with Seoul and Washington while analyzing the development.

In China, the North's major diplomatic ally, foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said that "we always hope that the Korean Peninsula will maintain peace and stability."

Inter-Korean relations have been strained since the breakdown of a second summit between Kim and Trump in Vietnam in early 2019. The summit fell apart because of disputes over how much sanctions relief the North should get in return for Kim's dismantling of his main nuclear complex, which was seen as a limited denuclearization measure.

After the Vietnam summit, inter-Korean relations turned sour again. Kim entered 2020 vowing to expand his nuclear arsenal, introduce a new strategic weapon and overcome the U.S.-led sanctions that he said "stifles" his country's economy.

GLOBE TROTTER

US TROOP PLANS IN GERMANY: NATO CHIEF PLAYS DOWN CONCERN

Brussels: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday played down concern that the United States will troop to pull thousands of its troops out of Germany, saying that Washington has made no final decision on when such a withdrawal might take place or even how it would happen. President Donald Trump has said that he is ordering a major reduction in US troop strength in Germany, from around 34,500 personnel down to 25,000.

'US ATTEMPTS TO SCUTTLE IRAN DEAL WILL FAIL'

Moscow: The US attempts to force Iran nuclear deal participants to renounce their obligations and to punish Tehran by illegitimate initiatives, including the arms embargo, have no prospects from the point of view of international law, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Tuesday.

MSF CLOSES KABUL PROGRAMME AFTER ATTACK

Kabul: Doctors Without Borders said it closed its operation in Kabul, ending years long work to support a maternity hospital in the Afghan capital. The closure came a month after a horrific attack at the facility killed 24 people, including two infants, nurses and several young mothers.

FRANCE BACKS OFF CHOKEHOLD BAN

Paris: Less than a week after France announced it would abandon police chokeholds, the government retracted by growing officer discontent by announcing it would test stun guns for wider use, adding to the ranks of European law enforcement agencies that have recently adopted the weapons that many in the US equate with excess police violence.

Man shot in us during protest over statue

Los Angeles: A man was shot on Monday as a heavily armed militia group attempted to defend a statue from US protesters in New Mexico, officials and media reports said.

Monuments linked to colonialism and slavery are being toppled and removed globally as worldwide anti-racism protests continue after the death in US police custody of George Floyd, an unarmed black man.

Albuquerque city protesters were demanding the removal of a statue of the state's 16th-century governor, Spanish conquistador Juan de Onate, according to local media. As they tried to pull down the sculpture, a small group of right-wing militia members tried to protect it and clashes erupted, the Albuquerque Journal reported. The victim is believed to be in a critical but stable condition, police said.

Police were investigating reports "about vigilante groups possibly instigating this violence," city police chief Michael Geier said in a Twitter statement. "If this is true will be holding them accountable to the fullest extent of the law, including federal hate group designation and prosecution," he said.

Images in US media showed police apprehending a number of men, some dressed in camouflage gear with guns. "The heavily armed individuals who flaunted themselves at the protest, calling themselves a 'civil guard,' were there for one reason: To menace protesters, to present an unsanctioned show of unregulated force," said New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham said in a statement posted on Twitter. AP

Pompeo to meet top Chinese official in Hawaii amid tensions

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is making a brief trip to Hawaii for closed-door talks with a senior Chinese official, as relations between the two nations have plummeted over numerous disputes.

The State Department said Pompeo and his deputy Stephen Biegun left Tuesday for Hawaii but offered no additional detail about his plans. People familiar with the trip said Pompeo and Biegun will meet on Wednesday with a Chinese delegation led by Yang

Jiechi, the Chinese Communist Party's top foreign affairs official.

The private discussions are set to take place at Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu and will cover the wide range of issues that have set the world's two largest economies on a collision path, according to the people familiar with the trip, who were not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Washington and Beijing are at odds over trade, China's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, human rights, the status

of Hong Kong and increasing Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea. China has become key element in the 2020 presidential campaign with President Donald Trump and his supporters seeking to make the administration's tough stance with Beijing a main foreign policy selling point.

Last month, Trump and Pompeo announced that the U.S. would be rescinding special trade and economic privileges it had extended to Hong Kong after the former British territory reverted to Chinese control in 1997.

Poll: Americans are unhappiest they've been in 50 yrs

AP ■ ST PETERSBURG

Spoiler alert: 2020 has been Srough on the American psyche. Folks in the U.S. are more unhappy today than they've been in nearly 50 years.

This bold — yet unsurprising — conclusion comes from the COVID Response Tracking Study, conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. It finds that just 14% of American adults say they're very happy, down from 31% who said the same in 2018. That year, 23% said they'd often or sometimes felt isolat-

ed in recent weeks. Now, 50% say that.

The survey, conducted in late May, draws on nearly a half-century of research from the General Social Survey, which has collected data on American attitudes and behaviors at least every other year since 1972. No less than 29% of Americans have ever called themselves very happy in that survey. Most of the new survey's interviews were completed before the death of George Floyd touched off nationwide protests and a global conversation about race and police brutality, adding to the

feelings of stress and loneliness Americans were already facing from the coronavirus outbreak — especially for black Americans.

Lexi Walker, a 47-year-old professional fiduciary who lives near Greenville, South Carolina, has felt anxious and depressed for long stretches of this year. She moved back to South Carolina late in 2019, then her cat died. Her father passed away in February. Just when she thought she'd get out and socialise in an attempt to heal from her grief, the pandemic hit.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Beijing situation 'extremely severe', warns official

AFP ■ BEIJING

Beijing's coronavirus situation is "extremely severe," a city official warned Tuesday, as 27 new infections were reported in the Chinese capital from a cluster has sparked a huge trace-and-test programme.

The coronavirus resurgence — believed to have started at the city's sprawling Xinfadi wholesale food market — has prompted alarm as China had largely brought its outbreak under control through mass testing and draconian lockdowns imposed earlier in the year.

The new cases took the number of confirmed infections in Beijing over the past five days to 106, as authorities locked down almost 30 communities in the city and tested tens of thousands of people.

China had eased much of its anti-coronavirus measures in

recent months as the government all but declared victory against the disease that emerged in Wuhan late last year. "The epidemic situation in the capital is extremely severe," Beijing city spokesman Xu Hejian warned at a press conference.

The World Health Organization had already expressed concern about the cluster, pointing to Beijing's size and connectivity.

Officials in the city said they would test stall owners and managers at all of its food markets, restaurants and government canteens. Zhao Honglei, manager of grocery chain store Shuguoyan, told AFP his 13 staff members had all tested negative.

Customers seemed reassured by the testing, he said, but online orders had increased tenfold in recent days.

"People are concerned that it might be crowded at shops or



they might get infected," he said. Beijing's testing capacity has been expanded to 90,000 a day, according to state news agency Xinhua. Retiree Wu Yaling, 57, was in a long queue of masked people waiting in the scorching heat for tests at a park opposite one city-centre hospital.

"I try not to go out as much as possible," she said, adding that her home is near one of the closed markets.

On Tuesday, the capital's transport commission banned taxi- and ride-hailing services

from carrying passengers out of the city, Xinhua said. All indoor sports and entertainment venues in Beijing were ordered to shut on Monday, while some other cities across China warned they would quarantine arrivals from the capital.

The National Health Commission also reported four new domestic infections in Hebei province, which surrounds the capital, and a case reported in Sichuan province was linked to the Beijing cluster. Authorities were racing to track people from Beijing who had travelled to other parts of China, and encouraging those who visited the capital to get tested.

MARKET INSPECTIONS

Beijing officials said Tuesday they had disinfected 276 agricultural markets and 33,000 food and beverage businesses, closing 11 markets.

Seven more residential estates were also locked down on Tuesday.

"Beijing's outbreak will probably be controlled quite quickly," said Wu Hulin, a 23-year-old tech worker in Xicheng district who got tested. "I think (China) is doing a better job compared to overseas." Officials had warned that, since May 30, 200,000 people had visited Xinfadi market, which supplies more than 70 percent of Beijing's fruit and vegetables.

More than 8,000 workers there had been tested and sent for quarantine. Until the new outbreak, most of China's recent cases were nationals returning as COVID-19 spread globally. China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention said Monday the virus type found in the Beijing outbreak was a "major epidemic strain" in Europe.

Covid-19 TRACKER

TOTAL CASES: 8,190,443

DEATHS: 4,42,712

RECOVERED: 4,270,661

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
USA	2,193,986	1,18,655
Brazil	9,04,734	44,657
Russia	5,45,458	7,284
UK	2,98,136	41,969
Spain	2,91,189	27,136
Italy	2,37,500	34,405
Peru	2,32,992	6,860
Iran	1,92,439	9,065

Cheap steroid drug dexamethasone lowers death risk among severe Covid-19 patients: Trials show

PTI ■ LONDON

Low doses of the steroid dexamethasone can reduce deaths by one-third in severely affected Covid-19 patients, according to researchers who assessed the performance of the inexpensive drug in more than 2,100 people.

The analysis is part of the RECOVERY (Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 tHERapY) trial which was established to test a range of potential therapies for Covid-19, including low-dose dexamethasone — a steroid treatment.

The RECOVERY trial included over 11,500 patients, enrolled from more than 175 hospitals in the UK, noted a statement published by the University of Oxford on Tuesday.

In the trial, a total of 2,104 patients were randomised to receive dexamethasone six milligrammes once per day — either by mouth or by intravenous injection — for ten days, and were compared with 4,321 patients randomised to usual care alone.

Among the patients who received usual care alone, mortality was highest in those who required ventilation (41 per cent), intermediate in those patients who required oxygen only (25 per cent), and lowest among those who did not require any respiratory intervention (13 per cent), the scientists said.

They found that dexamethasone reduced deaths by one-third in ventilated patients, and by one fifth in other patients receiving oxygen only.

However, the researchers said there was no benefit from dexamethasone among the patients who did not require respiratory support.

Based on these results, the scientists believe that the drug could prevent nearly one death in the treatment of around eight ventilated patients, or around 25 patients requiring oxygen alone.

"Dexamethasone is the first drug to be shown to improve survival in Covid-19. This is an extremely welcome result," said Peter Horby, one of the chief investigators of the trial from the University of Oxford in the UK.

"The survival benefit is clear and large in those patients who are sick enough to require oxygen treatment, so dexamethasone should now become standard of care in these patients," Horby said. The drug, according to the scientists, is inexpensive, on the shelf, and can be used immediately to save lives worldwide.

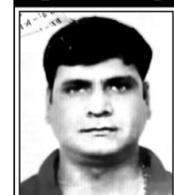
"These preliminary results from the RECOVERY trial are very clear — dexamethasone reduces the risk of death among patients with severe respiratory complications," said Martin Landray, another chief investigator of the trial from the University of Oxford.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location	30-Elect-13-T-2020-21-E3 Electrical work in connection with augmentation of electrical work at Rajlugarhi station left over by CONCOR.
Approx. cost of the works	Rs. 17.43 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 34,900.00.
Date & time of submission of tender	10.07.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	10.07.2020, 15.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.iregs.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

1367/2020
Serving Customers with a Smile

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Jitender Kapoor, @ Pankaj Kapoor, S/o Late Sh. Somnath Kapoor, R/o: H.No. F-6/116, Sec-15, Rohini, Delhi, Age: Approx 41 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Build: Medium, wearing Blue T-Shirt, Blue Jeans and Hawai Chappal in feet,** has been missing from his house since 11.06.2020. In this regard a DD No. 99A, dated 11.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail : cbc@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27571162, 27571171
SHO

Australia hits out at China, Russia for spreading 'disinformation'

Melbourne: Australia on Tuesday lashed out at China and Russia for spreading "disinformation" during the coronavirus pandemic and asserted that it would continue to push for reform of global bodies such as the WHO.

Delivering a speech at the Australian National University in Canberra, Foreign Minister Marise Payne underlined that the European Commission last week issued a report which revealed that foreign actors and countries, led by Russia and China, had carried out "targeted disinformation campaigns" aimed at undermining democratic debate and stoking confusion about the pandemic.

The following day, she said, Twitter suspended over 32,000 accounts linked to state-run propaganda operations in China, Russia and Turkey, the Sydney Morning Herald reported.

New Zealand is no longer coronavirus-free

AP ■ WELLINGTON

New Zealand is no longer free from the new coronavirus after health officials said two women who flew from London to see a dying parent had tested positive. But before they were tested, the women had been given an exemption to leave quarantine on compassionate grounds and had traveled from Auckland to Wellington by car.

Director-General of Health Ashley Bloomfield said that as part of their travel plan, the women had no contact with any people or any public facilities on their road trip.

Nevertheless, the new cases have sparked a round of testing in New Zealand for anybody who might have been close to the women.

That includes passengers and staff on their flights, which arrived via Brisbane in Australia, other people at the Auckland hotel they initially stayed at in quarantine, and a family member they met in Wellington.

Around the Globe

● Authorities in Berlin have placed 369 households under quarantine after dozens of people tested positive for the new coronavirus. Officials in the southern district of Neukoelln said the outbreak involved homes in seven different locations and in some cases with 10 people living together.

● Tanzania's president says the country will reopen schools at the end of this month after claiming victory over COVID-19. President John Magufuli's comments came a day after his PM said 66 people in Tanzania were still infected. Confusion has surrounded the East African nation after it stopped publicly updating its number of cases at the end of April.

● A new study by Public Health England has confirmed that historic racism and social inequalities are contributing factors that increase the risk of black and Asian people and members of other minority communities dying from the coronavirus in the UK. Britain's government has been under heavy pressure to do more to directly address the issue after data consistently showed that coronavirus death rates were significantly higher for black people and ethnic minorities compared to white Britons.

● Outdoor spaces in cafes and restaurants, museums and zoos have reopened in Russia's capital as part of easing coronavirus restrictions. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said last week that the city government would end the lockdown it imposed in late March. The steps taken Tuesday also allowed dental clinics to resume providing non-urgent treatment.

● A national survey of the psychological impact of coronavirus lockdowns on Italian children has quantified what many parents noticed offhand during weeks cooped up at home: Their kids were more irritable, had trouble sleeping and for some of the youngest, wept inconsolably and regressed developmentally. The survey, conducted by the Giannina Gaslini Pediatric Hospital in Genoa in conjunction with the University of Genoa, found those symptoms were more acute in families where the parents themselves were particularly stressed.

Sensex, Nifty advance on global rally

INDIA-CHINA TENSIONS CAP GAINS

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Indian equities on Tuesday followed upbeat global markets to capture the day's peak before losing momentum due to Indo-China border tensions that capped gains on benchmark indices. The BSE gauge Sensex settled 376.42 points or 1.13 per cent higher at 33,605.22. Intra-day, the index swung about 1,069 points, and briefly ventured into the negative territory in the later part of the session reacting to India-China standoff news. Likewise, the NSE barometer too fought a high volatility before ending 100.30 points or 1.02 per cent up at 9,914. On the Sensex chart, HDFC Bank was the top gainer, jumping around 4 per cent, followed by HDFC, ICICI Bank, Kotak Bank, Infosys and Hero MotoCorp.

On the other hand, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, Indusind Bank and ITC were among the laggards.

Of the Sensex constituents, 15 shares closed in the red and



as many scrips in the green. Sectorally, BSE finance, bank, metal, basic materials, IT and consumer durables indices rallied up to 2.39 per cent. While telecom, realty, power, utilities and FMCG indices ended in the red. In the broader market, midcap and smallcap indices jumped up to 0.37 per cent. Indian bourses tracked positive global markets after US Federal Reserve launched a massive programme to support businesses hit by the coronavirus lockdown, analysts said. The Fed announced its Main Street Lending Programme and an emergency

lifeline under which it will buy up to \$750 billion in corporate bonds. The plan is part of a massive financial backstop put in place by the bank to protect the economy from the worst of the virus crisis. "The border dispute between India and China resulted in volatility in the stock markets, on tensions of further escalation of dispute. This was in spite of steady global markets following the announcement of the US Fed Reserve's expanded bond-buying programme," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Gross direct tax collection falls 31%

As advance tax mop-up plunges 76% in June qtr

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Gross direct tax collection declined 31 per cent to ₹1,37,825 crore till June 15 of the current fiscal as advance tax mop-up plunged 76 per cent amid the coronavirus pandemic, an official said on Tuesday.

The Budget for 2020-21 has estimated a 12 per cent increase in gross tax collections at ₹24.23 lakh crore, from ₹21.63 lakh crore in FY20. The collection was lower in the last fiscal due to corporate tax rate cuts.

The budget target for direct taxes is ₹13.19 lakh crore, which is 28 per cent higher

than ₹10.28 lakh crore in FY20, as the Government expects a good response to the tax dispute settlement scheme 'Vivad se Vishwas'.

"Total advance collection fell a massive 76.05 per cent to ₹11,714 crore so far in the June quarter from ₹48,917 crore in the corresponding three-months in FY20," an income tax official told PTI. According to the official, advance corporate tax collection plummeted 79 per cent to ₹8,286 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal from ₹39,405 crore in the June 2019 quarter. The advance personal income tax collection declined 64 per cent to ₹3,428 crore from ₹9,512 crore in the year-ago period, the official added.

This has pulled down "gross direct tax collection by a full 31 per cent to ₹1,37,825 crore in the first quarter of

FY21, down from ₹1,99,755 crore in the June 2019 quarter," the official said.

The official also said after refunds, the total net direct tax collection is only ₹92,681 crore so far this fiscal, a decline of 32 per cent from ₹1,36,941 crore in the year-ago period. So far in the June quarter, the department has refunded ₹45,143 crore. It is 28 per cent lower than ₹62,813 crore that was refunded in the corresponding quarter last fiscal.

The last day to pay advance taxes was June 15 and assessee falling under the ambit of advance tax payment are required to pay 15 per cent of the evaluated tax liability in the first quarter, 25 per cent each in the next two quarters and the remaining 35 per cent in the fourth quarter.

Economists said the numbers are not surprising given

the shape of the economy and that the Government will miss the budgeted tax numbers given the impact of the pandemic-driven lockdown that has crippled the economy.

"The 31 per cent decline in gross direct tax collection and 32 per cent plunge in net collections is on the expected lines. This is pointing towards weak economic activities. Corporate tax collection is also impacted by cut in corporate tax rate in September 2019.

"Based on the evolving situation on the economic growth front in FY21, the probability of touching even last year's collection is low," Devendra Kumar Pant, the chief economist at India Rating said.

Echoing similar views, Aditi Nayyar, the chief economist at rating agency Ica, said the extent of contraction in net direct tax collection is in line

with the de-growth that is expected in the non-agricultural portion of the economy in the first quarter due to the lockdown.

She said that for FY21 as a whole, net tax revenue is likely to fall short by ₹3.9 lakh crore of the budget estimate.

The expected shortfall, she said, is based on the anticipated compression in consumption and income levels following the pandemic, the gain to the Government from the hikes in excise duty on fuels, and adjusting for lower-than-budgeted central tax devolution to the States. During the first two months of the June quarter, a nationwide lockdown was in place to control the spread of the coronavirus pandemic and it had also disrupted around 80 per cent of the economic activities in the country.

India ranked 43rd on IMD's World Competitiveness Index

Singapore on top

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India continues to remain ranked 43rd on an annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by Institute for Management Development with some traditional weaknesses like poor infrastructure and insufficient education investment keeping its ranking low, the international business school said on Tuesday.

Singapore has retained its top position on the 63-nation list. Denmark has moved up to the second position (from 8th last year), Switzerland has

gained one place to rank 3rd, the Netherlands has retained its 4th place and Hong Kong has slipped to the fifth place. US has moved down to 10th place (from 3rd last year), while China has also slipped from 14th to 20th place. Among the BRICS nations, India is ranked second after China, followed by Russia (50th), Brazil (56th) and South Africa (59th). India was ranked 41st on the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking, being produced by the business school based in Switzerland and Singapore every year since 1989, but had slipped to 45th in 2017 before improving to 44th in 2018 and then to 43rd in 2019.

Govt should loosen purse strings for swift recovery: BWR

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With coronavirus lockdown further precipitating downturn in the economy witnessed even before the COVID-19 crisis, swift recovery requires the Government to loosen its purse strings as only public spending can trigger economic revival, Brickwork Ratings said.

In a report on 'COVID-19 and Growth Challenges', it said a sharp downturn was witnessed in the economy even before the pandemic.

And the coronavirus battle had to be fought by a wounded economy.

Investment in debt mutual funds can help investors: Crisil

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Despite events like Franklin Templeton closing down schemes after COVID-19 outbreak, domestic rating agency Crisil on Tuesday said investing in debt mutual funds can help investors.

The rating agency's research wing suggested it is wise to invest in debt mutual funds and the investments can still pay but one needs to know how to invest their savings into it. It can be noted that earlier this year, Franklin Templeton shut its debt schemes citing market conditions with a commitment to pay unit holders over time and triggered a massive concern among the investor community. "...things aren't all bad. Indeed, dive a little deeper and there are streaks of silver - options among various categories of debt mutual funds that can help ride over the challenges being posed by the pandemic's economic blow," Crisil said in a note. It said equity markets are down 21 per cent from January 1 onward, and also acknowledged that the debt markets have not been spared either as over ₹1.94 lakh crore of outflows were recorded in March.

Tata Motors shares decline nearly 6% on Mar quarter loss

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Tata Motors on Tuesday fell by nearly 6% after the company reported a consolidated net loss of ₹9,863.73 crore in the fourth quarter ended March 2020. It tumbled 5.67% to close at ₹94.75 on the BSE. During the day, it tanked 8.41% to ₹92. On the NSE, stock of the company plunged 5.87% to close at ₹94.60. In traded volume terms, 108.45 lakh shares of the company were traded on the BSE and 21.54 crore shares on the NSE during the day. Tata Motors on Monday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹9,863.73 cr in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2020, with the coronavirus-induced lockdown taking a toll on British arm Jaguar Land Rover as well as its domestic business.

Sebi panel suggests measures to strengthen enforcement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A Sebi panel on Tuesday suggested measures to strengthen markets watchdog's enforcement mechanism and improve the system of recovery of siphoned off money.

The committee headed by former Supreme Court Judge Anil Dave has proposed method of quantification of profit made by the defaulter and loss caused to investors.

In addition, the committee has examined the insolvency, recovery and securities laws jurisprudence of India and abroad and suggested suitable changes in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code to ensure that insolvency law is not used as a refuge by defaulters, thereby protecting the interest of investors.

NHAI revamp in the offing; large-scale reforms needed: Nitin Gadkari

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is taking steps to revamp the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and large-scale reforms are needed further, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

NHAI has been mandated the task to develop, maintain and manage National Highways, the arterial roads of the country, for inter-state movement of passengers and goods.

The total length of National Highways at present is about 1.5 lakh km, about 2 per cent of the length of all the roads, but they carry about 40 per cent of the total traffic.

"We are taking steps for revamp of NHAI...Major reforms are needed in the Authority," the Road Transport

Tanmay Kumar, appointed as Govt Nominee Director of NHPC



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tanmay Kumar, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Power has been appointed as Government Nominee Director on the Board of NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company, with effect from 11th June 2020. Currently, as Joint Secretary in Ministry of Power, Government of India, Shri Kumar is looking after Transmission Sector, PGCIL, POSOCO (Power System Operation Corporation Limited) and Grid Integration of Renewable Energy amongst other assignments. Shri Kumar is a 1993 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre and is a B.Tech and M.Tech from the prestigious IIT, Delhi.

Shri Kumar has served in various capacities in Rajasthan Government for about 27 years. He was Collector and District-Magistrate of Bharatpur, Alwar and Kota continuously for more than 6 years. He then served in the Chief Minister's Office for 3 years in the first instance as Deputy Secretary, Special Secretary and then as Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister. Later, Shri Kumar served as Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister for 5 years (2013-2018) in the second instance.

भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय,
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (मध्य)
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
Regiona office (central Region)

केन्द्रीय भवन, पंचम तल, सेक्टर एच, अलीगंज लखनऊ - 260224
Kendriya Bhawan, 5th Floor, Sector H, Aliganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 260224, Telefax :2326696, 2324340, 2324047, 2324025
Email : (Env.)m_env@rediffmail.com, (Forest)goinfo@rediffmail.com

पत्र सं. 8वीं/राज/09/09/2018/एफ.सी./1589 दिनांक 06.03.2020

सेवा में,
शासन सचिव (वन)
राजस्थान सरकार
जयपुर, राजस्थान।

Online Proposal No. : FP/RI/Others/14078/2015

विषय :- Diversion of 0.998 ha. (1.875 हे० पू०) of forest land in favour of Municipal Council Sikar for construction of Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) & Over Head Water Tank, Devipura Bid Sikar District Sikar.

सन्दर्भ :- शासन सचिव (वन), राजस्थान का पत्रांक-1(8)वन/2008, दिनांक-04.02.2020

महोदय,
उपरोक्त विषय पर शासन सचिव, राजस्थान शासन, जयपुर का पत्रांक-1(8)/2018/जयपुर दिनांक-28.02.2018 का आशय ग्रहण करने का कष्ट करे, जिसके द्वारा विषयवर्तिका प्रस्ताव पर वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 की धारा (2) के अन्तर्गत भारत सरकार की स्वीकृति मांगी थी।

प्रस्तुत अनुपालना पर विचारोपयान्त मुझे आपको यह सूचित करने का निर्देश हुआ है कि केन्द्र सरकार उपरोक्त विषयवर्तिका परियोजना हेतु कुल 0.998 हे० (1.875 हे० पू०) सरलित वनभूमि के प्रत्यावर्तन एवं 213 युक्तों के पतन की सैद्धान्तिक स्वीकृति निम्नलिखित शर्तों पर प्रदान करती है:-

- Legal status of the forest land shall remain unchanged.
- Compensatory afforestation shall be taken up by the Forest Department over 1.875 ha. equivalent non-forest land in (Compartment/Khasra No. 586, Village-Bhagega, Tehsil-Neemkathana, District-Sikar) at the cost of the user agency. As far as practicable a mixture of local indigenous species will be planted and monoculture of a species has to be avoided.
- The cost of compensatory afforestation at the prevailing wage rates as per compensatory afforestation scheme and the cost of survey, demarcation and erection of permanent pillars if required on the CA land shall be deposited in advance with the Forest Department by the project authority. The CA will be maintained for 10 Years. The scheme may include appropriate provision for anticipated cost increase for works scheduled for subsequent years.
- Non forest land has to be transferred and mutated in favour of State Forest Department. This non forest land should be notified as Reserved Forest/Protect Forest within a span of one year from date of grant of final approval.
- The State Government shall charge the Net Present Value (NPV) of the 0.998 ha. forest area to be diverted under this proposal from the User Agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 30/10/2002, 01/08/2003, 28/03/2008, 24/04/2008 and 09/05/2008 in IA No. 566 in WP (C) No. 202/1995 and as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry vide letters No. 5-1/1998-FC (P.I.I) dated 18/09/2003, as well as letter No. 5-2/2006-FC dated 03/10/2006 and 5-3/2007-FC dated 05/02/2008 in this regard.
- Additional amount of the NPV of the diverted forest land, if any, becoming due after finalization of the same by the Hon'ble. Supreme Court of India on receipt of the report from the Expert Committee, shall be charged by the State Government from the User Agency. The User agency shall furnish an undertaking to this effect.
- The cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the user agency with the State Forest Department.
- User agency shall restrict the felling of trees to minimum number in the diverted forest land and the trees shall be felled under the strict supervision of the State Forest Department and the cost of felling of trees shall be deposited by the User Agency with the State Forest Department.
- The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without prior approval of Central Government.
- No labour camp shall be established on the forest land.
- Sufficient firewood, preferably the alternate fuel, shall be provided by the User Agency to the labourer after purchasing the same from the State Forest Department of the Forest Development Corporation or any other legal source of alternate fuel.
- The boundary of the diverted forest land shall be suitably demarcated on ground at the project cost, as per the directions of the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.
- No additional or new path, will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work.
- The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease 10 be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less.
- The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the project proposal.
- The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agencies, department or person without prior approval of Govt. of India.
- Violation of any of these conditions will amount to violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and action would be taken as per the MoEF&CC Guideline F. No. 11-42/2017-FC dt 29/01/2018.
- Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development, of the forest & wildlife.
- All the funds received from the user agency under the project shall be transferred/deposited to CAMPFA fund only through e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in).
- The compliance report shall be uploaded on e-portal (https://parivesh.nic.in).

भवदीया,
(प्राची गुंजावर)
उप वन महानिरीक्षक (केन्द्रीय)

राज.संवाद/सी/20/1063

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Raj S/o Shankar Bose R/o H. No. 88, Station Block, Prem Nagar, Delhi.** Age: 15 Yrs., Height: 5'5", shallow Complexion, Face: Round, hair black. Wearing blue jeans pant and black colour shirt, white shoes is missing since 26.05.2020 from the area of PS Prem Nagar, Delhi.

In this regard case DD No. 65-A, dt. 27.05.2020 has been lodged at PS Prem Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped boy, but no clue has come to light so far.

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

E-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph.: 011-24368638
011-24368641
DP/165/RD/2020

S.H.O.,
P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi.
Ph.: 011-25489080

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name: Unknown, S/o Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 35-40 years, Sex : Male, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing : Blue Colour Shirt and blue Colour jeans & black Colour Sleeper in feet** was found Near Delhi Jal Board, Asaf Ali Road, Delhi Gate, Darya Ganj, Delhi, on 08.06.2020 In this regard, a DD No. 31-A, dated 08.06.2020 has been lodged at PS Darya Ganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours at the mortuary of MAMC Hospital, Delhi for identification.

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 may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S., Darya Ganj, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23274683, 23279331

DP/150/CD/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one dead body of male, name and address unknown. Age: about 30 Yrs, Height: 5'7", Complexion: wheatish, face long, build medium, Wearing white colour lungi, one towel saffron colour on solder. ID Mark: Mole on right face has been found at Main road Burari, Near Nirankari Parking, Satsang Ground Footpath in the area of PS Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 18A, dt. 14.05.2020 U/s 174 CrPC has been lodged at PS Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.

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

S.H.O.,
P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.
Ph.: 011-27654675, 27653334

DP/198/NW/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Bhaneshwari @ Salu D/o Sunder Lal R/o D-152 DCM Colony, Nathupur, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Swaroop Nagar, Delhi since 05.06.2020. In this regard, a case vide DD No. 064A Dated 05.06.2020 has been registered at P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped female is as under.

Age: 20 Years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'3", Face: Long, Hair: Black, ID: Mole on the Chin, Wearing: Green colour Suit, yellow colour pajami and chunni. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing female then please inform P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbl.gov.in and Website: http://cbl.nic.in

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi
Ph: 011-27811415, 27811738, 7065036327

DP/267/ON/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 25-30 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Built: Thin, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Pink Colour Shirt, Black colour Jeans Pant and Sport Shoes, was found Dead in the front of Shop No. 6039 Nand Milk Wala Naya Bans, Delhi 06, in the Area of Ps. Lahori Gate, Delhi on 10.06.2020.**

In this regard a DD No. 8A, dated 10.06.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi. Dead Body has been kept preserved in Subzi Mandi Hospital Mortuary for 72 hours for identification.

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 may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi
DP/281/N/2020(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23953776, 8750870122

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Bitto S/o Sh. Bhagwan, R/o H.No. Z-253, Gali No.7 Near Dhruv Public School, Prem Nagar-IInd, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 25.05.2020 from the area of PS: Prem Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 17-A dated 26.05.2020 has been lodged at PS, Prem Nagar, Delhi. The description of Missing/kidnapped boy is as under:

Name : Bitto, Father's Name : Bhagwan, Age : 26 years, Height : 5'6", Face : Round, Built: Thin, Complexion : Wheatish, Wearing :White Shirt and green coloured trouser, chappal in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : http://cbl.nic.in
e-mail : cic@cbl.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641

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

DP/153/RD/2020

Double-edged prep

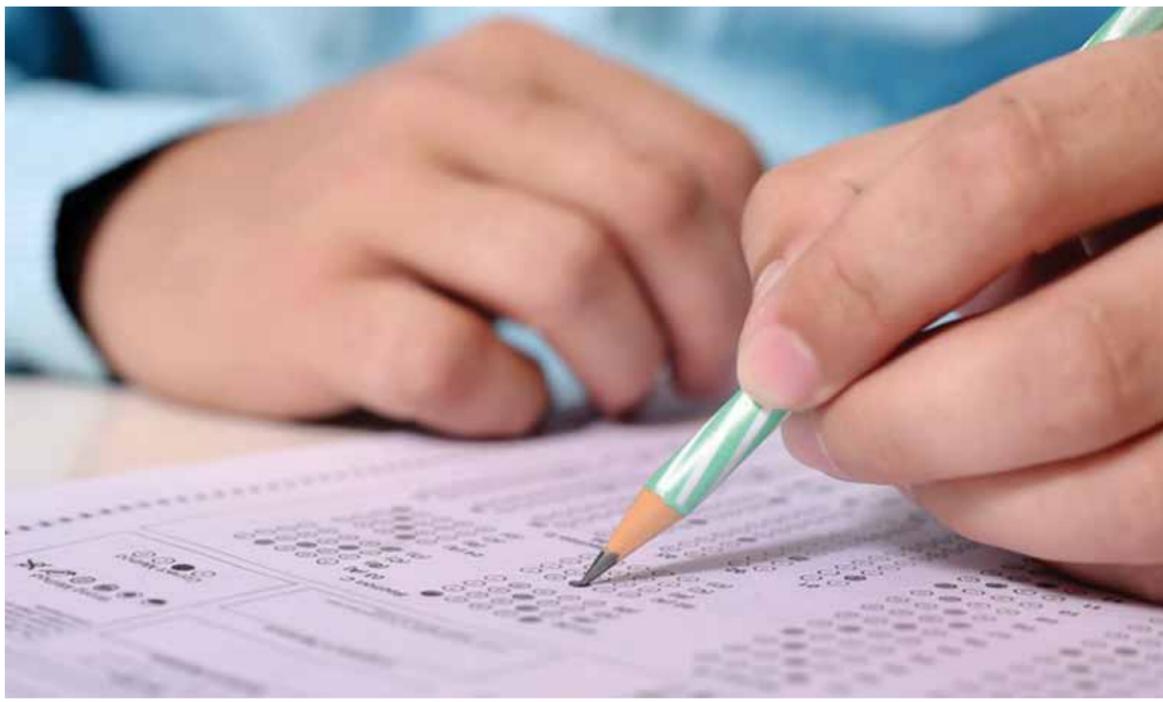
COVID-19 and JEE Main have posed a double challenge on students. With only one month left for the exam, it's time for students to gear up. RAMESH BATLISH shares tips that can help

The JEE Main 2020 is conducted by The National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission to undergraduate programmes in NTIs, IITs and other Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs), in the next academic year (2020-2021) in two phases, the first phase for Admissions to BE/BTech (Paper-1) & BArch/B Planning (Paper-2) was held from Jan 6 to Jan 11, 2020 and the second phase for admissions to BE/BTech (Paper-1) & BArch/B Planning (Paper-2) earlier scheduled in April, will now be held between July 18 to July 23, 2020. Students have the option to appear in one or both phases. The result will however consider the students' performance in the best of the two phases. Due to COVID-19 students had the option to change their test centres till May 3 as earlier announced by NTA.

The JEE Main Paper 1 will be conducted in two sessions per day and the candidates will be allotted slots keeping in mind social distancing and students will also be required to adhere to safety measures while taking the exam. The safety guidelines will be made available to the students in their e-hall tickets which will be issued to the students. For appearing in the JEE (Main) examination there is no age limit for the candidates. The candidates who have passed Class XII/ equivalent examination in 2018, 2019 or appearing in 2020 irrespective of their age can appear in JEE (Main) examination — 2020.

Study plan in the last one month:
The last one month should generally be utilised to consolidate one's preparation by focusing on revision at a glance, problem solving and overcoming the weaker areas in preparation. However, the following points should be kept in mind:

- Build your immunity to stay physically and mentally fit.
- Remain focused and maintain a positive attitude while studying.
- Develop speed by solving quizzes/Mock Tests of JEE Main level problems with time management.
- Speed & Accuracy will be your key to success in JEE Main
- Take Online mock-test series to build a winning exam temperament.
- Sample papers will give you a fair idea about the pattern of questions and help one improve time management.
- Solve the previous year's JEE/AIEEE



papers for understanding the level of questions asked.

- Focus on your weaker areas and improve your concepts.
- Remember it is the quality of time spent and not the quantity alone. Hence, take short breaks of five to ten minutes after every one or two hours of serious study. Relax completely when you take a break.
- Practice meditation to develop inner calm, poise, confidence and power of concentration.
- Don't overstress yourself. Relaxation exercises may help to regain freshness. Avoid over-sleeping during the day.
- If one has the right attitude required towards preparation for the JEE Main, then even an average student can crack it.
- Finally, don't be nervous if you find the paper tough since it is the relative performance that counts. Put your best analytical mind to work and

believe in your preparation.

Strategy to attempt the questions in JEE(Main) paper:

Sometimes the Right Strategy and Time Management play a vital role in deciding the rank for an aspirant. So, one must be quick enough to adapt to the level of the paper and act promptly. The following points may however be kept in mind when attempting the questions.

Dos:

- Attempt easy questions first.
- Choose sections that have less risk and more gain.
- Carefully scroll through the entire question paper in the first five minutes.
- Keep a check on time while attempting the paper.
- Attempt all numerical based type questions first as there is no negative marking.

Don'ts

- Don't start from question you don't know.

■ Don't get upset if any section is tough. You can score in other sections.

■ Don't guess if you have no idea about the concept involved in a question.

■ Don't be nervous if you find the paper tough, since it is the relative performance that counts. Hence, put your best analytical mind to work, it will take you ahead.

Key points that will decide your Rank in JEE Main (Paper-1):

- How well you have mastered the important topics in each of Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics.
- How much practice you have done on similar levels of questions as asked in JEE Main.
- How well you have perfected on your timing of solving an objective type question.
- How much attention you have given to time management & Strategy apart from covering your syllabi.
- How much calm & confident you are

when you take up the actual exam.

Tips for the JEE(Main)-final exam day & a day before:

- Think positively and don't discuss about your preparation as this may indirectly make you nervous even if you are well prepared. Don't talk anything about JEE (Main) with others.
- One day before JEE Main, do not study anything new.
- Stay calm, confident and trust yourself.
- Brush up important formulae in all three subjects.
- Relax yourself or indulge in meditation a day before the actual exam in order to give your best on the exam day.
- Don't ask your friend how much they have studied. It will create unnecessary pressure.
- Have a sound sleep for at least six-seven hours.

The writer is FIITJEE expert

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Reading, after a certain age, diverts the mind too much from its creative pursuits. Any man who reads too much and uses his own brain too little falls into lazy habits of thinking.

— Albert Einstein

New high for SRMIST

The SRM Institution of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur has been ranked 21 among Indian universities by the Nature Index 2020. The ranking was done based on Nature Index data from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

Among the four broad subject areas, SRMIST ranked 19th in India for Chemistry and 28th in Physical Sciences. The Nature Index also ranked SRMIST 5th in India among Nature and Science journal group. Some of the top articles by altmetric score in current window are: 'The GenomeAsia 100k Project enables genetic discoveries across Asia' which was published in Nature (December 2019) and 'A bacteriophage nucleus-like compartment shields DNA from

CRISPR nucleases' published in Nature (December 2019). Apart from this SRMIST's overall publications has reached 22,000 as on date (put together in all Indexing Databases). Our university's h-index has increased to 83 (Scopus based).

The nature index is a database of author affiliations and institutional relationships. The index tracks contributions to research articles published in 82 high-quality natural science journals, chosen by an independent group of researchers.

This index provides absolute and fractional counts of article publication at the institutional and national level and, as such, is an indicator of global high-quality research output and collaboration.

CS exams postponed

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, after considering the prevalent situation due to COVID-19 pandemic, has decided to further postpone its June-2020 Session Examinations of Foundation Programme, Executive Programme, Professional Programme and Post Membership Qualification (PMQ) scheduled to be held from July 6 to July 6, 2020.

The examinations of the above session will now be held from August 18 to August 28, 2020.

Accordingly the 1st CS Executive Entrance Test (CSEET) is also postponed from July 17, 2020 to August 29, 2020 and the last date for registration for CSEET is now July 27, 2020.

The Company Secretaryship Course, one of the most sought after professional course, with its set pattern and syllabus conducts its examination twice a year throughout the country and in Dubai.

As ICSI President, CS Ashish Garg said: "While on the forefront, it is only the students visible as giving Examinations and the Institute conducting them, a closer look would reveal that the entire ICSI Examination Process is an edifice of the collaborative efforts of many. The examination centres, invigilating staff, support staff, ICSI Members as general observers and Team ICSI, all are equally involved in the smooth and successful conduct of CS Examinations".

The examination time-table is available on the institute's website: www.icsi.edu.

Less artificial, more intelligent

Given the speed of technological advancements and its integration into businesses, the demand for management professionals with a comprehensive skill set of artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data analytics, and blockchain, will continue to rise, says DR JITENDRA K DAS

The world is witnessing the biggest disruption phase of all time, which is being led by technology. In recent years, there has been a huge surge in how the Internet of Things and technological advancements are influencing business strategies world over. Subsequently, artificial intelligence has made its way into the B-school curriculum for management programmes.

As organisations invest heavily in AI and ML technology, it raises the demand for a newer version of management courses, the one which is compatible with the technological innovations and ever-growing specialised knowledge. Since a major chunk of millennials, looking forward to a career in management, will be the future business leaders, it is imperative to train them on business trends to make them industry-ready.

The global AI market size is expected to grow by USD 75.54 billion during 2019-2023, growing at a CAGR of over 33 per cent, according to a new report by Technavio.

There is an increasing demand for professionals with skills and advanced knowledge to develop, evaluate and implement AI-enabled applications and strategies into business processes. Given the speed of technological advancements and its integration into businesses, the



demand for management professionals with a comprehensive skill set of artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data analytics, and blockchain, will continue to rise in years to come.

Artificial Intelligence, having the capability to perform undertakings with ease, speech recognition, and visual perception, is being increasingly adopted by organisations to achieve enhanced efficiency. AI can analyse the significant scattered information which otherwise is a cumbersome process if done manually. It is helping business enthusiasts make smarter choices and effective business decisions.

AI-driven curriculum in business schools

Various important components must form a part of AI curriculum in management schools. To elaborate, the basis for teaching AI to management students has to be different from algorithm or computer science perspective, what AI is typically believed to be. It should be rather focussed on principles of information systems and knowledge representation to make students understand how programmes can find solutions to problems with AI integration.

AI curriculum targeting future business leaders should be focussed on engaging them with issues of immense possibilities, substantial challenges, and problems. It will teach them how to meet the common problems of businesses in a technology-driven way— competition, market growth, branding, market growth, employee management, and productivity. The curriculum should be able to help students grasp that AI has the potential to affect and disrupt all these aspects of the business.

There are various areas where AI can help future business leaders. Let's dig deep into the direct uses of Artificial Intelligence in businesses. AI has the potential to under-

stand behavioural tendencies in the existing data, thereby, profiting businesses to focus on correct clients for an item. AI can make sales and marketing more proficient as it can pull out behavioural tendencies of the client thereby enabling customised promotion.

Talent acquisition with the integration of AI, can be made easier beyond imagination as HR managers don't need to go through a pile of resumes manually.

Artificial Intelligence, by augmenting and automating, can help in keeping up an efficient store network which, generally, relies on crowds of factors.

Artificial Intelligence is gaining immense popularity globally. E-commerce giants and start-ups are on a continuous hunt to find suitable candidates who are adept in AI and data science.

The premier management colleges that produce top-notch management professionals are increasingly integrating AI into their management curriculum and offering several related courses such as Descriptive and Predictive Analytics, Advanced Business Analytics, Forecasting Models and Enterprise Resource Planning.

The writer is Director, FORE School of Management

Cultivate a growing career

There is a need for skilled workforce which can make use of both agriculture management and technology. An MBA in Agribusiness could be a good option, says DR ASMITA CHITNIS

Agribusiness in our country is one of the fastest growing yet oldest sectors. However, it is also one of the most unorganised sectors. Currently, it is the sector of high commercial importance and has evolved from low-level farming to commercial farming. In India, out of the total food products, only 14 percent is processed and about 35 percent of the food is expended during packaging and transportation. This lack of expertise and knowledge has led to the emergence of a new sector called Agribusiness which has the need for skilled agribusiness professionals.

Modern farms and agricultural operations work far differently than those a few decades ago, primarily because of advancements in technology, including sensors, devices, machines, and information technology. Today's agriculture routinely uses sophisticated technologies such as robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images, and GPS technology. These advanced devices and precision agriculture and robotic systems allow businesses to be more profitable, efficient, safer, and more environmentally friendly. However, in order to use this technology effectively there is a need for skilled workforce who has enough knowledge of both technology and agriculture management.



more, they have to go back to their traditional occupation which is farming.

It is an opportune time to help these farmers by promoting Agri-innovations, entrepreneurship, and technology to improve productivity post-COVID-19. Precision farming methods could pave the way for optimising cost of production with an objective to achieve food security in the post-COVID-19 scenario.

In order to achieve these goals there is a need of skilled workforce who can make use of both agriculture management and technology.

MBA in Agribusiness could be a very good option to acquire this knowledge which broadly covers subjects like Rural and Retail Marketing, Microfinance, Agri Supply Chain Management and Agri Import Export Management. These subjects cover various aspects of agriculture management while touching upon the importance of technology to drive the business successfully.

Thus, it's quite evident that agribusiness has a bright future going forward and one can be a part of this growth story by getting educated in this sector from a reputed institute.

The writer is Director, Symbiosis Institute of International Business

Building fitness trainers online

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Just after brief information about the steroids, GSB academy is back with another initiative of teaching and preparing fitness trainers online. In its last update, they shared their idea to make the country steroid-free.

This time they have started online courses for fitness trainers aspirants. The Coronavirus pandemic has deeply damaged almost every industry however, considering the need of the hour and the conspicuous interest the academy is all set to deliver the best fitness knowledge.

The course contains a lot of new practices that will not just teach about

the syllabus but will also update learners on how to handle a client when not in close proximity.

All it takes a little will to enroll with all fitness aspirants, great ideas and motivation.

The academy has internationally certified team to look after every corner of the syllabus which they have been following for the past 15-years and also they have a exhaustive level of knowledge in terms of nutrition. The owner has nearly 50 certifications in fitness, nutrition, ergogenic, steroids, lifestyle and weight management courses.

For more information students can visit gsbfit.com.

ILAMED's Msc programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Institute of Laser & Aesthetic Medicine (ILAMED) brings you an MSc programme in Plasma & Aesthetic Laser Medicine (MSc PALM) of the University of Greifswald, Germany with the teaching staff of DALM Post Graduate Programme from Germany, Austria & Switzerland; Stavropol State Medical University, Russia; Kwangwoon University, Seoul; Leibniz Institute of

Plasma Technology, Germany.

The duration of this course is two and a half years (part time) and contains lectures, seminars and hands-on practice, where the students will implement and test; acquired knowledge under clinical and practical conditions, as well as record experiences and individually prepare suitable treatment procedures.

On the other hand, a scientific focus where the students will gain an extensive

interdisciplinary overview of available methods and possibilities and acquire the ability to scientifically handle methods and their principles in photonic sciences.

The post-graduate education is targeted towards alumni and graduates of all higher education professions involved into research, development and clinical application of laser medicine, not only in aesthetic medicine.

Access pre-requisites are a state-approved university degree with professional qual-

ification in human medicine. ILAMED is the international incharge of the programme for conducting the programme in English language for the non-German speaking world.

After finishing the post-graduate education, students will have interdisciplinary in-depth knowledge and skills across the area of applied and scientific photonic medicine. For more information, students can visit www.ilamed.org or call on +919650500965/9599224093.

USMS ranks 57 in NIRF

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Management School of IP University — University School of Management Studies (USMS) has bagged

57th position in NIRF 2020 ranking released by the HRD ministry. It has improved its rank this year; its rank was 62 last year in the ranking.

USMS is one of the oldest schools of the university. It offers

studies of management upto the level PhD. Apart from regular MBA, it also offers Executive MBA for working professionals and MBA in Financial Markets.

It is a great achievement for the university as the niche has carved a niche for itself in tough fight for ranking under hundred, mostly dominated by well known management schools of the country.

CHOOSE WISELY



Statistically, one-third of the people see their work as a job and not a career. It is time that we understand the difference between the two and plan the future accordingly, says ABHINAV SEKHRI

Long gone are the days when the majority of people would complete school, find themselves a job, and then stay with that employer for the rest of their working lives. While we understand that work or a job takes up a major part of the human experience, consuming most of the part of our life along with contributing to one's heightened sense of self-worth and individual identity. But statistically speaking, nearly a third of the generation sees their work as a mere job rather than a career or even a stepping stone, for that matter, to move towards a career they're passionate about.

But isn't having a job and a career just the same? The answer to this viable question is, 'no'. With the passage of time, the difference between the two terms has blurred beyond reconciliation. It's time that one understands the difference between a job and career. A job is an activity that an individual performs in order to fuel his livelihood, a career involves many such activities that an individual undertakes in order to pursue his passion. In other words, a job fits you in a position of regular employment, which is paid. Conversely, a career potentially implies the progress of an individual in a particular profession of choice.

This explicitly explains, while one can always work hard at a job and even get paid a handsome

amount for the same, a career takes much more motivation and forward-thinking into regard. Due to the very same reason, students should worry more about making a career for themselves then bagging a job. We say so with conviction because the secret to happiness is being able to love whatever it is you do in life. You can make your personal goals a part of your career than work for a typical job which doesn't entice you.

How do you make the right choice of choosing the right course which will ultimately build up your career? Check out our boiled down version of some useful tips that will help you choose the right course to kick-start your career.

The most important thing that you need to consider while choosing your course is to ask 'why?' Why are you looking to study it? Is it that you want to build a career in it by extending your skillset — if yes, then you should go ahead and choose a course in a subject that offers a natural progression to your existing qualifications and skills. Studying a subject can sometimes be a one-way route, so be sure to fully research your prospective careers and employment opportunities. Next step is to think consciously. Think about interests and decide on the course one would further want to gain your expertise in. You need to contemplate on the very thought, that are you choos-

Studying overseas can be heavy on your pocket, so take it as an investment in your future, in terms of your career and salary both. You can try to speak to the college alumni network or find out where the other international students at that university have worked after graduation

ing this course because you can see your exciting, glittering career ahead? Or is it that your decision is influenced by what your parents want? By regressively questioning yourself now, you can map out the exact path and course you would want to walk on.

There are essentially two parts to where would you like to study. You will have to find out the best country that offers extensive courses in your subject area, affirm that it has plenty of internships along with some graduate work opportunities. Or look for a city with access to specific resources, for instance, if you want to pursue marine biology, you can consider studying the world's largest coral reef in Australia and learn right at the source?

Another way of looking at it can be: Where in the world would you like to live for good four-five years of your life. This decision will also come with opportunities to learn a new language, make new friends and create new experiences of life.

Least to say, if you're happy and settled in your new life, you may double your chances of excelling in your profession, too.

The best way to do one's homework is by narrowing down all your options to about five real and practical choices. It does take a lot of research - you can start by reading student blogs over the web to

understand the base reality and see what it's really like. The fact about those glossy prospectuses is that they don't always tell you the full story, so it's always better to talk to the people you know who have studied in that country or college and gauge all the plausible information.

The next step is to weigh your career prospects. Studying overseas can be heavy on your pocket, so take it as an investment in your future, in terms of your career and salary both. You can try to speak to the college alumni network, find out where the other international students at that university have worked after graduation or even meet the industry leaders during the tenure of your course.

Details are important. Every subject has the scope of studying so many different options, so it's always a good exercise to explore the most specific interest you have.

Yes, you are allowed to make mistakes. If at any moment you realise that this is not what you want to do, you can talk to the student counselor on your campus and seek advice. You can try other options instead of spending the next five years staring at the textbooks which do not coincide with your passion.

So, choose a course and career that matches your interests and skillset, and also the lifestyle you prefer.

The writer is CEO-founder, Admission24

'Online education can be beneficial'

The pandemic has already encouraged institutes to plan their online programmes to maintain social distancing norms, thus ensuring a continuation in the learning process, says DR RL RAINA

At a time when the rough draft version of the India's new education policy encouraged Indian institutions to develop their own online programmes, the global Coronavirus pandemic has already paved the way for it. Social distancing and self-quarantine measures to cease the spread of novel coronavirus have made, the higher education institutes to suspend their classes and adhere to the online teaching and training process to continue the education.

Through online learning, both teachers and students can make use of a wide array of resources that are available on the internet for teaching. It's one of the easiest modes for students, provided they have good Internet bandwidth. One can enjoy it to the fullest and make best use of this form of learning if he follows self-discipline, time management skills, determination and a strong motivation like the classroom education.

India has the most number of people using smartphones and other technologies like the US and China. And, the rise in the usage of the Internet has changed the way of life in India. People like to do everything online, they shop online, do business online, make friends online, learn online, order food online, book cabs online among others. Then why not learning online? Online education and learning also stand right next to the evolving e-commerce industry. Internet is already loaded with ever-increasing information available and the countless number of online courses many people in India prefer to learn online designed by various universities. As a part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India project, many colleges and universities have already started offering online correspondence courses.

Here are some of the benefits of online teaching/training:

Managing the poor teacher-student ratio: In India, mostly colleges and universities have less faculty members as compared to the growing number of students and that's the reason some students can't utilize their time effectively during classroom learning. But through online



Dr RL Raina
Vice-chancellor, JK LakshmiPat University, Jaipur

training this gap can be bridged. A teacher can overview all the students through online learning and share guidance to each student separately. Students can even learn on their own and can do extensive research on a particular subject. It has also made the education process instant.

Curation of robust content: This will help our education and learning process more advanced. Teacher and students can build out the resources they would be needing for course topics. This is how through an online format, one can build upon a robust curated libraries of content. To make it easier for future reference, one can tag them and organise them properly. This in a way not only help the students in gaining knowledge but also help them to form a bond with their teachers.

Online academic learning cannot replace face-to-face teaching: Besides, our teachers need training to be online tutors. With elite schools turning to 'online only' instruction, disparity between privileged schools and affordable schools are bound to widen due to varying contexts in the students' home environment.

In just a matter of few months, the face of education in India has changed. With the Coronavirus spreading across the globe, countries have been taking numerous swift actions to lessen the development of a full-blown pandemic. According to a report, the OECD estimated that over 421 million children are affected due to school closures announced or implemented in 39 countries.

The decision of launching PM eVidya programme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government is a stepping stone towards revolutionising the education sector, which was reeling under the adverse effect of the massive lockdown to cease the spread of the deadly virus. The programme aims to provide a multi-mode access to digital education so that 100

Indian universities can start online courses immediately. Digital education has emerged as a clear winner during this pandemic around the world. The PM eVidya programme is also encouraging for students, who were quite perturbed about their future thinking whether regular classes will take place this year or not.

Here are the trends that could be at the forefront of future transformations:

Change in education could lead greatest innovations: We have lamented numerous times about the slow-pace change in the education process be it outdated classrooms, lecture-based approaches to teaching. However, with COVID-19, the whole world has adapted to the innovative solutions in a relatively short period of time.

MINDIT

For example: In one Nigerian school, standard asynchronous online learning tools (reading material via Google Classroom), were augmented with synchronous face-to-face video instruction, to help preempt school closures. Students in Hong Kong started to learning at home via interactive apps.

The 4G and 5G technology in countries like China, the US, Japan and India, have promoted the initiative of learning anywhere, anytime of digital education in a range of formats. Traditional in-person classroom learning will be complemented with new

learning modalities — from live broadcasts to educational influencers to virtual reality experiences.

The digital divide has expanded: Most schools in affected areas have come up with digital teaching to continue the education process. But, it has been seen that the quality of learning is dependent upon the quality and access of the digital platforms. After all, only around 60 per cent of the globe's population is online. Many students are relying on lessons and assignments sent via WhatsApp or email. The situation is not the same in less-affluent societies. When classes

transition online, these children lose out because of the cost of digital devices and data plans. Unless access costs decrease and quality of access increase in all countries, the gap in education quality, and thus socioeconomic equality will be further exacerbated.

Time to build resilience: The wide spread of COVID-19 has at least taught us how to become resilient during this pandemic time. We have to be quick in adjusting with various threats right from pandemic disease to extremist violence to climate insecurity, and even, yes, rapid technological change. The most important skills, which are needed based on the informed decision making, creative problem solving, and perhaps above all, adaptability.

To ensure those skills remain a priority for all students, resilience must be built into our educational systems as well.

Public-private educational partnerships have come for the rescue: The moment the lockdown was announced, we have seen many collaborations taking place, with diverse stakeholders — Governments, publishers, education professionals, technology providers, and telecom network operators. They all are coming together to promote how to utilise digital platforms. This initiative has been a saving grace for many emerging countries, where education has predominantly been provided by the Government.

The writer is Dr Narendra Shyamsukha, Founder-chairman, ICA Edu Skills

Scholarship
skills set." Application deadline: It is June 30, 2020.

The Udacity has collaborated with Microsoft to confer scholarship for its all new Machine Learning Nanodegree programme in Microsoft Azure. The new scholarship programme represents the first of several programmes. The scholarship will be conferred in two phases. After reviewing the applications, 10,000 selected candidates will be enrolled to pursue the first phase of scholarship.

The phase begins with a two-month-long foundation course in introduction to machine learning on Azure with a low-code experience. This is a single course focused on completing pre-requisites for the full nanodegree programme.

Speaking about the scholarships, Gabriel Dalporto, CEO of Udacity said: "With the Alcontinuing to grow at a fast pace and AI engineers in high demand, especially as more enterprises build new cloud applications and move old ones to the cloud, our training programme presents an amazing opportunity for those looking to further expand their skill set. We're excited to partner with Microsoft to create professionals with these specialised

The Humber College invites applications for full and partial renewable tuition grants for new international undergraduate students for September intake.

Eligibility: Students coming directly from high school/secondary school studies, who are non-transfer holders (haven't attended college or university, or studied in Humber's EAP programme), and are unlimited in quantity. Applications will be considered based on academics, community involvement, referee/reference letters and statement of interest. Applicants must have a previous degree. Applications will be considered based on academics, community involvement, referee/reference letters and statement of interest.

Language requirement: Applicants demonstrate their English language proficiency ensures they are prepared for the rigors of the academic curriculum and able to successfully complete any work-place components of the program (such as co-op placements).

International candidates can apply. **How to apply:** Visit the official website.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is August 15, 2020.

TEACHING (JAVA/DATA STRUCTURES) AT UPGRAD

Location: Delhi, Pune, Saharanpur, Noida, Nashik
Stipend: ₹25,000-₹30,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4324393
Application deadline: July 9, 2020

PYTHON DEVELOPMENT AT DEVKRAFT TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4324394
Application deadline: July 8, 2020

PHOTOGRAPHY AT INFLENS

Location: Delhi, Noida
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4324395
Application deadline: July 8, 2020

CONTENT WRITING AT CLICKRETINA

Location: Lucknow
Stipend: ₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4324396
Application deadline: July 8, 2020

CUSTOMER SUPPORT AT BALJ TECHNOLOGY

Location: Chandigarh, Zirakpur, Panchkula, Mohali
Stipend: ₹18,000-₹24,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4324397
Application deadline: July 8, 2020

DIGITAL MARKETING AT CRAFTS COLLECTION

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹5,000-₹7,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4324400
Application deadline: July 7, 2020

PRODUCT MANAGEMENT AT TRIPUPP HR

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4324402
Application deadline: July 9, 2020

STUDY ABROAD

'Geared up to provide best student experience'

French B-schools are getting ready for September intake, says ASHLEY FERNANDES

The French B-Schools like all international institutions are facing uncertainty for the fall intake of non-Schengen international students. Although like many European countries, France is gearing up

for a September intake, most Asians students will require a closer monitoring and assistance with travel and visas. The Emlyon business school is looking forward to a secure in-person start in September and measures are being assessed in order to provide the best student experience for all.

The business school was among the first B-Schools in France to proactively manage the coronavirus pandemic. A COVID-19 task force to address three key areas — security, continuity and quality. It was launched as early as February. We proved our preparedness and strong infrastructural capabilities by rolling out overnight on the first day of the official lockdown our digital platform ensuring pedagogical continuity to the satisfaction of all stakeholders (students and

professors). The measures for the September intake include physical distancing, rolling classes, restructuring of activities within the curriculum for the MSc programs; inter-campus digital interactions, digital pre-intake classes from October to December with a spring intake for the MBA program; and an overall possibility of a physical pop up campus for Indian students, preparing them for their trip to France as soon as it's possible. The main drivers being once again quality and flexibility.

Most of the students we speak to are reassured and want to continue their plans. In this global pandemic, faith in health systems of European countries, France to be particular, is strong.

In India, the school also launched a special care, share and dare webinar series to reach out to students and address their concerns. The main conversation we are having right now with Indian students is how to transform this constraint into an opportunity and we mostly try and help them with increased scholarships to cope with the current situation and help them alleviate the financial burden.

The writer is Country Head, India, Emlyon business school, France



IN BRIEF

MS (RESEARCH) PROGRAMME IN E-MOBILITY

The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati has introduced a new programme, MS (Research) in E-mobility. Due to the multidisciplinary nature of the curriculum, the programme is being jointly offered by the Departments of Electronics and Electrical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering from the coming academic year (2020-2021). The admission procedure have started for 2020.

Prof TG. Sitharam, Director, IIT Guwahati, said: "We are looking forward to fostering interactions with the industry in frontier technologies, including

introducing courses on EV and e-mobility technologies, such that highly trained manpower is readily available in these interdisciplinary areas and the country keeps pace with global trend."

The institute is offering 20 seats — 10 are for the students who have completed their BTech in Electrical Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Production Engineering and rest are for industry-sponsored candidates. The selection of industry-sponsored candidates will be through a written test and/or interview.

RE.START COURSE TO RESKILL PEOPLE

Internshala Trainings has launched its coronavirus initiative — Re.Start — to help professionals reskill themselves and rebuild their careers. Under this initiative, training will be provided (free access to its online programmes) to those people who have lost their jobs recently due to the COVID-19 outbreak and

are planning to upskill themselves. Candidates can apply for the trainings by July 15, 2020.

The trainings will be provided to 1000 applicants at first and will be gradually rolled out for all the eligible candidates. The aspirants could apply for one of the 20 short duration trainings programmes including

COMPREHENSIVE FINTECH COURSE

The edTech education platform — Imarticus Learning has announced its partnership with SP Jain School of Global Management, world's top-ranked B-school, to form Asia's premier Fintech training programme.

With this announcement, two of the country's biggest fintech

providers have joined hands to bring the first of its kind comprehensive fintech programme that provides in-depth exposure through extensive case studies and interactions with industry leaders.

This programme with specialisations in blockchain, payments and lending supported by an

immersion week in Singapore is an added feather to the cap for finance and data science professionals and allows them to hone their skills. This programme is of particular relevance to Indian fintech professionals considering the recent Blockchain policy developments in the country.

City not ready for restart

Guardiola casts doubt on players' fitness as Premier League returns after 100 days

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Pep Guardiola fears his Manchester City players are not ready for the gruelling demands of the Premier League restart. Guardiola's reigning champions will host Arsenal on Wednesday in the second game of the Premier League's return to action following the coronavirus hiatus.

City play again on Monday when Burnley come to the Etihad Stadium and the pace does not drop until the planned end of the season in late July.

With Premier League chiefs determined to play the remaining 92 matches in less than six weeks and teams given only a short time to prepare, City manager Guardiola is concerned that his stars are not fully fit for such a hectic schedule.

"We are ready to play one game, but three days after another and four days after another, we are not ready," Guardiola told reporters in a video press conference on Tuesday.

"We have to rotate and use all the players. You can play a game after three weeks on holiday but we spent two weeks on the sofa doing nothing much. That is why the players are not fully fit."

"The way we are right now, I think other clubs and



Man City players Raheem Sterling, Riyad Mahrez & Oleksandr Zinchenko battle for ball during team's practice session ahead of PL restart. Man City/Twitter

teams as well, if you ask me how the team is, I don't know."

Guardiola said the game against Arsenal would show him what level of fitness his players had.

"What we are worried about over the three weeks is the lack of preparation, not like in Germany or Spain, where they worked five or six weeks," he said. "We know it is not enough but it is what it is."

City, who resume 25

points behind leaders Liverpool, will welcome back Guardiola's former assistant Mikel Arteta for the first time since he took charge of Arsenal in December.

"We are delighted he will come back, especially if he is happy there. We sent a message about an hour and a half ago," Guardiola said. "It was about the wine we are going to drink after the game if social distance allows."



Man City vs Arsenal
Live from 12:45am IST
STAR SPORTS 1 & SELECT 1

Liverpool should reward Klopp with a statue: Gerrard

FIANS ■ LONDON

Former club captain Steven Gerrard believes Liverpool should build a statue for current manager Jurgen Klopp outside Anfield after he ends their league title drought. The Reds are on the verge of winning their maiden Premier League title and first top-flight crown in 30 years.

Gerrard feels Klopp's name should be taken in same breath as that of club legends Bill Shankly, Bob Paisley and Kenny Dalglish, who saw great success during their respective times at helm.

"Knowing Jurgen, he won't want to be put in that bracket. I know what he's like, he's humble and respectful," Gerrard was quoted as saying by *The Athletic*.

"When you look at the scale of the job he's done, for sure he deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as those iconic managers."

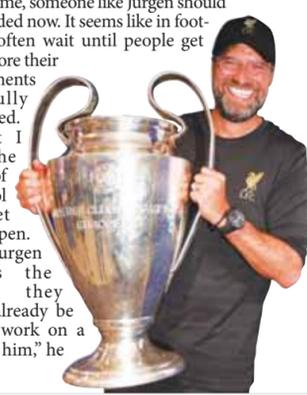
Klopp took over Liverpool in 2015 when they were struggling outside the top-four in England. He has since overseen a remarkable turnaround that saw Liverpool become Champions League winners and potential Premier League winners.

"What you need to take into consideration is that when Jurgen took over Liverpool they weren't close to being the best team in the country, they weren't even in the top four," Gerrard said.

"To come to Liverpool when he did, get to the amount of finals that he has, deliver the sixth European Cup and then deliver the first league title after 30 year."

"For me, someone like Jurgen should be rewarded now. It seems like in football we often wait until people get older before their achievements are fully recognised."

"But I know the owners of Liverpool won't let that happen. When Jurgen delivers the league they should already be starting work on a statue of him," he added.



Stay away fans

LONDON: Premier League chief executive Richard Masters has warned fans to stay away from stadiums once the top-flight returns behind closed doors on Wednesday.

There are fears some supporters will ignore social-distancing rules by congregating outside the grounds where their teams are playing.

Aware of the scrutiny the league will be under,

Masters has issued a plea to fans not to gather around stadiums during matches.

"Please stay away and enjoy the matches at home. By turning up to the game you are putting things at jeopardy," Masters told *BBC*.

There will be no fans allowed into any Premier League games this term, but Masters is optimistic there could be some eventually given entry next season.

UEFA meet to decide CL fate

AFP ■ NYON

As football around Europe returns after a long suspension, UEFA is set to announce the format for the latter stages of the Champions League at a key meeting on Wednesday.

The Champions League was frozen in mid-March before the last-16 stage had been completed.

UEFA has for some time been working on a way of completing its season in August, which looks feasible as leagues restart and the European death toll from Covid-19 slows.

With that in mind, the Executive Committee meeting, to be held by videoconference, is set to approve the idea of a "Final Eight" in Lisbon, as widely reported by media across Europe in recent days.

That would mean finding a way to play out the four remaining last 16, second legs before bringing together all the quarter-finalists in Portugal's capital for a series of one-off games to crown the European champions. According to reports, the final would be on August 23.

In the current context, grouping all teams together in one place and reducing travel is the wisest solution, although it remains to be seen how many fans, if any, could attend.

Gdansk in Poland was slated to host the Europa League final but that competition also looks set to finish in a watered down "Final Eight" format.

German newspaper *Bild* reported last week that the closing stages would be switched to the region around the western city of



Cologne. A similar format could be brought in for the women's Champions League, the final of which was due to

be played in Vienna.

UEFA's announcements will have a knock-on effect on when next season can start around Europe. Everything could be derailed by a second wave of coronavirus infections.

Euro 2020 was meant to be in full swing by now, but postponing the tournament by 12 months was one of the first big decisions taken as the crisis intensified.

Staging the European Cup in 12 different countries, from as far apart as Baku and Saint Petersburg to Dublin and Bilbao, already looked questionable before the virus struck.

Now UEFA must potentially make some big decisions about its format, and president Aleksander Ceferin recently hinted that the number of host cities could be reduced.

Late own goal punish Sevilla

AFP ■ VALENCIA

Sevilla suffered a setback in their bid to qualify for next season's Champions League group stage as a late own goal by Diego Carlos allowed visiting Levante to grab a 1-1 draw on Monday.

Julen Lopetegui's side, who sit third in La Liga, hold a five-point lead over fifth-placed Getafe, although most of their closest rivals still have to play in this round of matches.

Sevilla took lead in the first minute of the second half, as former Barcelona player El Haddadi teed up Dutch striker Luuk de Jong to score his sixth league goal of the season.

Levante managed to create some late pressure and centre-back Carlos put through his own net three minutes from time after a



mix-up with goalkeeper Tomas Vaclik. The draw helped 12th-

placed Levante move 10 points clear of safety with nine matches to play.

Later, Roberto Soldado rescued Granada a 2-2 draw at Real Betis in a dramatic game which saw three goals in the final six minutes.

The away side looked set to move within three points of Sociedad as they led late on through Carlos Fernandez's 29th-minute strike, but Sergio Canales equalised from the spot with five minutes to play, before Cristian Tello put the hosts in front.

Former Spain striker Soldado had the final say though, as the 35-year-old substitute snatched a point in injury time which moved Granada above Villarreal into eighth.



Juventus players train during practice session on the eve of Coppa Italia final

Sarri targets first Juve trophy

AFP ■ ROME

Maurizio Sarri takes on his former club Napoli in Wednesday's Italian Cup final looking for his first trophy as Juventus coach days before Serie A resumes after a three-month shut-down.

Juventus are chasing a record-extending 14th Italian Cup against five-time winners Napoli in Rome, after the Turin giants' four-year cup-winning streak was ended last season.

Sarri took over at Juventus one year ago after a season with Chelsea during which the Premier League side won the Europa League.

Before that the 61-year-old spent three seasons with Napoli, battling Juventus for the title, before falling out with club owner Aurelio De Laurentiis.

Sarri's return to Napoli's Stadio San Paolo ended in a 2-1 league defeat in January.

But the former Chelsea manager will have another chance for just the second trophy of his 30-year coaching career at an empty Stadio

Olimpico.

A win would help the eight-time defending Serie A champions set the tone when the title battle resumes next week, with Lazio just one point behind in second place.

Juventus striker Gonzalo Higuain, who helped Napoli to their last Italian Cup triumph in 2014 and was Serie A's top-scorer with 36 goals under Sarri in the 2015-2016 season, remains a doubt for the Turin side with a thigh injury.

Cristiano Ronaldo, who missed a penalty in Friday's semi-final second leg against AC Milan, will start up front for Juventus, while Napoli winger Dries Mertens is fresh from breaking the club's all-time scoring record with a last-four goal against Inter Milan.

Ronaldo, who has scored 25 goals this season, can lift a 30th career trophy in Rome.

Napoli are sixth in Serie A, and chasing their first trophy since 2014, after a difficult start to the season with Gennaro Gattuso replacing Ancelotti in December.

Napoli are sixth in Serie A, and chasing their first trophy since 2014, after a difficult start to the season with Gennaro Gattuso replacing Ancelotti in December.



CA admits T20 WC plans 'unrealistic'

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Cricket Australia chairman Earl Eddings on Tuesday conceded that this year's T20 World Cup amid the Covid-19 pandemic seems "unrealistic" as it will be difficult to fly in 16 teams to the country.

The fate of the event, scheduled to be held in October and November, is shrouded in uncertainty as several countries continue to have in place, strict travel restrictions due to the coronavirus outbreak, which has infected over 8.1 million people across the globe.

"While it hasn't been formally called off this year, or postponed, trying to get 16 countries into Australia in the current world, where most countries are still going through Covid spiking, I think it's unrealistic, or it's going to be very, very difficult," he told reporters.

Eddings said Cricket Australia had put forward a number of options to the International Cricket Council. "The ICC are having meetings as we speak, it's a bit of a movable feast at the moment," he said.

T20 World Cup chief executive Nick Hockley, who on Tuesday took over as interim Cricket Australia chief, said he expected the ICC to make a decision about the tournament's future next month. "We've got a fantastic local organising committee who are busy preparing for every eventuality and the decision that will come," he said.

Eddings said India's Test tour in December-January appeared set to go ahead, with the tourists willing to undergo quarantine to enter Australia.

"We've had a lot of very positive chats with India, they're very keen to tour," he said. "Now it's a matter of how we get over the hurdles with Covid-19 for them to come into the country."

It's my choice when to retire: Hafeez

KARACHI: Senior all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez has hit back at former captain Ramiz Raza for questioning his selection for the upcoming England tour and for advising him to retire from all forms of cricket.

While criticising head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq for picking senior players in the pool of 29 players for the England tour, cricketer-turned-commentator Raja has said Hafeez should leave international cricket gracefully.

But the 39-year-old Hafeez said he would not leave cricket on anyone's advice.

"I don't play cricket on anyone's saying, neither will I leave cricket on anyone's saying. It is my life, my cricket career and my choice when to retire," Hafeez said.

The former Pakistan captain has



retired from Test cricket after appearing in 55 matches and he is currently focussing in limited-over cricket. He has played in 218 ODIs and 91 T20Is so far.

"I don't know the fuss and it is (Ramiz's) opinion but I say don't decide on a player's career based on just his age. He is free to express his opinion but my decision to play cricket or retire is not dependent on anyone's advice." PTI

'Kohli successful in T20s due to fitness'

MUMBAI: Virat Kohli neither has Chris Gayle's "strength", nor A B de Villiers' "ability" but has still managed to eke out a successful T20 career on the back of his supreme fitness levels, feels former India opener Gautam Gambhir.

Kohli, who has been successful in Tests and ODIs, has also made a mark in T20Is, scoring 2,794 runs from 82 games with an average of 50.8.

"He (Kohli) was always a very smart cricketer, but then he turned his entire T20 career into a very successful one, just by being supremely fit," Gambhir said on *Star Sports* show.

"Probably because he does not have the strength of Chris



Gayle, he doesn't have the ability of AB de Villiers," he observed. The southpaw was asked

what makes the India captain so effective in the shortest format of the game. "The biggest strength he's got is now his fitness and he's turned that into his game as well, that's why he has become so successful, so you got to give it to the guy."

"The most important thing is that he runs really well between the wickets, not many people do it," added Gambhir.

Kohli has also been successful in the Indian Premier League, having scored 5,412 runs from 177 games.

"There are very few cricketers in world cricket at this time who can rotate of every ball and that is what Virat Kohli does really well and that's why he's different from

the rest," said Gambhir.

According to Gambhir, Kohli is more consistent than his teammates and star batsman Rohit Sharma, when it comes to rotating the strike.

"You know we are friends probably Rohit Sharma doesn't have that quality which Virat Kohli has to rotate the strike," he said.

Rohit Sharma has the ability to hit those big shots, but that's where Virat Kohli is more consistent than Rohit Sharma," added the former Delhi batsman.

"Chris Gayle or AB de Villiers don't have that ability to rotate the strike, especially against spin bowling, but Virat Kohli has that, that's why he averages 50," Gambhir signed off.

US Open to go ahead without fans

AFP ■ NEW YORK

The US Open tennis championships will go ahead as scheduled in August but without spectators, officials confirmed on Tuesday.

After weeks of uncertainty surrounding the tournament — which is being staged in the epicentre of the US coronavirus crisis — New York Governor Andrew Cuomo formally gave the event the green light.

"The @usopen will be held in Queens, NY, without fans from August 31 to September 13," Cuomo announced on *Twitter*.

The New York leader said the US Tennis Association would take "extraordinary precautions" to protect players and staff during the event.

Those safety protocols included robust testing, additional cleaning, extra locker room space, and dedicated housing and transportation, Cuomo added. The decision had been anticipated



after reports on Monday said the USTA's plans for the tournament had received support from the ATP and WTA Tours.

The ATP/WTA Cincinnati hardcourt event — the Western & Southern Open — will also be staged at the USTA's Billie Jean King National Tennis Center at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in Queens, New York.

The USTA opted to move the tournament to New York in order to minimise travel for players taking part in both tournaments.



'Windies pace attack can challenge any team'

PTI ■ LONDON

The West Indies pace battery can challenge any team, according to assistant coach Roddy Estwick, who reckons the current attack could shape up to a lethal force reminiscent of the famed Caribbean bowling of the past.

Estwick said the team has worked on its fitness, which was a key factor in the success of the ferocious West Indies pace attack of '70 and '80s, but insisted the current crop needs to "forge their own identity."

"We're beginning to get blessed with fast bowlers again in the West Indies, so that's an exciting time for us," Estwick was quoted as saying by *ESPNcricinfo*.

"What we've done is improve our fitness. That's one of the key things. If you look back in the 80s, that's one thing the fast bowlers had, was fitness," he added.



Armed with a strong pace attack, comprising the likes of Kemar Roach, Shannon Gabriel, Alzarri Joseph and captain Jason Holder, West Indies are set to take on hosts England in a three-match Test series, starting July 8 in Southampton.

"The other thing is they're now understanding fast bowling, they're getting to the age, Kemar and Shannon, where they're leading the attack, they're very, very experienced," he said.

"Jason Holder has become a lot better Test match bowler in the last two years, Alzarri Joseph is now beginning to show his potential. So we've got four fast bowlers where we can challenge any team in the world," he added.

The 58-year-old said the team is looking forward to the series to see how the speedsters perform.

"Once we've improved that fitness, we can maintain pressure right through the day — before we tended to flag a little bit — and while our fitness continues to improve, that's going to be key for us. If we can get that fitness and match sharpness up again, we'll be ready to challenge the English batters," Estwick added.

We see Archer as just another Englishman, says Holder

LONDON: West Indies Test skipper Jason Holder on Tuesday said his team will treat Barbados-born speedster Jofra Archer as just another English cricketer when the opening Test begins in Southampton on July 8.

Archer gained eligibility to represent England in 2018. He had played for West Indies U-19 side in 2014.

West Indies pacer Kemar Roach had on Sunday sounded a warning to Archer, saying there will be "no friendships" with him during the series.

Echoing similar voice, Holder said friendship with Archer will take a back seat

when the three-match series begins.

"Archer is English now. I think Kemar Roach had an interview and he spoke about the same thing," Holder said on the show *Good Morning Britain*.

"You know we are friends off the field but when we cross that line you just see him as another Englishman. I am sure even he must be looking to knock our heads off."

Archer has emerged as a match winner ever since he started playing for England, having played a pivotal role in helping his team win their maiden World Cup last year. PTI